Co Courthouse

**Bayfield County**

**Aquatic Invasive Species Project**



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

January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

**Progress Report**

Prepared January 2021

Prepared by:

Andrew Teal –Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator

Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department

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

**Housed under the:**

**Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department**

County Conservationist- Ben Dufford

Department Clerk- Melissa Kraft

Conservation Technician- Travis Tulowitzky

Northwoods CWMA Coordinator- Ramona Shackleford

**Aquatic Invasive Species Committee**

Chair - Nan Olson-Long Lake Property Owners Association President

Vice Chair- Vacant

Jeremy Oswald-County Board Supervisor

Larry Fickbohm- County Board Supervisor

Reed Saam-Red Cliff Natural Resource Division

Vacant-Business Representative/Citizen Member

Sally Pease-Clean Boats Clean Waters Coordinator, Citizen Member

**Land Conservation Committee**

Chair - Fred Strand-County Board Supervisor

Vice Chair- Marty Milanowski-County Board Supervisor

David Zepczyk-County Board Supervisor

Tom Snilsberg-County Board Supervisor

Melissa Netz-FSA Representative

Peter Tetzner-Citizen Member

***2020 Bayfield County AIS Efforts***

In 2020, we altered the Bayfield County AIS Project to accommodate what we could, and canceled or postponed what we could not, due to the coronavirus pandemic. These include: attending local and state discussions and meetings, planning/creating a presentation regarding decontamination stations and the updated county No Transport Ordinance; working with landowners to protect their shorelines through the Surface Water Conservation Specialist position; and worked with the Northwoods CWMA and Bayfield County Land Records to collect drone aerial imagery of selected invasive plant population sites. Highlights of 2020 include collaborating on and implementing monthly Invasive Species ID Days at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in a virtual format... Through the use of technology (and when in-person gatherings were necessary, masking and social distancing) we were able to maintain connections to other professionals and provide our services to the public.

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

* Managed CBCW grant for Protecting Iron River Lakes-coordinated with the CBCW Coordinators at the Pike Chain and Long Lake, the County Administrator, County Conservationist, AIS Committee, and North Lakes Community Clinic to establish payroll for inspectors in 2020 (since those discussions, we put the official program on hold and rolled the funds over to 2021).
* Provided AIS information and technical guidance to the Town of Barnes regarding: the Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH); the addendum involving DASH as part of their Aquatic Plant Management Plan; and furnished them with edits for the grant application they submitted for AIS Established Population Control
* Collaborated with partners to plan monthly virtual Invasive Species ID Days (ISIDD) for the public from May-October. We partnered with the Northwoods CWMA, Ashland County Land & Water Conservation Dept., U.S. Forest Service, Master Gardeners, and DNR. We hosted a guest speaker at each event to talk about different aspects and types of invasive species. These appearances included professionals from: the Northwoods CWMA, WI DNR, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service.
* County participation in the Lake Ecology Education Project (LEEP) in Barnes (with the Drummond 7th graders) and teaching lessons in the classroom and on field trips was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, discussion and planning is ongoing to determine how to catch up the classes that were not able to participate, so they don’t have to go without that unique experience.
* There are additional activities, provided in AIS Coordinator Reports/Updates at end of this document.

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

* Partners and consultants helped survey eighteen lakes in Bayfield County this year. The AIS Coordinator worked with the WI DNR Lake Superior Basin AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response Coordinator, DNR personnel, volunteers, the St. Croix River Association, U.S. Forest Service, and interns with Bayfield County. We also worked with consultants Harmony Environmental and Endangered Resource Services, LLC to work on plans for these lakes. Some lakes with ongoing management had point intercept (PI) and SCUBA surveys.

