



INVITATION TO A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING FOR SHORELINE OWNERS

6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg, MI 49690 Tel. 231-938-1350 Fax 231-938-1510 www.acmetownship.org

July 13, 2009

Dear Acme Township Bayfront Property Owner:

Invasive species are the second most significant threat to water quality in Grand Traverse Bay. As you may already know, we have the invasive plant species known as *Phragmites australis* (frag-MY-teez) growing along our Lake Michigan Shoreline. There is a native species of Phragmites which poses no threat. However, left uncontrolled Phragmites in Southern Michigan and on Beaver Island has driven out native plants and changed the ecology of streams, lowlands and lakeshores. This has also had a significant negative impact on property values, beach access, fishing and boating. **WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN HERE!**

Performed early and carefully, a uniform spray program carried out by a licensed and qualified professional can be done on a stand-by-stand basis. Once an infestation becomes large, broader aerial spraying may be required. Attempting to pull Phragmites incorrectly can actually spread it faster. Common household herbicides are not effective for this plant, and their use in or near the water may be hazardous. The correct chemicals must be properly applied at a specific time in the plant's lifecycle, during the late summer/early fall, to be effective and safe.

During the remainder of July and early August, Acme Township will be conducting a shoreline survey to identify and map *Phragmites australis* infestations, and will apply for a chemical control permit. Hand application of herbicide is expected to occur at some point between late August and early October. **We are inviting you to participate in a voluntary Phragmites identification and eradication program with us, and if needed to share the chemical control permit we are obtaining from the state. Benefits of participating in our program include:**

- Distinguishing native and non-native Phragmites and learning how – and how not to – treat it
- Surveying and mapping non-native Phragmites infestations using GIS coordinates (volunteers needed to assist, from the water along the entire shoreline, and from on-shore where landowners are willing)
- Township applying for one blanket chemical treatment permit for all interested property owners (individual permits cost \$75 each with applications due to the state by August 15)
- Township will maintain all records related to chemical control as required by the DNR/DEQ
- Bulk contract with licensed, experienced treatment contractor to hand-apply specifically to only non-native Phragmites plants in the most environmentally safe manner possible – save money vs. individual contracts
- Acme Township has applied for grant money to help offset the cost of public education and chemical application (the latter is estimated to cost \$2.50 - \$3.50/lineal foot, depending on infestation density).

What can you do to protect your property and neighboring properties from the rapid spread of Phragmites?

- **Come to a meeting at the Acme Township Hall at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23 to learn more**
- Volunteer to help our intern with the Phragmites shoreline survey
- Provide your consent for us to survey your property(ies) from on-shore (SEE FORM INCLUDED)
- Provide your consent for us to treat your property(ies) with herbicide in 2009 (SEE FORM INCLUDED)
- **Act NOW....waiting will be more expensive and chemical application would be less plant-targeted.**

RSVPs to Nancy Edwardson at 938-1350 appreciated but not required. We hope to see you on the 23rd!

Sincerely,

Wayne J. Kladder, Supervisor
wjkcm@gmail.com



**PERMISSION TO SURVEY AND/OR TREAT
PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR *PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS*
SUMMER/FALL 2009**

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If there is more than one property owner, please have all owners sign. Thank you!

_____ I/we hereby give consent to have my/our property surveyed for *Phragmites australis*.

_____ I/we hereby give consent to treat *Phragmites australis* on my/our property with herbicide in 2009.

_____ I am/we are currently working with a private contractor for *Phragmites australis* control.

_____ I/we are interested in helping with the *Phragmites australis* survey.

Please contact us at: _____ (phone)

or _____ (e-mail) with details on how we can help.

_____ 28-01-
Property Address Parcel ID (s)#

Name of Association (if shared waterfront): _____

_____ Owner 1 signature _____ Owner 1 Printed Name _____ Date

_____ Owner 2 signature _____ Owner 2 Printed Name _____ Date

_____ Owner 3 signature _____ Owner 3 Printed Name _____ Date

_____ Mailing Address for property _____ Phone

E-mail address(es) _____

May we also add you to the e-mail list for the bi-weekly township newsletter? Yes ___ No ___

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST!