

12.0 Strategic Plan: Management Goals Objectives and Actions

Due to the successes achieved through implementation of the 2010 APM Plan, many of the goals, objectives and actions in this updated plan are the same. In that plan, herbicides were used to control curly-leaf pondweed in the Lakeshore Drive area and in larger problematic beds in the South Basin. In the last two years (2013 & 2014) no herbicide was used in the South Basin or in any other portion of the lake outside of the Lakeshore Drive area. Should curly-leaf beds expand, this plan allows for the use of herbicides throughout the lake in conjunction with mechanical harvesting.

Under the 2010 APM Plan and in this new one, harvesting for CLP will not be completed in the South Basin. However it is one goal of this plan to reduce CLP distribution and density in the South Basin to no more than a few scattered plants per acre with no measurable density. Harvesting of CLP in the South Basin would require that one of the three harvesters owned by the District be moved overland to and parked on the lake as it is not possible to drive the existing harvesters under the Narrows Bridge. Leaving one of three harvesters on the South Basin during the CLP harvest season makes it unavailable for use in the larger basin of the lake where the majority of CLP growth occurs. Some consideration has been had by the District to replace one of its three harvesters with a smaller machine that would fit under the Narrows Bridge. Should that happen, harvesting of CLP could again be considered in the South Basin, but it will not be considered for the duration of this plan.

One harvester will be moved to the South Basin in late June to early July to make it available for nuisance and navigation channel harvesting of native plants. Harvested channels will remain nearly the same as in 2013, with a reduction of harvesting in the river channel to protect the wild rice growth.

The District will also re-evaluate the need for three large harvesters. As has been previously discussed by the District, it may be beneficial to sell one of the harvesters and purchase a smaller, more maneuverable unit.

It is also important for upstream dam operators to keep a line open to the District so water levels can be planned for and harvesting operations and not be interrupted during the key growth stage of curly-leaf pondweed.

The District will continue to pursue shoreland improvement and best management practice projects along the lakeshore and throughout the district. Keeping the lake free of new aquatic invasive species infestations, particularly Eurasian watermilfoil, and controlling those aquatic invasive species already present remains a high priority for the District.

12.1 Goal 1 – Reduce the Total Amount of Curly-leaf Pondweed in Rice Lake by Combining the Use Aquatic Herbicides and Large-Scale Mechanical Harvesting

Objective 1 – Reduce the distribution and density of CLP growth in the South Basin to no more than a few scattered plants per acre with no measurable density though the use of aquatic herbicides.

Objective 2 – Reduce turion density in the sediment in the South Basin by >75% based on an average turion count of 61.5 turions/m² from two CLP beds in the South Basin chemically treated in 2012 over the next five years.

Objective 3 – Maintain or reduce CLP density and distribution in the Main Basin and along the City owned lakefront based on 2013 survey results (Relative Frequency-14.8%, PI Survey

Sites w/CLP-19.4%, 1-3 Rakehead Density-1.54) to keep CLP impacts minimized through the use of large-scale mechanical harvesting and/or the use of aquatic herbicides.

Objective 4 - Reduce turion numbers in areas managed for CLP (harvest and herbicide) in the Main Basin by 50% (based on results to be established in 2015) over the next five years.

Objective 5 – Complete annual pre- and post-treatment point-intercept plant monitoring following WDNR protocols.

Objective 6 – Complete CLP turion density monitoring in managed areas

Objective 7 – Lake samples to be collected by District employees for the purpose of concentration testing for endotheid completed by the WI State Lab of Hygiene (SLOH).

Objective 8 – Provide land owner relief for plant fragments washed into shore.

Action 1 – Early season herbicide application in the South Basin will be determined in the previous year and with pre-treatment plant survey results.

Conditions – The area to be chemically treated will be determined after the prior year's management and monitoring actions have been completed by the District. Any area where the density of CLP reaches a rakehead density rating of 1 or greater will be chemically treated regardless of size. All herbicide will be applied prior to the third week in May (unless weather conditions, water temperature, and CLP growth stage dictate a later start) in each of the next five years (2015-2019).

Applicator – Currently, Midwest Aquacare is the professional applicator chosen by the District to administer the treatment. Midwest Aquacare satisfactorily completed similar early-season chemical treatments in Rice Lake from 2009-2010. The WDNR will be informed should a new applicator be hired, or if licensed District employees are going to take over chemical application.

