

# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID

## Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of frequently asked questions and answers that have been asked about the new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid dollars that will go out to counties to help them with their AIS programs. This document will be updated as more information becomes available over time.

To view the statutory language, please refer to MN Statute 477A.19.



### Q: What is the definition of AIS and is there a list of all of them?

A: Under Minnesota Statute 477A.19, AIS are defined as: nonnative aquatic organisms that invade water beyond their natural and historic range. Under Minnesota Statute 84D, invasive species are defined as non-native species that:

1. Cause or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; or
2. Threatens or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state.

A list of prohibited, regulated, and unregulated non-native species is available at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html>

### Q: How much money will our county receive and how is this amount calculated?

A: The estimated amount provided by the Minnesota Department of Revenue can be found [here](#). These numbers are only estimates and will be certified by the Department of Revenue on July 1, 2014. *The amount that your county receives is allocated as follows: **50 percent based on each county's share of watercraft trailer launches and 50 percent based on each county's share of watercraft trailer parking spaces.***

### Q: How can a find a list of the public launches and trailer parking spots in our county?

A. A list of launches and trailer parking can be found on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website by clicking [here](#).

### Q: How can our county appeal the identified number of trailer parking spots and/or boat launches?

A. A process this for doing this has yet to be identified.

### Q: When will our county receive payment from the Department of Revenue?

A. Payable 2014: \$4,500,000 will be allocated and certified by July 1, 2014 to be paid July 20, 2014.

Payable 2015 and thereafter: \$10,000,000 to be allocated and certified by August 1; payments made annually on July 20 and December 26.

### Q: Is there a match required to utilize the funds?

A. Statute does not require counties to provide a match to the prevention funds.

**Q: What does our county need to do to receive the money?**

A. Money will automatically be distributed to counties as part of the distribution formula. Minnesota Statute reads: *“The county must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds. The guidelines set by the county board may include, but are not limited to, providing for site-level management, countywide awareness, and other procedures that the county finds necessary to achieve compliance. Each county must submit a copy of its guidelines for use of the proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31 of the year the payments are received.”*

**Q: How will our county report how the funds are spent?**

A. The statute does not currently call for a formal report, but you will want to review the statute and make certain that you are properly accounting for the expenditure of the funds and using the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county.

**Q: Do we have to use all of the AIS dollars each year or can they rollover?**

A. Statute does not say that the dollars must be used in their entirety each year. For example, if a county chooses to create their plan in the first year and not allocate the funds until their plan or resolution is complete they may spend them in future years.

**Q: How can the prevention aid dollars be used?**

A. Statute remains vague on how counties may choose to allocate the prevention aid dollars, stating that the expenditures *“may include, but are not limited to, providing for site-level management, countywide awareness, and other procedures that the county finds necessary to achieve compliance. The county may appropriate the proceeds directly, or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section.”*

**Q: Can we use the AIS funds on a regional project or across county boundaries?**

A. Statute does not specify that you cannot do this, so it is allowable.

**Q: Can we pass the AIS funds on to other entities or LGUs in our county?**

A. Yes. Statute allows for the following:

*“The county may appropriate the proceeds directly, or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section.”*

**Q: What should our county have for reporting requirements if we grant funds to another organization?**

A: Grant agreements should outline the duties of the grantee and ensure the dollars are only being used to prevent the spread of AIS.

**Q: Is there a template that we can use for a plan?**

A: The DNR is in the process of developing a county AIS plan framework for counties to review. This framework will be available soon on the DNR website’s Invasive Species page.

**Q: Are there Best Management Practices (BMPs) available?**

A: Yes, please go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html> and click on “What you should do” link to see a list of best management practices for specific activities.

**Q: What are proven and successful activities to prevent the spread of AIS and/or contain AIS to infested lakes?**

A: Minnesota’s Aquatic Invasive Species Laws are designed to prevent the spread of AIS through water related activities. Personal responsibility is key to preventing the spread of AIS through activities. Other protection efforts include conditions outlined on various permits and licenses. Education and public awareness is a critical activity in any prevention program. Authorized inspectors can provide onsite eyes to catch any equipment that may not meet the law and remove the risk before the equipment enters the water. Inspectors and others such as volunteers/ambassadors can provide in person public awareness. Partnerships are critical in the prevention process.

**Q: Where can our county go to find example educational materials so that we do not have to start from scratch?**

A: MN DNR has a number of educational materials available at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html> (on the right hand side of the page)

and at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/public-awareness/resources.html>

More groups to partner with (sea grant and wildlife forever materials) are listed at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/public-awareness/partners.html>

**Q: Who can we contact at DNR if we have questions?**

A: The DNR will be hiring two planners. Until DNR is staffed up you can contact the DNR Regional Invasive Species Specialists or local experts.

