

**Oneida County
Aquatic Invasive Species Program
Prevention and Control Project 2020-2021
FINAL REPORT**



Grant ID AEPP 60320

Prepared by Stephanie Boismenu, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator & Conservation Technician, Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department

Project Sponsor

Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department

Project Title

Oneida County AIS Prevention & Control:
Education, Prevention, & Planning

Project Number

AEPP-60320

Project Dates

February 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021

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Introduction

This report provides documentation of the accomplishments achieved under AIS Grant AEPP 60320 by the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD). The grant was awarded to Oneida County by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the original project period, within the contract, was from February 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021. This report also serves as the “Final Report” identified as a deliverable in the grant agreement.

The LWCD thanks the WDNR for their continued support of the County’s AIS program. With assistance from the WDNR AIS grant program, Oneida County has been able to develop an active and very successful AIS program. Our program helps protect our invaluable water resources, creates a stronger and more connected community, and works towards a brighter future for our entire state. Without financial support from the WDNR grant program, Oneida County’s AIS program efforts would be severely limited.

The concept of this project focused on collaborating and coordinating with interested entities working to protect our water resources within and surrounding Oneida County. Along those lines, the project contributed to raising public awareness about AIS through a variety of program activities described below.

This project was overseen by the Oneida County Conservation/UWEX Education Committee, with day-to-day activities developed and administered by Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator. Additional support provided by Michele Sadauskas, Oneida County Conservationist, and Jonna Jewell, Administrative Assistant.

Project Objectives and Budget

The following includes a list of objectives, along with the monetary allocations budgeted (parentheses) for completion of Oneida County's AIS Prevention & Control Project 2020 – 2021 (AEPP60320).

- 1a. Attendance of the AIS Coordinator and one CUWEX Committee member at the 2020 WI Lakes Partnership Convention. **(\$960.00)**
- 1b. AIS Coordinator's attendance at the Spring & Fall AIS Coordinator meetings, Upper Midwest Invasive Species Convention, monthly Lakes and Rivers Partnership meetings, two Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association (OCLRA) meetings, local lake fairs, and other miscellaneous AIS-related meetings. 2020-2021. **(\$1,070.00)**
- 2a. Host two Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) workshops. **(\$300.00)**
- 2b. Host one Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) workshop. **(\$80.00)**
- 2c. Host one Invasive Species ID Day (multi-partner, regional event). **(\$75.00)**
- 2d. LWCD will take part in the statewide Drain Campaign (distribute over 500 ice packs), Landing Blitz (distribute over 400 SAH towels), AIS Snapshot Day, Bait Dealer Outreach, Waterfowl Hunter AIS Campaign, Habitattitude Pet Store/Nursery Campaign, Clean Angling Campaign, recruit and train volunteers, and write a minimum of 6 press releases. LWCD will continue to be a Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz distribution site for partners and local lake associations (2,200 ice packs and 1,300 towels). **(\$1,074.00)**
- 2e. LWCD will participate in DNR law enforcement AIS team events 1 weekend per summer season. **(\$0)**
- 2f. LWCD will perform at least 625 CBCW hours, focusing on super-spreader waterbodies, pathways, and prioritizing AIS. In 2019, LWCD completed 648 CBCW hours (99% of CBCW inspections occurred at lakes > 500 acres, 29% occurred at Stacks Bay Landing on Lake Minocqua). In 2020, at least 85% of inspections will occur on lakes > 500 acres. Additionally, LWCD will perform 20% of inspections at Stacks Bay Landing on Lake Minocqua (AIS Source Water). Input data into SWIMS. **(\$50.00)**
- 2g. LWCD will create and distribute SAH/AIS-messaged pencils (1,000), wristbands (200), lanyards (200), SAH bobbers (100), and SAH baggies to workshop participants, fair-goers, students, and volunteers. Create and distribute SAH magnets, and Bait Dealer Outreach Toolkit items to bait shops, fishing tournaments, and other water-related businesses. Items will feature SAH message and urge citizens to report suspected AIS. **(\$0. Costs associated with 4a)**
- 2h. LWCD to hold a minimum of 5 student AIS classroom/field events. It is hoped at least one will be held in each school district; Three Lakes, Minocqua, Rhinelander. Hold 2 Exotic Aquatic Explorer field events to include donated Lets Go Fishing pontoon boat. **(\$490.00)**
- 2i. Continue installing/replacing DNR AIS signs at a minimum of 2 public and 2 private landings. **(\$0. Cost associated with 4a)**
- 2j. Collaborate with CLMN/DNR & Tomahawk Lake Assoc. to host one 'AIS ID & EWM Hand Removal Training and Certification for SCUBA Divers & Snorkelers. **(\$110.00)**

- 2k. Host 1 public viewing of the non-profit, Emmy Award Winning AIS Documentary "Making Waves: Battle for the Great Lakes." **(\$100.00)**
- 3a. Create and distribute an end-of-year report, which will also include an evaluation component. **(\$105.00)**
- 3b. Write a minimum of 10 AIS updates and distribute them via the 'lake contact' listserv, and post on Oneida County AIS website. **(\$0. Costs associated with 4A)**
- 3c. Review, evaluate, and revise Oneida County AIS ordinance 10.05. **(\$1,008.00)**
- 3d. Host the 'Twelfth Annual Oneida County Stewardship Awards Banquet' and partnership meeting. Banquet celebrates the Invasive Species Superstars, Local Lake Groups, CBCW Watercraft Inspectors, and CLMN Volunteers of Oneida County, for their extraordinary efforts to protect our lands and waterbodies in Oneida County! Nominations for the Stewardship Awards are accepted for youth and adult individuals, couples, lake groups, and professionals. Oneida County CLMN volunteers are honored for collecting 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years of data. Door prizes donated by 20 local businesses. **(\$900.00)**
- 3e. Coordinate the 9th Annual 'Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest.' Increase student and partner participation from 2019 contest. Contest began as a 1- county event in 2012 and has grown significantly. In 2019, LWCD received 557 posters to encompass 22 different schools in 12 partnering counties. LWCD has expanded outreach to invite ALL Wisconsin 4th – 8th students to submit a poster that depicts an aquatic, terrestrial, or wetland invasive species that threatens Wisconsin's lands and waters. **(\$690.00)**
- 3f. Review, evaluate, revise Oneida County AIS Strategic Plan and ensure consistency with both the newly revised statewide plan and the Oneida County Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan 2020-2029. LWRM Plan was revised and adopted in 2019 and Goal #4 is 'Protect native species, habitats, and landscapes from invasive species' (page 55). The five objectives under Goal #4 are: continue providing education and outreach; continue early detection and rapid response of invasive species; control and manage invasive species; restore native species and habitat after invasive's are removed; and build capacity through cooperation with other groups. The LWRM plan will guide LWCD and decision-makers in revising Oneida County's AIS Strategic Plan that was developed and in place from the 2012-2016 LWRM Plan. Increase and diversify partnerships to implement the plan. **(\$0)**
- 3g. Increase partnerships and AIS awareness by presenting at the Three Lakes Waterfront Association's Annual meeting and one Trout Unlimited meeting, and provide an AIS booth at Hodag Musky Tournament rules meeting and the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association's Annual Kids Fishing Day. **(\$0)**
- 4a. Hire three LTE's to assist AIS Coordinator with project implementation. LTE's to conduct 625 hours of CBCW, AIS early detection and baseline water quality monitoring on a minimum of 15 waterbodies using CLMN/DNR early detection monitoring protocols, identify invasion pathways, prioritize super-spreader waterbodies and risk of AIS, manage pioneer populations of AIS, restoration, distribute outreach materials, lead/participate in student and adult educational field

- events, workshops, etc. Data collected to be entered into SWIMS. Two AIS Program Assistant LTE positions are for 500 hours each at \$12/hr. One AIS Lead Program Assistant LTE position is for 800 hours at \$15/hr. This position will be a field supervisor w/experience and will be responsible for end-of-season reporting and data entry (Sept.) and early season projects (April). **(\$500.00)**
- 4b. Continue control/restoration/monitoring of existing and new Yellow Iris (YI) and Purple Loosestrife (PL), and flowering rush sites. In particular; Hodag Park, Big Carr/Little Carr (SNA), Crescent, Minocqua, Planting Ground, Deer, Dog, Tomahawk Lakes and Quality Inn and roadside sites. Collaborate with Lake Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Property Owners Association, Tomahawk Lake Association, and Three Lakes Waterfront Association to monitor and manage YI and PL. Additionally, aim to assist 2 private citizens in restoration initiatives. **(\$50.00)**
- 4c. Continue to control/restoration/monitoring of PROHIBITED invasive plant species sites. Phragmites: Hwy 8, roadside stand, Rhinelander Flowage stand on private property, and Hwy 70 stand on private property adjacent to Tomahawk River. *Glyceria maxima* 'Variegata' in Sureshot Lake adjacent to State forest. **(\$50.00)**
- 4d. Coordinate a Purple Loosestrife (PL) biocontrol project, to include a beetle rearing project with the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. Project will be targeted at containing larger populations that cannot be hand-pulled. Smaller PL populations will continue to be controlled via flower-clipping and hand-digging. **(\$50.00)**
- 4e. LWCD to continue coordinating and implementing Pelican Lake CLMN Zebra Mussel Monitoring project with the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association (PLPOA), DNR, and CLMN, to include 1 workshop. In 2015, LWCD discovered two dead zebra mussel shells at the Pelican Lake boat landing. In 2015, LWCD and DNR completed mussel veliger tows, which resulted in no new occurrences of zebra mussels. In 2016 and 2017, the LWCD monitored Pelican Lake for mussels and no new occurrences were discovered. In 2018 and 2019, LWCD coordinated and implemented the Pelican Lake CLMN Zebra Mussel Monitoring project with the DNR, CLMN, and PLPOA. Lake-wide monitoring was conducted by 12 PLPOA volunteers and LWCD and resulted in no new occurrences of Zebra Mussels. Pelican Lake is located 19 miles to the West of zebra mussel infested Lake Metonga (Forest County). **(\$60.00)**
- 4f. Assist DNR with PI surveys and early detection monitoring on eligible lakes in 2020. Assist with report writing and data entry for a minimum of one lake. **(\$0. Costs associated with 4a)**
- 4g. Purchase two new ProSolo hand-held DO meters. Provide and maintain dissolved oxygen meter for CLMN volunteers, LWCD staff, and concentration monitoring projects. Calibrate after each use and log calibration data. Yearly purchase and replacement of sensor cap. **(\$4,700.00)**

A complete description of accomplishments, along with the associated purchases within each project objective, are listed on the following, respectively marked tabs.

1a. Attendance of the AIS Coordinator and one CUWEX Committee member at the 2020 WI Lakes Partnership Convention.

The Oneida County AIS Coordinator, Stephanie Boismenu, and Oneida County Board Supervisor/Land Water Conservation & UW Extension Committee Chair, Bob Mott, attended the virtual 2020 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention held April 1-3, 2020, and the virtual 2021 Wisconsin Water Week held March 8-12, 2021.

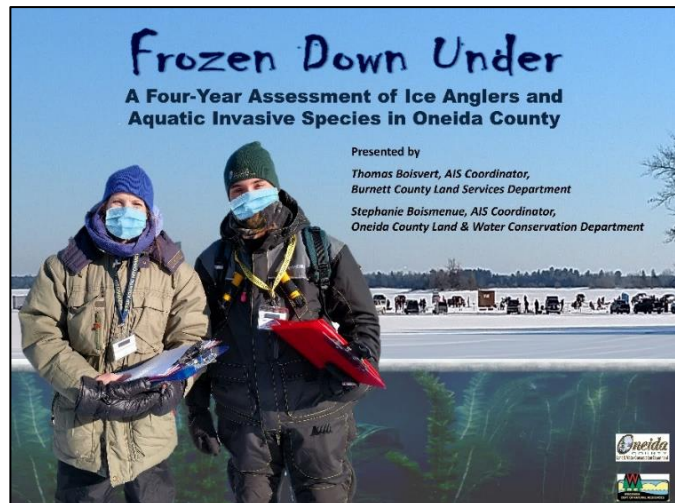
During the 2020 Convention, Stephanie co-presented an online Lightning Presentation with Thomas Boisvert, AIS Coordinator, Burnett County, titled *Frozen Down Under: A Four-Year Assessment of Ice Anglers and Aquatic Invasive Species in Oneida County*. This presentation highlighted Oneida County's 2012 – 2018 Ice Angler AIS Outreach Project. Tom was formerly a LWCD AIS LTE and assisted with this project during the winter of 2018. Below is a description of the presentation. Links to the PDF presentation and YouTube recording are available on the UWEX-Lakes website under the [WI Lakes and Rivers Convention archives](#).

