Co Courthouse

**Bayfield County**

**Aquatic Invasive Species Project**



**AIS Control Grant #AEPP-589-19**

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

**Progress Report**

Prepared January 2022

Prepared by:

Andrew Teal –Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator

Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department

**Project Title:** Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Project

**Housed under the:**

**Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department**

County Conservationist/Department Director- Ben Dufford

Department Clerk- Melissa Kraft

Conservation Technician- Travis Tulowitzky

Northwoods CWMA Coordinator- Ramona Shackleford

Bayfield County AIS Project Coordinator-Andy Teal

**Aquatic Invasive Species Committee**

Chair - Nan Olson-Long Lake Property Owners Association President/Business Representative

Vice Chair- Sally Pease- Town of Barnes AIS Committee/Citizen Member

Steve Sandstrom-County Board Supervisor

Larry Fickbohm- County Board Supervisor

Reed Saam-Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resource Division

Mike Higgins-Pike Chain of Lakes Association Board/Citizen Member

**Land Conservation Committee**

Chair - Fred Strand-County Board Supervisor

Vice Chair- Marty Milanowski-County Board Supervisor

David Zepczyk-County Board Supervisor

Tom Snilsberg-County Board Supervisor

Melissa Netz-FSA Representative

Peter Tetzner-Citizen Member

***2021 Bayfield County AIS Efforts***

In 2021, we altered the Bayfield County AIS Project to accommodate what we could, and canceled or postponed what we could not, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Vaccines increasingly aided our efforts. These activities included: attending local and state discussions and meetings, accepting the offer from Douglas County to join a northern Wisconsin and Minnesota campaign to Stop the Spiny (education campaign geared toward boaters about preventing the spread of spiny waterfleas); working with landowners to protect their shorelines through a combination of the Surface Water Conservation Specialist position and cost-sharing plus AIS education and manual removal of certain species; and working with the Northwoods CWMA and Bayfield County (BC) Land Records to collect drone aerial imagery of selected invasive plant population sites. We even discussed lots of ideas with BC Land Records about how to involve them in the Lake Ecology Education Program and/or Drummond School District in general. Perhaps the biggest highlight of 2021 was that we were able to convert the AIS Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Specialist position (it is a 50/50 position) from a contract employee to a full-time county employee position. At least some of the position will still be supported from external funding sources but it is officially part of the county!

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

* Managed CBCW grant for Protecting Iron River Lakes-coordinated with the CBCW Coordinators at the Pike Chain and Long Lake, the County Administrator, County Conservationist, AIS Committee, and North Lakes Community Clinic to establish payroll for inspectors in 2021. North Lakes Community Clinic can no longer run payroll for the program though, due to federal rules. We are exploring the possibility of the Town of Tripp running payroll in 2022 (and hopefully for years to come).
* Provided AIS information and technical guidance to the Town of Barnes regarding: the Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH); the addendum involving DASH as part of their Aquatic Plant Management Plan; and furnished them with edits and a letter of support for the grant application they submitted for AIS Established Population Control.
* Collaborated with partners to plan monthly virtual Invasive Species ID Days (ISIDD) for the public from May-October. We partnered with the Northwoods CWMA, Ashland County Land & Water Conservation Dept., U.S. Forest Service, Master Gardeners, and DNR. We hosted a guest speaker at each event to talk about different aspects and types of invasive species. These appearances included professionals from: the Northwoods CWMA, WI DNR, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service.
* County participation in the Lake Ecology Education Project (LEEP) in Barnes (with the Drummond 7th graders) and teaching lessons in the classroom and on field trips was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, discussion and planning is ongoing to determine how to catch up the classes that were not able to participate, so they don’t have to go without that unique experience.
* There are additional activities, provided in AIS Coordinator Reports/Updates at end of this document.

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

* Partners and consultants helped survey wetlands, streams, and 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, U.S. Forest Service, and interns with the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area. We also worked with consultants Harmony Environmental and Endangered Resource Services, LLC to work on plans for these lakes. Some lakes with ongoing management had point intercept (PI) and SCUBA surveys.

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| --- | --- |
| **Lakes and Rivers Surveyed** | **AIS Detected/Managed** |
| Lake Owen (shoreline meander)\* | Chinese Mystery Snails (CMS), Yellow Iris (YI) |
| George Lake (Endangered Resource Services LLC a.k.a. ERS LLC) | None (known to have Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), but it has not been observed since treatment in 2012) |
| Middle Eau Claire Lake\* (ERS LLC) | For CLP populations-previously known AIS also noted |
| Upper Eau Claire Lake \* (ERS LLC) | For CLP populations-previously known AIS also noted |
| Tomahawk Lake\* | EWM |
| Sandbar Lake\* | EWM |
| Lake Ruth | Freshwater jellyfish\*\* |
| Lake Namakagon\* | Hybrid watermilfoil-new populations, no new species |
| Iron River | Yellow Iris\*\*(pulled and cut with two NCWMA staff) |
| Iron Lake | Yellow Iris, Purple loosestrife, narrow leaf cattails |
| Bony Lake | Yellow Iris |
| Bony Creek | Yellow iris |
| Pike Chain-Buskey Bay, Twin Bear Lakes--PI surveys by Onterra LLC, EDR survey with DNR | EWM—PI surveys were follow-up for treatments, which seemed effective, although populations began regrowing in southern Buskey Bay |
| Smith Lake on Eau Claire Chain (volunteer discovery and hand pulling) | CLP |
| Cranberry River estuary (LSRI survey discovery) | Queen of the Meadow (pulled, sprayed by LSRI) |
| Port Wing estuary (LSRI survey discovery) | Queen of the Meadow (pulled, sprayed by LSRI) |
| Fish Creek (LSRI survey discovery) | Moneywort (sprayed by LSRI, with noted adverse effects), yellow iris, purple loosestrife |
| Sioux River wetland (LSRI survey discovery) | Purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, yellow iris |
| Lost Creek wetland (LSRI survey discovery) | Yellow iris |

\*Priority Waterbody as designated by Bayfield County AIS Strategic Plan

\*\*New Discoveries in 2021

* 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 Cable Area Lakes to provide technical guidance and input regarding volunteer-led efforts to hand pull yellow iris, purple loosestrife, and narrow-leaf cattail
* Worked with the Town of Barnes to provide technical guidance and input for their AIS Established Population Control grant for EWM on Tomahawk and Sand Bar Lakes, and CLP on Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes, including ways to use their DASH boat and recruit divers. Offered to help with editing their addendum/appendix regarding DASH in their APM plan.
* The Pike Chain of Lakes conducted EWM treatments in four lakes over the past few years. Brief follow-up by Bayfield County and DNR staff on Hart and meander surveys on Twin Bear and Buskey Bay indicated those treatments were largely successful, except for the south end of Buskey Bay.

