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Section I: Application Type

Check one:

- Education, Prevention & Planning Early Detection & Response Established Infestation Control

Legislative District Numbers		To determine your legislative district, go to http://165.189.139.210/WAML/ Type in complete address, next screen shows information.
Senate	Assembly	

Section II: Applicant Information

Applicant			Type of Eligible Applicants		
Waterbody Name			<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Gov't Unit
Project County/Township/Section/Range			<input type="checkbox"/> City	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Dist.	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Org.
			<input type="checkbox"/> Village	<input type="checkbox"/> Dist.	<input type="checkbox"/> College, School, etc.
			<input type="checkbox"/> Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal
			<input type="checkbox"/> State		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Authorized Representative Named by Resolution			Project Contact Name		
Authorized Representative Title			Project Contact Title		
Address			Address		
City	State	ZIP Code	City	State	ZIP Code
Daytime Phone (area code)	Evening Phone (area code)		Daytime Phone (area code)	Evening Phone (area code)	
E-mail Address			E-Mail Address		

Mail Check to: (if different from applicant)

Name and Title		Address	
Organization		City	State ZIP Code

For DNR Use Only

Application Type	Date Received	Date Reviewed (AIS/LC/RC)	AIS/Lake /River Coordinator Approval /Date
Waterbody ID#	Adequate Public Access <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Environmental Grants Specialist Approval / Date	
Eligible Project <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Eligible Applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Project Priority Rank	Research / Demo Project <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Prior Grant Award(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fiscal Year(s)	Amount Received To Date \$	Project Awarded <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant Application

Form 8700-307 (5/09)

Page 2 of 3

Section III: Project Information

Project Title AIS Education, Prevention and Planning	Proposed Ending Date 12/31/13
---------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------

Other Management Units	Letter of Support	Other Management Units	Letter of Support
1. City of Amery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Polk County LWRD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	6.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section IV: Public Access

Number of Public Vehicle Trailer Parking Spaces Available at Public Access Sites:	24
Number of Public Access Sites Including Boat Launches and Walk-ins:	5

Section V: Cost Estimate and Grant Request

Section V must be completed or application will be returned. Details in support of Section V are welcome.

Section V must be completed or application will be returned. Details in support of Section V are welcome.	Project Costs		
	Column 1 Cash Costs	Column 2 Donated Value	DNR Use Only
1. Salaries, wages and employee benefits	7,400.00	4,320.00	
2. Consulting services			
3. Purchased services--printing and mailing	1,000.00		
4. Other purchased services (specify):	600.00		
5. Plant material			
6. Supplies (specify)			
7. Depreciation on equipment			
8. Hourly equipment use charges			
9. State Lab of Hygiene (SLOH) Costs			
10. Non-SLOH Lab Costs			
11. Other (specify)			
12. Subtotals (sum each column)	9,000.00	4,320.00	
13. Total Project Cost Estimate (sum of column 1 plus sum of column 2)	13,320.00		
14. State Share Requested (up to 75% of total costs may be requested)	9,000.00		

Subject to the following maximum grant amounts:

- Education, Prevention and Planning Projects--up to \$150,000
- Early Detection and Response Projects--up to \$20,000
- Established Infestation Control Projects--up to \$200,000

Section VI: Attachments (check all that are included)

A. For all applicants: (Refer to instructions for applicability.)

- 1. Authorizing resolution
- 2. Letters of support
- 3. Map of project location and boundaries
- 4. Lake map or river segment with public access sites identified (per Section IV of this application)
- 5. Itemized breakdown of expenses
- 6. For projects that entail sending samples to the State Laboratory of Hygiene (SLOH) only: a completed SLOH Projected Cost Form
- 7. Project scope/description:
 - a. Description of project area
 - b. Description of problem to be addressed by project
 - c. Discussion of project goals and objectives
 - d. Description of methods and activities
 - e. Description of project products or deliverables
 - f. Description of data to be collected, if applicable
 - g. Description of existing and proposed partnerships
 - h. Discussion of role of project in planning and/or management of lake
 - i. Timetable for implementation of key activities
 - j. Plan for sharing project results
 - k. Other information in support of project not described above

B. For applicants that are Lake Management Organizations (LMOs), River Management Organizations (RMOs) or Qualified Non-profit Organizations:

