

Early detection and rapid response for Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush during 2010

Description of grants available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

24 June 2010

Summary of the offer of grants for early detection and rapid response

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering funds for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) management for Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, and flowering rush, *Butomus umbellatus*, during 2010. Eurasian watermilfoil (hereafter called milfoil) and flowering rush are non-native invasive aquatic plants that can interfere with recreational and other uses of lakes by producing dense mats or growths at or above the water's surface. These mats or growths can also displace native plants.

The DNR's intent is to provide up to a cumulative total of \$20,000 in grants to as many as seven lakes in 2010. These funds may not be committed to projects if the DNR does not receive enough proposals that meet the requirements describe below.

Though there is no deadline for submittal of an application, the sooner you submit an application to the DNR, the more likely it is that we will be able to determine the adequacy of your plans in time for you to be eligible to receive a grant during 2010.

Who may apply for grants from the DNR for EDRR?

Grants for EDRR projects are available from the DNR to organizations such as lake associations, conservation districts, watershed districts, and municipalities (hereafter called cooperators). To be eligible for this program, a lake must have at least one public water access. Potential cooperators must have a federal tax identification number.

The purpose of this offer is to allow people on lakes with newly discovered populations of milfoil or flowering rush to aggressively treat the invasive species in an attempt to prevent spread within the lake. Though the DNR undertook EDRR on milfoil in the past, the experience of the DNR and cooperators was that these efforts did not prevent the spread of milfoil within a lake.

While the DNR may initiate EDRR in some case, e.g., Brazilian waterweed, *Egeria densa*, in Powderhorn Lake, Minneapolis, in 2007, the DNR would be un-likely to do so for milfoil in most cases.

Nevertheless, there is interest among lake associations and other groups in attempts to prevent the spread of new populations of milfoil or flowering rush within lakes, so the DNR is offering limited support for such attempts where specific requirements are met.

Requirements for grants for Early-Detection and Rapid Response management of small populations of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush in Minnesota lakes

1. Lake must have a public water access.
2. Milfoil or flowering rush was discovered in the lake within the last five years.
3. Amount of area with milfoil or flowering rush treated with herbicide or controlled by other means must be less than ten acres or 15% of the littoral zone [area of the lake 15 feet deep or less], whichever is less.

If the amount of area with milfoil or flowering rush treated with herbicide or controlled by other means increases from year to year, support for EDRR on the lake decreases.

4. Number and distribution of areas with milfoil or flowering rush and trend over time in the lake.

If milfoil or flowering rush becomes distributed around the lake, support for EDRR on the lake decreases.

If the abundance of milfoil or flowering rush in the lake increases, support for EDRR on the lake decreases.

5. If the number of years when control all milfoil or flowering rush in the lake increases with little or no decrease in distribution and abundance, support for EDRR on the lake decreases.
6. The shorter the distance to other populations of milfoil or flowering rush, the less the support for EDRR on the lake.
7. The grantee must control all of the milfoil or flowering rush identified in the lake.

8. If you propose to propose to control milfoil by treatment with herbicide, then you must use triclopyr.

There is no guarantee that there will be sufficient funds available from the DNR to provide grants to all cooperators with reasonable projects. Submission of an application for these funds is not a guarantee that they will be granted. Funds made available through this program must be spent during the year when they are offered and will not be carried over into following years.

On some lakes there may be more than one potential cooperator with an interest in managing milfoil or flowering rush. The DNR will first seek to work with municipalities such as conservation, watershed, lake improvement, or park districts; cities; or counties. If no such organization exists or is willing to manage milfoil or flowering rush on an individual lake, then the DNR will work with lake associations.

These funds are paid to cooperators as a reimbursement for work that has been completed. The DNR will provide technical assistance in support of management of milfoil or flowering rush to outside organizations when requested.

Control eligible for reimbursement includes:

Control of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush.

Control is usually done by a contractor using the following methods:

- a) Use of herbicide, or
- b) Mechanical control, most likely pulling by hand.

Steps to obtain funds for control of Eurasian Watermilfoil or flowering rush:

Step 1. Contact the DNR to express your interest in EDRR and review the situation on the lake.

To determine whether the situation on the lake where you are interested in EDRR meets the DNR's requirements, please contact the DNR Invasive Species Specialist in the Region where the lake is located (see map and list of Specialists plus other contacts below). In most cases, the DNR will have assessed the distribution and abundance of the milfoil or flowering rush on lakes where EDRR might be considered.

