



Crow Wing County Water Plan News

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Spring Edition

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

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Is your Lake/River Infested with Aquatic Invasive Species?

By Mitch Brinks

That is the question! If you ask the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, they would point you to their recently updated list of water bodies in Minnesota that have been confirmed to be infested with zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, Asian carp, flowering rush, spiny waterflea, faucet snail, or brittle naiad. In Crow Wing County, we are primarily battling milfoil and zebra mussels (although Mille Lacs Lake does have spiny waterflea).

Using the DNR's list, the County has developed a new interactive map that asks users this same question. By typing in the name of their lake or river, the map will zoom to their specific lake. Lakes in red are infested with either milfoil or zebra mussels. Lakes in blue are not infested (according to DNR). The map also displays an info box that gives more information about the infested lake. The map also shows the location of all the public and private watercraft access locations along with the AIS risk classification, according to

the County's 2015 AIS Plan, which can be viewed online at:

<http://www.crowwing.us/1004/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-AIS>

If you are using a smartphone within a zip code that it part of Crow Wing County, you will soon see a banner ad on various apps that you can click on to get to this interactive map right on your phone. The County is also working on

New Crow Wing County AIS Interactive Map:

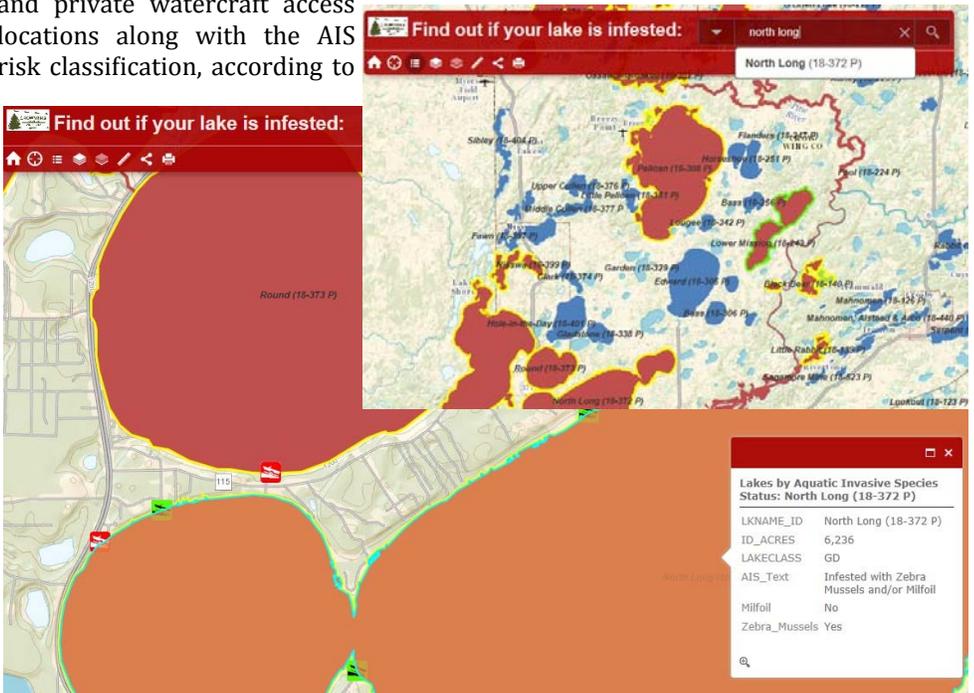
<http://cwccm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=36e79c6c97194b7f856b7fd02256e32>

developing its own app that will not only feature AIS content, but other interactive content related to lake water quality information, parcel/building information, highway conditions/projects, recreation trails, etc.

In addition to the above campaign, the County plans to work with an environmental laboratory to test for zebra *(continued on the next page)*



The 2013—2023 Crow Wing Water Plan is available to view online at: www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?nid=241



Is Your Lake Infested? *(continued)*

mussel veligers, which are the microscopic offspring of adult zebra mussels. Lakes like North Long and Gilbert, that were classified as “infested” in 2014 likely had veligers in the water column for many years. By testing for veligers on many of our more popular “non-infested” lakes, we can better answer the question of which lakes are truly infested. If your lake would like to be involved in this effort, please let me know at 218-824-1128 or mitch.brinks@crowwing.us. The testing is planned for July, which is generally when there is the highest concentration of veligers in the water column. While the County is paying the costs for the lab work, if your lake wants to participate, you need to meet the following criteria:

- Must be a lake currently not infested with zebra mussels and have a public access (or highly used private access)
- Volunteer(s) to attend a training session put on by RMB/Crow Wing County
- Trained volunteer(s) to collect a sample. The volunteer will need a boat and GPS unit or smartphone to take GPS coordinates of sampling location(s).
- Each lake needs to supply its own 63 micron sampling net. They are currently \$182 and available at: <http://shop.sciencefirst.com/wildco/tow-nets/6465-turtox-tow-nets-12in-mouth-nitex-63m.html>
- Each lake needs to supply a bottle of 91% isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol to help preserve the sample.

The date for training will be Friday, June 19 with the locations to be determined, but likely one in the Nisswa/Crosslake area and one in the Deerwood/Bay Lake area. If your volunteer(s) cannot make it to the training, one of our seasonal AIS coordinators can train them afterwards. Results from the lab analysis will be available within 2 weeks of when the lab is in receipt of the sample. Protocol from DNR will be followed should veligers be found. The DNR is currently finalizing these protocols.

