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Section I: Application Type

Check one:

- Education, Prevention & Planning Early Detection & Response Established Infestation Control

Legislative District Numbers		To determine your legislative district, go to http://165.189.139.210/WAML/ Type in complete address, next screen shows information.
Senate	Assembly	
26	78	

Section II: Applicant Information

Applicant River Alliance of Wisconsin		Type of Eligible Applicants			
Waterbody Name Multiple		<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Gov't Unit	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal
Project County/Township/Section/Range Statewide		<input type="checkbox"/> City	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Dist.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Org.	<input type="checkbox"/> State
Authorized Representative Named by Resolution Denny Caneff		<input type="checkbox"/> Village	<input type="checkbox"/> Dist.	<input type="checkbox"/> College, School, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Authorized Representative Title Executive Director		<input type="checkbox"/> Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc.		
Address 306 E. Wilson Street, Ste 2W		Project Contact Name Laura MacFarland			
City Madison		Project Contact Title AIS Project Coordinator		Address 107 Sutliff Avenue	
State WI	ZIP Code 53703	City Rhineland	State WI	ZIP Code 54501	
Daytime Phone (area code) (608) 257-2424		Evening Phone (area code)		Daytime Phone (area code) (608) 257-2424	
E-mail Address dcaneff@wisconsinrivers.org		E-Mail Address lmacfarland@wisconsinrivers.org			

Mail Check to: (if different from applicant)

Name and Title Sharon White		Address 306 E. Wilson Street, Ste 2W			
Organization River Alliance of Wisconsin		City Madison	State WI	ZIP Code 53703	

For DNR Use Only

Application Type EPP	Date Received 2/1/14	Date Reviewed (AIS/LC/R/C) 2/3/14	AIS/Lake/River Coordinator Approval /Date Susan Graham 3/6/14	
Waterbody ID# Various - Statewide	Adequate Public Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Environmental Grants Specialist Approval / Date Sandy Charrelon 2/12/14	
Eligible Project <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Eligible Applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Project Priority Rank	Research / Demo Project <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Prior Grant Award(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fiscal Year(s)	Amount Received To Date \$	Project Awarded <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant Application

Form 8700-307 (12/11)

Page 2 of 3

Section III: Project Information

Project Title River Alliance's Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Prevention and Planning Program		Proposed Ending Date 06/01/16	
Other Management Units	Letter of Support	Other Management Units	Letter of Support
1. Upper Sugar River Watershed Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Golden Sands RC&D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section IV: Public Access

Number of Public Vehicle Trailer Parking Spaces Available at Public Access Sites:

Number of Public Access Sites Including Boat Launches and Walk-ins:

Section V: Cost Estimate and Grant Request

Section V must be completed or application will be returned. Details in support of Section V are welcome.

	Project Costs		
	Column 1 Cash Costs	Column 2 Donated Value	DNR Use Only
1. Salaries, wages and employee benefits	119,000.00	45,500.00	
2. Consulting services			
3. Purchased services--printing and mailing	4,000.00		
4. Other purchased services (specify):	2,500.00		
5. Plant material			
6. Supplies (specify)	6,250.00		
7. Depreciation on equipment			
8. Hourly equipment use charges		2,000.00	
9. State Lab of Hygiene (SLOH) Costs			
10. Non-SLOH Lab Costs			
11. Other (specify)	18,250.00	2,500.00	
12. Subtotals (sum each column)	150,000.00	50,000.00	
13. Total Project Cost Estimate (sum of column 1 plus sum of column 2)	200,000.00		
14. State Share Requested (up to 75% of total costs may be requested)	150,000.00		

Subject to the following maximum grant amounts:

- Education, Prevention and Planning Projects--up to \$150,000
- Early Detection and Response Projects--up to \$20,000
- Established Infestation Control Projects--up to \$200,000

Use of Federal funding as match: (check box below if applicable)

We are using or planning to apply for Federal funds to be used as match.

