

Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Findings and Recommendations for Shoreline Stewardship and Aquatic Vegetation Management

Prepared by the Lake Maintenance Committee for the Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation
District Board of Commissioners

Lake Maintenance Committee

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Background

In recent years, concerns regarding nuisance aquatic vegetation have become a recurring topic of discussion among shoreline property owners at Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meetings. While aquatic vegetation is an important component of a healthy Wisconsin lake, dense vegetation in localized areas can interfere with boating, swimming, fishing, and shoreline access.

In response to these concerns, the Board of Commissioners and membership established the Lake Maintenance Committee to investigate the issue and provide practical recommendations. The committee reviewed Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) guidance, educational materials developed by Wisconsin lake organizations, grant opportunities, commercial manual aquatic vegetation management services, and other publicly available resources.

As the committee's work progressed, it became apparent that many concerns could be addressed through better communication regarding existing Wisconsin regulations and responsible shoreline stewardship, rather than through new lake management programs.

The committee found that the District can provide the greatest benefit by helping shoreline property owners better understand existing Wisconsin regulations, the practical options already available to them, and the shoreline stewardship practices that help reduce excessive aquatic vegetation.

At a Glance

Topic	Summary
Why the Committee Was Formed	Recurring concerns regarding nuisance aquatic vegetation affecting recreation.
What the Committee Learned	Native aquatic vegetation is beneficial; many shoreline property owners are unfamiliar with existing Wisconsin regulations and shoreline stewardship practices that can help reduce excessive aquatic vegetation; practical educational resources already exist.
Primary Recommendation	Adopt an Annual Shoreline Stewardship Communication supported by practical homeowner materials.
Committee Deliverables	Sample Annual Communication, Sample Quick Reference Guide, Shoreline Stewardship Guide, and Resource and Reference List

Committee Philosophy: Education, stewardship, and practical communication.

Background and Scope

The Lake Maintenance Committee was formed following recurring comments from shoreline property owners regarding nuisance aquatic vegetation. The committee's assignment was to research the issue and provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

The committee focused on practical actions available to shoreline property owners, particularly vegetation removal activities that may be conducted without a WDNR permit, ways property owners can reduce nutrient runoff that may contribute to excessive vegetation growth, and opportunities for the District to improve communication. The committee intentionally focused on recommendations that are practical, sustainable, and appropriate for a volunteer Board of Commissioners.

The committee did not conduct a scientific assessment of Bear Lake, evaluate large-scale lake management projects, or develop recommendations regarding technologies or projects outside its assignment.

Findings

The committee's review identified four principal findings that form the basis for the recommendations contained in this report. These findings are based on the committee's review of publicly available Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) guidance, educational materials from Wisconsin lake organizations, information gathered by committee members, and discussions regarding concerns expressed by Bear Lake shoreline property owners.

Native Aquatic Vegetation and Recreational Use

Native aquatic vegetation performs important ecological functions in Wisconsin lakes. At the same time, dense vegetation in localized areas can interfere with boating, swimming, fishing, and access to docks. The committee recognized that these are both legitimate interests and concluded that recommendations should balance recreational access with protection of the lake's ecological functions.

Property Owner Understanding of Existing Regulations and Best Practices

The committee found that many shoreline property owners may be unfamiliar with the aquatic vegetation management activities generally allowed under existing Wisconsin regulations. Questions received by committee members frequently centered on what activities may be done without a permit. At the same time, owners may be unknowingly contributing to lake vegetation overgrowth. This presents an opportunity for the District to improve communication by directing property owners to accurate WDNR guidance and practical educational resources.

Existing Educational Resources

The committee reviewed educational materials prepared by the WDNR, Healthy Lakes & Rivers, UW–Madison Division of Extension, Oneida County organizations, and other Wisconsin lake groups. These resources consistently promote responsible shoreline stewardship, prevention of nutrient runoff, protection of native aquatic vegetation, and prevention of aquatic invasive species. The committee concluded that these existing resources provide an excellent foundation for Bear Lake educational materials rather than creating entirely new content.

