

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM - 2008

SUMMARY

The year started with the Bayfield County AIS Committee finishing the final draft of the Bayfield County AIS Strategic Plan. By early February the draft was out for review. The comment period was 30 days. It was sent to all county municipalities, select county departments, Red Cliff Tribe, federal and state natural resource agencies, individuals of the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA), lake groups and other interested individuals. It was also available on the Bayfield County website. Two public information meetings were held the end of February. The reviews were all favorable with the plan's contents, although the phrase "it's ambitious" was repeated in the comments. The plan was formally adopted by the County Board of Supervisors 15 April 2008. The plan's effectiveness will be evaluated periodically, and the AIS Committee will be the oversight group for the plan.

Early spring, across the county, numerous lake groups and the county AIS Coordinator were beginning to implement grant projects to continue AIS education and watercraft inspection programs (Clean Boats Clean Water Program) at the highest priority lakes in the county. 2008 was also the first year of the WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Water Guard Program. Water Guards are enforcement credentialed educators who participated in the CBCW program as well as contributed significantly to the AIS education and outreach activities across the county and state. Kathy Oginski was the water guard in Bayfield County. By the end of 2008, these continuing education and prevention measures proved successful—no additional lakes are known to have AIS introduced into their waters!

In the lakes that have Eurasian Water-milfoil (EWM) populations, two different approaches for management began. 1) In the Barnes area, a three-year research project began on Sand Bar Lake (control) and Tomahawk Lake (treatment) partnering the US Army Corps of Engineers, WDNR, the Town of Barnes, and the lake shore property owners of Sand Bar and Tomahawk Lakes. The research is to determine the success of whole lake, early spring, herbicide treatment to knock back EWM having the least affect on native plants. This is the first research of its kind in a lake at this latitude in Wisconsin. First year results show that all growing EWM was killed in this treatment. The herbicide remained in the water far longer than anticipated resulting in a negative affect on native species. The herbicide is primarily degraded by bacterial action. The lead scientists believes that because the lake is so clear, less bacteria are in the water and coupled with the cool water, degradation did not occur as expected. The AIS Coordinator and the WDNR Lake Specialist did visit Tomahawk Lake mid August and saw native plants—over 20 species were noted. 2) In the Pike Chain of Lakes, the Iron River Area Lakes Association (IRALA) continues to pay for herbicide treatment in Twin Bear and Hart Lake, also treating the small EWM population in Buskey Bay. IRALA also started lake management planning projects on the six main lakes of the chain. A Lake Management Plan is necessary before WDNR funds can be requested to help pay for long term management of an aquatic invasive plant. By the end of 2008, the six lake management plans were approved by the WDNR, and IRALA was going to submit a 4 year EWM management (treatment) project for WDNR AIS Control Grant funding.

The AIS Program Coordinator in collaboration with many individuals continued outreach programs, attended lake association meetings, trained individuals to help monitor shorelines for AIS, wrote 3 grants and administered three grants. The present grant, to have ended 31 December 2008, was extended to 30 June 2009 in order to spend all state funds and document in-kind match from numerous sources.

CBCW

Clean Boats Clean Waters is the WI Department of Natural Resources / University Wisconsin Extension Lakes Program watercraft inspection and AIS education program instituted at boat landings across the state. This program was implemented statewide in 2004 and in Bayfield County since 2005.

Clean Boat Clean Water 2008 Statistics

	Bayfield County	Vilas County (1,314 lakes)	State Results	% Bayfield Co. in State Results	% Vilas Co in State Results
Number of Hours at the landings:	4,805	4,442	30,200	16.0	14.7
Number of Boats Checked:	7,055	5,281	50,069	14.1	10.5
Number of Contacts:	15,920	11,623	111,081	14.3	10.5

(Vilas County statistics are noted for comparison value as it is also a lake-rich county)