If known, indicate source of funding:

Section VI: Attachments (check all that are included)

A. For all applicants: (Refer to instructions for applicability.)

- 1. Authorizing resolution
- 2. Letters of support
- 3. Map of project location and boundaries
- 4. Lake map or river segment with public access sites identified (per Section IV of this application and page 20 of the guidelines)
- 5. Itemized breakdown of expenses
- 6. For projects that entail sending samples to the State Laboratory of Hygiene (SLOH) only: a completed SLOH Projected Cost Form
- 7. Project scope/description:
 - a. Description of project area
 - b. Description of problem to be addressed by project
 - c. Discussion of project goals and objectives
 - d. Description of methods and activities
 - e. Description of project products or deliverables
 - f. Description of data to be collected, if applicable
 - g. Description of existing and proposed partnerships
 - h. Discussion of role of project in planning and/or management of lake
 - i. Timetable for implementation of key activities
 - j. Plan for sharing project results
 - k. Other information in support of project not described above

B. For applicants that are Lake Management Organizations (LMOs), River Management Organizations (RMOs) or Qualified Non-profit Organizations:

- 1. For first time applicant LMOs/RMOs only: A completed Form 8700-226 (Lake Association Organizational Application) or 8700-287 (River Management Organization Application)
- 2. For first time applicant Qualified Nonprofit Organizations only: Copy of IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter and copies of your Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- 3. List of national and/or statewide organizations with which you are affiliated
- 4. List of board members' names, including municipality and county of residence. Designate officers
- 5. Documentation of current financial status
- 6. Brochures, newsletters, annual reports or other information about your organization

C. Education, Prevention and Planning Projects: (No additional attachments required.)

D. Early Detection and Response Projects:

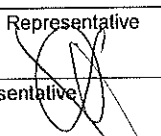
- 1. APM Permit application

E. Established Infestation Control Projects:

- 1. Management Plan
- 2. APM Permit application

Section VII: Certification

I certify that information in this application and all its attachments are true and correct and in conformity with applicable Wis. Statutes.

Print/Type Name of Authorized Representative Denny Caneff	Title of Authorized Representative Executive Director
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date Signed 1/30/2014

River Alliance Statewide AIS Education, Planning and Prevention Project

For six years, the River Alliance of Wisconsin has been an integral partner in statewide and local-level education, prevention, and planning in the aquatic invasive species arena. We have assisted in filling a geographical gap in the fight – the southwestern corner of the state – through our Lower Wisconsin River strategic planning effort and increasing staffing and expanded partnerships in the La Crosse area. Through our unique citizen monitoring program we have trained hundreds of volunteers who have monitored hundreds of miles of riverbank and reported hundreds of new findings of invasive species. We have engaged new audiences, including wading anglers – a common vector – in the discussion of preventing the spread of invasive species. Our work has never been more pertinent given the recent discovery of New Zealand mudsnails. With the support of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), we hope to continue to find creative ways to contain invasive species, such as the New Zealand mudsnail, preventing its spread throughout the state.

Goals:

- I. Increase monitoring for AIS on rivers and streams statewide by engaging new partners from paddlers and anglers to professional biologists in monitoring invasive species in and along our rivers and streams
- II. Contain invasive species, such as New Zealand mudsnails, to the rivers where they are present today through strategic outreach to potential vectors
- III. Educate new and existing audiences regarding the threat posed by invasive species to our rivers and streams and how they can assist in preventing, containing and controlling such species
- IV. Increase local stakeholder engagement and capacity in the fight against invasive species in and along our rivers and streams
- V. Provide technical consultation to resource managers by continuing to be a leading expert in aquatic invasive species and their vectors, specifically as they pertain to flowing waters

Objectives, Methods & Deliverables:

Objective – Increase Both Citizen and Professional Riverine Monitoring (60%) Wisconsin DNR Staff and local partners wish to see a greater portion of our resources dedicated to the development and implementation of *Project RED* as WDNR staff themselves are allocating more of their time and resources to instream monitoring for AIS. They have also asked for the assistance of the River Alliance to help develop protocols to be used by not only volunteers, but by WDNR and local partner AIS staff resulting in *professional level reporting and mapping*.

