

**Washburn County AIS Grant AEPP 57419**  
**January 1st-December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 Monthly Progress Report**  
**Lisa Burns-Conservation Coordinator**

**January**

- Worked on annual 2019 grant reimbursement.
- Began working on Earth Day educational day with Hunt Hill & WCLRA for about 200 kids
- NW WI Lakes conference planning (NWLC) meeting in Hayward to discuss 2020 conference.
- ZM Management team meeting- Meeting Purpose: 2019 field season recap of accomplishments, lessons learned, and future planning and communication.
- Hosted County youth conservation speaking and poster contest.
- Worked on a draft Northwest WI ZM Rapid Response document.
- Met with Land Conservation Committee (LCC) to give an AIS update.

**February**

- NWLC planning meeting in Seeley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with Hunt Hill & WCLRA for Earth Day program with schools
- Northwest Area Youth – Speaking Contest in Hayward. 2 students from Washburn County advanced to state speaking contest.
- Attended WCLRA meeting- presented AIS updates.
- Ordered “Drain Campaign” ice packs for lake associations and the department.
- Worked with Burnett County to get more decontamination stations ordered.

**March**

- Worked with Burnett Co to discuss Rapid Response Grant zm 2020 monitoring plans
- St. Croix Red Cedar Cooperative Weed Management Meeting
- Began working on recruitment for AIS/CBCW intern
- NWLC planning meeting in Seeley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with Hunt Hill & WCLRA for Earth Day program with schools.
- Met with new Red Cedar Lake Association CBCW coordinator to discuss the program.
- Worked with White Birch printing to get 11x17 decontamination FAQ sheet laminated.

**April**

- Attended DNR Skype meeting for new Surface Water Grant information
- Zoom meeting for WCLRA Board Meeting. Updated on AIS and discussed how they can help with field work in summer.
- Worked on updating educational power points
- Attended Skype meeting DNR hosted for SWF and ZM veliger testing.
- Attended virtual WI Lakes Conference
- CBCW workshop canceled due to Covid- Alternative workshop was planned.
- Many inquiries about doing (or not) CBCW with Covid.

- Did not participate in the County-wide purple loosestrife beetle program, mainly due to Covid restrictions, but also no time to collect enough beetles and get extra help. Birchwood School did not participate in the program this year either.
- CBCW mask information from UW Extension lakes sent to lake associations who wanted one.
- Worked with the new CBCW inspector for the Minong Town Lakes Committee.

### **May**

- Covid 19 CBCW signs were made, laminated and put at landings with a decontamination station.
- NWLC planning meeting-skype
- Hosted a CBCW/Decontamination online training (co-host Burnett County)
- AIS LTE started (same one hired as in 2017)
- Ordered Drain Campaign Ice Packs and Landing Blitz Towels
- Invited to be on the DNR Dock Service Provider Pathway sub-team. Providing my knowledge with decontamination and working with service providers.
- Began coordinating CBCW schedules with the McKenzie Lakes President and my intern.
- Worked with Burnett County LWCD to use the Pressure Washer
- Began CBCW inspections county-wide.

### **June**

- NWLC planning meeting-skype.
- Began discussion with Washburn County GIS Discussion for an AIS story map for Washburn County. This will essentially replace the current County AIS website.
- NWLC was held virtually. Attendance was lower than anticipated.
- The DNR AIS no-transport sign was stolen at Tozer lake- was replaced with a new one.
- DNR asked Washburn/Burnett Co LWCD to do the eDNA testing on Big/Middle McKenzie Lakes in lieu of Jeremy Bates leaving the department.
- AIS LTE distributed ice packs and towels to those who requested them.
- AIS LTE met with Bass lake Association member to train him how to do ZM Veliger tows.
- AIS LTE inventoried the Totogatic River for Yellow Flag Iris, none found.
- AIS LTE inventoried the Yellow River for Yellow Flag Iris, none found.

### **July**

- Participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July landing blitz and drain campaign. Worked with Spooner Lake
- Webinar- Surface Water Grant Application Information
- Island Lake Association was interested in installing a decontamination station. Met with lake association members to discuss the process, installation advice and how to move forward. Worked with Casey Township to get the approval for installation at boat landing.
- Conducted PI Survey on Mathews Lake with Sara Hatleli (Aquatic Plant and Habitat Services LLC) as part of AIS grant.
- Conducted AIS Early Detection Survey on Mathews Lake with 2 lake association members as part of their grant. No new AIS found.