- 1. For first time applicant LMOs/RMOs only: A completed Form 8700-226 (Lake Association Organizational Application) or 8700-287 (River Management Organization Application)
- 2. For first time applicant Qualified Nonprofit Organizations only: Copy of IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter and copies of your Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- 3. List of national and/or statewide organizations with which you are affiliated
- 4. List of board members' names, including municipality and county of residence. Designate officers
- 5. Documentation of current financial status
- 6. Brochures, newsletters, annual reports or other information about your organization

C. Education, Prevention and Planning Projects: (No additional attachments required.)

D. Early Detection and Response Projects:


- 1. APM Permit application

E. Established Infestation Control Projects:

- 1. Management Plan
- 2. APM Permit application

Section VII: Certification

I certify that information in this application and all its attachments are true and correct and in conformity with applicable Wis. Statutes.

Print/Type Name of Authorized Representative Roland Peterson	Title of Authorized Representative Chair
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date Signed 1/4/2012

**Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District
Board Resolution**

RESOLUTION of the Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District

County of Polk, Wisconsin

WHEREAS the Apple River Flowage is an important resource used by the public for recreation and enjoyment of natural beauty: and
WHEREAS public use and enjoyment of the Apple River Flowage is best served by protection of the Apple River Flowage from infestation of aquatic invasive species; and
WHEREAS we recognize the need to provide information and education about aquatic invasive species; and
WHEREAS we are qualified to carry out the responsibilities of the aquatic invasive species project.

IT IS THEREFORE, RESOLVED THAT:

The Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District requests the funds and assistance available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the "Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program;" and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES, the Apple River P&R District Chair, to act on behalf of the Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District to: submit an application to the State of Wisconsin for financial aid for aquatic invasive species grant purposes; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete an approved AIS grant. Grant reimbursement forms along with necessary supporting documentation will be submitted within six months of the project completion date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District will meet the obligations of the AIS project including timely publication of the results and meet the financial obligations under this grant including the prompt payment of our 25% commitment to aquatic invasive species project costs.

Adopted this 5th day of December, 2011.

By a vote of (3) in favor, (0) against, (0) abstain.

By: Angie Johnson
Angie Johnson, Secretary
Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District



118 Center Street
Amery, WI 54001

Office: 715.268.7486
Fax: 715.268.4870

www.amerywisconsin.org

January 10, 2012

Kris Larsen
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
810 W. Maple Street
Spooner, WI 54801

Dear Kris:

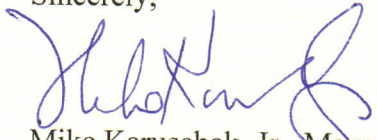
The City of Amery supports the Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District's application for an Aquatic Invasive Species Education and Planning Grant. We acknowledge the importance of preventing the introduction of invasive species such as Eurasian Water Milfoil into Amery area lakes, and believe the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is a good way to prevent AIS introduction.

We look forward to working together with the Flowage District and the Amery Lakes District by providing payroll services for student employees working at the landings. We will also be happy to allow sharing of aquatic invasive species prevention information at our council meetings which are broadcast over cable television.

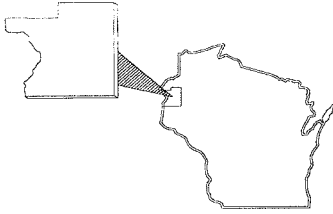
The city also supports the Flowage District's application to the Wisconsin Waterways Commission for an aquatic plant harvester. We will be helping to support the harvesting program, and are working out the details which will include winter storage of the harvester and assistance with hauling removed aquatic vegetation. The city will also be discussing priorities for the harvesting schedule with the Flowage District.

Thank you for considering this grant application for funding.

Sincerely,



Mike Karuschak, Jr., Mayor



POLK COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
100 POLK COUNTY PLAZA – SUITE 120
BALSAM LAKE, WISCONSIN 54810

PHONE: 715-485-8699

FAX: 715-485-8601

TIM RITTEN, DIRECTOR: 715-485-8631

January 6, 2012

Kris Larsen
WDNR
810 W. Maple St.
Spooner, WI 54801

Dear Mr. Larsen,

The Polk County Land and Water Resources Department is pleased to support the Apple River Flowage Protection and Rehabilitation District in their application for an AIS Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant to implement a Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspection program in cooperation with the City of Amery and Amery Lakes Board.