2020 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention Lightning Presentation

Title: Frozen Down Under: A Four-Year Assessment of Ice Anglers and Aquatic Invasive Species in Oneida County

Presented by: Stephanie Boismenu, AIS Coordinator, LWCD and Tom Boisvert, AIS Coordinator, Burnett County Land & Water Conservation Department.

Synopsis: In 2012, Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department debuted their 'Ice Angler AIS Survey and Outreach' project. The survey was created to provide an understanding of ice anglers' perception of AIS, their fishing habits, and demography, and the survey consisted of 11 questions with no right or wrong answers. For seven winter weekends, an AIS Team member attended ice fishing tournaments and traveled to area lakes that experience heavy ice fishing pressure, to engage in AIS discussions with ice anglers and ask them to participate in the survey. This presentation details the methods and results of the AIS Teams surveys conducted in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2018, and the importance of conducting AIS outreach during the winter months.



Photos, press releases, and handout material are included (Appendix A, B, and C).

1a. Budget \$960.00

Expenses \$255.00 Details of expenses are included in Appendix G.

Expenses for printing and mileage were incurred (Tab 4A, Appendix E and G).

1b. AIS Coordinator's attendance at the Spring & Fall AIS Coordinator meetings, Upper Midwest Invasive Species Convention, monthly Lakes and Rivers Partnership meetings, two Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association (OCLRA) meetings, local lake fairs, and other miscellaneous AIS-related meetings. 2020-2021. All Quarters.

The Oneida County AIS Coordinator, Stephanie Boismenu, attended the 2020 AIS Partnership Spring and Fall meetings, the 2021 AIS Partnership Winter meeting, and the 2021 AIS Partnership Spring meeting; the week-long 2020 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference online, monthly Lakes & Rivers Partnership meetings and four OCLRA meetings.

Below is a log of the meetings, trainings, workshops, and field events attended by the AIS Coordinator, from February 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Dates Events

03/03/20	Lakes & Rivers Partnership Meeting	07/22/20	Hosted Volunteer CLMN AIS Monitor training online
03/03/20	LWCD Student Poster Awards Presentation	07/30/20	Invasive species removal, McNaughton Trail
03/09/20	LWCD Committee meeting	08/05/20	Purple loosestrife monitoring along Hwy 47
03/18/20	WI Headwaters Invasives Partnership annual meeting	08/05/20	Surface Water Grant - County Edition webinar
04/01/20	2020 WI Lakes & Rivers Convention on Zoom	08/06/20	AIS Snapshot Day Training webinar
04/02/20	2020 WI Lakes & Rivers Convention on Zoom	08/10/20	Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association meeting
04/03/20	2020 WI Lakes & Rivers Convention on Zoom	08/10/20	LWCD Committee meeting on Zoom
04/08/20	Purple loosestrife Biocontrol Training on Zoom	08/12/20	Eurasian watermilfoil removal, Hasbrook Lake
04/09/20	Purple loosestrife biocontrol meeting w/Three Lakes Waterfront	08/14/20	Eurasian watermilfoil monitoring & removal, Pelican Lake
04/23/20	AIS Partnership Meeting Day 1 - Zoom	08/14/20	Eurasian watermilfoil & PL removal, Manson Lake
04/23/20	Healthy Lakes webinar	08/15/20	AIS presentation & CBCW at Bass Tournament, Boom Lake
04/30/20	AIS Partnership Meeting Day 2 - Zoom	08/17/20	AIS field work, various sites
05/01/20	AIS Presentation to 4th graders at Arbor Vitae Woodruff School	08/20/20	PL, Phragmites & flowering rush monitoring
05/15/20	DO meter training to CLMN volunteer at Two Sisters Lake	08/20/20	Hosted AIS Snapshot Day
05/22/20	Provided CBCW Training to LTE Rachel Cook	08/21/20	Purple loosestrife monitoring, Quality Inn
05/27/20	AIS Train the Trainer webinar	08/25/20	Interview with WJFW at Boom Lake
05/27/20	AIS Identification webinar	09/01/20	AIS boat landing signage check along the WI River
05/28/20	AIS Photo & Verification webinar	09/08/20	Monitored Phragmites site
05/28/20	Obtained purple loosestrife biocontrol host plants	09/14/20	LWCD Committee meeting on Zoom
06/04/20	Monitored phragmites site	09/14/20	OCLRA meeting
06/05/20	Purple loosestrife biocontrol field work	09/22/20	Eurasian watermilfoil removal, Hasbrook Lake
06/05/20	Yellow iris removal at Boom Lake	09/23/20	Dug up & potted 25 purple loosestrife 2021 host plants
06/09/20	Hosted CBCW Online Training	09/25/20	Provided AIS outreach at Hodag Musky Tournament
06/10/20	Recreational Water Quality & AIS webinar	09/27/20	Waterfowl outreach at Swamp Creek boat landing
06/15/20	LWCD Committee meeting on Zoom	09/29/20	Dock Service Provider Pathway Workgroup zoom meeting
06/16/20	Distributed AIS Campaign ice packs & towels to lake groups	09/29/20	Minnesota Lake Service Provider zoom presentation
06/19/20	Distributed AIS Campaign ice packs & towels to lake groups	10/05/20	Dock Service Provider Pathway Workgroup zoom meeting
06/22/20	Distributed AIS Campaign ice packs & towels to lake groups	10/05/20	Grant meeting with Scott VanEgeren
06/22/21	Removed yellow iris at Boom Lake	10/09/20	Lake Service Provider zoom meeting with Vilas County
06/23/20	Distributed AIS Campaign ice packs & towels to lake groups	10/12/20	OCLRA meeting
06/24/20	Aquatic Plant ID workshop	10/13/20	Healthy Lakes meeting with Vilas County Land & Water
06/25/20	Hosted AIS ID & removal training, Crescent Lake landing	10/14/20	LWCD Committee meeting on Zoom
06/25/20	Monitored phragmites site on Highway 8, Rhinelander	10/16/20	Delivered loosestrife plants to Three Lakes
06/26/20	AIS landing & signage check at WI River boat landings	10/22/20	AIS Fall Partnership zoom meeting
06/27/20	Hosted CBCW & CLMN workshop, Hasbrook Lake landing	10/29/20	Trout Lake zoom presentation
06/27/20	Monitored & removed Eurasian watermilfoil, Hasbrook Lake	11/01/20	Upper Midwest Invasive Species Online Conference
07/01/20	Hosted native seedling transplant event in Three Lakes	11/02/20	Upper Midwest Invasive Species Online Conference
07/10/20	Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association's annual meeting	11/03/20	Upper Midwest Invasive Species Online Conference
07/13/20	Purple loosestrife removal on Buffalo Lake	11/04/20	Upper Midwest Invasive Species Online Conference
07/17/20	Responded to AIS violation at Stacks Bay boat landing	11/05/20	Upper Midwest Invasive Species Online Conference

11/09/20	Oneida County Land & Water Committee meeting	04/23/21	Hodag Musky Tournament meeting
11/11/20	Dock Service Provider Pathway Workgroup zoom meeting	04/28/21	SWIMS Coffee Hour on zoom
11/17/20	WI Land & Water Youth Education Committee zoom meeting	04/28/21	Picked-up AIS Poster Contest posters from drop-off sites
11/30/20	Blue Lake Eurasian watermilfoil zoom meeting	04/29/21	Hosted CBCW training, Townline Lake Park boat landing
12/01/20	Lakes & Rivers Partnership zoom meeting	05/04/21	Invasive Species Poster Contest poster judging
12/08/20	Northwoods Lakes Business Stewardship online meeting	05/05/21	Hosted CBCW training, Lake Tomahawk boat landing
12/11/20	Conservation zoom meeting	05/10/21	SWIMS Training session 2, part 1
12/14/20	LWCD Committee meeting	05/12/21	Hosted CBCW training, Lake George boat landing
01/05/21	AIS Lakes & Rivers Partnership zoom meeting	05/13/21	Hosted CBCW training, Lake Nokomis boat landing
01/11/21	Northwoods Lake Business Stewardship online meeting	05/14/21	Northwoods Business for Clean Water online meeting
01/11/21	LWCD Committee zoom meeting	05/15/21	AIS presentation at Crescent Lake Annual meeting
01/12/21	LWCD Poster contest judging	05/17/21	SWIMS Training session 2, part 2
01/12/21	AIS Mussel monitoring zoom seminar	05/18/21	Purple loosestrife biocontrol in Rhinelander & Three Lakes
01/27/21	Dock Service Provider workgroup zoom meeting	05/19/21	Hosted CBCW training at the Maple Lake boat landing
01/27/21	AIS Herbicide webinar	05/20/21	Purple loosestrife biocontrol BMP online training
01/28/21	Land and Water Youth Education meeting	05/20/21	DNR Conservation Warden AIS meeting
02/02/21	Northwoods Lake Business Stewardship meeting	05/25/21	Land and Water Youth Education meeting
02/02/21	Lakes and Rivers Partnership meeting	05/27/21	Dock Service Provider workgroup zoom meeting
02/08/21	Land and Water Committee meeting	05/27/21	Hosted Oneida/Vilas CBCW online Training
02/15/21	Lake Monitoring Protection Network orientation	05/28/21	AIS field day w/Arbor Vitae Woodruff students, Brandy Lake
02/25/21	AIS Partnership winter meeting	06/02/21	AIS monitoring on Pelican River below Fifth Lake Dam
03/08/21	Wisconsin Water Week	06/02/21	Hosted CBCW training at Torpy Park, Minocqua
03/09/21	Wisconsin Water Week	06/03/21	Hosted CBCW & CLMN AIS training, Crescent Lake landing
03/10/21	Wisconsin Water Week	06/04/21	Purple loosestrife biocontrol in Rhinelander & Three Lakes
03/11/21	Wisconsin Water Week	06/14/21	Purple loosestrife biocontrol at various sites
03/16/21	Northwoods Lake Business Stewardship online meeting	06/15/21	Yellow iris monitoring and removal at Boom Lake
03/17/21	Meeting with Shisabunga/Gunlock Lake Association	06/17/21	AIS monitoring at Holmboe State Natural Area
03/18/21	Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership meeting	06/18/21	Yellow Iris monitoring on the Three Lakes Chain - Day 1
03/22/21	SWIMS training	06/23/21	Yellow Iris monitoring on the Three Lakes Chain - Day 2
03/25/21	Purple loosestrife biocontrol online training	06/23/21	Purple loosestrife biocontrol in Rhinelander & Three Lakes
04/09/21	AIS GPS meeting with Land Info Department	06/24/21	Hosted Invasive Species ID Day at the courthouse
04/09/21	AIS presentation with Arbor Vitae Woodruff School	06/25/21	Hosted CBCW training, Lake George boat landing
04/12/21	Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting	06/29/21	AIS & Aquatic Plant ID workshop, Kemp Station
04/13/21	AIS Partnership Spring meeting		
04/14/21	AIS Partnership Spring meeting		
04/15/21	AIS Partnership Spring meeting		
04/16/21	Northwoods Business for Clean Water online meeting		
04/19/21	CBCW Train the Trainer meeting		
04/19/21	Hosted Oneida/Vilas CBCW online Training		
04/21/21	SWIMS Coffee Hour on zoom		

1b. Budget \$1,070.00

Expenses \$155.00

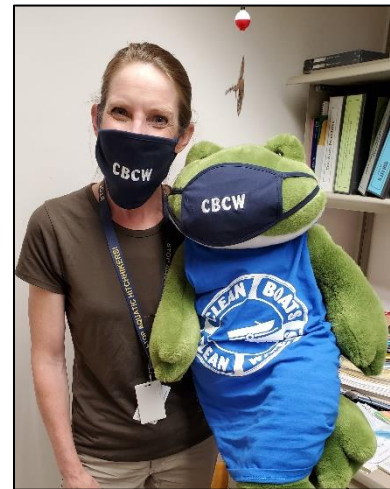
Details of expenses are included in Appendix G.

