

Completed Tasks

Curly-leaf Pondweed Surveys

All curly-leaf pondweed studies were completed during the 2004 field season. Of the eight lakes surveyed, only Little Saint Germain Lake is known to contain this exotic plant.

Comprehensive Aquatic Plant Surveys

Comprehensive aquatic plant surveys were completed for six of the eight lakes during the 2004 field season. Although four “buffer days” were built into the schedule (not the budget) for this project, rain and cool weather made it impossible to complete all eight surveys during July and August. Thunderstorms caused minor setbacks during the summer (approximately 1.5 days), while cool air and water temps lead to major setbacks. The original schedule and budget was created under the assumption that the comprehensive surveys would be completed by snorkeling and wading; the unseasonable weather made it impossible to be in the water; therefore, we needed to use rake tows to complete most of the surveys. At that time, WDNR protocol suggested four rake tows be completed at each plot. Using this method in place of the normal, in-situ method takes nearly twice as long. As a result, the remaining buffer days and approximately two additional days were used to complete the studies at the lakes we considered the highest priority based upon exposure and need (see Project Update – September 21, 2004) This left Fawn and Content Lakes for the 2005 field season.

The Fawn and Content comprehensive surveys were completed during the week of August 15th. Fortunately, Eurasian water-milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed were not found during either of these surveys.

Voucher Specimen Collections

The original project scope called for the voucher collection of each species located during the aquatic plant surveys on the town lakes. Two sets of vouchers were to be collected, one for cataloging at the UW-Stevens Point Herbarium and one for a collection to be placed in the Saint Germain Library. Volunteers from the town were trained to press plants collected during the surveys. As a result, hundreds of plant samples were collected by Onterra staff, distributed to volunteers along with pressing supplies, pressed by the volunteers, and then retrieved by Onterra staff. Many of the pressings turned out very well, while others were unacceptable and required replacement.

During the winter of 2004/2005, the pressings were closely examined and an updated list of specimens that needed to be recollected and pressed was created. The missing specimens were collected during the comprehensive surveys completed at Fawn and Content Lakes and during field visits to Alma, Moon, Found, and Lost Lakes during the week of August 22, 2005. These specimens have been pressed by Onterra staff and are currently drying.

Onterra staff also collected and pressed voucher specimens for our reference. These samples were reviewed with Dr. Susan Knight at Trout Lake Field Station on June 15, 2005. Of the 50+ specimens reviewed, only one was thought to be incorrectly identified.

Public Participation

Kick-off Meeting

A kick-off meeting was held to introduce the project and its goals to interested stakeholders On May 23, 2004. Please see the September 21, 2004 Update for more detail on this meeting.

Introductory Planning Meeting

A short meeting with the Town of Saint Germain Lakes Committee was held following the kick-off meeting described above. During this meeting, the committee was introduced to the process that will be used to create the management plan for the town lakes.

Volunteer Training for Aquatic Plant Monitoring

On June 17, 2005 volunteers from Alma, Moon, Lost, Found, and Little Saint Germain Lakes attended a training session concerning citizen monitoring of invasive aquatic plants. The program was facilitated by Onterra staff and included classroom and on-lake sessions. During the classroom session, volunteers were introduced to the monitoring protocol and taught how to discern Eurasian water-milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed from similar native plants. The identification portion included live plant samples and pictures of in-lake specimens. The on-lake session included a pontoon tour to predetermined locations on Little Saint Germain Lake containing exotics and look-a-like natives.

Based upon comments received from participants and the fact that many have completed one or more monitoring surveys, it is felt that the session was a resounding success.

Data Analysis and Map Production

The major analysis and mapping tasks concerning the six comprehensive aquatic plant surveys completed during the 2004 field season were finished during the winter, spring and early summer of 2005. The results of these tasks were reflected in the poster displayed at the 2005 Town of Saint Germain Lake Fair.

Uncompleted Tasks

Data Analysis and Map Production

The data collected during the Fawn and Content Lake surveys is currently being worked up and incorporated in to the results from the 2004 surveys. The community maps will be created soon after the database is updated.

