1. IMPORTANT: Please refer to the application instructions to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

2. Every applicant must submit a pre-application to DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov by September 15, 2025. The pre-application is a draft of sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8 of the surface water grant application (Form 8700-284). Your local biologist may contact you to provide feedback as you work to prepare your final application.

3. A final application must be submitted by November 15, 2025 to DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@Wisconsin.gov

4. This is a reactive form. Complete Section 1 and Section 2 in order to access the rest of the form. Additional form sections may appear based on what you enter in earlier sections.

State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CF/2)
PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov

Notice: Use of this form is required by the Department of Natural Resources for any application filed pursuant to ch. NR 193, Wis. Adm. Code. Personal information collected on this form will be used for administrative purpose and may be provided to requesters to the extent required by Wisconsin's Public Records Laws [ss.19.31–19.39 Wis. Stats.] **To be considered, applications must either be submitted electronically or postmarked by November 15.** The preferred method of application submittal is via email to **DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@wisconsin.gov**, using the **Submit by Email** button on this **form.**

Section 1: Ecosystem Type *Pre-application*

This project primarily focuses on (select one):

○ Lakes ○ Rivers ◉ AIS

Section 2a: Application Type (select one) *Pre-application*

Education and Planning Grants:

- ○ **Surface Water Education**
- ○ **Surface Water Planning**
- ○ **Comprehensive Planning for Lakes & Watersheds**
- ○ **County Lake**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grants

- ○ **AIS Prevention**
- ◉ **AIS Population Management**
  - ◉ Large-scale ○ Small-scale
- ○ **AIS Early Detection & Response**

Surface Water Management Grants:

- ○ **Surface Water Restoration**
- ○ **Management Plan Implementation**
- ○ **Ordinance Development**
- ○ **Fee Simple Land Easement & Acquisition**
- ○ **Wetland Restoration Incentive**

Note: For Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants use Form 8700-337
Lake Monitoring and Protection Network use Form 8700-284L
Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grants use Form 8700-035
AIS Planning Grants use Form 8700-284P

Section 2b: Applicant Information *Pre-application*

Project Title

2026-28 Minong Flowage AIS Management Project

Applicant Name (Organization)		Organization Type		
Minong Flowage Association		Lake Association		
Organization Address--Where to Send Check		**City**	**State**	**ZIP Code**
PO Box 167		Minong	WI	54859
Authorized Representative (AR) Name		**AR Title**		
Harlan Johnson		President		
AR Phone Number (include area code)	**Ext.**	**AR E-mail Address**		
(612) 818-4490		johnson2424@yahoo.com		
Contact Representative (CR) Name (if different from AR)		**CR Title**		
Steve Johnson		Lake Management Committee		
CR Phone Number (include area code)	**Ext.**	**CR E-mail Address**		
(715) 829-3686		sjj8549@gmail.com		

Has your organization been approved as an eligible applicant within the past 10 years?

- ○ Not applicable. *(eg., Counties, Local Units of Government, Lake Districts, Town Sanitary Districts, Tribes, or Accredited Universities.)*
- ○ No. *Submit Form 8700-380 and required supporting documentation to your Environmental Grant Specialist 6 months prior to the grant application deadline. Your organization must be deemed eligible prior to the grant application deadline.*
- ◉ Yes.

Please refer to the application instructions to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

Section 3: Project Information *Pre-application*

Project Location

	Proposed Start Date		Proposed End Date	
	March 15 (Start Date)	2026 (Year)	December 31 (End Date)	2028 (Year)

Waterbody Name(s)	Waterbody ID(s) Look it up here! (WBIC)	Lake Acreage (if applicable)	Is there public access?	No. of Public Access Sites Incl. Boat Launches & walk-ins	No. of Public Vehicle-Trailer Parking Spaces Available at Public Access Sites
Minong Flowage	2622900	1,587.00	◉ Yes ○ No	4	25
Unnamed (Delcore Pond)	5505267	25.00	◉ Yes ○ No	2	

Do all of the above waterbodies meet the minimum public boating access standards provided in s. NR 1.91 (4), thus are eligible to receive funding for natural resource enhancement services. ◉ Yes ○ No

☒ Project to be implemented on state land
☒ Project to be implemented on land not owned by the applicant
☒ Regional project serving multiple waterbodies

County(ies)

Washburn, Douglas

State Senate District No.(s)	State Assembly District No.(s)
25	74

Laboratory Analysis

Does this project include laboratory sample analysis? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, then complete Form 8700-360 and indicate the lab service provider:

◉ State Lab of Hygiene
○ Other:

Permitting

Are state, local and/or federal permits required for this project? ○ Yes ○ No ○ Unknown

Permit Name	Agency	Status (i.e., to be submitted, submitted, approved)	Agency Contact
Chemical Application	WDNR	to be submitted	
Mechanical Harvesting	WDNR	to be submitted	

Pre-application Meeting

Wisconsin DNR Staff Name(s)	Date
Ben Schleppenbach	10/23/2025
Jill Sunderland	10/23/2025

Section 3a: Determination of Project Eligibility *Pre-application*

Have you requested a Determination of Eligibility from the regional DNR Biologist for the activity you are seeking grant funding for?
◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, provide the request and the eligibility determination documentation from the DNR Biologist, if available, with the pre-application.

If no, provide the request with the pre-application; see memo template for example.

Please refer to the application instructions to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

Management Plan(s)

Name of Plan	Publication Year
2024-2028 Minong Flowage Aquatic Plant Management Plan	2024

Projects must implement a management plan recommendation.

Determination of Project Eligibility Information

Exception: *Purple loosestrife biocontrol projects do not need to be recommended in a management plan or determined to be eligible by the department.*

Date of Eligibility Determination	WDNR Staff
11/07/2025	Benjamin Schleppenbach

Projects must be determined to be eligible by department staff.

Federal Nonpoint Source Program Eligibility

Are there federal dollars in this project? ◯ Yes, Source _____
◉ No

If no other federal funds are being applied to the project, Federal Nonpoint Source Program (Clean Water Act Section 319) funding may be used for these projects. Applicants must be able to specifically describe and reference the recommendation from the 9 Key Element Plan in Section 8, Complementary Management box.

