

**WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA COOPERATIVE  
WEED AND PEST MANAGEMENT AREA MEETING  
October 10, 2006  
Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center, Watersmeet, Michigan**

**MEETING NOTES**

9:00            Welcome/Summary of Agreement Status &            Sue Trull, Ottawa NF  
                  Signers/ Introductions

Current signed members of CWMA:

- Chicagon Lake Association
- Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association
- Duck Lake Nuisance Aquatics
- Friends of Ice Lake
- Gogebic Conservation District
- Gogebic Country Forestry and Parks Commission
- Golden Lake Association
- Hagerman Lake Property Owners Association
- Iron County Conservation District
- Lake Gogebic Improvement Association
- Langford Lake Riparian Owners Association
- Long Lake Property Owners Association
- Runkle Lake Association
- Ottawa National Forest

People in attendance at today's meeting:

Dave Anderson	Arny Domanus	Bruce Nelson
Dick Armstrong	Jim Donlan	Ruth Nelson
Edith Avise	Fred Duerkop	Tom Pietila
Bridget Bergwall	Sean Dunlap	Ted Ritter
Larry Bergwall	Bob Evans	Spring Rosales
Elaine Branch	Barb Gajewski	Ian Shackelford
Lucy Brundage	Bob Gussert	Conrad Skinner
Will Buergey	George Holm	Arlene Stuchlak
Jim Burke	Wes Kiley	Jim Stuchlak
Dean Challed	Joe LoMastro	Sue Trull
Tom Church	Jerry Losey	JoAnn Wedegartner
Robert D'Alberto	Claudia Magnet	Pete Wedegartner
Peter Djupe	Norm Nass	

9:15 MI Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Eric Bacon, Lisa Huberty, and Marisa Burghdoff, all with Michigan DEQ  
input by telephone

MI DEQ sent some information intended to be distributed at the meeting, but it did not arrive in time. [Box arrived later. Packet of information includes rusty crayfish, milfoil, loosestrife, and hydrilla watch cards; “don’t dump bait” sticker; “stop aquatic hitchhikers” sticker; booklets entitled “Management of Aquatic Plants” and “Common Aquatic Plants of Michigan”; information on relevant laws; chemical treatment permit application; lake management plan template and guidance to complete a plan; and some related reference material. Please contact Sue if you want a packet mailed to you or want to pick one up at the Watersmeet office: [stroll@fs.fed.us](mailto:stroll@fs.fed.us) or 906-932-1330 ext. 312. There are 22 packets so please share where you can.]

Mr. Bacon gave a brief introduction and noted the increased activity in the Upper Peninsula concerning invasive plant management and aquatic herbicide applications. He hopes MDEQ will be able to visit in the future. The following questions were asked:

Question: Is DEQ going to be more active in the UP in 2007?

Answer: It is difficult for DEQ to send employees to the western UP every year. Some employees were in the western UP last year.

Question: Could Wisconsin check our area instead, since the western UP is closer to Wisconsin and much of our boat traffic comes from WI?

Answer: Mr. Bacon stated he had not been in contact with his WI counterparts, but he recognizes the problem and noted that Indiana and Ohio pose a similar problem in lower MI.

Question: It seems the State should be paying interested people to help control aquatic invasives, not the other way around. Can permit fees be reduced in 2007?

Answer: Permit fees are set by the Michigan Legislature, not DEQ. He noted that the permit fees go to MDEQ, and they have helped hire more staff and reduce processing time for aquatic herbicide applications. They have gone from 2 to 7 staff since the permit fees were instituted and reduced the backlog of permit applications to 0. He recommended contacting legislative representatives with concerns.

Question: The fees are a burden to small lakes. Since treatments often need to occur over more than once year, could MDEQ issue permits for more than one year? Why are permits based on fiscal year rather than calendar year?

Answer: No, multiple-year permits are not allowed by law. Also, the Legislature set the permit dates. A lake association can submit a permit October 1, have it reviewed and issued over the winter and use it over the summer. There is also a category for “annual expedited permit”, which gets 1 full review and 4 mini reviews. He again recommended contacting legislative representatives with concerns over permit timeframes.

Question: Could the State close boat landings of infested lakes?

Answer: MDEQ does not administer boat landings. Contact DNR and other access managers (e.g., Forest Service, township, county).

Question: How can the federal government help?

Answer: Ask the Forest Service and Army Corp of Engineers.

