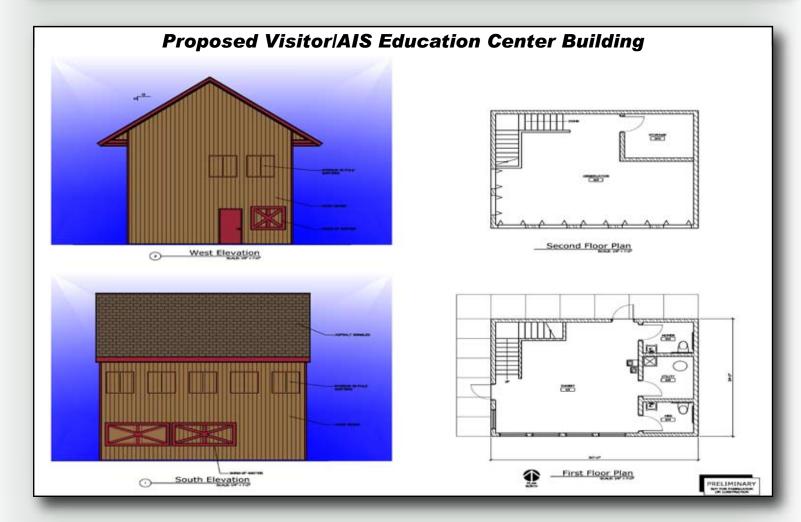
# **Aquatic Invasive Species Management**

The lock at Rapide Croche is non-functional and is the site of a fixed barrier constructed in 1988 to prevent the upstream migration of sea lamprey into the Lake Winnebago system. As specified in State Statute 237 a permanent barrier will remain at the Rapide Croche site. In order for boats to traverse the Lower Fox River a boat lift incorporating an aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspection and cleansing process will be required.

The Fox River Navigational System Authority has prepared an AIS Control and Monitoring Plan for the Rapide Croche Boat Transfer Station. The goal of this plan is to prevent the upstream spread of aquatic invasive species and safely transfer boats at the Rapide Croche Lock Barrier.

### The plans objectives are:

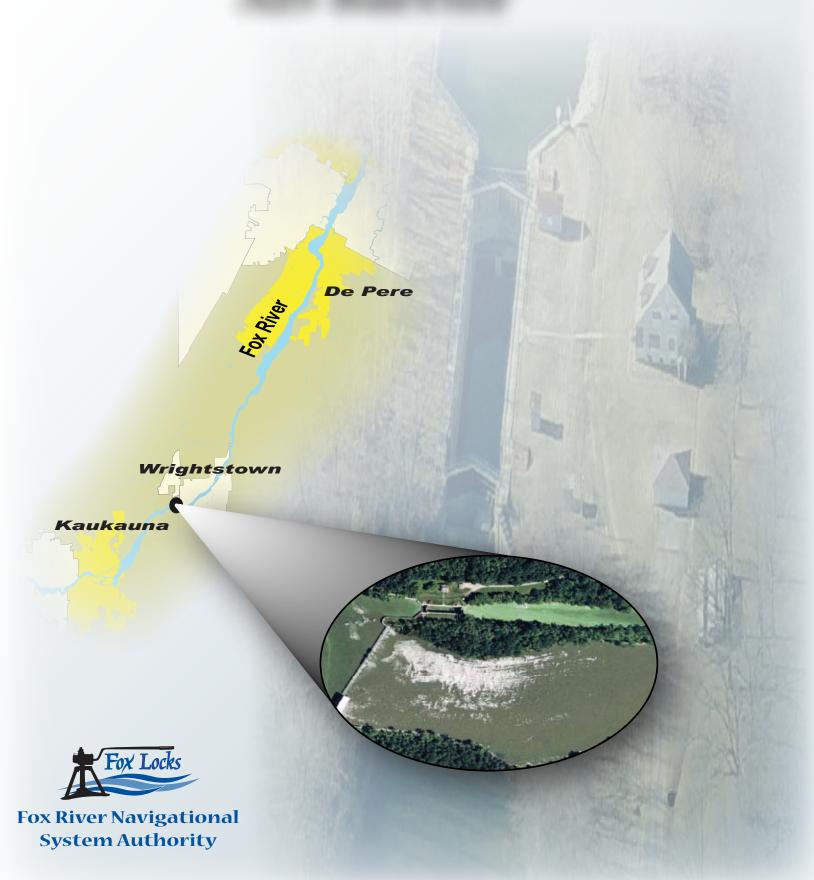
- 1. Maintain the effectiveness of the lamprey barrier currently in place at the Rapide Croche Lock site.
  - 2. Move boats overland in an environmentally safe manner without moving AIS.
- 3. Ensure that the boat cleansing process at the Rapide Croche Transfer Station meets or exceeds the Wisconsin State and Aquatic Task Force recreational boating guidelines for AIS prevention.
- 4. Monitor for the presence of fish and invertebrate AIS above and below the Rapide Croche transfer station.
  - 5. Educate system users about AIS prevention.



For more information contact:
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\*Background photo from covertaken from Microsoft Bing Maps - www.bing.com/maps/



# Rapide Croche Boat Transfer Station AIS Barrier



### Rapide Croche Boat Transfer Station

The Fox River Navigational System Authority is planning for a Boat Transfer Station at the Rapide Croche Lock Site. The Rapide Croche Lock was sealed in 1988 and will remain sealed to prevent sea lamprey and other aquatic invasive species from migrating from the Great Lakes upstream to the Lake Winnebago system. The transfer station will include a method for lifting boats over the Rapide Croche barrier and cleansing of aquatic invasive species before boats are placed upstream. Once the transfer system is in place it will allow recreational boaters access on the Fox River from Green Bay to Winnebago system. The cost of boat transfer will be approximately \$25 for boats under 26 feet and \$50 for boats over 26 feet.

The transfer station at the lock site will consist of a solid 160 foot long water proof barrier with a platform containing a 55'X19'X 6' deep hot water basin and an inspection/spray basin. A fork lift and travel lift will transfer boats. Launch piers will allow passenger ingress and egress as well as temporary boat mooring. Canoe and kayak launch sites will be constructed both upstream and down stream of the station. Future plans include the possible construction of a visitor and AIS education center at the site to educate visitors of the history of the Fox River and the importance of preventing the spread of AIS.

# Rapide Croche Site Plan

## **Boat Transfer and Cleansing Process**

The transfer station will accommodate boats as large as 53 feet in length, 17 foot beam and 25 tons. Drafts can be no greater than 4 feet with propellers and masts and superstructures no greater than 23 feet. Boats up to approximately 26 feet will be lifted from the water and transferred with a custom marine fork lift. Larger boats will be lifted and transferred with a marine travel lift. Boats arriving at the transfer site from the downstream side will be positioned between launch piers and passengers will depart. The station operators will then lift the boat vertically from the river and moved to the transfer platform where a hull inspection and prespray wash will be used. The boat will then be lowered into a 110 degree hot water cleansing chamber for five minutes. As necessary, propulsion systems, intakes, and exhaust ports will be flushed with 110 degree water to remove AIS. Depending on the type of boat the owner may be required to start and idle the engine briefly to flush the engine. Based upon a visual inspection onboard equipment such as anchors, ropes or skis may also need to be immersed. The operators will then lift the boat from the chamber and move to the upstream side of the station for to be lowered to the river. Passengers can then re-board. The transfer time with cleansing should take approximately 20 minutes. Boats arriving at the upstream side that are traveling down stream will follow the same lift process but will not undergo the cleansing process. This transfer time should be approximately 10 minutes.