Monitoring and Assessment – If an herbicide application is proposed, pre- and post-treatment aquatic plant survey work will be completed regardless of the treatment size. Pre-treatment aquatic plant surveying will be completed in the designated area prior to the chemical treatment to confirm the presence of CLP, to determine if it is far enough along in its growth to be effectively killed by the herbicide, and to identify any native plants that may be present at this time. Post-treatment aquatic plant surveying will be completed to determine the impact of the treatment on target and non-target aquatic plants. Pre- and post-treatment points will be set up annually to reflect proposed treatment areas. A resource professional or trained District employees/volunteers will complete the pre- and post-treatment survey following WDNR protocols. CLP bed-mapping will be completed annually in the South Basin

Permitting – A WDNR Chemical Application Permit is required before implementing a chemical control program and will be applied for by the District.

Action 2 – Annual large-scale mechanical harvesting of up to 150 acres of dense CLP growth in the Main Basin.

May – One harvester cutting early growing CLP in Hospital bay and the Red Cedar River Delta.

June – Two harvesters removing as much of the dense growth CLP in the Upper basin as they can. A third harvester will be used to assist with more intensive harvesting and to pick up floating masses of CLP fragments to help minimize wash-up onto shorelines.

July – One harvester cleaning up missed or re-growth in previously harvested areas and escaped fragment pick up. The CLP harvesting program will officially end by July 4th unless a need for continued CLP harvesting has been documented and a letter sent to and approved by the WDNR.

Off-load Sites – Six possible off-loading sites have been identified on the Upper basin. The main off-loading site is in Hospital Bay.

Disposal – All plant material removed by the harvesters will be shipped to disposal property approved by the WDNR, Barron County, and the affected local township. Disposal sites will be evaluated in each year of this plan.

Conditions – Harvesters are required to stay in at least three feet of water and operate their cutters at a maximum depth of 5-ft or two-thirds of the water column, whichever is less. When harvesting close to shore they must operate parallel to shore and remain in at least 3-ft of water. At off-loading sites, District employees will attempt to return game fish, turtles, and other wildlife back to the water. No large-scale mechanical harvesting of CLP will occur in the South Basin, unless the District purchases a smaller harvester capable of traveling under the Narrows Bridge between the north and south basins.

Monitoring and Assessment –GPS units will continue tracking the movements of the harvesters whenever harvesting is occurring. The GPS tracking log will be downloaded from the GPS unit for each harvester used and digitally archived. Daily log sheets will be kept including the following harvesting information: estimated total daily tonnage, number of loads, surface acres covered, plant ID list, percentage of plant species removed, and plant bed density information.

Permitting – A mechanical harvesting permit is required by the WDNR before a large-scale harvesting program can be implemented and will be applied for by the District.

Action 3 – CLP turion density monitoring in management areas

Conditions – Turion density sampling will be completed as a part of this APM Plan regardless of the status of treatment in the designated turion sampling areas. Goals set for decreasing the amount of turions will be based on 2012 turion density levels in chemically treated areas, and on first year data collected from harvested areas.

Monitoring and Assessment – Turion density sampling was completed in chemically treated areas for three years as a part of the 2010 APM Plan. In this new plan, turion density sampling will be completed in both chemically treated (South Basin) and harvested (Main Basin) areas. A set of at least 60 points will be established in what is normally considered a harvest area and what is considered an herbicide area. These 120 points will be monitored in each year of this plan, whether or not harvesting or the use of herbicide was completed in any given year, for the purpose of documenting turion density changes that may be the result of actual management or the lack of management. A reduction in the density of turions found

in the sediments at these points can be an indicator of CLP management success or failure, and if management is not done, an increase could be an indicator of new growth and distribution. CLP density sampling will be completed by a consultant retained by the District. In the past, this has been Ecological Integrity Services.

Action 4 – Chemical concentration testing

Conditions - Currently, chemical residual testing is not required by the State of Wisconsin. However, within the South Basin it is expected that chemical treatment will be proposed for the control of CLP and chemical concentration testing will be completed in at least the first year of implementation. Chemical concentration testing has provided valuable information on the fate of herbicides in other lakes and has helped determine adequate dosage rates. Understanding the fate of herbicide in the water has also helped maintain public support for this management alternative.

