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

**Report October 2022**

**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 made to seed at Kingsbury Bay with David G. on September 14th. It was forecasted to be extremely windy so extra care was taken to ensure the safety of all involved. 500 lbs were seeded in the shallow areas of Kingsbury Bay and inside the goose exclosures. A pontoon was used to bring the seed out to the Bay from Spirit Lake Marina and escort the volunteers in their canoes. Instructions was given on the landing during the education portion of the day, and then again at the Bay on the water. 10 people, including SLRA staff was present. 7 volunteers participated in the seeding.

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. Picker was able to deliver all 500 lbs of seed to the Marina and place in water near the landing the morning of September 14th. Seed was obtained from different areas in and around Mille Lacs area from rivers.

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

Staff solicited volunteers via email announcements, social media, word of mouth.SLRA planned and coordinated with the team, volunteers, etc. 7 volunteers attended. 3 SLRA staff. Several volunteers who signed up did not show up.

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

SLRA secured a safety pontoon escort with 3 attendants, arranged for 5 canoe rentals, parking and launch site with Spirit Lake Marina. The wind was too strong to leave from Spirit Lake Marina, so arrangements were made for them to load up canoes, deliver and pick up at Indian Point so the volunteers only had to paddle around the point. The point and Bay offered protection from the strong wind.

1. **Community education and outreach:**

Thomas Howes from Fond Du Lac Band did the opening talk and stated the importance of wild rice. SLRA spoke to group about details of the overall project, and the importance of Manoomin. SLRA gave instructions and directed the group. Social media posts, 2 press releases (before and after event) were made to make people aware of the event and the importance of the wild rice.

1. **Coordinate 1 media release with the restoration partnership that explains the rice restoration efforts in 2022**

SLRA sent out press release on September 21st. attached

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 8/19, and on 9/16. FB posts were on 8/21. Sept 22. Attached

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

Attached.