Goal 2, Action 1 of the 2011 Apple River Flowage Aquatic Plant Management Plan is to implement a Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program. Polk County LWRD will provide the necessary training and support for the CBCW boat landing interns for the two year period covered by the grant and into the long term.

Goal 1, Objective 1A of the Polk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, adopted by the County Board and approved by the state is to “prevent, control, or eliminate aquatic invasive species to protect the integrity of our surface water resources.” In addition, Goal 3 is to “support and develop the human resources in Polk County that manage our natural resources—both LWRD and volunteer management groups. The support of this grant application allows LWRD to meet both of these goals.

The LWRD believes that effective AIS prevention efforts and educational campaigns are most effective with combined efforts. We applaud the work that the Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District has initiated in the past and look forward to working with them in the future. The LWRD is strongly supportive of the District’s application for a Planning and Education Grant and will provide the necessary support to implement a Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Ritten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Ritten, Director

	Cost	Hours	In-kind value	Total Project	Grant Request
Salaries					
Boat landing interns (2 years @ \$3000)	\$6,000.00	150	\$1,800.00		
Develop individual corridor team methods		50	\$600.00		
Develop nuisance reporting		50	\$600.00		
Develop landing sites		50	\$600.00		
Consultant					
boat landing monitoring	\$1,000.00				
training	\$400.00				
Printing and mailing					
Printing and mailing	\$1,000.00	20	\$240.00		
Web, meetings, newsletter	\$400.00	40	\$480.00		
Workshop expenses	\$200.00				
	\$9,000.00	360	\$4,320.00	\$13,320.00	\$ 9,000.00

Apple River Flowage, Polk County AIS Education, Prevention and Planning

February 1, 2012

Introduction

The Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District completed an Aquatic Plant Management plan in September 2011. It was approved by the Department of Natural Resources December 8, 2011. This grant project begins implementation of education efforts to prevent introduction of aquatic invasive species. It also helps to develop more detailed prevention and control plans for curly leaf pondweed.

Project Area

The Flowage

The Apple River Flowage (WBIC 2624200) is located in central Polk County, Wisconsin in the town of Lincoln and within the city limits of Amery. The flowage has a surface area of 639 acres, a maximum depth of 15 feet and an average depth of 6 feet. The Apple River Flowage is a very nutrient rich water body with summer Secchi depths averaging only 3.5 feet in 2010. Most of the bottom sediments are organic muck. Combined with the shallow waters of the flowage, these mucky sediments promote heavy aquatic plant growth. In fact, aquatic plants cover nearly the entire surface of the lake bottom with plants growing to a depth of 14 feet.²

Early in the growing season, there is extensive curly leaf pondweed growth in the flowage. In 2011, curly leaf was found at 465 of 671 rake sample points. Therefore, CLP was present in 69% of the sample locations. From the report:

*Although found throughout the littoral zone, CLP achieved its greatest densities in sheltered bays with muck bottoms in water 3-7 feet deep. In general, the only place CLP wasn't found was in the deepest parts of the river channel, in water <1 foot deep where coontail filled the entire water column, and in most of the shallow northern wild rice (*Zizania palustris*) areas surrounding the Apple River Inlet.*

The flowage is created by a dam within the city limits of Amery. The flowage extends about 7 miles upstream almost to U.S. Highway 8. Operation of the dam has raised the normal water level of the river approximately 8 or 9 feet at the dam-site. Lowering of flowage water levels up to 6 feet can be readily accomplished with the present dam configuration.³

² Berg, Matthew S., Endangered Resources Services, LLC. *Warm Water Point/Intercept Macrophyte Survey Balsam Lake Polk County, Wisconsin. July 2009.*

³ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Office of Inland Lake Renewal. *Apple River Flowage Polk County. Feasibility Study Results; Management Alternatives. 1979.*

Table 1. Flowage Information

Size (acres)	639
Mean depth (feet)	6
Maximum depth (feet)	15 ⁴
Littoral zone depth (feet)	14
Average summer secchi depth (feet)	3.5

A flowage map is found on the following page as Figure 1. This map shows two public access sites on the flowage. One landing is located at the end of Birch Street in the city of Amery and the second is north of Amery at the end of River Shore Lane. The north landing has parking for 21 boats and trailers. There is no AIS sign at the River Shore Lane landing. There is 140 feet of parking along Birch Street to the first intersection. In addition, there is a large (1 acre – 265’X190’) city parking lot less than a block from the Birch Street landing. There are no public access points to the north and west of Highway 46. The box culvert under Highway 46 restricts access for large boats because of low clearance.

