

Final Report
WDNR Grant: AAEPP-128-08



WDNR Water Guard Program

**Protecting the Iron River / Delta Lakes through Education,
Prevention, Containment and Planning
2008**

Submitted by

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Table of Contents

SUMMARY.....	1
Project Goals	2
Goal 1 Prevention of and controlling the spread of AIS.....	2
CBCW Program	2
Water Guard.....	3
Goal 2: Inform and Educate the Public.....	4
General AIS Education	4
Musky Tournament.....	4
Governor’s Visit	4
SWIMS Database	4
Goal 3: Providing AIS Materials.....	5
Goal 4: Shoreline Monitoring	5
AIS monitoring at landings and adjacent shorelines.....	5
AIS Monitoring Information and Education.....	5
Adopt-a-Lake / Adopt-a-Shoreline Recruitment.....	6
Account of Project Products and Deliverables as noted in grant application	6
APPENDICES	
Appendix A Clean Boats/Clean Water Data	8
Appendix B Match Account	9

ATTACHMENTS

SUMMARY

This project is the second such project funded by a WDNR AIS Control Grant focusing on watercraft inspection at the Twin Bear and Delta County Park landings, containment of Eurasian Water-milfoil to the Pike Chain of Lakes, prevention of any AIS to the area lakes, monitoring the shorelines of the lakes, and continuing the AIS education and information outreach in the Towns of Iron River and Delta. The Town of Iron River continues to give payroll support which allows the program to run very smoothly. This collaboration with the county will continue in for future projects.

This year also saw another program added to the state AIS education and prevention emphasis with the establishment of Water Guards. Kathy Oginski, the enforcement credentialed WDNR Water Guard for Bayfield County visited Twin Bear and Delta landings periodically assisting the CBCW staff during the weekends. Ms. Oginski added greatly to the county's AIS education and prevention program with her presence at landings all over the county and her attendance at various fishing tournaments. She also helped see many of the county's watercraft inspectors at work and with her observations, helped bring a more standard approach to watercraft inspections. Her insights and advice will help to improve the county's CBCW program in the future.

With the most current information, and to the best of the county's knowledge, no new EWM introductions occurred in the Iron River and Delta area lakes. This is a great accomplishment to all those involved in containing the EWM to the Pike Chain of Lakes, and preventing EWM introductions to other lakes. This involvement includes the Iron River Area Lakes Association (IRALA), numerous shoreline and SWAT volunteers, Delta Area Lakes Association, as well as this particular grant project.

EWM continues to spread in small patches to other lakes of the Pike Chain, most recently Millicent. IRALA continues to be proactive with these discoveries obtaining the GPS coordinates of these new plants or small beds and then reporting that information to Onterra, LCC, the consulting company working with them on their Lake Management Plans (LMP) project. By the end of 2008, LMPs were approved by the WDNR for the six main lakes of the chain.

Regarding the new rules for VHS, the watercraft inspectors were versed on the importance of the reuse of, or non use of bait, although there was some confusion about these steps in the beginning of the season. Ms. Oginski was instrumental in correcting the confusion among the inspectors. There also was a clear directive and emphasis to drain all water from the boat and the watercraft inspectors worked closely with boaters to see this happen. Boaters were also confused at the beginning of the season regarding the bait issue, but with cheerful encouragement and consistent language of the inspectors, by Memorial Day, anglers knew the rules and knowingly followed them. The new WDNR sign for VHS prevention steps was reproduced and laminated by the county AIS Program Coordinator and distributed to the project coordinator to place at lakes in the Iron River and Delta areas. Also, AIS materials were given to the public library in Iron River for more individual-initiated educational opportunities

One aquatic plant identification workshop was held at the Delta landing in an effort to increase voluntary shoreline monitoring. The participants were mainly young adults who showed an enthusiasm and desire to learn the plants. The project coordinator along with the County AIS Program Coordinator continued to emphasize to lake shore property owners, either individually or via lake association meetings the importance for each one of them to learn the common aquatic plants and to monitor their shorelines. The field guide "Lake Plants You Should Know" was distributed to some members of the IRALA board to assist and encourage this activity to occur. In addition, Phantom Consulting Services also helped train individuals in plant identification and increase the number of SWAT (Shoreline Watch Aquatic Team or Shoreline Weed Attack Team depending on who you talk to) participants. This training is under the county AIS program. The county AIS Program Coordinator attempted to contact all Girl and Boy Scout troops of the area to "Adopt-A-Lake."