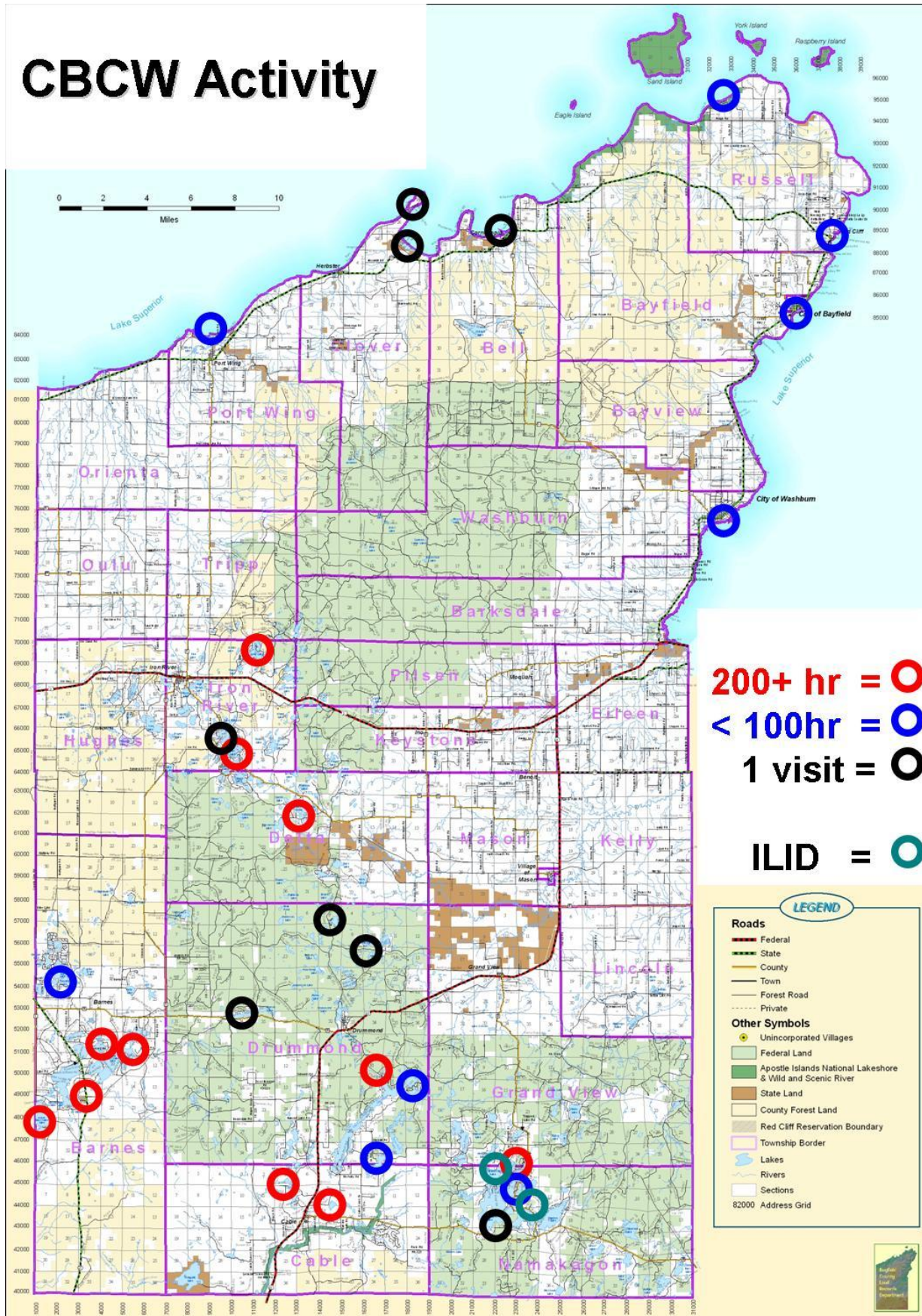
Who did all the CBCW Activity, Where and How?