North Park on the north side of Amery has frontage on the flowage. There are also city, county, and DNR-owned park lands above the dam. These parks include a pavilion used for picnics and concerts, public art, trails along and across the river, and additional parking. The city recently developed an overlook for public use just above the dam.

The 29 plants identified to species during the point intercept survey produced a mean Coefficient of Conservatism of 5.92 and a **Floristic Quality Index of 31.8**. **The FQI mean for the Northern Central Hardwood Forests Region (Nichols 1999) was 20.9**

⁴ The Wisconsin Lakes Book reports depths to 18 feet. However, plant surveyors found depths only up to 15 feet.

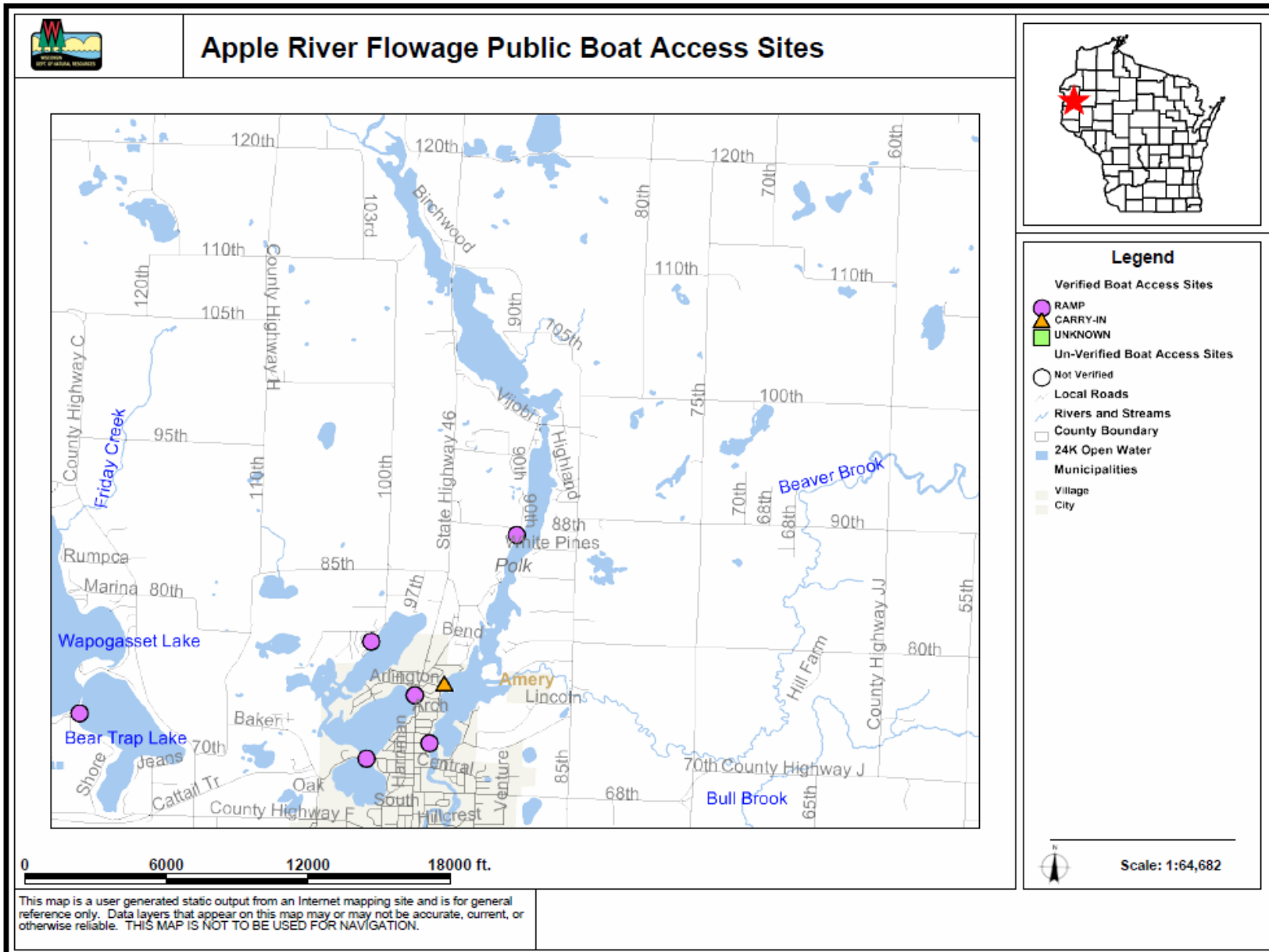


Figure 1. Apple River Flowage Public Access Sites

Problems to be Addressed

Eurasian water milfoil introduction threatens the Apple River Flowage. It was found just across the highway on Pike Lake in 2010.

