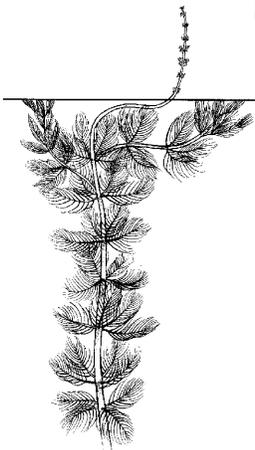
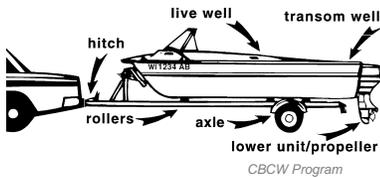


Aquatic Invasive Species PLAN

A Guide for Proactive AIS Management

In Waushara County

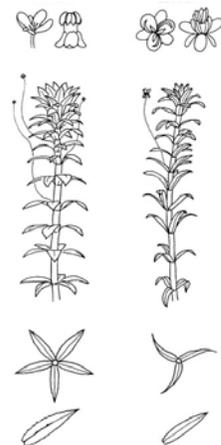


Eurasian Water Milfoil
CBCW Program

2008

By
Amy Thorstenson
Golden Sands RC&D Council, Inc.

In partnership with
Waushara County Land Conservation Department



Hydrilla (L) vs. Elodea (R)
University of Florida

Acknowledgements

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- Waushara County Land Conservation Department
- Waushara County Watershed and Lakes Council
- Ted Johnson, Water Resource Management Specialist, DNR

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Introduction

Waushara County has 45 public access lakes, many of which have multiple public access points. Year-round residents are approximately one-third of the lake residents, with the remaining two-thirds being seasonal residents.

Lake group development is at various levels, with some groups being active, funded lake districts, some lakes having only loosely-organized lake groups, and some lakes having no organized group at all. Some lakes groups are already quite capable of actively controlling the AIS present in their lakes, some are not that far yet.

The Waushara County Watershed and Lake Council is a cooperative organization made up of representatives from many of the county's lakes. This council has been active since 1998 and according to the Council bylaws, it provides "a network for communication and sharing resources between and amongst lake organizations in Waushara County". The Council gives the lake groups of Waushara County a collective voice to "advocate for regulatory changes, influence public policy discussions, and partner in discussions regarding future growth and change throughout the community".

With more and more lake groups struggling with AIS issues, in 2007, Waushara County Land Conservation Department (LCD) acknowledged the need for aquatic invasive species management on a county-wide level. The LCD collaborated with Portage and Adams counties, and Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (RC&D), to acquire grant funding from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to support a Regional AIS Specialist position.

Through the Regional AIS Specialist position, information was gathered about the status of AIS infestations in Waushara County, volunteer activity levels, training and education needs, and other information regarding AIS in Waushara County.

The purpose of this AIS Plan is to identify short-term and long-term goals towards establishing a coordinated, county-wide approach to protecting Waushara County's lakes.

The Plan is meant to be a dynamic document, to be updated annually and changed as new goals and challenges are identified.

Many lakes...

One county

Proactive Management Steps

It is in the best interest of any lake organization or community to initiate actions today in order to avoid AIS problems tomorrow. Take a “proactive management” approach to lake protection. Proactive management activities need not be costly, but they can make a world of difference.

Initiate actions today to avoid AIS problems tomorrow. Be prepared and be proactive!

As the old saying goes...an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. So it can be said of preventing an AIS invasion in your favorite lake. If efforts can be kept at a “prevention level,” the costs to your group (in time, money, and frustration) will be tremendously lower than having to deal with AIS at a “control level.”

Step 1: Gather Information About Aquatic Invasive Species

In Waushara County, lake group surveys were sent to contact persons for 37 lakes, and responses were received for 26 lakes. Eight lakes have no known lake group or contact representative, and were, therefore, not surveyed:

- Plainfield Lake
- West Branch Mill Pond
- Mecan Springs
- Curtis Lake
- Mielke Lake
- Mill Pond
- Willow Creek Mill Pond
- Beans Lake

According to the lake group surveys, most lakes average around 109 residences on the lake, with an average of 27% of those being year-round residences. Over half (16) of the 26 lake groups responding to the survey were Lake Districts, with the ability to raise funds through taxes. Nine of the remaining respondents reported they had lake associations, with varying methods of fund raising.

Of the 26 lake groups responding to the survey, six have active Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer programs, 11 report having some type of educational campaign, and six report no activity related to AIS. Additionally, 18 groups reported some level of AIS monitoring, and eight reported no AIS monitoring activity.

DNR records, herbarium records, and lake group surveys were consulted to develop a comprehensive list of AIS presence, both reported and confirmed, in Waushara County. Most lakes that reported having AIS also reported control activities. One lake, Round Lake (T20N R11E Sec35), reported no active control. Six lakes that are confirmed to have EWM did not respond to the survey, or there was no contact person to send the survey to, therefore their control activities are unknown. (See Table 1.)