Opportunities for the District

The committee found that the District's greatest opportunity is not to undertake additional lake management programs, but to provide shoreline property owners with practical information regarding existing Wisconsin regulations, responsible shoreline stewardship, and available resources. The committee intentionally limited its recommendations to actions that are practical, sustainable, and appropriate for a volunteer Board of Commissioners.

Summary of Findings

The committee's work evolved from examining nuisance aquatic vegetation concerns to identifying the most effective role the District can play in addressing those concerns. The committee concluded that improved communication, practical guidance, and responsible shoreline stewardship offer the greatest opportunity to assist shoreline property owners while respecting the ecological value of Bear Lake.

Recommendations

The committee recommends the following actions for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. The recommendations are intentionally limited to actions that are practical, sustainable, and appropriate for a volunteer Board. Together, they provide a framework for improving communication with shoreline property owners while supporting responsible shoreline stewardship.

Recommendation 1 – Adopt an Annual Shoreline Stewardship Communication

Purpose

Provide shoreline property owners with a concise annual communication prior to each boating season describing existing Wisconsin regulations, responsible shoreline stewardship practices, and resources.

Discussion

The committee considers this its highest priority recommendation. During its work, the committee found that many questions stemmed from uncertainty regarding what activities are generally permitted without a WDNR permit and limited understanding of the causes of excessive lake nutrients and lake vegetation overgrowth. An annual communication provides an opportunity to share practical information, remind property owners of

stewardship practices, and direct readers to official WDNR guidance through links or QR codes. The communication can be updated periodically as regulations or available resources change. The committee recommends distributing this communication annually by **postal mail**, with electronic distribution as appropriate.

Estimated Effort

Medium

Committee Deliverables

- Draft Annual Shoreline Stewardship Communication (Appendix A)
- Links to official WDNR and partner resources
- Suggested annual topics for inclusion

Recommendation 2 – Maintain and Periodically Update Educational Materials

Purpose

Maintain the educational materials prepared by the committee. The Board should designate an individual to review them periodically and update them as Wisconsin regulations or educational resources change.

Discussion

The committee prepared educational materials intended to answer common shoreline questions in a practical, easy-to-understand format. These materials may be distributed electronically and/or posted on the District website at the Board's discretion.

Estimated Effort

Low

Committee Deliverables

- Draft of Bear Lake Shoreline Stewardship Guide (Appendix B)
- Resource Reference List (Appendix C)

Recommendation 3 – Evaluate Removal of Detached Floating Vegetation as Needed

Purpose

Evaluate whether detached floating vegetation should be removed when it creates recurring navigation or recreational concerns.

Discussion

This recommendation applies only to detached floating vegetation and does not address rooted aquatic vegetation. The committee is not recommending a standing program. Rather, the Board may periodically determine whether action is appropriate based on observed conditions, available resources, and applicable Wisconsin regulations. Actions could include removal services or volunteer efforts using towed floating lake rakes or similar manual collection methods.

Estimated Effort

Variable

Committee Deliverables

- No additional committee deliverables.

Implementation Priorities

Priority should be given to Recommendation 1 because it can be implemented with modest effort while providing the greatest benefit to shoreline property owners. Recommendations 2 and 3 may be implemented as the Board determines appropriate.

Conclusion

The Lake Maintenance Committee was formed to respond to property owner concerns about nuisance aquatic vegetation, shoreline access, and practical lake maintenance questions on Bear Lake. The committee approached this work from a stewardship perspective: Bear Lake is an important natural resource, and the goal is to protect it while helping property owners understand responsible options for managing localized concerns.

At this time the committee does not recommend treating aquatic plants as a lake-wide problem or pursuing broad lake-wide control measures based on the information reviewed for this report. Aquatic plants, shoreline vegetation, wetlands, and natural lakebed materials are part of a functioning lake ecosystem. At the same time, dense growth in specific access areas can reasonably affect boating, swimming, fishing, and dock use. The recommendations therefore focus on education, practical guidance, annual communication, and referral to official resources.

