

## LAKE OWEN AIS DECONTAMINATION TRAINING

June 5, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

### Agenda

Introductions

Scheduling/supervision/employee paperwork

Inspection/survey procedures – entering data

Reporting violation – incident report

Why AIS a concern, nearby lakes with AIS

Station and equipment set up

Decon procedures

HOMEWORK: watch video to review procedures (½ HOUR, record your TIME)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h004wSZnT80>

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Scheduling and payroll: Craig Manthey

Equipment operation:

Violation Reporting: 1-800- TIP-WDNR

Safety concerns:

Procedures, equipment, data entry: Cheryl Clemens, Lake Owen Manager, 715-225-0690

## **Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination**

### **DO NOT TRANSPORT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT REQUEST 11/08/19**

**The Lake Owen Association requests Bayfield County amend the Aquatic Invasive Species Do Not Transport Ordinance to require inspection and decontamination of boats and equipment prior to their entry into county lakes.**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) such as zebra mussels and hybrid and Eurasian water milfoil pose a significant threat to lakes and rivers in Bayfield County. Recent introduction and spread of zebra mussels into Big McKenzie Lake in Washburn and Burnett County provides a nearby example.

It is important to protect our region's valuable water resources.

Lake Owen's decontamination program can serve as a model for other County and regional lake organizations.

The Lake Owen Association has resources available including a WDNR Lake Protection Grant to support a pilot project of hot water, high pressure washing stations to decontaminate boats, trailers, and equipment prior to their entry into Lake Owen. This pilot will serve as an example for other Bayfield County lake organizations.

An ordinance that requires inspection and potential decontamination is critical for the success of Lake Owen's decontamination program. Both Washburn and Burnett County amended their Do Not Transport ordinances following the zebra mussel discovery in 2016. It would be much better to do whatever can be done to prevent such an introduction from occurring.

The Lake Owen Association operated a hot water, high pressure boat washing AIS decontamination station during the summer of 2019. The decon station was located on private land along the most frequently traveled route to public access points on the north end of Lake Owen. Participation was disappointing with only 26 boats visiting the station through September 11, 2019. During that same time period, Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff monitored a total of 1038 boats at the North Outlet and Two Lakes Campground Landings. Of these, about 75% entered at the North Outlet Landing. We estimate that of this number, at least 165 boats would have been directed to decontamination procedures. Over the entire season, the total estimate of boats to be decontaminated is 280.

The Lake Owen Association has an application in with the US Forest Service to locate the boat washing station at the North Outlet Landing. Initial reaction from the Forest Service is favorable. The Lake Owen Association also located an AIS sanitization station using a mild bleach solution at Otter Bay Resort on the south end of the Lake Owen.

## Ordinance Amendment Components

Require inspection and subsequent decontamination if stations are available at any access point in Bayfield County.

No special enforcement measures are requested of Bayfield County. Lake Owen Association staff will use an incident report form to report violations. This reporting will be supervised by a LOA volunteer who is a former City of St. Paul police officer.

## Background

The Lake Owen Association completed a Lake Management Plan with the help of Northland College. The plan was approved by WDNR in January 2018. The Association applied for and received a WDNR Lake Protection Grant to begin implementation of priority actions in the plan. The grant runs through December 31, 2020. Priority activities include:

- Decontamination Stations for Aquatic Invasive Species
- Shoreland Restoration/Native Plantings
- AIS Monitoring and Prevention: point intercept survey, rapid response plan
- AIS Control – Yellow Iris
- Water Quality Analysis – chemical and physical parameters
- Critical Habitat identification

## Lake Owen Association

### Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection and Decontamination Pilot 2019

The Lake Owen Association 2019 AIS Decontamination Pilot project included a remotely located hot water, high pressure washer in the Town of Drummond and a sanitization station at Otter Bay Resort on the south end Lake Owen. With no county or town ordinance in place, use of both stations was voluntary. While the board understood that a remotely located, voluntary station would likely limit participation, they decided to go forward with the pilot project in 2019. Lessons learned will guide LOA efforts into 2020 and beyond and can serve as a model for other lake organizations. The pilot was supported by a Lake Protection Grant from the Department of Natural Resources which followed the completion of a lake management plan.

#### Siting the Stations

Public landings on Lake Owen are owned by the US Forest Service. Procedural requirements and siting concerns made locating the hot water/high pressure washer at a public landing impractical for 2019. The LOA chose a private site at the intersection of N Lake Owen Drive and Highway 63 and made site improvements to the leased site. The decontamination station used hot water and a short contact time – 140F for 10 seconds and 120F for 2 minutes - to effectively kill AIS. The station was open to all boaters, not just boats entering Lake Owen.

The LOA also established a sanitization station which uses a mild bleach solution at Otter Bay Resort on the south end of Lake Owen. This station was modeled after those sited in Washburn and Burnett Counties. Bleach solution must remain on boats and equipment for 10 minutes to effectively kill most AIS.

Metros Landing, a private access formerly open to Lake Owen residents and visitors, was closed to public use according to a lease agreement between the LOA and the owners. The closure was intended to direct lake users to access points where decontamination was available.

