

Crow Wing County Water Plan News

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To Protect, Preserve, & Improve Water Resources in Crow Wing County



In this issue:

AIS Summary	1
AIS Research & Recognition	2
CWC News	3
Upcoming events	3
Grant Opportunities	4

Aquatic Invasive Species: 2014 Summary and Plan for 2015

By Mitch Brinks

Crow Wing County recently completed its 4th season of conducting watercraft inspections in the fight against AIS. 2014 was the second year that the program was offered County-wide to all lake association partners. Crow Wing County was able to expand its AIS efforts this season because of a legislative allocation of approximately \$202,000 to prevent the spread of AIS. In addition to inspections, Crow Wing County used this funding to conduct an education and awareness campaign using eye-catching posters, rack cards, and stickers (see example to right & on the following page). The County is currently working with a number of other nearby counties and Chip Leer of Fishing the Wildside to develop an ad-campaign for regional TV markets along with other media products.



Crow Wing County also decided to conduct a pilot project by spending some of the funds on milfoil treatment in six County lakes. By reducing or eliminating the milfoil population in these lakes, the goal is that other nearby lakes will have a greatly reduced chance of becoming infested with milfoil.

Crow Wing County will receive approximately \$450,000 in 2015 to prevent the spread of AIS. While the County is planning to continue the inspection, milfoil, and education/awareness programs, it is also exploring the idea of placing 3-4 semi-permanent decontamination stations at strategic locations through the County. It also plans to encourage local lake service providers to offer this service.

Crow Wing County's draft AIS prevention plan for 2015 will be available soon on the AIS page of the County website:

www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?nid=1004

2014 AIS Stats:

Inspections:

- >10,000 inspection hours
- >25,000 inspections
- 28 lakes with inspection hours

Milfoil Treatment:

- 6 lakes treated
- 90+ acres treated

Education & Awareness:

- 2 large-format posters (on display in the CWC Land Services Building)
- 2000 rack cards
- 600 stickers

Potential Zebra Mussel Introductions

Prevented:

- Bay, Borden, Hubert

Crow Wing County

Local Comprehensive Water Plan



2013 - 2023



The New 2013—2023 Crow Wing Water Plan is available to view online at:

www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?nid=241



AIS Research & Recognition

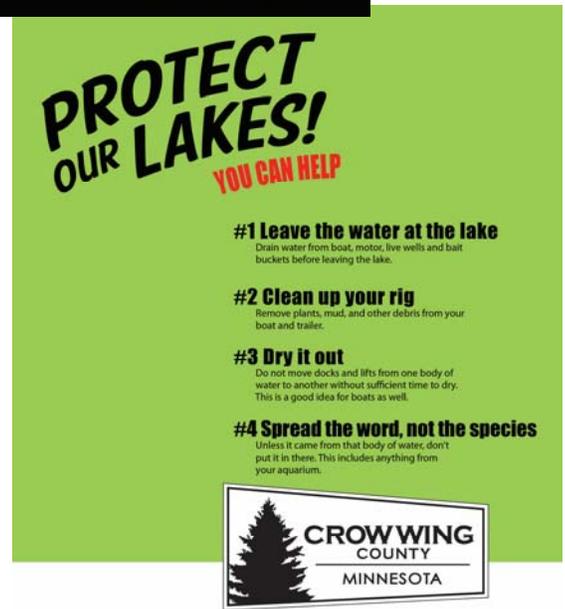
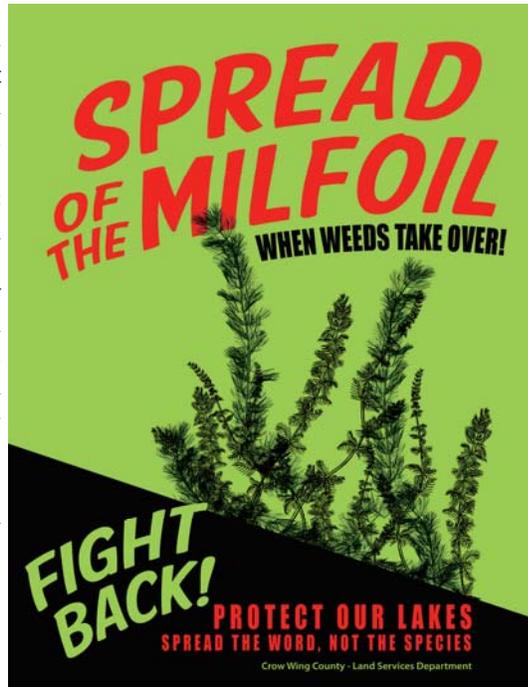
I recently attended the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference in Duluth and was impressed by both the amount and level of research being conducted. The Universities and Departments of Natural Resources in both Minnesota and Wisconsin as well as other entities (US Geological Survey, et. al.) are conducting research on everything from the effects of herbicide on Eurasian & hybrid watermilfoil, wakeboard boat ballast bags/tanks as potential carriers of AIS, disinfectant methods for research gear, micro-particle delivery technologies for targeted control of Asian carp, zebra mussel and spiny water flea effects on zoo-plankton populations, recent new invaders in Wisconsin such as the Asian Clam and New Zealand Mudsail, to ways to best measure & increasing public awareness/engagement.

