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CLPA incorporated in 1936

CLOVERLEAF LAKES
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 288
Embarrass, WI 54933-0288

www.cloverleaflakes.com

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

May 2009

Cloverleaf Lakes
Protective
Association

Board of Directors

Bob Tomashek,
President

823-4059

kfwest@frontiernet.net

Carl Bruggink,
Vice President

823-2488

carlbruggink@frontiernet.net

Dennis Thornton

Secretary

823-9151

thornqb@frontiernet.net

Fran West-Tomashek

Treasurer

823-4059

kfwest@frontiernet.net

James Aumann

823-5632

Joe Mass

823-3758

jandmass@frontiernet.net

Dick Thurow

823-7924

Newsletter Editors

Dennis and Jan Thornton

823-9151

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Annual meeting: Different day

In an effort to attract a larger percentage of lake residents, the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association's annual meeting will be held on a Saturday morning this year.

The meeting will run from 10 a.m. until noon on May 23 at the Rustic Resort, followed by a free luncheon for all members. That is the start of this year's Memorial Day weekend.

"We are hoping that Saturday morning will be a more convenient time," said Bob Tomashek, president of the CLPA. "We've had the meeting on Sunday afternoons, but that hasn't worked out for quite a few members."

One highlight of the annual meeting will be a presentation on the 2008 fishery survey conducted by Al Niebur, Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist. A summary of his findings after springtime netting and counting is found on page 3 of this newsletter. Niebur plans to give a more detailed report at the May 23 meeting and will answer questions.

A video of 2008-09 Cloverleaf Lake events

is planned.

Another highlight will be a shoreland restoration report by committee chairwoman Kery Kafka. A DNR grant and CLPA funding will assist a half-dozen property owners with shoreland projects this summer. Mark June 27 on your calendars as a shoreland restoration demonstration day, with details to follow.

Russ Kafka will provide details on efforts to combat pesky aquatic invasive species.

Joy Krubsack will give an update on Gibson Island and the new boardwalk. See page 6 for more information.

Information on plans for regular water safety patrols will be offered (see story below).

An election will be held for two seats on the board of directors. Three-year terms are expiring for Bob Tomashek and Dennis Thornton.

And members will have an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Extra copies of the CLPA Directory will be available free of charge for members.

Officers plan water safety boat patrols

Concerns about water safety have prompted the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association to hire Shawano County deputies to conduct boat patrols during the summer months.

The CLPA board met with Capt. Tom Tuma earlier this spring and unanimously voted to hire off-duty officers to patrol the lakes. One or two officers will be on the lakes at various times during the week and weekends. They will have the authority to enforce state watercraft laws as well as Town of Belle Plaine ordinances.

"We have been contacted by many residents and have personally witnessed incidents of unsafe behavior by boaters and personal watercraft

operators," said Bob Tomashek, president of the CLPA. "We aren't interested in having the officers write a lot of tickets, but we want to curb reckless behavior before someone gets hurt or killed."

Tuma said officers would be chatting with residents about their concerns as well as watching for dangerous and illegal acts.

The CLPA will pay the officers \$50 an hour overtime pay, which includes the sheriff's boat and fuel, up to a maximum of \$5,000 in 2009.

A partial list of state regulations and town ordinances can be found in the boat landing kiosk and also on the CLPA web site..

Suddenly it's (almost) summertime

By Bob Tomashek

I know I am old and getting older. Days, weeks, months, seasons go by so fast.

It's been almost a year since our last annual meeting. We are getting into our summer activities and the biggest parts of these activities come and go naturally during the summer.

We start out on May 23 with the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association annual meeting. This will be an interesting meeting this year, dealing with our fishery. We should find out if our fishery is getting better or worse. The DNR again did an audit, counting, sizing and typing our fish, which will be reported on.

Then we go to the Fourth of July period. We are hiring a DJ this year to keep us swinging at our dance, which is being held on Friday, July 3. The dance, especially the early part of the dance, is aimed at keeping families entertained. Our lakes community is primarily made up of families, and families are what we try to focus on.



