

ISCCW – Watersmeet Lakeguards
Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet
P.O. Box 725
Watersmeet, MI 49969
ISCCW.org or Lakeguards.org



October 21, 2021

Dear Neighbor,

This summer was a return to some normalcy as we continued to be engaged in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Watersmeet Township. ISCCW is recognized as one of Michigan's leaders in this fight. This letter will update you on our activities. We once again ask for your support. Those who have already renewed for 2022, this letter is an update on our activities! Those who supported us last year, we thank you and ask for your continued support. For those who were unable to support us last year we kindly ask that you reconsider, as your support is critical to our success. ***Please!***

First, we all want to thank Jeff Pytlarz for his six years of service leading this organization. His work here will always be appreciated. Thank you, Jeff! I'm proud to follow in his footsteps as I lead our organization as President for the next 2 years. Working with ISCCW as educator has shown me the importance of the connections we make in the community and how much our outreach means. We're engaged in important work that's not only recognized in the surrounding area but in the state as well.

ISCCW, together with our partners, fights to control the spread of invasive aquatic species in our Township's lakes and streams. This benefits all recreational users of our waterways. Locally, we all enjoy our wonderful natural resources. They also attract a healthy tourist industry which benefits our local businesses and keeps them viable. We have a lot at stake in maintaining our pristine waterways.

We are fortunate to have secured a new grant from the USFS in 2021. We continue to review other grant opportunities and apply where our activities fit the scope of the grant. The USFS grant, a contribution from Watersmeet Township and your contributions make up our funding sources. Your continued support funds approximately half of our operations during the year. We must continue our activities in critical areas of lake monitoring and treatment and support our boat washing and education efforts. ***Your membership is important in reaching our joint goals!***

We continue efforts to check the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on many lakes. This year we were able to survey Allen, Beatons, County Line, Crooked, Dinner, Long, Marion, Moon, Tamarack, Bass, Lac Vieux Desert, Langford and Taylor Lakes as well as several key streams/rivers. We will also continue to provide assistance to our partners with surveying, containment and control of AIS on boundary waters lakes. There was a focus on hand pulling EWM on Crooked Lake; 3,230 EWM plants were hand pulled. Crooked Lake is part of the Sylvania Wilderness and work there will help stem the spread to other lakes in Sylvania.

We were able to operate only two to three power washers this year due to lack of personnel but they were stationed at the busiest boat landings and were highly successful. A fourth machine was placed at Northern Edge Marina again this year allowing them to wash boats brought in for service. We continue to look for people to work in our boat inspection/washing operations. Pay rates have increased, hours are flexible, and the work is rewarding. If you have an interest or know someone who is interested, please contact us.

The ***Cisco Chain*** is now benefiting from the two Special Assessment Districts that fund the monitoring and control of AIS on the Chain. The ISCCW remains its valued partner in providing necessary boat inspection/washing duties and educational programs. To those who own property on the Cisco Chain, it is important to support the ISCCW as we directly protect your waters and also help in controlling EWM in neighboring lakes.

In addition, your ISCCW will continue to plot other exotic plant life as well as zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, and rusty crayfish when found in our waterways.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the cooperative partnerships formed with the many stakeholders in the area. These include the Watersmeet Township Board, the Ottawa National Forest, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, the Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Council, WePIC, the Iron/Baraga Conservation District, the Iron County Lakes & Streams Partnership and the many lake associations within the area whose volunteer members work countless hours to assure that our waterways remain a premier recreational attraction. It is a team effort! It is a necessary effort to leverage our limited resources!

Ambitious Plans – YES, Doable – YES, with your help!

Your ISCCW is recognized as one of the primary leaders of this fight in Michigan. We can maintain this position of leadership only with the help of our supporters and volunteers. This year ISCCW contracted with or employed six persons; three boat washers, one educator, and two biologists (certified by the States of Michigan and Wisconsin). The rest of the work is accomplished by our volunteers and board members, whose only reward is the satisfaction of a job well done. We thank all of them.

However, none of what we do or can do is possible without our member donors. **Will you join your neighbors and help ISCCW protect our waterways?**

We strive to make sure that contributor dollars are used for the purpose of this fight and are proud to say that less than 5% of our budget is used for administration and fundraising.

We will not waste your dollars!

We implore you to join your friends, neighbors, and other concerned citizens of the Watersmeet - Land O'Lakes area to help preserve its beautiful resources. Join this worthwhile fight - ***the cost is small - the results are huge.***

Enclosed with this letter are a membership form and a pre-addressed return envelope provided for your convenience. We sincerely hope that you will decide to help us by completing your membership invitation today while it is still fresh on your mind. **If not, will you at least support us with a tax deductible contribution to ISCCW?**

We really need your tax deductible dollars - Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,

Denise Fauntleroy

Denise Fauntleroy
ISCCW President

Vice President: Greg Clark
Treasurer: Eugene Clark
Secretary: Jeff Manhardt

Directors: Al Anderson
Jim Donlan
Steve McDonough
David Sherrill

Bruce Johnson
Jeff Pytlarz
Joel Steindel
Arny Domanus
Andy Kosseff
Charlie Schiltz

NOTE: We urge you to make a monthly habit of logging on to the ISCCW website at www.lakeguards.org to keep up to date with all that is happening. Through it you can keep abreast of what we are doing and get data to help identify various invasive species in our area. You can also follow us on Facebook at Watersmeet Lakeguards – ISCCW.