

**WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA COOPERATIVE
WEED AND PEST MANAGEMENT AREA MEETING**

**Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center, Watersmeet, Michigan
October 9, 2007**

Meeting notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Attendance

1	Ian Shackelford	US Forest Service, Ottawa NF
2	Jim Donlan	Langford Lake
3	Joe LoMastro	Duck Lake Nuisance Aquatics
4	Fred Duerkop	Duck Lake Nuisance Aquatics
5	Arny Domanus	Long Lake
6	Arlene & Jim Stuchiak	Chicagon Lake Association
7	Jerry Losey	Chicagon Lake Association
8	Jim Niefeldt	Lake Gogebic Improvement Association
9	Delores Sewell	Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW), Thousand Island Lake
10	Mark Fedora	US Forest Service/The Nature Conservancy
11	Bruce Nelson	Chicagon Lake Association
12	Susan Wojdula	Iron County Conservation District
13	Tom Church	Watersmeet/Crooked Lake
14	Claudia Magnet	Friends of Ice Lake
15	George Holm	Friends of Ice Lake
16	Barb Gajewski	Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW)
17	John Skogerboe	Army Corp of Engineers
18	Dara Olson	GLIFWC
19	Sue Trull	US Forest Service, Ottawa NF
20	Diana Mehlhop	ISCCW
21	Robert Evans	US Forest Service, Ottawa NF
22	Randall Wollenhaup	US Forest Service, Ottawa NF
23	Ted Ritter	Vilas County AIS
24	Sean Dunlap	US Forest Service, Ottawa NF

2. Introduction of Susan Wojdula

Susan Wojdula is the new Administrator for the Iron County Conservation District, replacing Bob Gussert. She attended the Clean Boats/Clean Waters training and has kits available to lend to boat launch educators. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 to 12:30.

Susan Wojdula
Administrator, Iron County Conservation District.
2 S. 6th St. #15
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-875-3765
susan.wojdula@macd.org

3. Fish Viruses and Other Fish Diseases

Holly Jennings, Fisheries Biologist, Ottawa NF

Disease	Agent	Susceptible fish	Notes
Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia	Virus	Affects 32 known species of fish.	Causes death of fish, and spreads easily. New MI DNR regulations to try to prevent the spread of the disease (see www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing).
Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV)	Virus	Only kills adult largemouth bass.	Causes the swim bladder to become enlarged. Fish will be near the surface and will have difficulty staying upright or swimming. Has been found as far north as Illinois and southern Michigan.
Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)	Bacteria	Trout and salmon	Thought to be a factor in the decline of Chinook and Coho salmon populations in lake Michigan in the 1990s. Native to the Great Lakes region, but spread in hatcheries.
Muskie Pox	Bacteria	Trout and salmon	Found in muskellunge in Lake St. Clair in 2002.
Columnaris	Bacteria	Infects most species of fish.	Common throughout the world. Usually associated with stress conditions such as high water temperature, low dissolved oxygen, crowding, or handling. Usually only causes harm in aquaculture facilities or warm water ponds.
Furunculosis	Bacteria	Trout and salmon	Naturally occurring in Great Lakes region waters, but not usually a problem. Higher infection rates in crowded hatcheries.
Water mold	Fungus	All species of fish	Occurs following an injury or in association with poor environmental conditions. Usually seen in hatcheries where fish are crowded and in close contact.
Whirling Disease	Protozoan	Trout and salmon. Rainbow trout may be the most susceptible.	Parasite infects and feeds on cartilage in vertebral column, causing fish to have a deformed appearance and to swim in circular motions, which in turn prevents the fish from eating or evading predators and usually leads to death. It was first reported in Michigan in 1968 and came by way of fish farms and hatcheries.
Black spot	Trematode	Any species of fish, but most common in bass, sunfish, northern pike.	Very common in the Great Lakes region. Burrows into the skin of a fish, causing formation of a cyst. Usually doesn't kill or even harm the fish.
Yellow grub	Trematode	Can infect any species of fish.	Very common in the Great Lakes region. ¼ in. long, in the skin or flesh of fish. Usually doesn't kill or even harm the fish.
Heterosporis	Bacteria	Yellow perch, walleye, n pike, pumpkinseed, sculpin, trout-perch, rock bass, burbot.	First discovered in the western hemisphere in 2000 in yellow perch from the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. In our area, found in Lac Vieux Desert and Lake Emily. Fresh infected fillets are milky white in color, granular in texture, and inedible. Prevalence of infection in yellow perch has usually been less than 20% for any given lake.
Red worm	Nematode	Yellow perch	Worm 2 to 2½ inches long in fish. Abundant in Lake Huron and western Lake Erie. Immediately icing fish can help keep worms out of muscles