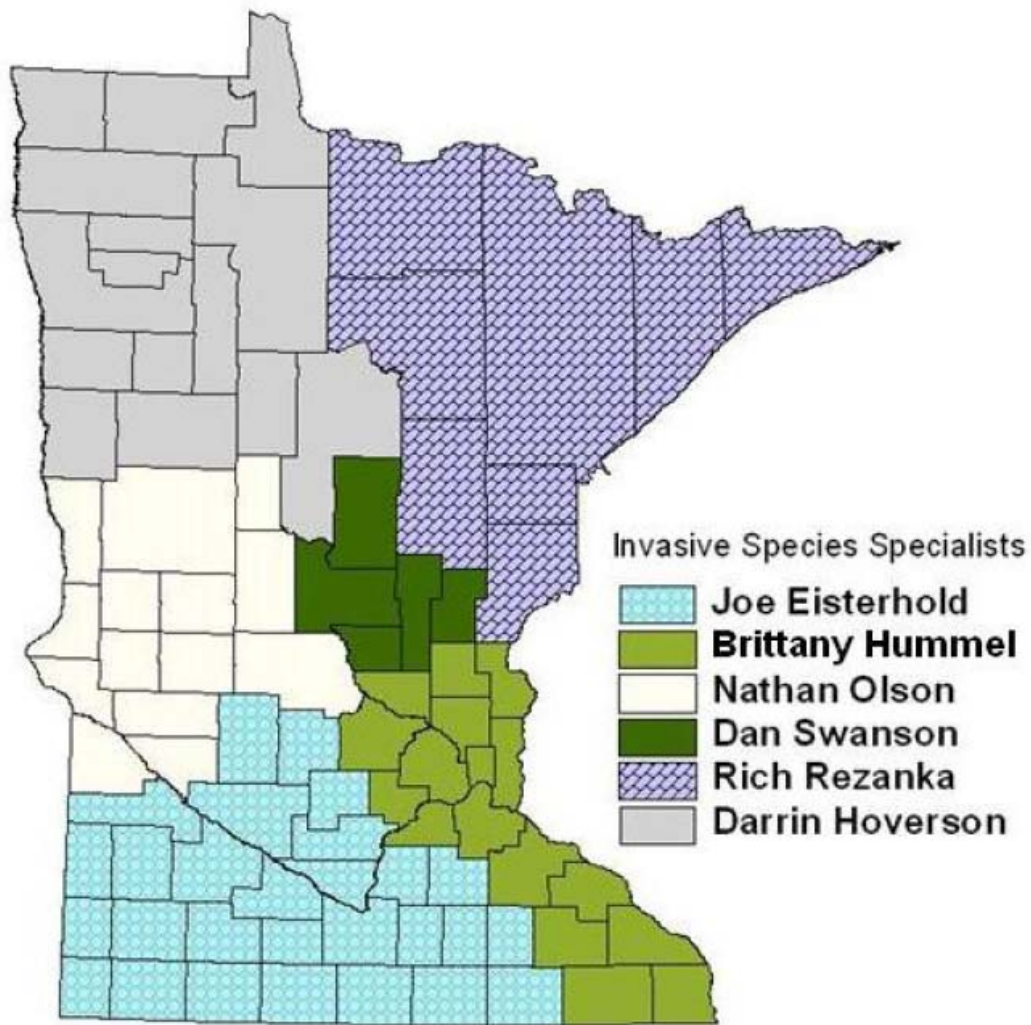


Figure 1. Invasive Species Specialists by region

Invasive Species Specialists by Region:

Northwest (Park Rapids) : Darrin Hoverson
218-699-7293

darrin.hoverson@state.mn.us

West Central (Fergus Falls): Nathan Olson
218-739-7576 ext. 259

nathan.olson@state.mn.us

Northeast (Grand Rapids): Rich Rezanka
218-999-7805

richard.rezanka@state.mn.us

Central (Brainerd): Dan Swanson
218-833-8645

dan.swanson@state.mn.us

Central and Southeast (St. Paul): Brittany Hummel
651-259-5828

brittany.hummel@state.mn.us

Southern (New Ulm): Joe Eisterhold
507-359-6079

joe.eisterhold@state.mn.us

Assistance is also available from:

Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator (Saint Paul): Wendy Crowell
651-259-5085

wendy.crowell@state.mn.us

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Coordinator (Saint Paul): Chip Welling
651-259-5149

chip.welling@state.mn.us

If you would like to discuss the situation on your lake and the grant program, please contact the Invasive Species Specialist for your region (Figure 1).

Step 2. Submit to the DNR an application for grant to conduct EDRR on milfoil or flowering rush.