Some mileage was incurred for the above project (Appendix E).

2a. Host two Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) workshops.

From February 15, 2020 – June 30, 2021, LWCD provided 14 CBCW trainings and trained 157 watercraft inspectors.

In 2020, the LWCD offered three “Socially Distant” CBCW trainings (1 online and 2 in-person), totaling 68 trained watercraft inspectors. Because of the COVID Stay-at-Home orders that spring, the LWCD felt it was necessary to provide a training opportunity for the watercraft inspectors who were healthy and wanted to begin conducting inspections. For this reason, the LWCD partnered with Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department (VCLW) to co-host an online CBCW training, which was held June 9, 2020. The COVID statewide guidelines and recommendations for conducting CBCW during COVID were added to the CBCW training module and discussed with participants. The training went very smoothly and received rave reviews from participants.



Due to COVID, the LWCD designed and printed a COVID Watercraft Inspection yard sign to alert boaters that a watercraft inspector was at the landing and to remain 6 feet from the watercraft inspector. The LWCD provided the signs to 10 lake groups and the LWCD watercraft inspectors. The signs were posted at the entrance of the boat landings during watercraft inspections.

In 2021, the LWCD hosted 11 CBCW trainings, totaling 89 trained watercraft inspectors. LWCD and VCLW co-hosted two CBCW on-line trainings and LWCD hosted 9 in-person trainings.

Date	Event and Location	Number of Participants
06/09/20	Oneida and Vilas Counties CBCW online training	55
06/12/20	CBCW training, Hasbrook Lake boat landing	2
06/27/20	CBCW & CLMN AIS Monitor training, Hasbrook Lake landing	11
Total for 2020		68
Date	Event and Location	Number of Participants
04/19/21	Oneida and Vilas Counties CBCW online training	41
04/29/21	CBCW training, Townline Lake Park boat landing	0
05/05/21	CBCW training, Lake Tomahawk boat landing	2
05/12/21	CBCW training, Lake George boat landing	2
05/13/21	CBCW training, Lake Nokomis boat landing	4
05/19/21	CBCW training, Maple Lake boat landing	3
05/27/21	Oneida and Vilas Counties CBCW online training	21
06/02/21	CBCW training, Torpy Park in Minocqua	4
06/03/21	CBCW training, Crescent Lake boat landing	1
06/26/21	CBCW training, Hasbrook Lake boat landing	9
06/25/21	CBCW training, Lake George boat landing	2
Total for 2021		89
Total watercraft inspectors trained in 2020 and 2021		157

The LWCD AIS Coordinator was the educator for 12 CBCW trainings and the LWCD LTE's served as educators for 2 CBCW in-person trainings. All CBCW trainings followed statewide CBCW and COVID protocol and procedures. Attendees received CBCW outreach supplies and resources.

Educational Materials Distributed: Participants who attended in-person trainings received a folder containing a CBCW handbook, CBCW inspection sheets, CBCW Prompt handout, AIS and CBCW brochures, information on how to enter data into SWIMS, boat inspection check list, AIS Campaign information, contact information for the local DNR Conservation Wardens, current list of AIS in Oneida County waters, a map showing spiny waterflea and zebra mussel locations, and additional outreach items. Participants who attended in-person trainings received a folder containing these items and the online participants received these items as an email attachment.

Additional outreach material available included AIS wildcards and brochures, CBCW stickers, Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker lanyards, stickers, pens, pencils, and LWCD AIS Program tote bag. However, the LWCD keeps these items and the educational material in-stock and available to the public year-round.

Display items at in-person trainings included display boards with AIS and CBCW data and information, preserved AIS specimens, Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz Campaign information, a county map showing current AIS locations, aqua view scopes, a zebra mussel plate, numerous plant and animal identification books and educational outreach material. Preserved AIS specimens included Chinese and banded mystery snails, zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny waterflea, curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish and yellow iris.

Workshops were advertised through the UWEX-Lakes calendar of events, LWCD website, LWCD AIS "Lakes List" (email listserv), lake association newsletters, newspapers, radio, and Facebook. Media releases, workshop agendas, attendance sheets are included.

Photos, press releases, educational material, workshop agendas, and attendance sheets are included in Appendix A, B.

2a. Budget	\$300.00
Expenses	No expenses were incurred for the above project. Some mileage was incurred for the above project (Tab 4A and Appendix E).

2b. Host one Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) workshop.

In 2020, the LWCD AIS Coordinator provided CLMN trainings, totaling 90 participants and one AIS presentation to 52 participants. One training event was held via zoom and the other two training were in-person at boat landings. The in-person trainings provided a combined classroom and field experience that engaged participants with hands-on learning experiences tailored to their lake projects. All participants received CLMN training protocols and guidelines, link to CLMN WI AIS Early Detector Handbook, and other CLMN resources.

In addition, the LWCD AIS Coordinator presented “AIS in Wisconsin” via zoom to **52** Crescent Lake Association members during the Crescent Lake Association’s annual meeting, held May 15, 2021. The presentation provided AIS background/introduction, species examples, Wisconsin AIS programs, ways citizens can help, and resources.

Date	Event and Location	Number of Participants
06/25/20	AIS ID & Eurasian Watermilfoil Hand Removal training, Crescent Lake landing	7
06/27/20	CBCW & CLMN AIS Monitor Training, Hasbrook Lake landing	11
07/22/20	AIS Lurking in Our Waters - CLMN AIS Monitor training, online	72
05/15/21	AIS in Wisconsin presentation, online	52
Total Attendees		142

For all in-person events, LWCD provided copies of the WI AIS Early Detector Handbook, invasive species display boards, preserved AIS specimens, aqua scopes, Eurasian watermilfoil hand removal tools, and AIS and CLMN educational outreach material. Preserved AIS specimens included Chinese and banded mystery snails, zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny waterflea, curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish and yellow iris. There was also a county map showing current AIS locations, a Secchi disk, Zebra Mussel plate, and numerous plant and animal identification outreach material. Handouts included CLMN Monitoring AIS wildcards and brochures plus bracelets, lanyards, stickers, tattoos, pens, pencils were available for all who attended.

Press releases, workshop agendas, and attendance sheets are included in Appendix A, B, C, and D.

- 2b. Budget \$80.00
- Expenses No expenses were incurred for the above project.
- Some mileage was incurred for the above project (Tab 4A and Appendix E).

2c. Host one Invasive Species ID Day (multi-partner, regional event).

Due to COVID, LWCD did not host and ID Day in 2020. However, in 2021, the LWCD collaborated with the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP) to host an ‘Invasive Species ID Day,’ held June 24, 2021, in the Pollinator Garden at the Oneida County Courthouse. During this event, the WHIP Coordinator joined the LWCD AIS Coordinator LWCD and AIS Lead Project Assistant, in the Pollinator Garden at the Oneida County Courthouse, to provide an opportunity for residents to bring a suspected invasive terrestrial or aquatic plant, insect, or animal to the event for identification. Residents were engaged in invasive species education and outreach, native plant discussions, and provided free information on all types of invasive and native species. A summary of this event is included in Appendix C.



LWCD and WHIP provided their own invasive species display boards, preserved specimens, and educational outreach material. Preserved AIS specimens included Chinese and banded mystery snails, zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny waterflea, curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish and yellow iris. There was also a county map showing current AIS locations, numerous plant and animal identification books, and a display board with CLMN information. Handouts included AIS wildcards and brochures plus bracelets, lanyards, stickers, tattoos, pens, pencils were available for all who attended.

Although attendance was low (3 people), we were able to spend quality time with those participants and spread a meaningful message to them. The public seemed genuinely interested and concerned with the topic of invasive species and what can be done to prevent and get rid of them. This event was advertised through the AIS ‘Lakes List’ (email listserv), lake association newsletters, newspapers, radio, television, community event calendars, websites, Facebook, and posters.

Photos and press releases are included in Appendix A and B.

2c. Budget \$75.00
 Total Expense \$98.83 Expenses details are included in Appendix G.

2d. LWCD will take part in the statewide Drain Campaign (distribute over 500 ice packs), Landing Blitz (distribute over 400 SAH towels), AIS Snapshot Day, Bait Dealer Outreach, Waterfowl Hunter AIS Campaign, Habitattitude Pet Store/Nursery Campaign, Clean Angling Campaign, recruit and train volunteers, and write a minimum of 6 press releases. LWCD will continue to be a Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz distribution site for partners and local lake associations (2,200 ice packs and 1,300 towels).

During the 2020 season, LWCD participated in the statewide AIS Drain Campaign, Landing Blitz, AIS Snapshot Day, Waterfowl Hunter AIS Outreach, CBCW Behavior Study, and Bait Dealer Outreach. In addition, LWCD provided AIS awareness and outreach at fishing tournaments, lake group meetings, resort owners, and dock service providers.

The campaigns were advertised during CBCW trainings and through the AIS “Lakes List” (email listserv), lake association newsletters, newspapers, radio, OCLW website, and Facebook.

Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 statewide AIS campaigns experienced some changes. The annual AIS Drain Campaign, normally held in early June, was merged with the 4th of July Landing Blitz. The combined campaigns ran from June 28 to July 5, 2020, the same week as the Great Lakes Regional Landing Blitz.

2020 Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz Statistics:

	<u>Countywide</u>	<u>LWCD AIS Team</u>
• Boats Inspected	2,296	106
• People Contacted	6,416	240
• Hours Spent	771.50	51.00
• Number of inspectors	35	2
• Number of Landings	31	8

In 2020 and 2021, LWCD served as a regional distribution site for the Drain Campaign ice packs and Landing Blitz towels. A supply of Drain Campaign ice packs, Landing Blitz towels, and campaign fliers were provided from the DNR to the Oneida County AIS Program for distribution to participating lake groups CBCW programs throughout the county and to regional partners. Each participating CBCW program received two boxes (12/box) of ice packs and 25 towels per landing. Additional ice packs and towels were available to the high traffic landings and while supplies lasted.

In 2020, LWCD distributed 1,986 ice packs, 1,500 towels, and other supplemental outreach items to 27 lake groups, DNR Wardens, and 8 partners. Of the 1,986 ice packs, 840 ice packs were distributed to 8 regional partners and 1,128 were for Oneida County (756 for lakes groups and 84 for LWCD). Distribution list of icepacks and towels is included in Appendix C.

During the campaigns, CBCW watercraft inspectors talked with boaters about the significance of preventing the spread of AIS while helping them inspect their boat, trailer and equipment. Inspectors then distributed one ice pack, one towel and fliers to each boat operator as a reminder that they can prevent the spread of AIS by transporting their fish on ice and by cleaning their boat, trailer and equipment. LWCD staff and participating CBCW groups distributed the campaign items during these event. However, due to COVID, the outreach materials were distributed as a self-serve option to limit contact with boaters and anglers.

Drain Campaign, June 4-6, 2021, and Landing Blitz July 1-5, 2021:

Due to COVID-19, the 2021 AIS LTE staff was reduced from two AIS LTE's to one AIS LTE. Because of the lack of staff, and schedules, the AIS LTE conducted campaign outreach throughout the season. LWCD used ice packs and towels that were leftover from 2020 and distributed some of the supply to several lake groups who did not have their own supply.

2021 Drain Campaign Statistics:

	<u>Countywide</u>	<u>LWCD AIS Team</u>
• Boats Inspected	605	0
• People Contacted	1,394	
• Hours Spent	320.25	
• Number of inspectors	33	
• Number of Landings	18	



2021 Landing Blitz Statistics

	<u>Countywide</u>	<u>LWCD AIS Team</u>
• Boats Inspected	1,660	136
• People Contacted	4,314	76.2
• Hours Spent	649.25	8.75
• Number of inspectors	40	1
• Number of Landings	26	3

AIS Snapshot Day

2020 was the seventh year that LWCD participated in the AIS Snapshot Day, hosted by the River Alliance of Wisconsin. The 2020 statewide event was scheduled for the morning of August 15, 2020. However, on the morning of Snapshot Day, Oneida County was hit by thunderstorms and therefore, the Oneida County event was rescheduled to Thursday, August 20, 2020.

