

**Sunset Lake Association
DNR Grant Application Kickoff Meeting
May 7, 2025**

Board Members present: Pat Quigley, Nola Knight, Peg Milosevich, Barb O'Brien, Katie Simenson

Members present: Helen Klimowicz

Call to Order: The meeting started at 7:03 p.m.

This special meeting was called by Pat to discuss the DNR Grant project and determine a plan for completing the application by mid-September.

We are applying for an AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) grant. The Town of New Hope will be submitting the application on our behalf. The association is required to have 25 members to be eligible to apply for a grant, which we have. The grant is a cost shared grant, and the association will be responsible for 25% of approved costs (the DNR will reimburse 75%) and 100% of unapproved costs. The funding cap is \$50,000 and the maximum term is 3 years.

Timing:

May – September 15, 2025:

- Identify Project Goals, Activities and Methods
- Develop a budget
- Draft a pre-application and submit it to the DNR

September – October 2025:

- Work with regional biologists and finalize the application

November 15, 2025

- Submit final grant application to DNR

February 15, 2026

- Grant Awards, with ranked submissions, are announced

March 15, 2026

- Start of the Grant period

Project Outline:

1. Assemble Team – the meeting was the kick-off, and we would encourage others to get involved to assist in our efforts.
2. Define Project Goals
3. Identify Partners/Letters of Commitment - Town of New Hope, Portage County Parks, UWSP/CWES, Lake residents and neighbors. Barb will reach out to Tom Quinn at CWES for his assistance.

4. Identify activities and methods needed to meet goals. AIS is more general than EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil), which is why we are focusing on AIS. Katie is going to reach out to other lake associations who might be interested in partnering with us to apply for the DNR grant. We will also ask Golden Sands for input.
5. Determine a budget.

Project Activities and Methods:

1. Map EWM locations – Lake Association
 - a. Volunteer hours count towards our contribution, \$15/hour (we need to determine a way to manage and track volunteer hours).
2. Hand pull EWM near shoreline – Lake Association
 - a. Volunteer hours count towards our contribution
3. DASH EWM Removal in deep water – Contractor
 - a. Pat has the 2025 invoice for \$8,218 and sent a letter to Lake Association members with a progress update and donation request.
4. Patrol lake to remove fragments – Lake Association
 - a. Volunteer hours count towards our contribution
5. Establish a Boat Cleaning Station – Contractors.
 - a. Workers/Volunteers at the boat landing need to be trained and provided with cleaning materials to be able to clean boats. Perhaps some boat cleaning could be done by boat owners, not volunteers. We also discussed partnering with the County or DNR, to see if a sign can be erected at the beach.
6. Participate in Clean Boats/Clean Waters program – Barb is researching this.
7. Long Term Containment and Control
 - a. Annual AIS Survey – all species, not just EWM.
 - b. Annual hand pulling near shore
 - c. Contract DASH Removal as needed – perhaps every other year?

We also discussed the potential of re-submitting a grant through the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. More to come.

Pat shared some links to the Grant Application Form and the Instructions for filling out the form.

APPLICATION FORM

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y1UKkWkT5e5I-EehJ2Hf915wUzmcQ8hN/view?usp=drive_link

INSTRUCTIONS

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hlmsTAMWPXO6VKGYAQNrZLKbiUOrxUJA/view?usp=drive_link

SURFACE WATER GRANT APPLICANT GUIDE

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bt9ZaqvJPpNULOlnq0afFg6MNF5S87S/view?usp=drive_link

Next Meeting Date

The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00.
- The DNR Grant team will meet again on Wednesday, June 11 at 7:00 to further discuss and provide an update on the DNR grant progress.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Purcell Milosevich

