
PROJECT APPLICATION
Dickinson County Water Quality Commission
Cover Sheet

1. Applicant Organization **Okoboji Protective Association**
Street address _____ **PO Box 242** _____
City _____ **Okoboji** _____
State _____ **Iowa** _____
Zip _____ **51355** _____
Email _____ **philpetersen@mchsi.com** _____
Phone _____ **712/ 332-2028** _____
Organization contact **Phil Petersen**

2. Project title: **Fighting Aquatic Invasive Species**
Location **Iowa Great Lakes** _____

3. Project Director (if different than organization contact)

4. Application submission date: **October 1, 2015**

5. Brief description (75 words or less) of project, including expected results:

The Iowa Great Lakes is threatened by Aquatic Invasive Species (primarily Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels). Our plan for this grant funding is to hire four environmental science college students to educate boaters to be sure their boats have been drained and cleaned before being launched. By being proactive in protecting our lakes, we expect to delay and/or minimize the impact AIS will have to our lakes.

6. Amount requested through this grant application * : **\$ 20,000**

7. Matching funds:

Hard match **\$ 59,600** (Anything paid for with real money)

Source(s) **DNR Fisheries Bureau + Okoboji Protective Association**

Soft match **\$ 57,776** (Anything not paid with real money but has a value)

Source(s) **DNR Fisheries Bureau + Iowa Lakeside Laboratory**

Other support _____

a. Amount of Federal, State or other public cash match money already acquired or in process: **\$ 44,600**

b. Amount of private cash match funds: **\$ 15,000**

c. Source of public and/or private cash match (list all):

DNR Fisheries Bureau + Okoboji Protective Association

Is the project a portion of a larger, overall project to be implemented over a multi-year period?
Yes _____ No **X** If yes, describe in project narrative and include in budget form as instructed.

**** The Water Quality Commission will only obligate funds for current fiscal year.
Any multi-year projects will be allowed to re-apply in subsequent years***

Type of project (select all that apply):

- _____ Public education, public awareness and information dissemination
- _____ Creation or maintenance of Best Management Practices
- _____ Erection and maintenance of storm water run off facilities
- _____ Dredging
- _____ Bank stabilization Water treatment
- _____ Water monitoring
- _____ Watershed protection
- X** Activities to abate and remove invasive species
- _____ Any other activity which will improve, protect or enhance the quality of water in the lakes in Dickinson County

Estimated project dates:

a. Start **January 2016**

b. Completion **December 2016**

A Letter of Support dated September 22, 2015 from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is attached.

REQUIRED BUDGET FORM

See Application Guidelines for this form.

Proposed Budget for Current Year

	<u>Commission</u>	Hard Match*	Soft Match**	<u>Total</u>
1. Temporary Staff				
Seasonal staff (Hourly rate)	\$ 20,000	\$ 59,600	\$ _____	\$ 79,600
Hourly staff (Hourly rate)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
2. Supplies and Services	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ 7,776	\$ 7,776
3. Equipment (List all equipment over \$1,000)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4. Travel	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. Water Monitoring	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. Land Acquisition	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
6. Land Development	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
7. Other	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ 20,000	\$ 59,600	\$ 57,776	\$ 137,376

BUDGET NARRATIVE: Attach a Budget Narrative. Follow directions in Application Guidelines.

The Okoboji Protective Association has committed to spend \$15,000 for the summer of 2016 for an Aquatic Invasive Species program the same amount - that has been spent in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Bureau has committed for the 2015 summer to dedicate \$ 94,600 to fight Aquatic Invasive Species in the Iowa Great Lakes area. This funding includes four seasonal summer employees one of which is a six month position to help coordinate the other seasonal employees - to educate boaters on the boat ramps. Also included is one year around billboard, two billboards for five months, trailers stickers, boater's maps, and a portion of the time of the following DNR full time employees: Mike Hawkins, Kim Bogenschutz, Jason Euchner, and Kim Hawkins.

TASKS AND DELIVERABLES: Attach a list of Tasks and Deliverables following the Application Guidelines included in this packet.

The Okoboji Protective Association working through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Bureau and Iowa Lakeside Laboratory will recruit, interview, select, hire, train, and supervise four college students knowledgeable in environmental science to be boat ramp educators during the summer. Iowa Lakeside Laboratory will provide their housing. The DNR will train and supervise their boat ramp duties. These summer college students will be educating boaters and inspecting boats on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays - the busiest days on the boat ramps. On week days - to fill out a forty-hour work week they will work with DNR and ILL personnel to assist and learn more about our natural resources.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Four lake protective associations, the Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory (ILL), and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will collaborate to educate the public on how to protect the Iowa Great Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species.

In the last nine years we have made extensive use of many communications tools to educate the boating public: highway billboards, cable television, news articles, local radio stations, boat ramp kiosks, boater's maps, DNR Water Patrol Officers, DNR Fisheries Bureau summer employees, boat ramp community volunteers, paid college students, and a broadcast Information Radio System. Our plan is to continue these efforts during the 2016 boating season.