Monitoring and Assessment – In the first year during the time period covered by this APM Plan that a chemical treatment of CLP is proposed, a chemical concentration testing proposal will also be made. A request will be made to the WDNR by the District to have them set up a sampling regime according to current guidelines. Water samples required for this testing will be collected by District employees or volunteers, or by a consultant retained by the District. Lab analysis will be completed at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene.

Action 5 – Harvester assisted removal of plant fragments washed up on the shoreline.

Landowners may request harvester assistance for removing large piles of plant fragments washed into their shoreline, but not for actual plant cutting and harvesting to, at, or near their docks. Harvesters may be driven perpendicular into shore within the allowed 30-ft riparian viewing corridor around a land owner's dock without operating cutting blades and provided the paddle wheels of the harvester remain in at least three feet of water, and are not operating while piles of fragments are hand-shoveled onto the conveyor belt. Paddle wheels are not to be operated in any manner to "blow out" floating piles of fragments near the shore.

Conditions – Land owner requests for assistance can be made in person, by hotline, or in writing and must be directed to specified District personnel. The land owner's request will be evaluated by District personnel trained to complete this action. No action will occur until the land owner making the request has signed a form clearly stating under what conditions this action can take place. The completed form will be kept on file with the District and is good for one season only. The land owner or another person identified by the land owner on the form must be present to assist the harvester operator with removal, or it will not be completed.

12.2 Goal 2 – Prevent the Spread and Establishment of Aquatic Invasive Species Already Present Along the Shores of and in the Wetlands Adjacent to Rice Lake

Objective 1 – Purple loosestrife monitoring and removal.

Objective 2 – Japanese knotweed monitoring and control.

Action 1 – District employees, volunteers of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN), and National Lumbering Hall of Fame representatives will monitor the shoreline of the lake for purple loosestrife in July and August. Purple loosestrife will be pulled where possible, or cut

and sprayed if not. In the event a larger patch of purple loosestrife is identified where physical and chemical control is not feasible, biological control will be implemented.

Action 2 – District employees, volunteers of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN), and National Lumbering Hall of Fame representatives will monitor the shoreline of the lake for Japanese knotweed throughout the summer season. The National Lumbering Hall of Fame non-profit organization and Barron County have already taken up the cause to try and get this invasive species under control.

Rusty Crayfish and Chinese Mystery Snails – Both of these species are known to be in Rice Lake. Currently no management is planned.

12.3 **Goal 3 – Eurasian Watermilfoil Rapid Response Planning**

Objective 1 – Update contact information in the EWM Rapid Response Plan as needed and review the plan of action for the District to follow should Eurasian watermilfoil be identified in Rice Lake.

Action 1 – Provide Training for District employees and lake volunteers on how to identify EWM and how to monitor the lake for EWM.

Action 2 – District employee monitoring of the entire Rice Lake shoreline every two months from May to October following Citizen Lake Monitoring Network EWM Monitoring Protocol.

Action 3 – District employee monitoring of all public access points once a month from May to October.

12.4 **Goal 4 – Provide Native Aquatic Plant Management That Protects and Enhances Native Plant Growth and Diversity in Rice Lake**

Objective 1 – Limit the harvesting of native aquatic plants to navigation and nuisance relief only in areas designated as high traffic and high public use.

Objective 2 – Provide land owner relief for plant fragments washed into shore.

Objective 3 – Continue to provide navigation relief through the shallow, plant dominated area between Hospital Bay and the Red Cedar River Delta.

Action 1 – Annual designation of navigation and nuisance relief channels of varying width in both the Upper and Lower basins in the fall of the year based on the current seasons placement of channels and expected lake use in the coming season.

Conditions – Total surface area opened up by these channels should not exceed 15% of the littoral or plant growing area of the lake. The 15% figure is an arbitrary value based on the expected 2010 total surface area created by channels harvested in order to provide an appropriate amount of navigation and nuisance relief, and is subject to re-evaluation in each year of this APM Plan.