☐ 1. The project focuses on reducing nonpoint source pollution by implementing at least one of the best management practices mentioned in NR 154.04.

☐ 2. The project implements the goals and recommendations of an EPA-approved watershed-based plan that meets EPA's "9 key elements". (Link to map and plans at: https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Nonpoint/9keyElement/planMap.html)

Provide the title of the EPA-approved 9-key-element plan this project implements	Plan Expiration Year

Section 4: External Financial Support

List organizations (e.g., school, town, county, nonprofit organization, etc.) other than the applicant and their subcontractors that are providing financial support in the project. Identify the type of financial support (cash, volunteer hours, equipment, etc) and attach a copy of the organizations letter of financial commitment. Do not list Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funds or resources.

Organization Name	Type of Support	Amount of Support
Douglas County Sheriff's Office	Written - value beyond measure!!!	
Washburn County Forestry Department	Financial - launch fees - 3yrs	$4,500.00
Zero6 Energy	10% discount on payment for power loss	$3,000.00
Whitefish Lake Conservation Organization	Financial	$1,000.00
Bootlegger's Bar and Grill	Financial	$600.00
Lakewoods Real Estate	Financial	$500.00
Seaman's Bar-Resort	Financial	$500.00
Pogo's Harbor Inn	Financial	$500.00
Woodland Development and Realty	Financial	$250.00
4 Seasons Recreational Club	Financial	$250.00

Section 5. Project Budget

Pre-application

Part A. Provide a detailed budget of eligible costs including all wages, services, supplies and equipment necessary to accomplish the project. List each item, the activities it is related to in Section 8 of the application, the budget category it best fits, number of units (e.g. hours, plants, square feet, days, miles) and unit cost. Note whether the item is related to administration of the project. See guidance for more information.

	Item Description	Activity in Section 8 (ex. 1.a.)	Budget Category	Cash or Donation/ Match	Unit	# of Units	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Admin. Cost?
1.	Project Start and Ending Meetings (beginning and end of each year of this project) - MFA	1a	Personnel	donation	hr	54	$ 15.00	$ 810.00	☒
2.	Project Start and Ending Meetings (beginning and end of each year of this project) - Consultant	1a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	24	$ 150.00	$ 3,600.00	☒
3.	HWM management planning - 2026-2028 - MFA	1a	Personnel	donation	hr	90	$ 15.00	$ 1,350.00	☐
4.	HWM management planning - 2026-2028 - Consultant	1a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	32	$ 150.00	$ 4,800.00	☐
5.	Spring newsletter 2026-2028 - MFA	2a	Personnel	donation	hr	36	$ 15.00	$ 540.00	☐
6.	Stakeholders Discussions - 2026-2028 - MFA	2a	Personnel	donation	hr	48	$ 15.00	$ 720.00	☐
7.	Stakeholders Discussions - 2026-2028 - Partners	2a	Other	donation	hr	24	$ 24.00	$ 576.00	☐
8.	Stakeholders Discussions - 2026-2028 - Consultant	2a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	18	$ 150.00	$ 2,700.00	☐
9.	Stakeholders Discussions - 2026-2028 - Consultant - Travel (3 trips)	2a	Travel	cash	Mi	330	$ 0.70	$ 231.00	☐
10.	Mechanical harvesting in Serenity Bay - MFA planning	3b	Personnel	donation	hr	32	$ 15.00	$ 480.00	☐
11.	Mechanical harvesting in Serenity Bay - up to six days	3b	Consultants/Contractual	cash	Days	6	$ 3,500.00	$ 21,000.00	☐
12.	Herbicide application to control EWM - 2026 Implementation oversight - MFA	3c	Personnel	donation	hr	32	$ 15.00	$ 480.00	☐
13.	Herbicide application to control EWM - 2026 - contracted applicator - 45 acres with liquid 2,4D	3c	Consultants/Contractual	cash	Evnt	1	$ 36,779.72	$ 36,779.72	☐
14.	Herbicide Concentration Testing - 2026 - SLOH Lab Analysis	3c	Other	cash	Evnt	1	$ 3,717.00	$ 3,717.00	☐
15.	Herbicide Concentration Testing - 2026 - Prep of sampling materials	3c	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	8	$ 150.00	$ 1,200.00	☐
16.	Herbicide Concentration Testing - 2026 - MFA sample collection and processing	3c	Personnel	donation	hr	54	$ 15.00	$ 810.00	☐
17.	Herbicide Concentration Testing - 2026 - MFA boat use	3c	Equipment	donation	hr	27	$ 10.00	$ 270.00	☐
18.	Herbicide Concentration Testing - 2026 - Shipping of samples to the SLOH	3c	Supplies & Operating Expenses	cash	Evnt	1	$ 108.00	$ 108.00	☐
19.	Post Chemical/harvesting and pre-drawdown warm-water PI survey of 468 points in 2026	4a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	Evnt	1	$ 4,434.65	$ 4,434.65	☐