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

* Reported Yellow Iris, Purple Loosestrife, and Japanese/Bohemian/Giant knotweed sites via the Kobo Toolbox app and SWIMS database
* Partnered with the NCWMA Coordinator to GPS locations of Japanese, Bohemian, and giant knotweed sites.
* Through partnership with the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, maintained knotweed spreadsheets for tracking control dates and methods, landowner information, and population locations
* Removed numerous yellow iris plants from Bony Creek and Atkins Lake.
* Served as a contact for the HWM control project on Lake Namakagon in the event of questions; however, the HWM has spread to many new areas of the lake. A scheduled diquat treatment near the outlet happened covering two acres.
* Worked with Travis Tulowitzky, landowners, Gruel Landscaping, and the Namakagon Lake Association (NLA) on native shoreline planting projects at one property
* Shared information between interested parties regarding novel ideas for controlling Chinese mystery snails
* Provided guidance in hand pulling and Diver Assisted Suction Harvester control efforts of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil on the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes
* Updated AIS locations

**Goal D: Maintain and Expand Partnerships**

* The Invasive Species ID Days, which gained popularity, and we added partners. Our partners with the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area, Master Gardeners, Superior Rivers Watershed Association, WI DNR, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, UW-Extension. We included the UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility.
* Ramona Shackleford (Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator) has attended Bayfield County AIS Committee and Land Conservation Committee meetings and provided reports. I attended many of her virtual meetings to plan management of invasive plants at several sites, especially knotweed.
* Due to technological barriers to Committee members and the risk of infection from attending in person, held one County AIS Committee meeting at Bayfield County (see attached minutes). Tentative aim to restart meetings in late February 2021.
* Went to three virtual statewide AIS Coordinator meetings, attended the virtual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention (and moderated for a day), served on the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference planning committee and moderated two sessions at the Conference
* Attended meetings of the Western Lake Superior Collaborative Group.
* Worked with partners to discuss existing and proposed decontamination stations in Bayfield County and offered to join the statewide work group regarding decontamination stations

***Other accomplishments***

The reports prepared for the Bayfield County AIS Committee and Land Conservation Committee (LCC) have been included with this document. These reports list other activities the AIS project has done in support of this grant and the Bayfield County AIS Strategic Plan. Please note that AIS Committee and LCC meetings almost always happen within a few days of each other (with 2021 being the exception), and the reporting is the same, so I usually just write one report to use at both meetings. The minutes of the Bayfield County AIS committee are also included to provide further information on the AIS planning efforts in Bayfield County.

**To:**  Nan Olson, Jim Krueger, Larry Fickbohm, Jeremy Oswald, Reed Saam, and Sally Pease

**From:** Andrew Teal – Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator

Please be informed that the Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will meet:

**Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Location: Conference Room A, Bayfield County Courthouse Building, Washburn, WI**

**AGENDA**

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions

1. Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes from 02-26-2020
3. Grant Updates/Discussion-Clean Boats Clean Waters: Iron River and upcoming AIS program DNR funding shift
4. Discussion/possible action: swearing in new Committee members
5. Discussion: Climate change stories for WICCI
6. AIS Coordinator’s Report
7. Partner/Department Reports
8. Future AIS/Surface Water Activities
   1. WI Lakes & Rivers Convention, April 6-8, 2022, Stevens Point
   2. Northwest WI Lakes Conference, June 18, 2021, Spooner High School
   3. AIS Snapshot Day, August 15, 2020, statewide-rendezvous site TBD
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

*Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations, should contact the LWCD at 715-373-6167, at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time, so appropriate arrangements can be made.*

**To:**  Nan Olson, Steve Sandstrom, David Zepczyk, Reed Saam, and Sally Pease

**From:** Andrew Teal – Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator

Please be informed that the Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will meet:

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Location: EOC (Emergency Operations Center), Bayfield County Annex Building, Washburn, WI**

**AGENDA**

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions and welcome new committee members
3. Discussion/possible action: Appointment of new Vice Chair

1. Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes from 02-26-2020
3. Grant Updates/Discussion-Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River program and payroll
4. Grant Updates/Discussion-upcoming DNR AIS Coordinator program funding shift to Lake Management Partnership Network
5. Discussion: Climate change stories for Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts
6. AIS Coordinator’s Report
7. Partner/Department Reports
8. Future AIS/Surface Water Activities
   1. WI Lakes & Rivers Convention, April 6-8, 2022, Stevens Point
   2. Northwest WI Lakes Conference, June 18, 2021, virtual
   3. AIS Snapshot Day, August 14, 2021, statewide-local rendezvous site TBD
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

*Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations, should contact the LWCD at 715-373-6167, at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time, so appropriate arrangements can be made.*

**To:**  Nan Olson, Steve Sandstrom, David Zepczyk, Reed Saam, and Sally Pease

**From:** Andrew Teal – Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator

Please be informed that the Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will meet:

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Location: EOC (Emergency Operations Center), Bayfield County Annex Building, Washburn, WI**

**AGENDA**

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions and welcome new committee members
3. Discussion/possible action: Appointment of new Vice Chair

1. Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes from 04-28-2021 and 02-26-2020
3. Grant Updates/Discussion: Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River program and payroll
4. Discussion/possible action: DNR AIS Coordinator program funding shift to Lake Monitoring & Protection Network (LMPN)—identify and approve activities in Scope of Work for preapplication
5. Discussion/possible action: pass/support separate authorizing resolutions to obtain and spend DNR LMPN funds and USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife funds as applicable
6. Discussion/possible action: identify possible alternate funding sources for Bayfield County AIS Project
7. AIS Coordinator’s Report
8. Partner/Department Reports
9. Future AIS/Surface Water Activities
   1. AIS Snapshot Day, August 21, 2021, statewide-local rendezvous site at Prentice Park-registration is open!
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

*Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations, should contact the LWCD at 715-373-6167, at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time, so appropriate arrangements can be made.*

**To:**  Nan Olson, Steve Sandstrom, David Zepczyk, Reed Saam, Mike Higgins, and Sally Pease

**From:** Andrew Teal – Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator

Please be informed that the Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee will meet:

**Wednesday, December 7, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Location: EOC (Emergency Operations Center), Bayfield County Annex Building, Washburn, WI**

**AGENDA**

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Discussion/possible action: Appointment of new Vice Chair
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of Minutes from 08-18-2021
6. Grant Updates/Discussion/Possible Action: Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River program and where to run payroll through for 2022
7. Discussion/possible action: possible project funding sources for Bayfield County AIS Project moving forward: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership—2023 funding application due on 02-18-2022—request guidance as to what category(ies) to pursue.
8. AIS Coordinator’s Report
9. Partner/Department Reports
10. Future AIS/Surface Water Activities
    1. WI Lakes Partnership Convention, April 6-8, 2022 in Stevens Point
    2. Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, June 17, 2022 in person and online
    3. Town of Barnes CBCW and Shoreline Monitoring training, April 22 and May 20, 2022
    4. AIS Snapshot Day, August 20, 2022, rendezvous site TBD
    5. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, KI Convention Center, Green Bay, October 25-27, 2022
11. Other Business-set 2022 meeting dates
12. Adjournment

*Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations, should contact the LWCD at 715-373-6167, at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time, so appropriate arrangements can be made.*

**MINUTES**

**April 28, 2021**

*Present:* Nan Olson-Chair, David Zepczyk-Board of Supervisor District #11; Andrew Teal-AIS Coordinator, & Melissa Kraft-LWCD Assistant. Via telephone: Karen Austin-CBCW Coordinator for Pike Chain of Lakes and Delta Lake, Jodi Dahlgren-HR Director at North Lakes Community Clinic, Mark Witmer-Financial Director at North Lakes Community Clinic

Absent: Sally Pease-Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Association/Town of Barnes AIS Committee (provided report, on file); Ramona Shackleford-NCWMA Coordinator; Reed Saam-Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources Division; Steve Sandstrom-Board of Supervisor District #1

No quorum present to call the meeting to order.

