

## **Lone Stone Lake Early Detection & Response 2014-2016**

AIRR – 168 – 14

2016 FINAL Report

2016 marks the end of a three year Early Detection grant awarded to Friends of Lone Stone, town of Three Lakes, Oneida County. As president of this lake association, and primary record keeper, I want to begin this annual report again with another huge thank you to Jane Malischke of the Wisconsin DNR for her patience and invaluable help with documentation and fulfillment of this grant.

Friends of Lone Stone continued to work with Onterra and Aquatic Plant Management in 2016. Onterra did mapping and planning for pursuit of EWM early in the summer. They mapped again later in the fall to monitor plant growth and harvest efforts, updating us via GPS readings. Despite our efforts, milfoil slightly increased its presence in Lone Stone. We can only guess that without the effort things would have been much worse.

Aquatic Plant Management maintained increased dive hours in 2016, although delayed at one point by a flat tire and subsequent late arrival at Lone Stone. We continued to be satisfied with their manual pulling and removal of milfoil. One association member on site during the pulling noticed that there were many fragments of plants floating at the pull site, despite all efforts to contain every particle. We know that this is an ongoing issue with the spread of invasive plants. There were no concerns with communication with Aquatic Plant Management. We were kept informed of their schedules with phone messages and e-mails. We can recommend using both Onterra and Aquatic Plant Management to anyone pursuing work with EWM.

Friends of Lone Stone held their annual meeting in May to relay information and plan for the summer, and a second meeting in early August to update members. Attendance at each meeting was 25 – 30 people. We had a good amount of volunteer hours in 2016, primarily in monitoring of our two boat landings, locating hand-pulling opportunities from the water, administrative hours, and some removal by hand pulling. In fact, we had so many volunteer hours carried over from 2015 that I did not even need to submit more 2016 hours to offset our share of the expenses incurred by Onterra and Aquatic Plant Management. The hours were there, especially in the administrative and lake monitoring areas.

As president of Friends of Lone Stone, I met with Kevin Gautier in June 2016 to explore our options for once the grant is completed. Those included starting the process to develop a lake management plan, as well as taking a break from attacking the milfoil and letting the lake recover on its own for a few years. Those options were shared at our August membership meeting. All in attendance voted unanimously to NOT go the route of a lake management plan at this time. Lone Stone has always been an otherwise very healthy spring fed lake, with a significant native plant population. We appointed a committee of 3 members to continue monitoring the invasive plant growth and water quality, and report annually each August.

Our biggest challenge continued to be getting the actual funds to pay our bills before they could then be reimbursed with grant monies. Two families loaned money to the association, which was then paid out to cover the invoices for work already completed. Those payments were then 100% reimbursed to the association by the DNR grant, allowing us to re-pay these two “loans.”

The last grant payment of 2016 will complete the 3 year grant with a balance of \$1419.23 unspent. Some of that is attributed to the fact that the GPS unit we use, which was included in the grant plan, was actually purchased and donated to the association by an individual, and not reimbursed.

In closing, we are extremely grateful for the grant funds that have allowed Lone Stone Lake to use professional help in the challenge of dealing with Eurasian Water Milfoil these past three years. On a personal note, I continue to be discouraged that some irresponsible party dragged this into our beautiful lake in the first place, and the knowledge that we will never be rid of it! I am especially disappointed with how many riparian property owners have shown no interest whatsoever in helping with the battle. In fact, only one has put in any time at all for the cause over the three years of our grant. The Town of Three Lakes likes to remind us that only riparian owners have any right to dock a boat on Lone Stone, but they forget that it continues to be the non-riparian owners who put themselves out there and work to protect the quality of the lake for the benefit of all. Those of us who do care will be looking for continuing guidance for years to come. We will continue to hope that advances in scientific research will lead to better solutions and eradication of EWM and other treats to our lakes. Thank you for your ongoing support and help!

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine G. Schmidt  
President, Friends of Lone Stone  
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