Question: We have noticed different lakes seem to give different results from chemical treatments. We want to know if the money we raise for chemical control is being well spent. Can MDEQ help with information on herbicide rate (100 or 150 pounds per acre) or timing? Where does MDEQ get its information?

Answer: Mr. Bacon notes EW milfoil has been a problem in the Lower Peninsula for more than 20 years. They get their information from published research, applicators, other States, and the Army Corp of Engineers. He noted that lakes do vary and that affects the type of treatment needed.

Question: Why isn't Michigan doing as much as Wisconsin to help manage invasive aquatics?

Answer: Wisconsin has a funding source for invasive aquatic treatments. He is encouraged by increased attention being given to invasives in the Lakes states. He encouraged us to contact our legislators and note that inland lakes have AIS problems, not just the Great Lakes.

Question: Does MDEQ conduct research?

Answer: No, although they cooperate with others. He gave an example with the herbicide fluridone where DEQ did a cooperative venture with Army Corps.

Question: Approximately how many aquatic pesticide application permits were denied in 2006, and for what reasons were they denied?

Answer: MDEQ reviewed approximately 1900 permits in 2006 and denied less than five. Reasons for denial included complications with treatments, treatments near water intakes, or TES (Threatened/Endangered Species) in the lake. Usually they can work around TES concerns.

Question: Does MDEQ recommend boat wash stations, or have any concerns with their installation?

Answer: Ask local land manager. Keep in mind where the wash water will go. Washer will need a source of water, drainage, electricity. There are some concerns that wash water could spread invasives, e.g. zebra mussel veligers which are very small.

Question: What are the options for EWM treatment? Is there a sonic treatment?

Answer: He has never heard of a sonic treatment, although there is a herbicide called "Sonar" (fluridone). Another herbicide approved for EW milfoil is 2,4-D (Navigate or Aquacide). You cannot use this herbicide near a water intake. Another herbicide is triclopyr (Renovate). This herbicide is more expensive, not suitable for small sites, but does not have the water-intake limitation of 2,4-D. Fluridone (Sonar) is for whole-lake treatments only. DEQ requires more information before giving fluridone permits.

Question: When should we switch from spot-treatments of EW milfoil to whole-lake treatments?

Answer: It depends on the site. If there is a lot of shoreline (e.g. many small bays), may need to do a whole lake treatment while in a round lake with few bays, spot 2,4-D treatment may be effective. High native plant diversity can mean a site is less suitable to fluridone since at too high a concentration, fluridone can damage native plants. DEQ looks at the application and the diversity of native plants when deciding what treatment to permit.

Question: With 20+ years of experience with permitting EW milfoil control, what method works best?

Answer: It depends on the lake, available funding, and concerns of people involved. Fluridone is good for large areas where other treatments have not worked. Resume small spot treatments with 2,4-D after the whole-lake treatments. Re-treating site year after year may lead to herbicide resistance.

Question: Are there any native plants that can overtake the milfoil?

Answer: No, but a healthy native plant community can help prevent EW milfoil establishment. Over-development can encourage exotics—he recommends against clearing large areas for swimming or beach, instead retaining the bottom plants and taller ones.

Question: Peter Djupe wanted to share this success story. There was an infestation of native northern crayfish in Hagerman Lake, which had eaten most of the vegetation. The Forest Service installed fish cribs. The crayfish declined and the fish and in-lake vegetation recovered.

Answer: He was not familiar with the site, since DEQ does not address crayfish.

Question: Does DEQ know of any lakes with EWM that were never treated and what happened?

Answer. Some lakes develop bad infestations, some lakes maintain EW milfoil in low numbers. There is a native milfoil weevil which burrows into stems and weakens the milfoil plants. The company EnviroScience (<http://www.enviroscienceinc.com/>) raises milfoil weevils and will sell them to be released in lakes for EW milfoil control. The insect does not seem to eat much except the milfoil plants. Lake conditions affect success of the biocontrol, such as fish predation, type of shoreline for overwintering. There have been reports of milfoil crashes. Lake Diane, Hillsdale County, spent \$100,000 treating EW milfoil with weevils. For several years there was no decline in the EW milfoil, but recently there was a crash in the milfoil, presumably a delayed crash due to the weevil stocking. Mr. Bacon noted that there is also research ongoing to try to pinpoint the chemical that attracts the weevil to EWM, so that this chemical could perhaps be used in treatment strategies.

[Note: On March 22, 2006, John Skogerboe of the Army Corps spoke to the CWMA and on the topic of the milfoil weevil, he said that it has fallen out of favor following research conducted by Wisconsin. He in particular cited Jester, Bozek, and Helsel. 1999. Wisconsin Milfoil Weevil Project, 1996-1998 Results. Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit.]