On the morning of August 20th, the LWCD AIS Coordinator, two LWCD AIS LTE's, and one volunteer gathered at the Snapshot Day meeting site, located at Boom Lake boat landing pavilion. Following a brief AIS identification and monitor training, the group divided into two teams, divvied up the 10 predetermined critical monitoring sites and monitoring supplies, and then dispersed to their monitoring locations to search for AIS and collect suspected specimens. Monitoring supplies included AIS identification packets, rakes, aqua scopes, plant rakes, maps, driving directions, forms, collection bags, boot brushes, and decontamination supplies.

As monitoring activities were wrapping-up, a thunderstorm rolled in and therefore, instead of returning to the pavilion, the teams met at the Courthouse. All specimens were collected and identified as either native or an invasive species. AIS specimens, photos, and accompanying paperwork were submitted to Al Wirt, AIS Coordinator, DNR for verification. Event



results and monitoring data was submitted to the River Alliance of Wisconsin and monitoring data was entered into SWIMS. Volunteer sign-in sheet is included.

2020 Snapshot Day Facts:

- 4 participants
- 10 boat landings monitored
- Four new populations of invasive species were reported for verification: Aquatic Forget-me-not, burdock, Chinese mystery snail, and yellow iris.

Waterbodies Monitored and Invasive Species Detected:

1. Bass Lake boat landing, Moon Lite Bay Road – no AIS detected
2. Rhinelander Flowage boat landing, River Road & Bluebird Road – no AIS detected
3. Rhinelander Flowage boat landing, Journeys End Road - no AIS detected
4. Rhinelander Flowage boat landing, River Road - Chinese Mystery Snail
5. Boom Lake boat landing (Hodag Park) – Aquatic forget-me-not and yellow iris
6. Creek Lake boat landing (River Road) – no AIS detected
7. Moen Lake boat landing, Lakeshore Drive – no AIS Detected
8. Lake Thompson boat landing, North Shore Drive – no AIS detected
9. George Lake boat landing, Nostalgia Lane – no AIS detected
10. Jennie Weber boat landing, Hwy 17 – large patch of burdock

Bait Shop Outreach

The LWCD began conducting AIS Bait Shop Outreach in 2011 and every year thereafter. However, due to COVID-19, the Oneida County AIS Team did not visit the bait shops in 2020. In lieu of visiting the bait shops, the AIS Coordinator provided an AIS Bait Shop outreach letter mailing to 6 bait shops. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix B.

On June 28, 2021, Aubrey Nycz, AIS Lead Project Assistant, LWCD, conducted AIS Bait Shop Outreach to 6 local bait shops. Aubrey spoke with all of the bait shop owners and explained to them the purpose of the bait shop outreach program and provided them with a folder containing a letter from the Oneida County AIS Coordinator, statewide AIS Bait Shop outreach material, list of current AIS in Oneida County Waters, and other AIS information. Aubrey also provided them with brochures and stickers to hand out to customers purchasing bait. All of the bait shops agreed to hand out the information to anglers and work with Oneida County in helping prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Bait Shops Visited on June 28, 2020.

- Kurt's Island Sport Shop. 824 US Highway 51 N, Minocqua, WI 54548, (715) 356-4797
- Rollie and Helen's Musky Shop, 7542 US-51, Minocqua, WI 54548, (715) 356-6011
- Dewey Catchem & How, 8560 US-51, Minocqua, WI, 54548, (715) 358-5130
- County Line Gas Station, 11800 WI-70 Trunk, Minocqua, WI 54548, (715) 356-9920
- Hazelhurst ICO, 6995 US-51, Hazelhurst, WI 54531, (715) 356-4857
- Centex, Tomahawk, 6578 Co Hwy K, Tomahawk, WI 54487, (715) 282-5696

Bait Shop Outreach Items

- 1 folder containing AIS Bait Shop Outreach information and a letter to the bait shop owners explaining the provided outreach items and how they should be used.
- 1 FAQ about AIS handout
- 1 AIS located in Oneida County list

- 1 Map of zebra mussels located in Wisconsin
- 1 Map of spiny waterfleas in Wisconsin
- 1 Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers poster
- 1 Ice Your Catch poster
- 20 Fishing with Bait brochure
- 20 AIS prevention brochures
- 20 Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers trailer stickers
- 20 Catch on to Healthy Fish sticker
- 20 Contain Your Crawlers bait bucket stickers
- 10 Minnow Use Reminder bait bucket stickers
- 1 business card for Stephanie Boismenu, Oneida County AIS Coordinator

CBCW Boater Behavior Study

Due to COVID-19, the statewide 2020 CBCW Boater Behavior project was cancelled. In 2020, Aubrey Nycz, AIS Lead Program Assistant, LWCD, conducted two, four hour shifts of CBCW Boater Behavior Study at the two boat landings listed below. The Watercraft Inspection Special Project report forms were used and collected data was submitted to the Statewide CBCW Coordinator. Boater Behavior Study data sheets are included in Appendix D.

- June 19, 2020 Boom Lake boat landing, 11 boats inspected, 18 people contacted.
- July 19, 2020 Sand Lake boat landing, 13 boats inspected, 27 people contacted.

Dock and Lift Service Provider AIS Outreach Program

In 2020, the DNR formed a Lake Service Provider Pathways Work Group, organized by Amanda Smith, DNR, to pilot an incentive program that would create a solid concept and foundation for an AIS Dock & Lift Service Provider Outreach program and demonstrate the feasibility of WI pursuing a statewide outreach program. The LWCD AIS Coordinator was invited to be part of the workgroup and has participated since it's inception. The group meets monthly in the fall, winter and spring, has created several projects, and continues to work on project development. Examples of projects include creation of a Dock Service Provider statewide database, mailings to businesses (in lieu of in-person due to COVID), and the development of a Dock Service Provider Survey that is currently being field tested with the local dock service business, Pelican Piers.

In September 2020, LWCD mailed a Dock Service Provider AIS Outreach letter to 27 dock and lift businesses in Oneida County. A copy of the letter and list of businesses is included in Appendix E.

Waterfowl Hunter AIS Outreach

On September 27, 2020, the LWCD AIS Coordinator conducted CBCW Waterfowl outreach from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Swamp Creek Boat Landing located on the Rainbow Flowage. Upon arrival at the landing, there was one truck w/trailer parked at the landing. As of 7:00 pm, when it was time to head home, the hunter had not returned to the landing. Even though no outreach was conducted, the inspection data was still entered into SWIMS.



Habitattitude Pet Store/Nursery Campaign

During the first week of March, 2021, an employee at a Seattle Petco discovered at least a dozen invasive zebra mussels in a shipment of “Betty Buddy” brand Marimo moss balls. Marimo moss balls are living algae that are often used as decorative items in fish tanks, aquariums, and ornamental plants and sold nationwide to aquarium hobbyists and zoos. Zebra mussels can attach to the fibers of these balls and survive being transported.

Upon hearing the news, the Wisconsin DNR’s AIS Monitoring Specialists issued rapid response communication guidance for this unique situation to the statewide AIS Coordinators. Under this guidance, the LWCD AIS Coordinator submitted a news release to 17 local news media and the 320 emails on the Oneida County AIS Lakes Listserv, to inform the community that zebra mussels were recently discovered attached to live Marimo moss balls and may have been sold at pet or aquarium supply stores in the Northwoods.

In addition, the AIS Coordinator immediately contacted all aquarium retailers and pet stores Oneida County to ensure these products were not available for sale. After initial contact, the AIS Coordinator also provided a formal follow-up letter to those businesses. Luckily, none of the businesses in Oneida County carried any of the Marimo moss balls. However, one retailer, Northwoods Pets, did have a supply of a different brand of moss balls and voluntarily destroyed the entire supply.

Since the initial discovery, dozens of states reported zebra mussels in moss balls available for sale at popular retailers (PetSmart, Petco and Independently owned stores). Luckily, none were discovered in Wisconsin.

Direct communication was provided to the following retailers:

- Northwoods Pets, 2134 Lincoln Street, Rhinelander
- LiveAquaria Coral Farm and Aquatic Life Facility (LiveAquaria for short), 2423 Air Park Road, Rhinelander

LWCD AIS Coordinator wrote three different Moss Ball new releases tailored to each audience. A copy of the Press Releases is included in Appendix D.

- 03-08-21 Press Release to Retailers - Invasive Zebra Mussels Discovered in Aquarium Moss Balls.pdf sent to local retailers (Two: Northwoods Pets and LiveAquaria).
- 03-08-21 Press Release to Lake List - Invasive Zebra Mussels Discovered in Aquarium Moss Balls.pdf sent to Oneida Co Lakes listserv (320 email addresses).
- 03-08-21 Press Release to News Media - Invasive Zebra Mussels Discovered in Aquarium Moss Balls.pdf sent to local news media (newspapers, radio and TV total 17 email addresses).

Photos, press releases, outreach distribution lists are included in Appendix A, B, and C.

2d. Budget	\$1,074.00
Expenses	No expenses were incurred for the above projects. Some mileage was incurred for the above projects (Tab 4A and Appendix E).

2e. LWCD will participate in DNR law enforcement AIS team events 1 weekend per summer season.

Field assistance from LWCD staff was available for 2020 and 2021 DNR law enforcement utilization. However, the DNR did not require coordination of efforts from LWCD.

2e. Budget \$0 (No grant funding was needed for this project).

2f. LWCD will perform at least 625 CBCW hours, focusing on super-spreader waterbodies, pathways, and prioritizing AIS. In 2019, LWCD completed 648 CBCW hours (99% of CBCW inspections occurred at lakes > 500 acres, 29% occurred at Stacks Bay Landing on Lake Minocqua). In 2020, at least 85% of inspections will occur on lakes > 500 acres. Additionally, LWCD will perform 20% of inspections at Stacks Bay Landing on Lake Minocqua (AIS Source Water). Input data into SWIMS. (\$50.00)

From May 22, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the AIS Team conducted 485.25 hours of CBCW watercraft inspections at 28 high-priority boat landings. Of the 485.25 hours, 130 hours (27%) were spent at Stacks Bay Landing on Lake Minocqua (AIS source waters), and 343.50 hours were at super spreader waterbodies and/or at lakes with EWM or CLP.

Aubrey Nycz conducted CBCW from May 23, 2020 to August 14, 2020 and from June 9, 2021 to June 30, 2021 and completed 267 hours of CBCW. Rachel Cook conducted CBCW from May 22, 2020 to August 16, 2020 and completed 216.25 hours, and on September 27, 2020, Stephanie Boismenu completed 2 hours of Waterfowl CBCW hours. During down time at the landings, the AIS Team monitored landings for AIS. Statewide CBCW guidelines were followed, CBCW Report forms were used and data was entered into SWIMS.

Due to COVID-19 and lack of applicants, the 2021 AIS LTE staff was reduced from the anticipated two AIS LTE's to one AIS LTE. Because of the lack of staff during the 2021 season, the projected 625 hours of CBCW was short by 139.75 hours. The AIS Teams CBCW Data is included in Appendix D.

In 2020, LWCD partnered with Burnett County Land and Water to create a fun video about how to safely conduct CBCW watercraft inspections during COVID. This video features LWCD's AIS Lead Project Assistant and the Burnett County AIS Coordinator who walk through the statewide CBCW COVID recommendations, provided tips on how to stay safe, and highlighted that remaining feet apart is the same length as a typical fishing rod. The video was shared with the LWCD AIS Lakes List, Lakes and Rivers Partnership, shared on Facebook, and posted on the LWCD's website and received great reviews.