A couple of notable projects currently underway in Minnesota include:

1. Using *Zequanox* in whole water column treatments (Lake Minnetonka, Christmas Lake)
2. Zebra Mussel source detection using DNA analysis (Pelican, Gull, Ossawinnamakee, Mille Lacs)
3. Veliger levels in residual water from live wells, bilges, etc.

One of the more hopeful preliminary findings from zebra mussels research by the MN DNR shows that the peak zebra mussel veliger populations seem to occur from 6 to 12 feet below the water surface, with lower levels near the water surface. Veliger counts from residual water (including water from Gull and Mille Lacs) seems to confirm this, as there were very small numbers of veligers found in these residual water samples. Another hopeful study indicates that zebra mussels do not spread downstream as quickly as previously thought. In small streams (like the Gull River), zebra mussel drift was limited to 1-2 km from the main lake source.

Although AIS research in Minnesota is relatively new, Crow Wing County is hopeful that it will provide the scientific basis for the strategic use of our resources to better manage and prevent AIS. Ultimately, though, it is up to all of us to do our part (see flyer to right)!



Crow Wing County would like to recognize seasonal AIS Coordinator, **Mike Smith**, for his outstanding work coordinating, scheduling, and overseeing approximately 50 AIS Level I Inspectors that served at watercraft access points across Crow Wing County in 2013 and 2014. Mike is currently finishing up his Senior Year at the University of Minnesota.



Crow Wing County Commissioner **Paul Thiede** was recently nominated by the Association of Minnesota Counties for the Minnesota AIS Advisory Committee

Final approval on committee membership is determined by DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr.



For more information:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/aisadvisory/index.html

Crow Wing County News

Crow Wing County Receives Lake Friendly Development Award

On Thursday, October 9, 2014, the Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN) awarded Crow Wing County and Dan Steward of the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) with a *Lake Friendly Protection Strategy* award for the County's 2013 revision to the Local Comprehensive Water Plan. Awards also went to the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program, Brainerd Rotary, and local homeowners and businesses who implemented wise stewardship practices that protect the area's water resources. BAELN is in its 12th year of offering professional development and timely information on environmental and sustainability issues for professionals and community members. BAELN is a collaborative effort of Central Lakes College, Crow Wing SWCD, DNR, MPCA, MnDOT, Nature Conservancy, University of Minnesota Extension, and others. A video of the event can be viewed online at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQkPiL6qhno.

Crow Wing County Landfill Winter Hours

The Crow Wing County Landfill Site will begin winter hours starting the first weekend in November and operate 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. The landfill site will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays from November 2014 through March 2015 and will re-open for summer hours starting in April 2015. During these hours, the County Landfill is open to accept household garbage, fiberglass boats, mattresses, furniture, mobile homes, and other items for proper disposal. Customers utilizing the landfill must stop at the Landfill Office and speak with the attendant to discuss the items to be disposed, collect any fees, and receive directions to the proper drop-off locations. All loads coming to the County Landfill must be covered, and uncovered loads are subject to a \$5 fee. The following items can be properly disposed in the Landfill for free or a nominal fee depending upon the items:

- Free recycling of lead-acid car/marine batteries
- Free recycling of used oil filters, motor oil and anti-freeze is available at the Landfill and several drop-off locations within the County. Visit our webpage for drop-off locations: www.crowwing.us and search "oil."
- Free compost of lawn and garden material (please separate brush and branches)
- Demolition materials (nominal fee)
- Large appliances, electronics, tires with or without rims, scrap metals, glass, and plastic can (nominal fee)

During November through April, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) will only be taken for emergency situations. An example of this is residents who are moving or an estate that must dispose of hazardous materials, and cannot wait until the HHW program opens in May of 2015. To schedule an appointment, contact the landfill at (218) 824-1290.

Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Announces Pine River Watershed Video

The Crow Wing SWCD, in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Pine River Watershed Alliance, University of Minnesota, Lindner Media, and the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment, announces the release of a new, professionally-produced video featuring the Pine River Watershed and the importance of clean water. The video is titled "What Does Clean Water Mean to You?"