Table 1
AIS Presence in Waushara County

Lake Name	WBIC	EWM Confirmed (DNR Record)	EWM, hybrid confirmed	ZM Conf'd (DNR Records)	CLP Confirmed (DNR Record)	Purple Loosestrife Rep'd on Survey	AIS control? 1	AIS control? 2
Alpine Lake	245650	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE ¹	FALSE	Yes, EWM	Yes, CLP
Big Hills Lake (Hills)	182100	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Bugh's Lake	102100	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE		
Deer	102900	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	Yes, EWM	Yes, PL
*Flynn's Quarry	103500	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE		
Gilbert Lake	186400	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Huron Lake	994900	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Irogami Lake (Fish)	103900	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE		
Johns Lake	245800	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Kristine Lake	249300	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	Yes, EWM	Yes, PL
Kusel Lake (Koosel)	189600	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Little Hills Lake	105200	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Napowan Lake (Funk)	190200	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE		
Pearl Lake	195400	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Pine Lake (Hancock, WI)	1012000	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE		
Pine Lake (Springwater)	196100	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Pleasant Lake	106900	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	(pending)	
Poygan Lake	242800	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE		
Round Lake (T20N R11E S35)	197300	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	No, not actively	
Silver Lake (T18N R11E S7)	107900	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE ¹	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
Spring Lake	149000	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE ²	FALSE	Yes, EWM	Yes, CLP
Twin Lake (Big Twin = EWM)	182300, 191000	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
White River Flowage, Lower	151500	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE ²	FALSE	Yes, EWM	Yes, CLP
White River Flowage, Upper	152200	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	
*Wild Rose Millpond	251600	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE		
Wilson Lake	250000	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	Yes, EWM	Yes, CLP

¹ CLP confirmation not obtained in 2008.

² CLP confirmation by DNR was negative in 2008. This may or may not be due to the fact that these lakes have been treated for CLP in the past.

*No contact representative. No survey sent.

Shaded rows indicate lakes which have an AIS species, but control activities are absent or unknown.

Some confusion arose when trying to assemble the above chart for Waushara County. Some lakes reported having EWM or CLP, but DNR did not have confirmation of the infestation. A single official record is needed to confidently track infestations in Waushara County. A similar record for tracking volunteer activity would also be useful.

Recommended Actions

1. Complete lake contacts list for 8 unknown lakes

- a. Identify a contact person for each of the remaining 8 lakes, to get these lakes engaged in the county and state lake networks.

2. Determine AIS information for 8 unknown lakes

- a. Find out from the new contact persons about any recent AIS surveys on those lakes.
- b. If none have been done, survey using CLMN-AIS Monitoring program protocol.

3. 100% EWM and CLP control

- a. Determine what, if any, controls are active on the 7 lakes where activities are unknown (Table 1, shaded).
 - i. If none, facilitate starting control activities.
- b. Encourage lakes addressing EWM but not CLP to give attention to CLP

4. Official AIS occurrences record

- a. EWM
- b. CLP
- c. Zebra Mussels
- d. Purple Loosestrife
- e. Develop a visual version (map) of this record
- f. Determine who will maintain – DNR? County?

5. Official AIS volunteer activity record

- a. Clean Boats Clean Waters
- b. Citizen Lake Monitoring Network
- c. Develop a visual version (map) of this record
- d. Determine who will maintain – DNR? County?

Step 2: Gather Information About Lake Ecosystems

Every lake has physical, chemical, and biological characteristics that make it a unique aquatic ecosystem. Because lakes are all different, it is very important to understand what is “normal” for a particular lake under everyday circumstances.

AIS management is just one component of holistic lake management. Updated background data about the lake ecosystem, such as water chemistry, water clarity, and aquatic plant surveys, would be helpful to lake groups and DNR lake managers. Portage and Adams counties were able to complete county-wide lake surveys with funding support from DNR Lake Grant Program. These surveys have provided valuable information to lake groups and local governments in those counties.

Recommended Actions

1. Conduct county-wide lakes survey:

- a. Work with UW-Stevens Point to plan a county-wide lakes survey, similar to that of Portage or Adams counties.
- b. Apply for funding assistance from the DNR Lake Grant Program.

Why is a lake inventory important for proactive AIS management?

Two Reasons:

1. A lake inventory tells you what is “normal” for a given lake system, and makes it easier to detect changes, such as new AIS infestations, early. The earlier the detection and response, the better off your lake will be in the long run. Treatments for pioneer populations are much more likely to have a successful outcome than if the population is well established.
Know what's normal for your lake.
2. In order to receive approval to treat a lake chemically, an aquatic plant management plan (APMP) is normally required. If a baseline aquatic plant inventory has already been completed as part of a lake inventory, management options to control invasive species may move forward more quickly. Consult the Guide to an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for complete information about Wisconsin's APMP requirements:
<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/ecology/APMguide.asp>

Step 3: Protect & Restore Native Vegetation

Native Terrestrial Vegetation

Terrestrial vegetation that grows on the banks of a water body, the “shoreland buffer”, works indirectly to keep invasive plants from colonizing in a lake in several ways. It protects the lake by reducing soil erosion and diverting nutrients that would otherwise enter the lake and provide fuel for invasive aquatic plant growth. A healthy shoreland buffer also provides biologically diverse and healthy habitats that are important to wildlife, including the native weevils used for biological control of Eurasian water milfoil. Dense vegetative cover also takes up living space that would otherwise be open to colonization of invasive plants, and provides landowners with shoreland privacy.