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| --- | --- |
| **Lakes and Rivers Surveyed** | **AIS Detected** |
| Lake Owen (shoreline meander)\* | Chinese Mystery Snails (CMS), Yellow Iris (YI) |
| George Lake (shoreline meander) | None (known to have Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), but it has not been observed since treatment in 2012) |
| Middle Eau Claire Lake\* | For CLP populations-previously known AIS also noted |
| Upper Eau Claire Lake \* | For CLP populations-previously known AIS also noted |
| Tomahawk Lake\* | EWM |
| Sandbar Lake\* | EWM |
| Atkins Lake-at the outlet (Land Records drone imagery) | Yellow Iris\*\* |
| Lake Namakagon\* | Hybrid watermilfoil-new populations, not new species |
| Siskiwit Lake | None |
| Bony Lake\* | Yellow Iris |
| Bony Creek | Yellow iris\*\* |
| Pike Chain-Buskey Bay, Twin Bear Lakes (PI surveys, EDR survey) | EWM—PI surveys were follow-up for treatments, which seemed effective, except for southern Buskey Bay; EDR survey for anything else—found new population of yellow iris\*\* |
| Smith Lake on Eau Claire Chain (volunteer discovery) | CLP\*\* |
| Cranberry River estuary (LSRI survey discovery) | Queen of the Meadow\*\*(pulled, sprayed) |
| Port Wing estuary (LSRI survey discovery) | Queen of the Meadow\*\*(pulled, sprayed), 1 purple loosestrife plant |
| Fish Creek (LSRI survey discovery) | Moneywort\*\*, yellow iris, purple loosestrife |
| Sioux River wetland (LSRI survey discovery) | Purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed\*\*, yellow iris\*\* |
| Lost Creek wetland (LSRI survey discovery) | Yellow iris\*\* |

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

\*\*New Discoveries in 2020

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

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

* Reported Yellow Iris, Purple Loosestrife, and Japanese/Bohemian/Giant knotweed sites via the Kobo Toolbox app and SWIMS database
* Partnered with the NCWMA Coordinator to GPS locations of Japanese, Bohemian, and giant knotweed sites.
* Through partnership with the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, maintained knotweed spreadsheets for tracking control dates and methods, landowner information, and population locations
* Removed numerous yellow iris plants from Bony Creek and Atkins Lake.
* Served as a contact for the HWM control project on Lake Namakagon in the event of questions; however, the HWM has spread to many new areas of the lake. A scheduled diquat treatment near the outlet happened covering two acres.
* Worked with Travis Tulowitzky, a landowner family, Gruel Landscaping, and the Namakagon Lake Association (NLA) on a native shoreline planting project. Approximately half the funding ($3000) came from a Healthy Lakes grant the NLA applied for, and most of the remaining amount (about $3000) was eligible for cost-sharing through the Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department. The landowners covered the remainder.
* Shared information between interested parties regarding novel ideas for controlling Chinese mystery snails
* Provided guidance in hand pulling and Diver Assisted Suction Harvester control efforts of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil on the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes
* Updated AIS locations

**Goal D: Maintain and Expand Partnerships**

* The Invasive Species ID Days, which gained popularity, and we added partners. Our partners with the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area, Master Gardeners, Superior Rivers Watershed Association, WI DNR, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, UW-Extension. We included the UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility.
* Ramona Shackleford (Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator) has attended Bayfield County AIS Committee and Land Conservation Committee meetings and provided reports. I attended many of her virtual meetings to plan management of invasive plants at several sites, especially knotweed.
* Due to technological barriers to Committee members and the risk of infection from attending in person, held one County AIS Committee meeting at Bayfield County (see attached minutes). Tentative aim to restart meetings in late February 2021.
* Went to three virtual statewide AIS Coordinator meetings, attended the virtual Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention (and moderated for a day), served on the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference planning committee and moderated two sessions at the Conference
* Began attending meetings of the still relatively newly formed Western Lake Superior Collaborative Group. We are all still developing communication strategies, goals, objectives, and roles.
* Worked with Harmony Environmental, the Lake Owen Association, and several other partners to discuss implementing decontamination stations, and pass updated language for the AIS No Transport ordinance at a countywide level.

***Other accomplishments***

The reports prepared for the Bayfield County AIS Committee and Land Conservation Committee (LCC) have been included with this document. These reports list other activities the AIS project has done in support of this grant and the Bayfield County AIS Strategic Plan. Please note that AIS Committee and LCC meetings almost always happen within a few days of each other (with 2020 being the exception), and the reporting is the same, so I usually just write one report to use at both meetings. The minutes of the Bayfield County AIS committee are also included to provide further information on the AIS planning efforts in Bayfield County.

