

Towards A PRWD Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan for the Lower Lake system (DL to Mill Pond)

The District's 2005 Revised Management Plan called for preparation of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plans for several of the District's Lake Water Quality Management Areas, including Detroit, Curfman, Sallie, Melissa and Mill. In February 2008, the District's Managers agreed to pursue the APM planning effort.

Overall Goal: Prepare 10-year plan to guide District's Aquatic Plant Management (and related activities) in Curfman, Detroit, Pelican River, Muskrat, Sallie, Melissa, and Mill Pond.

Assumptions - the plan will...

- take a broad view of aquatic plant management (e.g. may include shoreline habitat measures, shoreline and roadside pickup, preventing exotic species introduction)
- solicit stakeholder inputs in shaping the process, and making recommendations for outcomes
- include specific measures for continued Flowering Rush control, and addressing impacts from Curly-leafed pondweed infestations
- give considerable weight to usage impairment in shaping other treatment actions
- include an educational component (to educate riparian owners and lake users on the values of sustainable aquatic ecosystems)
- include recommendations for administrative and funding mechanisms for implementation

Stakeholders

A broad range of stakeholders will be recruited to assist in the planning process.

	Interest	Plan Responsibility	Examples
PRWD	Protect water quality,	Overall supervision and direction	1. Managers, 2. Staff
DNR	Enhance fisheries, permitting	Analyze data, Regulation	3. Fisheries Staff 4. Ecological Services Staff; Exotic Species Staff
Other Govt.	Public use and access	Regulation, funding,	5. DL, 6. Lakeview Twp
Riparian property owners	Property values, use problems	Advisory	7-10. Individuals, 11, 12 Lake Association Reps
Other Users	Boating, fishing	Advisory	13,14 Individuals 15,16 sporting groups,
Commercial	Hotels, Marinas, Guides	Advisory	17,18, owners, representatives

Problem Identification

Stakeholders will be invited to identify problems, set goals, suggest different directions, techniques, etc. After data collection is complete, the stakeholders will be asked to review data, help with identifying and selecting options, and the design of an implementation plan. A professional mediator may be asked to help with this review, and it is likely that some basic limnology instruction will have to be a part of the process in order to ensure that all stakeholders have some basis for interacting with each other.

It seems likely that use impairment (or the prospects thereof) will be a potent force in organizing the group's thinking.

Data Collection

Class of Data	Examples	Source of Data
Background Data	Waterbody and basin attributes (depths, nutrients, shoreline conditions)	PRWD Files
	Subwatershed attributes (runoff, loading)	PRWD Files
	History of Aquatic Plant Management	PRWD Files
	Regulations governing aquatic plant management, incl. docks, shoreland	DNR Rules
Aquatic Plant	Species, Densities, Locations in accordance with DNR specifications.	Consultant:
Use Information	Users, use activities, use intensity, locations	Consultant:
	Usage Impairment Information	Consultant

During the summer of 2008, Professional Lake Management Associates is mapping plant species, densities throughout the study area. These data will be integrated with a Flowering Rush mapping project that was begun in 2005 and continued in 2007 and 2008.

Analysis, Review of Results

All data will be analyzed by PRWD staff with the assistance of DNR personnel and other stakeholders.

Set Goals, Identify Management Goals

Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be asked to do this, with guidance from PRWD staff. A professional mediator/facilitator may be asked to assist in this process.

Develop Action Plan (includes Management, funding mechanisms, and an evaluation/feedback plan)

It is anticipated that such a plan will lay out a "roadmap" for specific treatment and other (education, roadside pickup) activities over a ten-year period. The Action Plan will identify priority treatment areas based upon usage and other considerations; it will address endangered native aquatic plant communities, and the means to protect them. On-going data collection efforts will be incorporated into the Action Plan as well as provision for annual adjustments in the implementation of the Action Plan based upon evaluations.

This Action Plan will include mechanisms for administering and funding various components of the plan.