

ISCCW - Watersmeet Lakeguards

Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet

P.O. Box 725

Watersmeet, MI 49969

ISCCW.org



“You never fail until you stop trying” ~Albert Einstein

Dear Neighbors,

As ISCCW settles into our second decade of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) mitigation work in our community, we are inspired by the many hands in the Northwoods that care about our lakes and streams. We are encouraged to continue our effort when so many are trying to make a difference. Lake Associations, Township Boards, volunteers and everyday folk are on the ground making a difference; and we are grateful.

This past 2023-24 has been filled with many accomplishments for ISCCW. We've said goodbye to talented past board members but brought on new. We continued our outreach to boaters, area lake associations and community members. We had the opportunity to work side-by-side with members of Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Hatchery Staff and sponsor a joint presentation with the Tribe on the many facets of water. We also secured a new grant from the US Forest Service, and continued our strong connections with Watersmeet Township, MSU Extension, Many Waters, LLC, MI DNR, local businesses and lake associations.

ISCCW is recognized as one of Michigan's leaders in the fight against AIS. Together, with our partners, we continue to monitor the spread of invasive aquatic species in our Township's lakes and streams. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is still a threat to our northern lakes. This summer we helped with financial support to Duck Lake and Crooked Lake Homeowners as they moved forward with EWM removal. We continued to provide assistance to our partners on Allen, Beatons, Cisco Chain, County Line, Crooked, Dinner, Long, Marion, Moon, Tamarack, Bass, Lac Vieux Desert, Langford and Taylor Lakes and several key streams/rivers with survey updates, early detection of AIS, in-kind services and containment and control of AIS. Of interest to many, was a continued focus on hand pulling of EWM on Crooked Lake which is a border lake to the Sylvania Wilderness Area and home to one of the area native wild rice beds. We will continue our efforts on Crooked Lake in collaboration with the US Forest Service and homeowners on this unique lake.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the cooperative partnerships and support from many stakeholders. These include the Watersmeet Township Board, the Ottawa National Forest, the Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Council, 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. We should all be proud of this team effort!

Our funding comes largely from your membership contributions! We also receive important funding from USFS grants and from Watersmeet Township. Your continued support funds approximately half of our operations during the year and is necessary to continue our activities in critical areas of lake monitoring, treatment and support of our boat washing and education efforts. We strive to make sure that contributor dollars are used responsibly for the purpose of controlling AIS and are proud to say that less than 5% of our budget is used for administration and fundraising. Please **join** our efforts!

Your Contributions are Tax Deductible given our 501(c)(3) Status.

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 join us by completing your membership invitation today while it is still fresh on your mind. For another option, please visit the ISCCW website (isccw.org). Learn more about our activities; contribute online, lessening our administrative load. It is fast and easy. Fill out the membership form, pay from your credit card or bank account. You will receive a communication immediately acknowledging your tax-deductible contribution.

Sincerely,

Rachel Wheeler

Rachel Wheeler
ISCCW President

Vice President: Eric Schmidt
Treasurer: Eugene Clark
Secretary: Michelle Lukas-Kanipes

Directors:
Jim Donlan
Steve McDonough
Julie Schiltz

Greg Clark
Denise Fauntleroy
Rick Redmond
Scott Schiferl

Jeff Davis
Jeff Manhart
Charlie Schiltz
David Sherrill

NOTE: We urge you to make a monthly habit of logging on to the ISCCW website at www.isccw.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/Instagram.