

FINAL REPORT FOR AEPP-490-16  
Approved for completion 2/23/18 SG

AEPP-490-16

Summary of Project Goals and Activities for January 1 – June 30th, 2017

1. **Goal/Job Objective: Provide AIS Education and Monitoring for AIS on Rivers and Streams through Project RED and Snapshot Day**

- a. **Activity: Project Riverine Early Detectors**

**Deliverables:**

- i. **Project RED Manual revised and Updated (Completed)**

Project RED Manual was updated for 2017 and placed online:

<https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/our-work/project-red>

Additional Project RED materials were updated and placed in the Project RED 2017 dropbox for distribution to local AIS Coordinators:

[tinyurl.com/ProjectRED2017](http://tinyurl.com/ProjectRED2017)

- ii. **River Alliance staff will host one Project RED train the trainer webinar (Completed)**

Two Project RED train the trainer webinars were hosted by River Alliance on June 16 and June 30, 2017. A recording on the June 30<sup>th</sup> training has been placed on the Project RED dropbox.

- iii. **At least 5 local AIS Coordinators will be encouraged to train volunteers in Project RED (Completed)**

Recruitment emails for Project RED were sent to all AIS Coordinators in May and June of 2017. Six coordinators attended train the trainer webinars hosted on June 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, with additional coordinators viewing the webinar recording at a later date, and two coordinators requesting training materials for the 2017 season.

**iv. River Alliance will host two Project RED trainings for volunteers (Completed)**

River Alliance gave a Project RED training to five volunteers at the Lakes Convention in Stevens Point on 04/07/2017. An additional talk on Project RED was given via a WI First Detectors Network webinar on 05/05/2017. River Alliance's Statewide Program Director then trained volunteers in Manitowoc on 07/18/2017 and led a Project RED paddle on Starkweather Creek in Madison Wisconsin on 09/09/2017.

**v. All data collected will be submitted to SWIMS (Completed)**

Data was submitted for all Project RED trainings and paddles conducted in the summer of 2017.

**vi. Any vouchers collected by Project RED volunteers will be submitted according to WDNR protocols (Completed)**

Vouchers collected by Project RED volunteers during the summer of 2017 were submitted according to WDNR protocols.

**b. Activity: AIS Snapshot Monitoring**

**Deliverables:**

**i. Updated Snapshot Day Handbook for Coordinators (Completed)**

Two Snapshot events took place in 2017: Rock River Snapshot Initiative, and Statewide AIS Snapshot Day. Snapshot Day materials were updated for both 2017 events. All training and outreach materials were provided to local AIS Coordinators via dropbox:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6fbq6c795vub3v8/AABs1slkQJ25lybgM\\_q9aEFla?](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6fbq6c795vub3v8/AABs1slkQJ25lybgM_q9aEFla?dl=0)

[dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6fbq6c795vub3v8/AABs1slkQJ25lybgM_q9aEFla?dl=0)

[Tinyurl.com/snapshotday2017](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6fbq6c795vub3v8/AABs1slkQJ25lybgM_q9aEFla?dl=0)

ii. **Pre and Post Press releases for Snapshot Day (Ongoing)**

Individual pre-event press releases for both Snapshot Day events were distributed to press contacts. Due to the amount of time it took to compile and verify data for both events, post-event press releases were not developed in a timely manner to make the information news worthy for statewide news sources. In lieu of post-event press releases, a new webpage was developed to share Snapshot Day info from past events and updated training materials. Professional level posters were also developed to share findings from both events. An end of the year summary of stream volunteer efforts will be distributed to stakeholders in December of 2017 in place of a statewide press release.

River Alliance event press releases:

<https://isthmus.com/events/rock-river-snapshot-initiative/>

<http://www.leadernewsroom.com/2017/07/19/statewide-aquatic-invasive-species-snapshot-day/>

Additional Partner Press releases and articles:

<http://www.starjournalnow.com/2017/07/28/volunteers-sought-for-ais-snapshot-day/#>

<https://lakes-l.blogs.govdelivery.com/2017/07/become-an-invasive-species-detective-for-a-day-with-ais-snapshot-day/>

<http://www.wjjq.com/storydetails/20170804090654/4th-annual-aquatic-invasive-species-snapshot-day/>

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/story/news/local/community/2017/07/24/statewide-aquatic-invasive-species-snapshot-day-aug-5/505854001/>

<http://www.wpr.org/wisconsin-volunteers-help-officials-locate-aquatic-invasive-species>

Snapshot Day webpage:

<https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/statewide-snapshot-day/>

A poster on Snapshot Day monitoring plans was also shared at the Citizen Science Association Conference on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**iii. 20 Local organizations and/or local AIS coordinators engaged in hosting a rendezvous site (Completed)**

Over 20 Local organizations participated in 2017 Snapshot activities.

Eight Rock River Snapshot Initiative rendezvous sites were hosted by River Alliance of Wisconsin, WDNR, Rock River Coalition, Alliant Energy Foundation, Welty Environmental Center, Jefferson County, Washington County, and Waukesha County.

Seventeen Statewide Snapshot Day rendezvous sites were hosted by river Alliance of Wisconsin, Beaver Creek Preserve, Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, UW Oshkosh, Golden Sands RC&D, Central Wisconsin TU, Oneida County, Polk County, Calumet County, Fox-Wolf Watershed Association, Vilas County, Bayfield County, Florence County, Glacierland RC&D, Waukesha County, Washington County, UW Trout Lake Station, St. Croix River Association, Dane County Take a Stake in Our Lakes, and UW Extension.