**Introductions:** Introductions roundtable.

No quorum to appoint new Vice chair.

**Public Comment:** None.

No quorum to approve minutes from February 26th, 2020.

**Discussion on Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River program and payroll:** Many logistical issues were discussed regarding the Clean Boats Clean Waters/Iron River program and payroll process for the hires. Jodi Dahlgren, HR Director at North Lakes Community Clinic, will compile fifteen (15) blank hire packets and mail them to Nan Olson. Nan will forward the completed hire packets to Jodi at the Hayward office unless Beth or Brianna in the Iron River office will be able to scan the information to Jodi once the completed I-9 forms are delivered to Nicole Lester at the North Lakes Iron River office for Citizenship verification. Jodi will confirm this step in the process after discussion with Reba Rice and will then pass it on to Nan and Karen Austin what the process will be.

Jodi will take care of getting the background checks done on the hires. Nan Olson asks that the fees for the background checks be sent to her and she will see that the money gets reimbursed to North Lakes. It was noted a background check runs about $30.00 each.

Karen Austin was asked to forward the job description for the position, via email, to Jodi following today’s meeting.

Andy Teal was asked to look into the liability issue and what process would be followed and who would be the responsible payor if one of the hires were hurt on the job and a worker’s comp claim were to be filed, etc.

Payroll dates were discussed so that they are aware of when they need to have the timesheets turned in by for processing. There will be no direct deposit for the hires; instead, a paper check will be mailed to the addresses on file.

Andy Teal will email all participants contact information including phone numbers and email addresses following this meeting.

**Discussion** on upcoming DNR AIS Coordinator program funding shift to Lake Management Partnership Network. Andy’s position for funding is shifting to a set amount through DNR and unfortunately funding will not be as much. He will have to apply each year for available funding dollars and pre-proposals are due Sept. 1st; full applications are due on November 1st. Andy noted that he thinks that our county would be awarded around $22,000 a year through the new DNR grant. His position is currently half-time working on AIS and the other half of his position is currently funded by Bayfield County to do surface water conservation work. Andy says there may be a decrease in county AIS program funding when the new DNR AIS funding model switches over. He said it will be a conversation he will have to have with Ben about how to make up the difference.

**Citizen Committee member -Business Representative search:**

Andy updated that he is still unable to find someone to fill the citizen committee member-business representative position. Nan suggested that she and Andy meet with the Pike Chain of Lakes board members either formally or informally to discuss finding a representative from the Pikes Chain or business member. Andy will reach out to Jay Johnson.

**Discussion** on Climate change stories for Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts. Andy sent his personal 2016 flood story to Madeline Magee. He noted that if anyone else wants to share one of their own climate change stories he will pass on her contact information.

**AIS Coordinator Report.** Andy discussed his report in detail which is on file. He mentioned he had a lot of virtual meetings. The conferences were held virtual as well. Andy also discussed a native planting cost-share project that was also funded through Healthy Lakes he was involved in last year on a lake, and some shoreline mitigations, stormwater management, and shoreline stabilizations. He also asks that if they know of anyone that needs a well decommissioning done in Bayfield County to reach out to our office as there are county and DATCP dollars that are currently available to be either cost-shared or possibly fully funded.

**Partner/Department Reports:**

Sally Pease forwarded her report prior to meeting as she was unable to attend today. Her report is as follows:

We have the grant for Clean Boats Clean Waters for Upper Middle and Lower Eau Claire lakes, Tomahawk Lake and Robinson Lake. Provided we get the grant BAISS boat (Weed Harvesting), we will be going ahead with pulling the curly-leaf pondweed on both Middle and Upper Eau Claire Lakes along with the EWM on Tomahawk/Sandbar Lakes. There was some confusion about this grant as the Town of Barnes was not told that they had to apply for it every year. We are looking at building some sort of boom or containment area around the EWM in Tomahawk Lake to do a treatment and keep the herbicide where we need it. Clean Boats program in the Town of Barnes will start on April 30th. Anyone who is interested in seeing the weed harvesting boat should let Sally know. We hope to start by mid-May and will be working Monday-Thursday on the BAISS boat.

Reed Saam-Unable to attend meeting.

Ramona Shackleford was unable to attend the meeting today, however she provided her report, and it is on file and was distributed to the committee.

**Future AIS/Surface Water Activities:**

1. a. WI Lakes & Rivers Convention, April 6-8, 2022 in Stevens Point, WI.
2. b. Northwest WI Lakes Conference, June 18, 2021 will be held virtual.
3. c. AIS Snapshot Day, August 14, 2021, statewide-local rendezvous site TBD

**Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.

**Next meeting date** for regular AIS Committee meetings: **Aug 18th, 2021 at 9AM**

**MINUTES**

**August 18th, 2021**

*Present:* Nan Olson-Chair, Long Lake Property Owners Association (LLPOA); Steve Sandstrom-Board of Supervisors District #1, Jim Giffin- Lake Minnesuing, Douglas County; Sally Pease-CBCW Coordinator, Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Association; Andrew Teal-AIS Coordinator, Alison Lutterman-LLPOA, Karen Austin-CBCW Coordinator, Pike Chain of Lakes Association (PCLA); Mike Higgins-citizen committee member, PCLA; Ramona Shackleford-NCWMA Coordinator, & Ben Dufford-LWCD Conservationist

Absent: Reed Saam-Red Cliff TNRD, Melissa Kraft-LWCD Office Manager, David Zepczyk-Board of Supervisor District #11

1.Nan Olson called the meeting to order at 9:01a.m.

**2.Introductions:** Introductions roundtable and welcome new committee members. Alison plans to join the committee forward and Mike is new to the Committee

**3.Discussion/possible action:** Nan tabled nominations for Vice Chair. Tabled until at least next meeting when more folks are more comfortable taking on the role.

**4.Discussion/possible action:** Nan discussed appointment of Mike Higgins as a new Citizen AIS member. Motion by Olson/Pease to appoint Mike Higgins as Citizen AIS member. Motion carried.

**5.Public Comment:**  None.

**6.Motion:** Approve minutes from February 26th, 2020. Pease/Sandstrom – motion carried. The meeting from April 28th, 2021, did not have a quorum, however the notes taken were found to be accurate.

**7. Grant Updates:**

**CBCW-Iron River** program and payroll: North Lakes Community Clinic will apparently stop running payroll when the grant runs out and the county would not be able to suddenly take on the inspectors. Any funds that come to us could theoretically be handled like the DALA donation but Melissa was not here when that happened and is unfamiliar with the process. The grant currently has about $3600 worth of match accrued from volunteer hours at landings. This means the grant needs an additional $3067 to meet the minimum required to obtain full reimbursement. $6666.67 needed total. 340 hours accrued now by end of program. No hours generated this year Much discussion about how to run funding for September, why the County cannot support taking on inspectors, PCLA would put up cash to pay inspectors and they are willing to but need a motion from the Committee or need NLCC to take the money into their coffers. Need ballpark figure of how much money is needed, and a way to get checks out. Sally laid out how she does volunteer hours at five lakes in Barnes, apparently similar to Pike Chain. Karen hires from Northwestern School. Looking for a motion from the Committee to take on and spend money from PCLA whether it is the NLCC or Bayfield County that does it. Alison: why can’t the county take on the inspectors? Plan phone call with Steve Sandstrom to possibly discuss future of employing watercraft inspectors through the County.

