

Minnesota Statewide AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC)

February 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MN DNR Office, Sauk Rapids, MN

Members Present: Jim Boettcher, Norman Baer, Tera Guetter, Kelsey Wenner, Justine Dauphinais (via phone), James Johnson, Paul Hamilton (via phone), Donovan Strong, John Deurr, Eric Johnson (via phone), Mary Alverson, Roger Imdieke, Chris DuBose

Members Absent: Jaime Jost, Barb Halbakken Fischburg

Ex-officio Members Present: Doug Jensen (via phone), Nick Phelps, Nicole Lalum (via phone)

Ex-officio Members Absent: Amy McGovern

DNR Staff Present: Heidi Wolf, Phil Hunsicker, Jackie Glaser (via phone), Nick Frohnauer (DNR Invasive Fish Specialist)

Guests: Charles Anderson (DNR Fisheries), Przemek Bajer (Carp Solutions), Jordon Wein (Carp Solutions)

Vice-Chair J. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Motion to approve agenda by N. Baer. Second by J. Boettcher. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2019 by J. Boettcher. Second by N. Baer. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Summary:

- Committee elected a new Chair and Vice Chair for 2019. **J. Johnson** was elected Chair, and **N. Baer** was elected Vice Chair.
- Committee learned about the history of carp management in MN. Committee also learned about an idea to modify statutory language that should make it easier for harvesters to remove carp without needing permission from commercial fishermen who own rights to that water body. Committee also discussed options to improve the work that harvesters and commercial fishermen do to remove carp with the emphasis being on improving water quality.
- Committee reviewed 2018 priorities to determine if any are priorities for 2019.
- Committee determined priority topics on which to have presentations by respected experts. Non-native phragmites, starry stonewort, and a session with the DNR's new Commissioner were the Committee's top short-term priorities.

Motions & Actionable Items:

- **P. Hunsicker** will send out to the Committee electronic copies of the Metrics Template and document entitled, “Making a Difference with Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid: A Snapshot of Metrics and Accomplishments in 2018”
- **J. Johnson** will forward to the DNR his letter to the Commissioner on behalf of the Committee, in which the Committee invites her to participate in a future SAISAC meeting, either in person or via Skype. The letter also refers to the Committee’s 2018 Annual Report and it will be attached. The DNR will get the letter and report to the Commissioner’s office.
- **N. Phelps** will send through Basecamp a link to MAISRC’s risk analysis for zebra mussels and starry stonewort.
- **K. Wenner**, on behalf of the Legislative Sub-Committee, will compose a short letter that the Committee can share with legislators to voice their support for the Governor’s proposed budget, which includes support of the DNR’s Invasive Species Program

Handouts:

- Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee Priorities for 2018
- Draft Matrix for Monitoring Progress of SAISAC Priorities for 2019
- Draft Matrix (Condensed version) for Reviewing Committee Priorities for 2019
- Making a Difference with Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid: A Snapshot of Metrics and Accomplishments in the Year 2018

Committee Member Updates:

- **N. Baer:** All but two ice houses are off his lake. Deadline is soon. Planning for spring/summer AIS activities.
- **T. Guetter:** Working on Readiness Response Plan. Doesn’t like the term “Rapid” Response Plan. Likes the Bassett Creek Plan that was done earlier. Learning from that example. Looking at things like, what are protocols if we need to do treatment? What happens at accesses? Hiring Dr. Ryan Wersal from Mankato State to help. Dr. Mattson is available in the background, too. Publishing a paper on flowering rush and adaptive management.
- **K. Wenner:** Beefing up Invasive Species program. Hiring three full-time people plus inspectors. Invasive Species Management Plan is going through first round of approval. “We Are Water” exhibit will be at Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth.
- **R. Imdieke:** AIS meeting last night for Kandiyohi County. Looking at use of I-Lids. Value is to deter people from launching with AIS attached. County has a good budget to do AIS work. Concerns that starry stonewort is close – in nearby Lake Koronis. Kevin Farnum will be at their next meeting to talk about his experiences on Lake Koronis with starry stonewort.
- **M. Alverson:** Yearly safety seminar for floatplane owners is coming up.
- **D. Strong:** St. Louis County awarded out grant dollars – roughly \$600,000. All accesses in Ely area will be covered by watercraft inspectors.