Channel widths are also arbitrary, but based on increments of 10-ft which is the width of the harvesters presently owned by the District. A twenty foot wide channel allows a harvester to cut in one direction and then return in the opposite direction maximizes its efficiency.

In sensitive areas of the lake, navigation channels are not to exceed 20-ft in width. Channel widths in the majority of the lake are currently set at 60-ft. A large channel in

the center of the lake between Hospital Bay and the Red Cedar River Delta is currently set at 160-ft to allow two high-speed watercraft to pass each other at a distance of more than 100-ft. An 80-ft wide channel will be created on each side of the 160-ft wide center channel, and will likely be designated as “no-wake” to allow for undisturbed fishing in the channel and to protect small craft and non-motorized boat traffic from larger, faster boat traffic using the center channel.

Action 2 – Mark navigation channels in the area between Hospital Bay and the Red Cedar River Delta with red and green channel marker buoys and no-wake buoys. High speed boat traffic will be directed through the larger center channels marked with the green and red buoys.

Conditions – The District will purchase all buoys. Channel and no wake buoys will be placed in the lake, no later than June 30th, and be removed no later than November 1st.

Permitting – A buoy placement permit is required from the WDNR before buoys can be placed and will be applied for by the District.

Action 3 – Annual large-scale mechanical harvesting of up to 15% of the littoral zone to open up channels determined in Action 1.

July–September – One harvester on each basin will be used to open and maintain predetermined navigation and nuisance relief channels. The navigation and nuisance relief program will officially end on September 15th unless a need for continued harvesting has been documented and a letter sent to and approved by the WDNR.

Off-load Sites – Six possible off-loading sites have been identified on the Upper basin and two in the Lower basin. The main off-loading site in the Upper basin is Hospital Bay and the main off-loading site in the Lower basin is the trailer park (Map 8).

Disposal – All plant material removed by the harvesters will be shipped to disposal property approved by the WDNR, Barron County, and the affected local township.

2010 – Disposal site is located at a property previously approved by the WDNR, Barron County, the local township, and the District. Discarded plant material will be used as fertilizer/mulch on agricultural land. The District has purchased a new truck with dump box and boom loader to handle the expected increase in harvested plant material once this plan is implemented.

2011-2013 – Disposal sites will be evaluated in each year of this plan. The District is considering purchasing its own land for disposal, rather than renting or paying for disposal.

Conditions – Harvesters are required to stay in at least three feet of water and operate their cutters at a maximum depth of 5-ft or two-thirds of the water column, whichever is less. When harvesting close to shore they must operate parallel to shore and remain in at least 3-ft of water. At off-loading sites, District employees will attempt to return game fish, turtles, and other wildlife back to the water.

Within the pre-determined channels, harvesting is allowed as often as necessary to keep them open. Pick-up of floating mats of vegetation in the open water is allowed, provided no additional rooted plants are harvested. Coontail is a non-rooted, suspended or floating native

aquatic plant that is very common in Rice Lake. Floating beds or mats of coontail may not be removed from the open water (other than the pre-determined channels) unless they are floating or suspended in water deeper than 10-ft.

District employees will monitor weed beds throughout the summer season and be trained in bed density determination and basic plant identification. Should the District wish to harvest native plants in an area not included in the pre-determined plan for that year, justification must be sent to the WDNR, and their approval gained before harvesting can begin.

Monitoring and Assessment – A GPS tracking log will be downloaded from the GPS unit for each harvester used and digitally archived. Daily log sheets will be kept including the following harvesting information: estimated total daily tonnage, number of loads, surface acres covered, plant ID list, percentage of the total of each plant species removed, and plant bed density information.

Permitting – A mechanical harvesting permit is required by the WDNR before a large-scale harvesting program can be implemented and will be applied for by the District.

Action 5 – Harvester assisted removal of plant fragments washed up on the shoreline.

Landowners may request harvester assistance for removing large piles of plant fragments washed into their shoreline, but not for actual plant cutting and harvesting to, at, or near their docks. Harvesters may be driven perpendicular into shore within the allowed 30-ft riparian viewing corridor around a land owner's dock without operating cutting blades and provided the paddle wheels of the harvester remain in at least three feet of water, and are not operating while piles of fragments are hand-shoveled onto the conveyor belt. Paddle wheels are not to be operated in any manner to "blow out" floating piles of fragments near the shore.