Finally, Crow Wing County recently hired two seasonal AIS coordinators for the upcoming season, Mike Smith (returning for a 3rd season), and Jacob Hradsky, one of the top inspectors from 2014. Please welcome them aboard when you see them. Mike is finishing up his senior year at the U of M and will start back with us on May 18. Jacob started last week and has already made significant improvements to the inspector scheduling process. Additionally, if you know someone that may be interested in being an inspector, please contact Brainerd’s Employment Resource Center at 218-824-9675 or visit: www.ercstaffing.com

Ice Damage Update

Crow Wing County Land Services is reminding property owners affected by ice ridges occurring this winter about their options for repairing shoreline damage. Given the relative lack of snow and cold temperatures this winter, many lakeshore landscapes around the county may be affected by severe ice ridge damage this spring. Before repairing shoreline damage, property owners should consult the county or local zoning office for a review of applicable rules. The Crow Wing County Land Use Ordinance allows an annual ice ridge to be re-graded back to original elevation without a permit when the work is done in the same year the ice ridge was created. Annual ice ridges are defined as a linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice within a calendar year. Work on historic ice ridge damage requires a shoreland alteration permit. Historic ice ridges are a linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice over a period of two or more years upon which well-established trees and shrubs are growing. Additionally, the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may need to be consulted if restoration work extends below the ordinary high-water level (OHWL) of the lake.



Crow Wing County News

Crow Wing County Receives Water Planning Grants

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department has been awarded two grants totaling \$113,000 from Clean Water Fund dedicated funding as part of the constitutional Legacy Amendment passed by voters in 2008. Grant funds will allow the county to continue assessing and producing reports on the water quality of county lakes, and cover costs associated with updating the county's Landowner's Guide to Lake Stewardship resource booklet. Grant dollars will fund the review and reporting of data on 27 new lakes (down to 200 acres) in Crow Wing County. These new reports are in addition to the 46 lakes already assessed on lakes over 400 acres in size. Completed water quality reports on County lakes can be viewed at www.crowwing.us by searching "lake assessments." The new reports will be available later this year.

Additionally, grant dollars will allow the Land Services Department to update the Landowners Guide to Lake Stewardship resource booklet, originally published in 2008. This guide assists landowners in understanding the basics to being good stewards of their property, which is essential to keeping the county's lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources healthy. Since 2008, nearly 15,000 copies of the booklet have been distributed. The 2015 update will incorporate elements of the County's award-winning Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan, and will feature a new user-friendly format. Updated resource booklets will be available this spring. The booklets will be free and available at the Land Services Building, and will be distributed during many events this summer including the County Fair. Many Environmental Services functions are funded by state grants. Information on these grants is updated annually at www.crowwing.us by searching "grants." Additionally, all water protection activities conducted by Environmental Services are summarized annually into a Water Protection Report available on the website by searching "Water Protection Report."

Landfill summer hours

Beginning April 4, the Crow Wing County Landfill expanded its hours of operation from 8 am to 5 pm and is now open Monday through Saturday weekly. During these expanded hours the County Landfill is open to accept household garbage, fiberglass boats, mattresses, furniture, mobile homes, and other items for proper disposal. 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" or go to the new interactive map: <http://cwccm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=1f4e92efb03f48839e464d3b39461076>
- Free compost of lawn and garden material (please separate brush and branches)
- Demolition materials may be disposed in the demolition landfill for a fee
- Large appliances, electronics, tires with or without rims, scrap metals, glass, and plastic can be disposed in the landfill for a nominal fee for recycling.

Upcoming Events

Lake Association Open House - Thursday May 7

Crow Wing County will be host its 4th annual lake association open house on May 7 from 9 AM to noon. Come to receive relevant updates that you can pass along to your respective associations during your upcoming annual meetings, including videos, factsheets, and other information. Representatives from Crow Wing County, SWCD, and DNR will be on hand to answer any of your questions.

Shoreland Issues & Solutions. Panel Discussion Sessions

The Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District and University of Minnesota Extension have worked together to develop and coordinate informal discussion gatherings for 2015. In these sessions, your group will have the opportunity to view the recently released video "What Does Clean Water Mean to You?" This will be followed by an open discussion of recommended shoreland management practices by local lakeshore property owners who are also certified as University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners. Depending on audience interest, the session will highlight shoreland issues such as bank erosion, stormwater runoff, and invasive species. If you would like to schedule a discussion session for your organization or community group, contact Jackie Froemming at froem022@umn.edu or at 218-824-1068.



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

The 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, has 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.

Serpent Lake Grant Update

The Serpent Lake Association, the City of Deerwood, the City of Crosby, Deerwood and Irondale Townships, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MN DNR, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Crow Wing County, Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District, and local citizens are partnering to implement these clean water actions:

- Reduce Cranberry Lake phosphorous load inputs
- Filter urban polluted runoff before it reaches the lake
- Create community polices for people and water quality
- Plant native plants to absorb runoff and stop erosion.

This four year campaign is based off the 2013 Crow Wing County (CWC) Water Plan and 2011 hot spot pollution study. For more information on how to get involved, please contact the Crow Wing SWCD @ 218-828-6197.

Groundwater Related Grants

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 contact Melissa Radermacher at Region 5: 218-894-3233. Funding for this grant is 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.