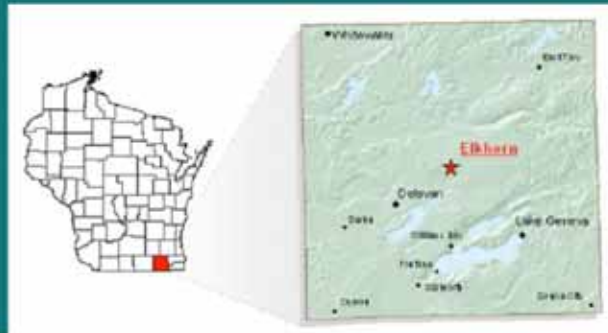


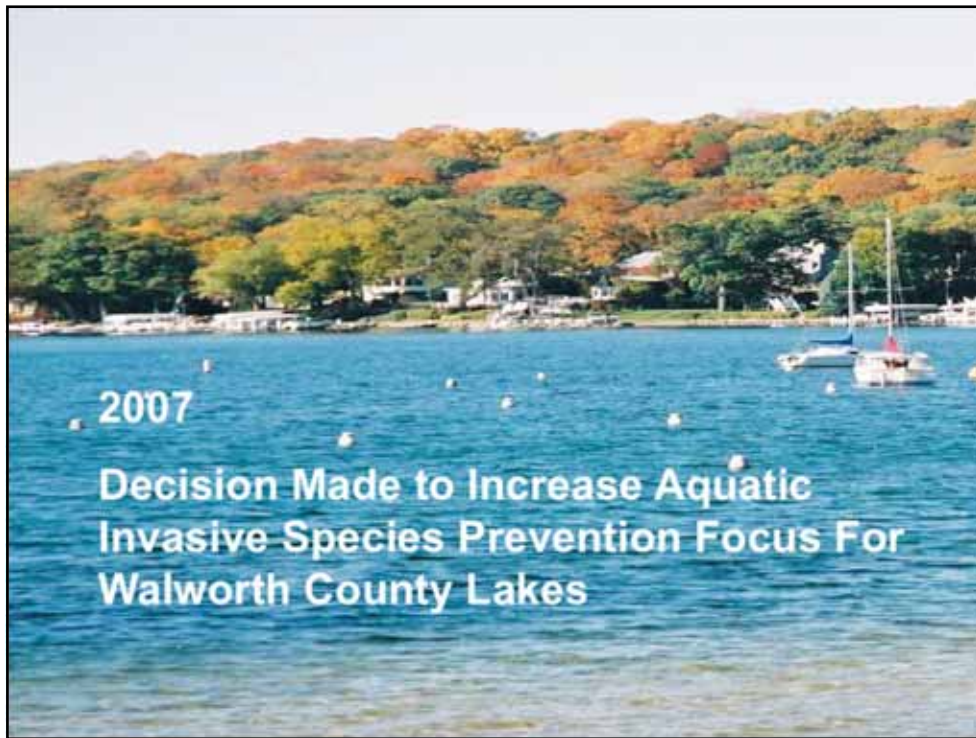
The Walworth County Aquatic Invasive Species Control & Prevention Program

Presented By: Audrey
Greene
Walworth County Land
Use & Resource
Management



I have been the lake specialist since 2001 when the position was created to help protect the 36 named lakes in Walworth County.

Between 2001 – 2007 I provided wide variety of education & information about lake protection issues – from shoreline stabilization & restoration to BMPs for lakeshore & watersheds



Early 2007 AIS issues were becoming more & more prominent throughout the State

We believe that protecting our lakes from aquatic invasive species is extremely important – because even if we do everything else right – protect against pollution – erosion etc – if Hydrilla or some other AIS is brought to one of our lakes – any lake can still be devastated - SO

We decided that AIS prevention would be our focus for the next couple of years

WI DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant

Grants can provide
up to 75% cost-
share



Ever since the Conservation Department started & now that it is a division – it has relied on many different grants to fund different initiatives –

Once our priority was set – it only made sense to apply for a WI DNR AIS Control Grant

Grant Categories:

Education, prevention & planning

Established infestation control

Early detection & rapid response

When we applied for the AIs prevention grant in 2007, there was a max of 50% cost-share. Now - Depending on the project these grants can provide up to 75% cost-share –

There are 3 main categories of grants - We, of course, applied under the Education, Prevention & Planning project grant

Aquatic Invasive Species Grants Whose Eligible?