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

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

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

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

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

**AGENDA**

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions

1. Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes from 11-20-2019
3. Grant Updates/Discussion-Clean Boats Clean Waters: Lake Superior and Iron River changes for 2020
4. Discussion/possible action-swearing in new Committee member
5. Update: AIS No Transport Ordinance decontamination language addition

1. AIS Coordinator’s Report
2. Partner/Department Reports
3. Future AIS/Surface Water Activities
   1. WI Lakes & Rivers Convention, April 1-3, 2020, Stevens Point
   2. Invasive Species ID Days in 2020-May at Bayfield In Bloom; June 26, July 10, August 14, September 4 are all at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (NGLVC)
   3. Northwest WI Lakes Conference, June 19, 2020, Spooner High School
   4. AIS Snapshot Day, August 15, 2020, statewide-rendezvous site TBD
   5. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, October 12-14, 2020, Duluth MN
   6. Student Science Research Symposium, October 16, 2020 at NGLVC
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

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

**MINUTES**

**February 26th, 2020 (to be approved)**

*Present:* Nan Olson-Chair, Jim Krueger-Vice Chair, Sally Pease-Eau Claire Lakes Association, Eric North-Ecologist-US Forest Service, Andrew Teal-AIS Coordinator, Ramona Shackleford-NCWMA Coordinator, Reed Saam-Red Cliff Treaty Natural Resources Division, & Melissa Kraft-LWCD Assistant

Absent: Jeremy Oswald-Board of Supervisor District #5; Larry Fickbohm-Board of Supervisor District #3

Nan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Introductions:** Introductions roundtable.

**Public Comment:**  None.

**Motion:** Approve minutes from November 20th, 2020. Pease/Saam – motion carried.

**Grant Updates**

Andy discussed there was a shortfall of match for CBCW-Iron River, as the DNR didn’t accept decontamination equipment time for match. Also, the Lake Association’s check was not accepted as match because it needed to be spent on qualifying grant/project expenses to count as match, but the check was received after grant activities/expenses had concluded for the season. There is ongoing discussion on whether we will take on the CBCW-IR and CBCW-LS grants in 2020 because we are not certain we would be able to come up with the needed match. Mileage is not a reimbursable cash expense, nor does it qualify as match, and there aren’t available matching funds we know of to utilize for those uncovered cash expenses. We received two advanced payment checks from the DNR for the 25% advance payment checks on both grants; however, we have not cashed them yet. Until we determine whether we will be able to commit to overseeing the grants, we will hold onto the checks.

Andy noted that to make match for CBCW-IR donated cash for match would need to come at the beginning of the grant and the funds spent on eligible expenses prior to the end of the grant period to qualify as match. Volunteer time would be needed for match too, if donated funds do not meet or exceed the minimum needed. Approximately 556 hours would be needed for the CBCW-IR grant if solely relying on volunteer time, but fewer hours would be required, depending on the amount of donated cash. The CBCW- Iron River grant needs a minimum of 200 hours at each landing to meet grant requirements, and that time can be paid, volunteer, or both. Volunteer time at any landing counts toward the overall grant total for match. Krueger asked if there is a possibility of the Iron River township putting “room tax” dollars received towards match as he explained they receive “room tax” funds and feels the work CBCW does helps the lakes that promote tourism. Olson will contact the Iron River township and see if that is a possibility to secure for a funding source for the grant. Saam also noted they have funds to hire interns but haven’t begun the process yet, but that they could possibly be utilized for some of the volunteer hours needed at the landings. He will talk to his boss about the possibility and will follow up with Andy. Pease noted she is looking for a volunteer alternate as well for Barnes. Olson noted she will follow up on some ideas as well. Andy stated that for Bayfield Co to take on the CBCW grants in 2020, match commitments would need to be in writing with those receiving funds and/or contributing match prior to taking on the grants or we may not be committing to taking on the grants.

Update on AIS No Transport Ordinance: decontamination language addition. Some changes were made to the existing ordinance to address requirements to use decontamination stations on boat landings in the county where and when they are available. It was brought before the Land Conservation Committee on February 21st for their review and approval. It was approved and forwarded on to the full county board of supervisors for review and approval. Andy will provide a copy of the ordinance to Eric North and Nan Olson.

It was noted that the decontamination unit at Lake Owen will be in a new area this year by the campground as last year’s location did not get a lot of use. Discussion on ideal locations for decontamination station(s) at various landings was further discussed.