Committee member updates continued

- **J. Deurr:** Attended Minneapolis Boat Show. Fears that the technical report about boat design and AIS is falling on deaf ears. Looked at boats at the boat show, but didn't see any of the design change suggestions being implemented. As a group, perhaps the SAISAC can contact boat manufacturers and encourage them to adopt design suggestions. **T. Guetter** suggests talking with MPR to do a story – maybe get a reporter to walk with him around boats and point out the flaws that the technical paper addresses. As a company, Premier Marine may start pushing the design recommendations. A lot of talk about ballast tanks. **T. Guetter** asks about electric motors on pontoons. They are very expensive. They also don't lend themselves to recreational sports like tubing and water skiing. More for slowly cruising around the lake to sightsee, maybe with a drink in hand.
- **J. Boettcher:** Carver County Water Management stakeholders meeting last week. Biggest change to the County AIS Plan for 2019 is dropping low priority lakes due to limited traffic. Focusing on high-traffic lakes. Will hire some monitors from college to go around to lakes to look at zebra mussel sampler plates, perform inspection duties, etc. Was at recent Wright County hearing. They use state AIS Prevention funds for treating curly leaf pondweed. Do others? Some do. 2019 plan will be presented to the board in March. Interested in use of volunteers. **H. Wolf** explains that volunteers don't have the authority of Level 1 and Level 2 inspectors; they are more for educating boaters at accesses on how to do inspections. Their training is shorter than Level 1 training and is typically done by DNR's watercraft inspection supervisors. Talk with Christine Hokkala-Kuhns about scheduling a volunteer training. When should individuals check their zebra mussel sampler plates? Heard every 30 days, and was warned not to do it too frequently as too much activity can keep zebra mussels from attaching. **H. Wolf** posed this question via email to Gary Montz (DNR invertebrate expert) to find out if that is true. His response was that removing biofilm that forms on the plates is bad. Don't dry or scrape the plates when you pull them up to examine. Put the plates in the water in May or June and check them in July and August. Simply pulling up the samplers to look more frequently should not impact settlement by zebra mussels.
- **J. Johnson:** Wrote a letter to send the Committee's Annual Report for 2018 to the DNR Commissioner. **H. Wolf** suggests sending it electronically to us and we can forward it to Patty Bloom who is the lead administrative person for the Commissioner. Letter will also ask the Commissioner to attend a future SAISAC meeting, either in person or via Skype.
- **N. Phelps:** Sent out RFP based on priority research needs. Selected 10 proposals that address priority needs. Will start on July 1. Good diversity of species and approaches. Bringing new researchers to teams. **T. Guetter** asks if economics is being considered. Yes. Will find out in May which projects will be implemented. Concerning invasive phragmites, the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee listed it as restricted. Petitioning the committee to re-classify it as prohibited. **H. Wolf** says that it will be reviewed. As restricted, it can't be sold or planted. Prohibited means it must be eradicated or controlled. **R. Imdieke** asks if it is considered aquatic or terrestrial. Both, but mostly considered aquatic. 400 relatively small sites in MN. Meeting with MPCA and MDA. 280 wastewater treatment plants in the state. 17 use invasive phragmites in their treatment ponds. Need to address that. Complicated and expensive. **J. Johnson** wants invasive phragmites listed as a priority for this committee. Can the DNR come to the next meeting and talk about it? **H. Wolf** says that conversations are happening. There is lots of review. Will take a couple of months. DNR gets vote. Don't know what that will be. Even if it remains restricted, can we get people to

