

Accomplishments Report

AEPP-559-18 La Crosse Area AIS Partnership 16 November 2018 to 30 September 2019

Note: The following is a summary of the activities performed as part of River Alliance's La Crosse Area AIS Partnership grant, AEPP-559-18, from 16 November 2018 to 30 September 2019. By no means is this an exhaustive list; rather, it is a summary of the more noteworthy accomplishments that occurred during the time period. The La Crosse Area Aquatic Invasive Species Manager was formerly Scott Caven, and the position was vacant from 6 June to 28 October 2019. For more information, please contact Ellen Voss, Aquatic Invasive Species Manager with River Alliance of Wisconsin, at 608-781-6333 or evoss@wisconsinrivers.org.

- **Grant administration for River Alliance's La Crosse Area AIS Partnership grant, AEPP-559-18:**
 - Tracked all expenditures and match, prepared partial payment request, and performed other grant administration duties as necessary.
 - Partial payment request #1
 - 16 November 2018 to 30 September 2019
 - Current status: submitted

- **La Crosse Area AIS Partnership meetings:**
 - Held at the Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center on 14 December 2018
 - There was no meeting in Summer 2019 because the La Crosse Area Invasive Species Manager position was vacant.
 - Next meeting: TBD; anticipated for December 2019.

- **Noteworthy events, trainings, meetings and activities:**
 - La Crosse AIS program call with Raj Shukla, 12/4/2018
 - Wader wash station discussion with Natalie Dutack, 12/19/2018
 - River Alliance AIS program sponsorship and grant discussion with River Alliance team, 1/4/2019
 - Search for future Project RED paddle locations, 1/7/2019
 - River Alliance quarterly planning meeting and staff meeting, 1/15/2019
 - Call with River Alliance team re: AIS sponsorships and grants, 1/17/2019
 - LAX AIS call with River Alliance, 1/29/2019
 - AIS Snapshot Day Train the Trainer webinar, 2/13/2019
 - 2019 AIS intern recruiting and posting, beginning 2/14/2019
 - LAX AIS call with Raj Shukla, 3/19/2019
 - Water hyacinth and water lettuce follow-up with Alex Selle, 3/20/2019
 - River Alliance AIS program check-in with Natalie Dutack, 3/28/2019
 - Check Lake Onalaska phragmites location, 4/2/2019

- WI AIS Partnership meeting in Oshkosh, 4/4/2019
 - AIS call with Natalie Dutack, AIS Partnership meeting wrap-up, 4/5/2019
 - Call with Viterbo University professor, 4/11/2019
 - River Alliance annual planning meeting, River Alliance AIS program call with Natalie Dutack, 4/23/2019
 - Mississippi River Research Consortium, 4/24-26/2019
 - LAX AIS call with Raj Shukla, 4/30/2019
 - Check Lake Onalaska for CBCW, signage, and AIS, 5/6/2019
 - Clean Boats Clean Waters, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network, Project RED and Snapshot Day webinar, 5/9/2019
 - Call with Raj Shukla re: LAX AIS, 5/13/2019
 - LAX AIS call with Raj Shukla, 5/14/2019
 - Training and orientation with Alissa Griswold (2019 La Crosse Area AIS intern), 5/15-17/2019
 - LAX AIS program transition and call with River Alliance team, 5/22/2019
 - LAX AIS call with Raj Shukla, 5/28/2019
 - Check Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed growth, 5/30/2019
- **AIS programs, projects, events, and coordination:**
 - Clean Boats Clean Waters
 - Conducted 250 hours of watercraft inspections at high-traffic boat landings, including the Fred Funk boat landing, Green Island ramp, Veterans Freedom Park landing, and Lake Onalaska ramp, to educate boaters and anglers on aquatic invasive species and AIS prevention steps.
 - AIS intern
 - From May-September 2019, our AIS intern conducted Clean Boats Clean Waters watercraft inspections, entered data into the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System, participated in statewide AIS initiatives including the Landing Blitz, Drain Campaign, and Bait Dealer Initiative, and assisted the AIS manager at workshops, trainings, AIS monitoring efforts, fishing tournaments and educational outreach events.
 - Landing Blitz
 - Ramped up Clean Boats Clean Waters watercraft inspections at high-traffic boat landings, including the Fred Funk boat landing, Lake Onalaska ramp, Green Island ramp, and Veterans Freedom Park landing, over the 4th of July holiday (3-7 July 2019), which is typically the busiest boating week/weekend of the year.
 - Drain Campaign
 - Ramped up Clean Boats Clean Waters watercraft inspections at high-traffic boat landings, including the Lake Onalaska ramp, Green Island ramp, and Veterans Freedom Park landing, from 6-8 June 2019 with a special emphasis on making sure anglers drain all of the water from their boats, trailers, and equipment. Handed out ice packs to boaters.
 - Tournament angler AIS outreach
 - Educated tournament anglers on aquatic invasive species and their role in preventing the future spread at the Bassmaster Central Open (Veteran's Freedom Park landing, 1-3 August 2019) and the Major League Fishing Redcrest Tournament in La Crosse (19-25 August 2019).
 - Bait Dealer Initiative

- Educated bait dealers on aquatic invasive species and what they can do to help prevent the spread.
- Youth Outdoor Fest
 - Educated tomorrow's anglers, hunters, paddlers, and other outdoor enthusiasts on aquatic invasive species by showcasing live and preserved specimens, face-to-face conversations and educational outreach materials on 13 July 2019.
- **Outreach correspondence with the following organizations:**
 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Geological Survey
 - University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
 - Viterbo University
 - UW Division of Extension
- ***Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan for the Mississippi River and Major Tributaries in La Crosse, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties:***
 - Implementation of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan for the Mississippi River and Major Tributaries in La Crosse, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties* is underway.