**Project title: Clough Island Wild Rice Seeding and Restoration Outreach**

**Report October 2021**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

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1. **Coordinate seeding of 10 acres of wild rice around the Clough Island wetlands.**

Plans were discussed and arranged to seed Clough Island in historical location where it had been planted in past years. A change was requested the day before seeding to plant Kingsbury Bay since it is freshly restored and seeding would be beneficial to establish early on. Arrangements were made with team and staff members to change locations. All was successful in planting at the new location. Approximately 440 lbs were seeded in the shallow areas of Kingsbury Bay under the direction of WDNR coordinators. Another 60 lbs was seeded the following week by the Anahata Herbal, as he was not able to obtain the 500 lbs before the first planting. The harvest was very difficult due to low water levels and fluctuating weather. The picker needed to travel to many lakes to get 500 lbs.

1. **Coordinate purchase of wild rice seed.**

Coordination with picker (Anahata Herbals) starting in July. Communication was important to be able to time the event, and to plan how much seed was possible to obtain.

1. **Lead the seeding including:**
2. **Coordinating SLRA staff and volunteers**

Staff solicited volunteers via email announcements, and announcement at Vista Boat Tour on 9/8/21.

SLRA planned and coordinated with the team, volunteers, etc. 12 volunteers attended. 2 slra staff, 2 WDNR staff, and 2 Safety Boat escorts (in same boat) attended.

1. **Coordinate watercraft and safety logistics:**

SLRA secured a safety motor boat escort with 2 attendants, arranged for 4 canoe rentals, parking and launch site with Spirit Lake Marina.

1. **Community education and outreach:**

SLRA was not able to obtain a tribal presenter due to people having busy schedules. WDNR and SLRA spoke to group about details of the overall project, and the importance of Manoomin. SLRA gave instructions and directed the group. WDNR assisted in directing the group to the site as it was a new site (Kingsbury Bay) and a new change in plans. SlRA used social media and constant contact to publicize the event.

1. **Coordinate 1 media release with the restoration partnership that explains the rice restoration efforts in 2021**

SLRA has completed the Press release and it is being sent for review by the team. It will be sent out when approved.

1. **SLRA will use social media and email lists to publicize the wild rice restoration and details of the project to the public. Outreach metrics will be recorded for the final report.**

SLRA sent out mass emails on 8/20/21, and on 9/15/20. See attached for metrics and samples.

1. **SLRA will use photography and video for future promotions of the AOC projects**

See link for photos! https://www.stlouisriver.org/news/2021-wild-rice-planting-amp-photos