

**April 25, 2008**

**Ms. Pamela Toshner, Lake Management Coordinator**

**Northern Region-West, Wisconsin DNR**

**810 West Maple Street**

**Spooner, WI. 54801**

**Dear Ms. Toshner**

**This summary report of the activities of the Namakagon Lake Association in partnership with the Towns of Namakagon & Grand View is intended to brief Wisconsin DNR on events relating to our Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant (AIS) titled "Lake Namakagon Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Prevention & Investigation" in 2007. The aquatic survey was performed by Liesch Environmental of Madison, Wisconsin following modified WDNR procedure for conducting baseline aquatic plant sampling as described in the report dated September 19, 2007 and relayed in electronic form to your agency last month. Basically, Liesch sampled aquatic vegetation on three separate occasions between June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and August 23, 2007 recording data that included: GPS location, depth of water, bottom type, device used to obtain sample, density of vegetation collected on the sampling device and plant species collected on said sampling device. All information was recorded on field data sheets along with maps indicating the WDNR derived sampling points in Garden Lake, Jackson Lake & Lake Namakagon.**

**In conjunction with the plant survey, NLA also organized volunteers to monitor several of Lake Namakagon's boat landings in conjunction with the goals and objectives of the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. Trained volunteers contributed 106 man hours along with 68 paid hours for a total of 174 hours monitoring Lake Namakagon's boat landings observing the launch/removal of 117 boats during that time. Additionally, the NLA, at an expense of \$15,000 purchased two remote controlled internet landing device sensors that recorded in excess of 4,600 launching/removal events during the period June 2007 to October 2007. The NLA also paid an additional \$3,600 to operate, insure and maintain these sensors during that same time frame.**

**While the NLA was not able to construct informational kiosks at our nine landings, we did distribute CBCW educational pamphlets, plant identification cards, AIS Fact Sheets and our own NLA designed informational brochure including Courtesy Code, AIS boat mooring facts, Etiquette for Boaters and Personal Watercraft, NLA Mission Statement and a map of Lake Namakagon showing WDNR Designated Sensitive Areas, No Wake Zones and other pertinent information. A copy of our brochure has been forwarded by NLA Secretary William Porter to your office for your review & comment. NLA will then revise & reprint this document for use in 2008 and future boating seasons. Additionally, NLA authors, prints & distributes three comprehensive newsletters per year dealing with everything from the construction of wood duck houses, AIS issues, boating safety & regulations, educational workshops & seminars, legislative issue & Shoreland restoration to name a few. Secretary Porter has also forwarded copies of these newsletters electronically to your office as well.**

NLA is also very proud of our ongoing efforts to educate the boating public and our own membership on AIS and WDNR mandated safety and boating rules and regulations. To that very end, the NLA has established a "FUN ON THE WATER" youth safety and skills day which we held on July 29, 2007. This extremely successful effort was organized by NLA member Al Stawicki who recruited 15-20 adult NLA members who worked with approximately 60 youngsters on kayak instruction, swimming competition & safety, fish pole casting and similar activities.

Also central to this activity was a presentation by our new WDNR Warden Jill Schartner and Bayfield County Deputy Sheriff Larry Loch. Warden Schartner and Deputy Loch reviewed the latest boating rules & regulations focusing on required & recommended safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, battery enclosures and life vests. Of great interest to the children was the demonstration, on a few brave volunteers, of how inflatable life vests operate. To say their presentation was well received would be an understatement.

In offering our suggestions to improve the grant programs based on our experience last year, I think it highly advisable that WDNR deal directly with associations such as the NLA as opposed to having the applicants be the Townships. The NLA needs and values direct input and communication from both the WDNR and our Townships as we deem communication essential to working on our common goals together. NLA's inability to meet WDNR's grant requirements on a timely basis in 2007 to allow both organizations to close out the grant last Fall is an example of failed communications as it wasn't clear whether the Town of Namakagon or NLA needed to draft the summation report & enter the SWIMS data. In 2008 we do not see this as an issue since we will work directly with WDNR Spooner to meet WDNR grant requirements. Additionally, the undersigned and NLA Director Tom Nelson will meet periodically with you and other WDNR staff during the grant period to assure proper communication and coordination between our two organizations.

Finally, the NLA Board would like you to know how much we appreciate your advice & assistance both last year and earlier this year in modifying our three grant requests. This is a learning process for the NLA. We want to get it right the first time; the future of our Lake is at stake.

Best personal regards,

Steven W. Riley, NLA VP  
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