The committee recommends that the District continue its role as an advocate for shoreline stewardship and a provider of educational resources. That role should include helping property owners understand common stewardship practices, when to check with WDNR or Oneida County, how to avoid spreading aquatic invasive species, and how to manage routine access concerns without disturbing more of the shoreline or lakebed than necessary.

This approach preserves flexibility, respects existing Wisconsin and county regulatory authority, and puts the district in a proactive role. It also fits the District's practical communication capacity by relying on existing materials for communication and maintained reference materials.

In summary, the committee recommends an ongoing stewardship approach: communicate annually, maintain clear guidance, direct owners to official sources, support voluntary best practices, monitor concerns over time, and revisit the materials as conditions or agency guidance changes.

The Lake Maintenance Committee believes it has completed the work for which it was formed and respectfully recommends that the committee be dissolved at this time. Should

future lake maintenance issues warrant additional study, the Board may appoint a new committee as needed. It has been our privilege to serve the District and contribute to the stewardship of Bear Lake.

Acknowledgements

The Lake Maintenance Committee appreciates the assistance of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Healthy Lakes & Rivers, Oneida County departments, and the organizations whose publicly available educational materials were used in this report.

OpenAI ChatGPT was used for formatting, organizational, and drafting assistance. The findings, recommendations, and conclusions are those of the Lake Maintenance Committee.

Appendix A – Annual Shoreline Stewardship Communication

Sample Annual Communication

Protecting Bear Lake Together Annual Shoreline Stewardship Information

Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Dear Bear Lake Property Owner,

Bear Lake is an important natural resource. Aquatic plants are a normal and important part of that system. They provide fish and wildlife habitat, help stabilize lake sediments, and support water quality. At the same time, dense aquatic vegetation in localized areas can affect boating, swimming, fishing, and access to docks.

The District encourages responsible shoreline stewardship while helping property owners maintain reasonable recreational access. The following reminders summarize common stewardship topics and direct property owners to official resources.

Manual Aquatic Plant Removal Near Docks and Shoreline Access

- Wisconsin guidance generally allows riparian property owners to manually remove aquatic plants within a single access area up to 30 feet wide measured along the shoreline, when applicable conditions are met.
- This allowance is intended for reasonable access around existing piers, boat lifts, swim rafts, swimming areas, and similar water-use areas.
- Manual methods may include hand pulling, hand raking, cutting, or other hand-held methods described in WDNR guidance.
- Cut, raked, or loose plants should be removed from the water and placed on land where they cannot wash back into the lake.
- Property owners should avoid clearing more area than reasonably needed for access and recreation.

When to Check With WDNR First

- Removing aquatic plants from more than one area, or from an area wider than the single 30-foot access corridor.
- Removing plants along undeveloped shoreline or in areas identified as sensitive or specially protected.
- Using mechanical harvesting, suction harvesting, dredging equipment, lake-bottom barriers, or chemicals.

- Removing muck, sediment, accumulated deposits, or lakebed material. These activities are separate from routine manual aquatic plant removal and often require additional agency review.
- Placing sand, gravel, rock, fill, beach material, or similar material below the ordinary high water mark.
- Because shoreline conditions vary, property owners should review current WDNR materials or contact WDNR before beginning work if there is any uncertainty.

Stewardship Practices That Help Protect Bear Lake

- Maintain or restore native shoreline vegetation where practical. A natural shoreline buffer helps filter runoff, reduce erosion, and protect habitat.
- Avoid fertilizer use near the lake and prevent grass clippings, leaves, and yard waste from entering the water.
- Maintain septic systems and address drainage problems before they affect the lake.
- Direct roof, driveway, and lawn runoff into areas where water can soak into the ground before reaching the lake.
- Clean, drain, and dry boats, trailers, anchors, docks, lifts, and other equipment before moving between waterbodies.
- Report suspected aquatic invasive species or unusual lake conditions to the appropriate District, county, or WDNR contact.

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Opportunities

Wisconsin Healthy Lakes & Rivers materials provide practical ideas for shoreline property owners, including native plantings, rain gardens, runoff diversion practices, infiltration practices, and fish habitat projects. Grant opportunities may be available through eligible sponsors, including lake organizations and local government entities. Property owners interested in these practices should review current Healthy Lakes & Rivers guidance.

