

TOWN BOARD

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Town Lakes

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- Gretchen Watkins
- Norm Wetzel
- George Zickert

Grant # AEPP-037-06

Lac du Flambeau Town Lakes Committee

November 2006

Dear Neighbor:

Last January, the Town Lakes Committee (TLC), the Tribe, and lake associations for Little Crawling Stone, White Sand, and Shishebogama-Gunlock lakes co-sponsored a grant application submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) seeking funds for fighting aquatic invasive species (AIS).

The matching grant was approved a few months later, meaning the WDNR would provide up to \$14,000 to spend locally on AIS prevention and education activities, if the Town and Tribe would match the amount through volunteer work and donations.

In a newsletter issued by the Town Lakes Committee last April, I stated that I and the other members of the Lac du Flambeau Town Board have been very concerned about Aquatic Invasive Species and the implications AIS has for the future of our waters and community.

Due to the timing of the grant and the limitation of funds at that time, the newsletter was mailed only to addresses on the tax roll of homes associated with seven high use landings at area lakes: Flambeau, Wild Rice, Little Trout, Little Crawling Stone, White Sand, Gunlock-Shishebogama, and Fence.

Being high use landings, they and the numerous lakes served by them are highly susceptible to AIS infestations, particularly Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed.

The residents were informed of the grant and the consequences of AIS, and they were asked to volunteer their time, talent and effort to help keep the landings and lakes free of AIS.

Now, I am pleased to report that our first major attempt to address AIS has been successful. The grant's goals have been met, and funds sufficient to purchase supplies and materials to prevent AIS, and to print and mail this newsletter to all our

neighbors are available.

This newsletter focuses on the scope and results of the grant, highlighting the important contributions of more than 175 volunteers.

The newsletter also provides an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to fighting AIS and to ask whether you would like to join us in having your landing and lake represented in a grant application for the coming season.

We hope you share our concern and will work with us to protect our lakes and our community.



On behalf of the Town Board,

Francis P. Chartier,
Chairman, Town Board

Town Lakes Committee—Some Background

The Lac du Flambeau Town Board established the Town Lakes Committee in March 2005, charging it to protect the lakes from AIS by promoting cooperation and coordination of protection efforts.

By June 2005, the TLC set four goals to guide its work: Prevent AIS, Monitor the Lakes, Educate and Communicate, and

Manage Infestations.

In August 2005, the TLC established a grant committee with the intent of seeking funds from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The application, submitted in January 2006, was approved by the WDNR a few months later.

The TLC has been working on grant activities since last April.

TLC Meetings

The TLC meets on the third Wednesday of each month, April through November, 10:00 am - Noon, in the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall at 109 Old Abe Road.

All meetings are announced in the local media and agendas are posted in advance at the Town Hall.

The TLC encourages the public to attend the meetings, portions of which are always reserved for visitors to address the committee.

Watercraft Inspections: Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

According to interviews conducted at the landings, boaters said they had learned about AIS in a variety of ways.

Method	# Boaters
Volunteers	382
PSA	27
Media	384
Displays	83
Publications	338
Signs	71

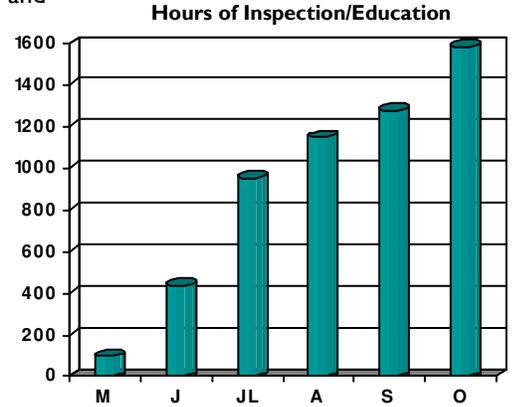
A major part of the grant focused on inspecting watercraft at the target landings while distributing education materials on AIS.

The goal, to provide more than 1200 hours of inspection and education was exceeded with the total hours of inspection and education reaching 1583 hours by October.

Also, 2049 watercraft were inspected, more than

2000 education packets were distributed, and more than 4000 individuals were contacted at the landings by 143 volunteers.

The graph shows the accumulation of hours at the landings from May through October.



What Data was Collected at the Landings?

As a requirement of the grant, volunteers inspecting watercraft completed forms provided by the WDNR. Later, the data were entered on a WDNR website, contributing to a statewide database on inspections.

Here is a partial summary of data collected from April through October. The complete report, including data per landing, is available on request.

Vehicles at the Landings		51-75	288
# of vehicles from WI	1661	76-100	309
# of vehicles out of state	382	101-150	295
		151+	303
Types of Watercraft Inspected		Vegetation on Watercraft	
# personal watercraft	190		Yes No
# pontoon boats	176	Entering Water	18 1380
# fishing boats	1221	Leaving Water	74 461
# pleasure/ski boats	382		
# sailboats	11		
# kayaks/canoes	41		
# other watercraft	28		
Total	2049		
Horsepower	# Watercraft	How Many Times Were Prevention Steps Taken? 931	
0-25	259	Were Boaters Aware of the Law? Yes 1523 No 160	
26-50	375	Number of People Contacted at the Landings: 4004	

Lake Monitoring

Part of the grant focused on *monitoring* the lakes; encouraging everyone to inspect the water along shorelines, landings and channels looking for evidence of AIS plants, especially Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed.

This part of the grant recognized that once AIS plants are in a lake, they do not rest at ease by a landing or

along the shore, but travel with the currents and winds throughout the lake and from one lake to another.