## **August**

- Met with numerous Mathews Lake lakeshore owners as part of future Healthy Lakes grant who were looking for advice on what they can do to improve shoreline health.
- Intern worked with Bear Lake Association member to collect ZM veliger tows.
- Worked with Stone Lake Association member to collect ZM veliger tows.
- Worked with Long Lake Preservation Association member to collect ZM veliger tows.
- Worked with Lower McKenzie Lake Association member to collect ZM veliger tows.
- Met with landowner on Dunn Lake with inquiry of large purple loosestrife stands around the lake. None found, it was all Pickerel weed.
- Worked with Gull Lake Association member to collect ZM veliger tows.
- LCC committee meeting. Gave updates on AIS and Intern gave overview on his summer fieldwork.
- Worked on getting all eDNA equipment together and working correctly.
- Filmed three educational decontamination videos that will be available to public.
- Island Lake Association picked up decontamination station materials and installed.
- AIS LTE done working

## **September**

- Conducted eDNA sampling on Big and Middle Mckenzie Lakes with Burnett County.
- Met with WCLRA education committee to discuss 2021 collaborative efforts.
- Submitted "Check your equipment for fall storage" article to lake associations and local newspaper.
- Zebra Mussel Management Team Meeting-2020 Field season recap
- Webinar-Healthy Lakes Grants
- Site visits on Mathews Lake for Healthy Lakes Grant.
- Began updating 2020 ZM monitoring efforts summary report.
- Submitted AIS information to "The Source" magazine
- Began figuring out the 15 lake that will be tested for calcium with Burnett County, as part of comparison study.

## **October**

- Service Provider Dock Service Provider Pathway sub-team meeting.
- Collected water samples on 15 lakes to test for calcium as part of study with Burnett County LWCD. Samples sent to the WI State Lab of Hygiene.
- Submitted a letter of support for a 2021 AIS control grant application for the Minong Flowage Lake Association.
- NWLC post meeting to discuss conference that took place.
- Met with a landowner on Loon Lake regarding Japanese Knotweed identification and control options.
- Zoom meeting-AIS Coordinator meeting
- Zoom meeting with DNR to discuss doing a potential presentation on Calcium study during the 2021 WI Water Week.

- Received all ZM veliger tow results back from RMB lab-no new lakes tested positive for zebra mussels.

### **November**

- Zoom-Lakes Partnership Meeting
- NWLC planning meeting for 2021 conference
- Began collecting volunteer match for reimbursement
- LCC meeting-Presented AIS updates

### **December**

- Began working on 2020 AIS grant report and reimbursement.
- Worked with Burnett County to submit an abstract for Calcium results for WI Water Week.
- Began entering AIS data into SWIMS.
- Finished up AIS story mapping for County website. Will be making it “live” in spring 2021.

### **LTE Work Accomplished and CBCW**

The Land and Water Department hired Hunter Denison as the summer LTE, for the 4th in a row. With COVID 19, although the CBCW program varied statewide, it was decided the LTE would still do inspections, since he could easily distance and wear a mask when communicating with boaters. Boating activity was high all summer and his presence wasn't seen as a nuisance as some anticipated (see summary of hours/lakes). No brochures were handed out and a table was set up with towels and ice packs during the drain campaign and landing blitz in July, for people to grab on their own.

Most lake associations still implemented their CBCW inspection program, but some of those with decontamination stations didn't provide the bleach solution, due to COVID restrictions. The Washburn County Health department helped approve a *pre caution sign* to disclaim a lake association from potential liability of getting COVID. They were put up at all landings with a decontamination station. Some associations provided hand sanitizer at the landing.

The pressure washer was used quite a bit this summer to clean off boats and was favored over the bleach solution. Overall, there wasn't a lot of pushback when the bleach solution was used and I believe people are learning more each year about ordinance.

An 11x17 decontamination poster was posted at all boat landings with a decontamination station.

He finalized an AIS LTE handbook for future employees to use as a reference.

Decontamination Videos- 3 training/educational video scenarios were developed for boat inspectors and the general public to view. A “how to” use the spray solution and ordinance is

discussed in the videos. Edits will be made in 2021 and available on the county website and sent to lake associations.

### **Zebra Mussels**

(Summary of monitoring efforts attached and ZM team minutes attached)

No new lakes have been confirmed as having zebra mussels, besides Big and Middle McKenzie.

Big McKenzie average # zm's found on monitoring plates = 3,000-4,000

Middle McKenzie average # zm's found on plates= 300-400

Two new studies were done this summer:

\*eDNA sampling took place with Burnett County on Big and Middle McKenzie Lakes. State lab results will hopefully be available early 2021. DNR realized they were getting some false negatives so took a break in 2020 to not use eDNA for additional surveillance, but focused on improving eDNA field collection methods and lab analysis methods. Water is collected from multiple locations and composited. Extracting DNA from the composites using two different methods will determine which is best: 1) on-site filtration and 2) preserved water samples. Oversampling (collecting more than we did before) in the field will help determine how many replicates are needed for a confident positive detection.