A3 X

Methods and Deliverables:

- a. Project RED (Citizen Based Monitoring) (40%)
 - i. Update Project RED Manual to include new species of concern (Ex. Corbicula, Water Hyacinth, etc.)
 - ii. Create an addendum to the Project RED manual containing advanced protocols for volunteers
 - iii. Improve data management in coordination with Wisconsin DNR data management staff
 - iv. Develop voucher protocols in coordination with department staff
 - v. Improve volunteer management and recognition through providing maps of their findings and other small tokens of appreciation

- vi. Host four Project RED trainings on statewide AIS source waters and other high priority locations (ex. St. Croix River Watershed Association, Mississippi River (and tributaries).
- vii. Host Project RED train the trainer webinar. Webinar will be recorded and available online to coordinators statewide.

b. Statewide "AIS Snapshot Day" at Bridges (Citizen Based Program) (10%)

- i. The River Alliance was requested by the WDNR to coordinate this event.
- ii. Objective is to monitor priority bridge crossings statewide on a single date for illegal aquarium releases and other infestations
- iii. Establish a committee to help coordinate statewide event, involving county partners, WDNR staff, and volunteers
- iv. Focus will be on tributaries to Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers -- two statewide AIS source waters with significant public access and availability
- v. Volunteers will conduct same AIS monitoring protocols as those used by WDNR biologists for their routine surveys
- vi. All data will be entered into SWIMS

c. Support Statewide Stream Monitoring (WDNR and Local AIS Partners' staff (10%)

- i. Develop advanced detection protocols for species of concern for tier II Project RED monitoring (advanced volunteers or professionals)
- ii. Develop online training webinars and videos for staff and volunteers
- iii. In person staff training and/or QA/QC

Objective - Continue the Coldwater Clean Angling Campaign to Assist in Containing New Zealand Mudsnails and Other Invasives to as Few Wisconsin Rivers and Streams as Possible (5%) Wader wash stations have been placed at six fly shops throughout the state. At the beginning of the fishing season, these stations will be located in a highly visible location in front of the shop with a 4 square foot sign asking anglers to take 60 seconds to help prevent the spread of invasive species. Fly shop owners and licensing agents have been educated on the threat posed by anglers who fail to take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread. They have been asked to engage anglers in discussions relative to AIS, especially those who are purchasing out of state licenses.

Methods and Deliverables:

- d. Survey shop owners to determine effectiveness of wader wash station campaign
- e. Provide wash stations to additional retailers or sportsmen's clubs as requested
- f. Determine design alternatives appropriate for streamside accesses or other venues and facilitate the implementation of them, as necessary

Objective - Create New Multimedia Information & Education Tools (10%) Continue to work with WDNR statewide outreach professionals to develop outreach materials regarding AIS and the prevention of their spread. It was determined that it is often easier for the River Alliance to develop rudimentary multimedia outreach materials (videos, webinars, and website content) than for the WDNR staff to do them. Therefore our outreach efforts would focus on these outlets and workshops, as opposed to creating more paper resources. We would also continue to host regional workshops or panels to address timely issues, such as New Zealand mudsnails or Asian carp.

Methods and Deliverables:

- g. Website; Provide an up-to-date clearinghouse for existing identification and control resources as it pertains to riverine invasive species
- h. Webinars; Provide Project RED volunteers, county and WDNR AIS staff with riverine monitoring protocols
- i. Videos; Identification training videos for WDNR/County staff (similar to what Mark Renz has produced)
- j. Signage; Continue to distribute signs specific to rivers, including wading access AIS signs and Asian carp signs
- k. Regional Workshops; Host one to two regional workshop each year involving stakeholders (ex. New Zealand mudsnail, Asian Carp or Japanese hops)