**Motion**: To request local match payroll from Pike Chain and Long Lake to run the CBCW-Iron River program through the end of October. Pease/Olson-all in favor, motion carried.

8. Update on Scope of Work: Andy will send this out to the Committee. Members will return it before the deadline of September 1st.

9. **Discussion** on upcoming DNR AIS Coordinator program funding shift to Lake Management Partnership Network. Andy’s position for funding is shifting to a set amount through DNR and unfortunately funding will not be as much. He will have to apply each year for available funding dollars and pre-proposals are due Sept. 1st; full applications are due on November 1st. Andy noted that he thinks that our county would be awarded around $20,000 a year through the new DNR grant, but that is subject to change each year. His position is currently half-time working on AIS and the other half of his position is currently funded by Bayfield County to do surface water conservation work. Andy says there may be a decrease in county AIS program funding when the new DNR AIS funding model switches over. There are a few grants for which we are eligible to apply and are pursuing.

**Motion:** Move to ask County Board to pass the authorizing resolution to pursue, obtain, and spend DNR Lake Monitoring & Protection Network funding to meet the DNR grant application requirement. Olson/Sandstrom-all in favor, motion carried.

10. **Identify possible sources of alternative funding for Bayfield County AIS Project:** Jim Giffin-Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership; Steve Sandstrom: big issue in the county: the great debate regarding the impact of bottling water from an artesian well. Are there grant opportunities regarding how that might impact hydrology and estuaries in the area if that water is removed? Seems like being a hot topic would improve odds of getting the grant. USGS: aquifer study-check grant funding with them.

11. **AIS Coordinator Report.** Andy Teal discussed his report in detail which is on file.

He noted that he made two trips to the Iron River to cut yellow iris—one trip alone and one trip with two interns. Also mentioned that if it qualifies, it could potentially be a grant project for Partners for Fish & Wildlife.

**Partner/Department Reports:**

Ben Dufford**:** described work of the LWCD: shoreline restoration, engineering, culvert placement, wetlands, agriculture practices, dealing with floods, handling the Delta Dump, . Asked if we do much enforcement, and we do very little. Primarily grant funded and have fingers in lots of stuff. Jim-what’s the success of finding landscapers that do complex shoreline work (bags, etc), and there is a limited number of contractors available. He gave a few possibilities.

Ramona Shackleford: NCWMA-work in ABDI area, have four interns-two run boat wash, two work for Ramona doing terrestrial weed work—GM, wild parsnip, knotweed. Knotweed-they cut and then return to spray, which seems to work well, even four sites on Madeline Island. Just sprayed butterfly dock in Superior (one population), and also dalmatian toadflax—which will be a hand pull project. Don’t want it to get into the barrens as it does well in dry sandy areas. It’s been in Bayfield area since at least 1958 but it isn’t dominant there. Early August 4th—conducted an herbicide training and a field tour to treat wild parsnip. Crew will probably stay until end of September.

Nan Olson- Nan and Andy met with the board informally to discuss the possibility of finding a representative from the Pikes Chain or business member. Nan also talked about Lake Leaders.

Sally Pease- Tomahawk lake EWM got a great start this year. There are some early free floaters that have produced adventitious roots. Sandbar not so bad. Weed boat running longer this year and is still on Sand Bar if anyone wants to check it out. Sally described what the boat does—sucking up invasive plants, and what they do to collect the plants (bagging and landfilling them). They went from operating 4 hours/day to 8 hours/day and swapping divers.

We are looking at building barrier area around the EWM in Tomahawk Lake to do a treatment and keep the herbicide where we need it. Pamela Toshner asked Tyler Mesalk if key requirements had been met to pursue grant funding, which remains unclear.

Clean Boats program in the Town of Barnes began on April 30th. Sally noted they started mid-May working Monday-Thursday on the BAISS boat.

Jim Giffin: Curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, and yellow iris are the big three invasive species on Lake Minnesuing. If anyone is interested, he can share info about the purple loosestrife beetles project. CLP is expanding and now is at 10 acres. Used an EDR grant for two years but will now need to perhaps pursue a small-scale lake management grant.

Steve Sandstrom: just soaking it in for the first meeting. Says don’t hesitate to contact him if we have questions.

Alison Lutterman: would like: a Committee member application, the committee structure documents, and the current grant agreement. Retired as Chief Litigator, Principal attorney for planning commission, and other roles, in the City of Duluth.

Karen Austin: not a lot of EWM coming out of Twin Bear boat launch this year, which is most unusual. Al Bochler says there is a new EWM treatment available that adheres to the plants themselves and is not dependent variables like wind, depth, wave action, etc. There are beds of EWM growing in the south end of Buskey Bay, Twin Bear, and Eagle.

Mike Higgins: retired banker and auditor, first meeting and it has been educational.

**Future AIS/Surface Water Activities:**

1. Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention, April 6-8, 2022 in Stevens Point, WI.

**Other Business:**

Nan Olson has offered to discuss funding with Reba Rice at NLCC and also to Town of Tripp for the possibility of temporarily employing inspectors in the future.

**Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 11:12 a.m.

**Future meeting date** for regular AIS Committee meeting:

* **Dec. 7 2021** **at 9AM**

**Staff Report | February 26, 2021**

Andy Teal

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Specialist

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** Received $5,000 advance in 2020. We are holding the grant until the 2021 season starts and plan to use it then, due to the pandemic. This grant reimburses valid expenses up to $20,000.
* **AIS Grant #6:** This will fund the AIS half of the position through 2021 while county funds support the other half. The pandemic definitely altered much of what we normally do with this grant, and we have gotten creative about how to achieve goals, especially with educational events. The amount remaining is about $32,616.10

**Activities Report**

* Learned more about surveying wetlands as part of the WLSAIS EDRR partnership effort, then attended a virtual meeting with the partnership
* Provided technical guidance to Town of Barnes AIS Committee for their AIS Management Plan
* Aided the Northwoods CWMA with hand pulling buckthorn on Clough Island
* Collaborated with Land Records (Scott and Claire) to obtain match for their drone work.
* Fielded many reports of invasive species occurring around the county in new populations. These include purple loosestrife, yellow iris, and freshwater jellyfish
* Helped plan virtual Invasive Species ID Days
* Joined the newly formed Ashland Area Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership, a Steering Committee for the proposed Ashland County AIS Strategic Plan
* Created a presentation regarding the recently passed and updated Bayfield County AIS No Transport Ordinance, which now includes language regarding decontamination. I will be presenting this at the virtual Wisconsin Water Week on March 9th, 2021 between 10-11 AM. I’ll be co-presenting about
* Spoke about the Healthy Lakes native planting project on Lake Namakagon during the Fall (Virtual) Tour for the Land Conservation Committee meeting
* Filed for AIS Grant #6 partial reimbursement along with a progress report for 2020, and we recently received the reimbursement
* Discussed potential collaboration with Northwoods CWMA and the National Park Service (and others who may be interested) in getting signage and stations at boat landings in the Chequamegon Bay/Bayfield Peninsula areas for encouraging decontamination
* Participated in many virtual meetings and conference calls, including: the Town of Barnes AIS Committee (provided many updates regarding AIS and Surface Water Conservation work), the Lakes and Rivers monthly meeting, Lake Namakagon AIS Management Plan (discussing options for managing hybrid watermilfoil), Western Lake Superior AIS Collaborative, statewide AIS Coordinators, Northwoods CWMA planning, Stop the Spiny (an outreach campaign from MN AIS Research Center), and the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Planning Committee. I also registered for trainings to use AutoCAD and the new Box setup that Extension/DNR/Sea Grant/AIS partners are now using
* Discussed a beetle rearing project with the Northwoods CWMA and the Friends of North Pike’s Creek Community Wetlands as a biocontrol for purple loosestrife on Compton Road