\*Calcium sampling- Washburn and Burnett received numerous inquiries concerning the suitability of area lakes to zebra mussel infestation. Currently the AIS Smart Prevention Tool predicts suitability for the majority of lakes in WI. It was noted that a majority of the NW WI data in this data set, is very old. Thus, the two counties gathered data for 30 new lakes and will compare the results to the Smart Prevention Tool. Results will be used to accurately prioritize control efforts within the 2 counties.

### **Purple Loosestrife**

No purple loosestrife beetle efforts took place this year, mainly due to COVID and resources being hard to get. Also, as in the past, timing of plant growth and obtaining beetles has been a struggle, to co-inside with the southern part of the state. With colder temperatures lasting longer, plants are slower to emerge and harder to dig in the spring. The county relies on getting some beetles shipped from Madison as the population isn't as easy to collect in the spots they've been released.

The intern inventoried the Yellow River for beetle activity, and noted the populations are still sustaining and there is evidence of them feeding on the purple loosestrife.

A lakeshore owner on Dunn Lake reached out for confirmation on a potential infestation of purple loosestrife around the lake. No loosestrife was found, it was native Pickerel Weed.

### **Yellow Flag Iris**

The Totogatic River was inventoried for the first time from Island View Road to Bridge Road. No plants were found.

With Covid restrictions, no educational workshop took place as was anticipated. Hopefully more inventory and/or control with landowners will occur in 2021.

### **Japanese Knotweed Update**

An inquiry on Loon Lake reached out to confirm it was growing on her property. Control information was discussed, and she started removal in the fall and will continue in the spring. A landowner that reached out in 2019 reported back that he had treated his site, and didn't find any new plants coming back. Glad to see landowners taking the steps to control themselves.

## **Workshop Information**

### **What: Clean Boats Clean Waters AND Decontamination Workshop**

**When:** May 21, 2020

**Where:** Online

**Time:** 9:00am-11:00am

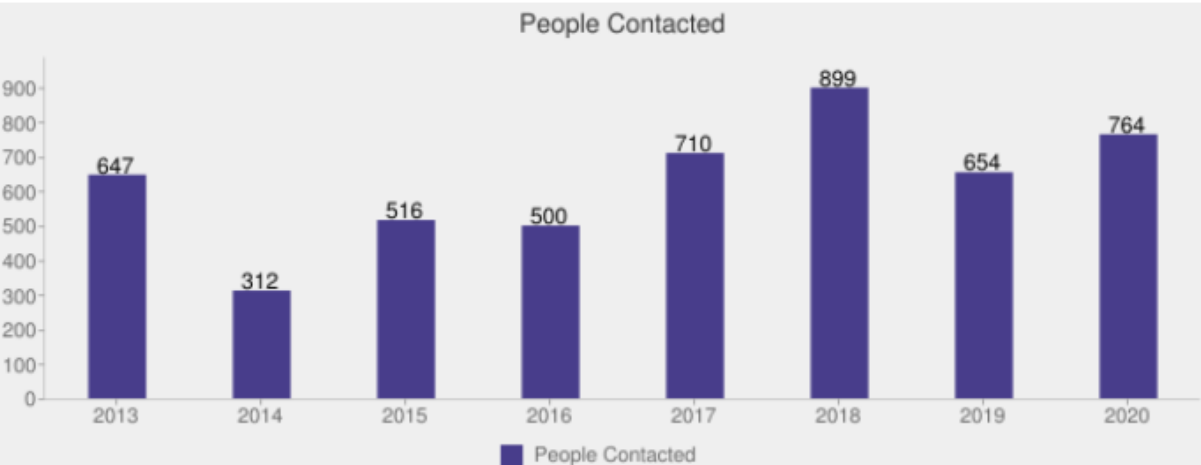
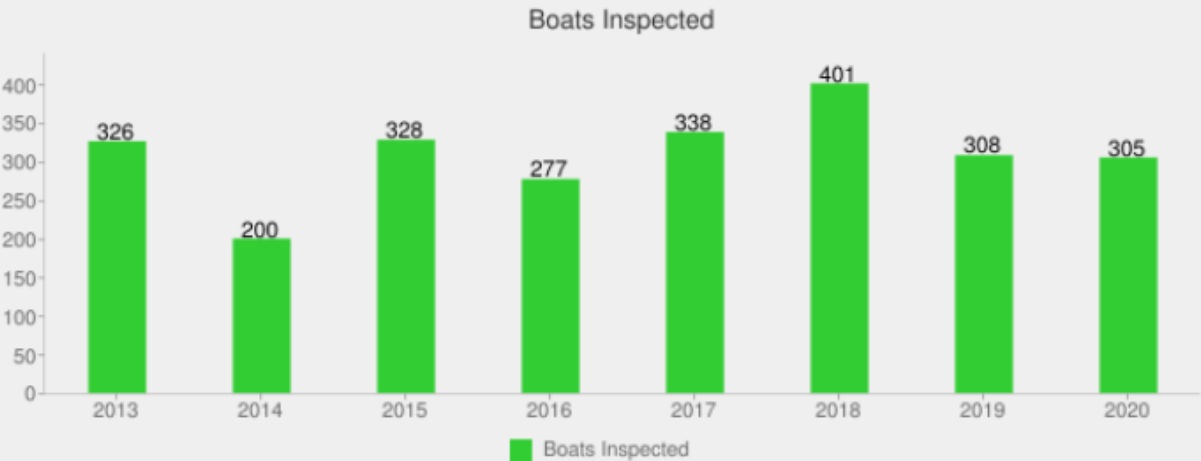
This online Clean Boats, Clean Waters training will cover how to conduct watercraft inspections and decontamination ordinances specific to Washburn County. Given time constraints, this training will NOT be discussing the specific aquatic invasive species. Other resources will be shared to help you find that information. Also, because the training could potentially have a lot of participants, questions will only be asked over a chat box and not the phone. Tom Boisvert from Burnett County will be helping answer questions. Participants are encouraged to watch the presentation online versus calling in, so you can see the materials presented, especially the form(s) that need to be filled out.

