Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Updates

Andrew Teal

4/10-4/21/2017

* Spoke to Jared Myers, Jason Ross, and Sharon Rayford (all from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) to discuss marina monitoring in 2017. Minutes later, went to a training with assorted NPS personnel from around the upper Midwest, hosted by the National Park Service’s pesticide expert.
* Attended webinar for connecting with people participating in fishing tournaments
* Networked with and educated citizens about AIS on a hike through the North Pikes Creek Wetlands Community Forest. Maintained contact with the President of the Friends of the North Pikes Creek Wetlands Community Forest, and provided guidance on how to pull/remove a few species of invasive plants.
* Attended first meeting of the Barnes AIS Committee for 2017. There were many items to discuss, including new and major changes with the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Program, the Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (including when to use it, who to hire as divers, training for the divers, funding, maintenance and storage, etc.), their various active grants, and my report-including upcoming events.
* As part of a panel with Kris and Ben, conducted two more (perhaps our last) CBCW Internship interviews. We liked both candidates!
* Began creating the summer schedule for our CBCW interns-it is far more complex this year. Elements to consider when planning locations and schedules include:
* 1854 Treaty Authority and their boat wash unit schedule
* WI Sea Grant’s Lake Superior intern schedule
* The CBCW Boater Behavior Study (only a small part, but it is recurring and planning is still needed)
* Coordinating with the DNR to find out which coastal wetlands they will monitor and when, so we can try to have the boat wash at a landing near their sites.
* Having two interns at one landing to run our boat wash unit
* Rotating four interns between landings instead of two
* Prioritizing fishing tournaments and events for the boat wash unit (and how often we can use the boat wash unit).
* Utilizing two grants for intern compensation rather than one
* Created Facebook event for the Young Professionals Smelting event-unfortunately we cancelled the event because the smelt ran a week too early. Ice out is difficult to predict, but the trend over the last 150 years is that ice has been going on later and melting earlier in the year (John Magnuson, Professor Emeritus of Limnology, UW-Madison).
* Sent and received many emails regarding: planning three CBCW workshops; setting a date for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network training; picking up and distributing Drain Campaign ice packs and Landing Blitz towels; cancelling our May Invasive Species ID Day in favor of the Bayfield In Bloom Garden Expo; getting financial records prepped for the annual audit-will soon submit a partial reimbursement for the new grant; preparing for some colleagues that may come up from The Ohio State University in June; coordinating with three partners for booth space at the Governor’s Fishing Opener and Fishing Expo at Lake Namekagon; health insurance information; recruiting partners and volunteers for events; and LEEP Day in the classroom and the field
* Also took a few phone calls regarding ideas for community service type projects for Washburn School students