

## **Accomplishments report: AEPP-590-19**

- The grant timeline was amended and approved in May 2021; this amendment extends the project period end date to June 30, 2022 (see attachment).
- A scope amendment was approved in June 2021 (see attachment).

Note: numbering follows designation outlined in grant application

### **Summary of Project Goals and Activities for November 1, 2019 – January 31, 2022**

The following summary goals and activities were initiated and/or completed during the reporting period:

#### **1. Goal/Job Objective: Monitoring**

##### *1.a. Project RED; Deliverables/Outcomes*

- 2020: Updates were made to all relevant forms, including the manual, attendance sheet, and datasheets
- Train the Trainer webinar for AIS coordinators and statewide staff
  - Ellen Voss gave updates to the program at the 2020 Train the Trainer webinar: May 27, 2021
  - Ellen Voss gave updates to the program at the 2021 Train the Trainer webinar: April 21, 2021
- Provide support to AIS coordinators hosting trainings/monitoring events
  - 2020: 3 groups held Project RED trainings and/or monitoring events
    - St. Croix River Association; 8 trainees
    - La Crosse Area: 2 events; 11, 16 trainees
    - Fox Wolf Watershed: 1 trainee
  - 2021: 5 groups held Project RED trainings and/or monitoring events
    - La Crosse Area: 11 trainees
    - Wild Rivers Conservancy: 5 trainees

- Sheboygan County: 40 trainees
- Ashland County: 3 trainees
- Fox Wolf Watershed: 2 trainees

*1.b. Snapshot Day; Deliverables/Outcomes*

- Snapshot Day 2020 was coordinated by Jaclyn Lucas, a former AIS intern at River Alliance
  - 22 Site leaders
  - 150 Volunteers trained
  - 201 sites monitored
  - 24 locations
  - All presence and absence data were entered into SWIMS by site leaders
- This grant deliverable was amended and approved in June 2021 (see attachment) as follows.
  - “River Alliance developed Snapshot Day in partnership with the DNR and UWEX several years ago. The program has been very successful and popular. Snapshot Day monitoring reports constitute the bulk of AIS monitoring data each year to the DNR, and it is important that this program continue indefinitely. To sustain Snapshot Day beyond our last statewide AEPP grant, we worked with DNR and UW staff to determine the best long-term home for Snapshot Day is with UW. UW staff will coordinate all Snapshot Day activities starting in June 2021. River Alliance staff will provide training and outreach support to the new UW staff, especially in 2021. This is an existing activity in our grant, we are only changing the coordinator of the program.”
- Snapshot Day 2021 was coordinated by the UW-Extension River’s Educator, Shelby Adler
  - Please see attached Snapshot Day 2021 summary

**2. Goal/Job Objective: Prevent**

*2.a. Targeted Clean Angling Outreach; Deliverables/Outcomes*

- Press releases:

- Inland trout opener 2020: “Anglers called to prevent the spread of New Zealand mudsnail, protect Wisconsin’s waters”
  - Snapshot Day 2020: “Volunteers Search for Aquatic Invasive Species Across the State to Protect Wisconsin’s Waters”
- Articles in angling organizations newsletters (ex. Wisconsin Trout):
  - Fall 2020; Snapshot Day 2020 update: “Volunteers Search for Aquatic Invasive Species Across the State to Protect Wisconsin’s Waters”
  - Fall 2021; NZMS update: “Little snails, big problems”
  - Winter 2021; Snapshot Day 2021 update: “Volunteers Search for Aquatic Invasive Species Across the State to Protect Wisconsin’s Waters”
- Presentations/tabling events and distribution of clean angling education information for angling audiences (e.g., Wisconsin TU Statewide Banquet, Wisconsin TU State Council, Madison Fishing Expo, Chapter meetings, etc.)
  - 2020: Ellen Voss attended the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Banquet where she conducted outreach and distributed AIS information / clean angling materials to the TU State Council.
  - 2021: Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Banquet was cancelled due to COVID
- Disseminate Clean Angling AIS handout for Trout in the Classroom programs and other youth outreach events
  - 2021: The Clean Angling handout was updated with corrected and new information and was available at tabling events; the updated handout was shared with partners.
- Two decontamination trainings at work parties or similar workdays
  - 2021: Tabling at Black Earth Creek sign rollout event on June 26, 2021

*2.c. Clear Water Business Consortium Consumer AIS Outreach; Deliverables/Outcomes:*

- Identify and establish a relationship with 2 new business partners to initiate program.
  - 2021: Distributed 60 paddle decontamination palm cards to Rutabaga Paddle Sports, Madison
- Create signs and educational materials to be posted at points of sales and by relevant products (i.e., waders, fishing gear, canoe/kayaks, aquatic plants). Signs will

provide information on AIS and reminders on how to clean equipment and make sustainable purchases that will prevent the spread.

- 2021: Worked with Jeanne Scherer to finalize paddle decontamination palm card. The final design was printed and is now available for distribution for partners around the state.

*2.e. Create new materials and amend existing resources that seek to education the public about AIS and contribute directly to the prevention of their spread; Deliverables/Outcomes:*

- Success stories as well as informational material on native species/diversity and aquatic ecology have been posted regularly on our social media outlets to empower volunteers and partners and improve monitor return rates

### **3. Goal/Job Objective: Control and Planning**

*3.b. Participate in rapid response projects; Deliverables/Outcomes:*

- 2021: Ellen Voss was part of the NR40 Aquatic Invertebrate Species Assessment Group
- 2021: Participation in the NZMS rapid response

### **New Goal/Job Objective: Training canines for the early detection of New Zealand mudsnails in WI**

This grant objective was added and approved in June 2021 (see attachment): “The purpose of this project is to train scent detection dogs to locate New Zealand mudsnails (NZMS) in Wisconsin’s rivers and streams and determine if dogs are capable of distinguishing this snail species from the dozens of non-invasive snail species found in the same waters. This project is meant to be the follow-up to a pilot study developed in 2020 between River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Conservation Dogs Collective, Inc. (formerly Midwest Conservation Dogs) to do a more targeted sensitivity / specificity test of the dogs’ detection abilities. The objective of this second round of testing is to create an effective and efficient training protocol, collection method, and detection format to quickly determine the presence or absence of NZMS in a given aquatic ecosystem. The goal of this work is to establish the use of scent detection dogs as an efficient and cost-effective tool for the early detection of invasive New Zealand mudsnails and ultimately prevent their future spread.”

- 2021 summary

- Met regularly with Laura Holder with CDCI to get training updates, monitor progress, and amend protocols as needed
- Collected macroinvertebrate samples for target odor training to determine if the dogs could distinguish NZMS from other stream odors
- Obtained NR40 permit and collected NZMS from selected stream locations for target odor training