Curly leaf pondweed beds are extensive in the lake, creating boating nuisances and suspected water quality problems.

A harvesting system and individual corridor management monitoring need to be developed in more detail for the district to effectively control curly leaf pondweed.

Citizen leaders and the public need to be informed regarding aquatic plant management.

Project Goals and Objectives (from the aquatic plant management plan)

Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

Objectives

- A. Boaters inspect, clean, and drain boats, trailers, and equipment.
- B. Identify new aquatic invasive species as soon as possible after introduction to the flowage.
- C. Rapidly and aggressively respond to new introductions of invasive species such as Eurasian water milfoil.
- D. Eradicate purple loosestrife and other invasive species found in and around the flowage.

Maintain navigation for fishing, boating, and access to lake residences.

Objectives

- 3A. Allow access along designated common navigation channels if navigation becomes impaired.
- 3C. Allow access through individual waterfront corridors if navigation becomes impaired.

Goal:

Educate the public on the prevention, early detection, and control of invasive species.

Objectives:

- A. Residents understand the functions and values of native aquatic plant communities and the ways to protect them.
- B. Resident volunteers can identify Eurasian water milfoil and other aquatic invasive species.
- C. The public understands the methods needed to control and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Project Methods and Activities (from the aquatic plant management plan)

AIS Prevention

- 1. Implement a Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. (Objective A). Train student staff and volunteers in cooperation with the Amery Lakes District and the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department. The City of Amery will provide payroll services. **The program will include a blitz of activity during the 4th of July weekend.**
- 2. Monitor regularly for invasive species introduction at areas of high public use such as the boat landings using volunteers, divers, and/or other comprehensive, reliable methods. (Objective B)
- 3. Follow the Eurasian Water Milfoil Rapid Response plan from the APM plan. (Objective C)
- 4. Encourage owners or the county to chemically treat small areas of purple loosestrife. Consider biological control if larger infestations are discovered. (Objective D).
- 5. Investigate and pursue available monitoring and control measures for priority invasive species such as Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels. (Objective B, C)

AIS Prevention and Control Plans

Further detailed development of these control plans will aid in curly leaf pondweed management on the Apple River Flowage.

Plan harvester access and offload sites

Access for harvester entry and plant material disposal will be developed on the north end of the flowage.

Existing public boat landing facilities will be used. These sites are shown in Figure 1. Additional sites are under investigation.

Disposal sites

Disposal sites will be identified. These may include farm fields, city yard waste areas, and local composting facilities (nursery operations). There is likely to be high demand for the material collected.

Nuisance reporting

Monitoring

Harvester operators or flowage district representatives will monitor vegetative growth in designated navigation channels at least weekly and record the level of navigation impairment and height of aquatic plants (depth below surface) within each channel. This will serve to identify when harvesting is needed and how long the effects of harvesting last.

Nuisance reporting

A telephone contact will be established for lake residents to report problems related to floating plant fragments. These complaints will be investigated by harvester operators and/or flowage district representatives. Plant fragments will be collected as time and budget allows.

If a nuisance related to aquatic plants near a resident's access is reported, it will be clarified that the flowage district will pick up plant fragments, but not harvest for resident access. Options for resident access corridors will be provided.

Corridor monitoring

Further develop and trial procedures outlined in the APM plan.

- Landowners will document conditions with photographs and submit request for review by the ARPRD DESIGN TEAM. The design team will consist of trained lake volunteers who are familiar with options for individual corridor management.
- Landowner requests ARPRD DESIGN TEAM review of their property prior to submitting a permit application to DNR.
- The ARPRD DESIGN TEAM representative visits site, reviews documentation and provides a written opinion of navigation impairment i.e., is herbicide treatment or harvesting warranted? The design team will also provide other options for the owner to consider.

Educational Activities

Distribute public information materials to lake residents and visitors. Written materials will be distributed at committee meetings, and at public meetings. Existing UWEX and DNR resources will be used whenever feasible.

