Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Updates

1/24-1/25/19

Andrew Teal

* Attended 3-hour conference call to discuss concerns and questions regarding the DNR’s switch from grants to contracts for AIS Education, Prevention, and Planning.
* Met and worked with Ben and Mark, and the County AIS Committee Chair, to figure out a solution to who would house payroll for watercraft inspector in Iron River this year. Sounds like North Lakes Community Clinic is on board. Seems like an odd pairing, but they have been interested in getting an environmental program of some sort up and running for years now. If that is the case, I am all for it. Forging new partnerships is exciting!
* Communicated with the Lake Owen manager about an AIS No Transport Ordinance, with a provision about requiring or strongly encouraging decontamination of boats and equipment, and how to phrase that to maximum positive effect.
* Spoke to DNR about two CBCW grant reimbursements. Hoping to hear back soon from one of our CBCW Coordinators soon regarding the one in Iron River.
* Began pulling together match documents for the main AIS grant
* Attended Northwoods CWMA meeting at the Visitor Center to discuss project goals, gaps, and plant species to target. Great turn out too, despite the partial government shutdown.
* Sat in on webinar about how to change people’s behaviors when they already think something is a good idea. An example: 100% of people may agree that donating blood is a good idea and saves lives, but only 37% of the U.S. is eligible and less than 10% of them donate annually). Basically, the webinar addressed ways to bridge the gap between knowledge and actually taking action.