**iv. Over 150 volunteers trained in AIS identification and monitoring protocols (Completed)**

60 Volunteers took part in the Rock River Snapshot Initiative, and 99 volunteers took part in Statewide AIS Snapshot Day.

**v. Over 150 priority locations monitored for AIS statewide (Completed)**

51 locations were monitored for AIS during the Rock River Snapshot Initiative, and 154 locations were monitored during Statewide AIS Snapshot Day.

**vi. All presence and absence species data entered into SWIMS (Completed)**

All data for the Rock River Snapshot Initiative and Statewide AIS Snapshot Day has been entered in SWIMS.

**vii. Vouchers submitted following WDNR protocols for all species first documented on a waterbody (Completed)**

Vouchers were submitted following WDNR protocols for all new species populations discovered during the Rock River Snapshot Initiative and Statewide Snapshot Day.

**2. Goal/Job Objective: Prevent the Spread of AIS by Engaging Wading Stream Users**

**a. Activity: Targeted Outreach Advocating Clean Angling**

**Deliverables:**

**i. Articles in angling organizations newsletters (ex. Wisconsin Trout) (Completed)**

One article titled "Responding to New Zealand Mudsnaill: An Update on Efforts in Southern Wisconsin" was submitted to Wisconsin Trout in June 2017 and published in the Summer 2017 issue.

An additional article titled "Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day: Volunteers and Partnerships Aimed at Catching Invaders" was submitted to Wisconsin Trout in September 2017 and published in the Fall 2017 issue.

- ii. **Present to TU State Council, distributing clean angling materials and updating on current statewide AIS needs (Completed)**

The AIS Program Director gave a presentation on 2017 AIS activities and planned activities for 2018 to the TU State Council in October of 2017. The Program Director also distributed stream access signs to chapters interested in installing them in their regions.

- iii. **Two decontamination and AIS education or monitoring pilot trainings at work party or similar days (Completed)**

The River Alliance Statewide AIS Program Director gave a decontamination demonstration to Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited members at a CWTU workday on the Pine River on 08/19/2017. The Program director also spoke at the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance meeting on 09/19/2017.

- b. **Activity: AIS Stream Access Signage and Cleaning Tools for prevention and containment**

**Deliverables:**

- i. **At least 20 signs and map locations of installation (Completed)**

River Alliance received signs from the WDNR mid-August. 50 Signs were distributed to partner organizations including Southwest Badger, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, Wisconsin Smallmouth Bass Club, Golden Sands RC&D, and various Trout Unlimited Chapters for installation. Sign location data from 2010 to 2017 is currently being compiled by River Alliance volunteers and will be entered in SWIMs during the winter of 2017/2018.

- ii. **Assist partner organizations in organizing and promoting events to build wader wash stations (Completed)**

On April 29, 2017, River Alliance cohosted a wader wash station building event with the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association. Volunteers constructed 30 wader wash stations to be distributed across the Upper Sugar River Watershed. One River Alliance AIS intern assisted with placing wash stations in the Upper Sugar River Watershed.

**3. Goal/Job Objective: Provide Technical Consultation for Control Efforts & AIS Planning for Local Groups and WDNR**

**a. Activity: Assist with development of riverine AIS strategic plans**

**Deliverables:**

- i. Engage at least one new river/watershed organizations in AIS monitoring, prevention or control (Completed)**

River Alliance AIS Program director engaged with the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and Welty Environmental Center for the first time to recruit volunteers for the Statewide AIS Snapshot monitoring in 2017. The Program Director continued to reach out to form new partnerships with additional organizations throughout the summer of 2017.

- ii. Participate in AIS planning committees as needed including follow-up for the Statewide AIS Strategic Plan (Completed)**

The River Alliance attended the Central Wisconsin Cisma vision meeting on 10/19/2017. No Statewide AIS Strategic Planning meetings took place in 2017

**b. Activity: River & Tributaries AIS Workshop**

**Deliverables:**

- i. Survey AIS coordinators for river-focused AIS training needs (Completed)**

Coordinators were sent a survey via the AIS Coordinator's listserv in November 2017 to gauge interest in a rivers focused AIS workshop and training needs for riverine AIS issues. Results indicated there is a great interest in learning more about AIS issues specific to rivers and receiving training to engage river users for monitoring and response activities. The program director has formed a team of AIS Coordinators and DNR staff to plan a riverine focused AIS workshop in 2018.

**c. Activity: Other Technical Assistance for river-focused AIS Training needs**

**Deliverables:**

- i. Statewide AIS coordinator will serve on technical committees and rapid response teams as needed. (Completed)**

The AIS Program director attended meetings for the Statewide NZMS monitoring team in 2017. The program director also initiated discussions with partners in fall of 2017 to begin the planning process for a response to Japanese hops in Southwestern Wisconsin. River Alliance of Wisconsin will partner with Southwest Badger and other local partners to form a local and statewide response team, and gauge the spread of Japanese hops in Southwestern Wisconsin during the summer of 2018.

- ii. Video for basic snail identification will be produced and posted on our website for use in trainings and by the public. (Ongoing)**

Program director developed a basic snail identification video during the fall of 2017. The River Alliance webpage is currently undergoing a revamp, and so, the video will be uploaded as communications staff have time to develop a new training video page during the winter of 2017/2018.