

7.0 Conclusion and Recommended Action Plan

One aquatic invasive plant was found during the aquatic plant survey in 2021; curly-leaf pondweed, *Potamogeton crispus* (CLP). This species has been previously identified within the lake and has been actively monitored and managed since 1976. The harvesting plan that has been followed since 2010 is effectively managing the CLP in both lakes. It is also managing the native vegetation in North White Ash to provide open water for recreation. This harvesting plan has been modified to meet the current needs of the lakes and is presented below along with other Active Goals to improve the lakes.

7.1 Recommended Active Goals

The recommended action plan includes actions for White Ash and North White Ash Lakes based on the Maintenance Alternative and Aquatic Plant Manipulation Alternative listed above in Section 6. **The goals listed below are meant to be a guideline used to manage the lakes; these goals should be evaluated and revised as needed to fit the changing needs of the lakes.** Lakes are dynamic systems and flexibility is needed when managing them; **the dates and timelines listed below are guidelines and may change based on conditions.** The District board has approved the following active goals. It will be up to residents of White Ash and North White Ash Lakes and the District to determine the actions, find the funding, and gather the individuals needed to implement the active goals.

Goal One: Continue CLP harvesting program

Objective One: Follow the harvesting schedule below to remove CLP in the lake system and minimize disturbance caused by the harvesting program. Harvest CLP early in the season to remove turions from the system and decrease overall CLP growth.

- Action 1: Begin harvesting approximately the 3rd week of May in White Ash Lake (approx 5 days)
- Harvest navigation channel and navigation lane as shown in Map 1.
- Action 2: Approximately the last week of May, first week of June begin harvesting in North White Ash Lake (approx 20 days)
- Harvest navigation channels as shown in Map 2.
- Action 3: Begin second harvest approximately second or third week of June in White Ash Lake (approx 5 days)
- Harvest navigation channel and navigation lane as shown in Map 1.
- Action 4: Begin second harvest approximately the last week of June on North White Ash Lake (approx of 10 days)
- Harvest navigation channels as shown in Map 2.

Goal Two: Continue Harvesting to Improve Navigation and Recreation

Objective One: Continue harvesting of navigation channels in White Ash and North White Ash Lakes to provide for navigation and recreational use areas in both lakes.

- Action 1: White Ash – Limit late season plant harvesting to provide the 100-ft navigation channel on the west side of the lake and the 50-ft channel on the east side of the lake as shown in Map 1.
- Action 2: North White Ash - Continue large-scale harvesting in designated navigational channels and recreational corridors.
- Begin harvesting native plant navigation channels around the periphery of lake; last week of June. See Map 2.
 - A navigation channel of 100 ft wide will be maintained around the periphery of the lake for the season.
 - A recreational use area of 360 ft wide by 3200 ft long will be maintained in the center of the lake for the season.
- Action 3: North White Ash - Allow for surface skimming and shallow harvesting with harvester outside the designated navigational channels and recreational corridors.
- The area inside of the periphery navigation channel may be skimmed. Skimming will be done with the cutterhead operating to a maximum depth of 1 ft. (The conveyer belt will not operate without the cutterhead in operation; this is the only feasible way to skim with this particular harvesting machine.)
 - Skimming will be used to pick-up matted vegetation or algae on the surface.
 - Shallow harvesting will be completed inside of the periphery navigation channels as needed to maintain a clear water depth for recreation/navigation. Shallow harvesting will consist of harvesting to a maximum depth of 24 inches.
 - Skimming/shallow harvesting Must remain outside previously designated sensitive areas.
 - Skimming/shallow harvesting is not allowed in 3-ft of water or less.
 - After August 1, shallow harvesting may be conducted in the southern part of the lake where wild celery is present.
 - Skimming/shallow harvesting will not be conducted in areas where wild rice is present.
- Action 4: Maintain navigation between the two lakes.
- Maintain a 20-ft wide open navigation channel running south from North White Ash into the Apple River corridor. See Map 2.
 - Maintain the Apple River corridor at 20-ft wide from where the Apple River enters White Ash to the open water on White Ash. See Map 1.
 - It may be necessary to begin harvesting this channel in June as growth of wild rice could quickly fill in this channel.