Contact information is available at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html>

**Q: Does our county need to enter into a delegation agreement with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)?**

A: Only Local Government Units (LGUs) who are developing an authorized inspection program will need to enter into a delegation agreement.

**Q: Under a delegation agreement with DNR, who is considered a Local Government Unit (LGU)?**

A: Counties, cities, townships, watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, and tribal governments.

**Q: What is the role of the area sheriff department, city police, and DNR conservation officers? Are they part of the delegation agreement?**

A: Any local peace officer can be trained to enforce AIS laws. DNR conservation officers provide this training for free. If a LGU enters into a delegation agreement, local peace officers will need to provide support in conjunction with DNR Conservation officers for the authorized inspectors hired by the LGU.

**Q: Can a deputy, officer or inspector fine non-compliant people?**

A: Peace officers can enforce AIS laws and give criminal citations. Once they have been trained by the DNR Conservation Officer they can also give civil citations. Can an inspector issue fines? No, authorized inspectors can inspect water related equipment and refuse launch but cannot enforce AIS laws.

**Q: How can our county get employees trained as inspectors?**

A: Once a delegation agreement is signed the DNR will train LGU inspectors.

**Q: What are the different levels of inspectors and what can they do?**

A: There are Level I and Level II inspectors. Both have the authority to inspect watercraft at boat launches. The Level II inspectors are able to decontaminate water related equipment that meets the conditions outlined in the decontamination protocols.

**Q: When are the training programs?**

A: DNR provides Level I and Level II inspector training, volunteer/ambassador training, and enforcement training. Most of these are offered in the spring but DNR can schedule others throughout the summer if needed.

**Q: How much does the inspector training cost per participant?**

A: There is no cost to the LGU or participant.

**Q: Is inspector recertification necessary?**

A: Both DNR and LGU inspectors are trained every year. Volunteers/ambassadors are trained in person every three years and must take a web-based refresher once each year they are not trained in person. Volunteers/ambassadors must also have a background check once a year.

**Q: What can a lake association do?**

A: Lake association members can:

- Become Aquatic Invasive Species volunteers and educate watercraft users at local watercraft accesses
- Obtain DNR AIS signage to post at local watercraft accesses
- Apply for grants for DNR watercraft inspection hours
- Share information on AIS through presentations and print material and partner with local units of government.

B. Lake associations *cannot* enter into delegation agreements with the DNR or hire authorized watercraft inspectors.

**If you have additional questions, please visit**  
**<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html>**

# MINNESOTA · REVENUE

## 2014 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

County Name	Watercraft Trailer Launches	x \$1,039 per Launch	Watercraft Trailer Parking Spaces	x \$114 per Space	=	Total Aid
Aitkin	65	\$67,521	504	\$57,540		\$125,061
Anoka	21	\$21,814	310	\$35,392		\$57,206
Becker	80	\$83,102	530	\$60,508		\$143,610
Beltrami	42	\$43,629	367	\$41,899		\$85,528
Benton	6	\$6,233	92	\$10,503		\$16,736
Big Stone	15	\$15,582	194	\$22,148		\$37,730
Blue Earth	23	\$23,892	288	\$32,880		\$56,772
Brown	9	\$9,349	135	\$15,413		\$24,762
Carlton	18	\$18,698	129	\$14,728		\$33,426
Carver	27	\$28,047	277	\$31,624		\$59,671
Cass	115	\$119,460	932	\$106,403		\$225,863
Chippewa	7	\$7,271	79	\$9,019		\$16,290
Chisago	21	\$21,814	360	\$41,100		\$62,914
Clay	4	\$4,155	35	\$3,996		\$8,151
Clearwater	26	\$27,008	158	\$18,038		\$45,046
Cook	46	\$47,784	292	\$33,337		\$81,121
Cottonwood	14	\$14,543	110	\$12,558		\$27,101
Crow Wing	97	\$100,762	893	\$101,951		\$202,713
Dakota	15	\$15,582	372	\$42,470		\$58,052
Dodge	0	\$0	0	\$0		\$0
Douglas	59	\$61,288	520	\$59,367		\$120,655
Faribault	8	\$8,310	66	\$7,535		\$15,845
Fillmore	0	\$0	0	\$0		\$0
Freeborn	11	\$11,427	122	\$13,928		\$25,355
Goodhue	8	\$8,310	197	\$22,491		\$30,801
Grant	13	\$13,504	103	\$11,759		\$25,263
Hennepin	49	\$50,900	836	\$95,443		\$146,343
Houston	6	\$6,233	56	\$6,393		\$12,626
Hubbard	65	\$67,521	391	\$44,639		\$112,160
Isanti	18	\$18,698	133	\$15,184		\$33,882
Itasca	185	\$192,175	562	\$64,162		\$256,337
Jackson	20	\$20,776	156	\$17,810		\$38,586
Kanabec	11	\$11,427	98	\$11,188		\$22,615
Kandiyohi	48	\$49,861	576	\$65,760		\$115,621
Kittson	5	\$5,194	32	\$3,653		\$8,847
Koochiching	29	\$30,125	165	\$18,838		\$48,963
Lac Qui Parle	9	\$9,349	92	\$10,503		\$19,852
Lake	35	\$36,357	331	\$37,789		\$74,146
Lake of the Woods	6	\$6,233	104	\$11,873		\$18,106
Le Sueur	27	\$28,047	377	\$43,041		\$71,088
Lincoln	13	\$13,504	151	\$17,239		\$30,743
Lyon	12	\$12,465	121	\$13,814		\$26,279
Mahnomen	7	\$7,271	46	\$5,252		\$12,523
Marshall	4	\$4,155	24	\$2,740		\$6,895
Martin	20	\$20,776	213	\$24,318		\$45,094
McLeod	14	\$14,543	171	\$19,523		\$34,066
Meeker	41	\$42,590	604	\$68,957		\$111,547
Mille Lacs	12	\$12,465	293	\$33,451		\$45,916