	Item Description	Activity in Section 8 (ex. 1.a.)	Budget Category	Cash or Donation/ Match	Unit	# of Units	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Admin. Cost?
20.	Post Chemical/harvesting and pre-drawdown warm-water PI survey of 468 points - MFA	4a	Personnel	donation	hr	16	$ 15.00	$ 240.00	☐
21.	Post Chemical/harvesting and pre-drawdown warm-water PI survey of 468 points - Consultant support	4a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	4	$ 150.00	$ 600.00	☐
22.	Winter drawdown - reimbursement for lost power generation	3d	Supplies & Operating Expenses	cash	$	1	$ 32,000.00	$ 32,000.00	☐
23.	Year after drawdown wholelake PI survey	4a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	Evnt	1	$ 4,434.65	$ 4,434.65	☐
24.	Year after drawdown wholelake PI survey - MFA	4a	Personnel	donation	hr	16	$ 15.00	$ 240.00	☐
25.	Year after drawdown wholelake PI survey - Consultant support	4a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	4	$ 150.00	$ 600.00	☐
26.	EWM recon and bed mapping surveys - one each year	4a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	Evnt	3	$ 4,736.00	$ 14,208.00	☐
27.	EWM recon and bed mapping surveys - one each year - MFA	4a	Personnel	donation	hr	16	$ 15.00	$ 240.00	☐
28.	EWM recon and bed mapping surveys - one each year - Consultant	4a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	6	$ 150.00	$ 900.00	☐
29.	CLMN expanded water quality monitoring - Deep Hole Near Dam and Central Basin - Volunteers	4b	Other	donation	F.R.	6	$ 240.00	$ 1,440.00	☐
30.	Expanded water quality monitoring in Serenity Bay - SLOH	4b	Other	cash	Evnt	3	$ 228.00	$ 684.00	☐
31.	Expanded water quality monitoring in Serenity Bay - prep of materials - Consultant	4b	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	3	$ 150.00	$ 450.00	☐
32.	Expanded water quality monitoring in Serenity Bay - MFA	4b	Personnel	donation	hr	48	$ 15.00	$ 720.00	☐
33.	Expanded water quality monitoring - Deep Hole Near Dam, Central Basin, and Serenity Bay - MFA boat use	4b	Equipment	donation	hr	72	$ 10.00	$ 720.00	☐
34.	Expanded water quality monitoring in Serenity Bay - Shipping of water samples	4b	Supplies & Operating Expenses	cash	yr	3	$ 72.00	$ 216.00	☐
35.	Healthy Lake Project Planning - MFA	4c	Personnel	donation	hr	12	$ 15.00	$ 180.00	☐
36.	Project Administration - MFA		Personnel	donation	hr	300	$ 15.00	$ 4,500.00	☒
37.	Project Administration - Consultant Support		Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	18	$ 150.00	$ 2,700.00	☒
38.	Project Administration - Consultant Travel		Travel	cash	Mi	330	$ 0.70	$ 231.00	☒
39.	Physical removal of EWM by property owners	3b	Personnel	donation	hr	120	$ 15.00	$ 1,800.00	☐
40.	Prevention efforts - Volunteer placement of EWM buoys	3a	Personnel	donation	hr	48	$ 15.00	$ 720.00	☐

	Item Description	Activity in Section 8 (ex. 1.a.)	Budget Category	Cash or Donation/ Match	Unit	# of Units	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Admin. Cost?
41.	Prevention efforts - Volunteer boat use to place of EWM buoys	3a	Equipment	donation	hr	24	$ 10.00	$ 240.00	☐
42.	Prevention efforts - determining placement of EWM buoys - consultant	3a	Consultants/Contractual	cash	hr	6	$ 150.00	$ 900.00	☐
43.	Purchase of replacement or new EWM buoys	3a	Supplies & Operating Expenses	cash	$	1	$ 750.00	$ 750.00	☐
44.	Avoiding EWM areas flyer/postcard to be distributed to area businesses (campgrounds, resorts, etc) - volunteers	3a	Personnel	donation	hr	24	$ 15.00	$ 360.00	☐
45.	Avoiding EWM areas flyer/postcard to be distributed to area businesses (campgrounds, resorts, etc) - materials	3a	Supplies & Operating Expenses	cash	$	1	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	☐
46.	Avoiding EWM areas flyer/postcard to be distributed to area businesses (campgrounds, resorts, etc) - mileage	3a	Travel	donation	miles	150	$ 0.70	$ 105.00	☐
1.							$	$	☐
							Subtotal	$ 154,885.02	
							Total Project Cost Estimate	$ 154,885.02	
	State Share Requested cannot exceed Cash Cost Subtotal						Eligible State Share	**$ 116,163.76**	
							Grant Award Request	$ 116,163.77	

Please refer to the application instructions to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

Part B – Cost Estimate Summary. Summary of all costs from Part A.

Cost Category	A. Cash Costs	B. Donated Value
1. Personnel	$	$ 14,190.00
2. Employee Benefits	$	$
3. Travel	$ 462.00	$ 105.00
4. Equipment	$	$ 1,230.00
5. Supplies/Operating Expenses	$ 33,174.00	$
6. Consultant/Contractual	$ 99,307.02	$
7. Construction	$	$
8. Other (ex. Acquisition)	$ 4,401.00	$ 2,016.00
Subtotals	$ 137,344.02	$ 17,541.00
Total Project Cost Estimate	$ **154,885.02**	
Grant Award Request	$ **116,163.77**	
Grantee Share	$ **38,721.25**	

Grantee Share Percent: 25%

Part C – Cost Containment and Professional Service Agreements.

☒ I acknowledge that a professional service agreement is required if the grantee subcontracts or hires an agent to undertake any portion of this project requiring more than $5000 of grant funding prior to the commencement of any contracted work. (Does not apply to counties, cities, towns, villages or Wisconsin tribes).

☒ I acknowledge that cost containment measures must be implemented per NR 193.08 for all capital assets and any supply, service or equipment item purchased by the grantee if the cost exceeds $2,500.

Budget Items > $2,500	Cost-Containment Methods	Description of Method
Plant survey work	Flat Rate	Value calculated from SWG Guidebook
Consultant	Alternative Measures/Other	Estimated consultant costs
Herbicide application	Alternative Measures/Other	Plan on using the same company used in previous years
Mechanical harvesting	Competitive Bidding	Only a couple of companies out there that provide these services
Water sample analysis for 2,4D and water quality	Alternative Measures/Other	Using the WI-SLOH

Please refer to the application instructions to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

Section 6: Attachments (check all that are included)

- ☒ Authorizing resolution (required).
- ☒ Documentation of external financial support and/or letters of support.
- ☒ Map of project location, public access, public land and other use and access features (required).
- ☐ Land use agreement or letter of intent from property manager (required).
- ☐ Request for Determination of Project Eligibility (required with pre-application).
- ☒ Project Eligibility Determination from DNR Biologist (required with final application).
- ☒ Surface Water Grant Project Lab Costs, Form 8700-360 (required).