Voucher Specimen Collections

All specimens have been collected and pressed. The specimens will be mounted and labeled this fall. One set of those specimens will be sent to the UW-Stevens Point Herbarium for verification of specimen identification by Dr. Robert Freckmann. If identification errors are found, the data analysis, mapping, and town vouchers will be corrected with the new information.

Public Participation

Final Planning Meeting(s)

One or more planning meetings need to be held in order to complete the management plan. As described at the introductory meeting, the full project results will be provided to the Lakes Committee and will act as the foundation for the development of the plan.

Wrap-up Meeting

This meeting will be the final “official” task of the project and will be used to deliver the study results and the management plan to interested stakeholders. This meeting should be held sometime in June of next year.

Volunteer Training for Aquatic Plant Monitoring

I believe that that finalization of this project will renew the awareness of aquatic invasive plants within the town. I also believe it would be advantageous to hold a second training session at that time to train new volunteers and refresh the skills of the existing volunteers. We would complete this session at no charge and use our professional time as match for the grant. Ted and I have discussed using the volunteer monitoring protocol from this project on a countywide basis, I think we can create a protocol that will be used on a statewide basis. The June 2006 training session would be a great time to try it out and possibly include others from around the county.

Management Plan and Report

Creation of the management plan and report are the most substantial of the remaining project tasks. The report will be based upon the final data analysis and will be completed by Onterra. The creation of the management plan should not be difficult because with the exception of Little Saint Germain, none of the lakes are believed to contain exotics. Little Saint Germain Lake is currently involved in a long-term project described in its existing management plan; therefore, the town plan will focus primarily on protection of the existing plant communities and the prevention of exotic species introductions.

Please remember that the management plan needs to be much more than just a list of recommendations – it needs to be an *implementation plan*. An implementation plan includes the tasks to be completed, who is going to complete them, their timing, and if applicable, funding sources. As described during the introductory planning meeting, the time and effort used to create the implementation plan will do much to assure that the plan will be carried through as opposed to just sitting on a library shelf.

Timeline for Project Completion

Currently, the project end-date for the AIS grant is December 31, 2005. Although we could have the management plan completed by then, we will not be able to hold the project wrap-up meeting until June of next year; therefore, we will need to request an extension of the project timeline with the WDNR. This will not be a problem and I will take care of it. Here is my proposed timeline for the completion of the project:

- October 14, 2005 First draft of study report completed
- October 20, 2005 Planning Meeting II (2 + hour evening meeting)
 The primary goal of this meeting will be a presentation outlining the study results and preliminary recommendations.
 Lakes Committee members should have specific concerns about their lakes and the town lakes ready for discussion.
- Mid November Planning Meeting III (2 + hour evening meeting)
 The implementation plan will be created during this meeting.
- December 1, 2005 First draft of management plan completed
- January 1, 2006 Comments and reviews due from Lakes Committee & WDNR
- January 31, 2006 Final draft of report and management plan completed.
- June 2006 Wrap-up meeting
- June 2006 Volunteer Training Session II

Budget

The budget update below includes invoices sent out in August and the time and materials concerning the recently completed surveys at Fawn and Content Lakes. We will obviously be going over budget, however the town will not be charged any more than state in the contract.

Billing Date Estimated 9/1/05

Item	Original Contract Amounts Per Phase				Billing		
	I	II	III	Total	Current	Previous	Remaining
Aquatic Plant Surveys	\$6,372.00	\$6,480.56	\$3,672.44	\$16,525.00	\$ 2,448.75	\$ 15,490.75	(\$1,414.50)
Volunteer Training	\$493.98	\$502.35	\$284.67	\$1,281.00	\$ -	\$ 1,387.50	(\$106.50)
Data Analysis & Plan Development	\$3,878.19	\$3,943.92	\$2,234.89	\$10,057.00	\$ -	\$ 6,047.25	\$4,009.75
Equipment Expenses	\$231.38	\$235.29	\$133.33	\$600.00	\$ -	\$ 632.16	(\$32.16)
Travel	\$1,087.45	\$1,105.88	\$626.67	\$2,820.00	\$ 510.06	\$ 2,827.58	(\$517.64)
Materials	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$12,163.00	\$12,368.00	\$7,052.00	\$31,583.00	\$2,958.81	\$26,685.24	\$1,938.95