State law prohibits the cutting of trees and shrubs within 35-feet of the high watermark, with the exception of a 30-foot wide “viewing corridor”. (These laws are in revision at the time of this writing – 2008.) Counties have the option to create local ordinances that enforce the state standard, or that go further by also protecting non-woody vegetation.

Think of native vegetation as “the lake’s immune system”. A healthy immune system helps the lake fend off new invaders.

Local governments can protect shoreland buffers through policy and education. Waushara County LCD protects lake health with good enforcement of shoreland zoning ordinances. In Waushara County, a strong Shoreland Zoning Ordinance is routinely enforced, and with enforcement comes education. The county LCD also provides technical assistance with shoreland restoration or enhancement, and has a cost-sharing program through a DNR Priority Watershed Project that may help finance a shoreland project.

Educational Tools

Local Ordinances
Interactive Webpage
Newsletters
Info Packets
News Articles

In 2007, a video project by Waushara County documented current shoreland management at some of the public access lakes in the county. These videos can be an excellent educational tool to illustrate to landowners what a healthy shoreland buffer looks like, and how a restoration project can be utilized to accomplish that.

To provide additional education, the County is creating an interactive webpage that will allow landowners a chance to develop a basic shoreland restoration protection plan and generate a rough cost estimate for the project. Lake issues are usually included in the annual county newsletter, but the county LCD is considering creating a separate newsletter for lakes, in order to cover the new and evolving issues about lake management.



Photos courtesy of Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department

Educational campaigns can also play a role in promoting healthy shoreland buffers. In Waushara County, the Watershed and Lakes Council provides a packet of information to all new lake property owners.

Native Aquatic Vegetation

Although aquatic plants are commonly thought of as “weeds”, a healthy and diverse population of native aquatic plants is a *vital* component in the prevention of AIS. Research has shown that the abundance of EWM in a lake is inversely related to cumulative native plant cover (Madsen, 1998). For this reason it is important to maintain healthy and diverse native stands of vegetation. A thriving native plant population will compete for nutrients and living space, making it difficult for invasive species to become established. Other benefits to maintaining native plant populations are a healthy sport fishery, protection from bank erosion, bottom sediment stabilization, decreased potential for algae blooms, and increased water clarity.

State law prohibits the removal of native aquatic plants beyond a 30-foot access corridor. In the same way that local ordinances and educational campaigns can encourage the protection shoreland buffers, they can also encourage the protection of native aquatic plants.

Recommended Actions

1. County-wide promotion of native vegetation

- a. Enforce shoreland zoning ordinances
- b. Annual review of shoreland zoning ordinances
- c. Annual review of funding for cost-sharing incentive programs
- d. Expand county ordinances to also address native *aquatic* vegetation
 - i. Develop mechanism for enforcement of the new ordinance
- e. Video of shoreline used to educate lake property owners about shoreland buffers
- f. Website for shoreland restoration projects
- g. Info packets to new lake property owners (Watershed and Lakes Council)
- h. Annual county newsletter
- i. Lake organization newsletters
- j. News articles
- k. Public service announcements and local radio

Step 4: Conduct AIS Monitoring

With the growing concern over the spread of aquatic invasive species to Wisconsin's inland lakes, many concerned citizens are looking for ways to get involved. AIS monitoring and volunteer boat inspection programs are an opportunity to take a front line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species.

In Waushara County, of the 26 lake groups responding to the lake group survey, six have active Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer programs, 11 report having some type of educational campaign, and 6 report no activity related to AIS. Additionally, 18 groups reported some level of AIS monitoring, but methods vary. Eight reported having no AIS monitoring activity. The DNR is not able to monitor all lakes at all times. Therefore, it is important that all lakes are doing something to help prevent the spread of AIS to their lakes.



Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) is a watercraft inspection volunteer training program sponsored by DNR, UW Extension, and Wisconsin Association of Lakes. Upon completion of the three-hour workshop, CBCW participants are equipped with the tools, knowledge, and confidence needed to educate lake users and perform watercraft inspections at boat landings, potentially preventing a new infestation from coming into their lake. An additional benefit of the CBCW program is that the data collected by volunteers is used to support requests for more funding and legislative support for AIS issues.

In Waushara County, four lakes have active CBCW programs. This is a good start, but there are 45 public access lakes in Waushara Co., and every lake needs trained watercraft inspectors.

The Citizen Lake Monitoring Network is a well-established program designed to involve citizens in the collection of pertinent lake management data. The program has historically included the collection of water chemistry and secchi readings, a measure of water clarity.



Recent research has developed solid correlations between secchi readings and many other water quality parameters. Therefore, this one, inexpensive, easy-to-operate sampling tool can tell our lake managers a great deal about a lake's condition. To have secchi monitors on every lake in the state would be an enormous advantage for managing our state's lakes.

There are 18 lakes in Waushara Co. with active secchi monitors. This is a good start, but the DNR is strongly in need of establishing a secchi monitor on every lake in Wisconsin.

