

Lac Vieux Desert Meeting – Final Minutes

April 29, 2015

This is the annual Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) aquatic invasive species stakeholders meeting. In 2014 the LVD Lake Association received a Wisconsin DNR grant to manage the infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in LVD. As part of the grant work, the stakeholders meet at least once a year to discuss the project.

People present:

Barb Gajewski, Many Waters
Bill Artwich, Many Waters
Jeff Pytlarz, ISCCW
Ken Wendt, ISCCW
Dara Unglaube, GLIFWC
Lisa David, GLIFWC
Kevin Gauthier, Wisconsin DNR
Roger Labine, LVD Tribe
Rob Andersen, LVD Lake Association
Dave Lamoreaux, LVD Lake Association
Ian Shackleford, US Forest Service (Ottawa NF)

Barb went through a ten-slide presentation on the results of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) surveys and control in Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) 2014. The 2014 surveys were conducted by Many Waters and GLIFWC. The LVD Lake Association and visitors to the lake also helped identify some sites.

Several new sites of EWM were found in 2014. Falls surveys showed that hand removal by scuba divers and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) were successful in both reducing the number of EWM sites and the density of EWM. Thunder Bay and Slaughter Bay have the most EWM. Control efforts appeared very successful along the north shore of rice bay, with no EWM found during the fall survey. Given the large amount of suitable habitat in LVD, people were pleased with so little EWM remaining at the end of 2014.

Fewer hours of hand removal and DASH were spent in 2014 compared with 2013. The cold temperatures and poor weather likely also contributed to less EWM growth and fewer days in the water. More time will likely be spent on hand removal and DASH in 2015.

There was a discussion about the EWM on the west side of Simpson Point. A deeper hole occurs there and boaters often fish there. Does all the fishing make treating the EWM there more difficult? Many Waters indicated they are able to get in there and do the work.

During the "2014 Grant Reporting & Reimbursement" slide we talked about the things we need from the partners. The LVD Lake Association hasn't requested any payment from the State of Wisconsin under their grant. Generally, a report documenting the previous year's work should be submitted near the beginning of the year, followed by a request for payment. Several partners, including GLIFWC, ISCCW, and USFS are asked to submit "invoices" documenting

the work they did in 2014.

We spoke about the LVD boater education and boat washing in 2014. They were less busy in 2014. Ken emphasized we should report the educational contacts, not just the number of boats washed.

Rob mentioned that the Lake Association used their newsletter to solicit pledges to not use fertilized with phosphorus. They received 96 pledges, and worked with one condominium association on this topic.

Barb discussed the 2015 permits that are in place, for both Wisconsin and Michigan. There was a discussion about Wisconsin permit flexibility, allowing new plants to be treated. We were pleased that Michigan no longer requires a permit for hand removal of EWM, but the DASH permitting is still complicated. Three separate open MDEQ permits are currently in place to do the DASH work in Michigan, each on behalf of a different landowner.

Ian Shackleford asked what would happen if a new EWM site was found in the northwest part of the lake (Misery Bay), in Michigan. It could be hand-pulled but DASH would require a fourth DEQ permit.

Dave Lamoreaux emphasized the need to collect fragments with hand-pulling EWM. He asked if we could use large nets or underwater nets to help capture fragments.

Roger Labine talked about the tribal youth crew and hoped they could help with needed work on the lake.

Ian Shackleford asked about long-term plans. The current grant funding will likely run out in 2017. Based on what we know now, does it cost about \$20,000 to keep EWM at the low abundance like was done in 2014? Kevin Gauthier cautioned it is still too early to know, the weather in 2014 may have been unusually favorable for limiting growth of EWM. Ken Wendt talked about other sources of funding; perhaps \$20,000 a year is a reasonable expense, it's just \$5 an acre. More scuba divers on LVD might be helpful. Perhaps the LVD Tribe could create a tribal scuba crew.

Kevin Gauthier emphasized we should keep pushing other things that can make a long term difference: phosphorus, shoreline planting, storm water, and septic systems.

