

# LAKE PLANNING GRANT FINAL REPORT

## I. Introduction

**Sponsor:** Town of Three Lakes

**Project Title:** AIS Inspection, Prevention, and Planning Project

**Period Covered:** April 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008

**Project Number:** AEP – 143 – 08

**State Grant Amount:** \$20,219.00

## II. Project Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

Following is a list of the goals, objectives, and deliverables of the grant as submitted in the grant application.

### Goals:

- A. Continue to increase public awareness of AIS issues by disseminating information at boat landings, at community events, at resorts and businesses, and through mailings to homeowners on the chain.
- B. Continue to participate in the “Clean Boats/Clean Waters” volunteer watercraft inspection program. Train new volunteers. Training will be done at the Annual Meeting and at boat landings as new volunteers are identified.
- C. Continue to implement a rapid response strategy in the event more AIS is discovered.
- D. Continue the Adopt-A-Shoreline program. Train new volunteers.
- E. Work with the DNR to develop strategies to implement VHS rules.
- F. Construct and install AIS instructional Kiosks at the 5 busiest boat landings.

### Objectives:

- A. New volunteers from the Three Lakes Waterfront Association will be identified and trained for the “Clean Boats/Clean Waters” and “Adopt-A-Shoreline” programs. The training will take place after the Annual Meeting in July as well as at boat landings as new volunteers are identified.
- B. Mailings will be sent to lake property owners to acquaint them with the AIS problem and how they can help with prevention.

- C. Establish and staff a volunteer inspection schedule for 55 days of the season at boat landings and provide boaters with a handout packet of AIS identification and response information.
- D. Hire two volunteer coordinators to implement the volunteer training and, schedule and supervise boat launch inspections.
- E. Prepare and distribute materials for display at local businesses and at public events.
- F. Continue to implement a rapid response strategy in case AIS is suspected on chain waters.
- G. Continue to implement the Adopt-A-Shoreline program developed in 2006.
- H. Develop information and education strategies to help implement VHS rules on the Chain.

Deliverables:

- A. At least 3,000 volunteer hours will be spent at 4 major boat landings and the Burnt Rollways Dam and landing. (Additional landings will be manned if a sufficient number of new volunteers are recruited.) Some landings will require more time than others based on boat traffic. An AIS identification and reporting/response packet will be provided to each boater. Information packets will also be available at participating marinas, Information Bureau and through local water safety patrol.
- B. Educational literature and volunteer recruitment materials.
- C. Form 3200-120.
- D. Adopt-A-Shoreline strategy will be continued. 600 volunteer hours are anticipated from this group.
- E. Final report to DNR, Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Dept., and other interested entities.
- F. Pictures of Kiosks.

**III. Final Report**

A. Clean Boats/Clean Waters

The Three Lakes Waterfront Association “Clean Boats/Clean Waters” 2008 program monitored six (6) boat landings and the Burnt Rollways Dam on a regular, weekly

basis from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Those landings included: Medicine, Big Lake, Big Fork, two landings on Big Stone and Town Line. There were several additional lakes with minimal monitoring: Long and Julia.

The Association had 49 individuals that volunteered to monitor the landings/lift for four (4) hour shifts. The coverage was primarily on Friday through Sunday and holidays. In addition, several special events had additional coverage. The Association also paid an independent contractor to supervise the volunteers and to monitor the dam site (approximately 32 hours per week).

The majority of the volunteers have worked multiple years as monitors and many have attended either DNR, County or Association CBCW training sessions.

Each volunteer is issued a blue Clean Boats/Clean Waters tee shirt and baseball type cap.

Each monitor is issued a CBCW box that contains the following: (refers to DNR publication number)

- 1) Clipboard and pen or pencil
- 2) Watercraft inspection daily work diary form
- 3) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) folder listing known AIS by county and lake
- 4) Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Stickers (WT-747)
- 5) Eurasian Water Milfoil/Northern Milfoil ID cards (WT-394)
- 6) Zebra Mussel watch cards (WT-730)
- 7) Rusty Crayfish watch cards (WT-752)
- 8) Spiny Waterflea watch cards (WT-753)
- 9) Ruffe watch cards (WT-742)
- 10) Round Goby watch cards (WT-743)
- 11) Aquatic Hitchhikers brochure (WT-801)
- 12) Eurasian Water Milfoil brochure (WT-781)
- 13) VHS brochure (FH-240)
- 14) VHS info card by the Three Lakes Waterfront Association
- 15) Large laminated cards showing samples of Eurasian and Northern Milfoil
- 16) Small cards with a map of Three Lakes Chain to mark potential EWM sites and turn in with samples
- 17) Individual information cards to list name and phone for contact if EWM is confirmed
- 18) Plastic boat key float as a gift item for fishermen
- 19) 24" stick on ruler to measure fish as another gift for fishermen
- 20) Pencil and paper clip
- 21) Ziploc bag to place plant samples in with water. The boater is asked to fill out the individual info card and to mark the map location where possible EWM has been located. They are to turn this into a local bait shop where a Waterfront Association Board member will analyze and if necessary send to the DNR.