**Future Activities**

* Wisconsin Water Week, March 8-12, 2021—virtual
* Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, June 18, 2021—virtual

**Staff Report | April 28, 2021**

Andy Teal

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Specialist

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** Received $5,000 advance in 2020. We are holding the grant until the 2021 season starts and plan to use it then, due to the pandemic. This grant reimburses valid expenses up to $20,000. A volunteer-only program operated during 2020, and those hours can be used as grant match in 2021. We will discuss payroll and hiring with the North Lakes Community Clinic staff and Karen Austin (thank you all for attending the meeting!)
* **AIS Grant #6:** This will fund the AIS half of the position through 2021 while county funds support the Surface Water Conservation half. We will be discussing how the DNR is funding AIS for the foreseeable future as well. The amount remaining in the grant is about $28,159.47

**Activities Report**

* Learned more about surveying wetlands as part of the WLSAIS EDRR partnership effort, then attended a virtual meeting with the partnership
* Provided technical guidance to Town of Barnes AIS Committee for their AIS Management Plan, along with edits for their planned publication of brochures featuring a few Barnes-area lakes and the aquatic invasive plants growing in those lakes.
* Aided the Northwoods CWMA with hand pulling buckthorn on Clough Island; also collaborated with Northwoods CWMA, Ashland County LWCD, and the U.S. Forest Service to rear purple loosestrife beetles for later release in pre-selected sites
* Collaborated with Land Records (Scott and Claire) to obtain match for their drone work, which they used to photograph yellow iris, knotweed, and Phragmites
* Fielded many reports of invasive species occurring around the county in new populations. These include purple loosestrife, yellow iris, and freshwater jellyfish
* Helped plan virtual Invasive Species ID Days
* Wrote letters of support to the Town of Barnes AIS Committee and Diamond Lake for grant applications
* Joined the newly formed Ashland Area Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership, a Steering Committee for the proposed Ashland County AIS Strategic Plan
* Spoke about the Healthy Lakes native planting project on Lake Namakagon during the Fall (Virtual) Tour for the Land Conservation Committee meeting
* Filed for and received AIS Grant #6 partial reimbursement, along with filing a progress report for 2020
* Discussed potential collaboration with Northwoods CWMA and the National Park Service (and others who may be interested) in getting signage and stations at boat landings in the Chequamegon Bay/Bayfield Peninsula areas for encouraging decontamination
* Participated in many virtual meetings and conference calls, including: the Town of Barnes AIS Committee (provided many updates regarding AIS and Surface Water Conservation work), the Lakes and Rivers monthly meeting, Lake Namakagon AIS Management Plan (discussing options for managing hybrid watermilfoil), Western Lake Superior AIS Collaborative, Steering Committee meeting for Lake Owen’s DNR grant, statewide AIS Coordinator and CWMA/CISMA meetings, Northwoods CWMA planning, Stop the Spiny (an outreach campaign from MN AIS Research Center), and the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Planning Committee.
* Attended virtual trainings to use AutoCAD, half-day AIS Coordinator training, how to handle purple loosestrife management, and how to use KoBo Open Data Kit/Toolbox app, and the new Box setup that Extension/DNR/Sea Grant/AIS partners are now using
* Discussed a beetle rearing project with the Northwoods CWMA and the Friends of North Pike’s Creek Community Wetlands as a biocontrol for purple loosestrife on Compton Road, then handed off the equipment to dig up rootstock and get the plants started; they requested my help with beetle collecting (likely in mid-May)
* Scheduled phone and video calls with personnel from the North Lakes Community Clinic regarding Clean Boats Clean Waters this year, and what the future of the program in Iron River may look like.
* In April 2021, conducted six site visits (two were revisits to the same properties), all for different reasons (one for an open-sided structure permit, another for options regarding erosion in a low-energy shoreline site, and two for violations—one was a follow-up visit with Zoning personnel to confirm the landowners had done what they claimed to correct the issue so they could get their permit, and they had; another was to ascertain the extent of the violation damage). There were at least four other sites in 2020 that were either violations or required mitigation to receive permit approval. Many more site visits were for site assessment, preparation, pre-bidding, follow-up, or some combination thereof, conducted either by me or also with Travis Tulowitzky and/or Tracy Pooler.
* Filled out three DNR permit applications for riprap ((one included a log revetment (this one Travis walked me through), another included native plantings)), along with all necessary attachments. In these cases: a project narrative, site map, wetlands map, Natural Heritage Inventory preliminary assessment, plans and specifications (Travis did these), wave energy calculations, erosion assessment, ownership documents, and site photos. The log revetment also required public notice and informing the neighbors via certified mail.
* Wrote and submitted an approval letter for the open-sided structure permit applicant because they already met the requirements
* Participated in the entirety of Wisconsin Water Week. Highlights include: co-presenting with Cheryl Clemens about decontamination efforts in Bayfield County and the amended AIS Do Not Transport ordinance language, primarily about the challenges and successes of implementing a decontamination amendatory ordinance and the decontamination program Lake Owen is implementing; learning loads more about the effects of climate change on our waters and innovations to more efficiently collect and use water; being both a daily and an overall ranked winner of Wisconsin Water Week challenges; learned more about local projects happening in communities we don’t normally see represented at the Convention; registration for this year (virtually) was 3-4x higher than in person registration; closing out the week, I attended the virtual Lake Superior Collaborative Symposium
* Went on a site visit at Lake Knotting to meet a landowner and discuss their required shoreline mitigation—they presented the first Good Faith Agreement I had ever seen, which showed a great level of hands-on buy-in—and I worked with them to answer some questions. Fortunately, they were quite cooperative and worked to correct the issue. I sent them a formal letter, explaining what they need to do, with supporting documentation. Two weeks later, I was able to go on a follow up site visit with Tracy and issue a follow up letter, approving of what they did. Wrote a well decommissioning plan for this landowner, and they are on board with the idea. This will likely move forward in June.
* Compiled a list of anticipated activities, meetings, projects, etc. for the 2021 Department Work Plan
* Coordinated with partners to plan Invasive Species ID Days, possibly in person, depending on the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center’s policies on reopening to the public; set date for Kids Fishing Day
* Supplied edits to the Town of Barnes AIS Committee for their planned publication of brochures featuring a few Barnes-area lakes and the aquatic invasive plants growing in those lakes.

**Future Activities**

* Kids Fishing Day, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, June 11, 2021
* Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, June 18, 2021—virtual
* Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, Stevens Point, April 6-8, 2022

**Staff Report | May 21, 2021**

Andy Teal

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Specialist

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** Received $5,000 advance in 2020. We are holding the grant until the 2021 season starts and plan to use it then, due to the pandemic. This grant reimburses valid expenses up to $20,000. A volunteer-only program operated during 2020, and those hours can be used as grant match in 2021. The AIS Committee recently discussed payroll and hiring with the North Lakes Community Clinic staff and Karen Austin, and also addressed the future of the grant with the Pike Chain of Lakes Association board members.
* **AIS Grant #6:** This will fund the AIS half of the position through 2021 while county funds support the Surface Water Conservation half. The amount remaining in the grant is about $27,060.35.