Lac Vieux Desert EWM Stakeholders Meeting

4.27.2017

Attendance: Bill Artwich (Many Waters), Barb Gajewski (Many Waters), Kevin Gauthier (WDNR), Jeff Pytlarz (ISCCW), Ken Wendt (ISCCW), Linnaea Shackelford (Ian's daughter, take your kid to work day), Ian Shackelford (USFS), Cathy Higley (Vilas County Land and Water) and Rob Andersen (LVDLA)

- Review of 2016 project accomplishments
 - Early season EWM/CLP survey completed by GLIFWC and ISCCW
 - Mid/Late season EWM survey completed by Many Waters
 - Hand removal completed by USFS and Many Waters
 - Power point showing maps of EWM locations, summary of hand removal efforts and EWM trend status (acreage from 2013-2017)
 - All maps, graphs charts will be available in the 2016 annual reporting, that will be distributed once the WDNR approves current draft.
 - Approximately 110 property owners have signed pledges not to use phosphorous based fertilizers on their properties or remove rooted aquatic vegetation.
 - CBCW summary (ISCCW efforts and WDNR CBCW grant with LVDA efforts)
 - 3,369 individuals contacted
 - 1,956 boats inspected
 - 1,011 boats washed
- 2017 Planned Efforts
 - Early season EWM /CLP survey to be completed by GLIFWC and the ISCCW
 - Mid/Late season EWM survey to be completed by Many Waters
 - Hand removal to be completed by Many Waters
 - CBCW will continue with a joint effort between ISCCW and the LVDLA
 - Wild rice mapping to be completed by GLIFWC
 - GLIFWC Update
 - Dara Unglaube will no longer be the AIS coordinator with GLIFWC. She will be doing data base management full time. She will be training her new replacement and will be participating in the LVD survey this year. They have LVD scheduled form the 19th-22nd of June.
 - Steve Garske will be the new invasive species coordinator.
715-682-6619 126 (office), 715-663-0922 (cell), steveg@glifwc.org
 - Travis Bartnick will be replacing Miles as the new wildlife biologist. Miles is transitioning into wildlife section chief. (715) 682-6619 ext. 2166, tbartnick@glifwc.org

- We are in year 3 of a 4 year WDNR AIS Grant
 - 2016 Paperwork/grant reporting
 - GLIFWC has already submitted their info to WDNR and LVDLA
 - ISCCW approve and submit their paperwork during May
 - USFS needs to submit their paperwork
 - The ISCCW has been awarded a RAC grant. This grant has a 2 year scope. Work in the grant includes: Michigan DEQ permit fees; additional hand removal funding, additional surveying in areas adjacent to wild rice, and, riparian terrestrial invasive species surveys on USFS Ottawa National Forest Land. Due to the nature of the funding, this grant can only be used on the MI side of LVD. The intent is to use both the RAC grant and the WDNR grant to increase hand removal efforts in 2017.
 - Discussion on future plans including continued EWM funding and lake management planning updates.
 - LVDLA will be considering applying for a WDNR grant to assist in up-dating their lake management plan. This plan was completed in 2012. Depending on timing of the finalization of the plan and what remains for existing grant funds to control for EWM, there may be gap years in WDNR funding to continue EWM management.
 - Ian initiated a discussion on method of reporting extent of EWM in Lac Vieux Desert. The WDNR reporting used calculated exact extent versus total footprint. The USFS uses a footprint approach. Depending on the approach greatly affects how the total acreage of EWM on LVD is represented.

