

An abstract graphic featuring a dark blue background with a large, dark blue wave shape on the left and a lighter blue wave shape on the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Grindstone Lake Association

2026 Annual Meeting
July 11, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome – Donna Carlson
- Grindstone Lake Foundation – Update/Governance – Cindy Parker, Mike Warden
- GLA Financial Report – Mike Warden
- Grindstone Lake Association – Governance – Donna Carlson
- Building a Grindstone Lake Community – Fran Klausen
- Shoreline Restoration –
 - Natalie Kanter (Erler)
Conservation Specialist & AIS Coordinator, Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation
- Water Level Update – Greg Klausen
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters – Greg Klausen
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Cheryl Contant
- Wrap-up – Donna Carlson

CLMP

Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (CLMP)

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Greg Klausen
 - Clean Boats Clean Water – Greg Klausen
 - Little Grindstone Lake – Cheryl Contant
- Fisheries and Habitat (F&H) – Karen Mumford
- Water Quality (WQ) – Karen Mumford
- Shoreline and Shoreland Protection and Restoration (SSPR) - TBD
- Building a Grindstone Lake Community (BGLC)
 - Membership – Cheryl Contant
 - Communication – Fran Klausen
 - Social & Education – Ellie Morse
 - Neighborhoods – Ellie Morse



Grindstone Lake Foundation

Cindy Parker

GRINDSTONE
LAKE
FOUNDATION

The logo is centered over a background image of a lake at sunset. The word 'GRINDSTONE' is in a bold, green, sans-serif font, with a black silhouette of a pine tree replacing the letter 'I'. Below it, the word 'LAKE' is in a bold, teal, sans-serif font, followed by three horizontal wavy lines representing water. The word 'FOUNDATION' is in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The background shows a calm lake reflecting the sky, with a forested shoreline on the left and a distant horizon under a cloudy sky.



GRINDSTONE LAKE FOUNDATION

2026 Annual Meeting





Thank you for your continued financial support

Donna Carlson & Mike Warden
Cheryl Contant & Karen Mumford
Randy & Jane Lieble
Jon Morse
Reed & Cynthia Parker



Statement of Activities
For the Period Ended 7/11/2026

		2026	2025
		Year-to-Date	Actual
Income:			
	Donations	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,300
	Interest Income	\$ -	\$ 1
	Golf Shirt Sales	\$ -	\$ 90
	Total Income	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,391
Expense:			
	Insurance	\$ -	\$ 1,275
	Real Estate Taxes	\$ 427	\$ 388
	Site clean-up	\$ 8,200	\$ -
	Total Expense	\$ 8,627	\$ 1,663
Net Income/(Loss)		\$ (3,627)	\$ 7,728

<i>Balance Sheet</i>			
July 11, 2026			
		As of:	
		7/9/2026	12/31/2024
Assets:			
	Checking Account	\$ 8,537	\$ 12,164
	Investments (Savings)	\$ 107	\$ 107
	Land	\$ 750,380	\$ 750,380
	Total Assets	\$ 759,024	\$ 762,651
Liabilities and Fund Balance:			
	Equity Transfer From Grindstone Lake Association	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
	Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 756,024	\$ 759,651
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 759,024	\$ 762,651





GRINDSTONE LAKE NATURE RESERVE



Clean up and Building Removal



Clean up and Building Removal



In the fall of 2024, the Bass Lake Township Fire Department along with the Fire Departments of Stone Lake, Hayward and Couderay held training exercises in December. During the training exercise, Firefighters burned down the two houses and an old wooden garage.



Clean up and Building Removal





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE





Property Management Plan

The primary goals of the Grindstone Lake Foundation Property Management Plan are to provide:

- (1) water quality protection through restoration and protection of wetland, shoreland, and upland portions of the property, specifically the use of native/natural landscape management, including no manicured landscaping and no additions of impervious surfaces or structures;
- (2) passive low-impact public recreational experiences; and
- (3) educational experiences and demonstration sites that provide information about the importance of wetland, shoreline and nearshore habitats and land restoration.





Wetland Restoration



We received a \$30,000 grant from the WI DNR Wetland GP Surcharge Restoration Program to assist with preliminary restoration work





Trails

- **Trail maintenance**
 - Thank you to Jon Morse for trailering his mower to the Reserve and mowing the trails for us





OPPORTUNITIES

- Be a part of the vision
 - **Become a Board Member**
- Volunteer for one of our committees
 - Trail maintenance
 - Community Outreach
 - Social Media
- **Donate!!**

FOR OUR GEM OF A LAKE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cynthia (Cindy) Parker – President

