

**Town of Cable Aquatic Invasive
Species Grant
2008 Final Report**
Project Number: AEPP-101-08

Prepared for:
The Town of Cable and
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
~ November 2008 ~

Prepared by:
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Sybil Brakken, public landing monitor

Grantee: Town of Cable
Town of Cable AIS Prevention Program
Perry, Cable, Wiley, and Tahkodah Lakes AIS Education and Inspection
Project Number
AEPP-101-08

Project Committee

Project Director: Jim Brakken, Cable Lake Association
Sue Benson, Town of Cable Supervisor and Agent for the AIS Grant
Diane Stewart, Tahkodah Lake District

Cable Town Board Participants

Larry Ludzack, Chairman
Sue Benson, Supervisor
Bob Lang, Supervisor

Employed Landing Monitors

Sybil Brakken
Bridey Shaugnessy
Cecelia Peterson

Volunteers

Gary Borkenhagen

Sandy Krisko

Eileen Shaugnessy

Noreen Shaugnessy

Mike, Steve and Gay Abraham

Terry Shaugnessy

Brenden Shaugnessy

Abigale Mullen

Jim Brakken

Susan Benson

Becca Gibson

Suzanne Newcomer

Others

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Abstract

A Town of Cable Aquatic Invasive Species project focusing on monitoring and prevention of aquatic invasive species was initiated in the spring of 2006, and continued to be implemented through 2008. The project was designed for the Town of Cable in cooperation with the Town, Tahkodah Lake District, and Cable Lake Association to enable education and monitoring at Perry, Cable, Wiley and Tahkodah Lakes. Objectives to ensure inspection of watercraft included monitors, both paid and volunteer at Perry, Tahkodah and Cable Lake landings. The purpose of this was to inspect boats for possible signs of aquatic invasive species (AIS) including, but not limited to, Eurasian Water Milfoil, purple loosestrife, zebra mussels and rusty crayfish. We were to record all data and summarize the results of the monitoring using the Clean Boats Clean Waters project, and to provide a final report in electronic format to the DNR Lake Coordinator. Our second goal, education, was to communicate to volunteers, users of watercraft, property owners, and visitors to the area about AIS. We planned to do this through articles and educational materials distributed to a variety of ways.

Goals for preventing AIS in Town of Cable

Goal 1: Inspection and Monitoring of Watercraft

Our objectives for this goal included: 1.) To monitor watercraft traffic at the Perry, Tahkodah and Cable Lake landings. 2.) To inspect boats for possible signs of AIS including, but not limited to, Eurasian water milfoil, purple loosestrife, zebra mussels and rusty crayfish. 3.) To train and utilize volunteers, lake land

owners, watercraft users, and other interested parties in the monitoring of surrounding lakes for evidence of potential invasive aquatic species. 4.) To collect samples of a variety of aquatic species from volunteers, lake users, lake owners, and others who access the water bodies located in the Town of Cable lakes. 5.) To record all relevant data and summarize results of monitoring and inspection efforts using Clean Boats-Clean Waters and to the DNR. 6.) To identify common aquatic species collected, and provide suspect specimens to the DNR for further identification.

Goal 2: Education and Communication

Our objectives for this goal included: 1.) To educate volunteers, users of watercraft, property owners, tourists, local businesses, and organizations about the more common aquatic species found in the area. 2.) To distribute educational materials to a wide array of individuals through articles in local newspapers, lake association newsletters, tourist publications, and 3.) To disseminate printed materials and place signs in prominent locations. 5.) To provide individuals using the Cable landings with information on EWM and other AIS. 6.) To place signs at each of the three public landings. 7.) To use volunteers to train others at lake associations and other meetings.

Project Accomplishments

We were able to continue our AIS Prevention Program that began in 2006. This year we trained in 2 volunteers and 3 staff to monitor the Cable, Perry and Tahkodah lake landings. The training was offered through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Kits were purchased for each of the monitors, and t-shirts and aprons were provided for all staff and volunteers to present a sense of professionalism and credibility when boaters were greeted at landings.

Effective educational signs were placed and/or maintained at each of the three landings. We also placed signs advising boaters that Bayfield County now has an ordinance prohibiting transport of aquatic plants.