voluntarily switch over? We can update the Committee. Committee can push for additional research, and put lens on it to educate others. **J. Johnson** asks if terrestrial folks are taking lead or is it the aquatic people? Both are involved. **R. Imdieke** says there is a small patch between New London and Spicer. We should use scorched earth policy and remove it. **K. Wenner** says it is tough to knock it down. And once you do, what do you do with the biomass? Knock it down in winter. Burning is an option, but nervous about burning large patches of it. Took 3 years to decrease a patch. **C. Dubose** was involved in local effort in Chisago County. One problem was that people who participated in the effort weren't properly trained. Could have left site with pieces of the plant attached to their clothes, thereby spreading it even farther. Cutting and burning works best, but people need to be properly trained. Reclassification can allow teams to get on private property to treat. **K. Wenner** has had problems with a private landowner who refuses to cooperate. **J. Johnson** would like to talk about this more. **T. Guetter** would like to see terrestrial folks take the lead and spend some of their money. Let's not forget about true aquatic concerns. Those still need financial backing. **N. Phelps** says MAISRC feels that invasive phragmites should be reclassified. He also mentioned that MAISRC's statewide risk analysis for zebra mussels and starry stonewort are being used at the county level. Crow Wing, Stearns and Ramsey counties are using it to place their watercraft inspectors. Decision Optimization modeling. Most likely to intercept at-risk boats. Strategically locate inspectors around the county based on MAISRC's research. **T. Guetter** asks where she can find this information. On the MAISRC website. Nick can send the link via Basecamp. Data was just updated based on what happened last year. Different from the version you saw in September. Models are for zebra mussels and starry stonewort, but they can be combined. Decision Optimization model is 6 months away. Model accounts for ability of a lake (based on water chemistry, etc.) to support a viable population.

Committee member updates continued

- **C. DuBose:** Chisago Lakes area has 30-plus lakes. One wash station and a couple of teams operating. Probability model would be helpful. Need more funding. Phragmites at water treatment plant. Used native first. Then the invasive was introduced.
- **J. Dauphinais:** Phragmites in Chisago is definitely aquatic! In Coon Creek, thought it would be a permitting nightmare. Keegan Lund of the DNR was able to issue a permit quickly. In favor of listing it as a priority for this Committee. Fish Lake phase 2 common carp assessment. Transitioning into management. \$60,000. City of Maple Grove, Three Rivers Park District, and others to participate. Recommends linking AIS with water quality to engage cities and highway departments. **R. Imdieke** says AIS did not get included in Kandiyohi's One Watershed One Plan. **C. DuBose** says they made sure it would be included in their One Watershed One Plan. **J. Johnson** says cities are interested in curly leaf pondweed removal from a water quality aspect, not from a nuisance aspect. **T. Guetter** says she has been managing AIS for many years. In One Watershed One Plan, AIS is associated with ecological integrity. It is also wrapped up in climate change, which influences AIS. Watersheds can amend their plans if they realize they forgot to deal with AIS. Contact BWSR and amend to include AIS concerns. Watershed Districts are a powerful tool to use.
- **D. Jensen:** At the national level, was asked by the ANSTF Exec Secretary to provide input on the SAH website (<http://stopaquaticinvasives.org/prevention/>) outreach portal, which if it goes as planned will provide low resolution and graphic design files for outreach products for SAH partners to use across the nation. Hopefully, the vision for the site will be realized soon. At the Great Lakes level, working with the Great Lakes Panel Executive Committee to put together the agenda and details for spring meeting in Cleveland, OH, May