John (Jack) Minton – Vice President

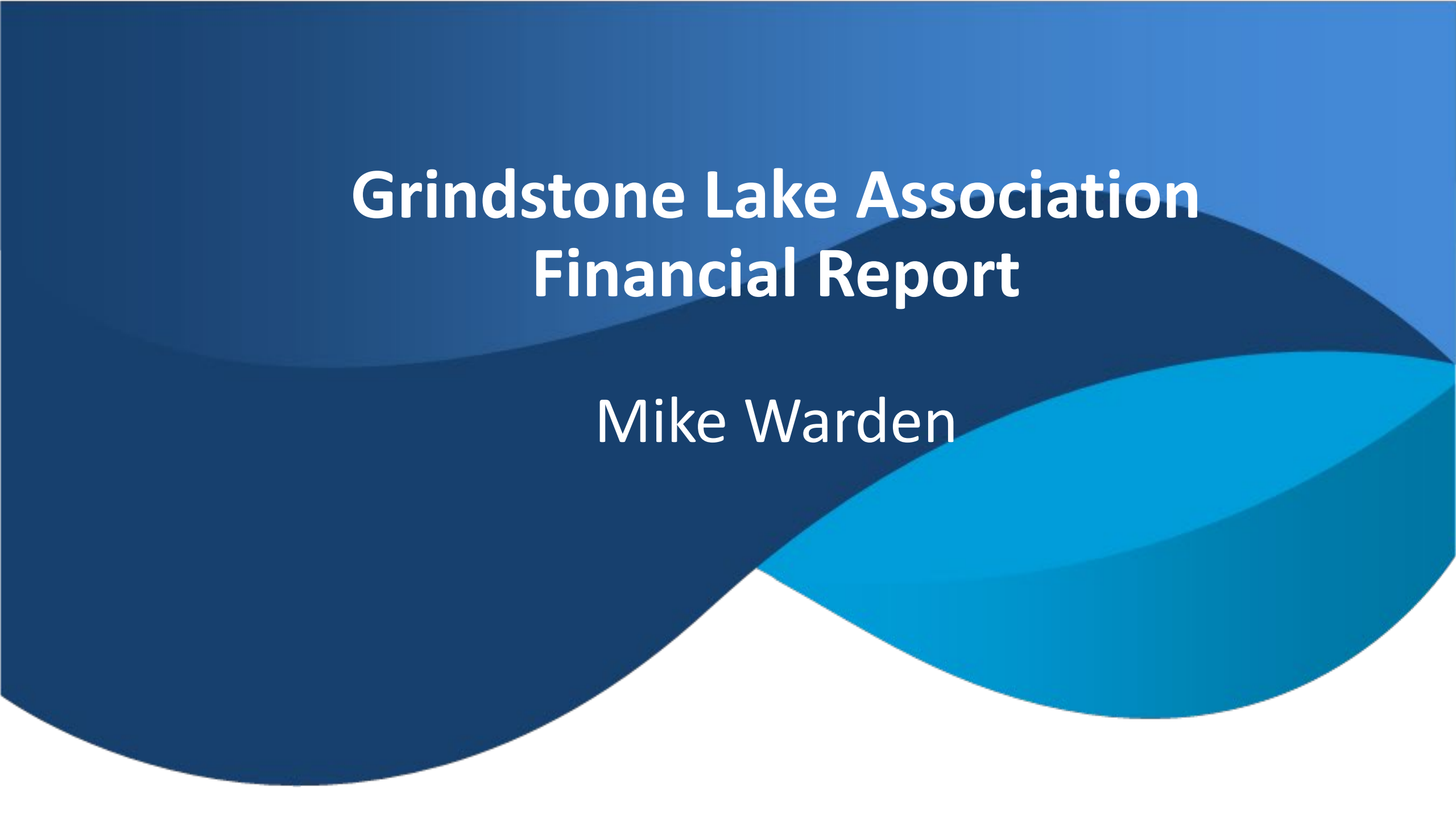
Michael (Mike) Warden - Treasurer

I. Reed Parker - Secretary

Donna Carlson

Cheryl Contant

Karen Mumford



Grindstone Lake Association Financial Report

Mike Warden

Financial Report



Financial Report

<i>Statement of Activities</i>				
For the Period Ended 7/11/2026				
		Year Ended	Year-to-Date	Annual
		12/31/2025	Actual	Budget
Revenue				
	Memberships	\$ 8,480	\$ 6,600	\$ 8,000
	Donations	\$ 7,772	\$ 5,145	\$ 7,000
	AIS Donations	\$ 12,925	\$ 500	\$ 10,000
	Merchandise Sales	\$ 2,565	\$ 127	\$ 200
	<i>Sub-Total: General Revenue</i>	\$ 31,742	\$ 12,372	\$ 25,200
	CBCW Grant	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	Little Grindstone AIS Control Grants (2023-2025 & 2026-2028)	\$ -	\$ 25,666	\$ 25,666
	Education (Communication)	\$ -	\$ 3,188	\$ 3,188
	Oxythermal Survey Grant	\$ -	\$ 562	\$ 562
	<i>Sub-Total: Grant Revenue</i>	\$ 4,000	\$ 33,415	\$ 33,416
	Total Revenue	\$ 35,742	\$ 45,787	\$ 58,616
Expense:				
	Association Dues/Contributions	\$ 635	\$ 385	\$ 385
	Newsletter/Membership	\$ 1,282	\$ 450	\$ 2,000
	General Administrative	\$ 352	\$ 192	\$ 400
	Conferences and Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Volunteers/Neighborhoods	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400
	Insurance	\$ 1,223	\$ -	\$ 1,350
	Annual Meeting	\$ 770	\$ 297	\$ 800
	Socials	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
	Merchandise	\$ 1,336	\$ -	\$ -
	IT and Website	\$ 195	\$ 165	\$ 1,200
	Other	\$ 1,667	\$ -	\$ -
	<i>Sub-Total: General Expense</i>	\$ 7,960	\$ 1,489	\$ 7,035
	CBCW - Boat Launch Monitoring	\$ 6,510	\$ 1,300	\$ 6,500
	I-LIDS	\$ -	\$ 5,335	\$ 5,355
	Shoreline Restoration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,500
	Little Grindstone AIS Control	\$ 15,791	\$ 825	\$ 19,530
	Education (Communication)	\$ -	\$ 111	\$ 2,337
	Oxythermal Survey	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 750
	<i>Sub-Total: Grant Expense</i>	\$ 22,301	\$ 8,320	\$ 40,972
	Total Expense	\$ 30,261	\$ 9,810	\$ 48,007
	Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 5,481	\$ 35,977	\$ 10,609



Financial Report

<i>Balance Sheet</i>		
July 11, 2026		
Assets:		
	Checking Account	\$ 58,079
	Investment in Grindstone Lake Foundation	\$ 3,000
	Total Assets	\$ 61,079
Liabilities and Fund Balance:		
	Temporarily Restricted Fund - AIS Control	\$ 17,662
	Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 43,417
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 61,079

Grindstone Lake Association

Governance

Donna Carlson

Board of Directors

Review and Approval for 2026-2027

Officers

Donna Carlson – President

Michael (Mike) Warden – Treasurer

Cynthia (Cindy) Parker – Secretary

Board Members

Cheryl Contant – Membership, Grants

Greg Klausen – Clean Boats, Clean Water; AIS

Karen Mumford – Fisheries & Habitat, Water Quality

Fran Klausen – Communications

Ellie Morse – Neighborhood Leaders & Social Activities

TBD - Shoreline Restoration

TBD - Web & Social Media Management

Building a Grindstone Lake Community

Fran Klausen

Shoreline Restoration

Natalie Kanthers (Erler)

Conservation Specialist & AIS Coordinator
Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation

Do Your Part: The Importance of Shoreline Buffers and Native Plants

Natalie Kanters (Erler)

Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation

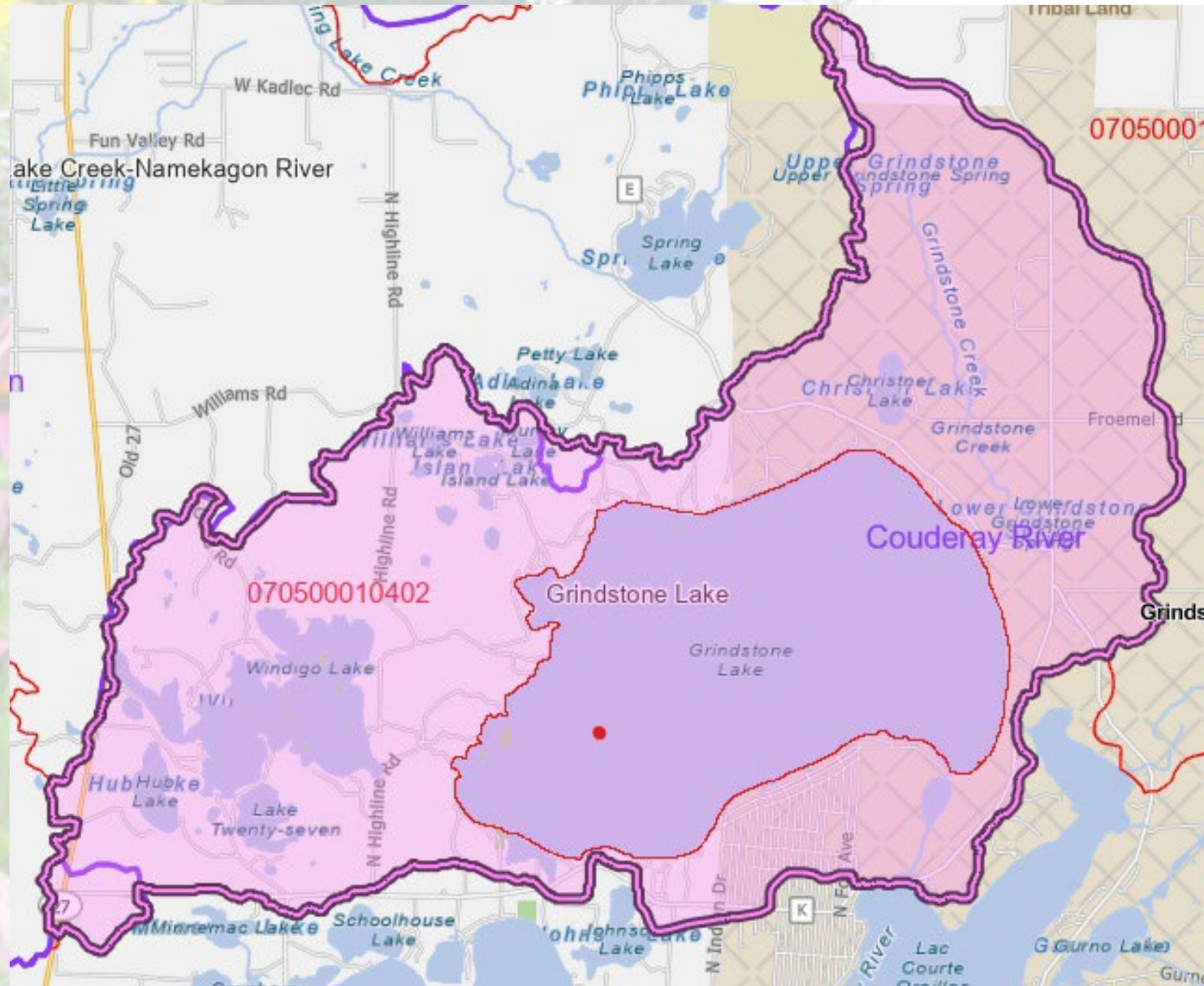


Issues Facing Wisconsin Lakes & Streams

- **Surface Water Pollution**
- **Groundwater Pollution**
- **Erosion**
- **Decrease in wildlife habitat (and wildlife)**
- **Goose abundance & their poop**
- **Decrease in fishery quality and quantity**
- **Higher bacterial levels → Beach Closures**
- **Algae Blooms**

Most of our lake problems reflect problems on the surrounding landscape!

Grindstone Lake Subwatershed



After 1
year of
growth!



Swamp
Milkweed



Native Aster



Blue Joint Grass

Root structures important

Fibrous roots that hold soil and absorb energy

After 1
year of
growth!



Fox Sedge



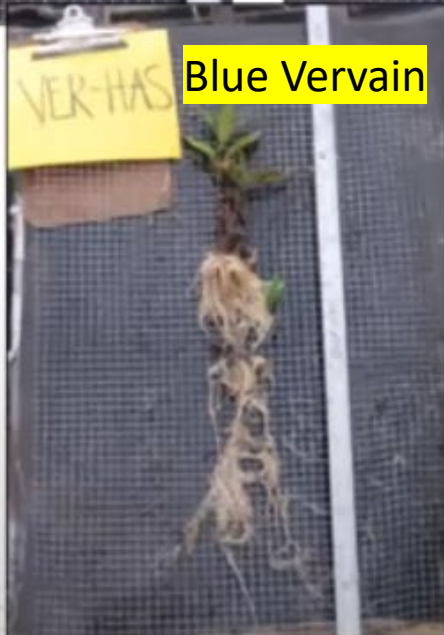
Prickly
Sedge



Porcupine Sedge

Root structures
important

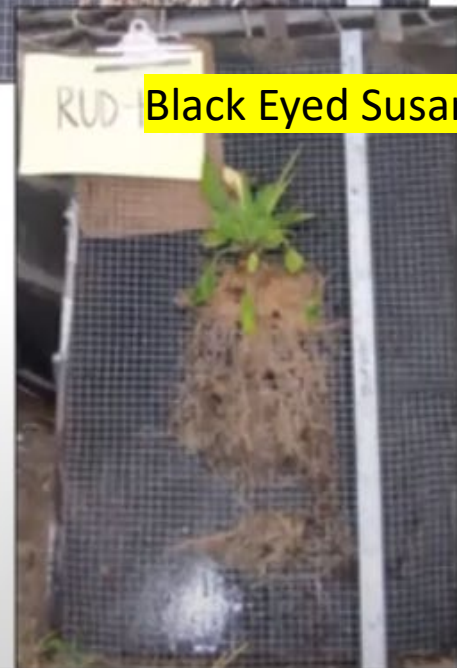
Fibrous roots that hold
soil and absorb energy



Blue Vervain



Ox-Eye Daisy



Black Eyed Susan

**Rain Garden at
the Boat Landing!**





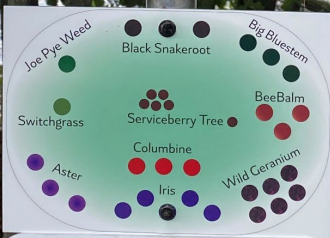
**GRINDSTONE
LAKE**
★
**ASSOCIATION
RAIN GARDEN**

Rain Gardens are created to
keep our area lakes clean

Please be respectful
of this designated area.



Created in cooperation with
Wisconsin DNR and Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation







Kelly Nechuta



Shoreline Living Vol. 2





Patrick Goggin

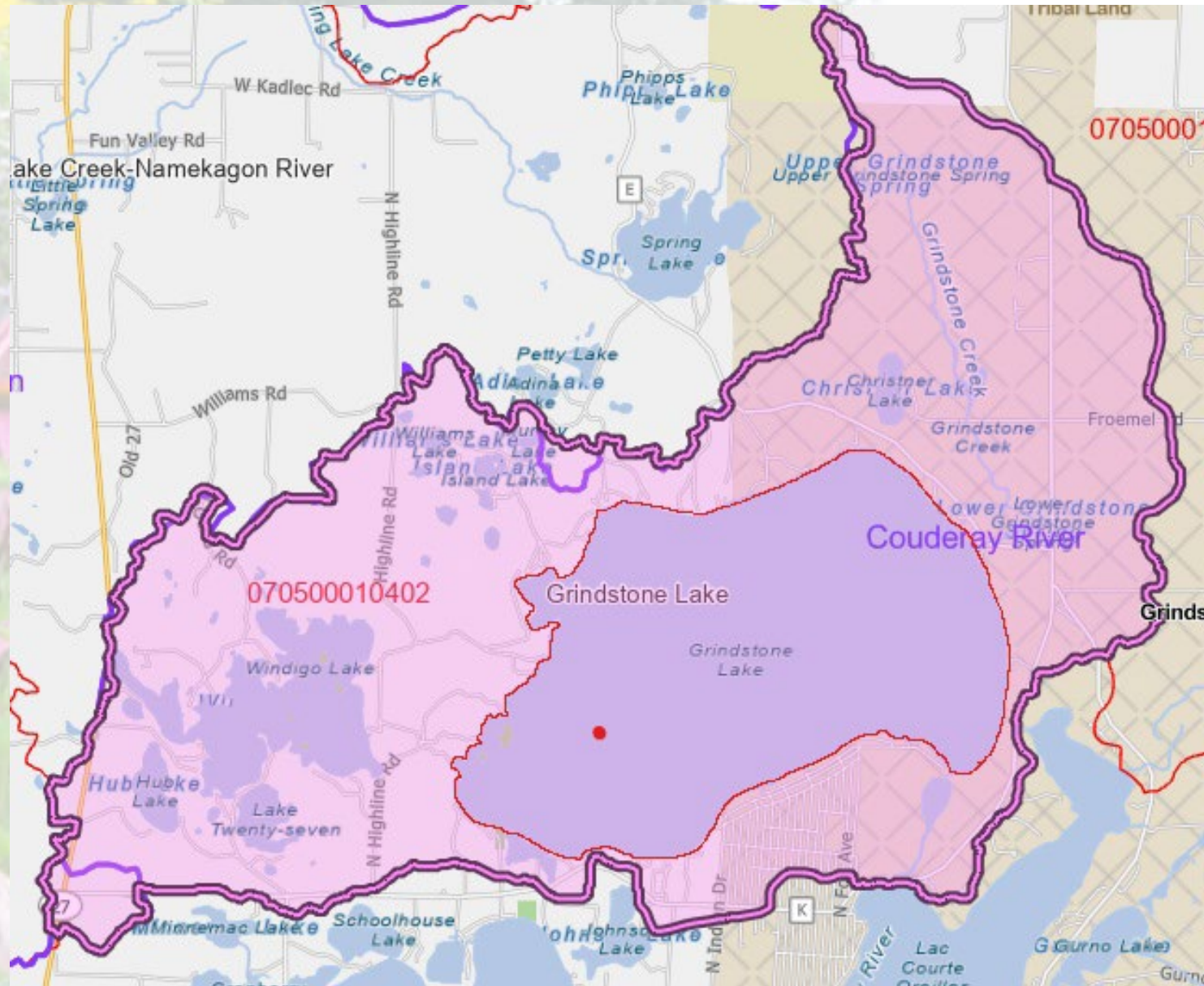


Shoreline Living Vol. 1

Key Takeaways

- **Native plants along the shoreline help:**
 - **improve water quality/clarity → catches water runoff
→ higher property values**
 - **keep geese away**
 - **reduce erosion → remember those root photos!**
 - **attract more wildlife → provides food, habitat**

Grindstone Lake Subwatershed



Questions?

Natalie Kanters

**Conservation Specialist & Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
Coordinator**

Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation

natalie.kanters@sawyercountygov.org

715-634-6463

Office located at the Courthouse

LAKE LEVEL UPDATE

Greg Klausen

Lake Level History

- ❑ Whitefish Petition sent to DNR 9/22
- ❑ Bass Lake Township meeting in 5/25
- ❑ Bass Lake Township board sent rescind letter to DNR on 6/5/2025
- ❑ DNR Public Meeting 12/15/25
- ❑ DNR Approved Petition 1/14/26
- ❑ Watershed flow map shows impact between lakes and creeks

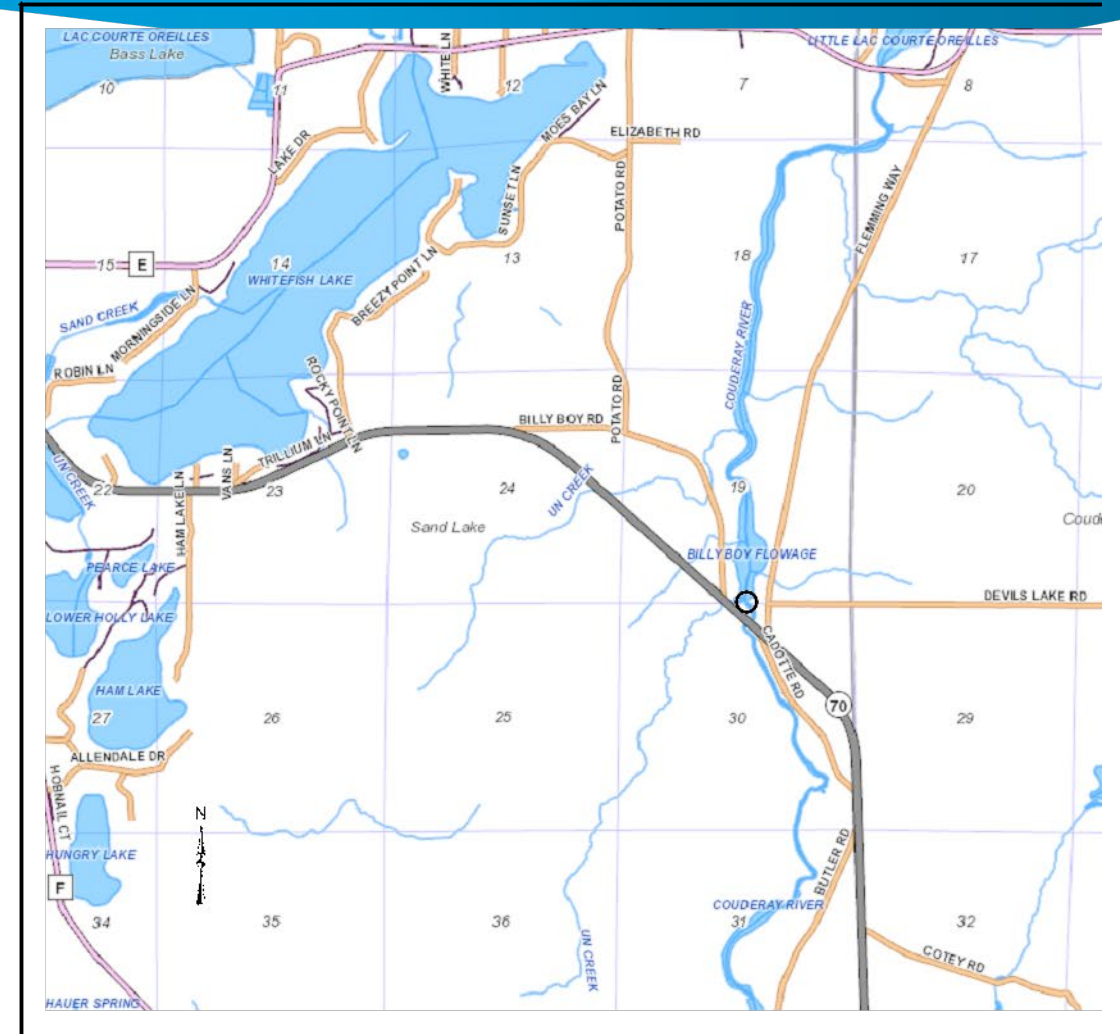




Lake Level Update

Billy Boy Dam Amended Order Status

Billy Boy Dam



HISTORY

- In the Spring of 2021, lake levels on Whitefish and other lakes downstream on the chain went down.
- After some investigation we found out that the DNR directed Sawyer County to change how they were managing the Billy Boy Dam. This change was implemented in May 2021.
- County had managed the dam with a gauge at the dam to 1.05 / 1.63 ft. There is log data that goes back several years.
- The County was directed to manage the Dam in accordance with a 1955 Order to a new gauge installed on the West Side of the Throughfare Bridge.
 - .99 / 1.49 ft on the new gauge
- The DNR / County installed the new gauge in April of 2021.

WLPOA PETITION

- WLPOA Submitted petition on 9/14/2022
 - minimum 1.38 feet, maximum 1.99 feet at the upstream side of the Thoroughfare Bridge.
- Sawyer County requested additional amendments result in a proposed order of .99 to 1.99 at the West Side of the Thoroughfare Road Bridge.
- DNR issues a Notice of Pending Application (NOPA) on November 6, 2025
- WLPOA hosted Public Information Meeting on December 15, 2025
- DNR approved amended order on January 14, 2026
- Sawyer County submitted Inspection, Operation, and Maintenance Plan (IOMP) to DNR.
 - This is the document that Sawyer County uses to manage the Dam.
 - Still waiting for approval but Sawyer County is working to the version submitted.

