**Goal 2: Reduce curly-leaf pondweed coverage and density to restore reasonable uses of the lake while promoting the recovery of the beneficial native plant community**

***The current harvesting program should be continued with the goal of reducing curly-leaf pondweed sample site frequency of occurrence at sites shallower than the maximum depth of plants to 60% in harvested areas and an average density of 1. As a measure of the recovery of the native plant community, FQI should be maintained at 20 or greater.***

Objective 1. Ensure that the timing and location of harvesting is appropriate and prevents harm to important fish spawning and nursery habitat and prevents direct removal or indirect harm to wild rice

* *Complete and submit Form 3200-113:Mechanical/Manual Aquatic Plant Control Application*
* Notify Aquatic Plant Specialist, Mark Sundeen at 715-635-4074, 4 working days prior to anticipated start of the harvesting operation, or provide a schedule of harvesting on request
* The Water Resources Management Specialist may schedule and conduct an onsite supervision of harvesting
	+ In the absence of or in conjunction with the Water Resources Management Specialist, DNR Environmental Law Enforcement Staff may schedule and conduct an onsite supervision of harvesting and general permit compliance
* Mechanical harvesting is only allowed in the areas specified and approved in the annual permit letter from WDNR and as they appear on the map submitted in the permit application
* Harvesting is limited to the 3 foot depth in most locations
* All late season cutting (that allowed in the permit after June 15th) should be allowed only at a depth greater than 5-feet of the lake nearest the rice beds.
* All aquatic plants cut must be removed immediately from the water and disposal of the harvested aquatic plants must be located in department approved areas and must be in accordance with any applicable county and local regulations.
* All mechanical harvesting records must be maintained and made available to the Department upon request
	+ Annual reports summarizing harvesting activities shall be given to the Department by November 1 each year
	+ The annual report shall include a map showing the areas harvested, the total acres harvested and the total amount of plant material removed from the water body.
* Three sensitive areas will be observed and GPS coordinates will be established to delineate each area, and described and put on a map to be observed while harvesting
	+ Sensitive area A will have no active management and is serving as a reference area
	+ Sensitive area B may have a primary navigation channel cut into it, with an expected 4 “finger” channels branching from the primary channel to 4 properties within the bay. This channel may not be cut until after Memorial Day, after spawning fish (primarily crappie) have completed spawning. The channels may be 25’ wide at maximum.
	+ Sensitive area C, located at the south end of the lake includes vegetation that may include wild rice. No active management, by the Lake District, or by riparian property owners under any other permit will be allowed in this site until after a site survey is made to determine what if any effects management may have on wild rice, and after a consultation about the effects of management on wild rice is done with the Voigt Task Force. Inspection of this site will take place in June by the DNR and St. Croix Tribal DNR to determine potential impacts on Wild Rice growing in that area if harvesting of navigational lanes to riparian areas were permitted.