A new component has been added to the CLMN program for the monitoring eight AIS species. The data collected by volunteers in the CLMN-AIS Monitoring Program is used to support requests for more funding and legislative support for AIS issues. Citizens can monitor for any or all of the species included in the program. Monitoring means early detection of new AIS infestations, and can result in big savings on treatment expenses and a reduction of impacts to the lake.

In 2007, eight lakes were represented at the CLMN-AIS Monitoring training session held during

the AIS Demo Day, on July 28th in Waushara County. This is a good start, but there are 45 public access lakes in Waushara Co., and every lake needs trained AIS monitors.

One additional monitoring network is the Waushara County Parks Department. Parks staff work throughout the county, frequently at waterfront locations. If trained to identify and report new AIS sightings, this staff could provide valuable assistance with early detection.

Recommended Actions

1. CLMN-AIS monitoring activity on ALL lakes

- a. Promote the CLMN AIS Monitoring Program county-wide, with frequent news articles to promote awareness of the program and the importance of it.
- b. Provide training county-wide.
- c. "Formalize" the monitoring for EWM and CLP that some lakes are already doing by training them with the CLMN methods and encouraging that they enter that data into the CLMN database.
- d. Propose to those lakes that they monitor for additional AIS, via the monitoring methods in the CLMN AIS Monitoring Program, to promote early detection of new infestations.

2. CLMN-Secchi Monitoring activity on ALL lakes

- a. Promote the CLMN Secchi Monitoring Program county-wide with frequent news articles to promote awareness of the program and the importance of it.
- b. Provide training county-wide.

3. Watercraft inspectors at ALL landings

- a. Promote the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program county-wide with frequent news articles to promote awareness of the program and the importance of it.
- b. Provide CBCW training county-wide.
- c. Coordinate volunteers with DNR staff to avoid overlap

4. Train County parks staff to ID and report AIS sightings

Step 5: Spread the Word About AIS

Increasing public awareness of AIS is an important strategy in minimizing their spread. To facilitate proactive efforts from the general public regarding AIS prevention, people need to be made aware of the problems that AIS can cause.

Outreach to Youth:

Conservation Field Day
Beetle Rearing
More?

In Waushara County, the Land Conservation Department (LCD) hosts an annual Conservation Field Day for area 5th graders. This event gives students exposure to a variety of environmental themes, including soil sciences, wildlife management, forestry, and watershed management. In 2007, it also included discussion about AIS, with a game about biological control, and a demo species: purple loosestrife, potted and netted for rearing biological control beetles.

Students and youth organizations involved in AIS issues through purple loosestrife beetle rearing programs for biological control. The program includes a teachers' manual for utilizing the beetle-rearing project as an educational tool.

What other ways can lake groups get youth involved? Perhaps volunteer EWM pulling-parties, performing watercraft inspections at boat landings, or participating in the CLMN-AIS Monitoring program are ways lake groups can include youth in their AIS activities.

Outreach to Adults:

Workshops & Conferences
Written Materials
News Articles
Signs

Attending workshops and conferences on lake issues and AIS issues is a great way for lake residents to learn about protecting the health of their lake. On July 28th, 2007, Waushara County LCD hosted an AIS Demo Day, where 18 workshop attendees received a

primer on AIS issues and control methods, hands-on species ID practice, training on the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) AIS Monitoring Program, and a guided tour of the Lower White River Flowage EWM treatment areas.

Citizens county-wide are encouraged to attend events like this. Nearby Adams County hosts an annual Lake Fair, and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes hosts an annual state Lakes Conference, with valuable training for both citizens and professionals.

Other methods of public education and outreach may include the distribution of written materials, such as AIS pamphlets, videos, brochures, and watchcards developed by DNR and UW-Extension.

These can be ordered free or at a minimal cost at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW/pubs.asp, and can be distributed through local bait shops, dive shops, boat rental and sales shops, local chambers of commerce, resorts, restaurants, and other local businesses.



Hands-on practice at identification of invasive species at Demo Day.



Monitoring Program – a method for early detection of AIS.



Boat tour of the Lower White River Flowage EWM treatment areas, part of the AIS Demo Day.

In 2007, Waushara County LCD had AIS placemats printed and distributed through local restaurants, which can be a great way to reach many lake users.

News articles in local papers are also a great way to reach lake users. Articles can discuss specific AIS species, laws and ordinances, or volunteer programs.

Signs at the boat landing can be another tool for education and outreach. The DNR has posted all public landings in the state with Exotic Species Advisory signs (if the lake has AIS), or with Prevent The Spread signs (if the lake was AIS-free). In 2007, lake groups surveys reported some signs were damaged or missing. These problems were reported to DNR and should have been corrected. If any signs are damaged or missing in the future, it should be reported to DNR.



Some lake groups have created additional boat landing signage to present a bolder AIS message to lake users. Some examples are shown below. These projects are eligible for funding assistance from the DNR AIS Grant Program.

