

**Western Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area Spring Meeting
Watersmeet Town Hall
June 18, 2009**

Introductions

22 attendees. Representatives from Duck, Long, Mary, Langford, Golden, Hagerman, Sunset, Chicagon Lakes, Cisco Chain, ISCCW, Iron County Conservation District, Lac Vieux Desert Tribe, Vilas County, Ottawa National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, Army Corps of Engineers and Natural Resources Association.

New members to CWPMA

Beatons Lake Riparian Association
Iron County Coalition of Lake Associations
Perch Lake Owners Association
Sunset Lake Association
Swan Lake Association

New business

Billboards: Jerry Losey, Chicagon Lake, received a \$2250 grant from the [BoatU.S. Foundation](#) to pay for [Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers](#) billboards. One billboard is up east of Ironwood on US 2. A second will go up outside Iron River on US 2 in June. Both will be up through September. Both show a boat and trailer and where to look for invasives and remind people to check and discard plants and debris.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters brochure: new brochure was produced (courtesy Ottawa NF), green this time to distinguish it from Dickinson County brochure, photo on front courtesy ISCCW. Includes updated information on infested lakes. Brochures have been distributed to ISCCW, Iron County Coalition and other venues for distribution. Ask Ian Shackelford if you need some.

Other brochures available for info and distribution on back table (at meeting). MIPN Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants, DNR brochures on purple loosestrife, buckthorns, VHS kid cards, EWM cards, don't dump bait stickers, etc. Contact Ottawa (Ian Shackelford) if you need some.

CWPMA Chair? Currently we have a financial chair (Gail Dalpra, Iron County Conservation District) but not a steering committee chair. Anyone interested in taking on this role should contact Ian Shackelford, Ottawa NF.

Terrestrial invasives: Purple loosestrife. Ottawa is raising *Galerucella* beetles for biocontrol. We can give beetles to CWPMA members for distribution on lands they manage/have control over. Contact Ian to get beetles.

Pulling Together Initiative: program was revamped, now taking proposals, pre-proposals due June 30. Focusing on CWMA groups and particular ecosystems, of which only "eastern North American early successional" applies to UP. [NOTE: group did not display

particular interest in applying, no one stepped forward, and pre-proposal deadline has passed without a submission]

Round Robin

Jim Floriano for ISCCW: 270 members, 13 on board of directors. Group has been fund-raising through donations, member dues and grants. They have four educators on staff this summer, working at boat launches. There are 6 new signs at boat landings. They have also placed articles in papers, printed brochures for ISCCW, and have license plates available for CB/CW if a resident of Watersmeet Township. They have printed and distributed placemats and bait container labels. ISCCW has contracted with Barb Gajewski to survey and monitor 12 lakes over summer. They are offering training sessions on aquatic invasives, and helping some lakes with treatments, such as Duck Lake. In Duck, 9 plants of EWM were found yesterday. Duck Lake group has MDEQ permit and has scheduled Dave Anderson to provide chemical treatment about the end of June, for about 5 acres.

ISCCW has a mobile boat washer. At small lakes, they are getting good participation and some donations. They also park it at Nordines in Watersmeet and a BP gas station in Land O'Lakes. Not so many takers there but they got new signs that say "Free Boat Wash", then are getting more takers. One of the boat wash attendants walks up to folks at gas pumps and asks if he can wash the boat and has only had one refusal.

Thousand Island/CCROA

Diana Mehlhop reports that Dean Challed gave a report to ISCCW yesterday: 20 acres were treated on Lindsley for curly leaf pondweed (CLP) on June 15. Clearwater surveys will be next week, then treatment later. Expected to be less than 10 acres. Dave Anderson will treat Clearwater.

Duck Lake

Treatment scheduled by end of month, about 5 acres Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) has been holding at about 5 acres for the last 3 years. No large patches but small plots in varying locations. Jim Floriano may also do some SCUBA checks. Jim probably spends 20 hours –1-2 hours each time, 10 times over the summer on this.