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County Name	Watercraft Trailer Launches	x \$1,039 per Launch	Watercraft Trailer Parking Spaces	x \$114 per Space	=	Total Aid
Morrison	28	\$29,086	265	\$30,254		\$59,340
Mower	3	\$3,116	10	\$1,142		\$4,258
Murray	20	\$20,776	189	\$21,578		\$42,354
Nicollet	13	\$13,504	176	\$20,093		\$33,597
Nobles	12	\$12,465	105	\$11,988		\$24,453
Norman	2	\$2,078	16	\$1,827		\$3,905
Olmsted	1	\$1,039	0	\$0		\$1,039
Otter Tail	113	\$117,382	899	\$102,636		\$220,018
Pennington	6	\$6,233	31	\$3,539		\$9,772
Pine	30	\$31,163	244	\$27,857		\$59,020
Pipestone	0	\$0	0	\$0		\$0
Polk	14	\$14,543	91	\$10,389		\$24,932
Pope	19	\$19,737	178	\$20,322		\$40,059
Ramsey	17	\$17,659	255	\$29,113		\$46,772
Red Lake	2	\$2,078	10	\$1,142		\$3,220
Redwood	5	\$5,194	37	\$4,224		\$9,418
Renville	5	\$5,194	32	\$3,653		\$8,847
Rice	18	\$18,698	220	\$25,117		\$43,815
Rock	0	\$0	0	\$0		\$0
Roseau	7	\$7,271	90	\$10,275		\$17,546
Scott	12	\$12,465	186	\$21,235		\$33,700
Sherburne	16	\$16,620	142	\$16,212		\$32,832
Sibley	11	\$11,427	161	\$18,381		\$29,808
St. Louis	166	\$172,438	1173	\$133,918		\$306,356
Stearns	52	\$54,017	533	\$60,851		\$114,868
Steele	5	\$5,194	26	\$2,968		\$8,162
Stevens	4	\$4,155	26	\$2,968		\$7,123
Swift	8	\$8,310	67	\$7,649		\$15,959
Todd	38	\$39,474	294	\$33,565		\$73,039
Traverse	6	\$6,233	59	\$6,736		\$12,969
Wabasha	13	\$13,504	276	\$31,510		\$45,014
Wadena	9	\$9,349	75	\$8,563		\$17,912
Waseca	10	\$10,388	107	\$12,216		\$22,604
Washington	22	\$22,853	350	\$39,958		\$62,811
Watonwan	7	\$7,271	71	\$8,106		\$15,377
Wilkin	2	\$2,078	16	\$1,827		\$3,905
Winona	15	\$15,582	210	\$23,975		\$39,557
Wright	59	\$61,288	412	\$47,037		\$108,325
Yellow Medicine	10	\$10,388	79	\$9,019		\$19,407
		\$2,250,000		\$2,250,000		\$4,500,000

2166  
Total Number of  
Launches

19708  
Total Number of  
Trailer Spaces