AIS #6: The current expenses incurred thus far in 2020 amounts to $3,740.71.

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

**Partner/Department Reports:**

**Reed Saam:** Reported that they will be conducting their usual lake monitoring/collections this year.

**Jim Krueger:** Received reports from Matt Berg on Jackson, Garden, and Namakagon Lakes. No change other than some weed beds that weren’t treated last year increased in size but they plan on treating them this year. Hybrid watermilfoil beds that were treated 3-4 yrs ago are smaller to almost completely gone, which means the treatments worked. Discussion regarding property boundaries and whether NPS will need to be involved in upcoming treatments.

**Sally Pease:** Noted that with the water table being up, a channel is opening a little. The town has cut trees in the area so she hopes that with the hand pulling they made a dent with the curly-leaf pondweed (CLP). On Upper Eau Claire Lake the CLP was under control more than in the past except for a deep spot in the lake. Work will continue on the various lakes and an additional diver will be utilized this year on alternating shifts (morning/afternoon). The LEEP field trip will take place on May 13th and Pease asks that if anyone is willing to volunteer to please contact her. She also noted that she will be on PBS on Outdoor Wisconsin talking about the museum and its ancient elk horns on display there.

**Eric North:** Started last Monday as the Ecologist with the US Forest Service here in Washburn. He will be attending the Enbridge meeting next Tuesday. Enbridge now owns a property infested with garlic mustard in Mellen, along a possible pipeline route. Discussions regarding preventing the spread of invasive species if construction takes place, along with managing invasive species along existing pipeline corridors, will be topics. High priority invasive species and their locations, disturbance of seeds/plants, and best management practices will also be brought up. There is expectation that Enbridge communicate information to the US Forest Service and NCWMA regarding the invasives in that area as the construction/project proceeds. Enbridge has already communicated their willingness to do that.

**Ramona Shackleford report:** Dates have been set for this spring for Garlic Mustard pulls in areas such as Mellen, Washburn, Ashland, etc. Will be trying to obtain seasonal workers to help with the Boat Wash grant. Ramona also was in contact with Enbridge and Xcel Energy regarding invasive species in areas they will be working in that have known invasive plant populations.

**Future AIS Activities-**

* 1. WI Lakes & Rivers Convention, April 1-3, 2020, Stevens Point
  2. Invasive Species ID Days on May 8th, 2020- at Bayfield In Bloom; June 26, July 10, August 14, September 4 are all at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (NGLVC)
  3. Northwest WI Lakes Conference, June 19, 2020, Spooner High School
  4. AIS Snapshot Day, August 15, 2020, statewide-rendezvous site TBD
  5. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, October 12-14, 2020, Duluth MN
  6. Student Science Research Symposium, October 16, 2020 at NGLVC

**Other Business:** Reed discussed a feasibility study conducted to see if a Lake Superior Science Center could be sited on property owned by the City of Ashland. If this moves forward, it would be near the previous Oredock site. It is still in the early stages but would primarily be a research facility conducting projects on Lake Superior, with the potential capacity for education, retail space, and a few other things. The facility may also support future growth of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, NPS, and USGS.

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

The search continues for someone to fill this vacant spot.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Motion to adjourn Krueger/Pease.

**Future meeting dates** for regular AIS Committee meetings:

* **May 20th, 2020 at 9AM**
* **Aug 26th, 2020** **at 9AM**
* **Nov. 18th, 2020** **at 9AM**



**Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department**

615 2nd Avenue East, PO Box 126

Washburn, WI 54891

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Phone: 715-373-6167 Fax: 715-373-6127 Website: www.bayfieldcounty.org

**Staff Report | February 26, 2020**

Andy Teal

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

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Lake Superior**: Received full reimbursement for the 2019 grant, and a $3,000 advance payment for 2020 which we have not deposited. Discussion is ongoing as to whether we will have interns this year for CBCW-Lake Superior. If we do, for 2020 we have reduced our requested amount for this grant to $12,000 to cover three landings—City of Bayfield, Washburn Marina, and Short Bridge. We also plan to alter the position description to make it more appealing, hopefully reducing staff time at landings and increasing time spent doing other things with the NCWMA (hand pulling, surveys, educational events, etc.).
* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** Received reimbursement of $13,858.00 (plus the $5,000 advance from earlier in the year) for a total of $18,858.00 for 2019. This means we were unable to be reimbursed for $1,142.00. The reason: we could not use the power washer/decontamination equipment as match. If we are going to move forward with the program in 2020, we need to make some changes to ensure we can totally meet match using DNR requirements. We currently have a $5,000 advance, but we have not deposited it.
* **AIS Grant #6:** Currently has a balance of $61,208.09. This will fund the AIS half of the position while county funds support the other half through 2021.