Thank you for helping protect Bear Lake while maintaining responsible shoreline access. Small individual actions by shoreline property owners can make a meaningful difference in preserving Bear Lake for future generations.

Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Resources

The District should include QR codes and links to resources, including:

- WDNR Aquatic Plant Management guidance and permit information.
- WDNR Aquatic Plant Management Permit FAQ.
- WDNR information regarding removal of accumulated plant and animal nuisance deposits.
- Healthy Lakes & Rivers best practices and grant information.
- Oneida County Land & Water Conservation resources.
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters aquatic invasive species prevention information.
- WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer for checking sensitive areas and special resources.

Resource	Link / QR Code Source
WDNR Aquatic Plant Management	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants
WDNR Aquatic Plant Management Permit FAQ	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/APMPermitFAQs.html
WDNR APM Permit Application Forms	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/forms
WDNR Dredging and Grading Project Permitting	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waterways/dredging
Healthy Lakes & Rivers Best Practices	https://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/
Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grants	https://healthylakeswi.com/grants/
WDNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/cbcw
Oneida County AIS Program	https://ais.co.oneida.wi.us/

Sample Quick Reference Guide



Bear Lake
Protection &
Rehabilitation District

BEAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNER GUIDE

Aquatic Plant Removal (no Permit)

Wisconsin law allows property owners to manually remove aquatic plants within 30 feet of their shoreline without a permit.

OHWM
Ordinary High Water Mark
The line on the shore established by the highest water level that has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave a mark on the landscape.

THE 30-FOOT SHORELINE RULE (NR 109)
You may manually remove aquatic plants within 30 feet of your shoreline, measured parallel to the shore.

30 FEET MAXIMUM WIDTH
(measured parallel to shoreline)

TOOLS YOU CAN USE



Lake Rake Weed Cutter Pruning Shears Weed Razor Garden Fork Your Hands

- ✓ Hand pull, rake, or cut aquatic plants
- ✓ Clear around docks, lifts, and swim areas
- ✓ All removal must be manual (no motors)
- ✓ Extend lakeward only as needed for reasonable access

HOW TO REMOVE PLANTS (NO PERMIT)

- 1 Stay within 30 feet of your shoreline, measured parallel to the shore. 
- 2 Use manual tools to pull, rake, cut, or lift plants. 
- 3 Remove plants from the water and place them well above the high-water mark so they won't wash back in. 
- 4 Extend lakeward only as needed for reasonable access to your dock, lift, or swim area. 
- 5 Repeat as needed to keep areas open and usable. 

GOOD STEWARDSHIP = A HEALTHY LAKE

-  Remove only what you need.
-  Leave native plants for fish habitat and water quality.
-  Do not dispose of plants in the lake. Place on upland away from the water.
-  Check, clean, drain your boat and gear before leaving the lake.
-  Be a good neighbor and respect others enjoying the lake.

Healthy Shorelines. Healthy Lake. Healthy Community.

AQUATIC PLANT REMOVAL SERVICES



Services are available in the area to hand remove or use diver-assisted removal.



Contact local service providers for more information.

QUESTIONS?
We're here to help!

Contact the Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
bearlakeprd.org

✓ This guide summarizes Wisconsin DNR rules (NR 109) for manual aquatic plant removal.

This guide is for informational purposes only and does not replace state law. When in doubt, contact the Wisconsin DNR or your local lake organization.

Appendix B – Bear Lake Shoreline Stewardship Guide

Bear Lake Shoreline Stewardship Guide

A Healthy Lake

Bear Lake is an important natural resource. Aquatic plants, shoreline vegetation, wetlands, and natural lakebed materials are part of that system. They provide habitat, help stabilize sediments, support water clarity, and contribute to the lake character that shoreline owners value.

At the same time, dense vegetation in localized areas can affect boating, swimming, fishing, and access to docks. The District can best assist property owners by helping them understand existing options and by encouraging practical stewardship that protects Bear Lake while allowing reasonable shoreline use.