Complete the attached [application](#) [which *also may be found at*:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/edrr.html>] for a grant from the DNR for control of Eurasian Watermilfoil or flowering rush and submit it to the DNR by sending it to.

Wendy Crowell

Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ecological Resources, Box 25
500 Lafayette Rd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Wendy.crowell@dnr.state.mn.us

The Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator, Wendy Crowell, will record the date when the

application was received and send a note to the applicant to acknowledge this. The application will then be forwarded to an Invasive Species Specialist for review.

Though there is no deadline for submittal of an application, the sooner you submit an application to the DNR, the more likely it is that we will be able to determine the adequacy of your plans in time for you to be eligible to receive a grant during 2010.

Criteria to be considered in review of applications are listed above under the heading **“Requirements for Early-Detection and Rapid Response management of small populations of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush in Minnesota lakes.”**

Step 3. During 2010, the DNR will assess the distribution and abundance of the milfoil or flowering rush on lakes where EDRR is under consideration.

Step 4. The grantee will obtain the necessary permits

If the proposed control of milfoil or flowering rush requires a permit from the DNR, for example, to allow use of herbicide in public waters, then please complete and return to the DNR an application for a permit.

An application for an aquatic plant management permit may be found at:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/shorelandmgmt/apg/apmapp.pdf>

Instructions for completing the application can be found at:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/shorelandmgmt/apg/apminstruct.pdf>

Only one permit for lake-wide control of milfoil will be issued free of charge per lake. This limit does not restrict owners of private property from applying, either individually or collectively through a conservation district, lake association or other organization, for permits to control aquatic plants in areas adjacent to their property. A cooperator may need to propose to control milfoil with herbicide in areas adjacent to privately owned shoreline. In such cases, the cooperator must obtain signatures of the owners of the properties in order to obtain a permit.

If you propose to use herbicide to control milfoil, then you will be required to use triclopyr, which is selective, and may be used to control milfoil during 2010 on projects supported with grants from the DNR. This requirement is necessary to meet standards established by the Minnesota Legislature during 2009 for grants to control invasive aquatic plants issued by

the DNR. These standards include a provision that "Funds from this appropriation may not be used to purchase or use pesticides suspected by current science of being endocrine disruptors." (*Laws of 2009, Chap. 37 [H.F.No. 2123], Art. 1, Sec. 4., Subd. 7*).

Based on information provided by the MPCA and the lack of guidance from the EPA, the DNR has determined that aquatic-labeled herbicides that have 2,4-D as the active ingredient are not acceptable for control of aquatic invasive plants supported by grants from the DNR in 2010. The DNR's assessment of this issue may be modified in the future if more information is received from the EPA and other agencies offering relevant information.

>>> *If your application for a grant is approved* <<<

Step 5. The grantee will sign and return a grant agreement to the DNR

If your application is approved, then you will be sent a grant agreement for this program, which you need to sign and return. The DNR plan to offer up to a maximum of \$3,000 per lake through a grant agreement. You will need to provide a federal tax identification number to the DNR in order to be reimbursed by the agency.

THIS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOU BEGIN WORK. OTHERWISE THE WORK WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT BY THE DNR.

Step 6. Solicit competitive bids for the proposed work

The DNR *strongly recommends* that you solicit at least two (2) competitive bids for the proposed work and select a contractor to do the work **before** proceeding with the proposed management of milfoil or flowering rush.

Attached are lists of licensed commercial applicators of aquatic herbicides and licensed operators of mechanical harvesters.

This list also may be found at:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/harvesters_applicators.pdf

Omission of a firm or company from the attached lists is not meant to exclude any legitimate firm or company from consideration, nor is inclusion in the attached lists intended as an endorsement by the DNR.

Step 7. Request reimbursement from the DNR.

After a grant agreement between the organization and the DNR has been fully executed and the proposed work has been completed, the cooperator may bill the DNR for any amount up to the maximum specified in the grant agreement, and be reimbursed.

In order to be reimbursed after the work is completed, cooperators must provide to the DNR:

- 1) Copies of bids received,
- 2) A description of methods used for control of milfoil or flowering rush and a copy of the original invoice from the contractor,
 - a.) If herbicide was used,
 - b.) name of herbicide and rate of application
 - c.) Date(s) when work was done
- 3) Copy of the pesticide application record from the applicator.
- 4) Maps of area(s) with milfoil or flowering rush actually treated, if they were different from area(s) originally proposed for treatment
- 5) A request made in writing using the format in the attached example, preferably on stationery of the cooperator's organization, for reimbursement by the DNR for control of milfoil or flowering rush.