All projects on the Pike Chain of Lakes continue to work in concert with each other. There is regular and open communication between the county AIS Program Coordinator, the CBCW Coordinator for the county parks, IRALA, Delta Area Lakes Association, Phantom Consulting Services (Jane Swenson), and Onterra, LLC. The CBCW project coordinator, Karen Austin, is also President of the Delta Lakes Association so within the context of her positions, much information exchange and dialog flows to the Delta Area also. In addition, Sue Davis, a Supervisor for the Town of Delta, participated in the lake management planning discussion groups held by IRALA for their lake management planning project.

Project Goals

The goals of this project were:

1. To control the further spread of aquatic invasive species in waters where AIS is present and prevent the spread of AIS into waters that are currently free of AIS,
2. To inform and educate the public of the potential threats of AIS,
3. To provide AIS material to the Iron River Library and Town Departments for reference use.
4. To continue to encourage lake shore property owners to monitor their shorelines for AIS.

Goal1: Prevention of and controlling the spread of AIS

Clean Boats Clean Water Program

The CB/CW staff was up and running by the opening Saturday, May 3, for the watercraft inspection programs at both Twin Bear and Delta County Campgrounds. Karen Austin, CBCW Coordinator in 2007 was again coordinator for 2008. With four years experience, she trained new staff individually and refreshed continuing staff with new information, such as the new data form, the new Bayfield County transport ordinance, and the new VHS rules concerning bait and water. Staff was also present for CBCW training at the NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference (Attendee List in Attachments). Landings were staffed Friday evenings to Sunday evenings until the week after Labor Day, 7 September. Extra day coverage was necessary around the 4th of July, Blueberry Festival, and Memorial and Labor Day holidays. Additionally, staff was present during a Musky Tournament sponsored by the Battle Axe Saloon, Iron River, on October 25-26th.

Below is a summary table of some of the standard data collected for CB/CW programs. Appendix A lists totals of all data.

CB/CW Summary	Landing	
	Twin Bear	Delta
Number of Boats Checked	1172	185
Number People Contacted	3013	329
Number of Hours at Landing	430	235
Aware of Law	1111/1154	169/172
AIS Knowledge by watercraft inspector	1059	145
% Knew AIS by inspector education	90	78
% Knew AIS by Signs	13	0.5
Inspected & removed plants	1119/1158	172/176
Drained water	1055/1132	167/175

At the Twin Bear landing, a rinse station is available as the land drains away from the lake, and if necessary, boats are sprayed with a bleach solution and then rinsed. Delta Park also has a wash down area. Boat disinfecting/washing was always completed with the consent and sometimes the assistance of the boat owner. This station was used primarily for boats entering the Twin Bear landing that had come from another water body within five days

and/or the boat owner did not clean the boat after leaving another water body. At least 20 boats, the majority from Lake Superior, were noted in the comment section from Twin Bear landing (attached), to have been bleached and rinsed down.

New to this season were sandwich board signs positioned near the entrance of the parks so that boaters could get a heads-up that watercraft inspections were going on at the landing and there may be a short delay. A note in the comment section in the SWIMS data base by K. Austin on 6/21/08 at Twin Bear landing mentions: "Think the sign at the entry is very helpful." It has been proven helpful to many programs across the state as well as for the Water Guard program that have large plastic, lightweight signs with the script: "Invasive Species Courtesy Check." The county AIS coordinator will investigate purchasing these types of sandwich boards for the county CBCW programs.