- Maintain a 20-ft wide navigation channel on the Apple River downstream of White Ash. Due to safety reasons, this may only be harvested during very low flows.

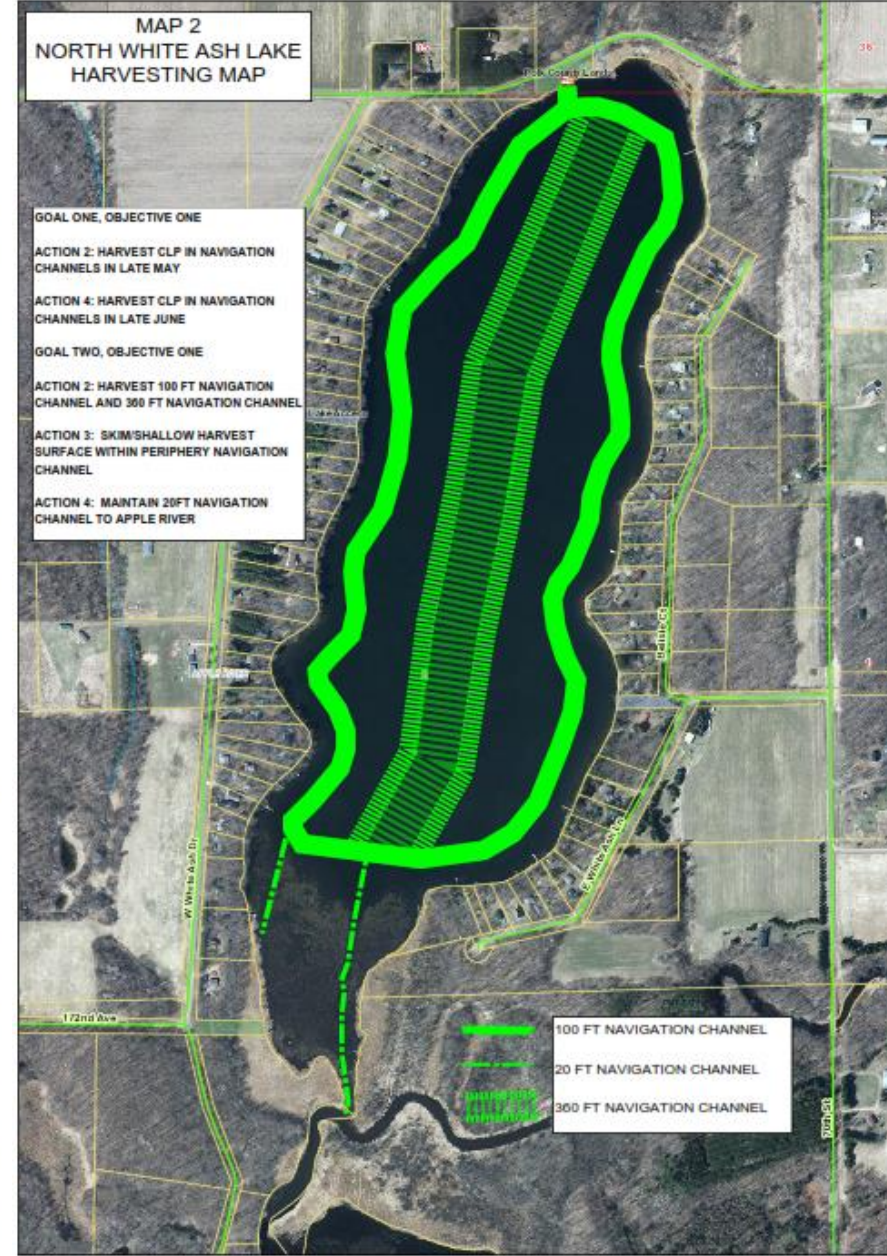
General Conditions:

- Navigation channels will be established and included in any permit application each year, regardless of plant density to keep the option of harvesting, if necessary, open
- Position of navigation channels will vary with lake level, but will generally follow the 3-ft depth contour around the lake
- Harvesting is not allowed in 3-ft of water or less
- Cutting heads may be operated no deeper than 12 inches off the bottom
- Review conditions on the lakes; if the current harvesting plan is not obtaining desirable results, consult DNR to modify harvesting plan accordingly

