



## Vilas County Land & Water Conservation

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Mr. Kevin Gauthier  
Water Resources Management Specialist  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
8770 Hwy J  
Woodruff, WI 54568

February 3, 2014

Dear Mr. Gauthier:

This letter pertains to the Manitowish Chain of Lakes AIS-EDR Project – Phase III grant application being submitted by the North Lakeland Discovery Center for control of Curly-leaf pondweed.

I have reviewed the project proposal prepared by Onterra. I thoroughly understand the limitations of volunteers to effectively control aggressive aquatic vegetation such as curly-leaf pondweed by underwater hand pulling efforts. I fully support the use of professional services to augment the efforts of volunteers.

Although this phase of the project does not appear to include any specific activities for which this office can lend assistance, we stand by to provide whatever help might be appropriate as the project unfolds.

This project meshes well with the goals of the Vilas County AIS Partnership and several aspects of the Vilas County Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The project supports the objectives to:

- Protect and enhance Vilas County's lakes, rivers, and other natural resources
- Prevent the further spread of exotic species and aid local groups in control efforts for known infestations
- Make natural resource information more readily available to the public

On behalf of the Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department and the greater Vilas County Invasive Species Partnership, I encourage State support of the North Lakeland Discovery Center 2014 grant application.

Sincerely,

*Ted Ritter*

Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator