

**Bayfield County**

**Aquatic Invasive Species Project**



**AIS Control Grant #AEPP-483-16**

January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019

**Progress Report**

Prepared December 2019

Prepared by:

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Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department

**Project Title:** Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Project February 2016-June 2019

**Housed under the:**

 **Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department**

 County Conservationist- Ben Dufford

 Support Staff- Melissa Kraft

 Land Use Technician- Travis Tulowitzky

 Northwoods CWMA Coordinator- Ramona Shackleford

 **Aquatic Invasive Species Committee**

 Chair - Nan Olson-Long Lake Property Owners Association President

 Vice Chair- Jim Krueger-Town of Namakagon Supervisor

 Jeremy Oswald-County Board Supervisor

 Larry Fickbohm- County Board Supervisor

 Reed Saam-Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources Division

 Vacant-Business Representative/Citizen Member

 Sally Pease-Clean Boats Clean Waters Coordinator, Citizen Member

 **Land Conservation Committee**

 Chair - Fred Strand-County Board Supervisor

 Vice Chair- Marty Milanowski-County Board Supervisor

 David A. Zepczyk-County Board Supervisor

 Tom Snilsberg-County Board Supervisor

 Melissa Netz-FSA Representative

 Peter Tetzner-Citizen Member

***2019 Bayfield County AIS Efforts***

In 2019, there was only a few thousand dollars remaining in this grant, so there was not much to report in this time frame. It so happens those funds were just enough to last until the new AEPP grant started. We were able to secure funding through AEPP for a half-time position covering three years instead of two years, and the other half of the position (the County Surface Water Conservation Specialist) would be funded through the Land & Water Conservation Department budget. Highlights of 2019 include hashing out roles for the Surface Water Conservation Specialist position, planning for the year’s Invasive Species ID Day events, and coordinating with Northwoods CWMA partners for upcoming field work. We can continue to maintain the program built up over the years and branch out into new areas with our newest AEPP grant and county support and funding.

**Goal A: Improve AIS Education and Outreach Efforts**

* Submitted CBCW grants for reimbursement
* Participated in a webinar (and later obtained the presentation) about how to handle sexual harassment at field sites and what to do after leaving the work site.
* Attended a meeting with my fellow collaborators to plan out Invasive Species ID Days and the Student Science Research Symposium

**Goal B: Assess the AIS presence/absence in Bayfield County Water Resources and plan management of any AIS present.**

* Partners helped survey lakes in Bayfield County this year. The AIS Coordinator worked with the WI DNR Lake Superior Basin AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response Coordinator, DNR personnel, volunteers, the St. Croix River Association, U.S. Forest Service, and interns with Bayfield County.
* Ongoing implementation of the Bayfield County AIS Strategic plan, approved by the County AIS Committee and County Board, and posted to the LWCD page on County website
* Worked with Lake Namakagon to provide technical guidance and input for their hybrid watermilfoil project
* Worked with the Town of Barnes to provide technical guidance and input for their AIS Established Population Control grant for EWM on Tomahawk, Sand Bar, and George Lakes, and CLP on Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes.

**Goal C: Track locations, control work, and spread of AIS**

* Through partnership with the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, maintained knotweed spreadsheets for tracking control dates and methods, landowner information, and population locations

**Goal D: Maintain and Expand Partnerships**

* Ramona Shackleford (Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator) has attended Bayfield County AIS Committee and Land Conservation Committee meetings and provided reports.
* Participated in conversations with DNR and NCWMA about Best Management Practices and concerns over continued use of herbicide as a form of invasive species control
* Worked with Harmony Environmental, the Lake Owen Association, Town of Drummond, Bayfield County Sheriff and County Conservationist to discuss and consider implementing decontamination stations and an associated ordinance in the Lake Owen area. This idea was tabled for after the 2019 field season to obtain data about how frequently a power washer would be voluntarily used.
* Continued partnership with the St. Croix River Association by sharing updates/ideas and attending meetings

***Other accomplishments***

While this report is relatively short, the [partial year] 2016 and the full year 2017 and 2018 progress reports lay out quite a bit more about the project and program. Those also include things not listed here, like newspaper articles, staff reports, and County AIS Committee meeting minutes.