Overall, most boaters are very cooperative and compliant with the laws. Earlier in the season, with the new VHS Emergency Rules and the Bayfield County Transport Ordinance in place, there was a great need for the inspectors to educate the boaters clearly and consistently and be vigilant themselves. This for the most part was successful after a small confusion was cleared up. This is a comment from the Delta landing:

"Perosino girls stopped a boat that had come from Twin Bear with live bait in T B water and un-washed. Offered to wash boat for them and dispose of bait- showed them the new law. Very cooperative- they decided to return to TB and use bait there- had not intended to fish Delta and FORGOT what they were told the day before at TB. Complimented the Delta Girls on their knowledge and service."

And the entry on Twin Bear comments:

"Boat refused entry at Delta landing because of water in bait from Twin Bear had no problem reusing bait on Twin Bear. Very cooperative- no problems."

These comments reflect the professionalism of the inspectors as well as the cooperative nature of the boaters to comply with the rules.

Water Guard

The new WDNR Water Guard program was beneficial to the county in general, and to this particular project as well. Having an enforcement-credentialed officer at the landings along with the watercraft inspector every now and then gave more credence to the program in demonstrating that the state was very serious about everyone following preventative measures. The presence of a Water Guard also helped to encourage these preventative behaviors across all boaters. From the county's perspective, because the Water Guard in the area, Deputy Warden Kathy Oginski, visited all of the CBCW programs of the county, she was able to see weaknesses and strengths of the individual programs. She was, in a sense, a quality control for the county programs. The county AIS coordinator and Deputy Warden Oginski had many conversations and the county programs will be improved with her insights and suggestions.

Goal 2: Inform and educate the Public

General AIS Education

The management of the county parks provided tables for each CBCW program so that educational materials could be displayed and be readily available for interested parties. Ms. Austin also created an education/appreciation display she put on the table at Twin Bear landing. As in previous years, campers from the campgrounds wandered over and asked questions about the program, as well as Ms. Austin and other staff finding these opportunities by visiting with campers and explaining the program and its necessity. A comment from the SWIMS database from 5/4/08: "Time spent at landing this weekend was geared toward talking to seasonal campers who are coming in and to update them on new regulations."

Additionally, on August 16th, a large party of four pontoons and 2 boats for a family reunion came into the landing. As the boats had to go in one by one, Ms. Austin took the opportunity to hold a mini-workshop on AIS for the 40 individuals present who were waiting for the boats to launch. This group was attentive and interested and the information well-received. This exemplifies Ms. Austin's basic approach to use every available opportunity to educate visitors on AIS issues.

Musky Tournament

On the evening of Friday, Oct. 24, at the tournament sponsor's business, CBCW staff talked to the tournament attendees informing them of the WDNR and Bayfield County rules, as well as the populations of EWM in the chain. A total of 17 boats were inspected and/or washed before launching. During the two days of the tournament, staff was at the landing checking boats as they entered and left the water/landing. This one-on-one education was well received by the tournament attendees. The CBCW Coordinator and the tournament organizers, Battle Axe Saloon, have a close working relationship and appreciate each other's effort to contain EWM. In the attachments is a letter from the owner of the Battle Ax Saloon in regards to the CBCW program.

Governor's Visit

Mary Motiff, Director, Bayfield County Tourism and Recreation Department, organized a tour to the Pike Chain of Lake for Governor Doyle, Secretary of Department of Tourism, Kelli Trumble, and Secretary of Department of Natural Resources, Matt Frank. Although this event is independent of this project, Ms. Austin, in her capacity as the CBCW Coordinator, assisted M. Motiff with on-the-ground logistics in obtaining pontoons and drivers for the event. She also had the opportunity to inform all the attendants about the CBCW program at Twin Bear landing. Senator Robert Jauch, Representative Gary Sherman, WDNR Northern Regional Director John Goddzialski, and other associated staff were also in attendance and were educated about this successful prevention and education project.

