

Plan Goals and Strategies

Overall Purpose

The following section outlines the goals, objectives, and actions set by the McKenzie Lakes Association (MLA). The MLA strives to continue to plan, monitor, protect, and educate lake residents about the health and quality of the Chain of Lakes.

Section 5: Aquatic Plant Management Goals

1. Prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).
2. Reduce and control existing populations of invasive species
3. Educate the McKenzie Lakes community regarding aquatic plant management.
4. Enhance and maintain diverse populations of native aquatic plants.
5. Maintain and improve water quality.

5.1 Goal 1: Prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Objective: 100% of McKenzie Lakes watercraft users will receive inspections and clean, drain, and decontaminate boats, trailers and equipment.

Action: Train members of the McKenzie Lakes Association (MLA) to conduct Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) inspections at public boat landings.

Action: Hire a consultant to conduct CBCW surveys at public boat landings on Big, Middle and Lower McKenzie.

Objective: MLA will continue to monitor for AIS introductions.

Action: MLA will revise and/or update the rapid response plan for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) if needed.

Action: Continue to conduct point-intercept (PI) surveys on each lake.

Action: Continue to deploy zebra mussel plates on Big, Middle and Lower McKenzie.

Action: Train members of the MLA on the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) AIS protocol in order to conduct lake monitoring on a yearly basis.

Objective: 100% enforcement of Burnett and/or Washburn Counties “Do Not Transport” ordinance.

Action: Work with the Burnett and Washburn County Sheriff’s Department to encourage and enforce fines for the “Do Not Transport” ordinance.

Action: Educate lake users on the laws and proper decontamination methods at the landings.

Action: Hire and train volunteers to manage the decontamination station at all MLA landings with stations present.

Objective: 100% enforcement of Burnett County “No Power Loading” ordinance on the McKenzie Lakes Chain.

Action: Work with the Burnett County Sheriff's Department to encourage and enforce fines for the ordinance.

Objective: Prevent the introduction of zebra mussels into Lower McKenzie Lake.

Action: Deploy zebra mussel plate samplers on Big, Middle and Lower McKenzie Lakes.

Action: Sample for zebra mussel veligers on Lower McKenzie Lake.

Action: Place samplers in McKenzie Creek and the Reservoir.

Action: Volunteers to report zebra mussels found on plates to the Burnett County AIS Coordinator; if under 250 individuals, use report forms; if over 250 individuals, submit a photo of the entire plate.

5.2 Goal 2: Reduce and control existing populations of invasive species.

Objective: Continue to survey and document changes in curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) populations found in all three McKenzie Lakes.

Action: Conduct CLP surveys on each lake every two years in early spring and fall.

Action: Monitor each year through Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) AIS volunteers on Lower, Middle and Big McKenzie Lakes.

Action: If treatment is needed for CLP, consult with the appropriate agency for treatment options and permits.

Objective: Minimize populations of purple loosestrife on Big and Middle McKenzie Lakes.

Action: Control with beetles and cut and/or spray as needed. **Before cutting and spraying, consult with Burnett/Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department for assistance. **

Action: Cut and spray individual plants where identification has been confirmed by the MLA board, or Burnett/Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Action: If control is implemented, monitor controlled populations in subsequent years with trained volunteers and Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) AIS volunteers.

Objective: Manually control Chinese mystery snail (CMS) and banded mystery snail (BMS) populations.

Action: Educate lake residents on the proper disposal protocols of invasive snail buildup along the shoreline.

Action: Design and implement an outreach event to manually control populations of snails along the shoreline.

Objective: Manually control and monitor yellow flag iris (YFI) on Big McKenzie Lake.

Action: Determine the population extent of YFI along the shoreline.

Action: Contact property owners for permission to control YFI on their property. If permission is granted, assist the MLA with YFI management.

Action: Educate the Chain of Lakes residences on the impacts of YFI, and introduce native alternatives, including northern blue iris (*Iris versicolor*).

****Yellow flag iris is poisonous to humans and animals, if eaten or the sap touches the skin can cause skin irritation. Caution needs to be taken during management and control efforts. Assistance is available from Burnett County Land Services Department****

5.3 Goal 3: Educate the McKenzie Lakes community on aquatic plant management.

Audience for education:

- All lake residents.
- Business owners.
- Lake users.
- Residents interested in managing waterfront properties.

Educational messages could include, but not limited to:

- Summary of Aquatic Plant Management Plan, notice of public meeting, and where to receive the complete plan.
- Native aquatic plant values.
- Critical habitat areas/Sensitive areas.
- The impacts of recreational boats that create large wakes.
- Education on procedure for individual corridor herbicide applications, and descriptions of where applications are allowed.
- Identification workshops for invasive species such as purple loosestrife, zebra mussels, yellow flag iris, Chinese mystery snails, banded mystery snails, and more.
- Identification workshops for native aquatic plant species.
- Data on nearby lakes with Eurasian watermilfoil.
- A watch-list of potential aquatic invasive species that are a threat to the Chain of Lakes.
- Training for CBCW inspections.
- Additional Resources for landowners:
 - <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ShorelandZoning/Care/explore.html>
 - <https://www.co.washburn.wi.us/>
- Methods to reach audiences for education:
- Inform where past and current Aquatic Plant Management Plan is located.
 - <https://www.burnettcounty.com/1120/Past-Projects>
 - <https://mckenzielakes.com/>
- Coordinate AIS workshops for identification and trainings.
- Improve signage at boat landings and/or willing businesses.
- Send out mailings to residents.
 - Newsletters
 - AIS handouts
 - Door to door handouts and brochures
 - Shoreline restoration brochures
 - Stickers for boats and cars
- Attend annual meetings and special meetings to answer any questions and present on topics if needed.