- ◆ **Counties – Towns – Villages – Cities**
- ◆ **Qualified Lake & River Associations**
- ◆ **Lake & Sanitary Districts**
- ◆ **Qualified Conservation Organizations**

Counties are certainly not the only groups that can sponsor a really good educational program

If your lake group is not eligible to receive a grant – you may want to form a partnership with your local municipality or lake/sanitary district

**WI DNR Aquatic Invasive
Species (AIS) Control Grants
Due
Feb 1 & August 1**


**START
PLANNING
EARLY**

Getting Started

No matter what kind of grant your thinking about one of the keys to success is to start planning early – I'm talking 5-6 months before the grant deadline – the AIS grant deadlines are Feb and August 1 so that means Oct or March


Aquatic Invasive Species
Control Grant Program

Guidelines and Application



**1. Pub-CF-020 2008
Aquatic Invasive Species
Control Grant Program
Guidelines & Application**

Application Deadlines
Education, Prevention and
Planning Projects: Feb. 1, App. 1
Established Infestation
Control Projects: Feb. 1, App. 1
Early Detection and Rapid
Response Projects: At approved



<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/grants/Lakes/invasivespecies.html>

One of the first things you will want to do is to go to the DNR website – find the Guidelines and Application packet for the Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant program and print it off

Establishing Grant Goals

- ◆ Needs of your lake(s)
- ◆ Grant Ranking Questions
- ◆ Ability to successfully complete goals

As you are planning your project – creating your goals you will need to think about:

What your project area (lake or lakes) need

Pay attention to the grant ranking questions which are in the guidelines packet – these grants are very competitive and if you don't accumulate enough points you will not receive the grant

You also need to make sure that the goals you set forth in your grant application are attainable

it's wonderful to have high expectations but if you set a goal of getting 150 volunteers – you better be sure that is a realistic number – Goals that are not successful can result in prorating of your reimbursement

2. Contact Your DNR Lake Coordinator &/or Grant Specialist

Discuss Project Plan

Does it Fit the Grant?

Does it fit the State priorities?

Guidelines & Application Packet Pg. 3-4

Once you have a good idea of what your project will be – contact your DNR Lake Coordinator &/or grant specialist

In SE Wisconsin we are extremely lucky to have Heidi Bunk and Sandi Manthei – these people can sit down with you and tell you if your project fits the grant program – if it is likely to fit state priorities and score high – or if some other grant would be a better fit.

Heidi and Sandi have been invaluable resources for me

Grants are Very Competitive

◆ **Ranked according to funding priorities**

- **Multiple water bodies protected**
- **Must have prevention & control strategy**
- **Must prevent spread of AIS**
- **Long-term successful control measures**
- **Protects/improves diversity, stability, or recreational uses**
- **Complements other management efforts**
- **Public access**
- **Community support & commitment**

As I said – grants are very competitive

-These are just some of the State funding priorities – take them very seriously

TIP

Note where ranking questions are satisfied in Program Description

1. Coordinate and train local volunteers using Clean Boats/Clean Waters Watercraft Inspection Program protocol. **(A5)**
2. Monitor, map and report data about the presence or absence of aquatic invasive species in lakes that do not have a recorded infestation to date: **(A2)**

Easier for you & those ranking application

One excellent tip that I received was to actually to note within your grant write-up where you believe the ranking questions are satisfied

Two ways this is useful

- It is a great check for you to make sure you get as many points as possible
- It makes it easier for the scoring team to see if you have indeed satisfied the scoring questions

TIP

Thoroughly Describe Project

Give all required information

But

**A longer - wordy proposal does not
necessarily mean more points**

It's very important to give all the information required

To thoroughly describe what you want to do – how you will do it – what you expect for results – how you will monitor those results – of course we all want to create a nicely presented project description – and that is all good

But keep in mind that an extremely wordy project description will not mean more points – the people that score the grants have to read through a lot of them – make it easier on yourself and them by staying on track

TIP

Reports are required

Keep daily log

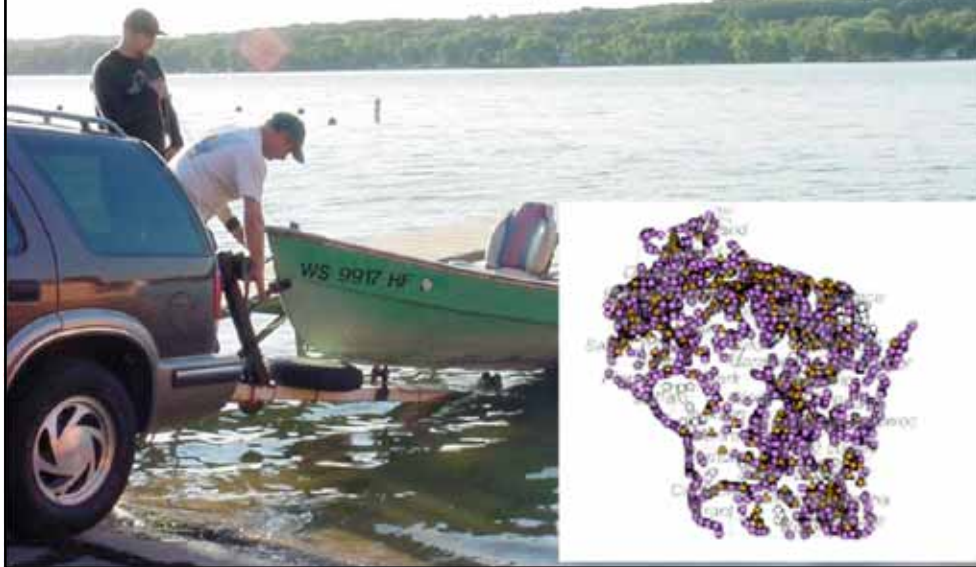
Helps ensure completion of all grant goals

