



**ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**March 5th, 2013**

**TREATMENT AND MONITORING PLAN FOR 2013:**

A new lake management company has been selected for 2013. Proposals from four companies were reviewed and 2 lake managers were interviewed. After careful consideration, Professional Lake Management was chosen. They have a new facility in Evart to serve Northern Michigan. The 2013 permit application has been submitted to the MDEQ. Notifications to the 4 companies who sent proposals were sent this week. The bid that was chosen was the lowest bid and it included all the services we have had in prior years. Professional Lake Management (PLM) was selected for several reasons including:

- We know the quality of their work from 5 years of experience working with them
- The initial demonstration program and the AVAS survey maps in 2008 were very complete
- Having the same company as the manager and the applicator improves communication, efficiency and perhaps treatment success due to decrease time between the survey and application time.
- In 75% of the lakes they treat, they are also the manager
- Experienced, knowledgeable, qualified and easy to work with personnel
- Will give frequent updates, reports and communication throughout the season
- Qualified staff and large amounts of application, lab and field survey equipment
- Personality fit with the community for verbal reports & educational programs
- Newsletters, annual reports, maps, data and graphic presentation quality meets our standards
- Removes the costs for duplications of surveys with a lake manager and an applicator
- Committee has worked with this company before and they are very responsive to our requests
- Enthusiastic about working with us on new technology such as ciBioBase program

**PORTAGE LAKE:STATE OF THE LAKE & 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

Our 2012 lake manager has worked with our committee to complete the requested additions and revisions to the 2012 report. Lakeshore Environmental has agreed to fulfill their contract with us and we will receive 5 bound hard copies.

## **INVASIVE SPECIES ORGANIZATIONS UPDATE:**

The **Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network** has recently been formed and it has combined 2 previous organization; Northwest CWMA and Invasive Species Network??

It is made up of organizations in **4 counties:** Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Manistee. The **conservation districts** are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Manistee. The **Conservancies** are: Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and Leelanau Conservancy. Other organization include: **The Watershed Center, Inland Seas, DNR, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, LRBI,**

**The Grand Traverse Conservation District received a \$399,971 grant in 2012 for Controlling Terrestrial Invasive Species in Northwest Lower Michigan.** The project will control Phragmites and other terrestrial invasive species on over 3000 acres of public and private land located in Manistee, Benzie, Leelanau, and Grand Traverse Counties. The project will also control Phragmites and other terrestrial invasive species on more than 240 acres of newly-exposed bottomland in the vicinity of three decommissioned hydroelectric dams along the Boardman River. In addition, the project will increase the awareness of the residents of the targeted four-county area regarding the impacts of invasive species. Their focus is for the identification and treatment of invasives and to map locations. Education is a primary focus. The 3 invasives identified are phragmites, garlic mustard, and japanese knotweed. New invasive treats have also been identified in our area and they will concentrate on an early detection, rapid response program. Continuing monitoring of currently treated areas will be ongoing. 2 new invasives found in our area are starry stonewort and coltsfoot

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

It is still unknown if we will have sufficient funds to treat this year. As always, we do not know until the spring survey is completed. We have also had some surprises with the follow up summer surveys. However, if costs are high this year, we do have the option to collect the final year for the SAD with the 2013 winter taxes.. There are concerns about new invasives and the influence of unusual temperatures and lake levels on plant growth. Water monitoring will continue to confirm the quality of the lake and immediately identify any issues that may be a threat.

We are working with the lake manager to coordinate the ciBioBase costs. The watershed has approved the purchase of some equipment so local people will be able to frequently monitor the lake bottom contours. PLM also intends to use this new technology and all our data will be coordinated with theirs. his has the potential to be a cost savings on surveys in the future.

Mary Reed,  
Chair, ISC