Sunset Lake

Mike Golas reports Sunset is about 550 ac, with no known aquatic invasive species (AIS) problems. In 2008, they had a shoreline survey for EWM. Sunset has had a washing station for a few years now. There is a warning sign about AIS as you approach, then a large sign you can't miss directing boaters to the wash station. They get a lot of boaters from WI, some from elsewhere. Jim Floriano notes that it seems effective. Bates Township runs it, the station has good water pressure so if used, it is effective to remove AIS.

Hagerman Lake

Pete Djupe reports the AIS sign is installed. It is similar to Sunset Lake sign and the one that will go in at Beatons this coming week.

Chicagon Lake

Jerry Losey reports lake was treated in 2008 for EWM, 3.75 ac. Fall survey showed treatment to be 95% effective. They have contracted with EnviroScience to install beetles, hopefully by end of June. 8 units, 1200 beetles per unit, \$10,000. Using private funding other than grant from CWMA. He notes beetles are easier than getting MDEQ permit. County Parks and Recreation Dept. proposes to install a boat wash, estimated cost \$50,000. It may be installed by end of year. Chicagon also has zebra mussel infestation.

Golden Lake

Paul Nelson notes that Golden is also installing AIS sign, will go in soon. No known AIS infestations.

Lake Mary

Paul Dalpra notes there are no known infestations. There are some plants he is suspicious of and he would like a survey. Lake Association has posted a sign. They are asking for funds above lake association dues to have a preservation fund ready if they have to react quickly to an infestation.

Iron County Conservation District

Gail Dalpra notes she is working 3 days a week, 8 am-4 pm approximately in the office, funds being cut but steady at 3 days a week for now. We appreciate her taking on the financial duties for CWPMA.

Vilas County

Ted Ritter reports on Lac Vieux Desert: in summer 2008, Barb Gajewski found EWM in remote area, small bay (Slaughter Bay), totally on WI side. GLIFWC surveyed whole lake and confirmed EWM was only in the area Barb had located it. WI DNR gave a rapid response \$20,000 grant. [Onterra LLC](#) of De Pere, WI, was hired, did a survey, confirmed and thinks the patch is a pioneer infestation. Onterra recommends treating 1.8 acres, the bed plus a large buffer as a rapid response to try to stop it. It has not been cordoned off, and is in front of county boat launch. Lake conditions may be conducive to rapid spread. Since infestation is only on WI side, no MI DEQ permit needed. Ted has been in contact with MI DEQ (John Riley, Eric Bacon). He needs to get permission from stakeholders. Voigt Task Force has signed off on use of chemicals. Infestation is at a distance from wild rice bed. He is waiting for response from LVD Tribe. In WI, chemical treatments are usually not allowed beyond end of May, but because of potential to spread and it is a pioneer patch, WI DNR has allowed treatment anytime in summer 2009. LVD Lake Association also got a DNR grant for preparation of a lake management plan for whole lake and watershed, plants, fish, etc. This has been started.

George Beck thought that the LVD Tribal Chair had already approved the treatment. He will check and contact Ted.

Barb Gajewski

Will be surveying previous lakes plus Record, Big Africa.

Long Lake

Army Domanus reports there is no EWM in Long Lake. In 2008, the Long Lake group purchased herbicide and sprayed Japanese barberry. They will spray remaining barberry this year. They are using donations to cover herbicide cost this year, have ordered it.

Bass Lake

No representative. Diana Mehlhop of CCROA reports that EnviroScience says the infestation may be Variable-leaved milfoil not EWM. EnviroScience is coming back to check again. John wants to look at it and check. *[After the meeting Ian Shackelford, John Skoerboe, and Barb Gajewski visited Bass Lake. We found abundant Eurasian watermilfoil and some Variable-leaved watermilfoil, Myriophyllum heterophyllum, a native plant]*

Runkle Lake

No representative. They have applied for permit from MI DEQ. Ryan Thum of Grand Valley State University checked DNA, and their infestation is the hybrid milfoil.

Ice, Iron, Buck Lakes

All 3 received weevils last year to treat EWM. No results back yet.

Pomeroy

Untreated but John Skogerboe will survey in June and August and determine EWM distribution. Dave Anderson notes that the milfoil is increasing rapidly. Ruth Bozdech comments that EWM will spread to other (private) lakes from here and that the FS should be treating this infestation. FS comments that Pomeroy was treated twice in 2005 and twice in 2006 with 2,4-D granular herbicide. Treatments were not effective; hence we are looking to John for advice on future control options.