Question: Are chemical treatments specific to EW milfoil?

Answer: No. Some herbicides (2,4-D and triclopyr) only harm dicots (coontail, pond lily, bladderwort) but do not harm monocots (pondweed, Elodea). You can decrease the non-target harm by being careful where, when, and how the herbicide is applied.



Lake/County	EWM Abundance	Treatment 2006 (date, acres)	Results	Surveys 2006	Comments
Bass Gogebic	>50 ac	Treated June, about 16 ac, by Chad Casson. They were planning to treat more but did not find plants.	Not effective- some kill where herbicide applied but still lots of green stems.		No fall treatment. At least 50 ac out there to be treated. Boat launch re-opened. Closed by Township in 2005. Reopened because treatment at boat launch in 2005 worked; pressure to re-open.
Beaton's Gogebic	None known			Gajewski survey, nothing found.	Installed flyer holder, LA will keep it filled
Bobcat Gogebic	None known			Gajewski, once, fall	
Brule Iron	None known			Trull/YCC, once, summer. Also in '05.	
Buck Iron	EWM well established; a weedy lake.	No treatment yet, aiming for spring '07.			Forming LA. Township has not participated. Swenski gave estimate.
Chicagon Iron	EWM there, deciding how to treat. 2 spots, north end, near outlet not boat landing. Muckier this end of lake. 1100 acre lake. Busy lake.	Possible treatment next spring ('07).			
Clearwater Gogebic	6-7 ac	Treat August 30. Found 3-4 more acres.		Surveys by LA. Barb G. also did a	Plants in channel to L. Africa: treated in Aug?

Lake/County	EWM Abundance	Treatment 2006 (date, acres)	Results	Surveys 2006	Comments
		Amended permit. Wait and treat in spring 07.		thorough survey. They combined survey info for permit. Weeds in areas not previously infested so had to add to permit.	No EWM found in L. Africa.  Wes notes that DEQ told him you can retreat (e.g. second time same year) an area already permitted under the existing permit, as long as the area does not change and same herbicide/rate.
Crooked Gogebic	1 to a few plants (1-2)	Hand pulled-twice in '06.	Seems to be working. No LA. Local kids helped with surveys.	Gajewski, 4 surveys	Chem treatment 2x in '03 (1/2 ac). Hand pulling since.
Duck Gogebic	9 -10 ac at latest survey.  Lake is 630 ac.	Treated June, 2.75 acres. \$1634 Treated Sept. \$4300, 5 ac.  100 lbs/ac in spring, 150 in fall.  Treat spring '07 following survey to check extent.  Plan to do application themselves. Have boat with spreader.		Gajewski, 3 surveys	ACOE in '03, complete survey, no EWM. '04, the boat landing was expanded. Traffic increased. '05 EWM found. Barb surveyed several times. Gone from 2 ac, treated in fall '05, to more in '06. Spring '06 2.5-3 ac. Got permit to treat 5 ac. Chad Casson treated spring '05. Not great success. No LA but group for EWM only. Teenage snorkeler in fall pulled some. Getting a certified SCUBA

Lake/County	EWM Abundance	Treatment 2006 (date, acres)	Results	Surveys 2006	Comments
					diver for lake. Hand pull single plants—lots of these scattered around lake. Biologist on lake getting certified to apply herbicide, test in March. Bulk buy @ \$2.50/Navigate. Got liability insurance for board members (1 million in coverage for \$166/yr) and getting it for applicator.
Elbow Gogebic	None known			Gajewski, once, fall	
Gogebic Gogebic	None known Spiny water flea and mystery snails.		S. end surveyed by DEQ. No EWM found.		
Golden Iron	None known			Trull/YCC, once, summer	
Hagerman Iron	None known			Gajewski, once, summer	Public access at south end. Lots of WI visitors, fishermen. Have northern (native) crayfish that killed off vegetation. Then fish cribs were added. Vegetation came back.
Henry Gogebic	None known			Gajewski, once, fall	
Ice	Out in middle	Treated 24 ac	Fall treatment		Went from 4 to 24

