

**Staff Report | August 29th, 2018**

Andy Teal

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator

**Grant Updates**

* AIS Grant #5 has $22,896.80 remaining, which we anticipate will carry the program through the end of 2018. We will begin the process of writing a new grant for 2019-2021 soon. Letters of support are appreciated and may be necessary to land a grant award.
* Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Iron River has $8,077.79 remaining. This will likely last until close to the end of September at the current rate.
* Clean Boats Clean Waters-Lake Superior has $4,848.73. This will also likely last until close to the end of September at the current rate. I have requested an extension for Codi Caracci’s employment until then.
* The Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area grant for the Boat Wash Unit has $17,732.61. These funds are mostly for the operation of the boat wash unit itself, though some can go to the Northwoods CWMA Coordinator for coordinating, and to maintenance.

**Activities Report**

* Set up display at Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival
* Attended NCWMA Herbicide training/workshop in Ashland
* Hired on two (returning!) Clean Boats Clean Waters watercraft inspectors and coordinated their schedule with WI DNR, Treaty of 1854 Authority, and WI Sea Grant
* Served as a lead/co-lead for indoor labs and outdoor modules at LEEP Field Day
* Went with GLIFWC and the Northwoods CWMA Coordinator to conduct purple loosestrife beetle monitoring
* Presented AIS identification info at an AIS training for DNR Wardens at the Rhinelander office
* Collected data for the CBCW Boater Behavior Study, visiting four Lake Superior landings and two inland lake landings
* Conducted a CBCW training in Barnes that had ten attendees
* Attended the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Spooner with two of my interns-we learned quite a bit about how climate change is affecting lakes, and new info about how zebra mussels likely spread
* Worked with volunteers to cut yellow iris flowers and seed capsules at Atkins Lake and Bony Lake, with one intern to do the same at a site on the Iron River
* Partnered with the WI DNR and a volunteer to conduct an AIS survey on Pigeon Lake (the lake was about 4 feet deeper than normal, making snorkeling a challenge)
* Attended meetings for the Town of Barnes AIS Committee, Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, Long Lake Property Owners Association,
* Partnered with Northwoods CWMA Coordinator and WI DNR to monitor and manage knotweed populations around Bayfield County as part of Knotweed Knockout Days-also set up initial contact between the NCWMA and Lake Minnesuing in Douglas County for knotweed management
* Assisted the St. Croix River Association with zebra mussel veliger tows on Upper Eau Claire Lake and gave them contact info for volunteers there and at Lake Namakagon
* Responded to a report (NOT confirmed) of zebra mussels at Lake Owen-I did not find any shells during my visit, and eDNA sampling may still be in the works this season at Lake Owen and several other northwest WI lakes
* Was a guest presenter for knotweed ID at the Duluth CISMA Knotweed Workshop-this was great for sharing ideas about mapping and management of knotweed and building partnerships, basically all along the South Shore of Lake Superior.
* Set up booth at Bayfield County Fair-much credit to Ramona Shackleford, Sally Pease, and Codi Caracci for spending so much time at the booth and making contacts
* Collaborated with Susan Nelson at US Forest Service to plan and create Invasive Species ID Days and the Student Science Research Symposium; we landed the following speakers: Colleen Matula-WI DNR (June), Paul Cigan-WI DNR (July), and Lori Seele-Duluth Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (August). They spoke about wild parsnip, a variety of forest pests (insects and fungi), and knotweed management/identification, respectively. For July’s event, I was even asked to do a phone interview with the Ashland Daily Press! In September, Gabrielle VanBergen will speak about native and invasive Phragmites ID and the Phragmites project happening at the Red Cliff, Bayfield, and Washburn waste water treatment plants.
* Worked with Melissa and Ben on 2019 budget planning and what comes next for the AIS Project
* Attended the Land Conservation Committee and budget meeting in August where we pitched the idea of a full-time, county-funded Lakes Conservation Specialist position. We received public and committee support, and it was left in the budget and passed. The next challenge is getting it approved and passed by the Executive and/or Personnel Committees, and the full County Board.
* Created a draft of an improved No Transport Ordinance for Bayfield County

**Future Activities**

* DIY equipment workshop
* Additional cutting/digging/pulling of invasive plants as needed
* AIS lake monitoring
* Nearshore AIS assessment with Red Cliff Natural Resources Department, in September
* Invasive Species ID Days: September 21, October 12
* Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester MN, October 15-18, 2018-I will be volunteering to cover the $300 registration cost.