To view online, please visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGF6RvxpIVs&list=UU5TU1n1A1pHlggfg_7KJVMg

A DVD can also be obtained from the Crow Wing SWCD. For more information, call 218-828-6197 or visit: <http://crowwingswcd.org>

Upcoming Events

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research & Management Showcase (November 19 @ the U of M)

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and University of Minnesota Extension are offering folks the opportunity to take an inside-look at the MAISRC on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus November 19, 2014. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with faculty and researchers as they share the latest about their work. In addition, they can expect to see demonstrations of methods used to advance the science of AIS detection and control, gain some basic skills for working on AIS issues in their community, and learn about some of the current research on invasive carps, zebra mussels, aquatic invasive plants, and harmful fish diseases. University of Minnesota Extension is coordinating transportation between north and central Minnesota and the event. Pick up times start at 6:00 a.m. with last return by 9:00 p.m. You will be able to purchase a bus ticket with your registration. Details will print on your event ticket. Pre-registration for buses is needed by November 7. For more information visit: www.maisrc.umn.edu



Local Grant Opportunities for Landowners

Forestry Grants

An opportunity is available for landowners in Crow Wing County with forested parcels greater than 20 acres in size to receive cost-share funds to write forest stewardship plans and implement forestry practices in order to protect lakes with populations of tullibee, which is a type of whitefish also known as Cisco. Good forest management can protect these lakes and the quality of these important fisheries for generations to come. Target lakesheds include: Bertha, Big Trout, Borden, Cedar, Clear, Crooked, Island/Loon, Kenney, Kimball, Long/Tame Fish, Lower Hay, Ossawinnamakee, Pelican, Pig, Portage, Round, Roosevelt, Star, and Whitefish. Cost-share funding is available to cover up to 50% of the cost of forest management practices for each landowner who has a current forest stewardship plan for his or her property. Examples of eligible practices include tree planting, selected harvest, and wildlife openings. For landowners without forest stewardship plans, funds are available to receive a plan at a flat rate of \$200. Interested landowners should contact Darren Mayers, District Technician with the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, at 218-828-6197. A number of property tax-incentive programs are also available for property owners in Crow Wing County. See www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?NID=258 for more information.

Conservation Easement Grant: Wild Rice Lakes

Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District has funds available for private landowners who own land adjacent to Shallow Wild Rice Lakes. Funding is available to enroll private land into voluntary land preservation agreements called conservation easements. Conservation easements protect land from future development while keeping land in private ownership and on the local tax rolls. Landowners can be paid up to 60% of the estimated market value of the tract for enrolling into the program. Wild Rice provides great habitat for ducks and birds and also is the Minnesota State Grain. The following Crow Wing County lakes are eligible: Arrowhead, Dahler, Dog, Garden, Goggle, Hole-in-the-Day, Little Pine, Lizzie, Lower Dean, Lows, Mud (18-137), Mud (18-326), Nelson, Rice (Blomberg's), Rice (Clark Lake), Rice (Deerwood), Rice (Hesitation WMA), Rice (Pratt's), Rice Bed, Terry, Twin Island, Unnamed (Lost Rice), and Unnamed (Nokasippi R.). To apply contact Crow Wing SWCD via e-mail: melissa.barrick@crowwingswcd.org or by phone 218-828-6197.

Shoreline Restoration / Stabilization & Stormwater Management

Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, have grants available to help offset the cost of shoreline buffer projects, which can also include stormwater management. For more information, please contact Crow Wing SWCD @ 218-828-6197.

Groundwater Related Grants

Well Sealing *(Ending soon)*

Crow Wing County also wants to remind the public that there are still limited funds remaining to assist landowners with sealing unused wells. A well that is not in use or abandoned can be a source of groundwater contamination by providing a potential direct path for surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed of waste to reach an uncontaminated groundwater source. Unused larger-diameter wells can also be a safety hazard for children and animals. The program will pay for 50% of the cost to properly seal the well, up to a maximum of \$1000. A state-licensed well contractor must conduct the work. All landowners with unused wells are encouraged to apply. Sealing involves clearing the well of debris and filling the well with grout. Funding for this program is from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment that was passed by Minnesota voters in 2008.

Low-Income Septic System Upgrades

Crow Wing County and the Region Five Development Commission also have remaining funds to assist with replacement or repair of septic systems for low and very low income landowners in order to improve and protect groundwater quality in Crow Wing County. For more information or to have an application mailed to you, please visit www.regionfive.org/forms or contact Melissa Radermacher at Region 5: 218-894-3233. Funding for this grant is also from the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

As the LGU responsible for the development and implementation of the Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan, the Crow Wing County Land Services Department is committed to protecting, preserving & improving water resources in Crow Wing County by being proactive, efficient, customer focused, organized, and innovative while being good stewards of the county's resources.