Tomashek

Of course the next day, Saturday the Fourth, we start out with our kiddie parade. This is enjoyed by a few hundred young folks and others of all ages. What's there to do after the kiddie parade? Have another parade, the pontoon boat parade. Folks are starting to wear out by now and sitting down by the pier watching boats go by is very relaxing. Now the last of the evening, which is sponsored by the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association, is to present the fireworks, one of the better fireworks displays in the Shawano/Clintonville area, which is enjoyed by all.

This year, we have Sunday to rest up and start thinking about our Golf Outing, which takes place July 29.

Along with all these activities, I am hoping that a couple of Lake Association members think of running for the Association Board. Of the seven members currently on the board, this experience has proved to be very interesting to them. So please come on out and become part of the group planning and managing the Lake ecology and social activities.

Tomashek is the president of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

Plenty of fun awaits Lakers

It's time to mark your calendars as the summer season begins on Cloverleaf Lakes. Here are some of the activities that are coming:

Annual meeting: Updates on lake management projects, election of Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board members and an update on the fishery will highlight the CLPA annual meeting **Saturday, May 23**, from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by a free lunch, at the Rustic Resort.

Shoreland action day: James Havel of NES Ecological Services will talk about shoreland restoration and we'll tour some projects on pontoons, on **Saturday, June 27**. Meet at the boat landing on Highway Y at 9 a.m. Open to all, free of charge.

Fourth of July: A highlight of every summer is the Fourth of July weekend celebration. The weekend will start with a family-friendly dance on **Friday, July 3**, at the Rustic Resort. Events on **Saturday, July 4**, start with the Kiddie Parade at 10 a.m. proceeding from the boat landing. The Pontoon Parade will circle Pine and Grass lakes starting at 6:30 p.m. The fireworks show produced by the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association will start at dusk.

Fishing Cloverleaf Lakes: Anglers who are familiar with the Lakes' fishery and fishing techniques will share their tips on fishing (and catching) on **Saturday, July 11**. Watch for details in the June newsletter or the CLPA web site, www.CloverleafLakes.com.

Golf Outing: A fun day for golfers is planned for **Wednesday, July 29**, at Clintonville's Riverside Golf Course. After a lunch, which is included in the price, golfing starts at noon. Foursomes will enjoy cocktails and dinner, before the evening concludes with raffle drawings for dozens of prizes.

Eco-tour: Experts on kayaking and canoeing will share how-to information and display equipment. Then a "silent sports" flotilla will paddle around the lakes.

Triathlon: The second annual Tri Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon is planned for **Saturday, Sept. 5**, with the start and finish at the Rustic Resort. A youth event has been added and relay teams are encouraged.

Gibson Island hikes: Tours led by naturalists around the 25-acre nature preserve Gibson Island are planned for **Sept. 12**. Details will be announced.

Cloverleaf Calendar

May 11: Cloverleaf Lake Protective Association board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 9 a.m.

May 11: Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 23: Annual meeting of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, Rustic Resort, 10 a.m.

June 8: Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

July 3: Family-friendly Independence Day Dance, Rustic Resort, 7 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

July 4: Kiddie Parade, Boat Landing, 10 a.m.

July 4: Pontoon Parade, starting on the south side of Gibson Island, 6:30 p.m.

July 4: Fireworks, on Pine Lake, presented by Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association, dusk.

July 13: Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

July 29: CLPA Golf Outing, Riverside Country Club in Clintonville, noon. start, dinner and awards ceremony later.

DNR nets answers on Cloverleaf fishing

By Chris Sampson

Cloverleaf Lakes anglers will get to see beneath the surface when Department of Natural Resources researchers share the long-awaited results of their comprehensive fisheries analysis of the chain.

DNR fisheries biologist Al Niebur will present his report and respond to questions on Saturday, May 23, at the CLPA's annual meeting scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. at the Rustic Resort.

An executive summary provided by Niebur in advance of the meeting reveals the lakes compare favorably with others in the area.