15-16, which will have a strong focus on ballast water (<https://www.glc.org/work/glpans/meetings>). Also at the regional level, under auspices of Great Lakes Panel, Great Lakes Commission and MI Dept. of Environmental Quality, will hold a Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz in each Great Lakes state (MN to OH) plus Ontario and Quebec, June 27-July 7. Will be coordinating efforts with Adam Doll (MNDNR) to promote consistent prevention messages to boaters at accesses using SAH Clean-Drain-Dispose-Dry. Based on MI and WI models, will use existing materials and handbook and will be soliciting volunteers to help staff accesses across NE MN. Business, industry, agency, tribal non-profits partners, media, legislators and governors/premiers will be invited. Hoping that the governors/premiers will issue a proclamation as GLs AIS Landing Blitz Days, and hoping to make a big splash on boat cleaning regionally. At the state level, was privileged to be invited by DNR Commissioner Strommen to participate in a DNR Budget Roundtable, which brought together 20 people from a broad breadth of representation to discuss Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), water accesses and AIS. Plans are to increase watercraft surcharge from \$5.00 to \$7.25. Very effective meeting. At St. Louis County level, there were over \$1m in proposal requests and about \$657,000 to allocate via an RFP. Nine projects are funded for 2019 focusing on inspections and decon and training, phragmites eradication (\$60k), and public awareness (<https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/planning-development/community-development/aquatic-invasive-species>). Locally, partnered with the Minnesota Aquarium Society's Winter Auction to host a Habitattitude Surrender event in Bloomington in late January, which was successful in that 3 aquarists rehomed 7 unwanted aquarium fish. In early February, Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! was featured at the Duluth Boat Show which educated nearly 1,600 visitors and distributed nearly 2,000 education products. On March 23, presenting and hosting a Get Habitattitude booth at the MAS Aquarium Expo, Augsburg University, which is free 9 AM to 7 PM. At UMD, leading an 8-week University for Seniors course concerning Sea Grant research and outreach beginning March 25. Wrote or was involved with two newsletter articles, one on the crawfish boil from last May and another about the CD3 station at Pike Lake. Once published, will share those articles with the Committee. Looking forward to attending DNR AIS Countywide Workshop in Brainerd plus several other events. Heavily involved in recruiting AIS undergraduate interns. Hope to have 2 paid and 2 for credit this summer.

Committee member updates continued

- **E. Johnson:** Update on removal of invasive cattails. 100 acres this summer and monitor areas where they have been removed. Hoping native seed banks recover after removal of the invasive.
- **P. Hamilton:** Weevils for Eurasian watermilfoil bio-control. Sallie Sheldon from Middlebury College will be here in June to kick off project on Christmas Lake. Will then go to a Ramsey County lake and work with Northwestern University and the lake association. DNR will do post surveys. Town Line Lake in Cass County is another chosen site. Additional funding and support coming from the county and the lake association. Following No Child Left Inside bill at the legislature. An initiative to break the trend of declining hunting and fishing licenses sold. Updating the science standards in schools. Encouraged by transition. Emphasis on science practices: asking questions, developing models, carrying out investigations, using math and scientific thinking, evaluating and communicating info. Holds great promise.
- **N. Lalum:** Nothing to report

Election of New Chair and Vice Chair:

- **J. Johnson** was the only candidate nominated for the Chair position. He was unanimously elected by the membership to serve as Chair for 2019.
- For Vice Chair, two candidates were nominated: **N. Baer** and **J. Dauphinais**. In a close election, **N. Baer** was elected to serve as Vice Chair for 2019.

DNR Updates

- **H. Wolf:** Governor's budget request. Includes boat registration surcharge increase from \$5.00 to \$7.25. It has not been increased in over 20 years. If approved, would yield extra \$650,000 per year for invasive species work by DNR. Would use \$100,000 for starry stonewort and zebra mussel new infestation responses. \$200,000 for filling the invasive species account's negative gap. \$350,000 for aquatic plant management grants. Invasive Species Program is also funded by general fund appropriation of about \$3.2 million.
- IAPM and APM control activities. Joint meeting was held recently, which was encouraged by this Committee. Presentation by Dr. Wersal from Mankato State. Working on Diquat issue. Talking about validity of paper out there showing negative impacts of Diquat on walleye young.
- Barr Engineering hosted an AIS session last month. DNR staff presented on Medicine Lake work and Christmas Lake work.
- **P. Hunsicker** filled the Committee in on Regional AIS workshops. Three had to be postponed until March due to weather. Last week, held one in Andover and had 18 entities in attendance including 10 counties, Three Rivers Park District, Minneapolis Park Board, Wildlife Forever, University of MN, St. Croix River Association, Water Guards, and CROW. SAISAC members are welcome to attend any of the workshops. Next one is scheduled for Fergus Falls on March 13th.
- **P. Hunsicker** shared a Summary of the Metrics Template. 39 of 83 counties submitted quantitative data, along with stories, that help to understand the impact of AIS Prevention Aid on things like jobs created, people educated, other money leveraged, etc. For example, with just under half the counties responding, 565 jobs were created with AIS Prevention Aid and 369 volunteers performed almost 3,000 hours of work. \$803,000 in additional funds were leveraged by counties, so they took the almost \$5 million they were given and turned it into almost \$6 million worth of work. **P. Hunsicker** will email the summary and the Template out to all Committee members.