Section 7: Certification

Harlan Johnson
Signature: Harlan Johnson

11/17/2025
Date Signed

Section 8: Project Description

Pre-application

Are you applying for funding to control an aquatic invasive species? (●) Yes ( ) No

Description of Extent of Aquatic Invasive Species and Strategy for Control

Complete as much of the information below as possible, to the best of your ability. A separate worksheet should be filled out for each species and lake that will be controlled as part of this grant proposal. *Use the **Add Species** button below to begin a new worksheet if you are including multiple species or lakes as part of your grant application.*

Name of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Proposed to Control

Eurasian watermilfoil

Year AIS First Verified in waterbody: 2002

Name of Waterbody to be Managed *(if your grant application contains multiple waterbodies)*

Minong Flowage

Approximate number of years this species has been actively managed: 15

Have you or the waterbody received an Early Detection and Response (AIRR) or an AIS Population Management (ACEI) grant to manage this species?

Grant Number ACEI26521 Status Closed
Grant Number ACEI21318 Status Closed
Grant Number ACEI18616 Status Closed
Grant Number ACEI07210 Status Closed
Grant Number ACEI06609 Status Closed

Population status:

Number of acres of this AIS from most recent bed mapping survey: 257.00 Survey Date: 08/19/2025

Littoral % frequency of occurrence of this AIS from most recent point-intercept (PI) survey: 27.4 Survey Date: 07/18/2024

Control Technique: Mechanical Harvester

Season(s) and Year(s): 2026 Acres Targeted: 11.40

Number of Hours Allocated for Control: 48

Control Technique: Manual (hand pulling)

Season(s) and Year(s): 2026-2028 Acres Targeted: 3.00

Number of Hours Allocated for Control: 120

Control Technique: Chemical

Season(s) and Year(s): 2026 Acres Targeted: 45.00

Herbicide: 2,4-D Herbicide Formulation: Liquid

Target Herbicide Concentration: 4.0

(The target concentration should be for the entire lake if the project proposes a whole-lake treatment or if treating more than 10% of lake area. If the treatment is not planned as a whole-lake treatment, then provide target concentration (parts per million) for the AIS bed being treated)

Control Technique: Water Level Drawdown

Season(s) and Year(s): 2026-27 Acres Targeted: 533.00

Description of Extent of Aquatic Invasive Species and Strategy for Control

Complete as much of the information below as possible, to the best of your ability. A separate worksheet should be filled out for each species and lake that will be controlled as part of this grant proposal. *Use the **Add Species** button below to begin a new worksheet if you are including multiple species or lakes as part of your grant application.*

Please refer to the application instructions to ensure you are completing the application correctly.

Name of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Proposed to Control

Eurasian watermilfoil

Year AIS First Verified in waterbody: 2002

Name of Waterbody to be Managed *(if your grant application contains multiple waterbodies)*

Unnamed (Delcore Pond)

Approximate number of years this species has been actively managed: 5

Have you or the waterbody received an Early Detection and Response (AIRR) or an AIS Population Management (ACEI) grant to manage this species?

Grant Number ACEI26521 Status Closed

Grant Number _____ Status _____

Population status:

Number of acres of this AIS from most recent bed mapping survey: 4.29 Survey Date: 08/19/2025

Littoral % frequency of occurrence of this AIS from most recent point-intercept (PI) survey: 1.75 Survey Date: 07/25/2023

Control Technique: Water Level Drawdown

Season(s) and Year(s): Winter of 2026-27 Acres Targeted: 5.00

A. Brief Project Summary (1000-characters, with spaces maximum)

Enter text below using the following sentence structure: *The [applicant] is sponsoring a project to conduct AIS Planning activities on [waterbody]. Activities and deliverables include 1) [Concise description of activity and deliverable(s)], 2) [Concise description of activity and deliverable(s)], 3) [Concise description of activity and deliverable(s)], ...*

Note, this text will be used as a standalone scope statement in program and promotional materials, the SWIMS database, and on DNR Lakes webpages if the grant is awarded.

A new Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan for the Minong Flowage (MF) and Delcore Pond was completed in 2024. The Minong Flowage Association (MFA) is sponsoring a 3yr implementation project that includes:
* Project meetings & Stakeholder involvement
* EWM management including physical removal, mechanical harvesting, herbicide application, & winter drawdown.
* EWM & aquatic plant monitoring & mapping
* Water quality monitoring
* Planning to restore and/or preserve shoreland
* Administrative support

B. Project Area and Public Access/Use

Describe where the project is located, including information on the waterbody or community served. For projects addressing waterbodies or watersheds, include physical characteristics like size, depth, hydrological type and land use. Describe public use and access features.

The MF is a 1564ac impoundment in NW Wisconsin managed for fishing & swimming. It is designated Priority Navigable Water for wild rice and walleye. It supports annual Tribal and public wild rice harvest. The Totagatic River flowing through the MF is outstanding resource water and is designated a WI Wild River above & below the MF. The MF is one of the heaviest used recreation lakes in NW Wisconsin. It has 350 private properties, four public & private boat landings, and boats can travel between the MF and Cranberry Lake to the north via the Cranberry Flowage. Both Cranberry Lake and Cranberry Flowage have EWM. Cranberry Lake has 40 private properties and three RV resorts with 250 campsites and 80 extra boat slips. On the MF, there are two private resort/campgrounds with 50 RV campsites and 30 boat slips, a Summer Nature Camp, & a Washburn Co campground with >100 sites, swimming area, pavilions, picnic areas, children's play area, fish cleaning house, and nature trail. The campground operates at >95% occupancy from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Delcore Pond is adjacent to the campground and connected to the MF thought a narrow channel. There is a public fishing dock on the Pond. There are 16 state-owned islands in the MF. The last 2yrs of CBCW reflects increasing lake use with >9000 boats inspected during that time. A 2024 PI survey documented 78 plant species, an FQI=53, and a Mean C=6.6 - 42% of all the plants identified had a "C" value of 8-10. The NHI lists bald eagles, osprey, Blanding's and wood turtles, least darters, and banded killifish in the area around the MF. The MF is considered source water for EWM & is on the DNR's Top 300 AIS Prevention Priority Waterbodies list.

C. Problem Statement

Provide a clear and concise description of the problem that this project will address. What is the purpose of the project?