Core Stewardship Principle

Remove only what is reasonably needed for access and recreation and leave the rest of the shoreline and aquatic plant community as natural as practical. Reduce aquatic vegetation density by following practices to reduce nutrient runoff into the lake. This approach protects fish and wildlife habitat, reduces sediment disturbance, and helps preserve Bear Lake for future generations.

Aquatic Plants Are Not Automatically a Problem

- Native aquatic plants provide important habitat for fish, insects, amphibians, birds, and other wildlife.
- Aquatic plants help hold lakebed sediments in place and can reduce resuspension of bottom material in shallow areas.
- A lake with aquatic plants is not necessarily an unhealthy lake. In many cases, aquatic plants are evidence of a functioning lake ecosystem.
- The stewardship goal is not to eliminate aquatic plants, but to manage limited access areas responsibly and reduce dense growth that interferes with normal use.

Manual Aquatic Plant Removal Near Docks and Shoreline Access

Wisconsin guidance generally allows a riparian property owner to manually remove aquatic plants within a single access area up to 30 feet wide measured along the shoreline, when applicable conditions are met. Property owners should review current WDNR guidance before beginning work, particularly if their shoreline has sensitive features, wild rice, protected species, or other special conditions.

- Use the smallest practical access area needed for docks, lifts, swimming, boat movement, and similar recreational use.
- Use hand methods described in WDNR guidance, such as hand pulling, hand raking, cutting, or other appropriate hand-held methods.
- Remove cut, raked, or loose plant material from the water and place it on land where it cannot wash back into the lake.
- Avoid clearing a wider or second access area unless current WDNR guidance confirms that no permit is needed or a permit has been obtained.

- Avoid disturbing the lakebed, digging into sediments, or removing bottom material while managing aquatic plants.

Activities That Should Be Checked With WDNR or the County First

Some shoreline activities are more complex than routine manual access maintenance. Property owners should check official guidance or contact the appropriate agency before beginning work if any of the following conditions apply:

- Aquatic plants would be removed from more than one area, or from an area wider than the single 30-foot access corridor.
- The shoreline is undeveloped, sensitive, specially designated, or may contain wild rice, protected species, floating bogs, or other special resources.
- Mechanical harvesting, suction harvesting, diver-assisted suction harvesting, lake-bottom barriers, dredging equipment, herbicides, or other non-routine methods are being considered.
- The project involves removing muck, sediment, accumulated deposits, or lakebed material.
- The project involves placing sand, gravel, rock, beach material, fill, or other material below the ordinary high water mark.
- The work involves shoreline grading, erosion control, riprap, seawalls, beach construction, or other structural shoreline changes.

The District should not be placed in the position of making property-specific determinations. Property owners should rely on WDNR, Oneida County, and qualified professionals for site-specific review.

Detached Floating Vegetation

Detached floating vegetation can accumulate in bays, along shorelines, around docks, or in navigation areas depending on wind, wave action, lake conditions, and seasonal plant growth. This material is different from rooted aquatic plants and should be evaluated separately.

- Property owners may remove loose floating plant material from around docks and shorelines using hand tools, provided the material is removed from the water and disposed of where it cannot return to the lake.
- Floating vegetation should not be pushed into neighboring areas, navigation routes, or other parts of the lake.

Muck, Sediment, and Accumulated Deposits

Questions about "muck" are often more complicated than questions about cutting or raking aquatic plants. Muck may include natural lakebed material, sediment, detritus, decayed plant material, or accumulated plant and animal nuisance deposits. Removing bottom material can affect water quality, habitat, and lakebed conditions.

- Review current WDNR dredging, grading, and nuisance deposit guidance before beginning any work that disturbs bottom material.
- Avoid digging, scraping, suctioning, dredging, or otherwise altering the lakebed without confirming whether a permit or other review is required.
- If accumulated plant or animal nuisance deposits are present, confirm current WDNR guidance because the distinction between removable deposits and native lakebed material can matter.

- When in doubt, ask WDNR or the appropriate county office before work begins.

