



ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE (ISC) REPORT

September 3rd, 2013

EWM Surveys & treatments 2013 - . A new area of 5 to 10 acres was found when the lake was resurveyed on July 23rd. This area was treated on August 8th. Also an estimated 1.5 acres was treated in the channel on Easy Street. PLM will be back this week to resurvey the lake to evaluate this year's treatments and collect water samples for quality monitoring.

Phragmites: Treatment of the lake shoreline and other areas in the township will be done sometime after September 16th. The labels were sent to Wetlands and Wildlife to send the notices of treatment on August 26th. They will include our ordinance required notice of a Public Hearing with their mailing. The public meeting will be held on September 16th.

Manistee Aquatic Invasive Species Program (AIS): Rob Carson and Kirsten Sheffield presented an overview of their program to the Watershed Council on August 27th. The above portable boat washer will be taken to several boat launches in the county. They will be cleaning and decontaminating boats with their hydroblaster heated power washer. Educational material on Clean Boats, Clean Water will be distributed. The first site will be the Onekama Village Park this Saturday from 10 to 2PM. Volunteers will assist Kirsten in distributing literature and promoting the importance of clean boats. Additional volunteers are welcomed.....

NWISN Meeting... There was a meeting on August 12 of the stakeholders to prioritize treatments and locations of invasives in Benzie, Leelanau, Traverse and Manistee counties. Priority areas were new areas that have been detected that will benefit the most by early treatment.

Future - This is the last year of our 5 year SAD (collection with winter taxes 2013). There will be sufficient funds to cover this year's expenses with enough left for the spring survey. We will need to continue with the program as we will never be rid of ewm. Our phragmites and shoreline invasives are currently under control and should be able to be maintained at a minimum expense. The costs to control ewm and other aquatic invasives remains very unpredictable. There is work at the state and regional level to find funding to protect our lakes from invasives, but funding sources at this time do not seem to be available. If the Township cannot budget this expense, we will need to do another SAD. The committee plans to meet with the lake manager this month to work on a budget for the next few years.

Mary Reed, Chair, Invasive Species Committee