Conduct an educational workshop regarding available aquatic plant management methods. This workshop will focus on aquatic invasive species and options for individual corridor management.

Write and distribute newspaper articles with EWM and other aquatic plant management information.

Complete an annual newsletter, update websites, and conduct meetings to provide AIS information.

Install a sign

A state AIS sign will be installed at the River Shore Lane landing.

Products or deliverables / data collected

- Tested prevention and control plans for curly leaf pondweed to include plans for loading/off loading harvester, nuisance reporting, and individual corridor monitoring.
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters and landing monitoring reports
- Consultant boat landing monitoring report
- Newsletter, web updates, and meeting notes.
- Workshop agenda a records.

Existing and Proposed Partnerships

The Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District will work closely with the Amery Lakes District, the City of Amery, and the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department to implement this project.

The City of Amery will employ student lake monitors on behalf of the ARPRD and the Amery Lakes District. The city will be reimbursed for salaries and associated expenses at the end of each monitoring season.

The ARPRD will work together with the Amery Lakes District to supervise and schedule students. They will be trained by the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department with help from the ARPRD, the Amery School District, and the Amery Lakes District.

The Polk County Land and Water Resources Department is also partnering with the Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District to undertake a water quality and management plan. Addressing water quality concerns on the flowage was the top concern of the advisory committee.

Existing plans or management efforts (how is project consist with these)

Invasive aquatic species prevention through education is a priority of the **Polk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2009** as shown in the goal, objective, and activities below.

Goal 1. Protect the water quality of our groundwater, lakes, streams, rivers, creeks, and associated ecosystems.

Objective 1A. Prevent, control or eliminate aquatic invasive species to protect the integrity of our surface water resources.

- 1. Educate water users, lake groups, and special parties (fishing groups) of the impact, spread, and peril of AIS*
- 2. Monitor water bodies for the presence/absence or extent of invasion*
- 3. Create a plan for invasive species management*
- 4. Use volunteers and interns whenever possible*
- 5. Employ strategies to keep native ecosystems intact*
- 6. Work with other agencies to coordinate programs and provide information*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the St. Croix Partner Basin Team identify the control of invasive species as a high priority issue in the **St. Croix Basin Plan**.

Recent and imminent introductions of exotic and out of place endemic species threaten ecological balance and the very existence of many native species at all trophic levels. The growing list of exotic species and their expanding range may prove to be an insurmountable obstacle to maintain healthy natural aquatic systems.

Project Timeline

The project will be implemented over a two year time period. A project timeline is attached.

Educational workshops	Summer 2012
Newspaper articles	Twice during 2012
Workshop	Annually
Clean Boats, Clean Waters	Summer
Boat Landing Monitoring	July
Meeting, web, newsletter	Summer

Plan For Sharing Project Results

Project results will be shared through deliverables previously described including educational workshops, and the aquatic plant management plan. A final report (in electronic format) will summarize these results. Newspaper articles and presentations at the Lake District's annual meetings will report project results to lake residents.

Additional Information

Apple River Association newsletter

An Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation Newsletter Summer 2011

Hi Everyone!

The Apple River flowage summer 2011 season has arrived! This is a very significant summer regarding the future of the flowage. After many years of trying to manage the aquatic plant population, we are faced with a massive plant challenge. In 1985 and 1986 and then from 1992-1997(8 years) a private custom harvester was used for a short period each of those years. Then from 1993-2009(17 years) herbicides were used to keep some portion of the navigation channels open as well as private channels were used by some owners. The results seem to be somewhat mixed. **The real ‘bomb’ came when the DNR made it very clear there would be no more treatment permits given without an approved aquatic plant management plan.** That order is still holding for 2011 even though we now have a “draft” management plan developed. It should be noted that the last plan was a “Feasibility Study” completed in 1978. It appears we operated on “borrowed” time for many years. However, the ARPRD board moved last year and launched the first step of conducting a “Warm Water Plant Intercept Macrophyte Survey “ of the flowage. That was required before developing an Aquatic Plant Management Plan. The survey was conducted on July 10-12 in 2010 and a report was prepared. The survey was conducted by the “Endangered Resources Services”. The report was based on 671 points in the 640 acre flowage and revealed thick muck in 95.8% of the bottom, and plant growth on 87.6 % of the lake bottom.

What did the plant survey find?