#### Equipment

The LOA selected a Landa hot water, high pressure washer, trailer, and accessories following a bid process. The total cost of equipment was \$14,584.

Safety gear included eye and ear protection. A canopy was purchased to shelter workers. Brightly-colored vests identified station staff.



## Promotion

Promotional efforts focused on identifying concerns related to aquatic invasive species and the availability of the decontamination stations. They included:

Signs – at the decon station and the sanitization station. When the station was closed, directions to inspect, clean, drain, and dry were posted.

Banners – along the roads indicated when the decon station was open

Coupons – offered a free treat at Otter Bay or Bear Country for those who used the stations

Brochure – modeled after Washburn and Burnett County “Zap Zebra Mussels” flyer, explained the threat of AIS and “Good, Better, Best” methods for decontamination

Resort Visitor cards – directed visitors from resorts on the south end of Lake Owen to the Drummond decontamination station

Open House – invited lake residents and other lake organizations to see an equipment demonstration

Press Release – invited media reps to the open house and provided information about the decontamination station

## Procedures

The LOA used a 2-step process modeled after AIS inspection and decontamination procedures in Minnesota. The MN manuals were revised to reflect Wisconsin regulations and conditions. Bayfield County and the WDNR assisted with staff training.

Staff completed an inspection process by asking visitors a series of questions and examining equipment and boats. Depending upon the results of the inspection, visitors were allowed to pass through or various forms of decontamination were completed. For example, water in a ballast tank would result in a 120F soaking of internal compartments for 2 minutes. If a boat had been out of the water less than 5 days, external washing was completed at a temperature of 140F. The inspection form includes all of the questions asked by Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff at the landings along with a series of screening questions.

Staffing hours coincided with CBCW staffing at the North Outlet Landing. Boaters who completed an inspection at the decon station were given a tag to indicate they had already completed the inspection/decon process. CBCW staff were instructed to collect the tags and not repeat inspection questions at the landing. The LOA developed a web-based application to record the results of the inspection questionnaire. CBCW staff used a log to record decon tags collected.

## Results

Participation at the decontamination station pilot was disappointing. Only 26 boats were inspected and decontaminated from June 24 – September 11 2019. During that same time period, Clean Boats, Clean Waters staff monitored a total of 1038 boats at the North Outlet and Two Lakes Campground Landings. Of these, about 75% entered at the North Outlet Landing.

## **Recommended Changes**

Two things are critically needed to improve participation in the LOA AIS Decontamination Program:

- 1) Siting the Inspection and Decontamination Station at the North Outlet Landing public access. The LOA submitted an application to the US Forest Service to do this on September 8, 2019.
- 2) **Amending the Bayfield County Do Not Transport Ordinance to require AIS inspection and decontamination, if warranted, when available at public and private access points. Support from other lake organizations is needed to encourage the Bayfield County Board to complete this important action.**

## Good

### CURRENT LAW IN WISCONSIN

- **INSPECT** boat, motor, trailer & equipment.
- **REMOVE** vegetation, animals & debris.
- **DRAIN WATER** from boat motor, trailer parts, live wells, bilge, bait buckets, & catch coolers. Tip boat motor to full down position to drain completely.
- **DRY** with towel or sun. Five day drying minimum!

*The "Good" method may NOT KILL or remove the invisible larval stage of zebra mussels.*

## Better

### INSPECT • REMOVE • DRAIN • DRY **DECONTAMINATE**

- Spray with 2 TBLS. of household bleach per gallon of water. Use eye protection & follow label cautions.
- After 10 minutes spray/rinse with water.
- Pour or spray solution into live well and bilge areas.

*Effectively kills both adult & larval zebra mussels. Easy & low cost. Must be kept away from skin, clothing & boat fabrics. Long-term use may cause metal corrosion. Bleach solutions lose strength & need to be mixed daily.*

## Best

### INSPECT • REMOVE • DRAIN • DRY RINSE WITH EXTREMELY

## **HOT WATER**

- Spray with a high pressure washer: exterior of boat, motor, trailer, equipment using very hot water (140° F).
- Spray or pour hot water into interior sensitive areas such as live wells & bilges (120° F).

**ONLY THE BEST FOR OUR LAKE!**

## **LAKE OWEN DECONTAMINATION STATION**

**FREE** Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection

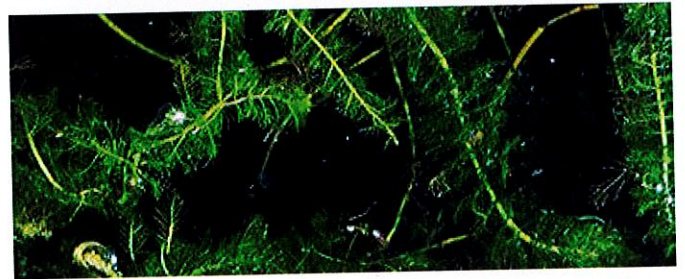
**FREE** Hot Water High Pressure Wash

SW Corner of North Lake Owen Drive and HWY 63

# Ways to ZAP Zebra Mussels



## Eurasian Watermilfoil



## and other Invasive Species

It's Up To **YOU**  
To Decontaminate Boats,  
Motors, Trailers and Equipment.



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.  
[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)