In fall 2023, two canoeists drowned in Serenity Bay on the Minong Flowage. Douglas County Sheriff Matt Izzard concluded that EWM was a contributing factor to the deaths and significantly hampered the 18-day body recovery

operation, limiting visibility, wreaking havoc on equipment, and endangering recovery divers (see Sheriff Izzard's Letter). The 2024 point-intercept survey found EWM at 128 pts (LF 27.4%), exceeding 2008 pre-management levels (166 pts, LF 22.8%). In 2025, 257 acres of EWM were mapped-second only to 2008's 335 acres-putting lake users at risk, interfering with recreation, reducing property values, threatening other lakes, and stressing the ecosystem.

EWM management in the MF is challenging: deep and shallow water beds, stumpy areas, dark water, and the need to balance Tribal cultural interests regarding wild rice and naturally reproducing walleye. Management has been successfully implemented with minimal harm and multiple years without intervention. Herbicide application proved effective but Tribal concerns have limited its use despite MFA's commitment to wild rice protection. Extended drawdown (May-Feb 2013-14) reduced EWM to 15 acres but negatively impacted native vegetation, shoreline trees, dried wells, and dislodged submerged woody debris that washed to shore. Winter drawdown (Nov-Mar 2021-22) minimized these impacts and controlled EWM in water under 5 feet but failed in deeper water; predicted warmer winters may reduce future effectiveness. MFA constituency opposition to drawdowns-including absolute opposition by some stakeholders-influenced Town support. Scuba diver and DASH removal face limitations from dark water and obstructions. Property owner removal efforts are discouraged by volume.

Clearly, single management approaches are insufficient, no matter what they are. An integrated and adaptive management strategy like what is recommended in the new APM Plan and supported in this project is required.

D. Project Description and Timeline

1. Goals and Objectives

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Guide from the WDNR identifies appropriate goals for aquatic plant management and the activities that will often be implemented to reach a particular goal. For the purposes of this project, the MFA strives to meet four different goals from that guide: Organization and Planning, Community and Constituent Communication, Target Species Management, and Gaining Knowledge and Utilizing Resources. The tasks included in this project and the budget that supports them is based on the IPM Strategy.

Goal 1 - Organization and Planning, sets the structure of this project and determines how and when EWM is going to be managed in the MF each year. Obj.1 The MFA will meet with a consultant at the beginning and end of each year of this project to discuss what has and needs to be done, assign roles, and review project expectations and results. Obj.2 - EWM management planning including physical removal, mechanical harvesting, herbicide application, and/or winter drawdown, will be completed as necessary in each year of this project. Preparation of WDNR APM Management permits is included in this objective.

1.a. Activity

Obj1. Organization meetings (consultant and MFA) - March and November of each year of this project - 2026-2028.
Obj2. EWM management planning (consultant, MFA, Stakeholders) - 2026-2028
Obj2a. Winter drawdown planning (consultant, MFA, Stakeholders) - 2026

Method and Data Collected

Obj1. Meetings will be attended by multiple MFA volunteers and the Project Consultant. Each meeting will be a minimum of 2hrs in length. Additional time is provided for preparation before each meeting and follow-up after each meeting.
Obj2. Planning for physical removal, mechanical harvesting, and herbicide application will be completed in the appropriate years by the MFA, their consultant, and multiple stakeholders. Initial planning will occur after results from previous year's management have been determined. Final management plans will be completed early in the year prior to implementation.
Obj2a. Throughout 2026, the MFA will consult with the WDNR, Zero6 Energies, Washburn County and other stakeholders to plan a winter drawdown to be implemented over the 2026/27 winter season.

Deliverable and Outcomes

The expected outcome of these objectives is knowing what is expected from the project and whose task it is to make each action happen. Management actions will be thoroughly understood and determined based on expectations and results. Deliverables include agendas and minutes from project meetings, preliminary and final management plans, appropriate WDNR permitting, rationale for the management actions to be implemented, and documentation of the time and resources that support management planning.

2. Goals and Objectives

Goal 2 - Community and Constituent Communication, keeps the MFA constituency, interested Stakeholders, lake users, and others actively engaged in the management determination process, management decisions and the reasons behind them, and seeks input from those concerned enough to offer it. Obj.1 - Informing constituents and Stakeholders of and involving them in the management planning process, how and why decision are made, expectations and plans for implementation, interpretation of implementation results and what they mean for future of the MF, and how the overall health of the ecosystem and lake use are being affected.

2.a. Activity

Obj1. The MFA will produce and distribute at least one newsletter to its constituency each year.
Obj1a. There will be at least one formal meeting of the most prominent Stakeholders involved in this project (WDNR, MFA, Washburn/Douglas County, Tribal Interests, Cranberry Lake Association, and others as identified each year). Annual management actions will be discussed during the MFA Annual Meeting, and at MFA Board Meetings.

Method and Data Collected

Obj1. The MFA will publish at least one newsletter in each year of this project that will be sent to all constituents and stakeholders.
Obj1a. The MFA holds its annual meeting in early June and will update management actions and results during it. A Stakeholders Meeting will be held near the end of each year. Personal invites to County, Town, and Tribal Stakeholders and others will be made. Both the Annual Meeting and Stakeholders meetings will be open to the public. The MFA Board meets four or more times each year. These meetings discuss the current status of the MF and management actions. Guests may be invited to provide more information as needed. MFA Board Meetings are open to public. Participation by Stakeholders is estimated at 10 people for 4 hours each year, at a rate of $36/hour, for 3 years. Documentation of Stakeholder donated time will be collected for each event.

Deliverable and Outcomes

The expected outcome is an informed constituency that feels their voices are heard when making management decisions that affect everyone who lives on or uses the MF. Deliverables include pdf copies of newsletters, meeting notices, meeting minutes, etc. Documentation of Stakeholder time and resources put forth during the Stakeholders Meeting will be provided.