Presentation on Common Carp Management

- Presenters were **C. Anderson** with DNR Fisheries, along with **P. Bajer** and **J. Wein** with Carp Solutions
- First presentation was done by **P. Bajer**.
- Carp Solutions is a U of M start-up company. Also works with MAISRC.
- Carp is the oldest invasive fish in MN. Originally found in Eurasia. Superabundant in many regions of North America.

Common Carp Presentation continued

- Carp are ecosystem engineers because they change lakes. Dig in sediment looking for food. Disturb water. Make it turbid and release nutrients. Activities can flip shallow lakes with good water quality into disturbed water bodies.
- Studies show that as carp biomass went up, vegetation went down. Carp are driving changes. 100 kg per hectare carp biomass is a tipping point for a lake.
- 70 percent of lakes in southern MN are heavily impacted by carp. 23 percent in central MN. 0 percent in north.
- In 1940's, commercial fishing was involved with carp management. Idea was eradication over management. Commercial fishing is not integrated into carp management nowadays.
- Integrated pest management approach now. Trying to find weaknesses in carp. Look at adults and juveniles. Possibly more important is to look at juveniles.
- In MN, we have complex connected lake systems, and carp use the system. Carp move around a lot. Spring migrations. Homing back to where they were born. Juveniles born in winterkill marshes then move into connected larger lake areas in May.
- Management methods: Commercial seining of winter aggregations. Have to use really large nets under the ice. If debris is present, nets can snag. Fish are smart, which makes catching them difficult.
- Aerating marshes to reduce winterkill and enhance biocontrol. This maintains a healthy diversified fish community, which can knock down the population of young carp through predation. Aeration can be effective in lakes 10-15 feet deep.
- Capturing adults during spring migration. Being worked on now. Electric shock pushes fish into harvest area. Final piece is still being developed. Can move fish. Then what?
- Training carp to aggregate using food and social learning to remove with net or toxic bait. They like corn. Channel catfish may also be attracted, but mostly carp. After 6 days of baiting, 70% of fish show up at bait site. Trained to come for food. Can then net them or feed them with toxic bait.
- On the horizon: genetic technologies. Engineering male carp that is incompatible with wild females. All embryos perish. Using CRISPR technology. Not available now, but coming.
- On the horizon: viral control. Koi herpes virus.
- Carp Solutions started in 2015. Works with counties and watershed districts to control carp. Estimate populations first. Use boat electrofishing to make estimates. Locate carp nurseries, using trapnets and then ageing techniques. Tracking movement of juveniles and adults. Use antenna system with tags. Can track individuals. Using portable low voltage guidance and deterrence systems. Meant to guide fish to small openings to then trap them. Selective removal techniques with the help of citizens. Citizens put food in the net to train fish. Carp Solutions then comes to remove fish. Coordinate with commercial fishermen also. Can't sell the fish since not a commercial entity. Donate them as food for wildlife or compost them. Can give the fish to the commercial fishermen if he wants.
- What are permit restrictions for removing carp? Might be conflicts with commercial fishermen.
- Do you follow up on lakes? Yes, if needed. Look for man-made marks on carp when netting. That way, harvesters can determine how big of a percentage of the marks they harvested.