Conditions – Land owner requests for assistance can be made in person, by hotline, or in writing and must be directed to specified District personnel. The land owner's request will be evaluated by District personnel trained to complete this action. No action will occur until the land owner making the request has signed a form clearly stating under what conditions this action can take place. The completed form will be kept on file with the District and is good for one season only. The land owner or another person identified by the land owner on the form must be present to assist the harvester operator with removal, or it will not be completed.

12.5 **Goal 5 – Record Keeping, Monitoring, and Assessment for All Plant Management Activities**

Objective 1 – Regular and comprehensive lake and tributary water quality testing completed by District employees and CLMN volunteers.

Objective 2 – District employee identification of basic native and non-native plant species found in Rice Lake for the purpose of keeping records of the type and quantity of aquatic plant species removed by harvesting.

Objective 3 – District employee monitoring of large plant beds and rake-head density ratings to help determine annual plant harvesting areas, or to document nuisance conditions in a request to the WDNR to expand an existing harvesting area.

Objective 4 – Complete in-lake aquatic invasive species monitoring of EWM and other AIS not currently known to be in Rice Lake.

Objective 5 – Repeat the 2008 and 2013 whole lake aquatic plant survey (early season and mid-season) in the last year of this APM Plan.

Objective 6 – Improve overall aquatic plant management record keeping and documentation.

Action 1 – Comprehensive and regular lake and tributary water quality monitoring will be completed at three sites in the lake, and at tributary sites as recommended in the 2014 Comprehensive Plan. Sampling will be completed by District employees, volunteer monitors, and resource professionals. Necessary training and equipment will be provided by the CLMN. All lab analyses will be completed at the Wisconsin SLOH. This activity will likely be funded through a lake protection grant application submitted in February 2015.

Table 4
Water Quality Monitoring Parameters

Parameter	Lake Sites	Tributary Sites
Secchi Disk	x	
Dissolved Oxygen	x	
Temperature	x	
Total Phosphorous	x	x
Total Nitrogen	x	x
Ortho Phosphates	x	x
Nitrite/Nitrate	x	x
Ammonia	x	x
pH	x	
Conductivity	x	
Turbidity	x	
Total Suspended Solids		x
Water Level	x	x
Flow		x

Action 2 – All District harvester operators will complete a basic aquatic plant identification training for the purposes of recording the type and quantity of specific aquatic plants removed by the harvesters or causing navigation or nuisance conditions in the lake. The training requirement can be met by attending a Plant ID course offered by the WDNR, UW-Extension Lakes Program, a local educational institution, or qualified consultant or other person.

Action 3 – All District harvester operators will complete training for the purposes of learning accepted WDNR sampling protocol for determining plant bed density. This training requirement can be met by any of the methods mentioned in Action 3. District employees will complete an informal survey of the entire littoral zone in June, July, August, and September to help determine possible CLP treatment areas and additional nuisance and navigation channels for the following year.

Action 4 – District employees will complete a monthly (July – October) inspection of the shoreline for new aquatic invasive species (primarily EWM) and complete an inspection of the area in front of all public accesses every two weeks (July – October). Training will be provided by the CLMN AIS Monitoring Program or by this consultant. CLMN presence/absence forms will be completed by District employees and submitted to the WDNR Surface Water Inventory Management System (SWIMS).

Action 5 – In the last year of this APM Plan (2018) the whole lake aquatic plant survey will be repeated. Results from the new plant survey will be compared to the 2008 and 2013 surveys to determine if significant changes have occurred in the aquatic plant community of Rice Lake. Management recommendations for the next 5-year APM Plan will be based in part on these results.

Action 6 – District record keeping will be improved by requiring daily log and time sheets to better quantify District employee time associated with the operation and maintenance of the harvesters, and all the actions included in this portion of the APM Plan.

Conditions – Annual award of permit requests for chemical application and harvesting are dependent on the District providing adequate documentation to the WDNR that they are following the APM recommendations approved in this Plan. Seasonal reports of harvesting, monitoring, and assessment activities will be sent to the WDNR during the harvesting season between May and October. These reports will be assembled by the District and reviewed by this consulting agency prior to submittal to the WDNR.

