



Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association
PO Box 903
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

... to preserve and protect Lake Wissota and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and the aesthetic value of Lake Wissota as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

Interim Report: September 30, 2009

Lake Wissota
2008-09 AIS Education, Prevention and Planning Project

Project Name: Wissota APM Plan-CBCW
Grant Project Number: AEPP-109-08

DESCRIPTION OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Purpose Statement

Lake Wissota has a rich tradition of good water quality, recreation, and aesthetic value, which is linked to a healthy plant and animal community. Recent studies of the Lake Wissota aquatic plant community indicate the presence of Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.), a plant that threatens the traditions of the lake. As the lake is widely used by thousands of boaters annually, and thus is susceptible to further infestations of Eurasian Water Milfoil and many other invasive species, a comprehensive plant management plan with a strong emphasis on aquatic invasive species is needed.

Goal Statement

The Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association (LWIPA) will implement a program for the continuing control of aquatic invasive species, the development of an aquatic plant management plan with an emphasis on AIS prevention, and a continuing program of education and information to increase awareness of lake issues, needs and recommended actions to improve Lake Wissota.

Objectives:

- Develop and implement an Aquatic Plant Management Plan with emphasis on control of AIS – **See Below**
- Continue Clean Boats, Clean Waters and monitoring programs
 - a. Volunteer labor as of August 1, 2009
 - i. Landings: 448 Hrs
 - ii. Monitoring and Pulling: 149.5 Hrs
 - iii. Training: 22.5 Hrs
 - iv. CBCW Coordination: 35.5 Hrs
 - b. Project Coordination: - 22 Hrs
 - c. Planning Committee - 27 Hrs
 - d. Total Hours to 8/01/09: 817.5
- Conduct continuing education program for members and riparians
STATUS: LWIPA was major participant in the 2008 Lake Fair. LWIPA Picnics in June of 2008 and 2009 included displays and discussions of AIS. 2 AIS Workshops were held in Spring 2009. Sociological Survey Results were presented at 2 board meetings in Winter 2008. Status of Lake Wissota workshop scheduled for October 2009.
- Provide opportunities for LWIPA to increase its effectiveness as a Lake Association
STATUS: Workshop for Board members planned for Fall, 2009
- Conduct an updated plant study
STATUS: Survey is complete, data is being analyzed and report prepared
- Conduct a GPS lake survey and construct a full color bathymetric map of Lake Wissota
STATUS: Expect completion by end of year

DESCRIPTION AND STATUS OF PROJECT METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Develop and implement an Aquatic Plant Management Plan with emphasis on control of AIS

Inventory

Several important lake resources have been inventoried for Lake Wissota in recent years. Part of the aquatic plant management plan will include a synthesis of the existing resource inventories including: (1) total maximum daily load for phosphorous (TMDL) records for the Moon Bay and Little Lake Wissota portions of the lake, (2) inventory information obtained through the development of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license agreement, (3) aquatic plant distribution and density information from 1989-1990 and 2005 aquatic plant studies conducted by Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center, (4) Critical Habitat Designation assessments from a WDNR study in 2007, and (5) fisheries information collected for the lake by the WDNR. **STATUS: largely complete, summary presented to committee**

Sociological Survey

A sociological survey will be developed with the help of the University of Wisconsin-Extension Lakes Program to determine lake users values of water quality, recreation, and aquatic invasive species. Analysis of the survey results will be reported by LWIPA and will be used to define the goals for the Lake Wissota APM to best meet the needs of lake users. **STATUS: 452 surveys returned, data entry complete, data analysis complete, final report complete and posted on the Citizen Science Center website.**

Advisory Committee

Area experts in aquatic plants, fisheries, mapping, and representatives from Xcel Energy, Chippewa County, LWIPA, Lake Wissota State Park, the Friends of Lake Wissota State Park, and Chippewa Rod and Gun Club, and local municipalities, have met. At this meeting, representatives will give short presentations about various aspects of Lake Wissota, which will then be discussed in relation to the development of a comprehensive aquatic plant management plan. Participants will be invited to participate in further meetings for goal development and planning.

STATUS: Three meetings have been held to gather input from stakeholders into the planning process. Received DNR input before submission of final plan. Final draft in progress, should be complete by November 1.

Water Quality Goals

Water quality goals will be established that meet management needs, monitoring needs, and implementation needs with emphasis on the following:

In-Lake Habitat

Aquatic Invasive Species

Shoreline Habitat

STATUS: A final draft plan is nearly complete and includes goals and management strategies.

Analysis and Alternatives

Inventory information will be compiled along with any new research for the lake to determine management objectives for water quality, in-lake habitat, AIS, shoreline habitat, and any new components that might arise. The potential impacts of various management scenarios will be determined and documented. Results from collected data will be submitted to the DNR.

STATUS: Draft plan contains inventory and analysis.

Recommendations

Upon completion of the analysis, management recommendations will be determined and presented to various user and stakeholder groups for Lake Wissota. Appropriate permits will be acquired for any planned management activities.

STATUS: Draft plan contains recommendations and suggestions for implementation

Plan Production

Plan production will include a formal printed document in 3-ring binder format, a .PDF document for the LWIPA website, and a roll-out meeting for interested parties to learn more about and receive copies of the document. The management plan will be distributed as widely as possible throughout the community.

Implement, Monitor and Modify

All proposed management goals will include action plans, including timelines, responsibility, and measures of success. Strategies for monitoring and revising management activities and for monitoring the effects of the management activities will be provided. Modifications to the management activities will occur as needed.

STATUS: Incorporated into plan. Work will continue once plan is approved.