Keeping Momentum
a Decade Later
The Door County Invasive Species Team

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Door County, WI
a unique place to live and work

DCIST
Door County Invasive Species Team
Door County, WI
the beginnings of a partnership

- Unique geography and demography
- Highly biodiversity, rare and endangered species
- Recognized unique set of invasive species concerns
- Three large non-profit land trusts, five state parks, 28 state natural areas, numerous County and Town parks

= DCIST (circa 2005)
Start Small
lots of momentum – 2005-2010

- Creating a brochure/logo/website
- Identifying needs and potential collaborations
- Working at smaller scales
- Education workshops
- Engaging volunteers
- Learning from each other
Forging a Path
WDNR GLRI Grant – 2011-2013

- 300 acres of Phragmites treated within conservation opportunity areas
- Rallied entire partnership around one project
- Many volunteer hours
- Provided a framework for the future Phragmites work we would accomplish
The Golden Years
...of funding 2011-2016

• Section 7 (endangered species)
• Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
• State/Federal Coastal
• State AIS Funding
• USFS
• Donations – private & townships

And we were prepared to use it!
Challenges
2011-2016

- Project burnout
- Aging volunteer base (who put in A LOT of hours previously)
- Limited staff time and resources among partners
- New invasive species
- Stiff grant competition
Bringing it back to “Local”
2014-2016

“Didn’t you take care of all them Phragmites?”

- Ensure previous time and funding was not wasted
- Towns were already financially invested in a lot of cases

Two towns initially passed Phragmites ordinances in 2014 and 2015.
Town of Jacksonport
2015-2016

“The Perfect Storm”
• Ordinance
• Local concern over Phragmites
• Willingness to fund/enforce
• Support of DCIST and framework in place
• SUCCESS!

Expanded in 2016 to inland areas!
Spread the Word!

2016

• New avenue for education and outreach on other species

• Lots of interest from local media and other groups/associations – opened door for further communication

• The City of Sturgeon Bay and the Town have both passed ordinances in 2016; many other Town boards are discussing
Overcoming Challenges into the future

- Compiling database and prioritization (aka getting strategic)
- Exploring options for organization’s structure and committees
- Bringing in new partners, engaging new groups/associations
- If it’s not broken don’t fix it – One-on-one landowner outreach
- The weed warriors are still out there! Find your champions!
Flexibility & Common Goals

• Follow the funding...or getting creative when it comes to finding/generating funding

• New ideas for working at varying scales – examples = SOGL wetland crew 2017-2018 (matching smaller scale work) & Gibraltar I.S. Challenge

• Mission is still education – you’ve got to keep yourselves invested to keep others invested

• Luck = Opportunity + Preparedness
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