Our paid staff and volunteers spent approximately 1,570 hours in 2008 on these efforts. This is up from 1,123 hours in 2008. Over 300 boaters were alerted to the problem of EWM and other invasive species and the need to spread the word about prevention of the spread of these species. During the boating season, no Eurasian water milfoil or other invasive species were found on any of the boats entering Tahkodah and Perry Lakes. This was not true for Cable Lake.

On June 28, 2008, a boat trailer carrying EWM picked up on Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota was intercepted at the Cable Lake landing. The landing monitor, Sybil Brakken, was offering on-the-job training to new landing monitor, Bridey Shaugnessy. EWM was found hidden inside the electric anchor mechanism. The boater, Mr. Richard Swenson, was cooperative. He was given a verbal warning

and instructions regarding how to inspect his boat and the importance of removal of aquatic plants from boating equipment.

On July 20 this boater returned. EWM was again found on his trailer by Sybil Brakken. The County Recreational Officer was informed and Mr. Swenson received a citation for transporting aquatic plants on public roadways. Mr. Swenson later pleaded no contest and was fined \$148.20.

If not for the Town of Cable AIS Prevention Program, the availability of funding from the DNR AIS Grant Program and our landing monitors, this the boater would not have been educated and Cable Lake would have been exposed to EWM.

Purple Loosestrife

In 2007, a volunteer collected 800 Loosestrife-eating beetles from stands of loosestrife near Lake Superior. They were transported to Cable and most were applied to the large patch of loosestrife in Cooper's Bay. Some were applied to the patch in the channel between Wiley and Cable. At the end of the season the loosestrife looked unhealthy. As expected the beetles were healthy and hungry for loosestrife in 2008. The Cooper's Bay stand was almost gone. Remaining plants looked very poor and the beetles were plentiful. No loosestrife could be found in the channel, although several plants were found on a nearby point. These were accessible by water and pulled by hand. They will be scheduled for treatment in 2009.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

VHS information was offered to boaters throughout the season. Many boaters showed deep concern. Several were already practicing procedures to reduce the threat. A workshop was held in Namakagon by Jim Brakken, Town of Cable AIS Program Coordinator. Additional discussions on VHS were held at the Cable Lake Association and the Tahkodah Lake District Annual Meetings.

Education efforts

Education was also a significant part of what our goals for 2008. An article about the project was submitted to and published in the County Journal, and articles were submitted to the Cable Lake Association newsletter. Town board members were present to discussed lake issues at both the Cable Lake Association Annual Meeting and Tahkodah Lake District Annual Meeting. The project director Jim Brakken worked with the Cable Natural History Museum to incorporate education about AIS into some of their programs – they presented information to

children during their summer program called Junior Naturalists and presented to a high school program called Forest Lab Intern Program.

Sue Benson, Town of Cable Supervisor, had many conversations as the need for AIS Education and Prevention continues with UW- Extension - Bayfield County; she has interacted with the recently formed Bayfield County AIS Committee (she was asked to serve on this committee); and she provided input into Lake Owen Association's plan to monitor their landings.

Education has also continued in other ways. Project Director Jim Brakken sent out a large distribution of materials on VHS. He worked again in cooperation with the Cable Natural History Museum. Mr. Brakken also included AIS education information in the Bayfield County Lakes Forum newsletter that was mailed to over 3,000 shoreland owners in Bayfield County and delivered to 4,000 others.

Summary

We feel that 2008 was another very successful year for this project. We began the season training in 3 staff and 1 new volunteer, again at the Clean Boats, Clean Water training session hosted at the Northern Lakes Conference. T-shirts and aprons were again provided for public landing monitors.

Our volunteer hours totaled 776 from at least 16 volunteers. We also generated much interest in others who may wish to volunteer at our lakes or at other northwestern Wisconsin lakes in future years.

Over **386** boats were monitored entering or leaving lakes in the Town of Cable in 2008. Other than the two interceptions at the Cable Lake landing, no EWM was found by our monitors during the boating season.

The good word continues to spread. In Bayfield County, our hope is that education and protection of our lakes spreads faster than AIS ever will. New AIS transport regulations by neighboring counties and the State will help curb the AIS threat.