**Activities Report**

* Created agenda and updates for County AIS Committee meeting, reviewed/edited minutes
* North Lakes Community Clinic has taken on payroll processing for the watercraft inspectors, filling the role previously held by the Town of Iron River. On November 27th, the NLCC hosted a debrief meeting regarding CBCW-Iron River and sought feedback about how the 2019 season went. I/we attended by phone (due to a snowstorm) and shared the experiences from our end and offered up recommendations and ideas.
* Attended two planning committee meetings for the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference. I invited Scott Galetka to present about drone use for surveying invasive plant populations in Bayfield County, and he accepted! I will be moderating this session. Bayfield County will also have a table exhibit set up there.
* Attended meetings Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (3), planning Invasive Species ID Days (2), and the Land Conservation Committee (1)
* The established partnership with North Lakes Community Clinic seems to be working well-they handle the payroll and logistics of housing watercraft inspectors working at the Pike Chain and Long Lake. They invoice on a monthly basis, rather than every two weeks as was the case at the Town of Iron River. There are several things we will request or recommend be changed for 2020 though, to increase transparency and make grant reporting and audits easier.
* Attended the Land Conservation Committee meeting. Content included Cheryl Clemens’ report on decontamination station language in our countywide AIS No Transport ordinance. We discussed options and drafted language and agreed that while a new ordinance was not likely to happen, adding some language to the existing ordinance would be considerably easier and better received.
* Met with Travis to discuss shoreland restoration, fish sticks, and possible upcoming projects that may involve cost-sharing. There has been interest from at least two landowners for shoreline restoration work, and another (representing nine landowners) for fish sticks. We plan to meet with the fish sticks landowner within the next few weeks. Travis also provided great guidance for filling out a DNR Individual Permit that focused on riprap using rocks and anchored logs to break up wave energy. I found it interesting that while there are a lot of attachments needed to complete the permit, each of them seems straightforward and not complicated. It helped that we already had most of the information required, making the process go much faster.
* Filed for final reimbursement on AIS Grant #5 and received full reimbursement, and the same for CBCW- Lake Superior and -Iron River. Applied for CBCW grants to have programs on Lake Superior and Iron River; we were awarded $12,000 and $20,000 respectively, BUT need to discuss changes if the program is to move forward. Match is getting too difficult to come up with. Filed for partial reimbursement of AIS Grant #6. Thanks for handling so much administration, Melissa!

**Future Activities**

* Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, April 1-3, 2020, in Stevens Point, WI-registration is open!
* Invasive Species ID Days, May at Bayfield In Bloom, and June 26, July 10, August 14, and September 4, all at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center.
* Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, June 19, 2020 in Spooner High School
* AIS Snapshot Day, statewide event, August 15, 2020. Rendezvous site TBD.
* Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC), October 12-14, 2020 at Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (the DECC) in Duluth MN-if you volunteer you can get some or all your registration covered!
* Student Science Research Symposium, October 16, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

**Staff Report | May 15, 2020**

Andy Teal

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

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Lake Superior**: We will not be hiring watercraft inspectors this year for Lake Superior.
* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** Received and deposited $5,000 advance. Plan to hold the grant until 2021 if the DNR allows it and use it then.
* **AIS Grant #6:** This will fund the AIS half of the position through 2021 while county funds support the other half.