4. CWPMA 2007 work

In 2007 the CWPMA applied for two grants. The Iron County Conservation District requested \$43,040 from the Pulling Together Initiative (PTI), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The

Chicagon Lake Association requested \$5,708 from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Water Quality Monitoring Grant. The PTI grant was not awarded. The MDEQ grant program was canceled in 2007.

At our April 23, 2007, meeting the US Forest Service offered \$3700 for CWPMA projects. Those in attendance voted in favor of supporting...

1. \$1500 for Duck Lake Nuisance Aquatics for EW milfoil control
2. \$1500 for Chicagon Lake Association for EW milfoil control
3. \$200 for Long Lake Association for Japanese barberry control
4. \$500 for the ONF to print CBCW brochures for the CWPMA. 7500 brochures were obtained and distributed at the meeting. Contact Ian Shackelford for more.

Please submit invoices to the Treasurer (Susan Wojdula). She will then request the money from the US Forest Service. Invoices must be for work completed following signing of the annual operating plan. However, due to the Forest Service national office pulling any remaining funds in September for fire fighting, these funds are not available. We need to complete a 2008 operating plan for these reimbursements and invoices should be for work following signature date on that plan.

5. Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW) 2007 accomplishments

Tom Church, Watersmeet Township; Delores Sewell.

The Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW) is an organization of private citizens whose purpose is to protect the lakes and rivers of Watersmeet Township from alien aquatic plant growth. They were part of the Township in 2007 and are working on becoming 501(c)3 (not-for-profit) organization in 2008. The group received \$8,000 from the Township, \$2000 in donations, \$10000 from the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe funds, and \$10,000 in a Pulling Together Grant.

Together with Watersmeet Township, 2007 accomplishments included...

- Hired Delores Sewell and two part-time educators to conduct Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) education at boat launches, the Ottawa Visitor Center, gas stations, and other locations.
- Contracted with Barb Gajewski to survey 19 lakes in Watersmeet Township.
- Members attended CBCW training in Iron Mountain, and conducted boater education on several lakes.
- Helped pay for chemical treatments and/or permit costs of Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed in Duck Lake, Langford Lake and Lindsley Lake.
- Purchased Clean Boats Clean Waters license plate signs.
- Purchased large CBCW signs for use during boater education.
- Purchased an underwater camera which can be borrowed for use in lake monitoring.

Voting members of ISCCW must be from Watersmeet Township, but individuals and lake associations from outside the Township are invited to join as well. See web site www.isccw.org.

Class	Annual Dues	Definition
A	\$ 25	Individuals in Watersmeet Township or property owners on lakes with land abutting Watersmeet Township. Voting.
B	\$ 125	Lake Associations on Watersmeet Township lakes. Voting.
C	\$ 25	Individuals outside Watersmeet Township. Non-voting.
D	\$ 125	Lake Associations outside Watersmeet Township Non-voting.

6. Summary of 2007 AIS treatments

According to MDEQ, nine area lakes received chemical treatment permits:

Gogebic: Clearwater, Duck, Langford, Lindsley

Iron: Brule Lake, Brule Reservoir (= Paint River Pond), Chicagon, Ice, and Runkle.