There were 36 species found. Coon-tail, small duckweed, common water-meal and large duckweed were the most common native species in the lake. Of real concern is the invasive species population. The latest report shows Curly-leaf pondweed is now widespread and is in 344 acres (13 beds). It is extensiveness covering the entire flowage. This has happened even with 17 years of herbicide use. Eurasian water-milfoil has not been found.

From what we have all seen and has been supported by the survey data, we have a “growing” problem. It appears we are losing the management ability each year. Just a reminder, the flowage is a 639 acre lake (body of water) with a depth of 15’ and an average depth of 6’. The water entering the flowage comes from a 111,943 acre watershed called the Upper Apple River Watershed. Further, a high phosphorus level also causes a concern for many areas downstream as well as for us. It is evident that growing plants use nutrients. However, when they die and are not removed, they also release the nutrients and add to the muck as they decay. It seems the only way to address the real issue is the careful removal of excessive plant materials.

What has happened in 2011?

An Aquatic Plant Management Plan for the Apple River Flowage has been developed and a draft copy is available for your review at the Amery Library as well as at the ARPRD website which can be found at <http://arprd.org>. The plan is in the draft stage and is open for your review from now until the Annual meeting on August 27th. Please watch the Amery Free Press for notices of coming events. The plan was developed by an advisory team that included 14 residents/owners as well as representatives of the City of Amery, the Town of Lincoln and the Polk County DNR, the Wisconsin DNR, the Apple River Association, and the St. Croix Tribal Environmental District.

The process of developing the plan was lead by Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental in Amery. The committee met 5 times starting in Feb. and ending in mid-May. The report provides an extensive overview of all the background regarding plant populations, and key issues. The plan is developed around five major goals. The goals are 1. Improve water quality on the Apple River Flowage and downstream on the Apple River, 2.Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species, 3.Maintain navigation for fishing, boating and access to lake residences, 4. Maintain native aquatic plant functions and 5. Minimize environmental impacts of aquatic plant management. The advisory committee engaged in extensive discussion as to how to best make the flowage more than a growing body of plants that hinder nearly every use.

What does the plan recommend?

The purchase of an 8' weed harvester which will function 4-5 days/ week from mid-May until September of each year. This will allow the removal of invasive species reproduction as well as the removal of native species that serve to clog all boats and water craft. The removal of plant materials in a 50' width along the entire navigation channel will make a difference. Many surrounding lakes are now using harvesters and are showing effective results.

What will be the cost of this method?

The cost of an 8' harvester, a shoreline conveyor and a trailer is about \$130,000. It appears the cost of operating a harvester, employing 2 people to operate, purchase fuel, repairs when breakdowns occur and other costs may be about \$20,000.which is within our current budget of \$22,000 per year.

How may we pay for the equipment?

We are preparing a payment plan which hopefully is not placing a financial burden on anyone. First, we will be seeking grants which are available for the purchase of harvesting equipment. If our request is successful, grants of up to 50% of the cost may be possible. Secondly, organizations have stepped up and offered \$5,000. Thirdly, we may seek a bank loan for the balance and develop a payoff over a five-year plan with a minimal increase in a tax levy. Currently, our current ax levy is about .63 mills which provides \$22,000/ year. A property valued at \$200,000 currently pays \$125 per year to the ARPRD. If the levy was increased to about .90 mills would provide the ARPRD with about \$31,500 or sufficient funds to make a \$14,000 payment each year or a payoff within 5 years and still have enough operating funds. A current property valued at \$200,000 would have a levy of about \$180.00 per year. The question we need to ask is a \$65.00/ per year increase for 5 years worth making the flowage an attractive and useful recreational for Amery and the surrounding area or will the plants simply take control.

What is the next step?

All of you need to read the reports and provide your feedback over the next 2 months. Please send your questions and concerns to Cheryl Clemens at Harmony Environmental 516 Keller Ave. S. Amery or to committee or board members until the Annual meeting on August 27th. We need to be good stewards of the property that has been entrusted to us. The committee has tried to develop a plan that will meet the five goals and makes the flowage an asset for all of us rather than a body of water many want to avoid. Hopefully the plan makes sense and will receive approval from the Wisconsin DNR later this fall after you have approved the plan.

Thank you for your thoughts and input.

Sincerely, The ARPRD Board Roland Peterson Chr./Deb Lein Treasurer/Peg Pechacek Secretary