

8728 E. Flowage Lane  
Gordon, WI 54838  
December 26, 2008

Ms. Pamela Toshner  
Lake Management Coordinator  
Northern Region - West  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
810 W. Maple Street  
Spooner, WI 54801

Dear Ms. Toshner:

The following is a summary of the activities completed during the summer of 2008 to fulfill the goals and objectives of the 2008 Education and Prevention Grant approved and funded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Our **first goal (A.)** was and is to **prevent the spread of Aquatic invasive species (AIS)** to non-infested areas of the St. Croix Flowage and to prevent the spread to other bodies of water. We accomplished this in several way, as follows:

1. Continued monitoring of both public landings on the Flowage took place every week-end and Holiday throughout the summer, using the Clean Boats - Clean Waters model. We used both paid and volunteer monitors for a total of 1306 hours.
2. We added the component of monitoring and observing for AIS by local Association members whenever they are out in their boats on the Flowage. They were named the "S.W.A.T." (St. Croix Water Action) Team. Training was provided at the Flowage Association Annual meeting, and interested members were provided with packets containing a plastic bag for suspicious plants, a magic marker (to label date, time and location of specimen collected), AIS plant I.D cards and a form to complete indicating times and dates when observations occurred. Specific individuals were designated to monitor the area of the Flowage where the St. Croix River flows into the Flowage. Eleven individuals participated in this activity and no new AIS were found.
3. The Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association continued to monitor and assess the status of Eurasian Water Milfoil outbreak discovered and treated in 2007, in order to stop any spread and eradicate any newly discovered infestations. We did this through the continuation of the DNR Rapid Response Grant, using divers to monitor the status of the EWM, and advice from the DNR Aquatic Plant Specialist.
4. The location and growth/spread of the existing Curly Leaf-pondweed was noted, mapped and reported so that it can be assessed as a future potential threat.

Our **second goal (B.) Education**, was also a continuation of the 2007 grant activities, with a few additions.

1. Monitoring activities included education to every boater and fisherman at each of the public landings on the Flowage on every week-end and Holiday from Memorial Day through Labor Day Week-end (and the Fishing Opener in May). A total of 1536 people were provided with both verbal and written information not only about prevention of AIS but also about VHS. It was noted that fishermen were very eager to learn and ask questions about VHS.
2. An added educational component was to convey information to fishermen about the dangers of using lead fishing tackle. Samples of non-lead tackle were offered to fishermen through the assistance of LoonWatch. 382 non-lead tackle kit samples were given out and approximately Thirty-five pounds of lead tackle were turned in for disposal as hazardous waste.
3. The St. Croix "Riverfest" celebration took place in June, and a member of the Flowage Association (who had previously attended a DNR training session) provided an aquatic plant identification program at the Gordon Dam Park. Emphasis was placed on AIS as well as the importance of aquatic plants in a lake/waterway. Approximately 12 - 15 people Attended this program segment.
4. Kiosks provided through the 2007 grant were used to post pertinent information about AIS and VHS.
5. In an effort to engage their support and provide information, members of the Gordon Town Board were invited on a pontoon tour of the St. Croix Flowage, but they were unable to provide a date when they could take the tour.
6. As in the previous year educational materials and information was provide to each of the three local resort owners to give out to their own customers who use the Flowage. As an added source of education, the two restaurant/bar owners posted educational information about AIS in their entryways that was provided by the St. Croix Flowage Association.

The **third goal** to develop strategies for **managing currently existing plant communities** in the Gordon St. Croix Flowage was carried out in several areas.

1. Monthly water quality readings were taken, in addition to Secchi, temperature and oxygen levels taken more frequently (using the new dissolved oxygen meter) in order to establish a baseline level to provide information for future aquatic and lake management plans.
2. A Sociological Survey was developed, distributed, and tabulated to provide further information for future decisions about the management of the St. Croix Flowage.
3. A consultant was hired to begin work on an aquatic plant management plan, with the long-term consideration given to a future Lake Management Plan.

**Comments and considerations/plans for the extended grant period and the summer of 2009:**

Continue all of the above programs and activities, with the following improvements and/or additions:

1. Maintain better communication with Douglas County Forestry regarding information placed on the Kiosks, and regarding attention to control of uniform water levels on the Flowage.
2. Increase efforts to engage the Gordon Town Board in getting to know and support the Gordon/St. Croix Flowage.
3. Work with the newly hired the newly hired Consultant to obtain information and carry out suggestions for completion of the Aquatic Plant management Plan for the Gordon/St. Croix Flowage.
4. With the direction and assistance of the Consultant, conduct informational meetings for the public to learn about the status, importance and future plans for the St. Croix Flowage.
5. Continue to work with and share resources and information with members of the entire Watershed.
6. Continue to maintain and foster communication with the DNR and other related organizations to help promote the protection and health of all Wisconsin waterways.

Without the advice and assistance of certain individuals of the Wisconsin DNR, none of the above activities could have been completed. We recognize their contributions to the success of our program, and especially send a great deal of appreciation and thanks to you.

Lorna Wilson  
Grant Representative  
Gordon/St. Croix Flowage Association