Pricket

1 acre may be treated, near boat launch. There are plans for a drawdown later, to try to control milfoil by exposure to air. A 2009 survey by UPPCO/representatives said there was no milfoil near the boat launch.

Bond Falls Flowage

Rusty crayfish are present. Garlic mustard spot infestation was pulled by UPPCO. No EWM is known in the flowage.

Presentations

Mark Fedora, US Forest Service Eastern Region and The Nature Conservancy, presented a project that looked at spread of AIS, who moves AIS and how, how best to stop spread, modeling risks and likelihood of spread. See PowerPoint on website. Finding: largest lakes and lakes with most connectivity are best to target for treatment/prevention to have the most results (vs. random selection of lakes to treat or by nearest neighbor lakes). As long as there are a majority of lakes uninfested, it is best to worry about control and preventing spread out of infested lakes to other lakes vs. protecting uninfested lakes. Once past that level, it is appropriate to worry about protecting uninfested lakes. Finding: it is useful to quarantine “super spreader” lakes: this project identified super spreaders in WI. CWMA could do this for UP, based on lake

use (popularity, type of boater, etc), type of infestation, degree of infestation. Finding: Intervening at the source is more effective than trying to protect all uninfested sites—keeps the infestation in one lake.

Dave Anderson asks about how Eurasian watermilfoil could get into small, private ponds.

Questions for Mark Fedora on time difference between short and long washes, and high versus low pressure as used in the study. [The long wash was 180 seconds; the short 90 seconds. The high pressure wash was 1800psi and the low pressure was 40psi, about the same as a standard garden hose.]

Issue from Oneida County for group to consider: Fire department uses lakes for water sources. There are lakes with dry hydrants—pipes into lakes. Fire department draws up water—not a problem. Problem is during routine maintenance of hydrant screen. Fire truck goes to Lake 1, fills tank, goes to Lake 2, flushes water out into lake to flush hydrant. May need to require that flushing be done only with well water or sanitized water. Sanitized water may be hard on equipment. Some Fire departments will use well water only. Some may be able to flush from same lake, thereby eliminating problem. Lake associations may want to find out if their lake has a dry hydrant, and talk to their fire department about concerns. [How about a sign at dry hydrants at infested lakes? Something like “These waters are infested with (fill in the blank). Do not discharge water from this lake into another waterbody”.]

Duck has one dry hydrant. ISCCW is looking into where others are.

Gail Dalpra

Is it illegal for nurseries to move invasive plants? Answer: state laws limited as are federal, low enforcement. CWMA members may be able to start discussion with nurseries where they see invasives for sale.

Second Presentation

John Skogerboe, Army Corps of Engineers, Langford Lake Project

This is a joint project with Forest Service, Langford Lake Association, Applied BioChemists (distributor of Navigate), [Marine BioChemists](#) (application), NuFarm (manufactures Navigate). Langford is about 476 ac, max depth 20 feet, mean depth about 8 ft. In 2002, Langford had the first infestation found in county, discovered as part of a study where Senator Levin’s office provided funding for John to come and survey lakes. John did plant surveys of 16 lakes. In Langford, EWM was found just near boat landing.

By 2006, EWM was well spread in lake, 162 ac or so then (Barb’s estimate). A small herbicide treatment was done to treat 16 ac, not effective since there was so much more EWM there. Bill Rataczyk and John came to look again and set up the research project. Langford hosts the rare plants Farwell’s watermilfoil (*M. farwellii*) and American shore-grass (*Littorella uniflora*) so herbicide selectivity is important to avoid damage to these and other non-target plants.

Project objectives: control EWM and reduce annual management, protect native aquatic plant community and increase diversity. Eradication is not possible; they are trying to get EWM to level lake association can reasonably address. This is a 5 yr study, long-term whole lake management. Herbicide is applied as Navigate at 150 lbs/ac at depths greater than 5 ft (no EWM found at shallower depths).