WHO	WHERE	PRIMARY MEANS
Bayfield County LWCD	Pike Chain & Delta Chain of Lakes	WDNR AIS Control Grant & county funding
Cable Lake Association/ Town of Cable	Cable, Perry, Tahkodah Lakes	WDNR AIS Control Grant
Lake Owen Association, Inc.	Lake Owen	WDNR AIS Control Grant
Long Lake Property Owners Association	Long Lake	WDNR AIS Control Grant
Namakagon Lake Association, Inc.	Namakagon Lake	WDNR AIS Control Grant & ILID (24/7 video monitoring)
Town of Barnes	Eau Claire Chain of Lakes, Tomahawk, Robinson, Beauregard (Douglas Co.)	WDNR AIS Control Grant & town funding
USDA Forest Service	Across National Forest and at Two Lakes Campground, Lake Owen	Federal funding
Water Guard	Across the county	State of Wisconsin
WI Sea Grant	Lake Superior landings	University of WI & WDNR AIS Control Grant

FUNDING

The State Legislature increased WDNR AIS Control Grant Funding to \$4.3 million per year. For the Feb 2008 grant cycle, under Emergency Rule, state match increased from 50% to 75% match, financial caps were raised significantly per program area, and the donated in-kind labor amount raised from \$8 to \$12 per hour. These changes decreased the sponsor's costs to implement an AIS program. However, the competition for these funds is fierce. In the Aug 2008 grant cycle (FY 2009), for \$2.15 million in available funds, there were \$4.1 million in requests. The increase in funding is greatly appreciated, and the need for it is also appreciatively great.

CBCW Activity



Outreach/contact for AIS

2008 Highlights

Governor Jim Doyle, Secretary of Department of Tourism, Kelli Trumble, Secretary of Department of Natural Resources, Matt Frank, Senator Robert Jauch, Representative Gary Sherman, WDNR Northern Regional Director John Godzdziński, and associated staff visited Twin Bear and Hart Lakes and heard about the county AIS program and what the Iron River Area Lakes Association and the county are doing to address Eurasian Water-milfoil in the Pike Chain of Lakes. The AIS Coordinator believes Gov. Doyle and Secretary Frank gained an appreciation for the passion and efforts from the locals to protect their resources. It was a great visit and thanks go to Mary Motiff, Director, Bayfield County Tourism and Recreation for creating this opportunity and putting it together! Thanks also to Karen Austin, CBCW Coordinator, Bayfield Co. Parks for obtaining pontoons and captains for the event.

The AIS Program had an outside booth at the 2008 Bayfield County Fair that was staffed by AIS Committee members, the AIS Program Coordinator, and members of Long Lake Property Owners Association. It was discovered this was an excellent venue to accomplish much AIS education and discussion. Over 200 individual of all ages came by the booth and talked with staff. Specimens were displayed and there were many handouts available for the taking. The lamprey display borrowed from the Superior Office of WDNR was a great attention grabber. Thanks also go to the Battle Axe Saloon of Iron River for lending a tent, table and chairs to the cause.

The county's AIS Program is successful because it is built on a strong foundation of collaboration and assistance from so many entities.

OUTREACH / EDUCATIONAL EVENTS / TRAININGS / PRESENTATIONS

EVENT	NUMBER OF CONTACTS
AIS Strategic Plan Public Information Meetings	4
AIS Education Displays Aquaculture Field Day and Vendor Fair Bayfield Area Farm and Garden Show Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference	70
Ashland Farmer's Market – Northwoods CWMA booth	45
Bayfield County Fair Outreach Booth	230
Governor Doyle's Visit to Pike Chain of Lakes	20
Kid's Fishing Day NGLVC (UWEX Aquaculture collaboration)	70
Lake Association Meeting Attendance /Presentations Cable Lake Association Iron River Area Lakes Association Lake Owen Association, Inc. Long Lake Property Owners Association Marengo Lake group Namakagon Lake Association Board Property Owners Asso., Inc., Barnes/Eau Claire Area Lakes	245
Plant Identification Workshops	60
St Croix River Fest presentation	20
Town of Iron River meeting	22