

2010 – 2012 AIS GRANT APPLICATION

The struggle to control non-native invasive aquatic plants in Little St. Germain Lake continues. Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil have spread throughout most of the lake, but efforts to minimize the impact of both plants have been successful. Victory comes at a very high cost, however.

The initial five years of this project were supported by a 50% cost share grant from the WDNR. Funding from that grant ended during the summer of 2008. A new four year grant was applied for in time to proceed with 2009 management efforts, but State funding ran short and we received only enough to cover most expenses for 2009. We have now submitted another grant application seeking 50% State funding for 2010 through 2012.

Grant funding for aquatic invasive species (AIS) is extremely inadequate to fill state-wide demands, and those demands continue to grow each year. If all available funds were allocated to only the northern region of Wisconsin, there would not be enough aid to meet the needs of Vilas County. Therefore, we will be very fortunate if our three year request for 50% funding is awarded.

The Board of Commissioners will likely request authorization for annual tax levies that will fully cover the cost of AIS control efforts for the coming year. If State funding is awarded, the taxes collected will not be spent, but carried forward for the next year.

Projected exotic weed control costs for 2010 – 2012 are as follows:

2010 - \$	91,000
2011 - \$	61,000
2012 - \$	<u>50,000</u>
Total - \$	\$202,000

Full details of the Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil control program can be reviewed in the current AIS grant application which can be accessed on the district's website under "Miscellaneous documents" on the index page.