Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Updates

Andrew Teal

11/14-11/25/2016

* I attended the two-day statewide AIS Coordinators meeting. We discussed many elements of upcoming changes to grant funding for AIS Coordinators. The DNR will likely divert the AIS Coordinator funding (about 600k) into contracts to counties for better and sustainable coverage across the state. If done across all 72 counties, this represents about $8300/county. This, coupled with the constant uncertainty of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding, may deal a big blow to the Bayfield County AIS Project, starting in spring 2019. It is a challenge I will be discussing with our County AIS Committee and Ben. I also participated in a storytelling workshop here, to learn how to pull the public in with a story about science. Quite entertaining and enlightening. We had the opportunity to create our own story using fake receipts and then act it out in a skit.
* I wrote up a letter of support for Adam Haecker’s EPA GLRI grant proposal
* Created the agenda for the upcoming County AIS Committee meeting, and typed up my updates
* Reviewed Lake Namakagon’s Early Detection/Rapid Response grant application for hybrid water milfoil control. The funding is already set aside, but the grant awaits submission to make it official. Big thanks to Pamela Toshner, Lakes Biologist for writing the grant. I coordinated with stakeholders to set up a meeting at Lakewoods Resort to discuss the grant before we submit it. Affected stakeholders include: National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, WI DNR, Bayfield County, Town of Grand View, Town of Namakagon, the Namakagon Lake Association, and Lakewoods Resort.
* Coordinated with National Park Service to determine what their goals are for coastal wetlands and invasive mussels in 2017, and mentioned that DNR will be monitoring several coastal wetlands on or near their property. Apparently, this was news to one of the biologists, but they seem happy to help, if the DNR take all the proper steps to collect specimens (aka permits). They may even take us out to the islands themselves. Yay partnerships! This also involved reviewing the DNR’s grant request
* Entered Clean Boats Clean Waters data and talked to Adam about the boaters he spoke with at Bayfield and Washburn