SWIMS Database

Ms. Austin completed data entry into the SWIMS database and also presented the program's statistics to lake association groups at their meetings. Throughout the season she gave weekly updates on statistics and happenings at the landings to the county AIS Project Coordinator.

Goal 3: Providing AIS Materials

For the more passive educational opportunities, some AIS and lake-related reading materials were donated to the Evelyn Goldberg Briggs Memorial Library in the Town of Iron River with funding from this grant. The material is listed in Attachments. In conversations with the director, the material will be displayed and highlighted in a future exhibit featuring lake issues. Additionally, with funding assistance from grant #AEPP-022-06, the Towns of Iron River and Delta received "Lake Binders." This binder is to be a general resource for the towns and contains: a list of named lakes in their town with pertinent statistics, WDNR lake maps, a list of lakes with public access and the signs that should be at the landing, and the publication WT-825 2005, "Aquatic Invasive Species: a handbook for education efforts." This "Lake Binder" will be given to all the lake-rich towns in the county. Examples of material are in attachments.

Local businesses and resorts also continue to receive updated brochures (primarily VHS this year) and information from Ms. Austin and other area volunteers working on AIS outreach.

Goal 4: Shoreline Monitoring

AIS monitoring at landings and adjacent shorelines

It was part of the duties of the watercraft inspectors to rake around the landings at least once per day if needed. Early July, the staff was raking the landings and around moored pontoons four+ times a day at Twin Bear as EWM was coming up on shore. The EWM beds in Twin Bear and Hart Lakes were treated in June and the staff was on the look out for floating and washed up vegetation debris.

AIS Monitoring Information and Education

In coordination with the Bayfield County AIS Coordinator, one aquatic plant identification workshop was held at the Delta landing in an effort to increase voluntary shoreline monitoring. The AIS County coordinator and one trainer were on-hand to speak with any community members who attended. A few adults and around ten young adults attended the workshop. The children were eager to learn the plants and some were inspired to look out for AIS plants in the lakes they enjoy. Below is a press release given to The County Journal (Bayfield County's newspaper) and The Daily Press (out of Ashland) and broadcasted to lake association members. Unfortunately, the sign up sheet is lost, so there is not match claimed as there is no documentation.

Free Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop

As most of us have been out and about in the lakes this summer, no doubt there have been some intimate tangles with those inhabitants of the lakes--those wonderful, necessary, sometimes annoying aquatic plants! Aquatic plants have fascinating natural histories for their survival under the water and are the foundation of a healthy lake ecosystem. Whether you are more inclined to curse them or appreciate them, it helps to know their names. Please come down to the boat landing at Delta Lake Park and Campground, Thursday, August 14 at 4:00 pm to learn about some of the more common aquatic plants, and learn how to identify the few you don't want to find in your lakes. Stay for five minutes or the whole evening to walk along the shoreline, ask some questions, and learn about these inhabitants of our lakes. Stefania Strzalkowska, Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator and Karen Austin, Clean Boats, Clean Waters Coordinator for Twin Bear and Delta Parks will be your educators. Light refreshments will be available. Delta Park is accessed via Scenic Drive Road, off County Road H, Iron River. See you there!

The project coordinator along with the County AIS Program Coordinator continued to emphasize to lake shore property owners, either individually or via lake association meetings the importance for each one of them to learn the common aquatic plants and to monitor their shorelines. The field guide "Lake Plants You Should Know" was distributed to some members of the IRLA board to assist and encourage this activity to occur. In addition, Phantom Consulting Services also helped train individuals in plant identification and increase the number of SWAT (Shoreline Watch Aquatic Team or Shoreline Weed Attack Team depending on who you talk to) participants. This training is under the county AIS program. At the IRLA annual meeting August 9th, the county AIS Project Coordinator, Ms. Austin, and Ms. Swenson of Phantom Consulting Services were present with these guidebooks, plant specimens, and additional handouts for the attendees to learn about.

