

ISCCW 2008 Operating Plan

The ISCCW has been actively engaged in fundraising over the winter months in preparation for our main corporate activities which involve public education, professional surveying and monitoring for invasive species infestations, and eradication efforts in areas of known infestations.

This year we have successfully applied for two major national grants and have entered into an agreement with Watersmeet Township to manage the Township's Invasive Species efforts in exchange for their financial assistance.

We have been working closely with the IRS and our attorney to satisfy the current requirements for 501 (c) 3 status. This has been a lengthy and involved process, but we are hopeful that by adopting the IRS suggested changes to our Articles of Incorporation we will receive our tax exempt designation in the near future.

We recently completed our first township wide membership drive which significantly increased both our membership and financial contributions from concerned citizens. We will follow this effort up with another membership drive and fundraising appeal late this summer.

We are expanding our education efforts this year by significantly increasing the number of trained Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) volunteers so that we are not solely dependent on paid employees to administer this valuable program. Our goal is to recruit and train sufficient volunteers to provide coverage at all public boat landings in Watersmeet Township on a part time basis.

Another tool we implemented to improve our ability to educate the public on the subject of invasive species and their effects on our environment is our ISCCW website which can be found at ISCCW.org or Lakeguards.org

We also plan to implement an additional phase of our CBCW efforts this summer which will incorporate the use of a portable boat wash system to demonstrate to area boaters the importance of properly cleaning their boats and related equipment prior to transporting them from one body of water to another.

The ISCCW has contracted with a professional service that will provide us with lake surveys and monitoring for invasive species on at least seventeen area lakes and streams. In addition we have contracted for the training of additional volunteers who will then be used to expand the number of lakes we can effectively monitor for the spread of invasive species.

In 2008 we will continue our eradication efforts by matching a significant portion of the treatment costs funded by lake associations on area lakes with known infestations. In addition to the lakes we have assisted in the past, for the first time we will be able to provide assistance to a group of concerned riparians on Bass Lake who plan to initiate Eurasian Water Milfoil treatments with a biological control using milfoil weevils. This will not only afford us the opportunity to initiate control measures on Bass Lake, but will also allow us to evaluate the use of biological controls in our area for the first time.

During our first full year of operation the ISCCW is pleased with our accomplishments to date, and are thankful for the significant number of area residents who have supported us by donating their time and money to guarantee our present and future success.