

## **Report on DNR Funding Sources/Grants Related to Aquatic Invasive Species**

Land & Water Conservation Board Meeting

Feb. 3 2015

Agenda Item #4

### Status:

- In the last four years, twenty-eight Counties have received about \$4.25 million in AIS grants. Individual grant awards range from \$150,000 to \$1,600 with Bayfield County the largest total recipient at \$323,875 and Barron the smallest at \$1,600.
- 90% of the funding has been in the Education, Planning & Prevention (AEPP) category where the bulk of the request is for staffing to conduct or support volunteer training and coordination of watercraft inspections and early detection monitoring as well as education and outreach. Some counties are more active developing plans for and helping coordinate integrated control efforts (herbicide, bio-control and manual removal) in lakes, streams and wetlands.
- Ten counties have participated in Early Response control grants while Marinette and Sawyer County have received Established Population Control grants.

Participating Counties: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Calumet, Dane, Door, Douglas, Iron, Lincoln, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Portage, Richland, Sawyer, Shawano, Vernon, Vilas, Walworth, Washburn and Washington.

### Process/Eligibility:

- Competitive annual application process. Staff review and rank proposals similar to TRiM grants. Counties must compete with RC&Ds, LUGs, Lake Districts & Associations and NCOs.
- Priorities in order are preventing spread, responding to new populations and managing established populations. Considerations are given to the comprehensiveness of proposals, degrees of threat i.e. larger waters with multiple AIS, protecting high value ecosystems, public use and community support.
- About \$3.8M is available annually roughly split 60/40 between AEPP and Control grants respectively.
- All grants require a minimum 25% local match that can be cash or donated labor, service or materials.
- Education, Planning and Prevention projects may be up to \$150,000 state share
- Established Population Control projects may be up to \$200,000
- Early Response Projects are capped at \$20,000
- Currently AEPP applications are due Dec. 10 and Timelines for when they apply and when they receive the funds.

Water Quality Grants: Any discussion of county funding should acknowledge that since 1990 counties have received approximately \$4.5 million through DNR's lake and river planning and protection grants. Particularly the subprogram Lake Classification Grants which are exclusively for counties to gather data and develop protection and restoration programs for groups of lakes. About 30 counties have adopted a "waters classification plan" that serves both zoning and conservation functions. These counties are roughly the same counties that participate most in AIS grants; northern or more forested counties with limited agriculture.