**Activities Report**

* Learned more about surveying wetlands as part of the WLSAIS EDRR partnership effort, then attended a virtual meeting with the partnership
* Attended the first of two statewide AIS Partnership meetings (one will occur the next week as well). Ramona, Scott, and I met virtually right after this meeting to discuss possible plans for beetle rearing or collecting, depending on the situation and if we are allowed to travel.
* Received information from a landowner that wants to add a garage to his property, which will require a stormwater management plan for sure, possibly mitigation.
* Uploaded documents to SWIMS database
* Another landowner plans to eventually pursue building a gazebo, but will wait a while before doing that
* Made plans with landowners and the Healthy Lakes Grant and Walleye Project Coordinator for Lake Namakagon to visit a site and offer assistance however we can for rain gardens and native plantings. Reviewed the Controlling Runoff and Erosion from Your Waterfront Property: A Guide for Landowners for ideas.
* Moderated a whole day for the Climate Change stream at the online WI Lakes & Rivers Convention. In between introducing speakers, time keeping, and facilitating Q&A, I learned quite a bit. Everything from models that project what areas might get more precipitation and see new invasive species, to dwindling lake ice due to a warmer climate. From decreases in the wild rice harvest to trout stream resilience.
* Went out on four site visits (three in Barnes, one in Namakagon) with Travis. Took lots of notes about the properties while Travis laid out possible options for what landowners could do. Interestingly, all the properties in Barnes are concerned about shoreline erosion, but the options to address it are vastly different at each property. In Namakagon, they want to do a shoreline planting, though it is not necessarily tied to mitigation or shoreline erosion work. I am working on a planting plan for this site. It would be part of a larger project through a Healthy Lakes grant, and our efforts could help in as few or as many ways as the landowners are comfortable.
* Communicated and coordinated with partners for events ranging from virtual conferences to purple loosestrife beetle rearing to promoting online presentations regarding invasive species.
* Worked on developing the aforementioned planting plan for the property in Namakagon. It is quite sizeable for a native planting, measuring approximately 35 feet x 67 feet. It will likely take two seasons or more to plant, so it is being divided into at least two zones.
* Using examples provided by Travis from past native shoreland plantings, I wrote up a working draft of a native planting plan for a property on Lake Namakagon. I incorporated all of Travis’ feedback after his first read-through.
* Participated in many virtual meetings, including: the Town of Barnes AIS Committee (provided many updates regarding Covid-19 impacts of AIS work), Weed Warrior/Invasive Species ID Day planning revamp, the Lakes and Rivers monthly meeting, our weekly department staff meeting, and the Northwest WI Lakes Conference Planning Committee meeting (the plan is to go virtual with this conference)
* Discussed mechanical options for invasive planting removal (mostly hand pulling and cutting) for property owners on Cable Lake with Brian Szymanski, President of Cable Lake Association. The species they would tackle with volunteers (which would not be working in groups) are yellow iris and narrow leaf cattail. Purple loosestrife would maybe be included in this effort, but if the population is large enough, we may be able to use beetles. The only knotweed population that we know of at this lake will likely need to be sprayed by certified pesticide applicators (digging or cutting will only promote plant growth)
* Went out on seven site visits (some were revisits) with Travis and Stacy to assess shoreline erosion and discuss options with landowners. The primary items discussed were rock riprap, logs cabled into the shoreline, bio-logs, and native plantings in the buffer area

**Future Activities**

* Invasive Species ID Days, June 26, July 10, August 14, and September 4 – may go virtual
* Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, June 19, 2020 – online
* June 28-July 5: statewide Drain Campaign AND Landing Blitz week. Boaters choose between an ice pack and a microfiber towel (ice packs are mainly meant for anglers though
* AIS Snapshot Day, statewide event, August 15, 2020 - May go virtual
* Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC), October 12-14, 2020 - online

**Staff Report | August 21, 2020**

Andy Teal

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

**Grants**

* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Lake Superior**: We have not hired watercraft inspectors this year for Lake Superior.
* **Clean Boats Clean Waters-Iron River:** Received and deposited $5,000 advance. We are holding the grant until 2021 and plan to use it then.
* **AIS Grant #6:** This will fund the AIS half of the position through 2021 while county funds support the other half. The pandemic definitely altered much of what we normally do with this grant, and we have gotten creative about how to achieve goals, especially with educational events.