This will also be recorded for anyone to watch at a different time.

\*To register, please contact Lisa Burns at 715-468-4654 or email [lburns@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:lburns@co.washburn.wi.us).

# 2020 CBCW Data: Washburn County Land & Water Conservation Department

[Watercraft Inspection Efforts](#) [Boater Statistics](#) [Boater Travel](#) [Landings](#) [Download](#)



# PREVENT THE SPREAD OF **COVID-19**

Please be aware this station may be used by multiple people and it is recommended that you use COVID-19 safety protocol after inspecting your boat.



While using this station please wear disposable gloves



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



# Decontamination Frequently Asked Questions

Created by Burnett and Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Departments

## What is decontamination?

It is the process of removing all aquatic plants and animals, including materials that may contain or transmit aquatic invasive species (AIS) beyond physical removal or other methods.

## Why have a decontamination station?

Hand removal is effective at removing plants and small animals from watercraft equipment. Decontamination is another tool to help kill invasive species that are not visible or very difficult to see (zebra mussels and spiny water fleas).

## Who maintains the decontamination station?

Citizen members of a lake association or lake district change the solution to the recommended mix of 2 tablespoons bleach per gallon of water. They are trained to properly mix the solution.

## What is the concentration of bleach?

Standard bleach is 52,500 ppm chlorine, while the bleach concentration being used here is ~500 ppm. Reported in percentage, regular strength household bleach is 5.25% sodium hypochlorite while this solution is 0.05% sodium hypochlorite.

## Are there runoff issues?

A fine mist of the bleach/water solution is applied using a hand-pump sprayer. The solution covers the boat and trailer and is thoroughly applied around its perimeter. It evaporates quickly and no runoff into the lake occurs. There is no harm to the lake once the boat/trailer goes into the water.



## Will the bleach solution in my live-well harm the fish I keep in there?

Between the low initial concentration of the applied solution, the off-gassing of the chlorine while sitting, and then the dilution of any residual chlorine, the likelihood that fish would be impacted by the bleach is very low. An alternative would be to use ice to keep fish fresh until you get home.

## Will decontamination make a difference?

The vast majority of invasions are human mediated and theoretically preventable. Each prevention action we take, reduces the probability of a new invasion by a boat moving aquatic invasive species.

Recreational boating is a way AIS move around and once they are here, we all share a responsibility to be doing everything we can to prevent their spread.

## Will this harm my boat or equipment?

There are no known cases of damage from properly using any decontamination method. An even higher solution than the one provided is recommended to clean vinyl siding on a house. The WI DNR uses this solution on all of their boating equipment every day, and tournament fishing boats have been sprayed down and have shown no harmful effects (see below).

**Ranger Boats:** "At any rate - household bleach at full concentration is not going to harm the gel coat when used during washing and rinsed off."

**Tuffy Boats:** "The described bleach solution is 100% safe on all gelcoat applications."

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Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

HAND  
SANITIZER



## 1/14/2020 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm DNR Conference Room

### Minutes –Zebra Mussel Management Team

Present: Lisa Burns, Jeremy Bates, Katie Sickmann, Byron Karns, Cathie Erickson, Bob Baker, Tom Boisvert, Dave Ferris, Jeremy Bloomquist, Dave Wedan, Jake Didier, Claudia Duffy, Tyler Mesalk, Mike Schollmeyer, Kris Larsen (Kyle Mosel left DNR, will be working at USGS LaCrosse)

**Meeting Purpose: 2019 field season recap – accomplishments, lessons learned, and future planning and communication.**

**\*Team Goals-** We have a great partnership and have done a lot of work to meet the goals. What other things can we be doing?

