

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2015**  
**CONTACT: John Durbrow at [mcla@lakefield.net](mailto:mcla@lakefield.net)**

### **Manitowoc County Partners Receive *Phragmites* Control Grant**

Manitowoc County Partners, comprising the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Stantec Environmental Consultants, the Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA), and the Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA), recently received a DNR *Phragmites* Control Grant to reduce this rapidly spreading invasive plant. *Phragmites* is currently on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources list of restricted plants, and this grant will allow Manitowoc County Partners to aid those property owners with an infestation to obtain cost free initial control.

The spread of *Phragmites* in Manitowoc County has reduced access to beaches and riverfronts for recreational activities such as swimming and fishing, restricted lakefront views, and damaged walkways and structures along the beachfront.

*Phragmites* currently occurs as small to large scattered populations along the Manitowoc County shoreline; however, if left untreated, dense stands will spread relatively quickly along the shoreline and inland tributaries.



This project intends to build upon previous control efforts along the Lake Michigan shoreline and tributaries by expanding the treatment project area to areas where treatment has historically not occurred. The effort will work to educate landowners on the need for continued treatment beyond the scope of this 3-year project. This project will treat *Phragmites* within private and public lands, and is working towards treating 100% of the Lake Michigan shoreline in Manitowoc County.

All landowners in the treatment area will be contacted for permission to treat their property prior to control measures being undertaken.

For further information, contact John Durbrow @ [mcla@lakefield.net](mailto:mcla@lakefield.net), or 920-726-4850.