Shoreline Buffers and Runoff Reduction

A natural shoreline buffer is one of the most practical ways property owners can help protect Bear Lake. Native vegetation slows runoff, filters sediment and nutrients, stabilizes soil, provides habitat, and helps preserve the natural appearance of the lake.

- Maintain or restore native plants near the shoreline where practical.
- Avoid mowing to the water edge where a natural buffer can be maintained.
- Direct roof, driveway, patio, and lawn runoff into vegetated areas, rain gardens, or infiltration areas where water can soak into the ground before reaching the lake.
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, brush, and yard waste out of the water.
- Avoid fertilizer use near the lake. If fertilizer is used elsewhere, follow label directions and prevent runoff toward the water.
- Maintain septic systems and address drainage or erosion problems before they affect the lake.

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Practices

Wisconsin Healthy Lakes & Rivers materials provide practical best practices that can be installed by property owners or coordinated through eligible sponsors. These practices are intended to improve habitat and water quality through modest, achievable projects.

- Native plantings can restore shoreline habitat and improve runoff filtering.
- Rain gardens can capture and infiltrate runoff before it reaches the lake.
- Diversion practices can redirect water away from eroding paths and toward stable infiltration areas.
- Infiltration practices can help roof and hard-surface runoff soak into the ground.
- Fish sticks projects can add near-shore fish and wildlife habitat where appropriate and where requirements are met.
- Grant funding may be available for eligible applicants. Individual property owners should review current program requirements or coordinate with an eligible sponsor if a grant-funded project is desired.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

Preventing aquatic invasive species is easier and less costly than managing them after they become established. Every property owner, visitor, boater, angler, and contractor has a role in prevention.

- Clean boats, trailers, anchors, docks, lifts, swim rafts, waders, and other equipment before moving between waterbodies.
- Drain water from boats, live wells, bilges, bait containers, and equipment where required before leaving a landing or moving between waters.
- Dry equipment when practical before using it in another waterbody.
- Inspect equipment used by contractors or service providers before it enters Bear Lake.
- Report suspected aquatic invasive species or unusual lake conditions to the appropriate District, county, or WDNR contact.
- Support Clean Boats, Clean Waters and related inspection or education efforts when available.

Working With Contractors or Service Providers

Property owners may choose to hire contractors for shoreline work, plant management, dock service, landscaping, restoration, or similar projects. Hiring a contractor does not transfer responsibility for understanding whether work is allowed or whether permits are required.

- Ask the contractor what methods will be used and whether lakebed disturbance, mechanical equipment, suction equipment, herbicides, fill, grading, or shoreline alteration is involved.
- Ask whether WDNR or county permits are required and request copies of any permits before work begins.
- Confirm how removed plant material, sediment, debris, or other material will be disposed of.
- Confirm that equipment has been cleaned to reduce aquatic invasive species risk before entering the lake.
- When the answer is unclear, contact WDNR or the appropriate county office before authorizing the work.

When in Doubt, Ask First

The most important practical advice for shoreline property owners is to check first when an activity goes beyond routine, limited, manual maintenance. A short call or email before work begins can prevent confusion, avoid unintended lakebed disturbance, and protect both the property owner and Bear Lake.

- Contact WDNR for aquatic plant management, permits, dredging, nuisance deposits, and waterway questions.
- Contact Oneida County Land & Water Conservation or the appropriate county office for shoreland, runoff, erosion, conservation, and local resource questions.

Resource	Link / QR Code Source
WDNR Aquatic Plant Management	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants
WDNR Aquatic Plant Management Permit FAQ	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/APMPermitFAQs.html
WDNR APM Permit Application Forms	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants/forms
WDNR Dredging and Grading Project Permitting	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waterways/dredging
WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/swdv
WDNR Invasive Species Prevention	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/prevention
WDNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/cbcw

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Best Practices	https://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/
Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grants	https://healthylakeswi.com/grants/
Oneida County Land & Water Conservation	https://www.oneidacountywi.gov/departments/lc/
Oneida County AIS Program	https://ais.co.oneida.wi.us/