- Keep up the educational outreach and find ways to incorporate new ways to promote other AIS species, besides just Zebra Mussels. (Newsletters, newspaper, phone calls, letters).
- Continue to get lake associations engaged in monitoring and encourage attending workshops, the NW Lakes conference, WI Lakes Convention

#### **\*Updates**

McKenzie Lakes Association: Mike Schollmeyer (power point attached) Rapid Response grant is complete and 2019 CBCW grant received for all 3 lakes.

Overall, the 2019 zebra mussel population exploded in Big McKenzie Lake from plate sampler data. Some plates got to be “too numerous to count.” All plates in Middle McKenzie had zm’s on them. Lower McKenzie still free of zm’s.

- Encouraged to keep sampler plates out for long-term trend study.
- Work closer with DNR to get the data into SWIMS
- How to we keep volunteers interested in helping with plate samplers and making sure we get accurate counts, in order for the data to be used.

ZM Control Research(in same powerpoint)- Cooperative Effort between MN AIS Institute U of MN, USGS, La Crosse, U of Wi, River Falls (Scott Ballantyne, PhD). The goal of this work is to develop a method for specifically eliminating ZM gene products (RNA) using a well-studied procedure known as RNA interference (RNAi). Create a bacterial strain that is toxic to ZM but is harmless to all other creatures. A presentation will be at the 2020 NW Lakes Conference June 19 at Spooner High School.

County Rapid Response Grant- Tom Boisvert

- About \$7,500 left to spend in Rapid Response grant. Likely end before 2021.
- Money will be spent on Decontamination signs, and possibly outreach (scaper for zm’s and laminated decon FAQ sheets. If money still left do some calcium testing.
- No-Transport Ordinance fine has increased to \$125 for first offense + court costs. Costs are also based on the Sherriff’s discretion.
- Applied for another AIS Edu. Prevention & Planning (AEPP) Grant through WI DNR. Should know in mid-February. Washburn County starting new AEPP grant. Both of the grants have ZM focus.

**\*2019 Monitoring Results** (2017-2019 Monitoring Handout and DNR monitoring attached)

- eDNA: 2/16 lakes positively detected- Big McKenzie and Bass (St. Croix Co).
- Scuba transect lines. ZM's were 0-4 yrs old in Big McKenzie, increased in population since 2018.  
Middle McKenzie found 10 along the transect lines, none found in 2018..
- Veliger Testing, Sampler Plates- Good coverage of monitoring occurring. Still waiting on a couple of veliger results, otherwise no new lakes reported to have ZM's.
- SWIMS Data Management- Mike, Lisa, Tom and Jeremy working together if needed.

**\*Decontamination Updates**

- Feedback-Tournament fisherman toughest crowd to deal with. County CBCW staff found compliance relatively high and if given a choice between the pressure washer or spray, it varied, depending on the boater and type of equipment. Washburn and Burnett Co will continue to do their best to have staff at McKenzie chain with pressure washer. It's anticipated the new violation form both Counties have and FAQ sheet will help curb non-compliance.
- Spring Training- Lisa looking to have a trainings specific to decontamination stations- how to set one up, materials needed, what to do, how to complete an inspection, dealing with the public, etc.
- FAQ sheet at station landings- Looking to have laminated sheets at boat landings that have a decontamination station, for the public to see. It is encouraged to print off handouts for the inspectors to have available and for them to understand the concept better. Also, talking with the inspector about the violation form and having some available to him/her is encouraged.
- Barron County- passed an order stating "if a decontamination station is present at a landing, boater must use it." It is not an ordinance or enforceable, but a way of potentially getting closer to an ordinance in the future. Bear and Silver Lakes have bought and set up their own decontamination station. More are also interested.

**\*Work Plan**

-All monitoring efforts with partners and landowners will continue for 2020, and some new lakes will likely be involved. If we do a field day, may be a good idea to get the public involved to see what all the monitoring is about.

- Update the Planning and Progress Report (Lisa)

- Work with Fisheries Biologist on any trends with fisheries impacts, creel survey results, or see if there are any changes found in water quality data with CLMN volunteers/DNR as a result of the ZM's.

-NPS will have funding for veliger testing, and will be able to cover lab costs to analyze.

-eDNA will be continued with DNR, with the help of lakeshore owners. Scuba won't be occurring in 2020.

-Burnett and Washburn County will work with non-lake association members by sending letters to see if they want to get involved in some type of monitoring.

- Email Lisa or Tom if you know anyone interested in a decontamination station or learning more about getting involved in monitoring.

-Other Outreach Suggestions: Decontamination Video, County Fair, Project Red, Fresh Water Fair.