Lake/County	EWM Abundance	Treatment 2006 (date, acres)	Results	Surveys 2006	Comments
Iron	of lake, not at boat launch. 78 acres, 35 ft. deep max. EWM found in the deep part (as well as shallow), in the 35 ft. part. Clear water. Also have rusty crayfish. Being checked?	fall '05. Treated 6 ac in spring '06. Maybe 4 acres left to treat next spring.	was effective. 2,4-D @100 lbs/acre.		ac in 1 year. No public boat launch. City would like to install one. Boats launched at motel with policing efforts. Also boats may put in at Ice Lake Rd. Boulders blocking that now.  DEQ surveyed in '05.
Iron Iron	EWM present extensive at 1 end.	No treatment done or planned.			No LA. Only a few owners. New development may spur LA formation. Heavily fished. Landing may belong to Township.
James Iron	None known. Very shallow. Acidic. Was limed recently for a temporary rise in pH.			Trull/YCC, once, just near boat launch, summer	
Langford Gogebic	>150?  500 ac.	Treated June, 16.5 ac.  Past treatments in '03 (tried for '02 but too late for DEQ deadline). Assoc. set up just for invasive species, not	Some kill in spots but underestimate of milfoil so little overall success.	Gajewski, 2; then 75m grid in August (Northern Environmental.)	Installed flyer holder, LA will keep it filled. Skogerboe visited lake in July. Also Radicek, maker of Navigate. Recommend to treat larger acreage. Barb is preparing lake mgmt plan.

Lake/County	EWM Abundance	Treatment 2006 (date, acres)	Results	Surveys 2006	Comments
		full assoc. Over \$10,000 in 3 years spent. 45% participation only.			LA applies for permits in fall to be ready for spring. Requested 5 ac permit in fall '05, got amendment for 16.5 ac. DEQ visited in '05, did some surveys.
Lindsley Gogebic	CLP not EWM 35-40 ac. Saw about 25 ac recently.	Treat next spring ('07) after ice-out			Working on permit applic.
Long Gogebic	None known			Surveyed '01 fall. DEQ. Gajewski: '05 fall. Aug '06 surveys.	
Mary Iron	None known			'05 Gussert '06 Bergwall	
Moraine Gogebic	None known			Gajewski, once, fall '06	
Moon Gogebic	None known			Gajewski, once, summer '06	
Moosehead Gogebic	None known			Gajewski, once, fall '06	
Ormes Gogebic	None known			Gajewski, once, fall '06	
Ottawa Iron	None known				Rusty crayfish. ND trapping, FWS trawling in '05. Fish regs changed to get

Lake/County	EWM Abundance	Treatment 2006 (date, acres)	Results	Surveys 2006	Comments
					bigger fish to eat crayfish.
Paint Pond Iron	EWM.		Mark Fedora to find out what's in FERC agreement. 10/19/06: Jessica Mistak, "...found out that the Lower Paint hydro project has an estimated 17 stands, 115 acres of EWM. We Energies will be convening a meeting with technical experts within the next few months to discuss control of EWM on the Menominee River system. "		Part of Paint River system upstream of Brule. WE Energies supposed to monitor under FERC.
Perch Iron	None known			'05 survey.	Rusties.
Pomeroy Gogebic	<3 acres in south bay only	Treated June, 2 ac Treated Sept., 3 ac.		Gajewski, 1 survey; Shackleford/Skoogerboe 2 <sup>nd</sup> look	Rusties.
Prickett Baraga/Houghton	EWM in several bays. Drawdown to fix dam had some control effect. Expanding again.			UPPCO survey, fall '06. FERC required more intensive survey than they had been doing.	FERC license agreement calls for UPPCO to submit treatment plans this fall.
Runkle Iron		Treated May, 12 ac 9/26/06 treated 4.4 ac. Satisfied with treatment.	Some plants killed, more coming up next to treated area		City park and city boat ramp. Beach area was heaviest infestation. New signage, requested 100 ft no-wake

Lake/County	EWM Abundance	Treatment 2006 (date, acres)	Results	Surveys 2006	Comments
					zone near shore. Think this helped. Lake down 3ft. which is expanding the growing area for EWM.
Sunset Iron	None known			Survey '05	Installed boat wash as precaution. Not sure if effective.
Swan Iron	None known			Survey '05	
Bond Falls	No EWM known			UPPCO surveys	Rusties
Stateline Lake	?			Needs survey	CWMA recommends survey here in '07.
Dinner Lake	None known			Surveyed '05, '06 Gajewski	

Some miscellaneous notes from topics that arose during the lake round robin:

- Dave Anderson (Flintsteel Restoration Associates) is becoming certified to apply herbicide, so that will add to the pool of applicators.
- It was noted that the WI DNR maps EWM and zebra mussels, and the DNR confirms all sites. The general trend of spread of invasives has been from SE to N and NW in the state.
- Eagle River Chain: at the end, in Watersmeet Lake, there is a heavy infestation of EWM. 10 of the 28 lakes in this chain have EWM. A study in the Deerskin River, which runs from Big Sand to the Eagle River chain, determined that the river was not the conduit for EWM spread but boats were.