LWCD's CBCW data from May 23, 2020 through June 30, 2021

CBCW hours: 485.25 (139.75 hours short of projected 625 hours)

Boats inspected: 1,083

People contacted: 2,371

Boat landings visited: 28

Waterbodies visited: 25

Number of waterbodies visited > 500 acres: 12

Hours at waterbodies > 500 acres: 385.50 (79%)

Hours at Stacks Bay boat landing: 130 (27%)

Hours at Waterbodies with EWM or CLP 343.50 (71%)

From May 22, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the AIS Team conducted CBCW at the following landings:

- 1 Bolger Lake -- Access
- 2 Boom Lake -- Hodag Park Access
- 3 Buckskin Lake -- Access
- 4 Buffalo Lake -- Access
- 5 Carrol Lake -- Carroll Lake Access
- 6 Chain Lake -- Access
- 7 Hancock Lake -- Access
- 8 Katherine Lake -- Access
- 9 Kawaguesaga Lake -- Dam Road - Boat Landing
- 10 Lake Minocqua -- Stack's Bay Landing
- 11 Lake Nokomis -- Access off Hwy N
- 12 Lake Nokomis -- Access off Hwy N
- 13 Little Bearskin Lake -- Access
- 14 Madeline Lake -- Access
- 15 Manson Lake -- Access
- 16 Minocqua Lake -- Access Off Park St And Menominee St
- 17 Pickerel Lake -- Access at S Side Lake at The End Of Pinewood Dr
- 18 Rainbow Flowage -- Access Off Cth J
- 19 Rainbow Reservoir -- Access at Cth D
- 20 Sand Lake -- Access at Cth D
- 21 Squaw Lake -- Access Nr W Squaw Lake Rd
- 22 Squirrel Lake -- Access Nr Carter Rd
- 23 Swamp Creek - Rainbow Flowage -- Access
- 24 Swamsauger Lake -- Access
- 25 Sweeney Lake -- Access
- 26 Tomahawk Lake -- Access at Indian Mounds Campground
- 27 Willow Flowage #1 -- Access - Off Willow Dam Rd - Near Dam
- 28 Willow Reservoir -- Access - Off Willow Dam Rd



- 2f. Budget \$50.00
 Expenses (No expenses were incurred for the above projects).
 Some mileage was incurred for the above projects (Tab 4A and Appendix E).

2g. LWCD will create and distribute Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker (SAH) and AIS-messaged pencils (1,000), wristbands (200), lanyards (200), SAH bobbers (100), and SAH baggies to workshop participants, fair-goers, students, and volunteers. Create and distribute SAH magnets, and Bait Dealer Outreach Toolkit items to bait shops, fishing tournaments, and other water-related businesses. Items will feature SAH message and urge citizens to report suspected AIS. (\$0. Costs associated with 4a)

In 2020, the AIS Team designed 340 SAH wristbands 175 SAH lanyards and 100 reusable fabric “grocery style” tote bags with the AIS message printed on both sides. The tote bags are the perfect size to accommodate AIS outreach material. However, due to COVID, very few of these items were distributed to workshop participants and at events in 2020 and 2021.

The AIS Team designed and ordered ten 18” x 24’ COVID -19 yard sign that were used during watercraft inspections. Six of the ten signs were distributed to lake groups with active CBCW programs at high-traffic boat landings.

The LWCD obtained a large supply of AIS outreach publications and products from the DNR and UW Extension-Lakes. Publication topics include aquatic plant management, species identification, CBCW, bait shop outreach, waterfowl outreach, and water garden and aquarium. The publications include AIS Wildcards, Watch Cards, brochures, stickers, fact sheets, literature, and Lake Tide newsletters. These items are available for distribution at workshops, trainings, school events, fairs, and other event’s and they are always available year-round in the LWCD AIS Coordinators office.

Note: The Oneida County Finance Department applied the expenses for the above outreach items to LWCD’s 2019 AEPP AIS grant reimbursement. Therefore, those expenses are not included in this grant report nor reimbursement.



2h. LWCD to hold a minimum of 5 student AIS classroom/field events. It is hoped at least one will be held in each school district; Three Lakes, Minocqua, Rhinelander. Hold 2 Exotic Aquatic Explorer field events to include donated Lets Go Fishing pontoon boat. (\$490.00)

The LWCD's AIS School Outreach Program is a successful academic program that has reached nearly every student in Oneida County over the last six years. The grade-specific program provides comprehensive, engaging, and hands-on AIS education in the classroom and field, which connects students to the local waters that they live on and play in. Students learn about AIS, how they arrived in the Northwoods, how they could impact the places where the students live and play, and how to prevent AIS from spreading. The students also learn about the interrelationships of native plants, animals, organisms, water quality, naturally vegetated shorelines, and the watershed. Their new awareness becomes actions to prevent invasions of AIS and also encourages students to think critically, develop valuable problem-solving skills, become decision makers, and become stewards of the environment.

AIS School Outreach Zoom Presentation

Unfortunately, COVID-19 came along, and all of the student field events were cancelled, but that did not stop the LWCD AIS Coordinator from offering AIS School Outreach to classrooms via zoom. During the spring of 2020, a letter was sent to all teachers in Oneida County to let them know that the AIS School Outreach program could be provided via zoom. As a result, three fourth grade teachers from Arbor Vitae Woodruff School were interested and on May 10, 2020, the AIS Coordinator provided an hour-long AIS outreach via Zoom to 50 fourth graders. A copy of the letter is available in Appendix D.

AIS Youth Field Day at Brandy Lake

On May 28, 2021, LWCD AIS Coordinator provided a hands-on AIS learning experience to 50 fourth grade students from Arbor Vitae Woodruff School during the day-long field event at Brandy Lake. The students rotated through four, one hour—long natural resource-related educational stations. At the AIS station, they discussed what AIS are, how they arrived in the Northwoods, how they could impact the places where the students live and play, and how to prevent AIS from spreading. The students also learned about the interrelationships of native habitats and species.

Since the AIS station was held along the shoreline, the students got to see firsthand how the AIS, Eurasian watermilfoil, has impacted Brandy Lake. Students were shown how to identify the plant, look for rooted plants and plant fragments washed up on shore, and how to hand remove the rooted plants. Even though the water was a little chilly, the teachers allowed the students to walk in the water up to their knees and help the AIS Coordinator hand-remove the invasive species from Brandy Lake. Needless to say, the students had a blast! At the end of the field day, the students had filled three 30-gallon trash bags with Eurasian watermilfoil and garbage. The majority of the milfoil was found as floating fragments and fragments washed up on shore. Preserved specimens and lots of learning tools were on hand. AIS/SAH wildcards, stickers, tattoos, and bracelets were handed out to students.

2020 and 2021 Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest.

COVID did not cancel the ever-popular Invasive Species Poster Contest, hosted by the LWCD. The primary goal of the Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest is to educate 4th – 8th grade students about aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland invasive species that threaten Wisconsin's lands and waters. Students in grades 4th- 8th anywhere in Wisconsin could submit a poster and have a chance to win a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place trophy, honorable mention ribbon, best of show ribbon, best slogan ribbon, or a prize for your classroom and school library. LWCD made several changes to accommodate COVID

restrictions such as teacher's submitted posters via email instead of submitting the student's original art work. Also, poster judging was conducted online instead of in-person. Detailed information about the poster contest is available in section 3e.

2020 and 2021 Poster Contest Data:

2020: 193 posters submitted from 17 classrooms represented by 11 schools in eight counties.

2021: 266 posters submitted from 16 classrooms represented by 12 schools in five counties.

Photos and press releases are available in Appendix A and B.

2h. Budget: \$490.00

Expenses \$6.19

Some mileage was incurred for the above projects (Tab 4A and Appendix E)

2i. Continue installing/replacing DNR AIS signs at a minimum of 2 public and 2 private landings.

During the 2020 season, the AIS Coordinator updated AIS signage at 1 public boat landing on the WI River. In 2021, AIS LTE checks 32 landings for signage checks. Of the 32 landings, one sign was replaced and three outdated AIS signs were removed. Data is entered into SWIMS. A list of the boat landings visited is available in Appendix D.

2i. Budget \$0 (No grant funding was needed for this project).

Some mileage was incurred for the above projects (Tab 4A and Appendix E)

2j. Collaborate with CLMN/DNR & Tomahawk Lake Assoc. to host one AIS ID & EWM Hand Removal Training and Certification for SCUBA Divers & Snorkelers.

Due to COVID, this event was cancelled. LWCD plans to reschedule this event for the 2022 season – if COVID allows. The AIS Coordinator continues to work closely with several SCUBA divers who harvest EWM in local lakes, and provides them with AIS education and DNR's decontamination best management practices.

2j. Budget \$110.00

Expenses \$0 No expenses were incurred for this project.

2k. Host 1 public viewing of the non-profit, Emmy Award Winning AIS Documentary "Making Waves: Battle for the Great Lakes."

In celebration of the 2020 Earth Week, LWCD AIS Coordinator had planned to present a public viewing of the Emmy Award Winning, AIS Documentary "Making Waves: Battle for the Great Lakes" at the Three Lakes Center for the Arts. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to COVID. It was hoped that the event could take place in 2021, but again, COVID prevented that from happening.

The LWCD purchased two copies of the Making Waves DVD, including educational use license and public screening license, for continued educational use and are available for teachers to checkout- for free.

2k. Budget \$100.00

Expenses \$0 No expenses were incurred for this project.

3a. Create and distribute an end-of-year report, which will also include an evaluation component.

LWCD created and distributed an end-of-year report to partners, residents, and visitors. All other communication updates will be via email, list-serv, Facebook, and the Oneida County AIS webpage. A copy of the 2020 year-end report is available in Appendix D. Some expenses for printing were incurred (see appendix G).

3a. Budget \$105.00
Total Expense \$37.80 Expenses details are included in Appendix G.

3b. Write a minimum of 10 AIS updates and distribute them via the 'lake contact' listserv, and post on Oneida County AIS website.

One of the most effective ways to keep partners abreast of the Oneida County AIS Program was through the AIS 'Lakes List'. AIS updates were electronically sent to over 302 citizens, lake groups and partners. This form of communication was frequently commented on at lake association meetings, workshops, and outreach events. It has served as a wonderful tool to keep partners in the loop and acts as a repository of information for all citizens. Updates were often posted to the LWCD AIS webpage and shared on personal Facebook pages. Press Release and updates are available in Appendix B and C.

3b. Budget \$0 (No grant funding was needed for this project)

3c. Review, evaluate, and revise Oneida County AIS ordinance 10.05.

In 2008, the Oneida County AIS Transportation Ordinance 10.05 *Illegal Transport of Aquatic Plants and Invasive Animals* was implemented and, with approval from the DNR, the LWCD purchased 200 signs to install at the public boat landings.

Since then, the statewide AIS Regulations have been updated and LWCD AIS Coordinator felt it necessary to review Oneida County's AIS Ordinance and determine if it needed updating as well. The review process is ongoing and awaiting approval from LWCD Committee to move forward with reviewing and evaluating the ordinance.

In the meantime, the LWCD AIS Team continues to check on the Oneida County ordinance signs at the landings and either install and or replace as necessary. A copy of the Ordinance 10.05 is available in Appendix C.

3c. Budget \$1,008.00
Expenses \$0 (No Expense were incurred for this project)



3d. Host the 'Twelfth Annual Oneida County Stewardship Awards Banquet' and partnership meeting. Banquet celebrates the Invasive Species Superstars, Local Lake Groups, CBCW Watercraft Inspectors, and CLMN Volunteers of Oneida County, for their extraordinary efforts to protect our lands and waterbodies in Oneida County! Nominations for the Stewardship Awards are accepted for youth and adult individuals, couples, lake groups, and professionals. Oneida County CLMN volunteers are honored for collecting 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years of data. Door prizes donated by 20 local businesses. (\$900.00)

The annual Oneida County Stewardship Awards Banquet recognizes the Invasive Species Superstars, Local Lake Groups, CBCW Inspectors and CLMN Volunteers, for their extraordinary efforts to protect our lands and waterbodies in Oneida County! Nominees are nominated by peers and LWCD staff and the CBCW and CLMN volunteers are recognized for their years of service. This fun-filled evening event, held at Holiday Acres in Rhinelander, included a dinner buffet (attendees pay \$10/person), fascinating guest speakers and every attendee went home with a raffle prize. The prizes were donated by over 20 local businesses and the Green Bay Packers.