Lake	Treatment Date	Target	Acres treated	Herbicide	Rate (lbs per acre)	Applicator	Cost	Notes
Duck	6/14/2007	EW milfoil	9.5	2,4-D	150	Flintsteel Restoration Assoc.	\$5,700.00	Wanted to treat earlier, but weather was not cooperative. 85-90% kill. Pleased with results. Will apply for up to 10 acres in 2008. Continued lake watch, scuba diving, hand-pulling, snorkeling.
Clearwater	7/9/2007, 6+ acres 9/15/07, 3+ acres	EW milfoil	6 or 12	2,4-D	150	Aquatic Biologists Inc.	\$8,252	Fall treatment was new sites within same permitted area. July treatments appeared successful. Cost includes permit.
Lindsley	5/5/2007	CL pondweed	15?	Aqathol K (endothall)	.06 gallon per acre	Aquatic Biologists Inc.	\$5,226	Unknown how successful. Some plants remain in Lindsley.
Langford	May 7 & 8, 2007	EW milfoil	111	2,4-D	150 and 200	Marine Biochemists	Herbicide was donated by Nufarm Americas Inc.	US Army Corp of Engineers research project. Treatment will continue in early spring 2008.
Brule Lake		Bulrush						Bulrush treatment. Unknown if it happened.
Ice	29-Jun-07	EW milfoil	12	2,4-D	100 and 150	WI Lake & Pond Resource	\$7,600.00	Poor weather, but appeared 90% successful. Some milfoil remains. Fall treatment may occur too. 150 pounds per acre where more dense.
Chicagon	No treatment in 2007.	EW milfoil	0					Applied for 1/2 acre permit. Barb G. found more than 1/2 acre, in a new area. MDEQ would not let them amend the permit. A second permit was sent in, but after August 17 deadline, and MDEQ rejected. A third application, for 2008, has been submitted.
Brule Reservoir	June 26 - 0.5 acre July 30 - 1.5 acre	EW milfoil	2	2,4-D	66 to 100	JF New		Experimental treatment by JF New for We Energies.
Runkle	10 Oct 2007	EW milfoil	3	2,4-D	100	WI Lake & Pond Resource	\$1,975.00	Surveyed in spring. MDEQ did not approve permit until July, so they waited for a fall treatment. By then, more milfoil was found, beyond permit area, which needs to be treated in Spring 2008.
Crooked		EW milfoil		Hand				Two plants found by Barb Gajrewski, hand pulled. Manual control had been working well since 2005.

7. New 2007 infestations:

Curlyleaf pondweed in Fishhawk Lake

Zebra mussels in Chicagon Lake

Eurasian water-milfoil in Big Lake (WI side). WI DNR will conduct a point intercept survey in Big Lake in 2008

Curlyleaf pondweed and banded mystery snails in Emily Lake (Iron County)

EW milfoil (fragments only) in Smokey Lake (Iron County), found by GLIFWC. EW milfoil or hybrid, not clear which, in nearby Lost Lake, Wisconsin. John Skogerboe volunteered his research unit to look into which it is, since Moody's lab, the only one that was doing this testing, closed.