Objective - Increase Local Stakeholder Engagement By Recruiting New Partners and Further Building the Capacity of Existing Partners (15%)

Methods and Deliverables:

- l. Continue to manage special area projects (ie. La Crosse Area AIS Partnership and Lower Wisconsin River AIS Strategic Plan implementation)
- m. Seek new opportunities for local stakeholder engagement (ex. Chippewa River, Wolf River, and Peshtigo River)
- n. Encourage and assist local groups in participating in Clean Boats, Clean Waters and other statewide initiatives
- o. Assist local groups in the development of AIS strategic plan
- a. Assist local partners in making AIS control grant applications; serve as fiscal sponsor where needed

Objective - Technical Consultation (Other Various WDNR Initiatives and Working Groups) (1U%)

For over five years, the River Alliance has served as the primary source of information in Wisconsin regarding riverine specific aquatic invasive species helping to engage new audiences, identifying new vectors and foreseeing potential new threats. For example, anticipating the arrival of New Zealand mudsnails in Black Earth Creek we have been developing clean angling protocols and engaging wading anglers in the AIS prevention for nearly five years. For this reason and others, we have been asked to serve on a wide variety of WDNR working groups and initiatives, such as the New Zealand mudsnail rapid response team and the decontamination working group. We will continue to serve the WDNR and other partners in this capacity as the need arises.

Methods and Deliverables: A River Alliance representative will continue to participate in the following and assist with future teams that are formed when the need arises.

- b. New Zealand Mudsnail Rapid Response Team – This team is addressing a *pioneer population of New Zealand mudsnails*. The River Alliance will continue to assist in the development of monitoring protocols, outreach materials, and decontamination protocols and tools.
- c. Stream AIS Monitoring Working Group – This team is working to integrate aquatic invasive species monitoring into the routine monitoring conducted by WDNR watershed

bureau stream biologists. It is also working to advance Project RED and other monitoring efforts conducted by local partners.

- d. Decontamination/Gear Cleaning Working Group - This group is developing decontamination protocols for wading anglers/hunters, motor boats, construction contractors, and other major vectors. They are also working to identify the best approach to advocate adoption of these protocols.
- e. Partnership Meetings and Trainings – The River Alliance will continue to participate and present at all upcoming partnership statewide meetings and trainings.

Project Area/Geographic Scope: Statewide. The vast majority of the following projects will be statewide, applicable to a vast array of rivers and streams from statewide AIS source waters, such as the St. Croix River and Mississippi River, to outstanding/exceptional resource waters, such as Black Earth Creek. All of the rivers that we work on have more than the minimum public boating access as defined in s. NR 1.91(4) and many have significant alternative public access and use opportunities making them a priority in AIS prevention. Many of the waterbodies where we will focus will have pioneer populations of invasive species (ex. Black Earth Creek).

Timeline: May 2014 – May 2016; See attached

Sharing Results

All data including Project RED presence and absence data and sign distribution data will be entered into SWIMS with the continued support from WDNR. Results of this project will be shared via the River Alliance website, the River Alliance newsletter “FLOW”, SWIMS, River Rat blog, routine communication with partners, and in presentations at other groups’ conferences and meetings.

Existing and Proposed Partnerships (specific to this program):

- County Land and Water Conservation Offices including but not limited to Dane, La Crosse, Crawford, Richland, Grant and Polk
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- United States Forest Service
- United States Geological Survey
- Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board
- Resource Conservation & Development councils including Southwest Badger and Golden Sands
- Multiple local groups including but not limited to Black Earth Creek Watershed Association, Friends of the Black, Friends of the Platte River, Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, Friends of the Mukwonago, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, and St Croix River Association
- Nature Preserves (e.g. Ridges Sanctuary)
- Hydro Power Companies
- Trout Unlimited (multiple chapters and state council)
- Ducks Unlimited
- Badger Fly Fishers
- Wisconsin Trapper’s Association
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Wisconsin Extension

Itemized Budget:

Salary & Wages

Laura MacFarland	96000
Denny Caneff (executive director)	23000
Erin Courtenay (communications)	11000
Sharon White (administrative)	14400
Matt Krueger (outreach/events)	2500
Jim Fossum (hydroelectric dam fish passage)	10000
Volunteers	8000

Purchased services (Printing and Mailing)

Project RED materials	1000
Newsletter (printing and mailing)	2000
Mailing (signs and materials)	500
Other printing	500

Other purchased services

Constant Contact (Project RED Newsletter, WOTS, and TRIB)	500
Website and technical support	1500
Telecommunications	500

Supplies

AIS snapshot day supplies	2500
Project RED volunteer awards and appreciation	500
Project RED monitoring supplies	2000
Consumable office supplies (paper, printer ink, etc.)	1000
References	250

Hourly equipment use charges

Canoes and kayaks	2000
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Other

Travel (car, lodging, meals, conferences)	15750
Regional workshops	5000

<u>Total</u>	200000
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Attachments:

- Authorizing Resolution
- Letters of Support
 - Sugar River Watershed Association
 - Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council
 - Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
- Maps of Project Area - Statewide Map of Local Groups
- Timetable
- National and Statewide Organizations Affiliates
- Board Members and Affiliations
- Documentation of Current Financial Status
- River Alliance Brochure
- River Alliance Newsletter

Chancellor, Sandra D - DNR

From: Chancellor, Sandra D - DNR
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 7:27 AM
To: 'Laura MacFarland'
Subject: RE: AIS grant application

Thanks so much for your explanation, Laura. Yes, these expenses seem reasonable to me.

 **Sandy Chancellor**

Environmental Grants Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

(☎) phone: (608) 275-7760

(☎) fax: (608) 275-3338

(✉) e-mail: sandra.chancellor@wisconsin.gov

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From: Laura MacFarland [<mailto:lmacfarland@wisconsinrivers.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 1:42 PM
To: Chancellor, Sandra D - DNR
Subject: Re: AIS grant application

Hello Sandy,

These estimates were based upon our program's expenditures in the past.

In 2013, I spent approximately \$5000 in mileage alone when my workload was very similar to that proposed in terms of statewide travel. Over the course of two years this would average \$10,000. This would leave a conservative amount of \$5000 (\$2500/yr) for hotels, conference registration, and meals. I spend at least 5 - 10 nights in hotels annually in my travels to work with local groups or conduct Project RED trainings. Then I spend another 5 - 10 nights in hotels annually for conferences. Conferences I typically attend when deemed necessary include the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Annual Statewide Meeting, Wisconsin Lakes Convention, Citizen Based Monitoring Conferences, Bi-annual AIS Coordinators Meetings, and more.

In the past I have used \$25 (.5 day) for kayaks and \$30 (.5 day). This is on average the going rental rates around the state, including at the WDNR state parks.

Our Project RED trainings include a half day monitoring effort where participants are required to bring their own boats (or they are supplied by a local partner in-kind). Each training has approximately 12 attendees. If half bring kayaks and half bring canoes that is a total value of \$1920. Of course, the purpose of Project RED is to then have these folks go out and monitor on their own and report the duration of where they monitored and what they found. Therefore, we can capture the additional hours that they donated the use of their watercraft from the data they enter into SWIMS. This again is a very conservative estimate given that I, myself, spend 100s of hours of time in my personal watercraft monitoring with volunteers that I honestly have failed to capture in terms of in-kind in the past.

Please let me know if this all makes sense and seems reasonable.

Laura

Laura MacFarland
Invasive Species Director
River Alliance of Wisconsin
(608) 257-2424x110
www.wisconsinrivers.org

On Wed, Feb 12, 2014 at 1:15 PM, Chancellor, Sandra D - DNR <Sandra.Chancellor@wisconsin.gov> wrote:

Hi Laura,

I'm looking over the budget for the recently submitted AIS grant from RAW for the project titled "River Alliance's Statewide AIS Education, Prevention and Planning Program" and wonder if you can provide additional detail for the \$15,750 in Travel Expenses and for the kayak and canoe rental. How many hours and what rate have you used to determine the \$2000 amount for that item? Thanks.