Barnes Lake,
Bayfield Co.
Photo: UW-
Extension Lakes
Program



Tree Lake,
Portage Co.
Photo: Tree Lake
Association

Recommended Actions

1. **Include AIS themes at Conservation Field Day annually**
2. **Promote beetle-rearing for biological control of purple loosestrife**
 - a. Promote to schools
 - b. Promote to lake groups to partner with youth groups
 - c. Target lakes with reported PL infestations (2008: Deer, Kristine)
3. **Promote lake fairs and conferences to lake residents county-wide**
 - a. Post card notices
 - b. Email notices
4. **Print AIS placemats for distribution in restaurants**
5. **News articles**
 - a. New AIS species to watch for
 - b. AIS prevention
 - c. New AIS laws
 - d. Volunteer programs available
6. **Maintain AIS signage at boat landings**
 - a. Include reporting procedures for damaged boat landing signs in AIS training to Park Dept. staff

Step 6: Develop a Contingency Plan

Are Waushara County lake groups prepared to respond quickly to an AIS infestation? The best way to address this problem effectively is to develop and follow a plan of action BEFORE an infestation occurs. A contingency plan is your best insurance in the event that an invasive species should colonize the lake. Thoughtful planning and prioritizing now will reduce the potential for hasty decision making in the future.

An AIS primer for lake groups may help them prepare a contingency plan for AIS infestations.

Waushara County can help lake groups to be prepared to handle an AIS infestation by offering an AIS primer on how to monitor for AIS, report a new occurrence, and what the first steps would be for control and funding assistance.

Part of that primer may also include familiarizing the lake group with the step by step instructions outlined in the manual this Waushara County plan is based on, *Aquatic Invasive Species: A Guide for Proactive & Reactive Management, 2006*, by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department. The Guide has detailed information about funding options, treatment protocols for various invasive species, permitting requirements, and a comprehensive list of resources.

Some of the questions an AIS primer may help a lake group answer are:

- Are we knowledgeable about aquatic invasive plants and animals?
- Do we have a functional proactive management strategy?
- What would we do if an invasive species was discovered in the lake today?
- Who would handle the situation? Who would take the lead?
- Who do we call to report it?
- What are the treatment options available for AIS and what are the “pros” and “cons” of each?
- How would we finance treatment operations?
- Do we need an emergency AIS treatment fund?

To Report An Infestation

- 1) **Collect a sample, if possible**
 - a. Roots, stems, flowers
 - b. Place in plastic bag with water
 - c. Keep it in the freezer
- 2) **Contact DNR**

Waushara County
Ted Johnson, Water Resource
Management Specialist
920-787-4686 Ext.3017

Recommended Actions

1. Offer an AIS primer to lake groups

- a. Species ID
- b. AIS Monitoring
- c. Reporting procedures
- d. What to do next

(based on guidelines outlined in *Aquatic Invasive Species: A Guide for Proactive & Reactive Management, 2006*, by Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department)

Step 7: Distribute the Workload

Managing invasive species, even on a proactive level, can be a tremendous workload. By distributing the workload and allocating tasks as per individual interest, a great deal can be accomplished.

In Waushara County, various tasks are being accomplished by the County LCD, the Watershed and Lakes Council, lake groups, and individuals. The Regional AIS Specialist's role has been to begin to collect information about those activities, and to begin coordinating them together and filling in the gaps. This has been a part-time position. Funding permitted, Waushara County would benefit from a full-time AIS Specialist or Coordinator. Since the AIS workload is not expected to disappear, this position should be considered a permanent need, and funding secured to keep the position filled.

To assure the AIS Coordinator position develops in the right direction, Waushara County and the Watershed and Lakes Council may need to work with DNR to define the scope of this position. Duties *may* include:

- Review AIS Plan progress and update Plan as needed
- Coordinating county-wide education campaigns
- Providing volunteer training in AIS programs, such as CBCW, CLMN, and the purple loosestrife biocontrol program
- Providing AIS primer to lake groups
- Providing support to DNR as requested with investigation of new AIS reports
- Track AIS occurrences
- Track volunteer activity
- Recruit monitoring volunteers to work towards 100% coverage of lakes in Waushara Co.
- Facilitate a lake visit with DNR and lake group representatives where AIS control methods need re-evaluation
- Apply for grant funding to continue working on the county-wide AIS plan

To strengthen the county lake community and the county AIS programs, the AIS Coordinator may want to consider whether the following subcommittees are needed at the County, Watershed and Lakes Council, or Town level:

- Invasive Species Monitoring Committee
- Aquatic Plant Monitoring Committee
- Boat Launch Monitoring Committee
- County Lakes Survey Committee

Recommended Actions

1. **Secure funding for a full-time AIS Coordinator for Waushara County**
2. **Work with DNR to define the role of the AIS Coordinator**
3. **Consider developing committees to assist in various AIS needs**

Step 8: Involve Local Government

Town Government

Boat Patrols – Town boat patrols are an important resource for volunteers regarding the “Illegal To Launch Law”. CBCW volunteers active in the County may need to submit a violation report forms to the local boat patrol for enforcement. Good cooperation between local boat patrols and CBCW volunteers is important.

Involvement with the County Watershed and Lakes Council – Many town governments in Wisconsin have recognized an increasing need and inherent responsibility to support local lake management efforts. In Waushara County, Town boards can be involved with lake protection by sending a representative to work with the Waushara County Watershed and Lakes Council Working at a municipal level, town government committees may be more effective in some situations than individual lake associations in accomplishing lake management goals.