IOMP (Inspection, Operation and Maintenance Plan)

- **Water Levels**

- The water level at the gauge at Thoroughfare Bridge:
 - Maximum 1.99
 - Minimum 0.99
- It is Sawyer County's intention to manage to the high side of the range.
- The plan states that if the water level is above 1.99 then all gates shall be opened. *But if this operation order result in erosion in the channel below the dam or between the connected lakes upstream of the dam, gates shall be opened in a more gradual fashion as to reduce this effect.*
- There is a minimum flow requirement per Wisconsin Statutes



Sawyer County is now managing the water levels similar to pre-May 2021. We need to continue to track water levels and maintain communications with the County.

IOMP

- **DRAWDOWNS**

- To prepare the Billy Boy Dam for winter ice conditions and spring thaws typically from October 1st to April 1st the water level is drawn down to 1.3 (on gauge at Thoroughfare Bridge)

Billy Boy Dam Operations

Closed



Open

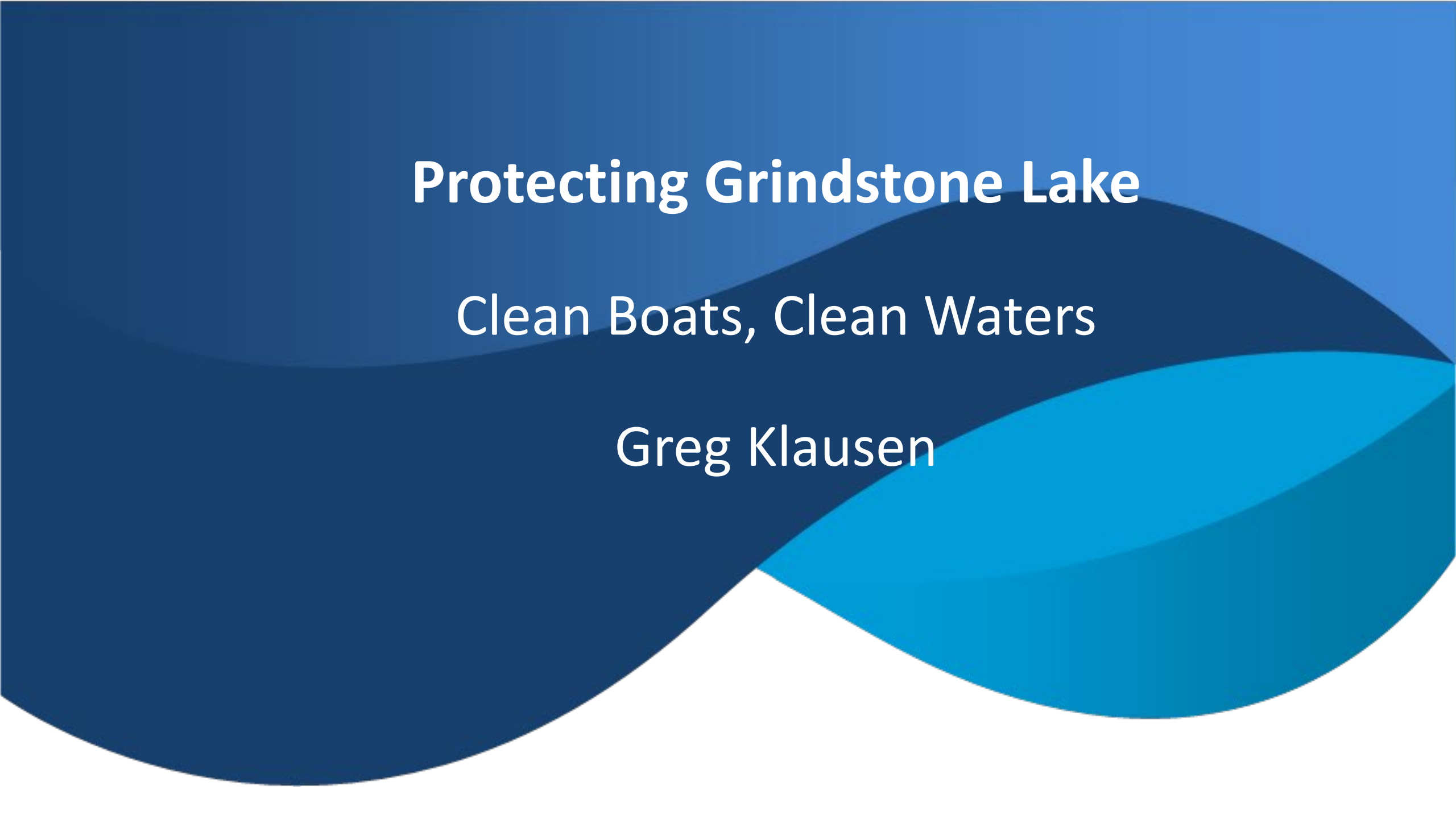


Spring Water Levels at Thoroughfare Bridge

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LEVEL (FT)</u>	0.1 = 1.2"
4/20	1.85	
4/26	1.90	
5/3	1.95	
5/9	1 GATE OPEN FOR 2 DAYS	
5/11	1.75	
5/25	1.76	
6/8	1.65	
6/22	1.67	
7/1	1.65	
7/8	1.73	

**The water level at the gauge at
Thoroughfare Bridge:**

Maximum	1.99
Minimum	0.99

The background features a large, stylized wave graphic in shades of blue. The wave starts as a dark blue shape on the left, curves upwards and to the right, and then splits into two lighter blue shapes that curve downwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Protecting Grindstone Lake

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Greg Klausen

Clean Boats, Clean Water 2025 Review



- Grindstone has been participating in the CBCW program since 2004
- CBCW monitoring is subsidized by a grant from the WI DNR
- Inspectors are trained to inspect boats and educate boaters on invasive species at public landings statewide
- Grant must be matched by a minimum # of volunteer hours

Please register to help at: <https://grindstonelake.org/contact-us/>

	Grindstone Lake	Sawyer County	Statewide
Boats Inspected	1,070 (-34)	11,099 (-1,463)	131,021 (-16,050)
People Contacted	1911 (-488)	22,867 (-4,554)	252,455 (-25,199)
Hours Spent	328 (+3)	6,567 (-69)	80,204 (-2,438)