Reports are required by DNR so that they can make sure the work products are completed

I keep a daily log and create a report every six months using those logs

This helps me keep myself on track so I know what I have accomplished – what still needs to be done – it also gives me ideas from things that have worked well – others that have not -

Issues to Consider Public Access Required (NR 1.91)



Page 19 – Section IV: Public Access states

AIS Grants are available only for water bodies that have public access per NR 1.91

Issues to Consider

- ◆ Resolution Required
 - Authorized Representative/Position must be named

Time Frame: 2-3 Months

Write grant & budget

Present to L & W Committee

Present to County Board



Other issues that have caused concern:

A resolution (County – Town – Lake District) that authorizes the project & grant application is required – a sample is in the guidelines

The resolution must specify either a person or a position that is responsible for signing paperwork etc.

In our County – we must complete at least the grant summary & budget which is then taken to the Conservation Committee one month – who will then send it on the County Board the following month – it takes time to get on agendas – so you can see why it's really important to start working on these grants well ahead of the due dates

Letters of support are needed – you won't need months for this usually but I can not tell you how many times I have gotten a request for a letter of support that is needed within 2 days – don't wait that long – there have been times when it was simply not possible to get the letter out in time

**Once Your Grant is
Awarded: Getting Started**

Advantages of existing position:

Making good contacts takes time

Established partnerships with lake organizations throughout County

Incredible support of Walworth County Lake Association

Existing background information on lakes

I had a few good advantages to being in the lake specialist position when the decision to work on the AIS project came about

-I already had established connections with the lake organizations and “my lake people”

-I didn't have to start from square one

-I had a fairly good idea what AIS were in each lake – what they needed

-I had a better idea what we could accomplish

-I had support for the project

Problems We have Encountered:

But of course there were a few issues

“We have all the AIS there are”

“There is nothing I can do”

Education - Education- Education

Keep Trying

These statements are common – but it really shocked me when I heard them from people I felt were very well informed about lakes

The good news is – they were more than willing to listen to me explain about all the AIS that we don't have – why it was or don't have in all of our lakes and how they could make a difference

No longer able to provide assistance from previous initiative

Site Visits - Technical Assistance for Shoreline Stabilization & Native Shoreline Buffers

Educational Presentations/Workshops - Watershed - Shoreline Stabilization - Native Shoreline Buffers

Provide Resources:

This was perhaps the most difficult

I started getting requests for presentations on shoreline restoration – stabilization – native plantings immediately – had close to 100 requests for different things even though I had let everyone know in advance that my focus would be changing –

I would have loved to help but it's important when you work with grant cost-sharing to use your time to accomplish grant goals

– I did provide lots of resources

Goal: Coordinate & Train Local Volunteers

Problem: Lack of Volunteers

Keep Trying

Possible Volunteer Sources

Scouts

4-H

Schools

Lake Groups

Some Groups Hiring CB,CW staff

This is a particular problem at least in SE WI – some groups are now hiring part-time help for their CB/CW programs and we keep trying to interest volunteers

People are very busy these days – those that have 2nd homes in Walworth Co. do not usually come here to work – they want to play

Those that live here full time are often so over-committed already that they do not have extra time to offer

People that volunteer a lot (hand-raisers) are often so over committed they simply can not give any more

Goal: Monitoring

**Problem: Most Monitoring
Requires Boat & Equipment**

Lake Residents

DNR

This is a problem that I found but may not be relevant to all of you

The County does not own a boat or equipment

My lake contacts have always helped get me out on the lakes – for Spiny water flea and Zebra mussel sampling – I was lucky enough to have a DNR LT come out with equipment – I secured a boat and captain and we got the work done together – this works out well because then you are not taking 1 boat to all the different lakes so you don't have to worry about cross – contaminating lakes

Clean your equipment though

AIS Is Not Everyone's Focus

Flexibility Helps

Every waterway is going to have it's own problems – AIS is important of course but it will not be the most important issue for every lake –

I was asked to give a presentation about shallow lakes to a group that I had tried to give an AIS presentation to but they had not responded. I did give the shallow lake presentation – but incorporated information about how AIS can be a problem there – they loved it and in fact asked several questions about AIS – It still won't be their most pressing problem – but it will at least be on their radar

**There is always more that can be
done**

Educate & Train for The Future

Grants expire – funding priorities change – I believe very strongly in educating people so that if I am no longer able to provide AIS education – they will still be able to continue to protect their lakes

Questions?