It is with a heavy heart that LWCD could not host this popular and important event for Oneida County citizen volunteers due to COVID. LWCD is currently exploring other means to celebrate and recognize the volunteers.

3d. Budget \$900.00 No expense were incurred for this project.

3e. Coordinate the 9th Annual 'Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest.' Increase student and partner participation from 2019 contest. Contest began as a 1- county event in 2012 and has grown significantly. In 2019, LWCD received 557 posters to encompass 22 different schools in 12 partnering counties. LWCD has expanded outreach to invite ALL Wisconsin 4th – 8th students to submit a poster that depicts an aquatic, terrestrial, or wetland invasive species that threatens Wisconsin's lands and waters. (\$690.00)

In 2020 and 2021, the LWCD hosted the ever popular Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest and a combined total of **459** poster entries were submitted!

The primary goal of the Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest is to educate 4th – 8th grade students about aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland invasive species that threaten Wisconsin's lands and waters. Students in grades 4th- 8th submit a poster and have a chance to win a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place trophy, honorable mention ribbon, best of show ribbon, best slogan ribbon, or a prize for your classroom and school library.

The Poster Contest began in 2012 as a 1- county event for 4th – 8th grade students, and 82 posters were submitted. Since then, the contest has become a yearly event and outreach was expanded to include surrounding counties. In 2018, a record 586 posters were submitted from 34 classes, representing 21 different schools in 8 partnering counties. In 2019, LWCD expand this popular contest to include ALL 4th – 8th students from anywhere in Wisconsin. In 2019, 557 posters were submitted from 22 different schools in 12 partnering counties. In 2020, 193 posters were submitted from 17 classes, representing 10

schools in 8 counties and in 2021, 266 posters were submitted from 16 classrooms, representing 12 schools in 5 counties.

Poster judging is held in the spring by a panel of three judges, with backgrounds in the arts and sciences, determine the winning posters. Winning posters are selected for one of three categories based on originality, clarity of message, design, and spelling. All poster entries were on display in the hallways of the Oneida County Courthouse, and remained there throughout the month of June in honor of Invasive Species Action Month.

Prizes and winning categories:

- Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place posters in four different divisions: Grade 4; Grade 5; Grade 6; and Grades 7 & 8.
- Ribbons awarded to Honorable Mention winners.
- Ribbons awarded to Best Slogan winners.
- \$30 Class Prize awarded to each 1st place winner's classroom.
- Field guide, relating to natural resources or conservation, was awarded to each 1st place winner's school library.

Partners:

Timberland Invasive Partnership, Northwoods Coop Weed Management Area, WI Headwaters Invasive Partnership, and Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Lincoln, Marinette, Price, Sawyer, Vilas, and Washburn County Conservation Departments. The additional partnership has helped to increase invasive species education as well as the popularity and competitiveness of this contest.

2020 Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest

LWCD did not let COVID cancel the 2020 poster contest! Instead, LWCD made several changes to accommodate COVID restrictions such as teachers could submit their students posters via email instead of submitting the original posters. Also, the judges were able to judge the posters online instead of in-person.

In 2020, 193 posters were submitted from 17 classes, representing 10 schools in eight counties. On June 4, 2020, three poster judges judged the posters online. Of the 193 posters submitted, the judges selected 102 winning posters.

Number of winners in each category:

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners in four different divisions: Grade 4; Grade 5; Grade 6; and Grades 7 & 8 (Total 12 students).
- Honorable Mention – Grade 4 = 23 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 5 = 2 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 6 = 13 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 7 = 8 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 8 = 16 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 4 = 10 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 6 = 6 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 7 = 4 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 8 = 8 student

2020 participating schools:

Arbor Vitae Woodruff Elementary, Crandon Middle School, Crescent Elementary School, James Williams Middle School, Northwestern Middle School, Phillips Elementary School, Prairie River Middle School, Solon Springs Middle School, Urban Middle School, and Wausaukee Elementary School.

2021 Northwoods’ Invasive Species Poster Contest

In 2021, 266 posters were submitted from 16 classrooms, representing 12 schools in five counties. Poster judging was held in-person, at the Oneida County Courthouse, on June 4, 2021. Of the 266 poster entries, the judges selected 84 winning posters

Number of winners in each category:

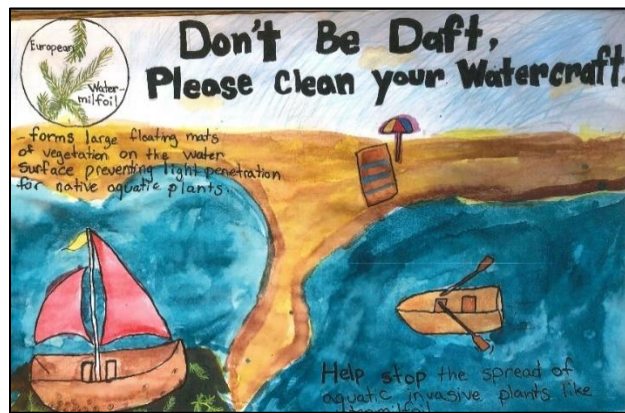
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners in four different divisions: Grade 4; Grade 5; Grade 6; and Grades 7 & 8. (Total 12 students).
- Honorable Mention – Grade 4 = 32 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 5 = 6 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 6 = 10 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 7 = 8 students
- Honorable Mention – Grade 8 = 6 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 4 = 16 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 6 = 2 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 7 = 2 students
- Slogan Winners – Grade 8 = 2 students

2021 participating schools:

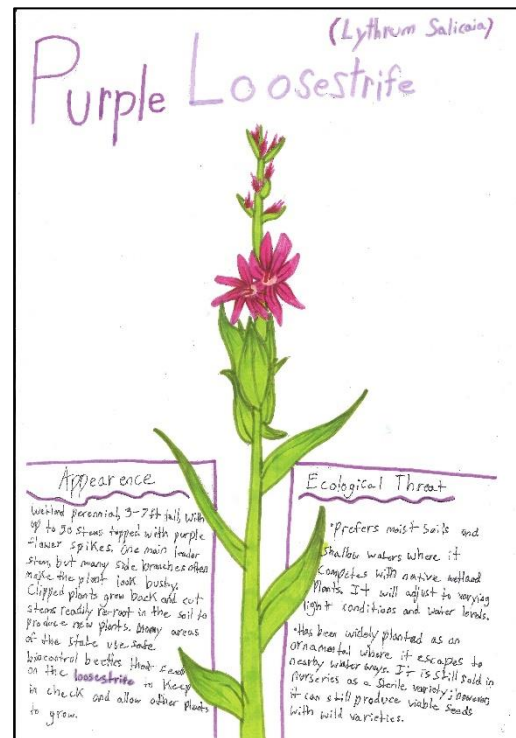
Arbor Vitae Woodruff Elementary, Christ Lutheran School, Creative Minds School, Hurley K12, James Williams Middle School, Northwestern Middle School, Phillips Elementary School, Solon Springs Middle School, Sugar Camp Elementary School, Three Lakes Elementary School, Wabeno Elementary School, and Wausaukee Elementary School.

The LWCD designed, printed, and distributed an AIS poster calendar that featured the winning posters and slogans. The calendar was distributed to participating classrooms and partners.

Photos, poster contest brochure, judge’s sheet, a list of winners and participating classes, media releases, and Invasive Species Poster Contest calendar are included.



2020 1st Place Winner, Grade 6, Elizabeth Powell, Northwestern Middle School, Douglas County





2021 1st Place Winner, Grade 5, Natalie Hoag, Solon Springs School, Douglas County

- 3e. Budget: \$690.00
- Expenses \$155.00 Details of expenses are included in Appendix G.
- Some mileage was incurred for the above project (Appendix E).

3f. Review, evaluate, revise Oneida County AIS Strategic Plan and ensure consistency with both the newly revised statewide plan and the Oneida County Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan 2020-2029. LWRM Plan was revised and adopted in 2019 and Goal #4 is 'Protect native species, habitats, and landscapes from invasive species' (page 55). The five objectives under Goal #4 are: continue providing education and outreach; continue early detection and rapid response of invasive species; control and manage invasive species; restore native species and habitat after invasive's are removed; and build capacity through cooperation with other groups. The LWRM plan will guide LWCD and decision-makers in revising Oneida County's AIS Strategic Plan that was developed and in place from the 2012-2016 LWRM Plan. Increase and diversify partnerships to implement the plan.

The Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) 2020-2029 was updated in 2019 and includes the AIS Strategic Plan. Through this grant, the LWCD had the opportunity to coordinate and implement AIS efforts listed under the 5 year plan, and includes interested entities throughout the county in the fight against AIS. The 5 Year Plan includes:

- A. Continue providing education and outreach
- B. Continue early detection and rapid response of invasive species
- C. Control and manage invasive species.
- D. Restore native species and habitat after invasive's are removed.
- E. Build capacity through cooperation with other groups.

3f. Budget \$0 (No grant funding was needed for this activity.)

3g. Increase partnerships and AIS awareness by presenting at the Three Lakes Waterfront Association's Annual meeting and one Trout Unlimited meeting, and provide an AIS booth at Hodag Musky Tournament rules meeting and the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association's Annual Kids Fishing Day.

Hodag Musky Challenge

Since 2016, the LWCD AIS Coordinator has staffed an AIS booth at the Hodag Musky Challenge's rules meeting as well as given an AIS presentation. The rules meeting is held the Friday of the weekend-long tournament and is attended by over 250 registered anglers. It is mandatory of the anglers to attend this meeting.

In 2020, the LWCD AIS Coordinator provided an AIS booth at the Hodag Musky Challenge rules meeting, but because of COVID, the Coordinator was not present during the actual event. A list of AIS in Oneida County and a county map showing current AIS locations was posted on the display board as well as numerous other AIS educational material specific for the anglers. AIS outreach material was provided for handouts.

Three Lakes Waterfront Association (TLWA) Partnership

Due to Corona Virus, the TLWA halted all 2020 programs and meetings. However, the LWCD AIS Team continued to provide AIS assistance with yellow iris monitoring and purple loosestrife biocontrol in the Three Lakes chain.

To outline some of the LWCD and TLWA collaborative efforts, I will offer the following. Since 2012, the LWCD's AIS Coordinator has worked closely with the TLWA on AIS campaigns and projects geared towards AIS and improving water quality. The AIS Coordinator is often a guest speaker at their Annual meeting, contributes articles to their spring and fall newsletters, and provides yearly CLMN training for the TLW's Adopt Your Shoreline program that is held on the water and focuses on AIS identification, monitoring and management. The TLWA's 23 Lake Captains, each represent a lake on the chain, organize the teams of volunteers who serve to locate, identify, and help control AIS in their lakes. The LWCD continues to assist the TLWA with their yellow iris and purple loosestrife biocontrol programs.

TLWA Annual Meeting

For the 2020 Annual Meeting, LWCD's Conservationist, Michele Sadauskas, was scheduled to give a presentation about shoreline restoration, and describe what acquiring a grant involves. This presentation was in support of the Shoreline Restoration Workshop held earlier in the year regarding the shoreline restoration contest co-sponsored by the LWCD and the TLWA. However, due to COVID, the Annual meeting was canceled. The TLWA had planned to reschedule the LWCD presentation for the 2021 Annual Meeting, but due to miscommunication with the TLWA meeting organizers, they inadvertently forgot to invite LWCD to the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association's Annual Kids Fishing Day

Each year, the LWCD AIS Team man's an AIS educational booth at the Kids Fishing Day hosted by the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association and welcomes over 200 youth. Preserved specimens (both animal and plant), wildcards, stickers, tattoos, SAH bobbers and other giveaways were on hand. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. The AIS Team is hoping that 2022 will allow this wonderful event to take place.

Trout Unlimited

The LWCD AIS Coordinator had planned to give an AIS monitoring presentation to the local Trout Unlimited group and plan an AIS monitoring event on local trout waters. However, the organizer of the group, Jay Joppa, did not want to pursue the presentation nor the event because the local group was “disbanding.” LWCD continues to connect with other fishing groups and provide outreach.