11:15 Summary of other weed and pest prevention actions.

Bob G. or Ian Shackleford,  
Ottawa NF

In 2006 the Ottawa National Forest and the CWPMA designed a sign to be posted at infested lakes. The sign is modeled after similar signs being used in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and includes an empty space where you put a sticker corresponding to the infestation you are posting (EW milfoil, spiny waterflea, rusty crayfish, etc.). The Ottawa NF ordered 119 signs at a cost of \$1,493.45. Signs have been distributed for approximately 31 lakes in our area.

The Ottawa NF also ordered 6,000 more EW milfoil identification cards (\$1000), and 2400 "Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" brochures from Minnesota Sea Grant.

The CWMA offered to pay for anyone to attend the Wisconsin Clean Boats Clean Waters program, although no one did. [This tuition coverage could be used through the end of December, if anyone is interested.]

Some member Lake Associations did their own boater education at public boat launches for their lakes.

Different organizations surveyed or checked different lakes for AIS.

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Associations monitors all 15 of their lakes every year.

Forest Service surveyed: Black River Lake, Bob, Brule, Chaney, Courtney, Golden, James, McDonald, Sudden

Iron County Conservation District: Cable, Emily, Stanley, and others

Barb Gajewski (FS contract): Crooked, Duck, Hagerman, Langford, Moon, Pomeroy, Moraine, Elbow, Ormes, Bobcat, Moosehead, Henry.

Barb Gajewski (Watersmeet TWP contract): Dinner, Long, Marion, Tamarack, Taylor

UPPCO: Bond Falls Flowage, Prickett Lake

No new EW milfoil infestations were found in our area in 2006. Curly leaf pondweed was discovered in Lindsley Lake by the CCROA.

11:30 LUNCH

12:15 Funding

Bob G.

In 2006 the Ottawa National Forest was able to contribute money to the CWMA for treatments in Runkle, Ice, Duck, and Buck Lake. \$2000 for Buck Lake was not used since they did not spend money on treatment or join the CWMA. \$6,500 is available to help reimburse treatment costs in 2006. There was a discussion and it was decided to give Runkle, Ice, and Duck Lakes \$2,166.67 each. The treasurers of these associations will need to invoice the CWMA via Bob Gussert. [Sue or Bob G. can provide a sample invoice.]

Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association has funding needs but should get reimbursed from FERC.

Because of declining budgets, the Ottawa NF expects to contribute less money to the CWMA in 2007 than they did in 2006.

Grant/funding programs were discussed:

- **MDEQ Aquatic Invasive Species Information and Education Small Grants Program.** This grant provides \$1500 to \$3000 for education, training, and monitoring, but not treatment, using funds from the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund. This is the same grant program previously administered by the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network & Fund, a project of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Iron County

Conservation District and Watersmeet Township were previous recipients of this grant. MDEQ began administering the grant in 2006, and we presume they will offer grants in 2007. <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ogl-AISRFP06.doc> Should we submit multiple requests under different hats (each lake group apply)? There may be more money out there than is applied for.

- **Pulling Together Initiative.** Administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Provides grants in the \$5,000 to \$50,000 range to help with the formation of CWMAs and managing invasive plants. Requires a 1:1 matching, including in-kind contributions. **2007 Preproposal Due Date: October 27, 2006.** Full proposals due in December. Iron County Conservation District and Watersmeet Township were previous recipients of this grant too. <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.cfm> . Note that federal agencies cannot be the applicant but can assist with proposal, review, and provide matching funds
- **Army Corp of Engineers Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act.** Not a grant program, but a means in which the ACOE undertakes ecosystem restoration projects. John Skogerboe suggested we consider this program to help Langford Lake, which has been having trouble controlling their EW milfoil, despite local efforts every year. Expenditures can go up to \$5 million, but there is a 35% matching requirement. To be considered for this program, we would need to send a letter requesting assistance to the US Army Corp office in Detroit. Jeff Zelinski sent a request on behalf of the Watersmeet Chamber of Commerce in 2003. He received no reply, although the transfer of John Skogerboe to Wisconsin and his continued work in the area did in part meet their assistance request. Hagerman Lake needs dam restoration work. The original dam work was done by ACOE. Now, timbers are rotted out on sluice way. Could this be bundled in with other project request? Would this help get ACOE funding or hinder?