Any inadequacies in these reports will be identified and corrected. All seasonal reports will be kept in a digital format and compiled at the end of the season when this consulting agency completes a End-of Year Summary. End-of year summaries are to be kept on file for a minimum of 10 years.

12.6 Goal 6 – Maintain Public Availability

Objective 1 – Maintain the current District Hotline program.

Objective 2 – Maintain and the District webpage, including contact information for key district personnel.

Action 1 – Maintain the current District phone in Hotline (715.234.9445) as a means for the general public to request information or provide comment related to aquatic plant and other lake management issues, however the responsibility of responding to Hotline inquiries will be shifted to a District Board Member or other person. Inquiries will be directed to the appropriate District employee, lakes consultant, or board member for action.

Conditions – A daily log book will be kept of all Hotline inquiries including when the inquiry was left, who responded to it and when, and whether the issues was resolved, not resolved, or did not require a resolution. All daily log sheets will be compiled and included in the End-of Year Summary, and summarized for the monthly reports. A stipend will be created to help offset the added time this person or persons will be required to give to support this form of public involvement.

Action 2 – The District will continue to post relevant information on the district web page (<http://rllakedistrict.org>) and update contact information as necessary. A District Board Member or other person will be given the responsibility of responding to messages left

12.7 Goal 7 – Continue development of a Residential and Riparian Owner Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Objective 1 – Reduce the total shoreline that is mowed to the edge of the lake to one third of the 2008 total (6.6 mi) replacing it with buffer strips or full shoreland restorations over the next four years.

Objective 2 – Seek to re-establish emergent and floating leaf vegetation along the shoreline targeting those areas with no shoreland protection first and moving into areas where the shoreland protection is failing and then into areas where operating structures are in place.

Objective 3 – Provide recognition for residents within District boundaries that complete activities that will help to improve the lake.

Action 1 – The District will continue to hire a Lake Educator in each of the next four years to provide educational opportunities for and work with land owners within the boundaries of the District to design and eventually implement best management practices (for example, buffer strips, runoff diversion systems, rain gardens, rain barrels, and full-scale shoreland restorations).

Action 2 – The Lake Educator will administer the Emergent Species Restoration Program to identify shoreland around Rice Lake that could benefit from the re-establishment of emergent and floating-leaf vegetation and then approach the land owner for permission in writing to work toward re-establishing these sites. Wild rice is one of the species that could be included in this program. Other plant species include but are not limited to rushes, sedges, smart weed, manna, horsetail, arrowhead, pickerel weed, and various floating leaf species.

Action 3 – Approach land owners with general information about restoring wild rice on their shoreline. If enough Rice Lake land owners interested in restoring wild rice are identified in the 2010, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) may become an active partner in the restoration project. GLIFWC resource specialists would evaluate Rice Lake for appropriate habitat and provide technical assistance, tracking, and cost-sharing for the purchase of seed. The District, along with land owners and other interested parties like the UW Extension program would provide planting services.

Permitting – A permit is not needed for planting native wild rice in a body of water. However permits may be needed for restoring shorelines, transferring aquatic plants from one location to another, installing buffer blocker systems, and incorporating property changes to reduce runoff.

Action 4 – Good lake stewardship activities like sensible shoreland lighting, improving buffer strips, use of phosphorous-free fertilizers both in the City and on the lake shore, proper management and disposal of grass clippings and raked leaves, and septic system maintenance will be promoted through the District Webpage, annual booth at Aquafest and the Barron County Fair, through radio and newspaper ads, radio talk shows, and workshops sponsored by the District. Recognition will be awarded to those land owners incorporating best management practices on their properties.

12.8 Goal 8 – Increase Public Awareness of and Involvement in the District by Improving Public Outreach, Exposure, and Image and Provide Greater Land Owner and Lake User Education

Objective 1 – Continue active role and presence in annual celebrations including Aquafest, the Barron County Fair, Homecoming and other city events.

Objective 2 – Increase public participation and attendance at District monthly board meetings by 25% and by 50% at the Annual Meeting based on 2013 numbers.

Objective 3 – Continue a watercraft inspection program at all public accesses to the lake.

