

Minnesota Statewide AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC)

February 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

MN DNR Sauk Rapids Office, Sauk Rapids, MN

Members Present: Norman Baer, Justine Dauphinais, James Johnson, Kelsey Taylor, Chris DuBose, Mary Alverson, Jim Boettcher, Kate Hagsten, Pat Brown, Holly Kalbus, Michaela Kofoed

Members Absent: Eric Johnson, Jaime Jost, Ryan Wersal, Roger Imdieke, Isaiah Tolo, Brian Gross

Ex-officio Members Present: Doug Jensen

Ex-officio Members Absent: Amy McGovern, Nicole Lalum, Nick Phelps

DNR Staff Present: Heidi Wolf, Phil Hunsicker, Tina Fitzgerald, Chelsey Blanke, Todd Kanieski (Enforcement)

Chair J. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion to approve agenda. Suggestion to include in DNR updates: 1) a discussion of AIS bills in the legislature; and 2) a discussion of data shared with the Committee by Jeff Forester about DNR check stations. Motion to approve agenda with amendments made by J. Boettcher and second by J. Dauphinais. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2020 made by C. DuBose and second by N. Baer. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Summary:

- Committee learned about legislation (HF 4633) to increase AIS fines. Legislation is not DNR-initiated.
- Committee discussed differences in violation rates at roadside check stations and at public boat accesses.
- Committee made final edits to their 2019 Annual Report. Committee members will distribute it through their networks.
- Committee learned about Invasive Organisms in Trade (IOIT).
- Committee learned about DNR rulemaking initiatives to add new species to the prohibited and regulated aquatic invasive species lists.
- Committee made a list of their interests for 2020. These include support for control of nonnative phragmites, understanding the relationship between water quality and AIS, and continuing to learn more about AIS like spiny waterflea, Chinese mystery snails, and invasive crayfish.

Motions & Actionable Items:

- **N. Baer** will respond to Jeff Forester's email on Basecamp about concerns with violation rates at roadside check stations. He will also ask Jeff to distribute the Committee's 2019 Annual Report to his Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates supporters.
- **T. Fitzgerald** will make edits as discussed at this meeting to finalize the Committee's 2019 Annual Report as well as share previous Committee discussions about how to distribute their 2019 Annual Report.
- **T. Fitzgerald** will share Kelly Pennington's document that outlines DNR rulemaking authorities and lists new species that are being proposed to be added to the prohibited and regulated aquatic invasive species lists.
- **D. Jensen** will contact Donn Branstrator about a future presentation to the Committee on spiny waterflea.
- **T. Fitzgerald** will send out a Doodle Poll for members to choose a new date for the April meeting. The new date will be based on the availability of a majority of Committee members.

Committee Member Updates

- **M. Alverson:** Represents MN Seaplane Pilots Association. No updates to share.
- **P. Brown:** Fisheries Director with Red Lake Band. Monitoring for AIS. Zebra mussels found in both Upper and Lower Red. Working to improve commercial walleye fishery in Red Lake.
- **H. Kalbus:** Le Sueur County AIS Coordinator. Some AIS funds go to lake associations, but not for treatment. Push back from lake associations, so there will be a work session to discuss options. Carli Wagner, an AIS Specialist with the DNR, will participate in the work session. Education piece is missing. Carp assessments done. Looking for MAISRC funds to track movement of carp. Also have a special strain of walleye present. Looking at purple loosestrife treatments.
- **K. Hagsten:** Plant expert with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Purchasing decon unit to be placed at Cedar Lakes Casino in Cass Lake on Hwy 2. Collaborating with Cass County. Will train two people to run it. Still dealing with major technology problems that include lack of email connections.
- **K. Taylor:** Fond du Lac AIS Coordinator. Searched for wintering grounds of mystery snails in failed attempt to harvest them. Sonar device couldn't pick them up, which makes them think snails are probably burrowing down into the lake substrate. That's the theory. Not finding large groups of snails congregating under the ice like they suspected. Engineer wants to radio tag snails and track their movements. Not sure if they can pull that off. Mystery snails are a problem/conflict with wild ricing and can cause contamination in harvested wild rice. Will try using a golf ball collector to harvest snails. Steve McComas with Blue Water Science created something similar to collect zebra mussels under water. Will continue doing physical removal of snails this summer. More discussion on snail tracking. Stick on radio tags are used with turtles, but are \$250 each. How about using metal tags and then finding them with a powerful metal detector? Floating fishing line has been used on carp to watch their movements. Possible with use on snails? **D. Jensen** says to not mark big snails as they die off every 3 years. Comprehensive decon program. Band members going in with net and boat must be decontaminated. Lots of regulation on spearing and netting. Spring walleye season is just for band members.
- **C. DuBose:** Chisago County Commissioner. One Watershed, One Plan drafted this Monday. Spent time burning nonnative phragmites sites this winter. At the Capital lobbying. Support grant for sewage treatment plant conversion away from nonnative phragmites. No expansion of zebra mussels based on sampler plates. Looking at controlling carp on Green Lake. Question about grants recently made available for treatment of invasive aquatic plants. **H. Wolf** says the grant opened up at 9:00 a.m. and by 9:03 a.m., the DNR had already received enough proposals to cover all the grant dollars.

