



# Vilas County Land and Water Conservation

## 2009—2010 Activity Report



**THE MISSION OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
IS TO HALT AND REVERSE THE DEPLETION OF THE STATE'S SOIL RE-  
SOURCES AND POLLUTION OF ITS WATERS.**

**(WIS. STATS. s.92.14)**

### Administration

- Secure and administer **\$ 226,884** in DATCP staffing grants for the Land and Water Conservation Department [LWCD], aiding in the support of the County Conservationist, Lake Conservation Specialist, and the Invasive Species Coordinator positions
- Prepare grant proposals, secure, and administer **\$ 125,585** in WI Department of Natural Resources grants and contract funds for the LWCD, aiding in the support of the Lake Conservation Specialist and Aquatic Plant Survey contract services
- Secure, allocate, and administer **\$ 111,902** in Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Soil and Water Resource Management grant funds for county conservation practices targeted toward implementation of the 2010-2014 LWRM plan
- Prepare grant project proposal for **\$11,760** to conduct a 2011 county-wide private well-water testing and education program
- Complete the year long revision of the *2010-2014 Land and Water Resource Management Plan* for Vilas County; the plan helps to determine and prioritize future conservation goals, objectives, and tasks that will address current conservation concerns
- Prepare 2009 and 2010 department budgets / make 5% operating budget cuts as required
- Actions by approved County Board Resolution:
  - 2009-09 Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Funding
  - 2009-19 Restrictions on the Use and sale of Phosphorus containing fertilizers
  - 2009-50 Lake Conservation Specialist Position
  - 2010-07 Vilas County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2010-2014
  - 2010-30 Hire of a Limited-Term Lake Conservation Specialist
  - 2010-86 Grant support for Land & Water Conservation Department Staff
  - 2010-87 Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership Memo of Understanding
  - 2010-115 Reducing potential spread of Asian Carp throughout the Great Lakes Basin
  - 2010-131 Lumberjack RC&D Grant Support for Groundwater Testing and Education
  - 2010-144 Change of Current Lake Specialist position from limited-term to regular status

- Partner with DATCP Conservation Engineer in completion of 11, 2009 projects totaling \$47,967; completion of 3, 2010 projects totaling \$14,054; and extend project contracts for an additional 8, 2010 projects totaling \$48,700; process and visit 8 new 2011 project sites. Installed practices combat soil erosion for the purpose of protecting surface water quality, and directly relate to goals and objectives outlined in our Land and Water Resource Management plan

## Conservation Committee:

Ralph Sitzberger /  
Chair

Gene Ciszek /  
Vice Chair

Mary Platner /

Erv Teichmiller /

Dennis Nielsen /

Robert Croker /  
FSA

- Administer the *Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP)* in cooperation with *USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)* staff and the WDNR; extend claims to county agricultural producers

- Participate in *Wisconsin Deer Donation* program / partner with area butcher shops and food pantries

- Continue collaboration with WDNR in planning / implementation of a long-term shoreland buffer restoration study to determine cost / benefit of restoring wildlife habitat, decreasing soil erosion, and increasing water quality along shorelines

- Collaborate with USGS in planning / implementation / monitoring of a two-year stormwater runoff study to quantify the amount of phosphorus and sediments that occur through normal rain events

- Conduct ongoing field investigations of problem sites—examples: extreme low water levels, potential AIS infestations, algae blooms, fish kills, extreme soil erosion events; seek answers to questions and provide technical assistance in relation to these situations
- Collaborate with Washington Water Resources Task Force on a “Shore-scapers” multi-day training course to be offered summer 2011

Conservation Projects

## Aquatic Invasive Sps

- Assist / Encourage / Educate / Support local municipalities and lake organizations to seek state grant funding for various types of aquatic invasive species grant projects; 2009—Vilas County groups received **\$ 541,656** in AIS grant funds; 2010—Vilas County groups received AIS funding in the amount of **\$ 663,215** (see attachment)
- Conduct Watercraft Inspections at Vilas County Boat Landings: Big Arbor Vitae, Ballard, Irving, Upper & Lower Buckatabon, Star, Palmer, Lac Vieux Desert, and North Twin
- Coordinate an additional 800 hours of watercraft inspection services with UW Oshkosh students at 8 public boat landings in Vilas County
- Conduct AIS In-Lake Monitoring Surveys of several Vilas County Lakes: Allequash, White Sand, Boulder, Big Arbor Vitae, Plum
- Conduct aquatic plant baseline surveys on several Vilas County Lakes: Silver, Upper and Lower Buckatabon, Arrowhead, Big Arbor Vitae, Harris, and Big Sand

(AIS Cont)