 **Sandy Chancellor**

Environmental Grants Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

 **phone: [\(608\) 275-7760](tel:(608)275-7760)**

 **fax: [\(608\) 275-3338](tel:(608)275-3338)**

 **e-mail: sandra.chancellor@wisconsin.gov**

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Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant

Resolution # 2014-1

RESOLUTION OF River Alliance of Wisconsin, County of Dane

WHEREAS, all the rivers of Wisconsin are important resources used by the public for recreation and enjoyment of natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, public use and enjoyment of all of Wisconsin's rivers are best served by protection from infestation of aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to provide information or education about aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, we are qualified to carry out the responsibilities of an aquatic invasive species control project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the River Alliance of Wisconsin requests grant funding and assistance available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the "Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program" and hereby authorizes the executive director to act on behalf of the River Alliance of Wisconsin to:

- submit an application to the State of Wisconsin for financial aid for aquatic invasive species control purposes;
- sign documents;
- take necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete an approved aquatic invasive species control grant; and
- submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within six months of project completion date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the River Alliance of Wisconsin will meet the obligations of the aquatic invasive species control project including timely publication of the results and meet the financial obligations of an aquatic invasive species grant, including the prompt payment of our 25% commitment to aquatic invasive species control project costs.

Adopted this day 8th day of January 2014

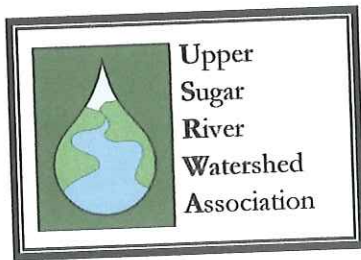
By a vote of: 10 in favor 0 against 0 abstain

BY: Marcia Kraus
Chair

NOTE: Management Unit as defined in s. 281.68, Wisconsin Statutes, or defined in s. 281.70, Wisconsin Statutes, are counties, cities, towns, villages, town sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, qualified lake associations, qualified river management organizations, nonprofit conservation organizations, or other local governmental units established for the purpose of lake management or river management.

The management unit's representative must be indicated by naming a position or a person who is either an official or employee of the management unit. By naming a position instead of a specific person, a new resolution does not have to be submitted to the DNR if there is turnover in the position. A contracted consultant to the sponsor cannot be the authorized representative. The resolution may not pass on grant responsibility to another group or organization.





PO Box 314 ♦ Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Phone/Fax: 608-437-7707 ♦ usrwa@usrwa.org
www.usrwa.org

Sandra Chancellor
WDNR
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

January 21, 2014

RE: River Alliance of Wisconsin proposal for Aquatic Invasive Species grant program

Dear Ms. Chancellor,

On behalf of the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA), I am writing to support the project proposal submitted by the River Alliance of Wisconsin entitled "Statewide AIS Education, Planning, and Prevention Project." The River Alliance has been an invaluable partner to local watershed groups who are working to monitor and contain aquatic invasive species across the state. In 2012, River Alliance staff Laura MacFarland traveled to Belleville to lead an aquatic invasive species (AIS) identification training for USRWA monitoring volunteers. The data that we have collected as a result of this training facilitated the development of a five-year AIS strategic plan for our watershed.

Local groups such as USRWA also greatly benefit from the outreach efforts that the River Alliance engages in. For example, in December the River Alliance partnered with the Dept. of Natural Resources to host a public meeting regarding the New Zealand mudsnail infestation in Black Earth Creek. The meeting provided representatives from local groups as well as members of the public with information about the reproductive strategy of the snails, the impact that the species has on local populations once established, and proper gear sanitation methods. Because of the Upper Sugar River Watershed's proximity to the infestation site on the Black Earth Creek, this meeting prompted USRWA to apply for funds to conduct outreach and monitoring efforts directly targeted at preventing the spread of the New Zealand mudsnail, such as constructing and maintaining wader wash stations and kick-net sampling at popular angling sites.