Clean Boats, Clean Water



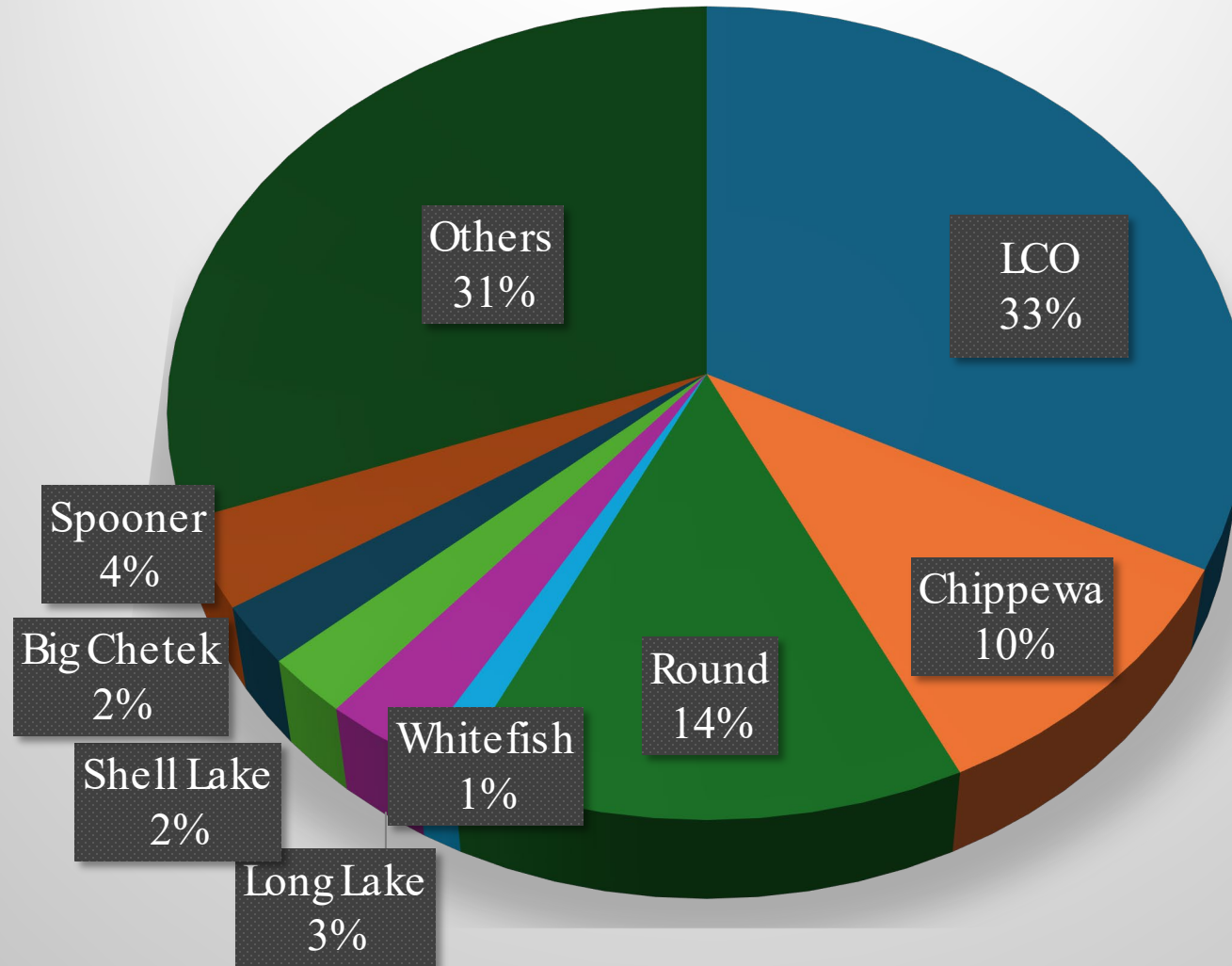
- Meet Melanie Schreiber, Grindstone's 2026 CBCW Monitor
- Resides in Turtle Lake, WI and grew up in the Spooner area
- Has many years experience as a CBCW monitor – and it's a family affair!
- Possesses a passion for our great lakes and a drive to keep them clean
- Stationed at Grindstone's main public landing off Hwy K
- Monitoring hours are 11:00am – 4:00 pm (Fri-Sun + Holidays)



2025 Review – What lake were boat visitors last in?



%out of 254 boats



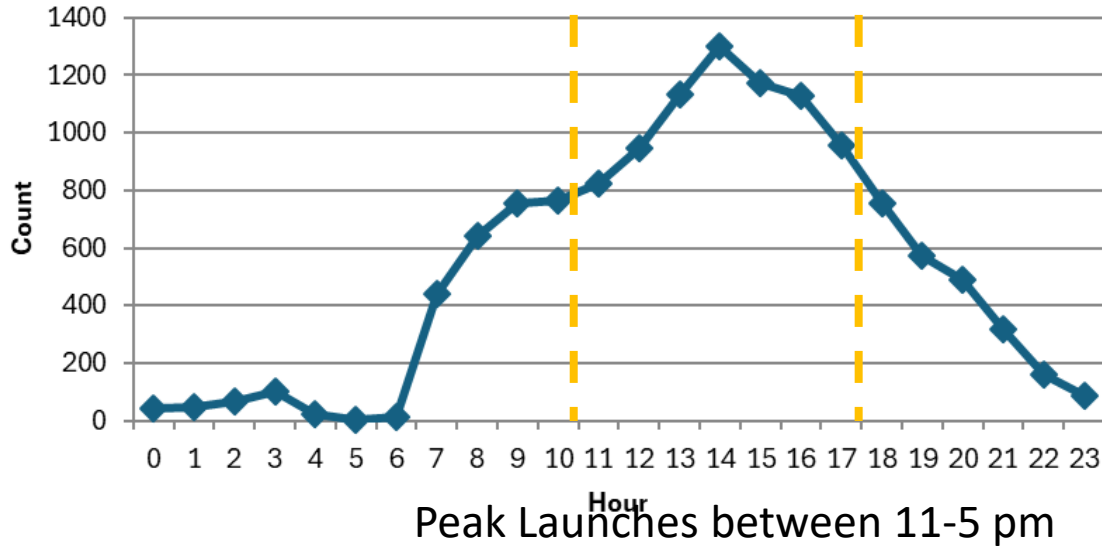
**Eurasian Milfoil
Present**

- LCO
- Chippewa Flowage
- Round
- Whitefish

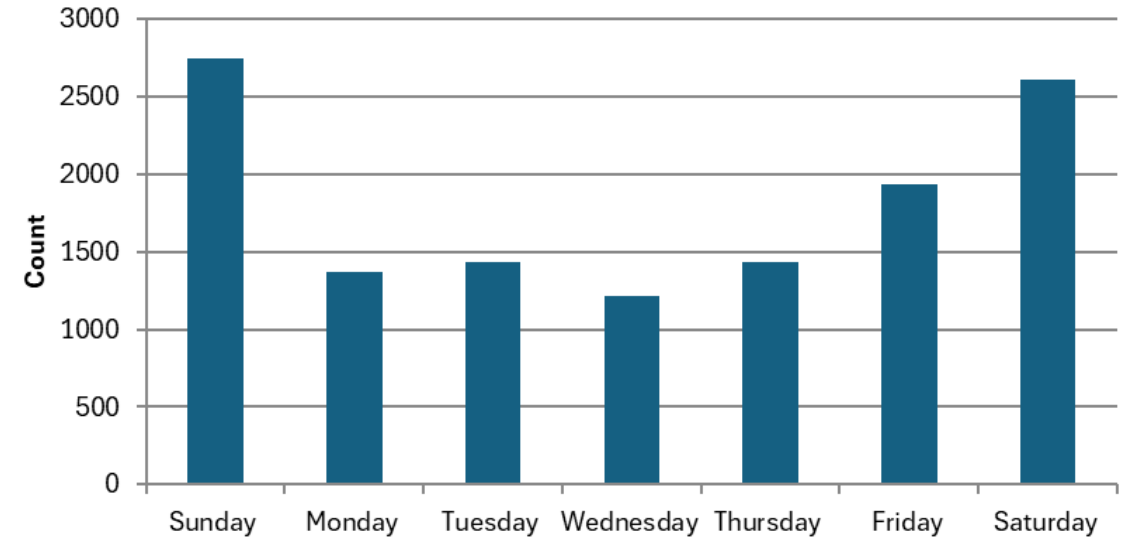
ILIDS

- Grindstone 3rd year with ILIDS Video Capture
- Additional monitoring over the In Person by Melanie