Herbicide is applied in early spring as water temperature approaches 15 degrees C (at this temp, exotics are smaller and most vulnerable, natives are dormant, and there is minimal microbial degradation). Treated at 11 degrees this year. John is evaluating the plant community in June and August, conducting surveys on a 75 m point intercept grid. He uses hydroacoustics to create detailed vegetation maps, then uses a rake to draw samples and see what plant beds are in the map. John also uses depth finder and underwater camera. He can survey Langford in 1 day on his own.

2007: 116 acres of EWM treated about May 9. Milfoil life cycle: the week before, EWM was small and hard to see, next week, May 9, it was growing fast and starting to autofragment. Treating later, it will already have gone through rapid growth phase (and uptake time). Extremely fast that year, maybe herbicide did not work as well due to less uptake.

2008: EWM remaining was between 9 and 11 ft depth. Shallower than this is dense pondweed (*Potamogeton robbinsii* mostly) which may repel EWM. They planned to treat just that contour. The application boat has computer controlled application equipment to hit this band. Treated about 111 ac and got good reduction in EWM.

2008 fall (September) treatment in a couple spots only.

2009 Some milfoil present so they treated 38 acres aggressively. Some sparse areas may be best treated handpulling. Using herbicide to treat very few plants now.

2006 21% occurrence in lake of EWM
2007 2% in May, 8% in Sept
2008 0% in May, 2% in Sept
2009 May <1%

Chemical residue studies: By 28th day, down to 0. 20th day, down to irrigation limit.
Native plant species: 31 species observed in 2002. In 2006, 28 were seen pre-treatment (a contractor did the survey, and may not have looked for smaller rare ones that John tracks). In 2007, 33 species, 2008 34 species. So native plant community is holding well. Also, the species per point and lake wide vegetation maps from hydroacoustics show native plants are not decreasing under the treatment.

Pete Djupe question: Does 2,4-D move in groundwater to private wells? Answer: EPA has no restrictions for Navigate use near wells. MI requires setback based on one study: must have 75 ft from well to granular use. Better studies showed 2,4-D did not get into ground water from whole lake treatment with it—study in lake where it would have been likely (ACOE project).

Jim Floriano question: When does EWM autofragment? Answer: Can be earlier in season than conventionally thought.

Dave Anderson question about temperature to treat. Answer: They treated at 11 degrees this year. 15 degree threshold comes from ACOE mesocosm studies with Endothall, which is more temp- dependent.

Ted Ritter question: What is “maintenance level” when lake association would take over? WI has said they will stop funds when EWM reaches “maintenance level”, but have not defined it. Answer: John is looking to how far down they can get the EWM infestation, and then decide. He is looking at 16 lakes in North Woods.

Ted: What if all management stops (the lake association does not take over)? Answer: John thinks it would rebound to a worse level than in 2006.

Question: Will there be a treatment in 2010? Answer: They don’t know yet. John plans to, but is not sure of Marine Biochemist plans.

John recommends that when the lake association takes over, they should keep doing a late summer survey. The survey he has been doing in June would be more optional—more needed for science data collection than management.

Question: what is the deepest John has heard of EWM growing? Answer: Heard to 30 ft., depends on water clarity.

Dave Anderson: if EWM is at 1% of the lake, how many plants would he see? Answer: hopefully none, maybe 1 or 2. What about 2,4-D damage to natives? Answer: They are placing the chemical precisely on EWM: it kills that, vs. putting everywhere in the lake, it might kill more natives. Put chemical out later in year or all over, then there is more effect on natives. EWM beds themselves will reduce density and diversity of natives.

Anderson: What about effectiveness of fall treatments? Answer: It depends why you are doing and when is meant by “fall”. Sept to November? You do get some milfoil control in the fall, but don’t really need it going into winter and would have to retreat in the spring. Fall treatments have not been consistently effective for John in the longterm.

Anderson: Would it be better to hit the EWM in fall to slow spread if you can’t get to it until Aug or September? Answer: Yes, MI permit regs are tricky and you can’t always get to treatment earlier. Fall treatment could delay when the plants emerge in the spring.

John’s phenology note: EWM has been found growing under ice in winter.

And

Hybrid milfoil note: the hybrid is now known to produce turions like the native parent (northern milfoil).

Adjourn.