**\*Next Meeting Date:** To Be Determined

**9/14/2020 1:00-2:00pm (Webex)**

## **Minutes –Zebra Mussel Management Team**

Present: Lisa Burns, Katie Sickmann, Cathie Erickson, Bob Baker, Tom Boisvert, Dave Ferris, Sandy Swanson, Maureen Ferry, Kris Larsen, Tyler Mesalk

### **Meeting Purpose: 2020 field season recap**

There are many partners involved in monitoring efforts and the amount of field-work conducted would not have been possible without a strong cooperation between all groups involved. Burnett County, Washburn County, St. Croix River Association, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and many local lake associations were all involved in the zebra mussel response efforts. Thank you everyone!

### **1. Staff Updates:**

- Jeremy Bates is no longer with WI DNR.
- Byron Karns will be retiring from National Park Service (NPS) Sept 25.
- Marian Shaffer will oversee the Aquatic Resource Program for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway which includes all things aquatic - animals, plants, water quality and AIS monitoring.

### **2. 2020 Monitoring/Results** (see attached summary report)

- To date, no new populations of zebra mussels have been found in Burnett/Washburn waterbodies.
- Veliger test results still being analyzed for Washburn Co. Lakes and hopefully early October will have results.
- ZM plate sampling: Many lakeshore owners in Washburn and Burnett still monitor using the plate samplers. Thank you!
- There are 23 plates out on Big McKenzie, 10 on Middle, and 5 on Lower. Sandy Swanson has been working with landowners and Tom Boisvert to get a more accurate count of zebra mussels (zm's) on monitoring sampler plates. Landowners have been very cooperative in providing ongoing data. Data is being entered into SWIMS.  
Big McKenzie average # zm's found on plates = 3,000-4,000  
Middle McKenzie average # zm's found on plates= 300-400  
Lower McKenzie= no population to date
- eDNA testing Jeremy Bates was going to coordinate eDNA sampling, but since he left, Lisa and Tom agreed to collect the samples (pictures attached). State lab results will hopefully be available early 2021.  
DNR realized they were getting some false negatives so took a break in 2020 to not use eDNA for additional surveillance, but focused on improving eDNA field collection methods and lab analysis methods.  
Last year, water was collected from the surface because DNA binds to water surface interface. Since zebra mussels are benthic and live on the lake bottom, samples were collected on both the surface and from near the bottom.

Water is collected from multiple locations and composited. Extracting DNA from the composites using two different methods will determine which is best: 1) on-site filtration and 2) preserved water samples.

Oversampling (collecting more than we did before) in the field will help determine how many replicates are needed for a confident positive detection.

### **3. Rapid Response Update**

- The grant will be wrapping up end of 2020
- 10 decontamination stations were ordered
- 30 lakes will be tested for calcium. Lakes within Burnett and Washburn Counties will be sampled to obtain true calcium measurements. These samples will be analyzed by a state accredited laboratory, and results will be shared within Burnett and Washburn Counties, the WDNR, local lake organizations, and the general public. Lakes selected for sampling will be chosen based on their proximity to the McKenzie Lakes, boater traffic, lake association/district involvement and public boat landing access. Results will allow agencies and organizations to assess the true susceptibility of area lakes to infestation of zebra mussels, and adjust containment measures as needed. This sampling effort may draw comparisons between the predicted susceptibility provided by the *AIS Smart Prevention Tool* and the actual calcium measurements in the waterbody."

### **4. Early Detection Monitoring**

-This is a separate type of monitoring looking for numerous aquatic invasive species. Veliger testing is part of the Early Detection Monitoring Protocol. Washburn and Burnett do this monitoring upon request as part of an association's grant and/or it's written within the County grant scope.

### **5. CBCW Inspections**

- Overall, inspections and decontamination compliance was well received this year. One issue noted, is that boaters need to decontaminate, regardless if it's the only lake they use or live/occupy. Reporting action to the Sherriff's Department will be increased with those boaters in 2021.
- A Covid pre-caution sign was developed by Burnett and Washburn County Health Departments and was placed at landings that had a decontamination station. The sign re-assured it's everyone's responsibility to use Covid-19 safety protocol after using equipment.
- Hand sanitizer was provided at some landings by lake associations.
- Inspectors wore masks and kept 6 feet away during inspections. No handouts were given.
- The frequently asked question (FAQ) document was converted to a laminated 11"x17" poster and placed at decontamination stations for the public to view for concerns/questions.
- McKenzie Chain Boat inspectors were on each of the 3 public landings each Saturday and Sunday and holiday starting Memorial Day weekend and ending September 13th, 4 paid inspectors, 7 volunteers. Each lake met their 200 hours for grant, and each also had a lot of extra volunteer hours accounted for. This is a great accomplishment to help with prevention!
- McKenzie Chain Decontamination- The sprayers were getting used a lot this year. Volunteers replaced the bleach/water as needed at each boat landing. A weekly schedule was set-up starting May 1st and will continue through Oct 15.