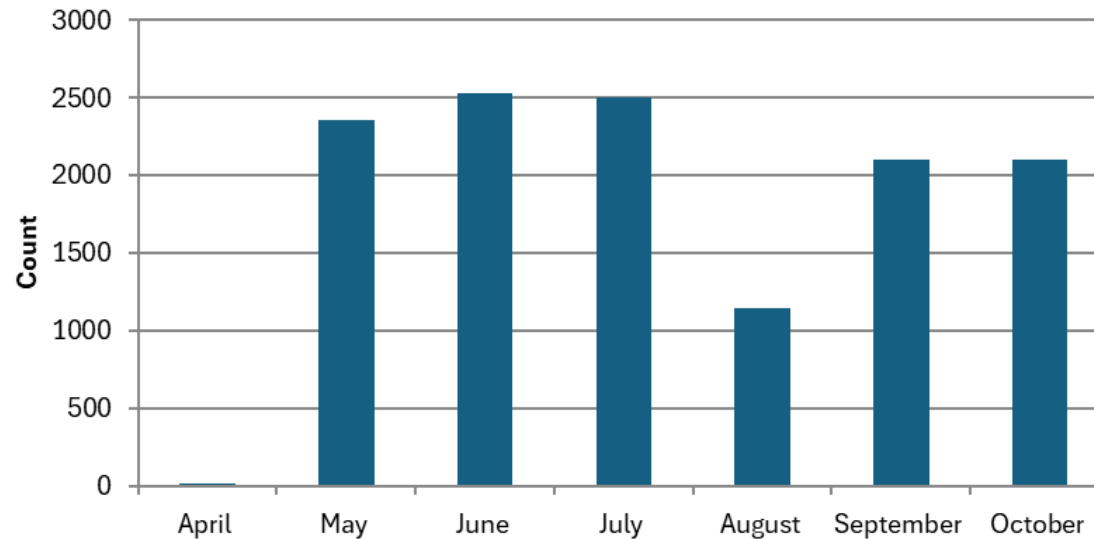
2025 Grindstone Lake Launch Activity



2025 Grindstone Lake Launch Activity



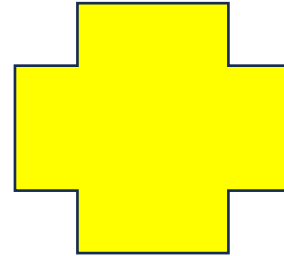
Using this data to focus
our In-Person monitoring
by Melanie



ILIDS vs In Person Inspection

I-LIDS Summary Data

Date Installed	4/30/25
Date De-installed	10/24/25
Videos Captured	12,747
Videos Reviewed by ESP	3273
Total Videos Reviewed	3308
Launches counted	822
% of boat launch videos 1	25%
Suspect AIS Violations	2 reported
Hours of operation	24 hours/day
Total hours of inspection time	4200 hours



IN PERSON MONITORING

	Grindstone Lake
Boats Inspected	1,070 (-34)
People Contacted	1911 (-488)
Hours Spent	328 (+3)

1,892 total boats inspected

4,528 total hours of inspection

ILIDS Moving Forward

- ❑ Grindstone 3rd year with ILIDS Video Capture
- ❑ Starting to use Artificial Intelligence to improve the video accuracy and detect only vehicles with a boat
- ❑ Need additional financial support to pay for video review, cost for 2026 will be \$2,780
- ❑ Video review volunteering is also a possibility if any interest

AIS Signs Little Grindstone

- ❑ New this spring
- ❑ Reminder to clean and remove
- ❑ Drain live well before entering

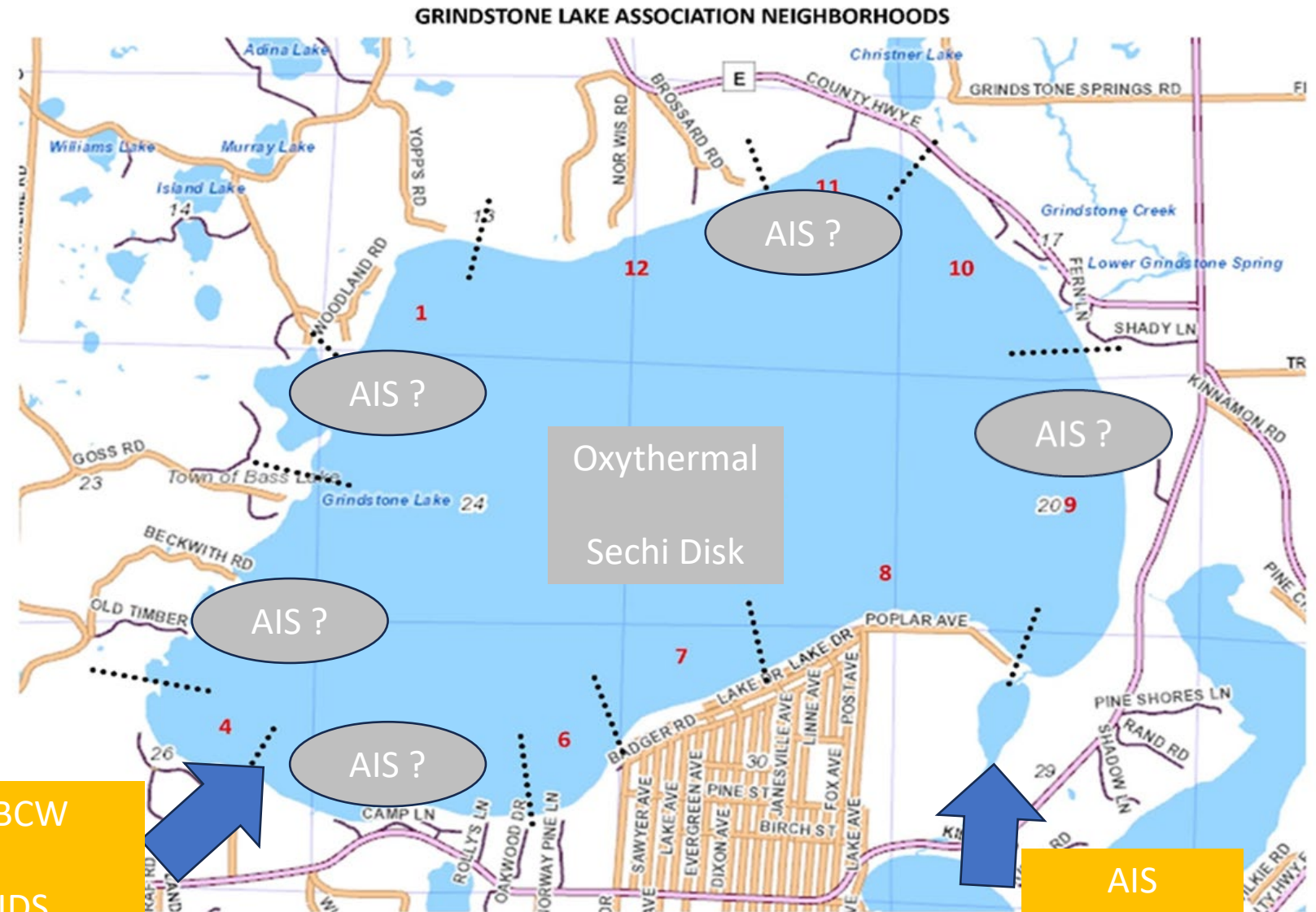


Grants and Volunteers working together

Citizens Lake
Monitoring
Activities

GRANT MONITORING
AND CONTROL

CBCW
ILIDS



AIS
REMOVAL

PROTECTING GRINDSTONE LAKE FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

Cheryl Contant

Aquatic Invasive Plants in Little Grindstone

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP)

2006; early season plant;
turions



Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

2023; coming from LCO;
fragments





DNR Grant

2024-2025 DNR Grant:

- Hand pulling of CLP and EWM in Little Grindstone Lake
 - 2024: 1 day in June; 1 day in August
66.5 cubic feet of plants removed
 - 2025: 2 days in June;
3 days in August **THANK YOU TO DONORS!**
121 cubic feet of plants removed
- Professional plant surveys in early June and late August
 - Located plants for removal
 - **No evidence of AIS** in big Grindstone Lake

What Have We Learned...

