

**Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant:
Education, Prevention, & Planning**

Final Report

Grant/Project Number: AEPP-317-12



Prepared for:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department

Project Title

**Oneida County AIS Prevention & Control:
Education, Prevention, & Planning**

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AEPP-317-12

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INTRODUCTION:

This report provides documentation of the accomplishments achieved under AIS Control Grant AEPP-317-12 by the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD). The grant was awarded to Oneida County by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the original project period, within the contract, was between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012. However, an extension was granted by the WDNR on November 5, 2012 and the new ending date of this project was set for June 30, 2013. This report also serves as the "Final Report" identified as a deliverable in the grant agreement.

The LWCD wishes to thank the WDNR for their continued support of the County's AIS program. With assistance from the WDNR AIS control grant program, Oneida County has been able to develop a very active and successful local AIS program. Our program helps protect our invaluable water resources, creates a stronger and more connected community, and works towards a brighter future for our entire state. Without financial support from the WDNR grant program, Oneida County's AIS program efforts would be severely limited.

The concept of this project focused on collaborating and coordinating with interested entities working to protect our water resources within Oneida County. Along those lines, the project undoubtedly contributed to raising public awareness about AIS through a variety of different program activities described below.

This project was overseen by the Conservation/UWEX Education (CUW) Committee, with day-to-day activities developed and administered by Michele Sadauskas, AIS Coordinator. Additional support provided by Jean Hansen, Oneida County Conservationist, and Kerri Ison, Administrative Assistant.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND BUDGET:

The following includes a list of objectives, along with the monetary allocation originally budgeted (parentheses) for completion of Oneida County's AIS Control Grant (AEPP-317-12).

- 1A. One Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) staff and one Conservation/UWEX Education (CUW) Committee member's attendance at the 2012 Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention. (\$1270.00)
- 1B. Staff attendance at the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association (OCLRA) meetings. (\$117.00)
- 1C. LWCD staff or designee's attendance at the AIS Coordinator meetings, local lake fairs, and miscellaneous AIS-related meetings. (\$325.00)
- 1D. Partner with management agencies, scientific organizations, and academia. (\$160.00)
- 2A. Hire three limited term employees (LTE's) for education and fieldwork. (\$33,750.00)
- 2B. Distribute and install AIS educational materials. (\$1800.00)
- 2C. Host two Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) workshops. (\$1035.00)
- 2D. Host two Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) workshops. (\$2,695.00)
- 2E. Present to schools to promote prevention of AIS. (\$188.00)
- 2F. Host an aquatic native plant awareness workshop. (\$600.00)
- 2G. Host one Purple Loosestrife/Phragmites/Japanese Knotweed workshop. (\$136.00)
- 2H. Start a pilot program to bring AIS awareness to private landings on public lakes. (\$610.00)
- 3A. Create and distribute a quarterly AIS newsletter. (\$224.00)
- 3B. Continue to explore avenues and possible partnerships to initiate the Oneida County AIS Strategic Plan. (\$0)
- 3C. Continue to write weekly/bi-weekly updates and distribute them via the 'lake contact list'. (\$0)
- 3D. Update and improve Oneida County's AIS webpage. (\$0)
- 3E. Host an awards ceremony and partnership meeting. (\$600.00)
- 4A. Collect data on AIS distribution and movement in Oneida County. (\$1640.00)
- 4B. Assist WDNR with point-intercept surveys on eligible lakes in 2012. (\$135.00)
- 5A. Support restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems affected by AIS. (\$160.00)
- 5B. Support educational outreach materials of restoration methods. (\$210.00)
- 5C. Compile information on restoration and rehabilitation efforts. (\$50.00)
- 5D. Extra activities and/or purchases. (\$738.27)

A complete description of accomplishments, along with the associated purchases within each project objective, are found in the following, respectively-marked tabs. Tab 5D represents extra activities and/or purchases that were not initially planned for in the grant application, but were approved afterward.

1A. Attendance of the AIS Coordinator and one Conservation/UWEX Committee member at the 2012 Wisconsin Lakes Convention. (\$1,270.00)

Due to a vacancy in the Oneida County AIS Coordinator position between January 1, 2011 and May 4, 2011, no staff member of the LWCD was able to attend the WLC in 2011. Since AEPP-259-11 was extended through June 30, 2012, the LWCD used expenses incurred for the 2012 WLC in AEPP-259-11. Therefore, we are submitting costs associated with the 2012 *Midwest Invasive Species Conference* held in Lacrosse, WI on October 29-31, 2012. We will be submitting 2013 WLC costs in grant AEPP-373-13.

Conference fees of \$195.00, mileage of \$182.00, and lodging of \$231.00, totaling \$608.00 were realized.

1B. AIS Coordinator's attendance at the Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (OCLRA) meetings. (\$117.00)

The Oneida County AIS Coordinator attended a number of OCLRA meetings throughout 2012. If scheduling conflicts occurred, then the AIS Coordinator sent a written report to the organization or had an assistant attend the meeting. Copies of agendas have been included, as well as daily logs.

Minor expenses for printing (appendix G) and mileage (appendix E) to OCLRA's annual meeting were incurred.

CONCLUSION:

In 2012, the Oneida County Land and Water Department continued the fight against AIS throughout the County. With help from the WDNR and AIS Control Grant AEPP-317-12 the LWCD hosted six workshops, worked with over 400 students, and hired three limited-term employees who performed over 750 hours of CBCW inspections. The educational outreach did not end there. Oneida County was also able to distribute stickers, brochures, shopping bags, pencils & pens, placemats, and install 80 boat bumpers throughout the County. The AIS Control Grant award also enabled Oneida County to begin on-water monitoring and mapping of AIS. By mapping and monitoring existing populations we can move forward with management practices that will protect and/or preserve our invaluable water resources.

Without financial support from the WDNR grant program, Oneida County's AIS program would be severely limited, if not completely dismantled. The current AIS program has been successful on many fronts and has been a huge success in educating and controlling the spread of AIS. The program has raised public awareness on AIS, increased partnerships, and most importantly, has worked tirelessly in protecting Oneida County's water resources. In 2012, Oneida County can say with certainty, that it has partnered with multiple organizations in effectively helping slow the spread of AIS!