USRWA is in full support of the River Alliance's grant project proposal and feels that our own organization as well as its various non-profit partners would directly benefit from this project being funded. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at usrwa@usrwa.org or via phone at (608) 437-7707.

For the River,

Megan Phillips
Executive Director



GOLDEN SANDS

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

1100 Main Street, Suite 150
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone (715) 343-6215
www.goldensandsrcd.org

Susan Graham
Lakes Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Dear Susan,

Golden Sands RC&D Council is proud to collaborate with the River Alliance of Wisconsin on aquatic invasive species (AIS) initiatives across the state. The River Alliance is a leader in outreach pertaining to riverine threats, including AIS. We strongly support their efforts in Wisconsin, and encourage your support of their program.

I can remember the first time I heard mention of Didymo or New Zealand mudsnails – both were discussed at a Project RED Train the Trainer event in 2009. Now, New Zealand mudsnails have arrived in an inland system – Black Earth Creek. Responding quickly to this discovery, the River Alliance is now a partner in a rapid response team to determine the extent of these snails and develop management strategies. The River Alliance's ability to predict looming threats to our flowing waters is crucial in order for our statewide AIS partnership to detect and quickly respond to new invaders. It is clear that the River Alliance is dedicated to announcing new threats to our waterways, and to strategically respond to these threats if they are detected.

As new AIS are discovered in rivers across the state, the River Alliance will continue to provide outreach and management considerations to local residents and professionals. If any of these new species show up in Central Wisconsin, we at Golden Sands RC&D are enthusiastically ready to act in partnership with the River Alliance's motivated staff.

Sincerely,

Paul Skawinski
Regional AIS Education Specialist
Golden Sands RC&D Council, Inc.
715-343-6278
Paul.Skawinski@goldensandsrcd.org



January 27, 2014

Ms. Susan Graham
Water Resources Management Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
South Central Regional Office,
Madison, Wisconsin

Re: Letter of Support for River Alliance of Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Grant
Application

Dear Ms. Graham:

My name is Henry E. Koltz, and I am the Chairman of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is comprised of approximately 5,000 members, and its mission is to conserve, protect, and restore Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited achieves that mission through educational outreach, and in-stream work.

I am writing on behalf of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited. The purpose of this letter is to support the River Alliance of Wisconsin's request for a DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grant. Our understanding is that the River Alliance will use the funding to continue their work in raising awareness about the impacts of aquatic invasive species on the rivers and streams of Wisconsin.

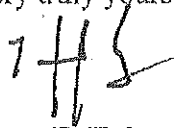
Cold, clean, fishable water is an economic boon for Wisconsin. Specifically, a 2008 economic impact study commissioned by Trout Unlimited indicated that recreational trout angling has a \$1.1 *billion* annual economic impact on just the relatively small, four state "Driftless Area" (comprised of parts of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and primarily situated in Wisconsin). It does not take a great leap of logic to realize that the incredible economic impact felt in the Driftless can be extrapolated across *all* of Wisconsin, because *all* of Wisconsin is covered with trout streams. In short, what is good for trout is good for Wisconsin, and cold, clean water is good for trout.

Ensuring that invasive aquatic species are curtailed is an incredibly worthwhile venture. Not only does the prevention of the spread of invasive species ensure clean, natural water resources, it also protects the incredible economy that they create.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited views the River Alliance of Wisconsin as an ally and a leader, and will continue to partner with it to keep the public aware of the threats posed by aquatic invasive species. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will likewise continue to assist where it can to establish practices and procedures aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. As such, funding the River Alliance of Wisconsin's grant request helps not only its activity, but also helps the activities of its partner organizations.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited strongly urges the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to award the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grant to the River Alliance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Koltz', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Henry E. Koltz