- Prepare parcel / mailing lists for use in AIS projects: Wildcat, Phelps TLC, Big Sand, Upper Gresham, Little St Germain (2X), Cloverland TLC, Unified Lower ER Chain Commission
- Coordinate distribution of new AIS public boat landing signage throughout the county
- Conduct AIS Lake Monitoring volunteer training workshops: Boulder Junction, Oxbow Lake Assoc, Plum Lake TLC, North Lakeland Discovery Center, Cloverland TLC (2X), Big Lake Assoc
- Conduct Watercraft Inspection volunteer training workshops: St Germain Lions Club, Cloverland TLC (2X), Trees for Tomorrow, Natural Lakes Association, High / Fishtrap Lake Assoc

- Prepare / deliver over 150 public educational presentations on assorted land and water conservation issues to state, county, and town elected officials, lake organizations, partner agencies, school-age youth, conservation groups, lake fairs, area businesses and clubs
- Provide technical, financial, & project planning assistance in the areas of:
  - Conservation Project Design & Engineering
  - Lake Association / District Formation
  - Ag Manure Management
  - Aquatic Invasive Species
  - Terrestrial Invasive Species
  - Native Aquatic & Terrestrial Plants
  - Private Forestland Management
  - Soil Erosion Control
  - Shoreline Restoration
  - WDNR Lake Grants
  - Lake Management
  - Watercraft Inspection
  - Wildlife Damage
  - Venison Donation
- Provide and maintain publications display outside of the office to provide the public with current information about conservation issues and department services
- Provide letters of support (2009 & 2010) for groups seeking grant funds: Marshall, Anvil, Black Oak, Little Arbor Vitae, Lower Nine-mile, Unified Lower ER Chain Commission (4x), Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Regional Planning Commission, Oneida County (2X), Cloverland TLC, St Germain TLC, Lac du Flambeau TLC, Presque Isle TLC, North & South Twin, Long Lk Of Phelps District, Little St Germain Lk District, Spectacle Lk District, Three Lakes Waterfront Assoc, University of Notre Dame Land O Lakes
- Attend numerous meetings to provide assistance and information on conservation related topics
- Maintain old website and begin developing a brand new department website that will serve the needs of the public more efficiently
- Provide written and verbal information to local media (newspapers, television, radio) about department services, conservation oriented news items and up to date information
- Ongoing distribution of education materials and technical information to the public via telephone conversations, mailings, email distributions, and walk-ins on assorted conservation issues

Public Assistance



## Terrestrial Invasives

- Initiate and coordinate efforts to form a regional cooperative weed management area—today known as the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP): WHIP serves to educate the public and manage terrestrial invasive species on private lands of both Oneida and Vilas Counties
- Active participation in the revision discussions for Chapter NR 40, Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification and Classification System
- Conduct TIS Identification and Information workshops to various groups: WHIP public information meeting, Easy Eagles Club (2X), Eagle River City Council, VCLA annual meeting, Found Lake Assoc, Sayner / St Germain Fish & Wildlife Club, Merrill Lynch Group, Birch Lake Assoc, Arbor Vitae Town Board
- Provide interviews to local news media (television, radio, newspapers) in regard to WHIP activities
- Conduct sites visits and mapping of infested sites throughout the WHIP area and collaborate with Mapping Department to create useful aerial maps: Japanese Knotweed Sites: Woodruff / Minocqua, Winchester, Presque Isle, Arbor Vitae, Boulder Junction; Garlic Mustard Sites: Land O Lakes, Phelps, Presque Isle (widespread); Asian Honeysuckle Sites: Eagle River, Land O Lakes; Spotted Knapweed Site: Eagle River; Buckthorn Sites: Eagle River; Purple Loosestrife Sites: Manitowish Waters
- Prepare and send a targeted garlic mustard alert mailing to 2000 private landowners in northwest Vilas County.
- Treatments: Coordinate / assist in hand-pulling of Phelps garlic mustard sites, investigate possibility of chemical controls, study and obtain pesticide applicator license, assist in bio-control project for purple loosestrife

- Partner with the *Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council* (Lumberjack RC&D) in achieving the goals and objectives of their annual work plans
- Meet regularly with and coordinate efforts with the *Wisconsin Lakes Partnership* to fulfill the goals of the Vilas County program while concurrently addressing statewide lake issues significance such as citizen monitoring programs, *CBCW* activities, and youth educational opportunities.
- Participate and follow-through on conference planning committees for regional and statewide public conservation programs including the WI Lakes Convention, Land and Water Conservation Youth Camp, WI Land & Water Conservation Association Conference
- Land & Water Conservation supervisors and staff meet publicly a minimum of 12 times per year to discuss department activities
- Attend / participate in meetings of regional and statewide Conservation Associations
- Provide professional presentations / workshops outside the county at WI Lakes Convention (4x), Mn/ WI Invasive Species Conference, WLWCA Conference, WALCE Convention