Common Carp Presentation continued

- What about looking at connectivity and removal of dams? Does that open up lakes to carp? It can, but depends on system. Often a battle between water level management interests and invasive species concerns. Water level usually wins, according to **J. Johnson**.
- **T. Guetter** asks about waterfowl fly zones. Do the number of ducks decline when carp are present? Not sure. Individual lakes can be affected, according to **N. Frohnauer**, but not sure if entire flyway has been affected.
- **C. Anderson** then presented on the DNR's role in carp management. The DNR was big into rough fish removal in 1940s and 1950s. Rough fish was not well defined from looking at the records. Got gung ho in stopping carp movement with low head dams, electric barriers. Many dams have washed out. Probably did damage to native fishes as well.
- Writing scientific research permits. Looking for something that can be informative. Commercial fishermen rules written back in the 50's. Set up exclusive rights for fishermen and rough fish. This system is now getting in the way of modern efforts. We would like to suppress carp, but commercial guys would like to come in every 4-5 years and harvest a lot of big carp. Conflicting goals.
- Commercial fishermen are required to have separate sets of nets depending on what invasive species are in the water bodies they fish. Commercial fishermen have rights of first refusal. Now trying to tweak the statutory language. Tried last year. Trying again this year. Harvesters have to offer the harvested carp free to commercial fishermen first. If they don't want them, they can be disposed of. Harvester can't sell them. Adding clause "except for control on non-native invasive species." This would solve some headaches.
- **J. Johnson** asks how many people would be impacted by that language change? Less than 20. Would commercial folks oppose this? They are territorial. **P. Bajer** says they can be part of the solution. Set up a system to have commercial fishermen improve water quality by harvesting carp. For example, have them catch 5,000 fish every 3 years out of a water body. Pay them to catch the fish. Not currently being taken advantage of. Trying to change the game. Commercial fishermen like working on larger lakes with smooth bottoms. They aren't really interested in smaller lakes with lots of disturbance to the bottom. Can we change the business model? Not being paid for food sale, but being paid to harvest fish for control and resulting water quality improvements.
- **N. Frohnauer** says commercial fishermen also coordinate with processing plants and prices and need, etc. Processing plants are located in Illinois and they prefer live fish over iced fish.
- **T. Guetter** compares it to trapping beaver and with low prices for pelts, no one wants to do it.
- **R. Imdieke** sees opportunities for collaboration. Benefits for ducks, water quality, commercial fishing, lake association, the lake's overall health, etc. **P. Bajer** suggests looking at in-lake methods to better manage nutrient levels instead of concentrating on land applications to lower nutrient levels.
- **J. Johnson** asks if the Committee should support the language change being proposed. **C. Anderson** says that would help, but don't know how it will be handled by commercial fishermen.
- **T. Guetter** asks about approaching MPCA to look at carp management as a nutrient reduction technique – AIS as water quality issue and not just a nuisance issue. **T. Guetter** asks if DNR will support a more holistic view of invasive species and water quality problem. **C. Anderson** says local guys would recommend to go slowly. Don't want to do more harm.

- Main motivator for carp control is water quality, according to **P. Bajer**. He says they try to collect good data to learn as they go.
- Whoosh system was developed for moving salmon. Being used for carp removal from a water system.