- 3g. Budget \$0 (No grant funding was needed for this project).
Some mileage was incurred for the above project (Appendix E).

4a. Hire three LTE's to assist AIS Coordinator with project implementation. LTE's to conduct 625 hours of CBCW, AIS early detection and baseline water quality monitoring on a minimum of 15 waterbodies using CLMN/DNR early detection monitoring protocols, identify invasion pathways, prioritize super-spreader waterbodies and risk of AIS, manage pioneer populations of AIS, restoration, distribute outreach materials, lead/participate in student and adult educational field events, workshops, etc. Data collected to be entered into SWIMS. Two AIS Program Assistant LTE positions are for 500 hours each at \$12/hr. One AIS Lead Program Assistant LTE position is for 800 hours at \$15/hr. This position will be a field supervisor w/experience and will be responsible for end-of-season reporting and data entry (Sept.) and early season projects (April). (\$500.00)

In 2020, LWCD welcomed Aubrey Nycz back for her fifth year as the AIS Lead Project Assistant, and welcomed new hire, Rachel Cook, AIS Project Assistant, to the AIS Team. In 2021, Aubrey returned for the 6th summer and AIS Lead Project Assistant. Due to lack of applicants, the second AIS LTE position did not get filled for the 2021 field season.

Aubrey started May 23, 2020, completed 472.50 hours on August 21, 2020, and wages totaled \$7,904.36. Rachel started May 22, 2020, completed 520 hours on August 21, 2020, and wages totaled \$6,944.48. In 2021, Aubrey started May 29, 2021, completed 129 hours on June 30, 2021 (the end of the grant), and wages totaled \$2,142.63. The 2020 and 2021 wages of the above employees will satisfy project 4A in AEPP-60320.

In 2020 and 2021, the LTE's worked 8.00 hour days, five days a week. Their schedules varied a bit due to COVID, but for the majority of the time, they conducted CBCW inspections two days a week and worked in the office and in the field three days a week.

Aubrey instructed one CBCW training and was a guest speaker at the Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens Annual meeting and at a rule's meeting for a Bass fishing tournament. Rachel conducted a CBCW training at the Hasbrook Lake boat landing.

The LTE's assisted the AIS Coordinator with organizing and implementing CBCW and CLMN trainings, Drain Campaign, Landing Blitz, AIS Snapshot Day, Bait Shop Outreach and other outreach events. They contributed articles to the AIS newsletters and took the lead at updating the AIS page on the LWCD's website. Additionally, they were dependable in all areas of field work including AIS early detection monitoring and water quality monitoring, AIS management and removal, biocontrol, collecting GIS data, and reporting. Additionally, they assisted with local lake groups with AIS monitoring and management and provided rapid response to citizen's reports of new AIS populations.

Individual projects were also accomplished by each LTE. Aubrey developed a "Boater Movement Map" utilizing CBCW data. Aubrey and Rachel designed SAH wristbands and lanyards that were used as outreach items. Aubrey created a brochure called "Purple Loosestrife and its Native Look-A-Likes. This two-sided brochure was created to help people identify PL and 7 of the most common native look-a-like plants found in the Northwoods.

Aubrey was the field leader and worked extensively with lake monitoring, mapping and report management. Aubrey also worked on the AIS year-end report, created a handout for fishing tournaments, and updated a Spiny Water Flea poster that she designed the previous year, to utilize as an educational tool during watercraft inspections and at various events. The LTE's were required to write a weekly reports (included in Appendix D).

CBCW

Due to COVID-19 and lack of applicants, the 2021 AIS LTE staff was reduced from the anticipated two AIS LTE's to one AIS LTE. Because of the lack of staff during the 2021 season, the projected 625 hours of CBCW was short by 139.75 hours. For full details of the AIS Teams 2020 and 2021 CBCW activities, please refer to section 2e of this report.

Responding to Citizens Reports of Suspected AIS

During the 2020 season, the LTE's responded to newly detected AIS as well as to citizens' reports of possible new AIS sightings. This includes PL, YI, and EWM, and Chinese mystery snails. The Team identified, photographed, mapped, collected, reported, vouchered, and communicated suspected AIS. Additionally, the Team provided case-specific communications as well as monitoring and management guidance and/or assistance as needed.

Lake Monitoring

In 2020, the LTE's monitored 15 waterbodies for AIS early detection and baseline water quality testing. Of the 15 lakes monitored, they identified, mapped and, and reported six (6) new occurrences of AIS on five (5) lakes. This includes Chinese mystery snails banded mystery snails in Alva Lake, Chinese mystery snails in Bolger Lake, Chinese mystery snails in Sevenmile Lake, Yellow Iris in Sureshot Lake, and aquatic forget-me-not in Two Sisters Lake. Lake monitoring reports are included in Appendix D.

All AIS species were identified, photographed, collected, mapped, reported, vouchered, and communicated to the DNR's AIS Coordinator. Additionally, the Team provided case-specific communications as well as monitoring and management guidance and/or assistance as needed. Lake monitoring is in collaboration with the DNR, CLMN program. The AIS Team follows the DNR's monitoring protocols and collected data is entered into the DNR's data base.

Lake Monitoring Data Collected: Suspected invasive species samples, AIS high-risk areas, Secchi disk readings, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, water column appearance, water color, and perception of water quality, shoreline and woody habitat notes, and GPS coordinates.

Areas Observed: Perimeter of whole lake's littoral zone, including beaches and boat landings, inlets, and outlets, under and around docks and piers. Snorkeling 200 feet of shoreline and littoral zone of the high-risk areas if needed.

Methodology: Visual surveys are conducted around the entire shoreline's littoral zone. Several methods are used to achieve the survey: survey from the canoe, walking along the shoreline and shallow areas, use the aqua view scopes, sift through vegetation, check underwater solid surfaces, and snorkeling 200 feet of shoreline and littoral zone at designated points (high-risk areas).

Monitoring waterbodies adjacent to State Natural Areas and Other Public Lands: Of the 17 lakes monitored, 14 lakes were located adjacent to public lands.

2020 Lakes Monitoring							
Lake Name	WBIC #	Date Monitored	Size (acres)	Present AIS	New AIS	Public Land Adjacent?	Field Staff
Alva Lake	968100	7/23/2020	199	None	BMS, CMS	CF	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Bass Lake	970000	5/31/2020	67	None	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Bolger Lake	973000	8/5/2020	115	None	CMS	ST	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Buffalo Lake	974200	7/15/2020	105	CMS, PL	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Dorothy Lake	981200	7/3/2020	96	CMS	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz, Thomas Boisvert
Hanson Lake	988200	7/16/2020	35	None	None	None	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Hawk lake	988800	8/5/2020	10	None	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Hemlock Lake	989200	6/11/2020	38	PL	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Indian Lake	1598900	7/30/2020	354	CMS, FJ	None	None	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Rice Lake	1617200	7/30/2020	122	None	None	SNA	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Sevenmile Lake	1605800	8/12/2020	518	NLC, RC	CMS	SNA, SF	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Sureshot Lake	1021000	6/11/2020	19	PL, RMG	YI	SF	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Thunder Lake	1580400	7/29/2020	182	None	None	None	Aubrey, Rachel
Two Sisters Lake	1588200	7/15/2020	719	BMS, CMS, RC	AFMN	None	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Swamp Creek	5583266	7/8/2020	154	None	None	None	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
2021 Lake Monitoring							
Lake Name	WBIC #	Date Monitored	Size (acres)	Present AIS	New AIS	Public Land?	Field Staff
Buffalo Lake	974200	8/20/2021	105	RC, PL, YI	None	Yes	Steph Boismenu, Audrey Nycz
Gilmore Lake	1589300	8/3/2021	314	CMS, CLP, H.Cattail, NLC	BMS	Yes	Steph Boismenu, Audrey Nycz
Perch Lake	1010800	7/22/2021	22	CMS	None	Yes	Steph Boismenu, Audrey Nycz
Sureshot Lake	1021000	7/19/2021	19	PL, RMG, YI	None	Yes	Steph Boismenu, Audrey Nycz
Townline Lake	1023100	7/29/2021	61	CMS	None	Yes	Steph Boismenu, Audrey Nycz

AIS monitoring and Signage Checks at Boat Landings

In 2020, the LTE’s visited 17 boat landings to conduct AIS monitoring and check the status of the AIS signage. Three new AIS were discovered: rusty crayfish in the WI River at Hat Rapids Dam, narrow leaf cattail at Sweeny Lake and purple loosestrife at Buffalo Lake The loosestrife at Buffalo Lake is a known AIS in that lake and but has not been noted as “verified” in SWIMS. An additional 13 landings were checked in 2021, however only visits were conducted during the duration of this grant.

2020 AIS and Signage Checks at Boat Landings							
Lake Name	WBIC #	Date Monitored	Size (acres)	Present AIS	New AIS	Public Land?	Field Staff
Bass Lake	970000	7/8/2020	67	None	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Big Carr Lake	971600	5/31/2020	209	CMS, FJ, PL, RC	None	SNA, SF	Aubrey Nycz
Boom Lake	1580200	6/5/2020	365	AFMN, CMS, CLP	None	None	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Buffalo Lake	974200	5/31/2020	105	CMS	PL	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Carrol Lake	1544800	5/31/2020	330	BMS, CMS, PL, RC	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Clear Lake	977500	5/31/2020	873	CMS, FJ	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Cunard Lake	1590000	5/31/2020	44	CMS	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Dorothy Lake	981200	7/3/2020	96	CMS	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Gilmore Lake	1589300	5/31/2020	314	CMS, CLP, HC, NLC	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Hat Rapids Flowage	1536725	6/5/2020	295	CMS	RC	None	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
Lake Minocqua	1542400	5/31/2020	1339	BMS, CMS, CLP, EWM, FR, PL, RC	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Madeline Lake	1544700	5/31/2020	172	BMS, CMS, PL, RC	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Pickereel Lake	1590400	5/31/2020	581	AFMN, BMS, CMS	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Rainbow Flowage	1595300	5/31/2020	3153	BMS, CMS, CLP, EWM, RC	None	None	Aubrey Nycz
Sureshot Lake	1021000	5/31/2020	19	PL, RMG	None	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Sweeny Lake	1589600	5/31/2020	191	CMS, PL	NLC	SF	Aubrey Nycz
Townline Lake	1023100	6/5/2020	61	CMS	None	NF	Aubrey Nycz, Rachel Cook
2021 AIS and Signage Checks at Boat Landings							
Lake Name	WBIC #	Date Monitored	Size (acres)	Present AIS	New AIS	Public Land?	Field Staff
Townline Lake	1023100	6/10/2021	61	CMS	None	No	Aubrey Nycz
Kawaguesaga Lake	1542300	6/14/2021	700	AFMN, BMS, CMS, CLP, EWM, FR, NLC, PL, RC, YI	None	No	Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Lake Minocqua	1542400	6/14/2021	1339	BMS, CMS, CLP, EWM, FR, PL, RC	None	No	Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Pelican Lake	1579900	8/5/2021	3545	AFMN, BMS, CMS, CLP, EWM, HC, OWL, PL, RC, YI	None	No	Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Pelican Lake	1579900	8/5/2021	3545	AFMN, BMS, CMS, CLP, EWM, HC, OWL, PL, RC, YI	None	No	Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Pelican Lake	1579900	8/5/2021	3545	AFMN, BMS, CMS, CLP, EWM, HC, OWL, PL, RC, YI	None	No	Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Big Stone Lake		8/17/2021			None		Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Big Fork Lake		8/17/2021		Sign installed	None		Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Lone Stone Lake		8/17/2021		Sign installed	None		Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Sevenmile Lake		8/17/2021			None		Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Long Lake	1544700	8/17/2021	113	EWM	None		Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Burnt Rollaway Dam		8/17/2021			None		Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz
Burnt Rollaway Hoist		8/17/2021			None		Steph Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz

Photos, daily reports, surveys, and samples of lake monitoring reports outreach are included in Appendix A, C, and D.

- 4a. Budget \$500.00
- Total Expense \$12,067.04 Details of expenses are included in Appendix G.
- Some mileage was incurred for the above project (Appendix E).

