Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Updates

Andrew Teal

2/13-2/24/17

* Met with Roger Kumlien again, this time at the site in question (The Steak Pit in Washburn). Adam and I went through looking for invasive plants on land and at the shoreline. We took many notes and brought in two AIS Committee members to provide invaluable input about the properties and potential projects that we could do there.
* Attended the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area meeting and took minutes for Adam-discussed priority projects and sites, potential gaps, and dates for work; met with fellow Invasive Species ID Day collaborator Susan Nelson (USFS) to plan out those events-at least as far as dates and ideas for speakers; met with a Northland College student/intern who happens to be writing a few articles about invasive species for the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and sought my expertise; attended and did most of the speaking at the County AIS Committee meeting-shout out and thanks to Adam for taking minutes for me!
* New ideas and plans for the near future following the AIS Committee meeting include: -Contacting realtors in Bayfield County/the Bay area to see if we can train them to look for invasive species. The reasoning here is two-fold: that average parcel ownership in northern WI is 7 years and then it is sold; and the realtors in so many cases would be the first contact with that property and can alert us when they find a population. It would be a little hand waving to suggest this, but they may also give us updates on populations that we have managed in the past, like if plants come back.

-A DIY equipment workshop-this was part of the match provided by the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area, for a group of people to build their own monitoring equipment. There may be enough in the budget to buy more materials than I originally thought, perhaps enough to hold another class. More on that as it develops.

-An Eagle Scout candidate would like to host a workshop for how to monitor for and remove aquatic invasive species, particularly plants. This project is pending approval, but if it is, they might bring in Boy Scout troops from all over the Northwoods CWMA area. This would get many more eyes on the landscape, not to mention younger folks.

* Continued working AIS grant #5 partial reimbursement; resolved a few issues with AIS grant #4 final reimbursement
* Began planning with Ashland Chamber of Commerce to host a smelting event for the Young Professionals of Chequamegon Bay Area. I met a number of colleagues and friends through this group, and I am excited to work on an event that pertains to my career.