- Need more days of removal than originally thought
- CLP more prevalent than originally thought
- Little Grindstone is now acting as a buffer zone
- Need signage in Little Grindstone
- Need monitoring in big Grindstone Lake for early detection

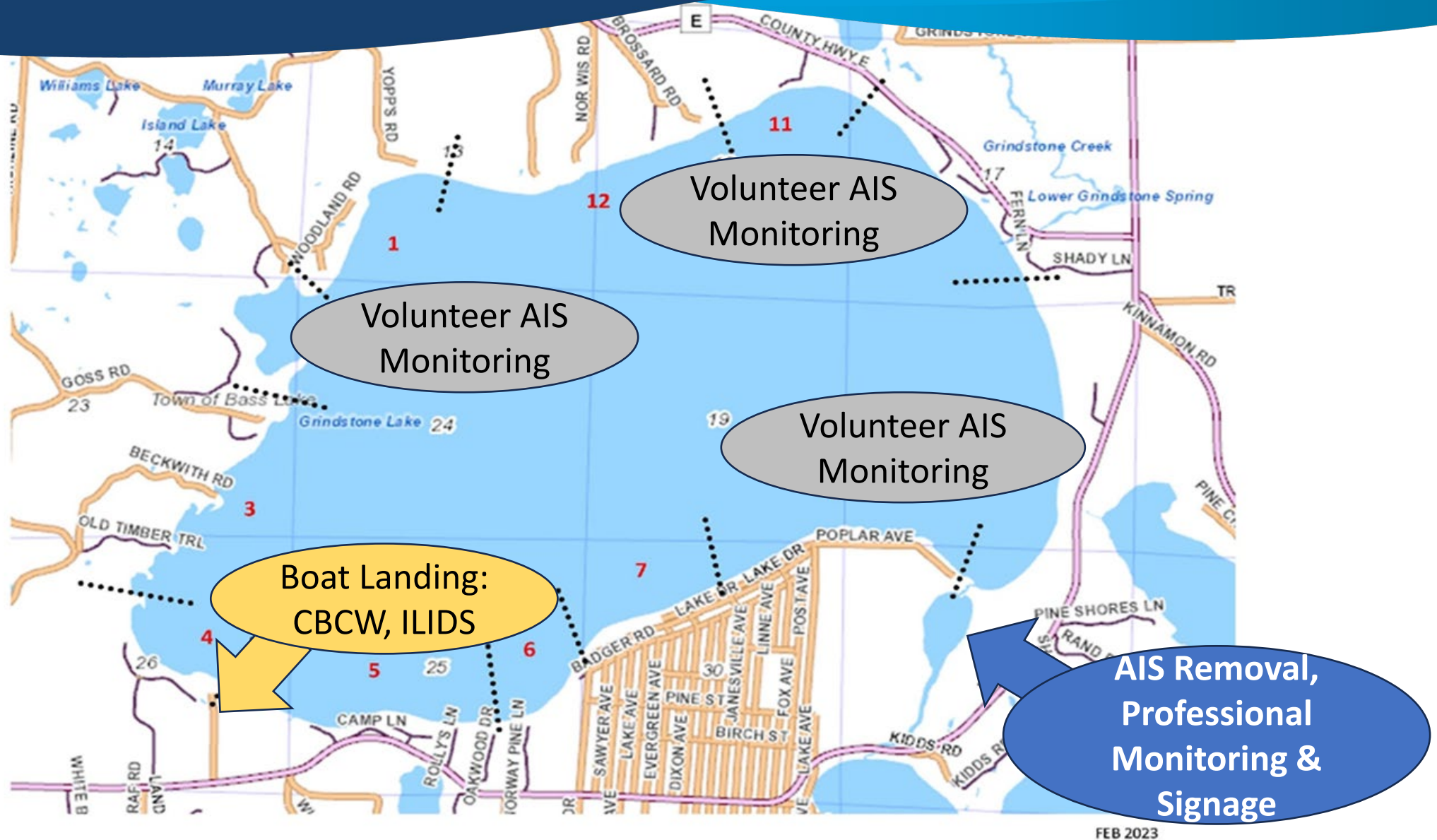
DNR Grant

Second **SUCCESSFUL** DNR Grant for 2026-2028:

- Three years – maximum allowable
- 5 days of hand removal (3 in June; 2 in August) in each of 3 years
- Addition of signage at north and south ends of Little Grindstone
- June and Sept professional monitoring
- Volunteer monitoring in big Grindstone Lake



2026 – 2028 AIS Monitoring and Removal Strategy



Little Grindstone Lake AIS removal

June 2026 results:

- 3 days of hand-pulling
- 264 cubic feet of plants removed – DOUBLE AMOUNT REMOVED IN ALL OF 2025!!
 - >90% - Curly Leaf Pondweed
 - <10% - Eurasian Water Milfoil

Little Grindstone Lake ALS

According to the dive leader:

*...Overall, continued monitoring and hand removal remain important so the lake association can keep pressure on both CLP and the smaller EWM population **before either has a chance to expand.***

WE ARE ON IT!!!

OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES???

CLP and EWM on the horizon....

The Grant pays us in Year 1 and 4; nothing in Years 2 and 3....

The Grant only covers 75% of the project costs – GLA has to provide ≈\$16,000 in cash or volunteer hours...

DNR Grant Requirements

Distribution of Grant Funds

<u>REVENUES</u> -\$49,650	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> -\$58,000	<u>NET</u>
2026: \$12,400	\$19,500	\$7,100
2027: \$0	\$19,250	\$19,250
2028: \$0	\$19,250	\$19,250
2029: \$37,250		\$37,250
	Total	\$8,350

DNR Grant Requirements

Project Cost: \$66,000 total for 3 years

DNR Grant: \$49,500

GLA Contribution: \$16,500

Cash: \$8,350

Volunteers: \$8,150 ($\approx$ 400 person-hours +
 $\approx$ 180 boat-hours)

Less volunteer hours means more cash!

Little Grindstone Lake AIS

PLEASE HELP STOP THE SPREAD

- ✓ When entering Little Grindstone Lake from LCO (under the Cty Rd K bridge), PLEASE reverse your engine and check propeller for “hitchhikers”
- ✓ Keep the entirety of Little Grindstone channel and lake as a “SLOW, NO WAKE” Zone



Grindstone Lake Association

An abstract graphic featuring a dark blue background with a large, dark blue wave-like shape on the left and a lighter blue wave-like shape on the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

THANK YOU!!!

Dee Hobbie - Newsletter Design and Production
Nancy & Lee Skelley – Rain Garden at Boat landing

Neighborhood Leaders
Lake & AIS Monitors
New & Renewing GLA members & Donors

Organizational Partners
Dan Tyrolt – LCO Conservation Dept
Ben Schleppenbach – WI DNR

Business Contributors
Timber Marine

Reminder

Grindstone Lake Gear

Available to order & purchase today!

Board Members & Volunteers Needed!!!

Shoreline Restoration

Web Master

Grindstone Lake Association

Discussion/Questions?