Unfortunately, the number of community boat ramp volunteers has declined each year. We had the most volunteers in the first year (2008) just after zebra mussels were discovered in Clear Lake. Because we have survived for several years it appears the public perceives the AIS threat is greatly diminished.

In September of 2012 the DNR found a small number of zebra mussels in Upper Gar and East Okoboji Lake. More sampling is taking place to determine if this zebra mussel outbreak is a small confined colony or was the beginning of a zebra mussel infestation of the Iowa Great Lakes. Additional investigation is underway to determine how far the zebra mussels might have spread. The zebra mussels in our lakes is increasing, but we do not want boaters to introduce ZM's to any new locations.

Our Aquatic Invasive Species experience has taught us the most effective way to communicate the AIS message is by direct face-to-face public contact on the boat ramp. With twelve major boat ramps in Dickinson County we need DNR Fisheries Bureau summer employees and paid college student interns to provide sufficient coverage

during heavy boat ramp usage that occurs on summer weekends.

Based on six years of volunteer AIS experience on the Iowa Great Lakes the Okoboji Protective Association believes that we must pay people to provide the AIS boater education on the boat ramps. This past summer the OPA used the \$20,000 WQC grant to hire four college students through the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and a University of Iowa work-study program. Housing and administrative support for the summer interns are to be provided by Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

If WQC funds are provided for this project our intent is to work with the DNR, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, and others to hire, train, and manage a paid boat ramp summer educator program to supplement the DNR personal. Based on our experience from the last four years we believe that four paid summer educators is the maximum ILL and the DNR can manage. Going forward we plan to use a work – study program provided by the University of Iowa and Iowa Lakeside Laboratory for the summer students.

The economic loss to the Iowa Great Lakes - if they would become infested with Eurasian watermilfoil or zebra mussels - is tremendous. There is more than \$2,000,000,000 of shoreline residential property. There is also the negative impact to employment at resorts, marinas, restaurants, amusement park, etc. that would be substantial. The economic impact would be measured in the tens of millions of dollars - maybe \$100 million.

On September 18 – 19, 2014 Dr. Dan P Molloy – an expert of zebra mussels – visited the Iowa Great Lakes, made two underwater inspections, and conducted extensive AIS discussions with the DNR and local protective associations. His recommendation was that we continue our Aquatic Invasive Species defensive program, because, 1) the longer we can delay zebra mussels from infesting our lakes the better and 2) we are still free of other invasive species – most notably Eurasian watermilfoil. Proactive boater education is key!

To probe further: More detailed information on the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species to the Iowa Great Lakes can be found at website www.watersafetycouncil.org click on Aquatic Invasive Species.

STATEMENT OF PROJECT NEED:

The Iowa Great Lakes need to be protected from Aquatic Invasive Species to protect our quality of life and the economic vitality of the lakes area. The serious nature of Aquatic Invasive Species to the Iowa Great Lakes is well documented in the Iowa Great Lakes Management Plan issued September 17, 2013 on pages 223 - 231 of that plan.

STATEMENT OF PROJECT BENEFITS TO WATER QUALITY

The reason people come to the Iowa Great Lakes is our many lakes and their recreational opportunities. Although not everyone uses the water directly by boating, fishing, swimming, sailing, etc. they are drawn to the lakes area features such as trails, art center, Summer Theater, amusement park, golf courses, etc. because of the lakes and their natural beauty. Clean water is vital to the public's enjoyment of natural resources and their reason for coming to our lakes for vacations and as a place to work or retire.

PUBLIC AWARENESS PLAN

The Okoboji Protective Association, Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will make extensive use of cable television, local newspapers, and commercial radio to educate the public about this Water Quality Commission grant and the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species. We would also communicate how the public can help prevent an infestation in the Iowa Great Lakes.

LAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT:

No Land Acquisition or Development Needed



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CHUCK GIPP, DIRECTOR

September 22, 2015

Phil Peterson
Okoboji Protective Association
PO Box 242
Okoboji, Iowa 51355

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has worked cooperatively with the Okoboji Protective Association (OPA) for many years in fighting the spread of aquatic invasive species in the Iowa Great Lakes (IGL). As part of that effort, summer interns have been hired as boat ramp inspectors to educate boaters and assist with inspection prior to launching boats and following removal from public boat ramps. This has been an effective program and one that should continue.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources supports the Okoboji Protective Association's current application to the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission for a \$20,000 grant to fund four environmental science students to educate boaters in the Iowa Great Lakes for the 2016 open water boating season.

We appreciate the OPA's support in the past and continued future support of educating boaters in the IGL's about aquatic invasive species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Wahl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

James R. Wahl
NW Regional Fisheries Supervisor
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery
122 252nd Ave
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360