Lac Vieux Desert EWM Stakeholders Meeting

4.26.2018

Attendance: Bill Artwich (Many Waters), Barb Gajewski (Many Waters), Jeff Pytlarz (ISCCW), Ian Shackelford (USFS), Cathy Higley (Vilas County Land and Water), Rob Andersen (LVDLA), David Lamoreaux (LVDLA), Lisa David (GLIFWC) & Steve Garske (GLIFWC)

- Review of 2017 project accomplishments
 - Early season EWM/CLP survey - GLIFWC and ISCCW (WDNR ACEI Grant Matching Funds)
 - Mid/Late season EWM survey completed by Many Waters (WDNR ACEI Grant Funds)
 - Nearshore wetland/terrestrial invasive plant surveys of Ottawa NF Land (RAC Funds)
 - Wild Rice bed mapping - GLIFWC (WDNR ACEI Grant Matching Funds)
 - Additional near wild rice AIS monitoring (RAC Funds)
 - Hand removal completed by Many Waters (WDNR ACEI Grant Funds & RAC funds)
 - 172 dive hours
 - Removed ~3,303 EWM plants/wet weight 530 pounds EWM
 - 38 DASH hours removed 2,217 pounds wet weight EWM
 - Hand removal completed by USFS Ottawa NF (WDNR ACEI Grant Matching funds)
 - All maps, graphs, charts will be available in the 2017 annual reporting that will be distributed once the WDNR approves draft.
 - Approximately 110 property owners have signed pledges not to use phosphorous based fertilizers on their properties or remove rooted aquatic vegetation.
 - CBCW summary (ISCCW efforts and WDNR CBCW grant with LVDA efforts)
 - 5,485 individuals contacted
 - 2,687 boats inspected
 - 1,149 boats washed
 - LVDLA received a WDNR Surface Water Grant to update lake management plan
- Power point showing maps of EWM locations, EWM trend status (acreage from 2013-2017) and general dive locations.
 - General trend of more acreage of point based mapping of EWM in LVD in 2017 and a decrease in polygon based mapping
 - In 2017, not all locations of EWM were visited with hand removal
- 2018 Planned Efforts
 - Early season EWM /CLP survey - GLIFWC and ISCCW, to be repeated in 2019 (Match funds under the new WDNR AEPP grant)
 - Mid/Late season EWM survey - Many Waters, to be repeated in 2019 (Funded under the new WDNR AEPP grant)
 - Hand removal to be completed by Many Waters and some match time from USFS Ottawa NF (WDNR ACEI and RAC grants)
 - CBCW will continue with a joint effort between ISCCW and the LVDLA

- Wild rice mapping - GLIFWC (Match funds under WDNR AEPP grant)
- Current Grant and Funding Timeline
 - Funding and match funding for AIS survey work secured for 2018 and 2019
 - Received some additional funding from the WDNR under the existing ACEI grant to put towards 2018 efforts, however, good chance this will only partially fund 2018 management program.
 - RAC funds will expire this year, so what is left in this grant will have to be used up in 2018. These funds can only be used in MI waters including ISCCW match funds.
 - LVDLA will not be eligible to apply for additional WDNR funds until the lake management plan is updated, expected completion in 2020. Therefore, the earliest an application could be made for WDNR AIS grant would be in February of 2020.
 - Discussion on how to fund AIS management on LVD into 2019, 2020 and beyond.
 - Maybe a new RAC will be authorized, however, there is no word on this as of yet.
 - Possibly look into WVIC funding, but their requirements might be very specific. Rob Andersen will follow up on this.
 - Some discussion on looking to the tribe. Would need to have discussions with LVD to see if that is something to look into.
 - There was discussion about districting, which may be complicated with the lake being in two states. The Cisco Chain is looking into doing this, Dave. L will follow up with the CCROA on this. Cathy H. offered to dig up some information and share regarding districting in WI.
 - Discussion on if there is not enough funds to manage all EWM on LVD what do we do?
 - Talked about seeing if weevils may play a “background” role
 - Talked about breaking the lake down into shallow water diving in the early season and later in the season focus on the deeper water locations, which many are along the south shore.
 - Challenging to pull plants in the shallow mucky areas on LVD including Misery Bay, Thunder Bay, Outlet Bay and mucky locations in Rice Bay.
 - Talked about what the lake might look like with no management.