"The Cloverleaf Chain offers a diverse fishery that can produce both quantity and quality gamefish," Niebur writes. "The muskellunge and largemouth bass population could be considered one of the highest-quality fisheries in the area. Perhaps the only concern is the high abundance and poor growth of panfish populations."

DNR crews conducted fyke netting and boom-shocking during 2008 to capture, mark and then re-capture fish. From that they determined species present, relative abundance, size structure, age classes, growth, survival, and reproductive success. Among items of interest:

* **Largemouth bass** were found in moderate abundance, with a good range of sizes. Approximately 22% of captured bass were bigger than 14 inches, and 3% were trophy size (18 to 21 inches). Bass numbers have increased significantly when compared to past surveys and are above average when compared to other area lakes.

* **Northern pike** abundance was low when compared to past Cloverleaf surveys, to other lakes in the area, and to bass numbers. Size structure was below average with just 16% of the DNR's sampling greater than 21 inches in length and 3% over 28 inches.

* **Muskellunge** were moderately abundant and compared well to the state's Class A musky waters. A total of 97 muskellunge were captured during the DNR surveys with fish up to 47 inches. A population estimate of about 125 (0.4 fish/acre) was calculated from mark/recapture surveys. Size structure was above average with over 57% of the sampling greater than 38 inches in length and 26% over 42 inches.

* **Walleye** were sampled in very low numbers. Only 15 walleyes were captured and all were old and quite large (from 19 to nearly 29 inches), originating from stockings in 2000 or earlier.

* **Bluegill** were the dominant panfish, with high abundance but a continuation of slow-growth trends, with few fish at the preferred size. The number of "harvestable" size fish (6 inches or bigger) was decent, at 53%, but only about 10% of those sampled were over 7 inches in length.

* **Black crappie**, too, were found in above-average abundance, but with a smallish average size of 7 inches. A positive, Niebur writes, is that with those fish coming from strong year classes in 2004 and 2005, crappie fishing could pick up over the next few years.



Fox Valley Technical College students who helped the DNR trap and count fish on Cloverleaf Lakes hold up a muskie.

Niebur will share management recommendations at the May 23 meeting. He intends to recommend that DNR stocking of walleyes be discontinued, with a number of factors working against walleye success. He acknowledges that panfish size is a concern for Cloverleaf Lakes users; a 2007 CLPA angler-satisfaction survey showed that a high number of anglers are panfish- or mixed-bag anglers, and many commented on the desire for bigger panfish. He said stocking is likely not the answer, but preserving or restoring natural habitat (such as large, coarse woody debris) could show results.

For a look at the full executive summary, go online at www.cloverleaflakes.com.

Rebecca Furdek hired as summer boat monitor

Rebecca Furdek will be the boat monitor at the town's boat landing for the summer. The daughter of Tom and Bev Furdek of Clintonville, Rebecca was valedictorian of Clintonville High School in 2008 and is finishing her first year at UW-Madison. She is pursuing a degree in piano performance, and also taking pre-med courses. "Having gone fishing every summer since I can remember, I'm definitely looking forward to this job at Cloverleaf Lakes and learning more about the problems facing Wisconsin lakes and doing my part to prevent the spread of them," Furdek said. She will check boats and inform boaters about aquatic invasive species.



CLOVERLEAF LAKES AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES 2009 TREATMENT PROGRAM FAQ's

What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)? AIS are often exotic species (non-native to Wisconsin or the U.S.). Because they lack their natural predators, they out-compete more beneficial native species and negatively alter the habitat.

Which AIS are of most concern? Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), Purple Loosestrife (PL), Zebra Mussels, and Curly-Leaf Pondweed are common in the Cloverleaf Lakes area or already in the lakes. They all have the ability to adversely affect the entire aquatic ecosystem of the lakes.

How will AIS be managed? At this point only EWM and CLP are present in the lakes. EWM will be managed again with the aquatic herbicide Navigate; CLP will be managed with a selective application of the product Aquathol K; CLP and sparse EWM patches will also be managed with selective SCUBA cutting. We also are always on the lookout for new AIS on the lakes.