8. Infestations not treated in 2007

Bass Lake, Gogebic County

Buck Lake, Iron County

Iron Lake, Iron County

Pomeroy Lake, Gogebic County

Prickett Lake, Baraga and Houghton Counties

9. Other lake work

- Dolores Sewell will submit CBCW forms for Watersmeet Township.
- Hagerman Lake has erected a new AIS sign, similar to a sign on Forest Lake in Vilas County.
- Golden Lake is working on a large AIS sign as well.
- Watersmeet Township now has an underwater camera available for loan.
- Larry Olson from Golden Lake and Jerry Galagher of Indian Lake organized a meeting of Iron County Lake Associations. Susan Wojdula is in contact with them. A second meeting is this Thursday.
- In 2006 Dickinson County started a new voluntary user fee for their county boat launches. Little money was collected and vandalism was a problem. In 2007 they disbanded the voluntary fees in favor of a daily or seasonal parking pass. Everyone who comes into a county park has to have a sticker. The county uses some (but not all) of the money to fund EWM control.
- Marion Lake is forming a new Lake Association. May join CWPMA and ISCCW.
- Perch Lake is forming a new Lake Association.
- Lake Gogebic Improvement Association has approved 4x4 feet signs for their five launches. The signs are ordered and will be installed soon.
- Rusty crayfish trapping by US Forest Service continued in Lake Ottawa and began in Pomeroy Lake
- TNC Notre Dame boater surveys
- Lake surveys by Ottawa NF and GLIFWC
- Dinner and Moon Lake associations did some volunteer education work

There was a discussion about the use of buoys to mark infestations. People recommended having signs indicating the presence of buoys marking AIS infestations and what they mean.

There was discussion initiated by Ted Ritter, Vilas County AIS Chair, about how MI and WI could work together on border lake infestations. Ted is concerned that the two states have different survey protocols, different permit requirements, and different approaches to AIS, and these factors could hinder management of AIS in lakes shared by the two states. Ted would like a MI representative to work with him on approaching the DNRs on this topic. Tom Church volunteered to talk to Jack Erhardt and see if CCROA or Watersmeet Township could perhaps help with this.

10. The Nature Conservancy/ University of Notre Dame Recreational Boater Survey

Mark Fedora, US Forest Service

Using a grant from Great Lake Protection Fund, The Nature Conservancy and Watersmeet Township hired two college students, Brandon Feasel and Neil Wallace, to conduct boater surveys from Lake Superior in Marquette, south into Vilas County and from Gile Flowage to Chicagon Lake. 415 people were interviewed. Researchers for Notre Dame will analyze the results to help model the likely spread of AIS species, and identify the best points for boater education or intervention. This is part of a larger study modeling networks along which invasives pass and looking at microorganisms in Great Lakes shipping ballast water.

11. Planning for 2008

Susan Wojdula submitted a pre-proposal for the Pulling Together Initiative grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. She requested \$33,990, to be matched by in-kind contributions from CWPMA members. The proposal is similar to the one submitted a year ago, and would fund an underwater camera, a GPS system, AIS signs at Lake Gogebic, billboards on main highways, AIS surveys, and Eurasian watermilfoil treatments.

We Energies may have a grant opportunity the Conservation District or CWPMA could apply for.

The ISCCW is preparing a letter requesting help from the Army Corp of Engineers Section 206 program. The CWPMA could do the same. John Skogerboe mentioned there is another Army Corp program, Section 22, for planning, which could be used to help develop lake management plans. Congressional support would help these letters.

The Chicagon Lake Association may be able to re-submit their 2007 grant request for the MDEQ, Water Quality Monitoring Grant. The grant last year requested \$5708 to fund AIS lake surveys.

The Great Lakes Protection Fund supports projects that promote the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Our CWPMA may be too narrow, but a brief pre-proposal would not be difficult to prepare. Thinking up a project that would benefit a large area, and partnering with other groups would help. See www.glpf.org for more information. Click on "[Resources](#)" for a list of other grant opportunities.

The CWPMA needs some volunteers if we are going to pursue grant opportunities in 2008. A few hours working on one of these grants could provide a lot of money for AIS work in our area.

12. Elections

With the departure of Bob Gussert, we need a new chair and treasurer.

A steering committee shall be established consisting of a chairperson and representative from signing parties to implement and monitor the activities under this Agreement.

A treasurer will be appointed by the Steering Committee and will serve as the fund manager of all funds received by the Western Upper Peninsula CWPMA.

Susan Wojdula, Iron County Conservation District, volunteered to be the Treasurer. There were no other volunteers to be Chair, so Susan agreed to take on that role as well.