**Activities Report**

* Learned more about surveying wetlands as part of the WLSAIS EDRR partnership effort, then attended a virtual meeting with the partnership
* Delivered towels, face masks, and ice packs in two trips to lake associations across the county for the Drain Campaign/Landing Blitz weekend (which was cancelled for this year shortly thereafter), so those materials can be held until 2021 and distributed to boaters and anglers then.
* Created a farewell PowerPoint slide for Jeremy Bates since he accepted a full time position with the National Guard
* Ramona, Melissa, Scott Caven, and I, along with interns Kelly, Tim, Stacey, and Paul, gathered purple loosestrife for potting and then raised beetles on those plants in netted pots in an enclosed area at the Visitor Center farm.
* Collaborated with Land Records (Scott and Claire) to conduct drone surveys for invasive plants in several areas, including Atkins Lake for yellow iris and the Sioux River mouth, Cable Lake, and an unnamed lake next to Lakewoods Resort near Lake Namakagon for purple loosestrife. The Lake Superior Research Institute also worked with Land Records to get a drone survey of an area in Bark Bay coastal wetland, looking for native Phragmites.
* Communicated with Ben, Travis, and staff from Zoning about ongoing mitigations for landowner shoreline violations. Visited each site. One visit was with Tracy Pooler, and I took photos, made notes, and wrote a follow up letter.
* Fielded many reports of invasive species occurring around the county in new populations. These include purple loosestrife, yellow iris, one each of knotweed and Phragmites, and most interestingly, the intentional planting of water lilies in a lake.
* Worked with landowners and the Healthy Lakes Grant and Walleye Project Coordinator for Lake Namakagon to see native planting plan implemented at the agreed upon site; learned how to fill out a project log and a cost share agreement and how to create a plan as part of the process, and followed up with landowners and the contractor on the cost-share agreement
* Surveyed a field in Ino area with Ben and Travis by running rods—the property owner is interested in a constructed wetland
* Forwarded a copy of the passed and updated Bayfield County AIS No Transport Ordinance, which now includes language regarding decontamination
* Communicated and coordinated with partners for events ranging from virtual conferences to purple loosestrife beetle rearing to promoting online presentations regarding invasive species. In fact, one of these events will be happening this afternoon (1 PM on 8/21/2020).
* Attended the virtual Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference and wrote two thank you cards afterward for two of the speakers (we divvied up the thank you cards)
* Participated in several webinars, including purple loosestrife digging for potting, aquatic plant ID, and Surface Water Grant program restructuring
* Surveyed Buskey Bay and Twin Bear Lakes on the Pike Chain, and Lake Owen, with DNR staff for early detection/rapid response monitoring. The only new things we found were yellow iris populations in a few previously unknown areas. Part of our search was dual purpose on the Pike Chain, which was to see how the recent herbicide treatments worked out. The Pike Chain has had Eurasian watermilfoil for many years, and for the last two years a combination of hand pulling and herbicide treatments have greatly reduced the number of plants. Unfortunately, on the south end of Buskey Bay we found a great many small populations of this plant.
* Searched for and found, then cut and dug out yellow iris in Bony Creek way downstream from Bony Lake
* Planned out budgeting for 2021 with Melissa for the grants mentioned above.
* Discussed potential collaboration with Northwoods CWMA and the National Park Service (and others who may be interested) in getting signage and stations at boat landings in the Chequamegon Bay/Bayfield Peninsula areas for encouraging decontamination
* Presented about erosion and high water (and options to mitigate the effects of those) to the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area via Zoom
* Participated in many virtual meetings and conference calls, including: the Town of Barnes AIS Committee (provided many updates regarding AIS and Surface Water Conservation work), Weed Warrior/Invasive Species ID Day planning, the Lakes and Rivers monthly meeting
* Discussed mechanical options for invasive plant removal (mostly hand pulling and cutting) for property owners on Cable Lake with Brian Szymanski, President of Cable Lake Association. The species they would tackle with volunteers (which would not be working in groups) are yellow iris and narrow leaf cattail. Purple loosestrife would maybe be included in this effort—next year beetle rearing may be possible with interested volunteers. The town has offered to dispose of the invasive plants by burning them.
* Conducted site visits to determine what might be needed for mitigation and/or storm water management at three properties

**Future Activities**

* Invasive Species ID Days, August 21 and September 4 – virtually
* Western Lake Superior AIS Collaborative meeting—TBD
* Statewide AIS Coordinator meeting—TBD
* Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC), November 2-6, 2020 – online \*Note the date change



Atkins Lake tributary with yellow iris present, courtesy of Bayfield County Land Records drone footage.