

**BLUE LAKE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
RAPID RESPONSE PLAN**

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BLUE LAKE RAPID RESPONSE PLAN 2012

- I. Monitoring for AIS – Lake Residents and Guests
 - A. Become familiar with the appearance of Eurasian Water-Milfoil (EWM), Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and various native plant species with similar characteristics.
 - B. Keep one or more zip lock plastic bags onboard boats along with a Sharpie pen or other method of writing information on bag.
 - C. Always be watchful of aquatic vegetation, looking for suspicious or abnormal species.
 - D. If a suspected invasive plant species is found floating, on shore, or growing:
 1. Take a sample of the finding and place it in a plastic bag along with an ample amount of water.
 2. Mark the date, location (to the best of your ability), your name, and contact information on the bag.
 3. If the plant is growing either mark the spot with a marker or, if you are able, take a GPS reading of the location.
 4. Refrigerate the sample to keep it fresh for confirming identification.
 5. Contact BLPA president or member of the Lake Management Committee (LMC). See Attachment 1.
- II. Confirming AIS Sample – BLPA Lake Management Committee
 - A. If a member of the Lake Management Committee (LMC) believes that the sample is an invasive species, the actual location of the growing plants must be confirmed. It should be marked with a marker or a GPS position.
 - B. If the sample was a floater and no origin can be found, the LMC should take the necessary steps to inform other lake residents of the finding so they can assist in searching for growing plants.
 - C. If the sample is believed to be an invasive species and the rooted infestation is located by marker or GPS, the LMC should contact the Oneida County Invasive Species Coordinator or the WDNR Rhinelander office and present them with the following:
 1. A sample of the invasive species designating it from Blue Lake,
 2. The approximate size of the infestation, and
 3. The date of the finding.
- III. Positive ID – Oneida County/WDNR
 - A. If the Oneida County Invasive Species Coordinator/WDNR believes the sample is an invasive species, it will be sent to the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point (UWSP) for confirmation and vouchering by a UWSP plant taxonomist.
 - B. Upon confirmation from UWSP, WDNR will coordinate effort to do a lake survey to ascertain the extent of the infestation.

IV. Response

- A. The term “Early Detection and Response” defines a category of invasive species grant funding that is accessible on short notice without the restriction of grant cycles. “Early Detection and Response” funding applies only to invasive species populations that are five acres in size or less or less than 5% of the lake area, whichever is greater, and that have been in existence for less than five years.
- B. The WDNR will provide 75% of the funds (up to \$20,000) needed to investigate and manage eligible invasive species populations. The remaining 25% must be paid by BLPA in cash and/or donated in-kind hours, if applicable. (See Attachment 2.) BLPA is responsible for initiating a WDNR approved grant funded program. The WDNR will typically take little action on its own in response to a new invasive species finding. The BLPA will sponsor an invasive species management project. “Early Detection and Response” projects normally involve the following steps, although the process can vary based on the time of the year the invasive species is found and other factors:
 1. Arrangements are made by BLPA to evaluate the extent of the infestation by professionals qualified to do so. This can be accomplished by either WDNR personnel or by lake management consultants. There will usually be no cost for this if done by WDNR. Most of the costs associated with consultant services will fall under “Early Detection and Response” grant funding.
 2. Upon having again confirmed the existence and extent of the infestation, BLPA will meet with WDNR to determine the next steps in treating the infestation.
 3. A management plan will be developed and WDNR will set aside “Early Detection and Response” funding for the project if applied for by BLPA.
 4. Permitting of the infestation management plan must be issued by WDNR before most work can begin.
 5. The Town of Minocqua has agreed to be the necessary sponsor for BLPA’s grant application. (See Attachment 3.)

ATTACHMENT 1

Contact List

Updated: August 2012

Blue Lake Preservation Association

Joe Anderegg, President

715-356-9714

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Dan Pagel, Chair Lake Management Committee

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Kevin Gauthier

107 Sutliff Ave

Rhinelander, WI 54501

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Sandy Wickman

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Oneida County Invasive Species Coordinator

Michele Sadauskas

3375 Airport Rd Box #10

Rhinelander, WI 54501

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ATTACHMENT 2

BLPA Early Detection Funding Pre-Approval

BLPA Board of Directors meeting January 14, 2012

Mr. Pagel presented the Lake Management Committee report. Mr. Pagel noted that the next step for the Committee was to draft a rapid response plan to establish a protocol to be followed in the event of a report of an invasive species in the lake and a rapid response team to implement the necessary steps. Mr. Pagel reported on his conversations with the invasive species specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Rhinelander. Mr. Pagel said that he would create a proposal for a rapid response plan and that the Committee (consisting of Mr. Pagel, Jay Anliker, Tom Bose, Cheryl Kamba and Steve Sutherland) would review and propose a plan to be presented at the annual meeting of the members of the Association in August. The Board discussed establishing a reserve to fund the efforts of the rapid response team if an invasive species were found in the lake. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously authorized a reserve of up to \$5,000 for that purpose.

ATTACHMENT 3

Sponsorship Letter from Town of Minocqua

"The Island City"

TOWN OF MINOCQUA

MARK P. HARTZHEIM, Chairman
BRYAN P. JENNINGS, Supervisor
JOHN L. THOMPSON, Supervisor
SUSAN M. HEIL, Supervisor
WILLIAM J. FRIED, Supervisor

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ROBEN A. HAGGART, Clerk
LAURA R. MENDEZ, Treasurer
ROBERT S. WELCH, Supt. Public Works
ANDREW R. GEE, Chief of Police
ANDREW J. PETROWSKI, Fire Chief

June 19, 2012

Mr. Kevin Gauthier, Lake Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
107 Sutliff Avenue
Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501

Dear Mr. Gauthier:

The Town of Minocqua continues to place high importance on the control of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

In an effort to be as proactive as possible with respect to potential infestation, the Blue Lake Association is seeking access to WiDNR Rapid Response Grant funds.

The Town of Minocqua supports this proactive effort by the Blue Lake Association and herewith attests its willingness to act as Sponsor for their Rapid Response Grant application.

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mark Hartzheim, Chairman
Town of Minocqua

cc: Town Clerk, Blue Lake Association.