Grant Sponsorship – Town governments can take an active role in the sponsorship of state lake grants. Because of the grant eligibility status of local governments, local lake associations can work directly with their town boards to support grant applications on AIS focused (or other types of) lake projects. To learn more about the state lake grant programs, log on to <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/lakes>.

County Government

Community AIS Partnerships – County governments can offer a unique community support system pertaining to AIS efforts. Counties can coordinate and encourage townships to work together in unified lake protection efforts. One method of accomplishing this is by supporting an AIS Specialist position to coordinate AIS activities.

Grant Sponsorship – County government can take an active role in the sponsorship of state administered AIS grants. Counties can help local lake associations seek grants for many types of lake protection projects, including projects focused on AIS issues. County governments can also initiate AIS projects to be completed by county personnel. The AIS Specialist position can be funded through the AIS Grant Program with the DNR to accomplish such projects as: AIS partnership coordination, volunteer monitoring support, educational campaigns, and more.

Conservation Departments – The actions of Land Conservation Departments (LCD) are directed by elected county board supervisors. LCD personnel are natural resource management professionals and are often well versed in all aspects of AIS matters. LCD is a natural home for county-wide lake protection and AIS initiatives, such as supporting an AIS Coordinator position, enforcing and promoting shoreland buffers, and assisting with shoreland restoration or enhancement projects.

Recommended Actions

1. **Boat patrol support of volunteer activities coordinated as needed by AIS Coordinator**
2. **Town boards send representation to Waushara County Watershed and Lakes Council**
3. **County LCD continue AIS involvement through support of AIS Coordinator position**

Step 9: Plug-In to the Lake Community Network

Wisconsin is proud of its lake rich heritage and is host to hundreds of lake organizations. It is important for lake groups and lake managers to stay well connected with the “Lake Community” and stay on top of local and state lake stewardship issues.

Below are suggestions on networking within the Lake Community:

Statewide Lake Organizations

Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) is a not-for-profit statewide lake group working to protect Wisconsin’s lakes through public policy, education, and local lake group assistance. Through WAL, the Lake Community can keep updated on current public policies that may ultimately affect the health of lakes throughout Wisconsin, they can attend annual regional workshops that target key lake issues, and they can gain the support they need for individual lake group projects. For more information about WAL, log on to their website (<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org>).

*Being part of the Lake Community
means learning opportunities and
a collective voice for change*

Lake managers with the DNR and UW-Extension come together quarterly at Lake Team meetings to keep up to date with emerging lake issues, policies, and science. County AIS coordinators have been invited to join this circle to stay in tune with DNR and UW-Extension initiatives. This is a highly recommended network for the Waushara County AIS Coordinator to stay in touch with.

DNR and UW-Extension AIS coordinators have begun holding biannual meetings for county AIS coordinators, to update AIS coordinators about state initiatives, new resources available, policy changes, and to give coordinators around the state a chance to network. This is another highly recommended network for the Waushara County AIS Coordinator to stay in touch with.

Statewide Lakes Convention

The Wisconsin Lake Convention is an outstanding educational event that has brought hundreds of lake groups, state leaders, and natural resource professionals together in a celebration of Wisconsin’s lakes. The convention is an excellent opportunity for learning, sharing, and discussing issues important in lake management. For more information about the annual Wisconsin Lake Convention, log on to the UW-Extension Lakes Program website (<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes>). The convention is a highly recommended networking opportunity for the Waushara County AIS Coordinator and representatives of the county LCD, Watershed and Lakes Council, and individual lake groups.

County-wide Lake Organizations: Waushara Co. Watershed and Lakes Council

County-wide lake associations provide an excellent opportunity to stay connected with the local Lake Community. The Waushara County Watershed and Lakes Council provides a network for communication and sharing resources between and amongst lakes organizations in the county. Membership in the Watershed and Lakes Council gives a collective voice for advocating for regulatory changes, influencing public policy discussions, and discussions about the future growth of the community. It is highly recommended the Council reach out to lake groups that

are not currently represented on the Council to ensure full representation of the county's lakes.

Individual Lake Organizations

Lake groups range from informal social groups, to formalized lake associations or districts. An organized, functional lake group can make a big difference in lake health protection. Lake groups can be twice as effective when networking with other lake organizations who have struggled with the same issues – lack of funding, lack of volunteer interest or commitment, lack of information. The Watershed and Lakes Council is a valuable platform for those networking opportunities.

Recommended Actions

1. **Promote attendance at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention**
 - a. AIS Coordinator
 - b. Local governments
 - c. Lake groups
2. **AIS Coordinator networked with the Lake Community**
 - a. WAL
 - b. state Lake Team
 - c. AIS coordinators' meetings
3. **100% representation of county lakes on the Watershed and Lakes Council**
4. **100% inclusive county lake community, with a contact person to disseminate news and information through, even on lakes without organized lake groups**

Step 10: Be Creative!

Just as each lake is unique, so are the individuals that make up lake organizations. There is no “one-size-fits-all” management criteria made to fit all lake situations.

The important similarity between lake organizations is that they all need to create and follow a plan of action that is conducive to a healthy lake ecosystem and is realistic in time, money, and commitment. Consider using several of the proactive management steps for the best results.

If the proactive management section has not spurred any thoughts to fit your unique group situation, sit down with your membership and brainstorm ideas that will work for you. The important thing is that you DO talk about it.