**Activities Report**

* Learned more about surveying wetlands as part of the WLSAIS EDRR partnership effort, then attended virtual meetings with the partnership
* Provided technical guidance to Town of Barnes AIS Committee for their AIS Management Plan, along with edits for their planned publication of brochures featuring a few Barnes-area lakes and the aquatic invasive plants growing in those lakes.
* Filed for and received AIS Grant #6 partial reimbursement, along with filing a progress report for 2020
* Discussed potential collaboration with Northwoods CWMA and the National Park Service (and others who may be interested) in getting signage and stations at boat landings in the Chequamegon Bay/Bayfield Peninsula areas for encouraging decontamination
* Participated in many virtual meetings and conference calls, including: the Town of Barnes AIS Committee (provided many updates regarding AIS and Surface Water Conservation work), the Lakes and Rivers monthly meeting, Lake Namakagon AIS Management Plan (discussing options for managing hybrid watermilfoil), Western Lake Superior AIS Collaborative, LSRI Tech Team meeting, Steering Committee meeting for Lake Owen’s DNR grant, statewide AIS Coordinator and CWMA/CISMA meetings, Northwoods CWMA planning, Stop the Spiny (an outreach campaign from MN AIS Research Center), and the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Planning Committee.
* Attended virtual trainings to use AutoCAD, half-day AIS Coordinator training, how to handle purple loosestrife management, and how to use KoBo Open Data Kit/Toolbox app, and the new Box setup that Extension/DNR/Sea Grant/AIS partners are now using
* Discussed a beetle rearing project with the Northwoods CWMA and the Friends of North Pike’s Creek Community Wetlands as a biocontrol for purple loosestrife on Compton Road, then handed off the equipment to dig up rootstock and get the plants started; they requested my help with beetle collecting (likely in late May)
* Scheduled phone and video calls with personnel from the North Lakes Community Clinic regarding Clean Boats Clean Waters this year, and what the future of the program in Iron River may look like. Had a follow up meeting with the Pike Chain of Lakes Association board and Nan Olson to discuss this and possibly getting an additional AIS Committee member, which they offered to do.
* Conducted eight site visits (two were revisits to the same properties), all for different reasons (one for an open-sided structure permit, one for stormwater management with Travis, another for options regarding erosion in a low-energy shoreline site, and three for violations—one was a follow-up visit with Zoning personnel to confirm the landowners had done what they claimed to correct the issue so they could get their permit, and they had; another was to ascertain the extent of the violation damage). There were at least four other sites in 2020 that were either violations or required mitigation to receive permit approval. Many more site visits were for site assessment, preparation, pre-bidding, follow-up, or some combination thereof, conducted either by me or also with Travis Tulowitzky and/or Tracy Pooler.
* Filled out two DNR permit applications for riprap with native plantings, along with all necessary attachments. In these cases: a project narrative, site map, wetlands map, Natural Heritage Inventory preliminary assessment, plans and specifications (Travis designed/wrote these), wave energy calculations, erosion assessment, ownership documents, and site photos.
* Wrote and submitted an approval letter for the open-sided structure permit applicant because they already met the requirements
* Ran a survey rod with Ben, Melissa, and Travis on a property at the town lines of Tripp and Orienta
* Participated in the entirety of Wisconsin Water Week. Highlights include: co-presented with Cheryl Clemens about decontamination efforts in Bayfield County and the amended AIS Do Not Transport ordinance language, primarily about the challenges and successes of implementing a decontamination amendatory ordinance and the decontamination program Lake Owen is implementing—our presentation was called Say It, Then Spray It; learned loads more about the effects of climate change on our waters and innovations to more efficiently collect and use water; being both a daily and an overall ranked winner of Wisconsin Water Week challenges; learned more about local projects happening in communities we don’t normally see represented at the Convention; registration for this year (virtually) was 3-4x higher than in person registration; closing out the week, I attended the virtual Lake Superior Collaborative Symposium
* Went on a site visit at Lake Knotting to meet a landowner and discuss their required shoreline mitigation—they presented the first Good Faith Agreement I had ever seen, which showed a great level of hands-on buy-in—and I worked with them to answer some questions. Fortunately, they were quite cooperative and worked to correct the issue. I sent them a formal letter, explaining what they need to do, with supporting documentation. Two weeks later, I was able to go on a follow up site visit with Tracy and issue a follow up letter, approving of what they did. Thanks to Travis’ guidance and walkthrough, I also wrote a well decommissioning plan for this landowner due to their interest, and they are on board with the idea. This will likely move forward in June.
* Compiled a list of anticipated activities, meetings, projects, etc. for the 2021 Department Work Plan
* Coordinated with partners to plan Invasive Species ID Days, possibly in person, depending on the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center’s policies on reopening to the public; set date for Kids Fishing Day

**Future Activities**

* Kids Fishing Day, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, June 11, 2021
* Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, June 18, 2021—virtual
* Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, Stevens Point, April 6-8, 2022

**Staff Report | August 18, 2021**

Andy Teal

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Specialist

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** This grant was held until the start of the 2021 boating season. It reimburses valid expenses up to $20,000. A volunteer-only program operated during 2020, and those hours can be used as grant match in 2021. As of 7/17/2021 there is $7,434.98 remaining. As of 8/2/21, hours worked at each landing in 2021 are as follows: Twin Bear--406, Buskey Bay Town--114, Hyde’s--142, Long Lake--155, and Delta Lake--154. Each landing needs a minimum of 200 hours worked per the grant agreement. Volunteer hours worked in 2020, totaling at least 107, can be used as match on this grant.
* **AIS Grant #6:** This will fund the AIS half of the position through 2021 while county funds continue to support the Surface Water Conservation half. We will be discussing how the DNR is funding AIS moving forward, though the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network. The amount remaining in the AEPP grant is about $19,007.42
* **AIS Grant #7:** This is the new one coming in 2022. It is a one-year agreement for $20,090.27, which is our maximum allocation from the state. The intent is that we would reapply every year for smaller amounts, but it would be a much more sustainable and non-competitive pot of money that apparently does not require match. We will need to discuss how to edit the Scope of Work to account for other agencies that do certain activities, which ones we need to keep, and what activities would need to be scaled back or eliminated. A draft is in the packet. This allocation amount is by no means a guaranteed amount from year-to-year, and in 2022 it creates an operating budget gap for the AIS program (compared to what we normally use in past years) of roughly $10,000. The preapplication is due September 1st, and sending the Scope of Work with it would be helpful. Final application deadline is November 1st, and the Scope of Work and authorizing resolution need to be sent at that time.
* **Partners for Fish & Wildlife:** this is a cooperative agreement type of grant that can be eligible for multiple years, and if it is the same one Ted from USFWS is talking about, can be allocated in amounts of $10,000 or less but needs to go straight to restoration materials or work on the ground. I have a couple of ideas that I’m waiting to hear from Ted about, and I am certainly open to more.