3. Goals and Objectives

Goal 3 - Target species management as defined in the WDNR IPM Strategy includes prevention, management/ manipulation, and monitoring. For the purpose of this project, Obj.1 is Prevention Efforts. The MFA has identified multiple AIS pathways that it is trying to address. The first and most important pathway is the large amount of recreational use on the MF. Each year, thousands of boats launch and travel on the MF. They come from the Washburn County Campground and WDNR landings, private resorts and campgrounds on the MF and upstream on Cranberry Lake and Flowage, and from the 300 plus property owners on the lake. When EWM is at its current level (257 acres), it is nearly impossible to travel on the MF without running into or through EWM beds. The amount of boat traffic also puts the MF at risk of another AIS being introduced, and for AIS in the MF to be carried out to other lakes. Secondary pathways include EWM flowing downstream into the MF from Cranberry Lake and Flowage and Gilmore Lake via the Totagatic River. One way to reduce fragmentation of EWM by boats is to remove large areas or areas of EWM in or adjacent to active boating corridors. Obj.2 is EWM management. EWM management includes physical removal, diver and/or DASH removal, mechanical harvesting, application of herbicides, and a winter drawdown. Funding is included in this project to offset the loss of power generation experienced by Zero6 Energies during the drawdown. Supporting management of EWM done by those in upstream waters also may reduce pathways.

3.a. Activity

Obj1. The MFA in cooperation with the Town of Minong supports watercraft inspection at multiple boat landings following CBCW guidelines. Through the placement of EWM bed marker buoys, boaters are made aware of dense areas of EWM in or adjacent to boating corridors. A postcard/flyer, developed by the MFA to remind boaters and other lake users to be aware of EWM and avoid boating through it if possible, will be distributed to those businesses willing to participate. The MFA actively seeks input from the Cranberry Lake Association realizing that what they do and what is done on the MF impacts both, they cannot be separated. The Gilmore Lake Association is struggling with its own EWM issue, and when asked, the MFA will share what they have learned over time.

Method and Data Collected

The Town of Minong and/or the MFA request CBCW grant funds each year from the WDNR. Paid watercraft inspectors are stationed at the County Campground and WDNR boat landings. MFA volunteers also put in some time at secondary landings at Pogos and Smith's Bridge. The MFA places buoys in several locations around dense areas of EWM. Each year, the beds to be marked are determined based on mapping results from the previous season and the results of management. The MFA will develop, print, and distribute a postcard or flyer reminding boaters to be aware of EWM and avoid boating through it. The postcard will be distributed to local businesses (campgrounds, resorts, bars, etc) to be handed out to lake users. The final content of the postcard will likely include information on how to identify EWM, steps boaters can take to avoid running into a bed of EWM, what to do if they find themselves in a bed of EWM, and a link to the MFA webpage and/or other pertinent organizations.

Deliverable and Outcomes

All CBCW data will be entered into the WDNR SWIMS database. Location maps for buoy placement, a copy of the postcard, a distribution list, invoices for any new buoys purchased, printed postcards, etc are deliverables. The expected outcome is reducing the pathways whereby EWM is spread around the MF, removed from the MF and taken to other lakes, and reducing the risk that new AIS will be introduced to the MF.

3.b. Activity

Obj2(b,c,d). EWM will be managed following an integrated approach that includes physical removal (2026-28), mechanical harvesting (2026, 2027?), application of herbicides (2026), winter drawdown (2026/27), and/or diver/DASH removal (2026?, 2027?, 2028). Management of EWM over the course of three years will reduce the amount of EWM in the MF that interferes with lake use, that may be inhibiting native aquatic plant growth (including wild rice), that is spread within the MF by boaters, and that is transported out at risk to be taken to other waterbodies.

Method and Data Collected

Property owners will spend time physically removing EWM and/or cover the costs of hiring scuba divers to remove EWM in front of their properties. No permit is needed for this type of management provided it is done following WDNR guidelines/rules. It is likely no more than 3ac of EWM will be managed this way. Contracted mechanical harvesting will be completed on approximately 14ac in the south end of Serenity Bay in 2026, and maybe 2027 if necessary. Six days of harvesting are built into this project. In 2026, herbicides will be applied to five deep water areas (>5ft) areas with dense growth EWM totaling about 45ac that interferes with lake access and use. A liquid 2,4D-based herbicide will be used. Herbicide concentration testing will be completed as a part of the application. A winter drawdown of at least 5ft will be implemented over the 2026/27 winter season. Contracted diver or DASH removal will be considered in 2028 if needed. WDNR permit requests will be prepared.

Deliverable and Outcomes

Deliverables include all management documents in a form that can be shared with Constituents, Stakeholders, and the WDNR. Reports summarizing the outcome of each management action will be completed. The expected outcome is that after 3yrs, EWM will once again be at very low levels in the MF and will remain so until at least 2030. The expected outcome is the continued use of the MF by guests and property owners without interference from EWM, and a healthier, more diverse aquatic ecosystem.

4. Goals and Objectives

Goal 4 - Gaining knowledge and utilizing resources includes aquatic plant monitoring to document changes in EWM and native vegetation caused by management actions; water quality monitoring, and efforts other than AIS that are being implemented to help maintain and/or improve the ecosystem that is the MF. Obj 1 is documenting changes in the aquatic plant community, native and non-native as a result of EWM management actions through pre- and post-management point-intercept (PI) surveys, and annual EWM reconnaissance and bed mapping surveys. Obj 2 is continuing long-term trend monitoring of water quality at three sites to determine if any changes can be directly tied to management actions. Water clarity plays a key role in how much EWM is in the system. In bad water quality years, EWM may be limited to 5 or less feet of water. In good water quality years, it may grow in as much as 10ft of water. Obj 3 is encouraging property owners to participate in projects that may reduce nutrient inputs, protect

disappearing islands and/or shoreline that are suffering from overuse and mismanagement, and that may improve fish and wildlife habitat.

4.a. Activity

Obj1. In July or August of 2026, after mechanical harvesting and application of herbicides have been completed, a whole-lake, PI survey of approximately 468 points will be completed. Another whole-lake, PI survey will be completed in 2028, a year after a winter drawdown is completed. Whole-lake, meandering, recon and mapping surveys will be completed in the late summer/early fall in each year of this project to document changes in EWM and provide a basis for following year management planning.