Action 1 – The District will sponsor a float in the Aquafest parade, set up a public information booth during the Barron County Fair, and provide radio spots with the local radio personality. A digital newsletter will be posted on this website and others, and emailed at least two times a year to anyone who joins the distribution list. A newspaper article will be submitted to the Rice Lake Chronotype at least quarterly to provide an update on District activities and highlight upcoming meetings and special events.

Action 2 – Continue outreach event during Aquafest in cooperation with the Rice Lake Men’s Club Kids Fishing Day or other activity.

Action 3 – The watercraft inspection program following Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) guidelines will continue as a part of this Lake Management Plan. At least 400 hours of watercraft inspection will be completed at public access sites around the lake. Much of this time will be completed by lake volunteers trained by certified persons in the program. The Lake Educator, local Kiwanis Club, and other interested parties currently volunteer time and coordinate this program.

Conditions – All CBCW data collected as a part of this APM Plan is required to be submitted to the WDNR SWIMS data base.

12.9 Goal 9 – Implement the Activities Associated With This APM Plan Through a Combination of District and State of Wisconsin Grant Funding

Objective 1 – Begin implementing the activities in this APM Plan in 2014 and continue through 2019.

Objective 2 – Use District tax levy money to fund certain “routine” activities each year, which includes the Lake Educator position and shoreland and parcel improvement projects within the District.

Objective 3 – Apply for a WI Aquatic Invasive Species Established Infestation Grant to fund additional activities.

Objective 4 – Apply for a WI Lake Planning and Protection Project to fund watershed improvement activities.

Objective 5 – Involve community and other partners in making match requirements for state grants and in supporting the activities included in this plan.

Action 1 – Annual income from the District tax levy currently generates nearly \$100,000.00. This money will be used to fund many of the expenses associated with this updated. The District currently funds all CLP and native plant harvesting that occurs on the lake, the Lake

Educator position, and many other activities. It intends to continue funding all harvesting related activities including hauling, disposal, and record keeping. Basic water quality sampling from three lake sites, in-lake monitoring for EWM and other aquatic invasive species, watercraft inspection, public education and involvement, Lake Fair, and public image enhancement will be funded by the District.

Action 2 – The District will evaluate on an annual basis the need for an Aquatic Invasive Species Established Infestation Control grant to help fund activities associated with this APM Plan over the next four years. Herbicide application to control CLP for restorative purposes and all associated pre and post treatment plant surveying, turion sampling, and residual testing may be funded by the AIS grant. CLP turion sampling, more comprehensive water quality testing on the lake and within its tributaries, additional pre post treatment plant monitoring, and additional public education and image enhancement may also be funded by an AIS grant. Partners in this grant could include but are not limited to the City of Rice Lake, Town of Rice Lake, Rice Lake High School, Rice Lake Kiwanis and other organizations, the National Lumbering Hall of Fame, Barron County, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Action 3 – Continue to maintain relationships with and involve the Rice Lake Area School District, public and private institutions and organizations, other lake and river organizations, private businesses and organizations, and local and town governments in management activities associated with this APM Plan. Promote the formation of a Barron County Lakes and Rivers Association.

12.10 **Goal 10 – Complete Annual Project Summaries and a Final Project Evaluation**

Action 1 – In December of each year this management plan is implemented, an end-of-year summary will be provided detailing the results of activities accomplished. Pre and post plant survey results, turion sampling, residual testing (if done), water quality results, and plant density results will be summarized. Plans for management including herbicide treatment areas, harvesting areas, and late season channels will be addressed preparing the District for submittal of the necessary treatment permits to the WDNR. Progress made in the Residential and Riparian Owner BMP and Emergent Species Restoration programs will be summarized. All public awareness activities will be summarized. Attendance at District functions will be tracked, documented, and compared to the previous year.

Action 2 – An end-of-project report will be provided in the last year of this project. Whole-lake plant survey results will be compared to the 2008 and 2013 plant survey results. Changes in the plant community will be evaluated. The success of the overall project in accomplishing the goals set for it will be commented on and recommendations for possible changes in the revised or new plan made. Funding for the writing of the new or revised plan will be budgeted for by the District and may be supported by the WDNR Lakes Grant.

Action 3 – The District will archive and maintain all records of maps, GIS documents, survey results, treatment records (both herbicide and harvesting) and results, summary reports, photographic records, public participation records, etc.