**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

**St. Louis River Alliance AOC Aid Agreement Grant – Current Summary**

Report Timeframe: February 27, 2017 to July 31, 2017

Grant Details -

*Project Manager: Kris Eilers*

*Project Manager: Alyssa Hoppe*

*Project Start Date: February 27, 2017*

*Project End Date: December 31, 2017*

**Project Milestones:**

**Objective 1: St. Louis Estuary Photo Contest**

* 2017 Seasons of the St. Louis River photo contest began on June 1, 2017;
* Beforehand photo contest rules, instructions, categories, and photo releases were developed;
* A woobox account was updated to provide a web based photo submission page, <http://woobox.com/ooio47>;
* Prizes for winners were outlined as incentives for participation;
* Promotion for the event happened through the development of a Facebook page, with several posts being made throughout each week since June 1, 2017 sharing and tagging participants photos;
* Two Email updates were sent to SLRA’s members and supporters list, the first reached 943 people, and the second reached 900 people);
* 21 entries have been submitted;
* 296 people have visited the Woobox website page;
* One press release was developed and sent to 43 local media outlets;
* 20+ Posters were hung up in the downtown Duluth area;
* A catalog has been created to retain all photo entries;

**Objective 2: St. Louis River Area of Concern Open House Event**

* After discussions about best timing and venue with WDNR, we have decided to hold the event at the beginning of December;
* AOC coordinators had a brief discussion to potentially making it a celebration for the BUI removal announcement, contingent on completion of the BUI removal;
* Also on the agenda will be an announcement of photo contest winners;
* SLRA is checking on venues in Superior that will have the capacity to hold this event.

**Objective 3: Wild Rice Restoration in the St. Louis River Estuary**

* SLRA is working with GLFWIC and other contacts to secure 500 lbs of wild rice as soon as it is available;
* SLRA has begun basic outreach for volunteers and coordination for the event, including:
	+ Drafting a series of emails and social media posts for contacts to go out to recruit volunteers and promote the event;
	+ SLRA is developing educational programming for an event by working with Wild Rice experts to teach about cultural significance as well as benefits of wild rice;
	+ Logistics are being coordinated with GLFWIC who will give us better timeframe on getting seed;
	+ 10-20 member volunteers will be on standby for the planting and program;
	+ Timeframe for this event will be dependent on harvest conditions, but should be around the second week of September;
	+ A press release will go out to media announcing the event, and contact will be made with personal contacts for media personnel for a possible magazine article.