MAP 1 – WHITE ASH LAKE HARVESTING MAP



MAP 2 – NORTH WHITE ASH LAKE HARVESTING MAP



Goal Three: Control and manage existing aquatic invasive species in and around the two lakes

Objective One: Encourage physical removal of CLP and other aquatic plants according to NR 109 guidelines by land owners in waters 3-ft deep or less

- Does not include wild rice
- Must be in compliance with NR 109 physical removal guidelines

Objective Two: Monitor purple loosestrife and manage as needed. Actions may include:

- Beetle rearing stations
- Work with landowners to identify and train to physically remove pioneering or isolated purple loosestrife plants
- Contact Colton Sorensen of Polk County Land and Water Resources Department at coltonsorensen@polkcountywi.gov for assistance with purple loosestrife management.

Objective Three: Monitor for giant reed grass. Actions may include:

- Monitor for giant reed grass annually using GPS technology

Objective Four: Monitoring for Eurasian Water Milfoil

Action 1: implement early response and detection activities

Objective Five: Prevent the introduction of new AIS into the White Ash Lakes system

Action 1: Continue a Watercraft inspection program on both lakes

- Target busy times such as holidays and other high traffic days on the public landings on White Ash and North White Ash.

Action 2: Continue an AIS In-lake monitoring program

- Complete in-lake monitoring of AIS in both lakes following Citizen Lake Monitoring Network AIS monitoring protocols
- A successful AIS program will mean no new AIS in the White Ash Lakes, or at a minimum, an early detection of something new.

Objective Six: Complete AIS education aimed at riparian owners and other lake users

Action 1: Maintain AIS signage at all public accesses including illegal to launch and illegal to transport signage

Action 2: Provide AIS training in identification and monitoring for all interested parties on both lakes. Contact Colton Sorensen of Polk County Land and Water Resources Department at coltonsorensen@polkcountywi.gov for assistance with AIS training for volunteers

Goal Four: Determine what impact aquatic plant management has on surface water quality

Objective One: Continue to support Citizen Lake Monitoring Network expanded

water quality monitoring efforts on both lakes

Action 1: TP (Spring, June- August) and Chlorophyll a (June – August)

Action 2: Secchi, and temperature (every two weeks April – October)

Action 3: Contact Colton Sorensen of Polk County Land and Water Resources Department at coltonsorensen@polkcountywi.gov for assistance with CLMN training for volunteers

Goal Five: Protect wild rice beds on both lakes

Objective One: Educate lake residents and users as to the value of wild rice in the system

Objective Two: Allow no intentional harvest of wild rice except immediately within the designated navigation channels and recreational corridors

Goal Six: Evaluate the success or failure of the activities included in this APM Plan

Objective One: Improve WALPRD aquatic plant harvesting record keeping

Action 1: Design and set-up a digital record keeping sheet to track harvesting data. Present at annual meeting in August. A hard copy of the hours, loads and area cut are kept for each cutting session.

Objective Two: Complete an assessment of the project activities annually

Action 1: To be completed by the WALPRD and their cooperating consultant

Objective Three: Complete a five-year end-of-project assessment

Action 1: To be completed by the WALPRD and their cooperating consultant

- Apply for grant to update APM Plan
- Due by December 10 of the year following the last year of implementation
- Redo early and mid-season point-intercept aquatic plant surveys on both lakes
- Evaluate water quality in both lakes to determine if trends established in 2010 have continued, were arrested, or were reversed

7.2 Pursue Grant Funding to Implement Actions

There are a number of grants available through WDNR to implement actions outlined in this plan and to complete further research and projects on White Ash and North White Ash Lakes. Following is a brief description of the grants available through WDNR.

Surface Water Planning Grant

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Local Match: 33%

Purpose: first step in comprehensive management plan

Application Deadline: September 2, November 1

Eligible Projects:

- Identify data gaps
- Collect new data
- Assess conditions