Committee member updates continued

- **N. Baer:** North Browns Lake resident. Curly leaf pondweed management. Heard that Stearns County wants to eliminate Sauk River Watershed District. Not a good idea. Will be contacting legislators. Agricultural landowners are behind it, according to **N. Baer**.
- **M. Kofoed:** Professional angler. Developer of the Aqua Weed Stick. Can soon have this tool at a landing with a cable attached. Prototype being developed. High school bass league bought sticks to have at their tournaments.
- **J. Dauphinais:** Coon Creek Watershed. Fish Lake got grant from Hennepin County to install a CD3 outpost station. Common carp radio telemetry assessment. Implanted radio tags last fall in Fish and Rice Lakes. Tough to capture. Might have to do open water seining. Invasive phragmites control. Mowed down this winter after treatments in fall. Minnesota Department of Agriculture did award a grant for coordinated metro-wide nonnative phragmites control. Soliciting sites in metro area. To have your site considered, send it via EDDMapS to Anoka Conservation District. \$50,000 grant. **J. Dauphinais** has info if you want to apply. How much can that treat? For comparison, 14 sites in Anoka County (about one acre total) were treated for \$3,500.
- **J. Boettcher:** On the advisory committee of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Watershed District. Carver County board approved AIS plan. Lost Minnehaha Creek Watershed District as partner, so loss of their money. Will do more early detection. Hiring two interns for early detection monitoring throughout county. Will hire 25 inspectors. Adding another launch on Lake Waconia, so will need more inspectors to cover that busy lake. Goldfish in Grace Chain of lakes. Robot searching for goldfish came back broken. Not sure what happened. Watercraft inspection report for 2019 is very good. Looking for patterns in data to discover likely paths AIS are traveling.
- **J. Johnson:** Lakes consultant. Receiving proposals. Grant dollars have changed proposals. Lakes are applying for maximum even if they don't need it. **H. Wolf** says DNR is reviewing closely and basing the grants on previous year's treatment records. Any money that isn't given out this year will be added to next year's grants. Can't have a wait list because treatment timing is so tight. What can we do differently next year? Maybe if you haven't received money in the last three years, you become a priority. Could you limit the amount to previous year? That is being done through the current DNR review process. This year DNR is requiring delineations to provide accurate data. **J. Johnson** thinks \$1,000 is too expensive for small lake delineations. What about special project grants – the \$50,000 for research related proposals? It can roll over, too, if not used.
- **D. Jensen:** Minnesota Sea Grant. National Invasive Species Week. A lot of webinars. A Great Lakes Panel priority is organisms in trade (OIT). OIT symposium is needed. MNSG submitted proposal to NOAA to fund symposium in conjunction with fall Great Lakes Panel meeting. Minnesota Invasive Species Plan 2009 being revised. Revising risk assessments for aquatic and terrestrial invasives. NOAA grant to work with tribes and using traditional ecological knowledge on AIS. Hiring two paid interns and two others for credit to do outreach in St. Louis County. 91 events in 2019 working with partners educated 17,000 people - most ever! 2020 Northern Green and Duluth Boat Show educated 2,000. 48 fish rehomed at recent surrender event. Co-chairing Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) in Duluth in October 12-14. Field trip to Red Cliff for phragmites site. Interest from some members. Hoping for 8 field trips and 6 workshops at the conference.