Method and Data Collected

Both PI surveys and all three EWM mapping surveys will be completed by a professional aquatic plant surveyor. PI surveys will follow WDNR guidelines. One will be completed in late July of 2026 after management actions have been completed. A second will be completed in late July of 2028, a year after the winter drawdown. EWM mapping surveys will be completed in late August or early Sept of each year. The surveyor will conduct a meandering survey throughout the entire littoral zone looking for primarily EWM but will also document any other AIS that is discovered. Survey reports will be completed by the surveyor and shared with the MFA, WDNR, and other entities. Data from the PI surveys and the bed mapping surveys will be compared to previous surveys and changes documented.

Deliverable and Outcomes

PI deliverables include spreadsheets, comparisons to previous PI surveys, maps, and a summary report. Deliverables include GIS documentation of recon and mapping survey points and tracks, maps, and a summary report of what is found. The data collected from each survey will be compared to previous surveys and any changes documented. Results will also provide a basis for management planning in successive years. The expected outcome is accurate and timely assessment of EWM management impacts on both EWM and native aquatic plants.

4.b. Activity

Obj2. Long-term trend water quality monitoring of three sites in the MF will continue for three years. Two sites, Deep Hole Near Dam and Central Basin, are part of the CLMN Expanded Monitoring Program. A third site in Serenity Bay will be monitored throughout this project collecting the same information that is collected from the two CLMN sites. The third site in Serenity Bay is being added because there seems to be a distinct difference in water quality in Serenity Bay as compared to the other two sites in the main basin of the lake, especially late in the year.

Method and Data Collected

CLMN expanded monitoring includes Secchi disk readings of water clarity and water sampling to analyze phosphorus and chlorophyll concentration in the water. Chlorophyll samples are analyzed three times each season. Phosphorus samples are collected and analyzed four times each season. Secchi readings are collected more frequently. A Consultant will prepare water quality sampling materials not a part of the CLMN program, that are received from the SLOH for MFA volunteers to use each year. Temperature and dissolved oxygen may also be monitored if the resources exist but are not guaranteed. Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a results are recorded in the SWIMS database by the SLOH. MFA volunteers will enter Secchi, temperature, and dissolved oxygen data (if there is any) and any other CLMN data collected by volunteers into the SWIMS database.

Deliverable and Outcomes

All water quality data will be recorded in the WDNR SWIMS database. At the end of each season, a summary of water quality results and what they mean will be completed by the MFA and shared with their constituency and any other interested Stakeholder. Results may also give some insight into how deep EWM will grow in any given year.

4.c. Activity

Obj3. Since 2015, MFA volunteers have installed several Fishsticks, habitat improvement projects along their shores. The intent of these projects was to hopefully inspire other property owners to do the same. The WI Healthy Lakes and Rivers Initiative provides grand funding to install fishsticks, restore shoreline, and install rain gardens and other runoff diversion practices. This is particularly important to protect and preserve the shores of several islands in the MF that are being loved or used to death. Through this

project, the MFA will continue to inform and encourage property owners to participate in Healthy Lakes projects that may limit runoff, restore deteriorating shores, and improve habitat.

Method and Data Collected

A speaker, likely from Washburn or Douglas County will be invited to present at one or more MFA Annual Meetings (held in June) to promote Healthy Lakes projects. If any property owners express interest, the MFA will apply for grant funds to support these projects. Of particular interest to the MFA would be projects to help restore, protect, and preserve several of its disappearing islands.

Deliverable and Outcomes

Deliverables will include any agenda and/or copy of any presentation given during an annual meeting or similar event. The hoped for outcome is the implementation of multiple Healthy Lakes projects to limit runoff, restore and protect shoreline (particularly that of the islands in the MF), and/or improve habitat.

E. Prevention

Describe identified AIS pathways, AIS prevention strategy, how strategy is being implemented, and how to relates to AIS population management efforts.

EWM is well-established in the MF, and in Cranberry Flowage and Cranberry Lake upstream. Boaters carry EWM between these three connected bodies of water all season long. EWM is well-established in Gilmore Lake, upstream of the MF on the Totagatic River. Management is on-going in all these bodies of water. Actions taken by the Cranberry Lake and Gilmore Lake Associations have a trickle effect on the MF. When the MFA implements a drawdown, it has impacts on both Cranberry Lake and Flowage. High water events in the spring and during heavy summer rain events carry EWM out of Gilmore Lake into the river and then to the MF. Over the last 3yrs, the Washburn County Campground landing by itself accounts for an average of 4,106 boats inspected each season, proving how much the MF is used by the public. Every boater that enters or exits the MF risks carrying AIS away or bringing in a new AIS. Movement of boats around the MF and in Cranberry Lake and Flowage spread EWM all over, so if any significant area of EWM is left unmanaged, a boat will likely go through it. The MFA installs EWM marker buoys around EWM beds in or near navigation routes and will develop and distribute a flyer that reminds boaters to be aware of and watch for beds of EWM. The MFA, in cooperation with the Minong Town Lakes Committee, implements a CBCW program every year at the County Park and WDNR Landings. Additional time is put in at the Smiths Bridge landing. Managing EWM reduces its impact on lake use, other aquatic plants, and water quality; and minimizes the amount of EWM spread around the lake and potentially taken out of the lake. Mapping provides timely and accurate information about existing AIS and will help to identify new AIS before it becomes a bigger issue.

F. Strategy and Decision Making

Describe the management strategy and decision-making process and how a decision to pursue the proposed project was reached. Make a case for why the work is necessary, how it accounts for characteristics of the system and past control efforts, especially when there is duplication of work occurring less than 5 years ago.