- The University of MN AIS Research Center got a grant to study genetic testing of zebra mussels.
- The Shoreowners of Stone Lake Association bought a battery operated sprayer for their decontamination station and keep it in a big locked box. Hose is long enough to go around the boat. It has shown very positive results (pictures attached).
- The pressure washer was used a lot this summer, especially during fishing tournaments. Overall, was very well received by the boaters. They were happy to see someone helping with prevention efforts.

#### **6. Decontamination Videos**

- Three training videos have been developed by Washburn County staff to help with training and education for inspectors and the general public to view. It's anticipated they'll be available in the winter. They will be tied to a u-tube link.

#### **7. Outreach**

- Service provider letters have been sent out, as they have been in the past.
- Newsletters, newspaper articles, etc. is encouraged to continue by all partners.
- More training videos will be considered in 2021.

**8. 2021 Monitoring-** With the Rapid Response Grant ending in 2020, it is anticipated to continue partnering on our monitoring efforts, when feasible, through our current AIS grants. More details will be developed this winter.

#### **9. Other County Decontamination Ordinances**

- Bayfield County now has a Decontamination Ordinance, very similar to Washburn/Burnett.
- Sawyer County Lake associations are starting the process to try and get one passed.

***Thank you everyone for all of your continued hard work with AIS prevention!***

## **Washburn County Zebra Mussel Monitoring Efforts**

### **Decontamination Station Locations**

Bass Lake (Casey) (1)  
Bear Lake (2)  
Big McKenzie Lake (1)  
Cable Lake (1)  
Island Lake (1)  
Long Lake (4)  
Lower McKenzie Lake (1)  
Mathews Lake (1)  
Nancy Lake (1)  
Potato Lake (1)  
Spooners Lake (1)  
Stone Lake (1)

*Washburn County Total: 16*

### **Zebra Mussel Plate Sampler Lakes**

Balsam Lake (2020)  
Bass Lake (Casey) (2018, 2019, 2020)  
Bear Lake (2019, 2020)  
Big McKenzie Lake (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Chicog Lake (2017, 2018, 2019)  
Gull Lake (2018, 2019, 2020)  
Hemlock Lake (2020)  
Horseshoe Lake (2019, 2020)  
Long Lake (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Lower McKenzie (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Mathews Lake (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
McLain Lake (2017, 2018, 2019)  
Middle McKenzie (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Minong Flowage (2019, 2020)  
Nancy Lake (2018, 2019, 2020)  
Pear Lake (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Pokegama Lake (2019, 2020)  
Red Cedar Lake (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Slim Lake (2019, 2020)  
Spooners Lake (2018, 2019, 2020)  
Trego Lake (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Twin Lakes (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

### **Zebra Mussel Veliger Testing Lakes**

Bass Lake (Casey Township) (2018, 2019)  
Bear Lake (2020)  
Big McKenzie Lake (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)  
Birch Lake (2017)  
Deep Lake (2017)  
Gull Lake (2020)  
Island Lake (2019)  
Long Lake (2020)  
Lower McKenzie Lake (2019, 2020)  
Mathews Lake (2020)  
Middle McKenzie Lake (2018)  
Nancy Lake (2019)  
Pokegama Lake (2017, 2018, 2019)  
Rocky Ridge Lake (2017)  
Spooners Lake (2018, 2019)  
Tozer Lake (2017, 2018, 2019)  
Trego Lake (2017)  
Slim Lake (2019)  
Stone Lake (2020)

### **Environmental – DNA Testing (EDNA)**

Bass Lake (Casey Township) (2018)  
Big McKenzie Lake (2018, 2019, 2020)  
Gull Lake (2018, 2019)  
Long Lake (2018)  
Lower McKenzie Lake (2018, 2019)  
Middle McKenzie Lake (2018, 2019, 2020)  
Tozer Lake (2018)  
Trego Lake (2018)

2020 Zebra Mussel Veliger Testing





Mathews Lake AIS Early Detection Survey



2020 eDNA Sampling- Big and Middle McKenzie Lake



## Collecting Water for Calcium Sampling



### Washburn Lakes

Balsam Lake  
Bass Lake  
Bear Lake  
Big McKenzie Lake  
Birch Lake  
Gilmore Lake  
Long Lake  
Lower McKenzie  
Lake  
Matthews Lake  
Middle McKenzie  
Lake  
Minong Flowage  
Nancy Lake  
Shell Lake  
Spider Lake  
Spooner Lake