Wisconsin waterways will always be vulnerable to invasions of aquatic invasive plants and animals. Proactive management is the best way of avoiding future AIS infestations.

Creative Kids

“**Milfoil Masters**” was a creative school project from Minocqua-Hazlehurst-Lake Tomahawk Middle School, with a start-up grant of just \$25,000. Their brainstorm evolved into the ‘Clean Boats, Clean Waters’ Program, and is now the statewide protocol for slowing the spread of AIS.

Summary Table: Recommended Actions

Proactive Step	Recommended Action	Who	How	When	Progress
1) Gather info about AIS	Complete lakes contact list for 8 unknown lakes	AIS Coordinator w/ support of LCD	Landowner list, letters, and phone calls.	2009	
	Determine AIS information for 8 unknown lakes	AIS Coord.	Lakes with no monitoring activity, use CLMN-AIS Monitoring protocol for EWM and CLP	2008 – 2009	
	100% EWM and CLP control	AIS Coord. w/ support of DNR	DNR record review, letter and phone inquiries. Work directly with lake groups.	2008 +	
	Official AIS occurrences record	AIS Coord. w/ support of LCD and DNR	Confirm reports w/ vouchers, translate official record into a GIS map, update annually	2008 +	IP
	Official AIS volunteer activity record	AIS Coord. w/ support of LCD and DNR	Confirm volunteer activity from state database, translate official record into a GIS map, update annually	2008 +	IP
2) Gather info about lake ecosystems	Conduct county-wide lakes survey	UWSP	LCD apply for a DNR Lake Planning Grant, UWSP supplies technical support	2009 – 2011	
3) Protect and Restore Native Vegetation	County-wide promotion of native vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce zoning Annual review of zoning ordinances Annual review of cost-share funding Expand ordinances to protect aquatic veg Video of shoreline used to educate Website for shoreland restoration projects Info packets to new lake property owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCD LCC LCC LCC LCD, AIS Coord. County Watershed & Lakes Council LCD, AIS Coord. Lake Groups, AIS Coord. AIS Coord. AIS Coord. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established process Established review process Add to established review process Thru established ordinance process Present at lake group mtgs County develop and maintain Established distribution method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Annual Annual 2009+ 2008 – 2010 Develop 2008 Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓+ ✓+
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual County newsletter Lake organization newsletters News articles PSA's and radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIS Coord. write articles, LCD produces AIS Coord. write articles, lake groups prod. Write and submit press releases Write and submit PSA's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually Ongoing Annually (min.) Annually (min.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓+ 	
4) Conduct AIS monitoring	CLMN-AIS Monitoring on ALL lakes	AIS Coord., lake groups	AIS Coord. promote program with new articles, direct mailings, and presentations. Recruit and train lake groups.	2008 +	✓+
	CLMN-Secchi Monitoring on ALL lakes	AIS Coord., lake groups	AIS Coord. Promote program with new articles, direct mailings, and presentations. Recruit and train lake groups.	2008 +	✓+
	Watercraft inspectors at ALL lakes	AIS Coord., lake groups, DNR	AIS Coord. promote program with new articles, direct mailings, and presentations. Recruit and train lake groups. Coordinate with DNR staff to maximize coverage.	2008 +	✓+
	Train County parks staff to ID and report AIS sightings	AIS Coord. w/ support of DNR	Develop a canned powerpoint presentation that can be presented annually to parks staff.	2008-2009 (update as needed)	
5) Spread the word about AIS	Include AIS themes at Conservation Field Day	AIS Coord. w/ cooperation of LCD	Coordinate with LCD to secure a station for AIS. Develop and present lesson.	Annually	✓+

	Promote beetle-rearing for biological control of purple loosestrife	AIS Coord.	Promote to schools and lake groups via direct mailings. Target lakes with PL. Provide training.	2008 +	✓+
	Promote lake fairs and conferences to lake residents county-wide	AIS Coord., LCD	AIS Coord. send direct mailings and email notices to lake contacts. LCD add to website.	2008 +	✓+
	Print AIS placemats for distribution in restaurants	LCD, lake groups	LCD coordinate printing. Lake groups assist in distribution	2008 +	
	News articles	AIS Coord.	Write and distribute press releases to local papers	2008 +	✓+
	Maintain AIS signage at boat landings	AIS Coord.	Include reporting procedures for damaged boat landing signs in AIS training to park dept. staff	2008 – 2009	
6) Develop a contingency plan	Offer an AIS primer to lake groups	AIS Coord.	Develop and present primer on AIS ID, monitoring, reporting procedures, what to do if you find it.	2009 +	
7) Distribute the workload	Secure funding for a full-time AIS Coordinator in Waushara County	AIS Coord.	Apply for AIS Grant with DNR to continue AIS program	2009 +	
	Work with DNR to define the role of the AIS Coordinator	AIS Coord., DNR, LCD	Discuss with DNR gaps in AIS education and control to define how AIS Coord. can fill gaps	2008 – 2009	IP
	Consider developing committees to assist in various AIS needs	AIS Coord.	Evaluate AIS Plan annually, and discuss needs for committees in the county lake community	2009 +	
8) Involve Local Government	Boat patrol support of volunteer activities coordinated as needed	AIS Coord.	Keep in touch with CBCW volunteers and boat patrols regarding enforcement of violation reports.	2009 +	
	Town boards send representation to Watershed & Lakes Council	Watershed & Lakes Council	Council solicits town representatives to attend meetings to stay in touch with the lake community	2008 +	
	LCD continue AIS involvement through support of AIS Coord. Position	LCD	Continue to place AIS in high priority, and provide donated services as county match on grant.	2009 +	✓+
9) Plug-in to the lake community network	Promote attendance at the Wisconsin Lakes Convention	AIS Coord., LCD	AIS Coord. send direct mailings and email notices to lake contacts. LCD add to website.	2008 +	✓+
	AIS Coord. networked with the lake community	AIS Coord.	AIS Coord. Network with the WI Assoc. of Lakes, state Lake Team, and AIS coordinators' meetings.	2008 +	✓+
	100% representation of county lakes on the Watershed & Lakes Council	Watershed & Lakes Council	Council review meeting attendance and mailing lists to ensure 100% inclusion. Make overtures to lakes with poor attendance.	2008 – 2009	
	100% inclusive county lake community with a contact person to disseminate news and information through, even on lakes without organized lake groups.	AIS Coord.	Review contact list from county and Watershed & Lakes Council to generate consistent contact list. Fill in gaps, if any.	2009 +	