Why these methods? What other methods were considered? For EWM in this case a selective herbicide approach is best. By treating only EWM, other beneficial plants can be left to flourish. A good bed of native plants is often a lake's best defense against EWM. Some other control methods can cause the plants to fragment, which further spreads EWM throughout the lakes and were thus eliminated as an option. Some options are simply not as effective or affordable for the particular situation on the Chain. Other EWM treatment options considered are: manual removal, harvesting, SCUBA cutting/harvest, bottom screens, drawdown, and other methods.

When will management take place? EWM and CLP treatment will take place likely in May or June 2008 but is weather dependent. Treatment will be performed early in the week to minimize any potential lake use conflicts. Treatment areas will be posted at boat landings. Each pier in or adjacent to the treatment areas will also be posted (with a bright yellow placard), notifying of the treatment.

What are the water use restrictions? For EWM and CLP treatment, there are no restrictions on swimming or eating fish, though there is a 21 day (or less) irrigation restriction for food crops or potable water. It is recommended, however, that we avoid disturbing treatment areas for 24 hours to get the best treatment effect.

Some piers have signs and some do not. What does that mean? If your pier has a sign, it means you are either in or adjacent to the treatment area. Treatment usually takes place in 4 to 12 feet of water. Please refrain from swimming or boating in these depths for 24 hours to allow the product to work.

How can I help? If you have Eurasian Water Milfoil or Curly-Leaf Pondweed (or suspect another Aquatic Invasive Species), please notify Bob Tomashek or another member of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board. Give them your name, address, species, and location. Only with your help can we be sure to get all of the areas with AIS.

CLOVERLEAF LAKES PERMIT CONDITIONS FOR AQUATIC HERBICIDE TREATMENT SUMMARY

Applicant Information:

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association
Robert Tomashek
W8283 Cloverleaf Lake Road
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-4059

Site Information:

Grass, Pine, and Round Lakes, Shawano County, WI
T26N, 15E, Sections 33, 34
323 acres, approximately 6 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil and 5 acres Curly Leaf Pondweed to be treated

Applicator:

Lake and Pond Solutions LLC
N1025 Julius Drive
Greenville, WI 54942
920-757-9447 phone / 920-757-6533 fax / 920-858-3347 cell
Certification #:47905 / Business Location #:93-011101-008580

Reasons for Aquatic Plant Control:

Maintain navigational channel for common use
Maintain navigational channel for boating
Maintain navigational channel for fishing
Elimination of Eurasian Water Milfoil

Nuisance Caused By:

Submergent Aquatics, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed

Trade Name of Proposed Chemicals:

Navigate for EWM; Aquathol K or Aquathol Super K for CLP

Which chemicals/other control options have been tried on the site and what were the results?

Navigate treatments in 2003 - 2005 have eliminated EWM from most treatment sites

Permit Conditions:

- 1. All provisions of NR 107 must be followed.**
- 2. All boat landings must be posted prior to treatment with a map showing treatment areas.**
- 3. Treatment is restricted to Eurasian Water Milfoil.**
- 4. The DNR must be notified 4 working days in advance of treatment.**

Submit treatment record (Form 3200-111) immediately if any unusual circumstances occur, or as soon as possible after treatment (no later than 30 days), or by October 1 if no treatment.

Note: Chemical fact sheets are available from the DNR upon request. For a full copy of the DNR permit, contact Lake and Pond Solutions LLC (see above). Also, a public notice of the treatment will be published in the Shawano Leader in April, 2009 according to permit regulations.

Boardwalk ready, but eagles nesting

A 270-foot wooden boardwalk bridging wetlands between the Gibson Island landward lot and the isthmus has been completed.

Mike Nelson and his crew were hired by the Town of Belle Plaine to erect the sturdy structure as well as a parking area next to Cloverleaf Lake Road.

The town's boardwalk will be closed until after the nesting season for the pair of bald eagles who live nearby on private property. The federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibits disturbance of eagles, which are a protected species.