### Burnett Lakes

Big Sand Lake  
Big Trade Lake  
Big Wood Lake  
Birch Island Lake  
Deer Lake  
DesMoines Lake  
Devils Lake  
Fish Lake  
Lake 26  
Lipsett Lake  
Long Lake  
Loon Lake  
Mudhen Lake  
North Sand Lake  
Spirit Lake

**Stone Lake-Decontamination Battery Operated Sprayer and Box**



## **Aquatic Invasive Species-Check your equipment before storage**

With open water season winding down, recreational water equipment is being removed from the water for the year. It is crucial everyone continues to take the proper steps to make sure all equipment is cleaned properly to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Zebra mussels in particular, are invasive organisms that have established in Big and Middle McKenzie Lakes. 2020 has shown an increase in Big McKenzie. Landowners continue to report finding thousands of them covered on bottom of boats, motors, docks and along the shoreline. They cut feet, clog and overheat boat motors, and eat microscopic organism needed for fish and other species and suffocate native clams, mussels and aquatic insects. Depending on conditions, they may survive out of water from several days to several weeks. To date, no other lakes in Washburn or Burnett Counties have found zebra mussels.

The following steps should be made when taking equipment out of the water for winter storage:

1. Inspect and remove all plants, mud or other debris found equipment that has been sitting in water: dock posts, wheels, boats, rafts, pontoons, kayaks, jet skis.
2. Drain all water if possible.
3. Spray all equipment (including live wells) with a pressure washer sprayer. This will help get unwanted invasive species that are hanging on tight or that you can't see.
4. Spray down your equipment with a bleach/water solution, including the inside of live wells. One tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water and let it air dry to help kill unseen hitchhikers.
5. Talk to your own service provider and neighbors about taking these steps.
6. If you find something suspicious, take a picture, bag it and contact Lisa Burns, Conservation Coordinator with Washburn County at 715-468-4654 or [lburns@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:lburns@co.washburn.wi.us).



**Check your dock for zebra mussels before winter storage.**

Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association

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2021 Education Committee Draft Program Plan

Committee members present: Craig Walkey, Fred Blake, Madeline Roberts, Lisa Burns, Bob Dawson

Committee members absent: John Haack

Future and continues projects plan, no priority

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We continue to support and monitor the Y E S program at Hunt Hill.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will provide input to a monthly column to area newspapers during the summer months.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue to send one year free membership to new shoreline owners.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will request that the USGS/ Wisconsin Historical Society display their Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers display at one of our Washburn County schools. (Spooner Elementary Spring 2021)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue to monitor the Lakes Economics Benefits Report for Washburn County.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will monitor the success of the distribution of the AIS packets to resorts, sport, and bait stores before May 15, 2021 to help plan how we will contribute to distribute the remaining surplus packets.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue to participate the review/compile of available resources of data, historic, and current about the Yellow River.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue to help to collaborate with lake shore restoration/protection tours with the Blue Ribbon Shoreland Committee.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We will continue to support the Washburn County Land and Water Department projects.</li><li>• We will help to promote communication with organized lake organizations for their needs and interests.</li></ul>

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Washburn County  
*Planning, Land & Resource Management Department*

October 14, 2020

To whom it may concern:

This letter is support of the Minong Flowage Association's (MFA) AIS Large Scale Population Management Grant. The Washburn Land and Water Conservation Department has worked closely and supported the association with their management efforts for many years and is glad to see they are looking to continue.

The MFA has passionate volunteer citizens that have taken many actions over the years to help control the beds of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and monitor other invasive species. The proposed winter drawdown is a good alternative to herbicide use and is supported by GLIFW, St. Croix Tribe and WLDNR. The 2014 drawdown did bring some success to decreasing the population density of EWM, which is anticipated again. They are fortunate to have that as an alternate option, as many lakes in the state don't.

The Washburn County Campground, which has a boat landing, is located on the flowage and will be expanding over the next couple of years. This landing in particular already brings in a lot of boaters and will likely lead to a higher use. The association has been very active in preventing the spread of the EWM by partnering with the Minong Town Lakes Committee and local Boy Scout troop to administer the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.

Since the discovery of zebra mussels in Big and Middle McKenzie Lakes, like many other lake associations, it is also on the MFA's radar. The Minong Flowage is only about 15 minutes away. There are currently 16 decontamination stations in Washburn County, which are maintained by lake associations. The flowage seems a good fit to having a decontamination station as another prevention tool. The County Conservation Coordinator would provide the necessary training and equipment to have one installed if the association chooses. Zebra mussel sampler plates are also available as a simple way to monitor for zebra mussel veligers. Many lake associations are doing that as well throughout Washburn County.

The Washburn County Conservation Coordinator will continue to collaborate on AIS prevention efforts, which includes providing any necessary training and equipment when needed for the association. I appreciate your consideration of their grant proposal.

Lisa Burns  
Washburn County Conservation Coordinator