## Work Groups

## Youth Education

- Work with high school students that participate in the *Upward Bound* program, a curriculum to assist teens in their preparation for college; exposes teens to careers that require a postsecondary degree
- Provide teacher scholarships for local educators to participate in *Trees for Tomorrow* continuing education classes aimed at conservation
- Provide scholarships each summer for area high school youth interested in attending Land and Water Conservation Camp
- Coordinate with Conserve Scholl students in an Asian Honeysuckle control project



- Participate in the 2009 and 2010 youth conservation camp planning committees and serve as a working counselor at camp each year
- Organize and coordinate local / regional youth conservation awareness speech and poster contests; serve as a judge at regional contests 2009 and 2010
- Provide classroom conservation presentations to elementary and middle school students (4X)



- Welcome Quita Sheehan—Lake Conservation Specialist
- Sign a revised work agreement with Lost Lake Association that specifies the height at which Lost Lake Dam must be kept
- Collaborate with WDNR / Town of Conover / DATCP on planning efforts that pertain to the little Tamarack Flowage Dam site
- Conduct television and radio interviews on various topics as requested
- Prepare annual countywide Invasive Species reports for the *Vilas News Review*

- Participate in Vilas Vision Leadership Program 2009-2010
- Begin the development of a new Vilas County guidebook that will offer information on current restoration methods, including native plant species common to lake shores of Vilas County
- Recipient of the 2010 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the Public Service category—Carolyn Scholl



**Land and Water Conservation Staff:**

- Carolyn Scholl—County Conservationist
- Mariquita Sheehan—Lake Conservation Specialist
- Ted Ritter—Invasive Species Coordinator
- Rosemary Leveille—Program Support



# AIS GRANT AWARDS FOR VILAS COUNTY 2009 – 2010

## Dept of Natural Resources Lake Grant Program

			<b>SPRING 2009 AIS GRANTS</b>	
AEPP-188-09	Cloverland Tn Lks Comm		Town of Cloverland Lakes Management Planning Project	\$138,268.54
AEPP-191-09	Town of Lac du Flambeau		LDF AIS CB/CW, Education, & Lake Monitoring Project	\$44,708.00
ACEI-065-09	Little St Germain Lk P&RD		Little St Germain Lake AIS Control Project	\$50,000.00
Rapid	City of Eagle River		Silver Lake EWM Rapid Response Project	\$17,927.25
Rapid	Lac Vieux Desert Lk Assn		Lac Vieux Desert EWM Rapid Response Project	\$19,998.25
				<b>\$270,902.04</b>
			<b>FALL 2009 AIS GRANTS</b>	
AEPP-216-10	Town of Presque Isle		Presque Isle Wilderness Waters Program	\$100,000.00
ACEI-069-10	Little St Germain Lk P&RD		Little St Germain Lake AIS Control Project	\$101,043.98
ACEI-071-10	Long Lk of Phelps District		Long Lake AIS Control Project – Phase 2	\$69,710.00
				<b>270,753.98</b>
			<b>SPRING 2010 AIS GRANTS</b>	
AEPP-223-10	Eagle River Chain Lks Assn		Eagle Chain of Lakes CB/CW Coordination Program	\$5,284.50
AEPP-231-10	Town of Lac du Flambeau		LDF AIS Watercraft Inspection, Education & Monitoring Project	\$22,000.00
ACEI-075-10	Unified ER Chain Comm		Eagle River Chain of Lakes AIS Project – Phase 3	\$125,369.19
ACEI-078-10	Big Sand Lake Assn		Big Sand Lake AIS Control & Prevention Project	\$50,939.50
ACEI-079-10	N&S Twin Lakes Assn		N&S Twin Lakes AIS Control & Prevention Project	\$68,730.00
ACEI-084-10	Center for Limnology		Whole Lk mixing -rainbow smelt removal in Wisconsin Research	\$143,000.00
				<b>\$415,323.19</b>
			<b>FALL 2010 AIS GRANTS</b>	
AEPP-261-11	Vilas County Land & Water		Vilas Co AIS Education, Prevention, & Planning Project	\$101,385.00
ACEI-085-11	Unified ER Chain Comm		Eagle River Chain of Lakes AIS Project – Phase 4	\$136,507.13
Rapid	Vilas County		Island Lake – CLP Response	\$10,000.00
				<b>\$247,892.13</b>
			<b>TOTAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS</b>	<b>1,204,871.34</b>