Joy Krubsack, who chairs the town's Stewardship Committee, said the committee will follow "best practices" recommended by state and federal wildlife experts on the time period during which eagles are sensitive to passers-by, about June 1 according to the DNR.

A pier has been erected in the channel on the south side of the island and it provides access to walking tours around the island.

Several volunteers will be working this summer to identify and map the types of vegetation on the island.



The boardwalk to the Gibson Island isthmus has been completed by Mike Nelson and his crew.

More invasive species coming our way

Don't be surprised if more aquatic invasive species make their homes in Wisconsin's inland lakes.

That was the message from several experts at the Wisconsin Association of Lakes convention in Green Bay earlier this spring. Many of the invaders come from around the world aboard ships that enter the Great Lakes.

Phil Moy of the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute said 185 exotic species have been discovered in the Great Lakes and more are arriving every year. He said zebra mussels that arrived in ships' ballast tanks have spread from Lake Michigan to 95 Wisconsin lakes in 25 counties.

One of the latest invaders to spread from the Great Lakes inland has been the VHS virus that kills fish. It has been found in the Lake Winnebago system as well as Lake Michigan. New state rules prohibit moving live fish or bait between lakes.

Anthony Ricciardi of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, said not all invasives thrive in our waters, but few ever disappear once es-

tablished. He said it's a "roll of the dice" on what invasives will do here. Some invasives' impacts are huge, such as the sea lamprey that ruined the Great Lakes trout fishery.

David Lodge of the University of Notre Dame said transportation networks carry invasive species around the world. Recreational boaters number 71 million in the U.S., he said, and those boats can carry invasives quickly between lakes. He predicted the next invaders of inland lakes would be the spiny water flea and the round goby, which are in the Great Lakes.

Containment of invasives through educational efforts can be effective, he said. "You have to manage people to manage the spread of aquatic invasives."

Kristine Maki of the Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department reported on a survey she did of water garden plants. She ordered plants from 30 Internet sources and 90 percent of the orders came with invasive species such as hydrilla, purple loosestrife and Eurasian Water Milfoil included.

CLPA Notebook

Membership: As of April, 115 members had paid their 2009 dues to the CLPA. If you haven't yet joined this year, please send in your \$25 dues. Your receipt will be a new sticker on your address plate.

Money in bank: Treasurer Fran West-Tomashek reports the CLPA has a net worth of \$80,285 as of April.

Muskrats: Dick Thurow of the CLPA board has been trapping muskrats this spring. If you have nuisance muskrats, call him at 823-7924.

Boater safety class offered in Shawano during May

Boater safety classes will be available in Shawano in May. A state certificate is required for anyone who operates a boat and who was born after Jan. 1, 1989.

The Shawano County Sheriff's Department and DNR will offer boating safety classes at Shawano Community High School. Classes will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. May 4, 6, 11, 13 and 18. Classes are for ages 12 and older and cost is \$10. To pre-register, call Kathy at the Shawano County Sheriff's Department at 526-7925. between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Plans are indefinite for Clintonville boater safety classes, according to Steve Sullivan, who has conducted classes in past years. He said boater safety classes would be held in Waupaca and New London. Watch for more information on Clintonville classes on the CLPA web site.

2009 Annual Membership: Please Join Now!

If you haven't already joined, make a check for \$25 payable to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association and send it with this form to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI 54933-0288. It's the right thing to do.

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Home Address (if different): _____

Home Telephone: (if different) _____

Enclosed is my \$25 check for CLPA dues \$ _____

I would like to purchase _____ additional newsletter subscriptions @\$10 (attach separate sheet with names and addresses of new recipients) = \$ _____

I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I would like to volunteer in these areas:

_____ Action Team member

_____ Become a member of the Shoreland Restoration Committee..

_____ Help check boats for invasive species and educate boaters at busy boat launch times.

Be sure to include your e-mail address so you can be added to the CLPA's e-mail list (managed by Ed Stuebe) to receive late-breaking and emergency information.