APPENDIX C – RESOURCE AND REFERENCE LIST

Suggested QR label	Target page	Where to use	Annual check
Bear Lake District Notices	District website messages page	Appendix A, mailed notice, annual meeting packet	Use for local District-approved notices and Bear Lake-specific materials.
Aquatic Plant Removal and Permits	WDNR aquatic plant permit FAQs WDNR APM permit forms	Appendix A, Appendix B	Use for 30-foot manual removal language and when a property owner may need permit review.
Waterway and Shoreline Permits	WDNR Waterways page WDNR water permit applications	Appendix B	Use for dredging, grading, fill, shoreline structures, piers, and other in-water or near-shore work.
Oneida County Shoreland and Zoning	Oneida County Planning and Zoning Chapter 9 shoreland ordinance page	Appendix B	Use when property owners need county shoreland, zoning, grading, filling, structure, or setback information.
Healthy Lakes & Rivers Practices	Healthy Lakes & Rivers Best practices Grants	Appendix A and Appendix B	Use for voluntary native plantings, runoff reduction, fish sticks, rain gardens, rock infiltration, diversions, and grant opportunities.
Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention	WDNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters Oneida County AIS Program	Appendix A and Appendix B	Use for boat landing education, clean-drain-dry reminders, monitoring, reporting, and AIS outreach.

Resource Link Register

The following register should be maintained as the source list for Appendix A, Appendix B, and any District handouts derived from those appendices.

Topic	Official source to maintain	Primary use in District materials
District / Bear Lake	Bear Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District District Messages	Local District notices, local materials, annual meeting references.
Bear Lake waterbody information	WDNR Find a Lake: Bear Lake	General lake identification and official WDNR lake profile reference.
Aquatic plant management overview	WDNR Aquatic Plants	General aquatic plant education and plant management context.
Manual aquatic plant removal and permits	WDNR APM permit FAQs WDNR APM permit forms	30-foot manual removal language, permit screening, APM coordinator referral.
Waterway permits and ePermitting	WDNR Waterways Water permit applications Waterway permit FAQs	General permit screening for in-water work, structures, fill, wetland impacts, and permit applications.
Dredging, grading, and lakebed material	WDNR dredging and grading	Muck, sediment, dredging, grading, and nuisance deposit questions.

Topic	Official source to maintain	Primary use in District materials
Shoreline erosion and structures	WDNR shoreline erosion control WDNR OHWM guidance	Riprap, biostabilization, shoreline changes, erosion control, and OHWM questions.
Healthy shoreline practices	Healthy Lakes & Rivers Healthy Lakes best practices Healthy Lakes grants	Voluntary property owner stewardship, runoff reduction, native plantings, and funding opportunities.
AIS prevention and boat landing education	WDNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters WDNR invasive species prevention	Clean-drain-dry reminders, boat and trailer checks, and public landing education.
Equipment decontamination and AIS contacts	WDNR boat and gear disinfection WDNR invasive species contacts	Contractor/equipment movement, volunteers, monitoring, and escalation for AIS questions.
Oneida County Land and Water Conservation	Oneida County Land & Water Conservation OCLW website	County conservation, water quality, local resource coordination, and land/water programs.
Oneida County AIS resources	Oneida County AIS Program Oneida County AIS resource links	AIS education, reporting, monitoring, mapping, and local technical assistance.
Oneida County shoreland and zoning	Oneida County Planning & Zoning Zoning and Shoreland Protection Ordinance	County permits, shoreland zoning, structures, grading/filling, and ordinance references.
Oneida County Planning & Zoning	Department page	County contact for zoning, shoreland, structures, grading/filling, setbacks, and local permit questions. Current general phone and email should be verified before distribution.
Oneida County Land & Water Conservation	County department page OCLW website	County contact for land and water conservation, water quality, shoreline stewardship, and local resource coordination.
Oneida County AIS Program	AIS Program page	Local AIS education, monitoring, reporting, and outreach resource for Oneida County lakes.
WDNR Waterways and APM	WDNR Waterways WDNR APM forms	Use for aquatic plant management, waterway permit, dredging, grading, shoreline, and in-water work questions.