**Grant Committee:** meeting attendees volunteering to help seek funds:

Bob Gussert, Iron County Conservation District

Bob Evans, Ottawa NF

Pete Djupe, Hagerman Lake

Dean Challed, Cisco Chain ROA

Tom Church, Crooked Lake

Ian Shackelford, Ottawa NF

Lisa Niemi, TNC: she was volunteered by meeting attendee Mark Fedora

LVD ? George Beck: George had offered LVD grant writing assistance at a previous meeting. Not sure if still available.

12:45            Signage discussion

Bob G. or Bob Evans, Ottawa  
NF

Yellow ALERT signs, 29 put out.

Some sent to DNR 6 wks ago, may not be posted yet.

Boat washer, signs—do they really work? Better to not spend too much on education, more on treatment?



Meeting attendees suggest the CWMA draft form letters that could be sent to the legislature, to lobby for more funding, changes in permit processes etc. Can we do this as a federally supported group? Sue Trull will find out. [10/24/06: No. The CWMA has a federal partner and therefore cannot, just as the Ottawa cannot, lobby state legislators. Individuals can, of course as long as they do not appear to speak on behalf of the CWMA.]

There was discussion about saving money by purchasing Navigate (2,4-D) in bulk. The applicators mark up the price, and maybe we could also get a lower price by buying in bulk. Where to store it is uncertain.

Herbicide storage: Dave Anderson will look into whether the county or conservation district could store for the CWMA.

Subsequent note from Dave:

The Conservation District and the County Forestry and Parks Commission are on board and willing to assist. (storage and financing).

The best cost I've found is \$ 206.25 / 50lb. if we purchase 50 units before 12/31/06 from Aquacide.

Treatment coverage area would be 25 acres @ 100 lbs. / ac. if 50 units are acquired.

1:45                      Future needs/plans; next steering committee                      Bob G.  
meeting

We will continue to communicate by e-mail. Hopefully we can raise some money to use for projects in 2007. We will meet again in the spring.

**Update for meeting from Ann Hruska, Dickinson County (sent 10/9/06, received at 10/10/06 after meeting):**

Hi-- I can't get over to your meeting tomorrow, but would like to submit a report from Dickinson County, in case you need it.

Attached is our current lakes update (see separate file), which indicates the confirmed EWM infestations and how/if it was treated. We have one lake that was heavily infested and chose to use the Milfoil Weevils/biological control (Sawyer Lake). It took 4 years, but they are finally seeing positive results for the \$100,000 they spent over those years. They did choose to spot treat some resistant areas with 2,4-D this year too. It has been three years since some of the first lakes treated with 2,4-D. Most experienced an initial reduction of the EWM population. All are starting to think about re-treating lesser, but significant areas of regrowth. Two lakes actually felt like they had no response from 2,4-D and feel like it's growing faster than they can raise money to treat.

The Menominee River has EWM as well, but has not been quantified. Monitoring has occurred near the paper mills (Stora Enso and Verso), but to my knowledge, no treatment has taken place, although it has been discussed.

We have one lake heavily infested with zebra mussels...our largest and most heavily used, of course. We have not confirmed any other locations, although we continue to do the zebra mussel brick monitoring program. This summer, most people felt the ZM population was down over last year. This is 5 years after first finding them.

The Dickinson Conservation District is embarking on a purple loosestrife campaign this year. We have one site that has grown to over an acre of it in the north part of the county. We are starting a biological control program this next year, using a combination of beetles we will rear indoors this winter/spring, and some purchased summer beetles. We hope to start a UP beetle rearing population, to share with others. Right now you have to travel downstate to acquire beetles. We have received a small grant from the Dickinson Area Community Foundation to do this.

Thanks to the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Foundation Grants, and dollars dedicated by the Conservation District, volunteers, and other local grant sources, we have run an AIS Education Campaign for the past three years. We have had a part time AIS Coordinator/Summer Intern the past three years to help (\$2500). It needed a dedicated person to really move it along and coordinate volunteers. We had a hard time getting volunteers to stand at launches during peak boating times this summer... We had better success hiring college and high school students for part time weekend work.

Glad to know you are organizing in the western U.P. I know Marquette Conservation District and the NFS is organizing Marquette and Alger Counties and has a NFWS grant to monitor and develop a gps-located map of exotics in their county and develop control strategies. Good luck.

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