Since 2009 large and small-scale management actions have reduced EWM to low levels, minimizing negative impacts for multiple years in succession. After large-scale herbicide application in 2010&11, no management was implemented until a summer/winter drawdown was completed in 2013/14. Diver and DASH removal in 2015 and a small-scale herbicide application in 2016, prolonged the drawdown results and no management was implemented until 2021. A winter-only drawdown in 2021/22 followed by a small-scale herbicide application in 2023 led to no management being done to date. Prior to and with herbicide application, results from several studies of water movement/flow in the MF and how it impacts herbicide showed that herbicide could be applied with some certainty of appropriate concentration and contact time with the target species. And, if kept downstream of wild rice beds, would not "move" into them. The extended drawdown reduced EWM to <15ac and improved wild rice, but had many other negative impacts, mostly due to the summer/fall portion of the drawdown. The 2021/22 drawdown successfully controlled EWM in water <5ft but had minimal to no impact on EWM in deeper water. Management impacts on native aquatic plants have been continually monitored. Both herbicide and drawdown had short-term impacts on native vegetation, but it recovered to pre-management conditions within a year or two. Consultation with Tribal Resources resulted in mechanical harvesting being added as a management action. Results from past management, the studies undertaken, and consultation with Stakeholders, guide the management actions included in this project - physical removal, mechanical harvesting, herbicide application, and winter drawdown. The status of EWM in the MF

going into 2026 makes these actions necessary. The MFA continues to work with the many Stakeholders with an interest in the MF to develop and adapt an integrated approach to managing EWM without causing harm to other species.

G. Successful Outcome

Describe how the project approach and activities will result in the desired outcome including the proposed timeline. Include information about how the project aligns with the management strategy and was scaled and scoped to effectively manage the population.

After 2-3 years of integrated management that includes physical removal, mechanical harvesting, application of herbicide and a winter drawdown, it is expected that this project will again reduce EWM in the MF to levels where it does not negatively impact aspects of a healthy system (native plants, habitat, and water quality) and doesn't interfere with the many popular recreation activities (boating, fishing, swimming) that take place on the MF. In year one, physical removal and mechanical harvesting will be completed in shallower water areas where navigation is impacted. Herbicide application, also in the first year, is planned on several deep-water areas >5ac in size. Herbicide is expected to reduce the density and distribution of EWM in deep water in the year prior to a 5-5.5ft winter drawdown. A winter drawdown is planned for the winter season between year one and two of this project. When coupled with a winter drawdown, results from mechanical harvesting and herbicide application should be longer lasting. Physical removal and mechanical harvesting will be used in year two and/or year three to prolong results if necessary. DASH and/or herbicide application could be implemented in year three, but if it is, the cost will be covered by the MFA and its partners. It is expected that during the drawdown, EWM that has become established within wild rice areas will be controlled and the abundance and density of wild rice will improve. Aquatic plant monitoring will be completed in each year of this project to determine if the expected results are met. EWM bed mapping will be used each year to identify areas that may need more attention. It is recognized that EWM in the MF will have to be managed again at some point in the future to maintain its health and usability, however, it is expected that the results of this project will last through 2030.

H. Complimentary Management

Describe how the project complements other protection and restoration management efforts. Include summary of planning and implementation efforts besides those related to AIS (e.g., shoreland or wetland restoration, Healthy Lakes & Rivers, nutrient management, etc.).

In 2017, an official Shoreland Habitat Survey was completed identifying areas of shoreland that could be improved. Of the 363 properties evaluated, 50 ranked "high" in priority for implementing projects to reduce runoff and improve habitat. Another 46 ranked "moderate". While there have been few participants in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers program since then, the MFA continues to encourage property owners to get involved, including sponsoring a speaker at an annual meeting to discuss Healthy Lakes projects and what can be done. A coarse woody debris survey was completed as a part of the 2017 survey, and since then, at least three Healthy Lakes and Rivers Fishsticks projects have been installed by a property owner on the MF. That property owner used the installations on his property as training events and examples for others on the MF to pursue their own projects. In the last grant that was awarded, the MFA started an Island Protection Campaign due to the unintended destruction of several islands within the MF. This campaign included signs on the islands and appeals made during meetings and other events to make people more aware of how they are loving the islands into non-existence. This project will continue with a goal of getting at least one shoreland/island restoration done during this project.

I. External Support

Describe collaboration with other organizations that will be providing financial or other support along with the expected benefits of collaboration. Document support with letters and submit with this application. Be sure to highlight support from partners that are critical to implementation and any other AIS-related work conducted without financial assistance from state.

The Washburn Co. Forestry Dept. donates all launch fees (est. $1500/yr) collected at the County Park boat landing to the MFA. The AIS Coordinator helps with AIS education and monitoring efforts. The Hwy Dept. leases the dam to Zero6 Energy and both participate in management discussions that pertain to drawdowns. Zero6 Energy has committed to reducing cost reimbursement for lost power generation during a drawdown by at least 10% (est. $3000). The Minong Town Lakes Committee works with the MFA to provide CBCW at the County Park and WDNR landings and provides meeting space at the Town Hall. Douglas Co. and the Town of Wascott work with the MFA to bring Douglas County Stakeholders into management discussions. The MFA and GLIFWC share current wild rice information including aerial observations and mapping results, annual growth, and harvest observations. The MFA works with St. Croix Tribal Resources to develop management plans that they can support, always with an eye toward protecting wild rice. Local businesses that depend on recreational opportunities provided by the MF financially support annual management actions. The owners, counselors, and campers at the Ernie Swift Nature Camp support management actions including physical removal of EWM, beetle rearing, and AIS monitoring. Annual meetings in October/November held at the WDNR Meeting Room in Spooner bring together many Stakeholders to discuss past, current, and future management results and strategies. They donate their time and resources to attend these meetings. Link Recreation provides space for the MFA Annual Meeting in June.

Without the input/involvement/support of the many Stakeholders impacted by EWM in the MF, the task of managing it would quickly overwhelm the financial, physical, and human resources brought to bare by the Minong Flowage Association every year.

J. Other

Studies and Special Projects

Herbicide Concentration Studies - 2009, 10, 11, 12, 16
EWM Weevil Monitoring - 2009, 10, 11, 12, 16
EWM Weevil Rearing - 2011, 12
Summer drawdown impacts on EWM - 2013
Rhodamine Dye Study of Water Movement - 2014
Wild Rice Mapping - 2008-2012, 2014, 16, 17
Bathymetric Survey - 2016
Shoreland Habitat Assessment - 2017
Purple Loosestrife Beetle Rearing - 2021,22,23,24

Additional Financial Support: Dane Arthur Real Estate and LakePlace.com- $250.00
Additional Written Support: Douglas County, Town of Wascott, Minong Town Lakes Committee, Link Recreational, Lake Country Lumber, Swift Nature Camp