

Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS] Report

The WPLD is sponsoring a project to update the Aquatic Plant Management [APM] Plan for White Potato Lake. It is a two-phase program. One scope consists of Biological Surveys. Some of the activities will be; collecting aquatic plant data on WPL which includes a whole-lake point-intercept survey, early and late season Eurasian Water Milfoil [EWM] mapping surveys, and an aquatic plant community mapping. The second scope is for Public Participation and Reporting to increase stakeholder buy-in and understanding through participation in the planning project. It will include a stakeholder survey and two planning meetings with DNR leadership. By having an up-to-date APM Plan, the White Potato Lake District will be eligible for a future Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS] Control grants, allowing 75% funding for management and monitoring.

This \$25,440 APM project will be 67% DNR funded through a grant we have been awarded by the state and another 10% funded through an Oconto County Healthy Waters Cost Share awarded grant. Our share will be \$8,400.

Additionally, we have the opportunity to save \$2,400, if all of the in-kind requirements are met [this is volunteered time in meetings attendance. Receiving this grant will require a significant number of hours from upwards of 60 individuals attending and participating in a number of meetings held with the DNR and our biological consulting firm.

Sometime in late spring or early summer once we have an Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS] survey result that identifies locations of EWM we can hire an aquatic harvester to pull invasive weeds from the lake. We are budgeting approximately \$6,000 for professional harvesting in two or three visits, but perhaps spending less if our volunteers can successfully pull weeds.