Adopt-a-Lake / Adopt-a-Shoreline Recruitment

In collaboration with the county AIS Project Coordinator and as a county-wide activity in the AIS Strategic Plan, an attempt was made to contact Girl and Boy Scout troops of the area and civic groups to solicit their interest in AIS monitoring projects under the names/project of "Adopt-A-Lake" or "Adopt-A-Shoreline". This used to be a state-funded program and the county would like to establish this activity on lakes in the county. Evidently, from the lack of reciprocal communications, this activity will take more time to become established, if indeed it can be in the area. Scouting troops typically do not meet in the summer, an impediment that was not known previously, and civic groups have fairly set activities among their memberships. Attempts are still being made with the scouting groups to solicit individual scouts who may be seeking particular conservation badges. The process is taking longer than expected. No recruitment for "Adopt-A-Lake" came this season, but this will be a continued goal for the county, especially in lakes with or near to a lake with an AIS population within its waters.

Account of:

Project Products and Deliverables as noted in the grant agreement:

Deliverables include a paper and electronic copy of final report including:

- 1) A summary of project accomplishments including Adopt-A-Lake recruitment, watercraft inspection and public education.
 - 2) Brochures and educational materials.
 - 3) Verification of training of inspectors and monitors such as agendas and attendance lists.
 - 4) Watercraft inspection reports including time and number of people reached; CB/CW survey results completed entry of inspection and monitoring into the DNR website database.
 - 5) Aquatic plant sampling results including boat and shoreline monitoring observations of any detected aquatic invasive species with appropriate maps.
 - 6) AIS materials generated or paid for by this grant.
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- 1) The summary is this report.
 - 2) Businesses, resorts and the Iron River Chamber of Commerce have AIS/VHS material from previous years' visits. However, the new VHS brochure, "Minnows as Bait" FH-240-rev2008 was given to establishments in the area. Also, a handout of the new Bayfield County Ordinance was posted at area businesses (see Attachments). Ms. Austin made maps that noted areas of EWM to give to boaters launching at Twin Bear. She encouraged boaters to avoid these areas if they saw plants at the surface.
 - 3) Karen Austin, a CBCW trainer individually trained Gary Teigen, a new inspector on her staff (June 13 & 14), Scott Teigen, a substitute if needed (June 17), as well as updated

all staff from previous years, Chelle Davis (3rd year), Arianna Pajdash (3rd year), Gina and Tianna Perosino (2nd year) on her staff. Brenda Garrett, manager of the Delta Campground who inspected watercraft for a few hours each week, and Gina and Tianna Perosino also took the CBCW and CLMN AIS Monitoring Workshops at the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference (Attendance list and agendas attached).

- 4) Watercraft inspection reports are contained within this report. Data was pulled off the SWIMS database, so all data were entered.
- 5) Regarding the Pike Chain of Lakes, all sampling data and new EWM populations are with Onterra, LLC., and have been submitted to the WDNR in the appropriate format. This project has no new data outside of that submitted by IRALA/Onterra, LLC. Regarding shoreline monitoring, attached are residential plat maps of those residences that actively monitor their shorelines.
- 6) The list of AIS materials generated or paid for this grant are under attachments.