Town news: Town officials are re-elected

* It was no contest in Town of Belle Plaine spring elections. Running unopposed and re-elected were Chairman Alvin Bartz, Supervisors Harold Polzin and Bob Tomashek, Clerk Kristine Vomastic, Treasurer Kay Kristof and Constable Dennis Hoffmann. Also running unopposed for the Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary District was Wayne Van Der Linden.

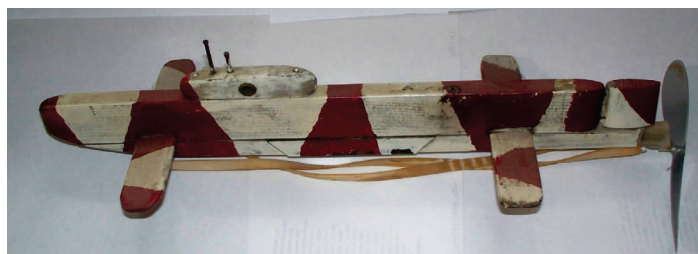
* Summer hours are now in effect at the town's Recycling and Collection Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road.

The center will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays from 8 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays from 1 to 6 p.m. Dropping off an old TV, computer or microwave will cost residents between \$5 and \$15 for each item.

- * Computer monitor, \$10 each
- * Computer processor, \$10 each
- * TVs (19-inch or less), \$10 each
- * TVs (20-inch or bigger), \$15 each
- * Microwave ovens, \$10 each
- * Miscellaneous items, \$5 each, including VCRs, DVD players, CD players, laser printers, inkjet printers, small copiers,

fax machines and AM/FM radios

* The Belle Plaine card club continues to meet Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon at the Community Center on Highway 22. Card fans, from four to seven or more, play a lively game of sheephead. They will be knocking off in a few weeks for the summer, but plan to play next fall. For more information, contact Ed Stuebe at 823-2682.



What is it? Eric Kroenik found this homemade submarine on the bottom of Pine Lake while diving last summer. It is made of wood, hand-painted and is propelled by a small propeller and a rubber band. Anyone have any clues about who made and launched this sub? Contact Molly Joosten or the newsletter editor.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Legislature OKs no-phosphorus, no-wake bills

Two bills that lake advocates have promoted have passed the Wisconsin Legislature and another is pending.

Approved were a bill prohibiting the sale of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus and a bill establishing a slow, no-wake zone for motorboats within 100 feet of the shore.

Still in committee is a bill that would improve regulation of invasive aquatic species.

* The Clean Lakes Bill prohibits the display, sale and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus, with some exceptions. Gov. Jim Doyle has signed it into law.

“Many Wisconsin Association of Lakes members have been working for years to develop phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer on a lake-to-lake basis,” according to a statement from the WAL, “and working with their town, village or city governments to pass local phosphorus ordinances. But local efforts—while widespread across the state—have not been enough.”

The state lake association said phosphorus entering a lake encourages excessive plant growth. The bill passed both the Senate and Assembly unanimously.

* The Assembly and Senate have both passed a bill regulating the speed of motorboats within 100 feet of the shore.

An exception is made for water skiers’ pick up and drop off zones.

“This bill is a positive step forward to preserve water quality, prevent shoreline deterioration and improve public safety for citizens who are fishing, swimming and paddling on our shorelines,” the WAL said.

“Boating too close to shorelines can contribute to shoreline erosion problems, reduce water clarity by stirring up lake bed sediments, release phosphorus from lake bed sediments and harm fish habitat when propellers uproot shoreland plants,” the WAL statement said.

* Pending in the Legislature is a bill that would prohibit the launch of watercraft with aquatic plants or animals attached. It clarifies the current law by removing the phrase “reason to believe” aquatic plants are attached, which has made enforcement difficult.

The bill also offers technical changes. “This bill would prohibit the transport of aquatic plants or animals on a vehicle of any kind on a public highway. Seaplanes are also prohibited from taking off when plants or animals are attached,” the WAL said. The bill would also give the DNR authority to respond to invasive species that are new to Wisconsin.