



March 15th, 2023

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
1300 W. Clairmont Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Subject: Grant Reimbursement Payment Request for Grant AEPP-618-20

Greetings,

The Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix & Namekagon, formerly the St. Croix River Association, through means of the River Alliance of Wisconsin, is submitting a **partial reimbursement request** for activities completed for Grant Application AEPP-618-20. The Wild Rivers Conservancy requests a total of **\$9,305.04** bringing our grant expenses to a total of **\$129,910.50** out of the total awarded **\$150,000.00**. We provided and demonstrated a total match to date of **\$47,863.66** out of the agreed upon **\$50,000.00**. The necessary financial worksheets, invoices, receipts, and donated labor worksheets are enclosed. Listed below are the deliverables met thus far for grant AEPP-618-20.

1. Educate waterway users and watershed residents about AIS threats, prevention strategies, impacts, identification, and management.

1.1: Conduct AIS education and outreach efforts to engage citizens in active monitoring assistance.

- A Water Action Volunteers (WAV) training will be held on Friday May 19th, 2023 in Osceola, WI in partnership with UW-Extension and Polk County LWRD. This training aims to engage 10 volunteers on how to monitor local streams with an AIS education component.
- Project RED is scheduled for Friday July 14th, 2023. The training will be held at the St. Croix Falls Library followed by a river paddle from WI Interstate to Franconia Landing. The training will look to train 15+ volunteers on how to identify, monitor and report priority AIS in the watershed.
- Snapshot Day will be held on August 19th, 2023. We will host this event in partnership with Polk Co LWRD at DD Kennedy Park in Polk County. This training will aim to engage 10 new volunteers in the watershed to ID, monitor and report AIS throughout the watershed.

1.2: Engage river-businesses in AIS issues, and approach under-reached those audiences with AIS information.

- The Bait Shop Initiative campaign will aim to reach 65 bait shops and river businesses in June of 2023. The businesses that will be supplied with AIS education and outreach materials.

1.3: Participate in additional statewide AIS outreach events or efforts as they arise or are developed.

- The Wild Rivers Conservancy will participate in the Landing Blitz and Drain Campaign in 2023. AIS LTEs will educate boaters at key landings along the Riverway and give towels with the Clean Drain Dry message to interested people at the landings.
- A Decontamination Blitz weekend engaging both MN and WI partners to encourage and educate boaters at boat landings on the St. Croix to decontaminate their boats will be planned for July of 2023.

2. Host watercraft inspections and increase regulation and outreach to high traffic landings on the St. Croix River, especially on the Lower St. Croix.

2.1: Host boat inspections on the St. Croix River, especially on the Lower St. Croix.

- WRC LTEs will participate in the WI state wide Landing Blitz and Drain Campaign
- WRC LTEs will participate in a CBCW training in June
- WRC LTEs will conduct boat inspections at popular locations along the Lower St. Croix such as: North Hudson Landing (Lakefront Landing closed due to construction), Somerset Landing and Lions Park in St. Croix Falls
- Data will be entered into SWIMS annually in the winter

2.2: Augment enforcement and highlight decontamination practices for good boating practices at high traffic landings along the Lower St. Croix River.

- WRC will hold a Decontamination Blitz weekend in partnership with Chisago County, MN DNR and WI DNR to encourage good boating practices and decontamination along the Lower St. Croix River in July of 2023.

2.3: Ensure current AIS signage at waterbody public access points in the St. Croix River Basin and eliminate signage repetition.

- St. Croix River and Namekagon River accesses were inventoried in July of 2020 and proper AIS signage was ordered and will be installed Fall of 2023 once consulted with National Park Service.

3. Increase early detection and promote use of statewide rapid response protocols.

3.1: Recruit, train, and deploy volunteers to conduct surveillance monitoring for early detection species.

3.2: Conduct routine monitoring along the St. Croix using WDNR early detection monitoring or Project RED.

- WRC Invasive Species Specialist will work with WI DNR, Polk Co LWRD and Burnett Co LWRD to rear and release Galerucella beetles to control Purple Loosestrife in the watershed. A mass rearing cage was acquired from WI DNR to rear and release more biocontrol beetles resulting in a larger impact on the landscape
- WRC staff will assist the National Park Service with routine and comprehensive scientific monitoring on the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers for AIS. Specific projects for 2023 include:
 - Monitoring along the St. Croix River and Namekagon River for Purple loosestrife
 - Management along the Namekagon River & St. Croix River for Yellow iris
 - Rusty Crayfish Surveys in the St. Croix & Namekagon Rivers
 - Install Zebra mussel cinder blocks at 10 sites along the lower riverway and install plate samplers at 8 sites throughout St. Croix River watershed
 - Dry dock zebra mussel boat counts at 8 major marinas along the lower riverway to assess population densities
 - Emerald ash borer temperature and light hobo loggers will be placed at 10 sites along the St. Croix River in December
 - Water Quality Sampling along the St. Croix River
 - Bat Monitoring along the St. Croix and Namekagon River
 - Veliger tows at lakes in the St. Croix watershed;

2023 Veliger tow lakes	
<p>Minnesota (<i>funded differently</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● West Rush Lake, Chisago County ● North Goose Lake, Chisago County ● Fish Lake, Chisago County ● Sunrise River @ Kost Dam, Chisago Co ● North Center Lake, Chisago County ● South Lindstrom Lake, Chisago County ● Kroon Lake, Chisago County ● Little Green Lake, Chisago County ● Comfort Lake, Chisago County ● Cross Lake, Pine County ● Pokegama Lake, Pine County ● Grindstone Lake, Pine County ● Big Pine Lake, Pine County 	<p>Wisconsin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lake Namekagon, Bayfield County ● Eau Claire Chain of Lakes, Bayfield County ● Upper St. Croix Lake, Douglas County ● Big Trade Lake, Burnett County ● Clam River Flowage, Burnett County ● Yellow Lake, Burnett County ● Falk Lake, Burnett County ● Bass Lake, Washburn County ● Big McKenzie Lake, Burnett/Washburn Counties ● Middle McKenzie Lake, Washburn Co ● Lower McKenzie Lake, Washburn Co ● Memory Lake, Burnett County ● Bone Lake, Polk County

- Sturgeon Lake, Pine County
- Sand Lake, Pine County
- Island Lake, Pine County

- Balsam Lake, Polk County
- Deer Lake, Polk County
- Bridget Lake, Polk County
- Lake Wapogasset, Polk County
- Indianhead Flowage, St. Croix River
- Interstate area, St. Croix River

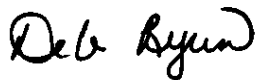
- Data will be used to produce a final 2023 monitoring report of AIS findings, which will be provided to all partners.

4.1: Sustain and build an AIS Stakeholder group.

- March 21st of 2023 there was a hybrid AIS workshop for all AIS stakeholders in the St. Croix River Basin educating folks about invasive Phragmites, Wild Parsnip and other aquatic and terrestrial roadside invaders.

Thank you for your continued support. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Katie Sickmann at ksickmann@wildriversconservancy.org or (715) 483-3300 x25.

Sincerely,



Deb Ryun
Executive Director
Wild Rivers Conservancy