

Accomplishments Report

AEPP-559-18 La Crosse Area AIS Partnership 1 October 2019-29 February 2020

Note: The following is a summary of the activities performed as part of River Alliance's La Crosse Area AIS Partnership grant, AEPP-559-18, from 1 October 2019 to 29 February 2020. By no means is this an exhaustive list; rather, it is a summary of the more noteworthy accomplishments that occurred during the time period. For more information, please contact Ellen Voss, Aquatic Invasive Species Manager with River Alliance of Wisconsin, at 608-781-6333 or evoss@wisconsinrivers.org.

- **Grant administration for River Alliance's La Crosse Area AIS Partnership grant, AEPP-559-18:**
 - Tracked all expenditures and match, prepared partial payment requests, and performed other grant administration duties as necessary.
 - Partial payment request #1
 - 16 November 2018 to 30 September 2019
 - Current status: approved; payment was received in the amount of \$3,000.27
 - Grant balance remaining: \$98,249.73
 - Partial payment request #2
 - 1 October 2019 to 29 February 2020
 - Current status: submitted

- **La Crosse Area AIS Partnership:**
 - Updated partnership list and contact information
 - Determined partner availability, arranged logistics, and hosted our biannual meeting at the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) on January 6, 2020.
 - Fourteen people were in attendance, including representatives from WDNR, USMESC/USGS, Senator Tammy Baldwin's office, USFWS, Buffalo, Trempealeau, and La Crosse Counties, and UW-Division of Extension
 - Next partnership meeting date: TBD; anticipated for June 2020
 - Recruited 4 new members
 - Jordan Weeks, Mississippi River Team—Fisheries Management; WDNR
 - Ben Anderson, County Conservationist, Trempealeau County
 - Tess Johnson, Conservation Engineering Specialist; Trempealeau County Department of Land Management

- Carrie Olson, Buffalo County Conservationist
 - Planned informational meeting/question and answer session for partnership members regarding NR-193
 - Scheduled for April 29 at 1pm in La Crosse (location TBD)
 - Alex Selle will present and facilitate the discussion
 - Planned AIS identification, decontamination, and reporting class for partnership members and associated personnel
 - Scheduled for April 29 from 2-4pm in La Crosse (location TBD)
 - Alex Selle will lead the class
 - Maintained frequent contact with partnership members and provided updates when they became available
- **Noteworthy events, trainings, meetings and activities:**
 - 28 October 2019: Ellen Voss began the role of La Crosse Area Invasive Species Manager with River Alliance of Wisconsin
 - 28-30 October 2019: Attended organization and project training with Natalie Dutack (statewide Aquatic Invasive Species & Watershed Groups Manager, River Alliance) in Madison
 - 5 November 2019: Participated in the monthly Lakes and Rivers Partnership call
 - 7 November 2019: Attended “Stories from the Flood” event held at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and discussed the impacts of 2018 Driftless Area flooding
 - 11 November 2019: Attended webinar hosted by the UW-Madison Center for Limnology titled “Resilience” by Steve Carpenter
 - 20 November 2019: Met with Natalie Dutack in Viroqua to discuss AIS efforts in the La Crosse area
 - 25 November 2019: Completed SWIMS training with Jeanne Scherer
 - 3 December 2019: Participated in the monthly Lakes and Rivers Partnership call
 - 6 December 2019: Met with Matt Wallrath (Upper Sugar River Watershed Association) to discuss the coordination of AIS activities in the Driftless region
 - 10 December 2019: Submitted AEPP grant to WDNR for continued La Crosse Area Partnership funding
 - 16 December 2019: Met with Randy Hines (USGS/UMESC) to tour the building facilities and get an overview of AIS activities and research (specifically Asian carp)
 - 19 December 2019: Attended webinar titled “Ecological and Economic Impacts By Spiny Waterflea in a WI Lake”
 - 22 December 2020: Conducted AIS sign inspections in La Crosse County and determined potential new sign locations
 - 7 January 2020: Participated in monthly Lakes and Rivers Partnership call
 - 7 January 2020: Met with Raj Shukla (Executive Director, River Alliance) to discuss statewide AIS transition
 - 8 January 2020: Met with Natalie Dutack in Spring Green discuss the continuation of AIS programming when she departs River Alliance

- 28 January 2020: Met with Raj Shukla and Allison Werner (Policy and Advocacy Director, River Alliance) to discuss the future of AIS activities with River Alliance
 - 28 January 2020: Attended webinar titled “Carp Management and Lake Restoration”
 - 1 February 2020: Attended statewide Trout Unlimited banquet in Osh Kosh and handed out educational materials regarding wader wash stations, the spread of New Zealand mudsnail, decontamination techniques, etc.
 - 4-5 February 2020: Attended Driftless Symposium in La Crosse and learned about relevant water/restoration-related issues in the Driftless Area
 - 20 February 2020: Gave a presentation at the “Fishing for Dinner” class hosted by WDNR on AIS and preventing the spread
 - 21 February 2020: Met with Raj Shukla and Allison Werner to discuss AIS transitions within River Alliance
 - 24 February 2020: Attended webinar titled “Challenges and New Technology for Managing Invasive Fish”
 - 25 February 2020: Met with Allison Werner, Maureen Ferry (AIS Monitoring Lead, WDNR), and Paul Skawinski (Extension Lakes) to discuss Snapshot Day 2020
 - 27 February 2020: Conducted AIS sign inspections in La Crosse County and determined potential new sign locations
 - 28 February 2020: Attended webinar titled “Carp Management and Lake Restoration”
 - 29 February 2020: Was interviewed by a UW-Madison student for a Sea Grant podcast on New Zealand mudsnail and their potential spread to other areas in Wisconsin
 - Throughout reporting period: Weekly meetings with Allison Werner regarding progress and AIS programming
 - Throughout reporting period: Biweekly short-format River Alliance staff meetings
 - Throughout reporting period: Biweekly long-format River Alliance staff meetings
- **AIS programs, projects, events, and coordination:**
 - AIS signage
 - AIS sign inspections were conducted in Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties in December 2019, and all information was updated in SWIMS. During the inspections, some problematic signage was noted that should be addressed once the ground thaws in spring. New locations where “Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker” signage would be beneficial were also identified.
 - Clean Boats Clean Waters
 - Many potential watershed groups in the three counties have been contacted for possible summer volunteer recruitment. Attempts to reach out to new volunteer groups are ongoing, and efforts will be made to include more landings in Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties in 2020, as these areas have had little coverage in previous years.
 - AIS intern

- Trout Unlimited
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Geological Survey
 - Upper Sugar River Conservation Association
 - US Senator Tammy Baldwin's office
 - UW Division of Extension
 - UW-La Crosse
 - UW-La Crosse Fishing Team
 - UW-Madison Sea Grant
 - Viterbo University
 - Wisconsin Bowfishing Association
 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 - WisCorps
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- ***Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan for the Mississippi River and Major Tributaries in La Crosse, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties:***
 - Implementation of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan for the Mississippi River and Major Tributaries in La Crosse, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties* continues.