

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Today's date: 10 / 14 / 20

Date of meeting 10 / 21 / 20

(City Council meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.)

Name of Elected Official, City Employee, Organization, or Citizen making request:

Kim Woodruff, Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces

Address: City Hall - 1123 Lake St - Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

Phone number and email address: 208-263-3674 / kwoodruff@sandpointidaho.gov

Authorized by: Kim Woodruff

*name of City official*

*City official's signature*

Subject: Invasive Aquatic Weeds Control Report

Summary of what is being requested: Informantional. Summary of summer 2020 and strategies for for summer 2021.

The following information MUST be completed before submitting your request to the City Clerk:

1. Would there be any financial impact to the city?  Yes  No Budgeted?  Yes  No  
 If yes, in what way? \$30,000 per year - 3 year agreement (2020, 2021, 2022)

2. Name(s) of any individual(s) or group(s) that will be directly affected by this action:

N/A

Have they been contacted?  
Yes or No

3. Is there a need for a general public information or public involvement plan? Yes or No  
 If yes, please specify and suggest a method to accomplish the plan: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is an enforcement plan needed?  Yes  No Additional funds needed?  Yes  No  
 5. Have all the affected divisions been informed about this agenda item?  Yes  No

**This form must be submitted no later than 5:00pm Tuesday the week prior to the meeting. All pertinent documentation for the Council packet must be included.**

**ITEMS WILL NOT BE AGENDIZED WITHOUT THIS FORM**

**CITY OF SANDPOINT  
AGENDA REPORT**

**DATE: 10-14-2020**

**TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: Kim, Parks**

**SUBJECT: Aquatic Weeds – Summary of summer 2020 and strategies for summer 2021**

**DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**

City has contracted with Aquatic Weeds Solutions, Inc. for herbicide free aquatic invasive weed management. Summer 2020 is the first year of a three-year agreement (2020, 2021, and 2022). This presentation will include results of the work completed in 2020 and highlight strategies for summer 2021.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational only

**ACTION:**

None – Informational only

**WILL THERE BE ANY FINANCIAL IMPACT? Yes HAS THIS ITEM BEEN BUDGETED? Yes**

**\$30,000 per year. Three year total = \$90,000**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Aquatic Weed Solutions Inc., report attached (Septembers 11, 2020)



### Overview

At the completion of the 2020 D.A.S.H (diver assisted suction harvesting) program, AWS removed 346 totes of invasive weeds from the windbag marina, the swim areas at city beach, and memorial field boat launch. That means about 19,030lbs, or 3,854 cubic feet of wet biomass removed. We spent a total of 261 hours suction harvesting this season. We focused 85 of those hours on mature Eurasian watermilfoil plants within the 3 feet of the water surface. This was done to prevent fragmentation via propellers that would otherwise continue to spread the plant. Approximately 30 hours were used in the beginning of June removing curly leaf that had topped out creating a hazard. The remaining 146 hours were spent targeting flowering rush and curly leaf, with approximately 810 separate rush plant or groups removed.

We went after flowering rush aggressively because we believe it poses the greatest threat to high use areas. We identified approximately 289 rush plants in our pre-treatment survey, which were eliminated successfully during the 146 hours spent on this species alone. During our time underwater, we identified an additional 521 rush plants that were primarily small newly established plants that floated in or were out of view from the pretreatment survey. We plan on volunteering 40 labor hours during drawdown to remove any plants that may be hiding under hard to access areas where boats don't move from often or other plants we may have missed.

The 2020 season was similar to 2019 in terms of typical plant growing seasons Eurasian milfoil was making its way to the surface in most areas the middle of August. Native pondweeds such as Sago pondweed were dense and to the surface around the second week of July. by the end of June Curly leaf pondweed was surfacing and causing issues in the boating lanes of the marina. We saw a similar number to last season of smaller Flowering rush plants floating and becoming rooted in the swimming area as well as the marina portion. Our complete removal test plots proved highly effective for the fourth year in removing the EWM very minimal regrowth was observed late in the year very similar to what we observed the last three years with the test plots.

## AWS management plan moving forward recommendations

- AWS recommends putting a primary focus of approximately 175 Hours to flowering rush with a secondary focus on Curly leaf pondweed, and Eurasian watermilfoil with the remaining budget. Ideally for complete removal from the treatment areas we would be looking at an additional 200 hours of dive time but for just management by removing the tops of the plants as they surface is approximately 60-75 hours of dive time.
- AWS also recommend putting in some time to suction harvesting the kayak put in points (steps in the water) along the walking path in sand creek as well as in front of the day use boating areas to at a minimum keep the flowering rush from becoming so dense that they become unusable and very difficult to manage without herbicides when they become dense. I estimate that to be approximately 50 hours of dive time. Without management it isn't a question of if it will become overgrown with flowering rush it is when will it become overgrown with flowering rush with no management.
- The suction method for harvesting flowering rush is highly effective at keeping the plant densities to a manageable level year after year as new plants float in from upstream and are also moved by the ducks and geese. The root systems of these plants are incredibly strong and require thorough removal to eliminate the entire plant. A skill that we continue to improve on to show better results year after year. We plan to continue this method for next season.
- We have created a control grid in the densest Eurasian watermilfoil patch we could find to monitor how effective complete removal will be in a dense area, (see attached map). Our recommendation moving forward with the dense patches of EWM is to start to work on the infestation with the suction harvesting as soon as the plants emerge in an attempt to reduce the plant mass removed with each root system as funding will allow. This will limit fragmenting and make complete plant removal far more efficient. Starting earlier we will also be able to target curly leaf pond weed prior to its mid-season dormancy. With the plan to remove as much of the plant densities as possible before they are within the surface buffer. During 2020 there was not enough time budgeted to focus on EWM eradication but more of a management as the plants caused a concern. We will continue to research possible non-herbicide dry ground control methods as well.

## Windbag Marina



## City Beach Swimming Area



## Memorial Field

AWS spent 2 days at memorial boat launch removing Curly Leaf pondweed EWM and flowering rush in the boat traffic areas, most of the plants in the traffic areas are native.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Street Pier:** A few scattered rush plants were found and removed, and dense native pondweeds (American and Sago).



In the five years AWS has been the contractor for the City of Sandpoint we have removed 90,475lbs of biomass

2016 = 18,425lbs

2017 = 19,195lbs

2018 = 17,160lbs

2019 = 16,665lbs

2020 = 19,030lbs

Total = 90,475lbs

The numbers for 2020 may look like an increase in production, in reality we had additional funds in the budget. We treated where we would be the most efficient while keeping the long-term goal of flowering rush eradication as well as swimmers and boater's recreation unimpeded and safe with the current environment in mind while maximizing the budget. We are seeing an annual decline of established Flowering Rush plants with approximately 550 plus new plants floating in from upstream every summer it's crucial that we continue to reduce the amount of established plants every year to where our hours are being maximized battling the plants floating in and becoming more efficient every year to better serve our treatment area. We will continue to make the most out of the budget we are given to eliminate Flowering rush and keep sail boaters, power boaters, swimmers and all other users out of the weeds. Thank you for allowing AWS to work for you, we appreciate your business.