Fifty-two volunteers supported this part of the grant by providing 338 hours of on-water monitoring.

Volunteers kept an eye out for AIS as they canoed, kayaked, fished, took a leisurely pontoon boat ride, or simply strolled along a

shore.

Some volunteers spent no more than several minutes examining their own shoreline while others spent more than 30 hours hunting for AIS along shorelines, shallows and channels throughout the Flambeau Chain.

Joint Effort to Eradicate Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife is an attractive wetland perennial plant from Europe and Asia that was introduced to North America without the specialized insects and diseases that kept it in check in its native lands.

Freed from its natural controls, purple loosestrife grows taller and faster than our native wetland plants, excluding them from their natural habitat.

Unfortunately purple

loosestrife has invaded the Flambeau area, with Moss Lake and Flambeau Lake being particular targets.

Fortunately, the Tribe, WDNR, and local citizens have been working together to confront the problem head on.

This year, Tribal youth assisted in pulling and digging the invader from the north shore of Moss Lake, and the Tribal DNR stocked Purple Loosestrife leaf-

eating beetles, raised by the WDNR, on Flambeau and Moss lakes.

A member on the Town Lakes Committee, Jack George, has been raising and stocking beetles for four years. Noting that it takes a few years for a beetle population to get established, he believes the Purple Loosestrife is now being controlled.

Perhaps one day it will be totally eradicated.

When you spot purple loosestrife or any plant you think may be an invasive, call:

Cathy Cleland at the WDNR (365-8997)

or
Gretchen Watkins at the Tribal DNR (588-3303).

Financial

The AIS grant was a matching grant, with the WDNR providing up to \$14,153 when the TLC provided at least \$16,266 in volunteer and in-kind effort at \$8 per hour, including at least 1200 hours of watercraft inspections at the landings.

The table shows the accumulation of the total actual dollars spent by the Town Lakes Committee (dark bars) and the accumulation of equivalent of dollars earned through volunteer work, donated mileage,

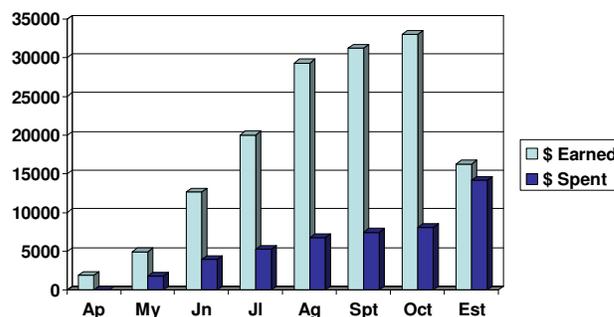
and contributions provided by the Tribe and others (light bars) through October, 2006.

The bars to the far right (Est) show estimates in the original grant application.

From April through October, the TLC earned the equivalent of \$33,000, far exceeding its commitment to the WDNR. The 1200 hour commitment for watercraft inspections was also met with the TLC reaching 1583 hours of inspections.

The table shows, too, that the TLC spent \$8,100 through October on grant related pro-

jects and issues, primarily for the salary and mileage of the coordinator and for postage and printing. The complete financial report will be available on request by January at the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall.



Words of Appreciation

Several individuals and organizations supported the submission of the grant application and some also provided volunteers who worked at the landings or otherwise monitored the lakes, assuring the grant was successful.

The Town Board and the Town Lakes Committee extend heartfelt appreciation to:

- Dan Meyer, State Representative, 34th Assembly District
- Victoria Doud, President, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Ted Ritter, Vilas County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
- Sue Drum, Secretary, Vilas County Lakes Association
- John Spickerman, President, Lac du Flambeau Lions
- Larry H. Krull, President, Lac du Flambeau Improvement Association
- Thomas Koenen, President, Shishebogama-Gunlock Lakes Association
- White Sand Lake Association
- Little Crawling Stone Lake Association
- Coordinators, Jane Pfeifer & Bryan Hoover, whose ardent efforts made the grant successful.

Special Appreciation to the Tribe

The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians was an invaluable partner in the overall grant effort. The Tribe served on the TLC, provided a coordinator who supervised the landings at Flambeau, Little Trout and Wild Rice lakes, and provided resources enabling the TLC to host an appreciation reception for volunteers.



A Reception for Appreciation and Education



To the right, TLC member, Roberta Gast, smiles as guests line up to fill their plates with some of the excellent foods made available.

Thanks to donations provided primarily by the Tribe and Lake of the Torches Resort, TLC Chair John Bartosz was able to address many of the volunteers at an appreciation reception held at the Convention Center on September 3.

After expressing his gratitude, John asked for suggestions on how the TLC could improve its performance when confronting AIS next year. Four suggestions were immediately proffered. 1) provide more training earlier in the season, 2) give the volunteers laminated photos of AIS that can be used at the landings, 3) share AIS information with the fishing guides, and 4) how about some t-shirts?

John accepted the suggestions and promised the TLC would give them thoughtful consideration when writing an application for another grant.



NEXT SEASON

____ Would you like to support the TLC next year? ____ Does your lake or landing need support from the TLC?
 ____ Does your lake have an association that would support the TLC? ____ Would you like the TLC to help establish an association for your lake?

Please let us know by completing this form and sending it to the Town Hall at P.O. Box 68, La du Flambeau, Wisconsin 54538. If you prefer, provide the information by calling the Town Hall at 715-588-3358.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Town of Lac du Flambeau
 P.O. Box 68
 Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin
 54538

Thank you to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for making this newsletter and the other AIS prevention efforts possible.