Discussion of Committee's Priorities for 2019

- **J. Johnson** suggests the Committee focus on top two or three now to start checking things off rather than coming up with 20 things they want to accomplish.
- Take "dry" off the list of priorities because they have been told by the DNR that it is tough to enforce.
- Any not to consider? **T. Guetter** is concerned with 21-day dry time. **H. Wolf** says that is in statute. Advertised in fishing regulations book. Promoting it at Lake Home and Cabin Show. **T. Guetter** says we could do a better job of enforcing the 21-day dry time. Revaluation of sea legs. Combine the concerns into a "dry" priority.
- Boat design, sea legs, boat ballast, 21-day dry time can be combined. Lumping creates problems. This is a priority according to the group.
- Priority should be awareness of legislative actions related to AIS.
- SAISAC charter items are internal things.
- Research area – starry stonewort is high priority.
- Is boat operator's permit still something to pursue? Yes, leave it on there. Have boat and safety people come here to talk with us.
- **D. Jensen** asks if materials developed for trailer sticker are still available. No, they are not available. Storage was an issue.
- Funding is crucial, so this committee supports it, but feels it is not a meeting issue. We can write letters of support when necessary.
- CBSM – is this a priority? DNR will keep committee informed about progress. Signage can be important, according to **T. Guetter**. Is this something the group can do? **T. Guetter** says to look at access design. Pull-off areas, compost bins, variety of signs are now available. That came out of conversations about design. Is this a priority? Keep committee updated. Maybe one meeting could be updates on various things happening. Signs? Decon sign.
- Can we be more efficient with inspections?
- IAPM and APM differences. We support, but not necessarily a priority.
- Private boat accesses: Old committee concern. Is it still? Resort accesses and work with Lake Vermilion, Cass and Itasca Counties. **J. Johnson** will talk with John Barten, a former Committee member. Maybe combine this with other priorities.
- Difficulty training new level 1 inspectors when some leave. Discussed logistics of training close to 1000 county inspectors with just 2 DNR trainers. Works fairly well at the beginning of the season, but later on, when an inspector leaves, can be difficult getting a new training quickly for just one or two trainees. Counties need to be patient and work closely with DNR trainers.
- Raking of plant fragments at boat ramps. DNR inspectors currently do it. Raking floating material is no problem. Pulling rooted plants might require a permit.

- Misconceptions and biases associated with different groups. Anglers, public access interests, lakeshore property owners are meeting in Brainerd at Central Lakes College to have a facilitated discussion. Open concept. Check it off as accomplished.
- Lake association membership not being reached. Jeff Forester with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates is conduit for us. Is this a priority or an underlying philosophy? Not a priority.
- Decon as part of inspection.
- MAISRC and shared innovations. APM results will be organized through MAISRC. Underlying philosophy.
- Enforcement of AIS laws is inconsistent around the state by local law enforcement. **R. Imdieke** says in Kandiyohi County, the Sherriff is a voting member on the AIS Committee. Important, but what is role of Committee in this issue?
- Local reps need to be better informed. AMC reps on committee. **C. DuBose** is on Environment and Natural Resources Committee of AMC. Question is will AIS rise to the level of a platform issue for AMC? Maybe not enough interest. For some western counties, AIS isn't viewed as a priority for them. Underlying philosophy.
- Tournament fishermen. Feeling that league tournaments might be riskier than club tournaments. Not good data to show that. Counties are doing better working with tournaments and requiring pre-tournament inspection. Decontamination units are on-site if needed. Sea Grant also works closely with tournaments. **D. Jensen's** observation is that tournament boats do a good job of keeping clean. Keep on list, but lower priority. **D. Strong** says lake associations work closely with tournament organizers.
- Invasive phragmites is a priority.

Determining Guest Speakers and Topics for 2019

- Phragmites, starry stonewort, Commissioner Strommen to visit before end of May. Committee can write letters to legislative committees to support governor's budget. **T. Guetter** suggests that everyone contact their own local legislators. If unsure who they are, go to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates website. They list all state reps, senators and congress people. **K. Wenner**, who represents the Legislative Sub-Committee, will write a short letter to send on behalf of the Committee.
- Next meeting, suggest a presentation on either starry stonewort and phragmites. Medicine Lake work by DNR. Phragmites with Dan Larkin and Sue Galatowitsch. Keegan and Kylie can speak about Medicine Lake. Julia Bohnen is recommended by **J. Dauphinais** to be included in the phragmites discussion.

Adjournment at 3:00 p.m.

Next meeting to be held at the MN DNR Sauk Rapids Office, 10:00AM-3:00PM, March 28, 2019.