+ = to continue in perpetuity

LCD = Land Conservation Department

LCC = Land Conservation Committee

IP = In Progress

✓ = Done/Process Established

Appendix A

Contact List

County

Waushara County Land and Water Conservation Department

209 S St Marie St
PO Box 1109
Wautoma, WI 54982-1109
(920) 787-0443 Fax (920) 787-6516

Region

Amy Thorstenson, Regional AIS Specialist

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
thorstea@co.portage.wi.us
(715) 346-1264

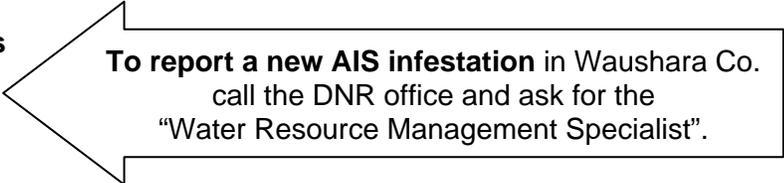
Paul Skawinski, Regional AIS Technician

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
(715) 343-6215
skawinskp@co.portage.wi.us

State

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

427 E Tower Drive, Suite 100
Wautoma WI 54982-6927
(920) 787-4686 Fax (920) 787-2477



To report a new AIS infestation in Waushara Co.
call the DNR office and ask for the
"Water Resource Management Specialist".

University of Wisconsin Extension – Lakes Program

College of Natural Resources, University of WI – Stevens Point
800 Reserve Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 346-2116
<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes>

Laura Herman

Citizen Volunteers Lake Monitoring Network Educator
(715) 346-3989
Laura.Herman@uwsp.edu

Erin Henegar

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Statewide Coordinator
(715) 346-4978
erin.henegar@uwsp.edu

Wisconsin Association of Lakes

One Point Place, Suite 101 Madison, WI 53719
608-662-0923 or Toll free (WI only) 800-542-5253
<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org>

Appendix B

Aquatic Plant Management Laws & Regulations

Regulated and Unregulated Aquatic Plant Management Activities in Waters of this State

Activities	Water Bodies					
	¹ Wetlands (nonnavigable)	Streams	Flowages	Lakes <10 Acres Entirely Confined on One Property	Lakes	Fish Farms s. 95.96
Manual Removal of Native Plants	No Permit	No Permit	109 Permit Required if > 30 ft. wide	No Permit	109 Permit Required if > 30 ft. wide	No Permit
Manual Removal of Invasive Plants	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit
Mechanical Harvest	No Permit	109 Permit Required	109 Permit Required	No Permit	109 Permit Required	No Permit
Chemical Control	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	No Permit
²Biological Control	Stocking Permit Required	Stocking Permit Required	Stocking Permit Required	Stocking Permit Required	Stocking Permit Required	No Permit
Burning	No Permit	Permit Required	Permit Required	Permit Required	Permit Required	No Permit
³Purple Loosestrife Control	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	107 Permit Required	No Permit
Native Planting/ Stocking	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	Approval of Project	No Permit
Non-native Planting/ Stocking	109 Permit Required	109 Permit Required	109 Permit Required	109 Permit Required	109 Permit Required	No Permit
Incidental or Scientific Removal	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit	No Permit

- All activities must be conducted in an environmentally sound manner.
- Any activities on privately owned land or adjacent to privately owned lake front property, or lakes confined on the property of one person must have the permission of that property owner.

¹Confirm with water management specialist that wetland is nonnavigable to be exempt of permit.

²Use Stocking Permit for Eurasian Water Milfoil weevils, form 9400-60, pursuant to s. 29.753 and NR 19. 05.

³Must be a state cooperator if using Purple Loosestrife beetles for Biocontrol.

Excerpted from:

"Aquatic Invasive Species: A Guide to Proactive & Reactive Management"

Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Lake Conservation Specialist, May 2006