5.4 Goal 4: Enhance and maintain the diverse populations of native aquatic plants on the Chain of Lakes.

Objective: Implement a strict adherence to treatment standards and monitoring methods prior to and after herbicide treatment; permits are required, see Invasive Species Management Section.

Action: Consider alternative methods to herbicide and mechanical harvesting for the removal of native plants.

Action: Educate the McKenzie Lakes community on the importance of native aquatic plant communities.

Objective: Monitor the diverse native aquatic plant community on the Chain of Lakes.

Action: Conduct point intercept (PI) surveys every five to ten years, or as needed.

Action: Update the aquatic plant management plan every five to ten years, or as needed.

5.5 Goal 5: Maintain and improve water quality conditions.

Objective: Continue to sample and record water samples and Secchi Disk readings.

Action: Train and recruit Citizen Scientists to sample the lakes and submit data to Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) or the Burnett County Land Services Department.

Objective: Educate and encourage lake residents to restore and preserve shoreline buffers.

Action: The MLA or Burnett County will provide workshops and presentations for lake residents on healthy shoreline practices.

Action: Recruit new property owners into the Burnett County Shoreline Incentives Program.

Action: Introduce cost sharing grant programs, including Healthy Lakes and Rivers and Burnett County Shoreline Incentives Program.

Action: Describe and educate lake residents of the shoreline buffer requirements used by Burnett/Washburn Counties and how to report violations.

Objective: Inform McKenzie lakes residents of phosphorus run off and assist in reducing phosphorus and sediment loads into the lakes.

Action: Encourage riparian land owners to adopt and implement shoreline practices.

Abbreviations

AIS: Aquatic Invasive Species

APM: Aquatic Plant Management

BC: Burnett County

BC LWCD: Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Division

BMS: Banded mystery snails

CBCW: Clean Boats Clean Waters

CLMN: Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

CLP: Curly-leaf pondweed

CMS: Chinese mystery snails

EWM: Eurasian watermilfoil

MLA: McKenzie Lake Association

PI: Point-intercept survey

PLS: Purple Loosestrife

SWIMS: Surface Water Integrated Monitoring Systems

YFI: Yellow Flag Iris

WC: Washburn County

WC LWCD: Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Division

Implementation Plan and Budget

Action Items	Timeline	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2026	Budget 2027	Responsible Parties
Prevent AIS Introduction								
Identify and organize volunteer workers / employers for CBCW program	Ongoing	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	MLA
Conduct CBCW program	Ongoing	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours	MLA
Increase enforcement of BC / WC "Do Not Transport" ordinance	Ongoing	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	MLA, BC & WC Sheriff, BC LWCD & WC LWCD
Increase enforcement of BC Power Loading ordinance	Ongoing	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	MLA, BC Sheriff, BC LWCD
Increase enforcement of BC / WC Decontamination station	Ongoing	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours	MLA, BC & WC Sheriff, BC LWCD & WC LWCD
Monitor Boat Landings	Ongoing	\$1,800	\$1,850	\$1,900	\$1,950	\$2,000	\$2,050	MLA, Burnett County LWCD
Train Volunteer monitors in CLMN	As needed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Burnett / Washburn County LWCD
Rapid Response plan review	Ongoing	3 Hours	3 Hours	3 Hours	3 Hours	3 Hours	3 Hours	MLA, Lake Consultant Manager
AIS Reduction and Prevention								
Provide Identification information and encourage volunteer monitoring	May — August	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	MLA AIS Committee, BC LWCD
Monitor Lakes for PLS growth	July — August	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	MLA / community

Cut and Spray PLS plants as needed	July — August	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	MLA / community
Track and monitor previously sprayed areas in previous years	Ongoing	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	MLA / community
Monitor & map all CLP beds every two years or more often if warranted	Mid May — Mid June	TBD		TBD		TBD		BC LWCD, Lake Consultant Manager
Consider treatment options if CLP control is warranted	September	TBD						MLA
Track and control YFI population	May — Sept	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	BC LWCD, MLA
Invasive snail One-Day remove all event	June — July	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	BC LWCD, MLA
Preserve Native Plants								
Conduct a point intercept survey of the lakes	2022			TBD			TBD	
Update APM plan	2027			TBD			TBD	MLA, Lake Consultant Manager
Educate McKenzie Lakes Community								
AIS workshops	Ongoing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	BC / WC LWCD
AIS signage	Ongoing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	BC LWCD
Handouts, mailings, door-to-door distribution	As needed	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650	\$700	\$750	MLA
MLA newsletter articles	Ongoing	\$700	\$750	\$800	\$850	\$900	\$950	MLA
MLA Website updates	Ongoing	\$1,000	\$1,050	\$1,100	\$1,150	\$1,200	\$1,250	MLA
Annual and special meetings	Ongoing	\$1,000	\$1,050	\$1,100	\$1,150	\$1,200	\$1,250	MLA

Water Quality								
Water chemistry and Secchi sampling	Ongoing	80 hours	80 hours	80 hours	80 hours	80 hours	80 hours	MLA
Reduce phosphorus and sediment loads from immediate watershed	Ongoing	TBD						MLA, Lake Consultant Manager
Educate and assist McKenzie Lakes community members in the restoration and preservation of shoreland buffers and shoreland vegetation	Ongoing	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650	\$700	\$750	MLA, Lake Consultant Manager
Continue implementation of shoreline owners' education program	Ongoing	TBD						MLA, BC LWCD