**Activities Report**

* Learned more about surveying wetlands as part of the WLSAIS EDRR partnership effort, then attended a virtual meeting with the partnership
* Provided technical guidance to Town of Barnes AIS Committee for updating their Lake Management Plan for Tomahawk Lake—they plan to conduct herbicide treatment there using a barrier in 2022
* Collaborated with Land Records (Scott and Claire) to obtain match for their drone work, which they used to photograph yellow iris, knotweed, and Phragmites
* Conducted site visits (some with Travis) for projects. Among them, were a Zoning violation, a landowner/contractor duo looking for some guidance on stormwater management, and follow ups on projects that are either ongoing or will be starting soon (all three involved riprap and native plantings)
* Created agenda and staff report for 4/28/21 County AIS Committee meeting, then attended meeting. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum, but we do have minutes. The Land Conservation Committee meeting, which I also attended, was quite productive. We talked quite a bit about the future of the AIS program’s funding (locally and at the state level), and the increasing workload of the Surface Water Conservation half-position.
* Had a meeting with our County AIS Committee Chairperson and the Pike Chain of Lakes Association Board to discuss the future of the CBCW program in Iron River—including having North Lakes Community Clinic run payroll for them—and seeking out a new Committee member from the Board’s ranks.
* Attended a KoBo Open Data Kit app training online so I could learn how to use it on iPhone (it is an Android app, so I had to learn a workaround). I also attended an AutoCAD online training—I will be using this program more as field season heats up, practicing drawing projects
* Participated in the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Planning Committee meeting and will be sending out the press release soon.
* Went to the online discussion about Healthy Watersheds/High-Quality Waters and even offered up some useful suggestions. Also attended the virtual Tech Team meeting for our region through the Lake Superior Research Institute
* Conducted site visits on ten properties for various reasons: one for a vegetation mitigation plan that was supposed to be completed thirteen years ago which they will now have to do to get their next permit; one that has been in an out of the courts for a decade and was ordered restored due to a violation (the landowner is being quite amiable and cooperative); one for an open-sided structure application which went well and they had already met the requirements (I also wrote a letter for them); another property was interested in finding out what types of vegetation they had on their property, if it was invasive or not, and what they could feasibly to do alter or improve shoreline protection; visited one to get their signatures for a well abandonment plan to be conducted (coincidentally on a property that I was originally summoned to for a shoreline buffer violation—which just may be turning a frown upside down); and the remainder were for projects that A) have been completed and we wished to simply check on them, B) are in progress and we needed to see if the landowners were ready to proceed with the rest of the project or C) are planned and we needed to discuss details with the landowners.
* Participated in (and helped plan) the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference
* Served as a sponsor/educator at the Kids Fishing Day event held outdoors at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. This year, being outside (and on a Friday) was new, registration was required, and a whole bunch of COVID protocols were in place. There were approximately ninety kids that came through, compared to the approximately five hundred that came through in 2019 (that event was on a Saturday, but during the same time slot). It was SO much easier and effective for getting our messages across. We may stick to at least some of these changes moving forward.
* Collected purple loosestrife beetles with a DNR colleague and volunteers from the Friends of the North Pikes Creek Community Wetlands, so they could place the beetles in the purple loosestrife pots they are raising. The idea is that the beetles will reproduce in the pots (which are covered with fine nets to contain the beetles and keep out predators) and can then be released in areas where there are no beetles, later this summer. It is an effective way of controlling purple loosestrife, if there are enough plants for the beetles to eat.
* Attended a training for Clean Boats Clean Waters Boater Behavior Study. Then worked for four hours at the Long Lake boat launch (in Iron River) to help collect data for the Clean Boats Clean Waters Boater Behavior Study
* Cut yellow iris at Atkins Lake County Park, and in Bony Creek in Barnes
* Surveyed Diamond Lake for invasive species with DNR staff. Found Chinese mystery snails and banded mystery snails (which we knew about) and yellow iris, bristly locust/rose acacia, and aquatic forget-me-nots (which are new in the lake)
* Conducted a site visit to a landowner, also on Diamond Lake, who happens to be neighbors with the bristly locust landowners and performed a four-point mitigation check. Then wrote the letter confirming that they had those four points already and were cleared to proceed with their project.
* Went on site visits with Travis to check on projects and obtain landowner signatures on cost-share agreements for two rock riprap and native planting projects that happen to be neighbors.
* Joined monthly LYNC call for AIS folks and attended Northwoods CWMA meeting at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. We have also decided to host two Invasive Species ID Days: one happened on July 30 and the other is coming up on August 27
* Attended and contributed to virtual Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Committee post-conference meeting (the conference was virtual again this year)—two big comments/complaints were that the last presenter of the last session in one stream seemed to be unprepared for the format being used and was not informed about it. The other was that attendees were hoping to hear more from a shoreland zoning person about what is/is not allowed on properties around a lake, as opposed to only practices they could implement to improve shoreline stability. Apart from that, it was well received and there were several suggestions about what topics to cover in 2022.
* Went into the field with two interns to do a whole lot of yellow iris cutting in the Iron River. The number of plants cut down easily numbered in the thousands, with loads more remaining, even after a previous trip there by me (about two weeks prior to this visit). I showed them a new knotweed patch they could potentially manage too, which they did not know about from Northwoods CWMA records
* Co-planned an outdoor Invasive Species ID Day at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, and AIS Snapshot Day at Prentice Park (this would be the rendezvous point but monitoring would occur at area boat landings)
* Worked with Ben and Melissa to figure out funding and budgeting for 2022, plus possible avenues for additional funding, which I narrowed. As part of this process, I wrote up a pre-application for the DNR Lakes Management & Protection Network funding that we will be allocated for the AIS Coordinator position in 2022, since the current grant structure is transitioning to that structure. I thank Alex Delvoye from the DNR for being so helpful.
* Worked with Travis to come up with a list of landowners interested in possible projects for 2022 and beyond, then I created a spreadsheet so we can keep track of them.
* Went on site visits with Travis to a potential land use violation that may need to be corrected; however, even if it is not a violation, they will need a stormwater management plan for their proposed new house or addition
* Contacted staff with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to get an idea of their priority project areas, how much funding may be available for certain projects/locations, and to gauge whether an idea I had was worthy of pursuing. Began learning the process of writing a project narrative and I generated maps of the proposed project area. If we pursue the grant, we may be able to work with only one or two landowners and they would need to own a large amount of property.
* Communicated with Bayfield County Land Records about drone flights and where I/we would like those to occur. I requested Compton Road for purple loosestrife, and suggested the Pike Chain for Eurasian watermilfoil, but the Pike Chain said the DNR wouldn’t have use for the photos and the Pike Chain already has a drone operator, apparently. I then suggested a stretch of the Iron River in 2022 for yellow iris photos, which may move forward if they can find a good take off/landing location
* Obtained landowner signatures for a well decommissioning happening on Lake Knotting—hopefully they decide to pursue this, because the well driller normally does abandonments in the fall
* Engaged in a conversation between DNR and the National Park Service regarding placing zebra mussel sampling plates at the Bayfield Marina. The question was if I or the DNR knew of any being placed there by anyone (we did not) and if we considered it a high priority site (we do) and that they were happy to place some plates there for the benefit of everyone involved, which we supported.
* Fielded questions from a CBCW Coordinator regarding how to handle volunteer hours generated in 2020 for a grant that was also generated in 2020 but carried over to 2021 due to the pandemic and obtained guidance from the DNR grant specialists. On that note, I also received the first invoice from North Lakes Community Clinic for the CBCW inspectors’ time, because NLCC is handling payroll. Another is anticipated by the August meeting.
* Welcomed our new Lake Superior Basin AIS Regional Coordinator, who will be based in Ashland instead of Superior (woo hoo!) and he also used to intern for us at Bayfield County, so that is super exciting! He and I will be working together on 2-3 lake surveys in Iron River the last week of August with another DNR colleague and possibly a colleague from the US Forest Service.

