Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Updates

Andrew Teal

8/13-8/24/18

* Attended Barnes AIS Committee meeting. I updated them on things I have been working on in their area, as well as my intent to help with some Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting. They plan to get some new folks onto the Committee next year (in their words, younger generations) to take the Committee in a fresh direction.
* Attended the Land Conservation Committee meeting. One of the big items pitched to Committee members was to create a full-time County-funded Lake Conservation Specialist position. We already have public support from a few groups, and received Committee support, but the drive to create the position is far from over. The need is there, especially after the epic amounts of precipitation we received in 2016 and 2018 in single-storm events, which delayed or damaged projects in several areas and pushed work schedules back. The storms were on par with the storm that just hit Madison (in certain locations, larger).
* Joined our DNR Lakes Biologist at Pigeon Lake to snorkel and collect AIS Early Detection data. This was in conjunction with other issues happening around the lake. Many properties suffered flooding damage, and the lake depth appears to be four feet more than the last 20-30 years.
* Took my interns out for Intern Appreciation Day and bought them whatever they wanted at North Coast Coffee. They have been an immense help this season.
* Co-hosted our monthly Invasive Species ID Day at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. We hosted Lori Seele from the Duluth Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, and she gave a presentation about how they have been managing knotweed in Duluth and connecting with property owners to educate them about the risks it poses.
* Hosted a rendezvous site at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center for the 2018 AIS Snapshot Day. We (myself and three volunteers) went to three boat landings and one stream crossing in Bayfield County. Two landings had purple loosestrife (not a surprise), one of which also had rusty crayfish, which was a bit of a surprise only because we scooped them out of the mud, and the third landing we found floating fragments of Eurasian watermilfoil. I don’t know if that has been logged at that landing before.
* Worked with Melissa Kraft quite a bit to provide my budget projections and any other info she needed to create the 2019 budget request and finish the 2018 budget projections.
* Made some drastic changes to the Bayfield County AIS No Transport Ordinance, which I will be running past the AIS Committee, the public, the Land Conservation Committee, and will hopefully get approved by the County Board before the end of the year.