Appendix A

Clean Boats / Clean Water Data

		Twin Bear	% of Total	Delta	% of Total
Contact Data	Total Boats Inspected	1172		185	
	People Contacted	3013		329	
	Time Spent (hours)	430		235	
	Time Spent - Paid	410		232	
	Time Spent - Volunteer	20		3	
Launch Direction	Boat was entering	693	59	119	64
	Boat was leaving	479	41	66	36
Used during past 5 days	Yes	154	13	39	22
	No	1038	87	138	78
Prevention Steps	Inspect & Remove Plants - Yes	1119		172	
	- No	39		4	
	Drain Water - Yes	1055		167	
	- No	77		8	
	Dispose of Bait - Yes	162		37	
	- No	57		10	
	- N/A	941		127	
	Ice Your Catch - Yes	135		20	
	- No	81		15	
	- N/A	971		138	
Awareness of Law	Wash Equipmt or Dry 5 Days - Yes	645		122	
	- No	494		41	
Awareness of Law	Aware Of Law - Yes	1111	96	169	97
	Aware Of Law - No	43	4	6	3
Sources of Information about AIS	Know from Inspector	1059		145	
	Know from PSA	23		12	
	Know from News	84		19	
	Know from Brochure	49		7	
	Know from Signs at landings	153		13	
	Know from Billboards	17		5	
	Know from Web	8		1	
Plants Moved Before	Entering - Yes	15		6	
	- No	71		16	
	Leaving - Yes	7		6	
	- No	39		5	
Plants Present	Yes	231		18	
	No	718		82	
Plants Removed	Yes	256		18	
	No	5		0	
	N/A	732		124	
Violations	Occurred	0		0	
	Reported	0		0	

Comments for both landings in Attachments

Appendix B Match Account

From Grant Application Section VI. A.: Attachments

4. Itemized Expenses

Item	State	Sponsor		Sponsor
		Cash	Donation	Actual Cash or Match
Watercraft inspection for Twin Bear and Delta landings	\$5,000	\$ 2,200		
Project Coordinator (scheduling, submitting time sheets)	\$1,840	\$ 600		
Total Payroll for FICA & MEDI	\$ 420	\$ 460		
Project Coordinator (educating campers, monitoring shorelines, data entry, raking landing area, training)	\$2,495			
1. Salaries, wages and employee benefits (<i>watercraft inspectors & Coordinator, plus payroll</i>) Form 8700-303 pg 2		\$12,415		\$13,767.09
Bookkeeping Administrative costs (Town of Iron River)			\$ 80	\$ 270
Coordinator Mileage	\$ 454	\$		\$ 353.46
Coordinator/W.I. Supplies (hats, t-shirts, cleaning solutions, office)	\$ 400			\$ 165.57
Assistant trainers at CLMN Workshop (2 at 2hr @ \$15/hr)			\$ 60	\$ 0
Attendees at CLMN workshop (10 attendees for 2hr @ \$8/hr)			\$ 160	\$ 0
Lakeshore monitoring (10 monitors at 4hr @ \$8/hr)			\$ 320	\$ 400
AIS Library Materials	\$ 500			\$ 74
AIS Reference Plant Specimen Laminates for towns	\$ 500			\$ 500
Signs for new County Ordinance posting	\$ 800			\$ 800
Monitoring Training and Activity Supplies	\$2,758			\$ 2908.97
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$ 165			(amt above includes these)
COST SHARE (75% / 25%)TOTALS				
	\$13,983		\$4,661	
PROJECT TOTAL		\$18,644.00		
ACTUAL COST SHARE (75% / 25%)TOTALS				
	\$13,983		\$5,402.22	
ACTUAL PROJECT TOTAL		\$ 19,385.22		

Volunteer Match Account if grossly different from grant:

Activity	Grant	Calculation	Actual
Assistant trainers at CLMN Workshop (2 at 2hr @ \$15/hr)	\$ 60	The trainers were paid staff	\$ 0
Attendees at CLMN workshop (10 attendees for 2hr @ \$8/hr)	\$ 160	Sign Up sheet lost	\$ 0
Lakeshore monitoring <i>Estimate 10 volunteers for 4 hrs @ \$8/hr</i>	\$ 320	21+ Individuals, from 2-4+ hrs, @ \$8/hr	\$ 400
AIS Library Materials	\$ 500		\$ 74
ADDITIONAL MATCH:			
Discounts from retailers: Eec Direct, Marisafe, Walmart			\$ 135.35