4b. Continue control/restoration/monitoring of existing and new Yellow Iris (YI) and Purple Loosestrife (PL), and flowering rush sites. In particular; Hodag Park, Big Carr/Little Carr (SNA), Crescent, Minocqua, Planting Ground, Deer, Dog, Tomahawk Lakes and Quality Inn and roadside sites. Collaborate with Lake Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Property Owners Association, Tomahawk Lake Association, and Three Lakes Waterfront Association to monitor and manage YI and PL. Additionally, aim to assist 2 private citizens in restoration initiatives. (\$50.00)

In 2020 and 2021, the AIS Team monitored, managed, and removed YI and PL populations throughout the county, and provided rapid response to citizen's reports of suspected AIS populations.

Yellow Iris Projects

In 2020 and 2021, The AIS Team conducted yellow iris data collection and control at several locations throughout Oneida County including sites at Indian Mounds boat landing, Stacks Bay boat landing, and Boom Lake boat landing at Hodag Park. GPS coordinates were collected and if the plant was too big to hand remove, the AIS Team managed the plant by clipping the flowers.

Yellow Iris Fact Sheet

The AIS Coordinator, in partnership with the TLWA, created a Yellow Iris Fact Sheet for the TLWA to distribute to their members. Before going to print, the fact sheet was proofread by Sandy Wickman, DNR, and the final version received her blessing. The TLWA printed and laminated over 500 copies of the fact sheet and mailed them to every TLWA member. The Yellow Iris Fact Sheet is included in Appendix C.

Yellow Iris Survey on the Three Lakes Chain

In 2019, the LWCD AIS Coordinator partnered with the TLWA to conduct a yellow iris survey on the Three Lakes Chain. The goal is to survey a couple of lakes on the chain each year and provide the TLWA and impacted riparian owners with knowledge of the locations and implement rapid response measures.

On June 25, 2019, AIS Coordinator joined Jay Teagle, volunteer with the TLWA, on his pontoon boat to locate and record yellow iris populations and densities on Big Lake, Deer Lake, and Dog Lake of the Three Lakes Chain. The AIS Coordinator obtained GPS coordinates and clipped flower heads. The survey continued in 2020 and 2021.

On June 22, 2020, Aubrey Nycz, AIS LTE, joined Bruce Renquist, Volunteer with the TLWA, on his pontoon boat to collect GPS coordinates and clip flowers on Medicine Lake and Little Fork Lake.

On June 25, 2020, both AIS LTE's joined Bruce Renquist on his pontoon boat and spent the entire day collecting GPS coordinates and clipping flowers on Big Fork Lake. It was determined that the process is much smoother and quicker if one LTE collects the GPS coordinates while the other LTE clips flower heads.

On June 18, 2021, LWCD AIS Coordinator and AIS LTE joined Bruce Renquist on his pontoon and set out to collect coordinates and clip flowers on Medicine Lake and Little Fork Lake. On June 23, 2021, the same crew finished surveying Little Fork Lake and then surveyed Big Fork Lake to compare 2020 and 2021 data. When we were able, we spoke with homeowners to educate them on how they can get rid of or control the yellow iris growing along their shorelines.

The complete Yellow Iris Survey Report is located in Appendix D.

PL Projects:

In 2020, LWCD managed PL throughout Oneida County by removing plants and clipping seed heads conducting PL biocontrol, and by providing PL education, outreach, and rapid response to citizens’ reports of PL sightings. The AIS Team also worked extensively on the PL around Buffalo Lake.

Since 2015, the LWCD AIS Team has conducted large PL Biocontrol and beetle rearing projects that included collaborative efforts with the McNaughton Correctional Facility and the TLWA (see report under section 4D). However, due to COVID, the beetle rearing tents were not set-up in Three Lakes and the biocontrol program was scaled back significantly.

In 2021, the AIS Team assisted Minocqua Lake residents Ted and Ruth Wrona, with setting up PL beetle rearing operation at their home. A total of 7 pots produced between 700-1000 beetles and the AIS Team assisted the Wrona’s with releasing them into their waterfront wetland that is choked with PL.

In 2019, the AIS Team created a brochure called “Purple Loosestrife and its Native Look-A-Likes”. This two-sided brochure helps citizens correctly identify PL from the most common native look-a-like plants found in the Northwoods. Additionally, The AIS Team distrusted a brochure called “Plant This Instead” that the Team designed in 2013. This brochure was created as an educational tool for restoration of YI and PL affected wetlands and shorelines and features YI, PL and their native look-alikes that can be planted instead of the invasive. Both brochures were distributed at trainings and posted on the LWCD website.



Restoration

In 2020, the LWCD continued germinating and growing a large supply of native species to use for restoration efforts. The plants are kept in seed frames located at the AIS Coordinators back yard. The plants are used by the AIS Team to plant in the place of the invasive’s and given to citizens who are removing invasive’s from their property.



- 4b. Budget \$50.00
- Expenses \$0. (No expenses were incurred for this project).
- Some mileage was incurred for the above project (Appendix E).

4c. Continue to control/restoration/monitoring of PROHIBITED invasive plant species sites. Phragmites: Hwy 8, roadside stand, Rhinelander Flowage stand on private property, and Hwy 70 stand on private property adjacent to Tomahawk River. Glyceria maxima 'Variegata' in Sureshot Lake adjacent to State forest. (\$50.00)

Non-native Phragmites Monitoring

The LWCD AIS Team monitored the Rhinelander Flowage non-native phragmites site on June 4, 2020 and monitored the Hwy 8 phragmites site on June 10, 2020 and June 30, 2021 and did not find any new growth. In 2016, the LWCD restored this site with native species and the native vegetation has done well since. At this time, there is no need to plant additional natives at this site.

Variegated Glyceria Maxima

In 2015, the LWCD AIS Team removed a stand of variegated Glyceria maxima from Sureshot Lake. Since then, the AIS Team visits Sureshot Lake every year to search for new growth of variegated Glyceria maxima and fortunately, there has not been any reoccurrence. The AIS Team monitored Sureshot Lake on June 11, 2020 and July 19, 2021 and did not observe any variegated Glyceria maxima.

4d. Coordinate a Purple Loosestrife (PL) biocontrol project, to include a beetle rearing project with the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. Project will be targeted at containing larger populations that cannot be hand-pulled. Smaller PL populations will continue to be controlled via flower-clipping and hand-digging.

In 2019, the LWCD collaborated with the TLWA to undertake a large PL biocontrol beetle rearing operation for the purpose of managing a wetland PL site on Planting Ground Lake in the Three Lakes Chain. LWCD obtained two 6'x6'x12' beetle rearing cages from the DNR, to set-up at the Three Lakes Petroleum Museum, which is a perfect location with accessible water, lots of space and sun exposure.

Due to COVID, the 2020 biocontrol project in Three Lakes was cancelled. However, the LWCD did rear a few pots of beetles and released them in the Three Lakes area.

On May 18, 2021, the LWCD and a team of TLWA volunteers met at the PL host plant site, located at the Quality Inn in Rhinelander, to dig-up and pot the PL rootstock/host plants. A total of 75 two-gallon pots received at least one rootstock. The two teams then transferred the plants to the beetle rearing site in Three Lakes, assembled the two cages, and set-up the plants in the cages. The TLWA set-up a volunteer "plant watering" schedule and kept an eye on the plants over the plants for the duration.

A few weeks later, the starter beetles arrived at the LWCD office and the AIS Team promptly drove them to Three Lakes and placed about 10 beetles on each host plant. During the rearing stage, each female PL beetle laid approximately 100 eggs. By mid-summer, about 11,000 beetles were ready to be released. The AIS Team, assisted by the TLWA, released over 10,000 beetles into the wetland on Planting Ground Lake and 1,000 beetles at 6 additional PL sites throughout Oneida County.

TLWA volunteers monitor this site and are happy to report that the biocontrol has been working extremely well. 2022 biocontrol plans are already underway.

PL beetle release data was entered into SWIMS.

Paul Matthiae, volunteer with TLWA, assisted the AIS Team with PL biocontrol on Planting Ground Lake and PL mapping throughout the Three Lakes Chain.

LWCD hopes to see an increase in restoration management partnerships with other management units, lake associations, and private citizens in the future.

4d. Budget \$50.00

Expense \$14.38 (Expense details are included in Appendix G).



4e. LWCD to continue coordinating and implementing Pelican Lake CLMN Zebra Mussel Monitoring project with the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association (PLPOA), DNR, and CLMN, to include 1 workshop. In 2015, LWCD discovered two dead zebra mussel shells at the Pelican Lake boat landing. In 2015, LWCD and DNR completed mussel veliger tows, which resulted in no new occurrences of zebra mussels. In 2016 and 2017, the LWCD monitored Pelican Lake for mussels and no new occurrences were discovered. In 2018 and 2019, LWCD coordinated and implemented the Pelican Lake CLMN Zebra Mussel Monitoring project with the DNR, CLMN, and PLPOA. Lake-wide monitoring was conducted by 12 PLPOA volunteers and LWCD and resulted in no new occurrences of Zebra Mussels. Pelican Lake is located 19 miles to the West of zebra mussel infested Lake Metonga (Forest County).

Due to COVID, the 2020 zebra mussel training did not take place. Two PLPOA monitored Pelican Lake for zebra mussels using the veliger plates. No occurrences of zebra mussels have been detected.

4e. Budget: \$60.00
Total Expenses \$0 (No cost were incurred for this project)

4i. Assist DNR with PI surveys and early detection monitoring on eligible lakes in 2020. Assist with report writing and data entry for a minimum of one lake.

The LWCD AIS Team was available to assist the DNR with PI surveys. However, assistance was not needed.

4i. Budget \$0. (Costs associated with 4a)

4g. Purchase two new ProSolo hand-held DO meters. Provide and maintain dissolved oxygen meter for CLMN volunteers, LWCD staff, and concentration monitoring projects. Calibrate after each use and log calibration data. Yearly purchase and replacement of sensor cap.

LWCD purchased two (2) YSI ProSolo handheld ODO/T meters to replace the old Hatch DO meter. In 2020 and 2021, the DO meters were used by the LWCD AIS Team and CLMN volunteers from Alva Lake, D&L Lake, Hancock Lake, Squash Lake, and Tom Doyle Lake. The DO Meter sign-out sheets and calibration logs are included in Appendix D.

4g. Budget \$4,700.00
Expenses \$4,365.20 (Expense details are included in Appendix G).

Conclusion

Considering we are in the middle of a pandemic, the education, prevention, and public awareness continued in the county by holding trainings online and a few in-person, participating in statewide AIS campaigns, producing newsletters, informational handouts, press releases, and fact sheets. Furthermore, the hiring of AIS LTE's provided valuable AIS proactive and reactive measures.

The AIS 'Lakes List' has grown to over 300 contacts, regional and school partners continue to grow (the Northwoods' Invasive Species Poster Contest is now statewide). County relationships continue to expand by working with local groups such the TLWA, PLPOA, Minocqua Kawaguesaga Lake Protection Association, Lake Nokomis Concerned Citizens, Lake Nokomis Lake District, Squash Lake District, Tomahawk Lake Association, WI Valley Improvement Corporation, and with several Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA's); notably WHIP, Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, and Timberland Invasive Partnership.

In 2020, the LWCD collaborated on AIS projects with volunteers from Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association (OCLRA), and the TLWA. OCLRA spent a great deal of time writing, editing, and distributing the publication 'Doing the Right Thing for Our Lakes and Rivers.' This publication offers property owners the opportunity to understand how and why they may wish to protect their shoreline and provides guidance for all who love to use our lakes and rivers. The AIS Coordinator created a 'Yellow Flag Fact Sheet' in partnership with the TLWA.

Additionally, LWCD is proud, and fortunate to maintain support and collaboration through its statewide partnerships with the DNR, UW Extension Lakes, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. LWCD continues to work with our partners on a number of projects, notably the Draining Campaign, Landing Blitz, AIS Snapshot Day, CBCW Boater Behavior Project, Bait Dealer Initiative, CBCW and CLMN programs. These valuable partnerships increase the success of keeping new AIS from entering Oneida County's watershed and reducing the spread of AIS within Oneida County's borders.