

Lone Stone Lake Early Detection & Response 2014-2016

AIRR – 168 – 14

2015 Report

2015 marks the end of the second of three years for the Early Detection grant awarded to Friends of Lone Stone. As president of this lake association, and primary record keeper, I want to begin this annual report with a huge thank you to Jane Malischke of the Wisconsin DNR for her patience and invaluable help with documentation and fulfillment of this grant.

Friends of Lone Stone (FOLS) continued to work with Onterra and Aquatic Plant Management in 2015. Onterra did mapping and planning for pursuit of EWM early in the summer, followed by updating the association GPS unit. They mapped again later in the fall to monitor plant growth and harvest efforts, again updating us via GPS readings.

Aquatic Plant Management gave us significantly more dive hours in 2015, despite having to reschedule several times due to inclement weather at Lone Stone. We have been very satisfied with their manual pulling and removal of milfoil. Communication was much improved this year over last as well. We plan to continue using both Onterra and Aquatic Plant Management in 2016, the final year of our grant.

Friends of Lone Stone held their annual meeting in May to relay information and plan for the summer, and a second meeting in early August to update members. Attendance at each meeting was 25 – 30 people. We had a significant increase in volunteer hours in 2015, primarily in monitoring of our two boat landings, locating hand-pulling opportunities from the water, and some removal by hand pulling. With Jane's help with the completion of paperwork, we had more than enough volunteer hours to offset our share of the expenses incurred by Onterra and Aquatic Plant Management.

Our biggest challenge was getting the actual funds to pay our bills before they could then be reimbursed with grant monies. Three members of our Board of Directors "loaned" significant amounts of money to the association, which was then paid out to cover the invoices for work already completed. Those payments were then 100% reimbursed to the association by the DNR grant, allowing us to re-pay these three "loans." Waiting to make sure all checks cleared throughout the process, stretched the financial turnaround to about six weeks each time. Friends of Lone Stone is a non-profit association, with no source of income but for minimal annual member fees, occasional small donations, and non-cash donated hours of time. The last grant payment of 2015 leaves the association with a cash balance of approximately \$1400, and a DNR grant balance of just over \$8400 remaining for 2016.

In closing, we are extremely grateful for the grant funds that have allowed Lone Stone Lake to use professional help in the challenge of dealing with Eurasian Water Milfoil. On a personal note, I am very worried about how we will address this on-going problem once the grant funds have ended. I am also disappointed in how many property owners, many of them with lake frontage, show no interest whatsoever in this issue. Those of us who do care will be looking for continuing guidance for years to come!