In 2008 the 49 volunteers spent 1,440 hours monitoring landings and the boat lift, inspected 1,712 boats and had contact with 3,937 people. A Watercraft Summary Graph is attached.

The TLWA has a four year history with the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. That history follows.

2005 – 80 volunteers worked 1,930 hours  
2006 – 55 volunteers worked 1,747 hours  
2007 – 49 volunteers worked 1,253 hours  
2008 – 49 volunteers worked 1,440 hours

We deem this to be a very successful program. While our core volunteers are dedicated, we need to continue to recruit new volunteers as veteran volunteer burnout is a concern.

B. Adopt-A-Shoreline

It was apparent to the TLWA that AIS was a threat to our lakes in 2004. Thus, a plan was adopted by TLWA to inspect each lake that flows into the upper waters of the Chain.

In 2005 property owners on the shores of the lakes were asked to attend a training session and voluntarily check a portion of the shoreline of their lake not once but three times each summer. The effort resulted in thirty (30) volunteers the first summer. We estimated that forty percent (40%) of only the major lakes on the Chain were inspected.

Enthusiasm to the initial 2005 Adopt-A-Shoreline effort grew. Hence, in 2006 TLWA achieved inspection of all major lakes on the Chain above the Burnt Rollways Reservoir Dam. Volunteers turned out in greater number as the word of this effort spread.

Significantly, the Wisconsin DNR worked with the TLWA in 2006 to make our Adopt-A-Shoreline program a part of the State Clean Boats/Clean Water (CB/CW) program which is now known as Citizen Lake Monitoring. Our local program and the state program recognize that citizen ownership of environmental protection is a goal that becomes realized within this endeavor.

Further, training on AIS identification, using placards and standard methods bore fruit in 2006 when a citizen volunteer from the Long Lake Adopt-A-Shoreline correctly identified EWM growing in what is known as the Eagle River channel as it meets Nine-Mile Creek.

During 2007 Whitefish and Virgin Lakes, which flow into the chain and have a depth conducive to EWM growth were added to the program. Again, the volunteer total increased with over 70 persons trained and participating in some manner.

The 2008 boating season found ninety (90)volunteers in the Adopt-A-Shoreline effort for TLWA.

It was at the conclusion of 2007 that the TLWA decided to add a quality assurance component to Adopt-A-Shoreline by performing an independent Shoreline inspection by using our own volunteer staff. Whitefish and Virgin were checked in this manner and Lake Julia was added to lakes examined while performing this additional effort.

Further, both Nine-Mile Creek and Seven Mile Lake were added to the 2008 shoreline effort. It is thought that these may be somewhat marginal potential sources due to depth and lack of launch attributes; however, for the sake of completeness they were added to the inspection effort and found free of AIS.

An effort to eliminate EWM in the Eagle River channel as it intersects upper Nine-Mile Creek in the spring of 2007 provided at least one summer without EWM in the upper Chain of Lakes. Unfortunately, a new larger patch of EWM was found near the original site. Again the discovery was by a volunteer trained to identify AIS.

While we had 90 volunteers in this program, only 48 turned in forms indicating when and where they performed their duties. Lake Captains need to do a better job of monitoring their volunteers to be sure that volunteers are getting the job done. We can only assume and hope that more monitoring is occurring than what the attached “2008 Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteer Report” indicates.

### C. Rapid Response Plan

The TLWA developed a Rapid Response Plan in 2005 that reacts to information provided by: boaters at landings and elsewhere; a local bait shop in Three Lakes that is cooperating with the Clean Boats/Clean Waters project by receiving suspect samples and location information from boaters and refrigerating samples for identification purposes; and, participants in the Adopt-A-Shoreline program who turn in suspect samples and map location for follow-up action. During the course of the summer, approximately 20 suspected EWM samples were turned in by boaters. These samples were either checked by TLWA board members or taken to the Rhinelander DNR Service Center for further identification.