**Future Activities**

* AIS Snapshot Day, August 21, 2021; rendezvous at Prentice Park in Ashland
* Invasive Species ID Day, August 27, 2021 at Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

**Staff Report | November 17, 2021**

Andy Teal

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Specialist

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** This grant was held until the start of the 2021 boating season. It reimburses valid expenses up to $20,000. A volunteer-only program operated during 2020, and those hours can be used as grant match in 2021. We have zeroed out the grant and as of 11/05/21, total hours worked or volunteered at each landing in 2020 and 2021 combined, are as follows: Twin Bear--692, Buskey Bay Town--208, Hyde’s--266, Long Lake--204, and Delta Lake--210. Each landing needs a minimum of 200 hours worked per the grant agreement, so this requirement is met.
* **AIS Grant #6:** This will fund the AIS half of the position through 2021 while county funds continue to support the Surface Water Conservation half. We will be discussing how the DNR is funding AIS moving forward, though the Lake Monitoring & Protection Network. The amount remaining in the AEPP grant is about $11,147.81
* **AIS Grant #7:** This is the new one coming in 2022, for which we have applied, and the state confirmed receipt. It is a one-year agreement for $20,090.27, which is our maximum allocation from the state. The intent is that we would reapply every year for smaller amounts, but it would be a much more sustainable and non-competitive pot of money that apparently does not require match. This allocation amount is by no means a guaranteed amount from year-to-year. We submitted the final application before the November 1st deadline.
* **Partners for Fish & Wildlife:** we submitted this application before the September 30th deadline, so we will wait to hear back.

**Activities Report**

* Provided letters of support to Town of Barnes AIS Committee for 2022 and we plan to host two CBCW/Shoreland Monitoring trainings, one in April and one in May
* Conducted site visits (some with Travis) for projects. Among them, were a Zoning violation, a landowner/contractor duo looking for some guidance on stormwater management, and follow ups on projects that are either ongoing or will be starting soon (all three involved riprap and native plantings)
* Worked with Travis to learn some AutoCAD basics (he has been training me) and I was able to begin making drawings for a lakeshore project happening in 2022.
* Participated in Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Planning Committee meetings and emailed with two potential speakers who have expressed interest
* Conducted multiple site visits on properties with Ben and Travis for project planning and surveying purposes. We recently surveyed for two potential wetland projects, one lakeshore project, and one lakeshore/streambank project. We also met with contractors at a few sites to ask for their impressions and rough estimate costs to install different types of practices
* Went on site visits with Travis to a potential land use violation that may need to be corrected; however, even if it is not a violation, they will need a stormwater management plan for their proposed new house or addition
* Contacted staff with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to get an idea of their priority project areas, how much funding may be available for certain projects/locations, and to gauge whether an idea I had was worthy of pursuing. Began learning the process of writing a project narrative and I generated maps of the proposed project area. If we pursue the grant, we may be able to work with only one or two landowners and they would need to own a large amount of property.
* Communicated with Bayfield County Land Records about drone flights and where I/we would like those to occur. I requested Compton Road for purple loosestrife, and suggested the Pike Chain for Eurasian watermilfoil, but the Pike Chain said the DNR wouldn’t have use for the photos and the Pike Chain already has a drone operator, apparently. I then suggested a stretch of the Iron River in 2022 for yellow iris photos, which may move forward if they can find a good take off/landing location
* Obtained landowner signatures for a well decommissioning happening on Lake Knotting—hopefully they decide to pursue this, because the well driller normally does abandonments in the fall
* Engaged in a conversation between DNR and the National Park Service regarding placing zebra mussel sampling plates at the Bayfield Marina. The question was if I or the DNR knew of any being placed there by anyone (we did not) and if we considered it a high priority site (we do) and that they were happy to place some plates there for the benefit of everyone involved, which we supported.
* Welcomed our new Lake Superior Basin AIS Regional Coordinator, Alex Selle, who will be based in Ashland instead of Superior. He also used to intern for us at Bayfield County, so that is super exciting! He and I, and our DNR colleague Dara Fillmore, worked together to conduct an AIS early detection survey on Iron Lake at the end of August. We found purple loosestrife, yellow iris, and Chinese mystery snails. Three days later, the three of us worked with the Northwoods CWMA’s interns (Stacey and Logan), and Caitlin Hoenig from the US Forest Service to conduct and AIS early detection survey on Lake Ruth. Thanks to a prior landowner report and video of them, we were on the lookout for freshwater jellyfish—and we found some!
* Paddled a large portion of Delta and Hay Lakes in the Town of Delta with two volunteers, Jay and Margie Johnson, collecting samples of watermilfoil. They reported it as Eurasian watermilfoil, which I did not find during our search, but I collected many samples of the watermilfoil plants they pointed out. These plants looked strange compared to northern watermilfoil, and I took the samples to the DNR for submission to a lab that conducts genetic testing. I also submitted some Chinese mystery snail shells to the DNR to confirm their existence in Delta Lake (these were previously unreported, but not a surprise).
* Met with the Town of Bell Chairperson to discuss options for their town-owned boat launch. They ultimately decided to submit pre-applications for both a CBCW grant and also for funding to potentially install a CD3 unit
* Participated in and co-led four in-classroom/lab aquatic plant and AIS modules for the Lake Ecology Education Program with Alex Selle, Jeremy Bates, and Cris Neff, followed two weeks later by co-leading the aquatic plants module in the field. This year was only a half day for each grade, as we needed to accommodate both 7th and 8th graders on the same day. Even though it was abbreviated, it seemed to work quite well.
* Communicated with Sofia in Land Records regarding LEEP and we discussed a possible collaboration between Land Records, Land & Water Conservation, and LEEP (or possibly the high schoolers), as a way of continuing to build the students’ knowledge base about natural resources
* Participated in the Soils Training Field Day, learning a lot about how to determine what type of soil exists on a site, the type of projects that can or cannot be done on certain soils, resources for figuring out those things, and the importance of calling Digger’s Hotline prior to digging a soil pit or starting a project.
* Attended Fall Tour, where our department staff discuss projects that have either been completed or are in progress for the year.
* Participated in the Fall AIS Coordinator virtual meeting. Due to Bayfield County’s variety of decontamination units on the landscape, I offered to join the state decontamination workgroup.
* Officially accepted an amended offer to be converted from a contracted employee to a full-time Bayfield County employee, effective January 1, 2022.

**Future Activities**

* WI Lakes Partnership Convention, April 6-8, 2022 in Stevens Point
* Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, June 17, 2022 in person and online
* Town of Barnes CBCW and Shoreline Monitoring training, April 22 and May 20, 2022
* AIS Snapshot Day, August 20, 2022; rendezvous TBD
* Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, KI Convention Center, Green Bay, October 25-27, 2022