The TLWA Rapid Response Plan is as follows:

1. Adopt-A-Shoreline search process or boater report of AIS location triggers report to TLWA Rapid Response Team (RRT).

2. The RRT, together with the shoreline inspector for those waters conducts an intensive visual search for the plant in an effort to confirm and map the location and extent of infestation.
3. Then, whether or not the AIS is relocated, the RRT completes the WDNR AIS report form and notifies the appropriate DNR staff.
4. The RRT and DNR staff inspect the location and assess the extent of the infestation.
5. The RRT and DNR work together to devise the best and most cost effective approach to control, and if possible, eradication of the AIS infestation.
6. The TLWA implements the control/eradication plan.

During the 2006 season, two samples submitted were EWM. One was turned in from a floating weed found on the north shore of Whitefish Lake located on the southeast part of the chain. The Rapid Response Team scoured the entire shoreline but could not locate an infestation. Once again in 2007, the RRT again attempted to find an infestation on Whitefish Lake. None was located. We continued to monitor this particular lake in 2008; no EWM was found.

The other sample found was near the Burnt Rollways Dam on the north end of the chain. We applied for an AIS Control Grant. On April 4, 2007, we were notified that the grant application was approved.

The full report regarding this infestation is attached.

As recommended, we continued to monitor this area of Eagle River in 2008. Unfortunately, another infestation was discovered in July across the river from the original infestation. In order to keep boaters out of this area, the Town of Three Lakes placed "Keep Out" buoys in this location.

The EWM spread to an 11.8 acre infestation by August. A Rapid Response grant was applied for. The area will be treated in May of 2009.

#### D. Signs and Kiosks

Using plans adapted from WDNR's most recent design, we developed two types of kiosks. For large landings with high use and large parking areas we constructed eight foot long, shallow "V" shaped kiosks with two, 4'x4' sign boards. Smaller landings with limited or no parking area were supplied kiosks with single 4'x4' sign boards. Four by four inch treated posts provide upright support for both types, while treated 2"x4" 's were used for sign board and roof framing and treated 3/4" plywood was used for the sign boards. Roofs were made with 5/8" OSB, tar papered and shingled.

Rough sawn cedar was used for gable ends and trim work; aluminum drip edge was used to protect roof boards.

A total of eight township landings are presently supplied with kiosks. Four more, including one DNR landing (authorized by Paul Brugink, DNR, Woodruff), will have kiosks erected in early Spring of 2009; severe Fall weather and early freeze-up prevented their installation in 2008. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service built new kiosks of their own standard design to accommodate our signs at two landings they maintain.

The signs are rigid, faced front and rear with aluminum over a corrugated core. They have a brown background color with yellow-gold, lettering. There are two sizes, 4'x4' for the large, 8' kiosks and 3'x3' for the 4' kiosks. Forest Service signs are 2'x4' to accommodate their standard rectangular design. Forest Service signs also differ in color, with background being a light tan or "sand", and letters in dark brown. Two signs will be mounted on treated back boards and attached to a fence and a shed adjacent to large private landings with owner's permission. When all work is completed this Spring (2009) we will have 16 landings signed with a highly visible message.

The new kiosks will provide the added advantage of being able to consolidate most landing signage in one place. Presently, three or four signs are put up on their own posts at most landings making for an unsightly appearance.

See attached addendum for sample sign and kiosk pictures.

#### E. Conclusion

The CB/CW, Adopt-A-Shoreline, and Rapid Response programs are strong volunteer efforts sponsored by the TLWA and Town of Three Lakes. Without the technical and financial support of the WDNR, these programs would not be possible. That support is greatly appreciated.

As we look ahead, two major challenges face the TLWA. First, we need to continue the programs mentioned above and increase volunteerism for each. Second, we need to contain the EWM found in the Eagle River. Treatment of the 11.8 acres in the Eagle River is planned for 2009. A Lake Management Plan is being developed for Long Lake which feeds into the Eagle River.

#### F. List of Attachments

1. CB/CW Watercraft Summary Graphs
2. Adopt-A-Shoreline Volunteer Report
3. AIS Volunteer Coordinator Job Description
4. 2008 Spring Newsletter
5. 2008 Winter Newsletter

6. Burnt Rollway Dam 2007 EWM Treatment Report
7. Kiosk Pictures
8. Sign Pictures
9. Informational/Educational Bag (used at boat landings)

G. Additional Information Requested

The TLWA employed two coordinators for the CB/CW program. The lead coordinator scheduled volunteers, trained new volunteers, maintained educational materials and visited volunteers at landings as well as worked at landings when volunteers could not be scheduled.

The second coordinator worked at Burnt Rollways from Monday to Thursday and entered data into the SWIM program.