DNR Updates

- **T. Kanieski** is a Conservation Officer who supervises the canine program. Getting a new dog. Available for demos – possibly at UMISC conference in Duluth in October. Dogs are cross-trained for other duties – tracking, etc. **J. Boettcher** asks if you can train military bomb dogs. Dog won't forget what it learned. A lot of vendors out there promising dogs that don't have the proper training and handling. Buyer beware.
- **H. Wolf**: Legislation. Hearing next Tuesday on HF4633. AIS penalties increased from \$100 to \$250, \$200 to \$250, and \$500 to \$1000. Drain plug violation from \$100 to \$250. Who supports and who is against these increases? Not sure. This is not a DNR-initiated bill. **T. Kanieski** says you have to take into account the human factor. Is a \$1,000 ticket appropriate? Officer discretion. **J. Johnson** asks about Committee's interest in supporting the bill or letting it go forward on its own. **D. Jensen** says the boater survey done in 1994 showed that 54% of boaters were motivated by fines. Redid the survey in 2000 and that figure was up to 60%. In other surveys, we have seen a big jump in motivations by fines. **J. Dauphinais** asks if these are maximum or minimum fines. **T. Kanieski** says the officer can't negotiate amount on civil side. The fine is the fine. On criminal side, judges have discretion. There is a fear that higher fines might instigate someone to start throwing zebra mussels in lakes to get revenge after being fined. What is appropriate and what is too much to cause that kind of behavior? No support from this Committee to write letters at this time. Just watch for now. **M. Kofoed** is worried about people who physically can't remove everything. **J. Boettcher** asks about lake service providers (LSPs) and problems transporting zebra mussels. **H. Wolf** says LSPs have permits. Could get a fine and also could have permit revoked depending on their history of behavior. Permit revocation might be a more serious response for a business.
- Discussion about Jeff Forester's road check violation post on Basecamp. **H. Wolf** says the information that Jeff shared is in the DNR's annual report. Road checks are pulling people off the road and checking for compliance. Often done at very busy places where we have seen problems. 484 boats is not statistically valid. Watercraft inspections are not random. They are done at higher risk locations. Do half million inspections at public accesses. Hard to compare the two – 484 versus a half-million. **D. Jensen** asks if lower compliance rate at check stations reflect people traveling through state or going to a Minnesota resort and they are unfamiliar with AIS rules. Not sure. Maybe. Check station done in Koochiching County was done to catch folks coming in from Canada. Trying to educate and inform so we often go where we expect problems. It's a snapshot according to **T. Kanieski**. Does the Committee need to respond to Jeff? No, DNR will respond. **J. Dauphinais** sees that 36% violation rate at the check station in Aitkin is heavily influencing the smaller violation rates from other check stations. **N. Baer** will respond to Jeff's email sent through Basecamp.
- **K. Hagsten** is interested in use of dogs, not just for zebra mussels. **T. Kanieski** can point anyone with an interest in the right direction. Use reputable folks. More dogs out there doesn't necessarily mean more success or a more knowledgeable and law-abiding public.

2019 Committee Annual Report

- **T. Fitzgerald** makes changes directly to the draft document.
- **C. DuBose**: Page 1 about reclassification of nonnative phragmites. Do we need to update the result? No. There will be a March 3rd meeting and **H. Wolf** will attend along with representatives from wastewater treatment plants.
- **D. Jensen**: The report doesn't include the chart showing the statewide compliance rate. One comment is that this report should reflect what this committee has done. Another asks if including this chart is an education

thing. **D. Jensen** says the chart reflects what the DNR is doing, and the positive reaction from those who are exposed to this information. Committee agrees to add a box at the end to include the state's compliance figures.

- Names for members have not been updated on DNR website. Holdup is the detail in the bios and whether or not they can include business names or not. Trying to make sure there isn't a perception that the DNR is endorsing private businesses. Hope to resolve this issue soon.
- Add zebra mussels to list of research interests.
- Who will send the report where? **N. Baer** will contact Jeff Forester about the report and ask him to distribute it to his supporters. Distribution was discussed at an earlier meeting and documented in the meeting notes. **T. Fitzgerald** will share again.

Minnesota DNR's Proposed Trade-Pathway Invasive Species Prevention Projects

Presentation by Chelsey Blanke, DNR AIS Pathways and Plans Analyst

Background

- Defined "trade" as pet, horticulture, bait, biological supply, and food (movement and possession of live organisms).
- Two-thirds of Minnesota's prohibited species were documented in trade (illegal to possess, sell, release).
 - Documented in trade, but not found in state waters: frogbit, Hydrilla, yabby, snakehead, and wells catfish.
- Minnesota regulated and unlisted species (legal to possess and sell, illegal to release) aka "risky" species.
 - Documented in trade, but not found in state waters: fanwort, striped bass.
 - Documented in trade, found in state waters: Chinese mystery snail, goldfishes.

What Do We Know?

- Scientific literature and online search – documented AIS in trade pathways. For the food pathway, those species are likely dead. For the horticultural species, they are selecting for species that survive in Minnesota (risky). For the bait and biological supply species, there is documented high rates of release.
- Risky Practice: Release and escape.
 - **C. Blanke** recently attended an "intake" event for the Minnesota Herpetological Society. It's a rehoming event that happens every month with an average of 60 animals per event. That's just one event in the cities, so likely an issue statewide as well.
 - Strategy: Habitattitude – industry partnership to prevent release.
 - 30% of anglers reported releasing bait (recent CBSM study).
 - In Oregon, release is included as part of a classroom curriculum; but now Oregon Sea Grant created a pledge to not release classroom animals.
 - **D. Jensen** had a student do a survey of teachers and found there was release happening.
 - **J. Johnson** asks, do they have to use live animals? **C. Blanke** thinks crayfish are likely being raised and/or studied for behavior so they have to be live.
- Risky Practice: Inaccurate labeling and hitchhiking.
 - Bad labels make it more difficult to know what is even being sold/bought.
- Risky Practice: Unique supply chains.
 - Many ways/places to get species (storefront, online).

- Strategy: “GLDIATR” is a WebCrawler that searches the web for certain invasive species (it is under maintenance right now). Helps identify people/businesses that are selling illegal species and then regulators/educators can contact/educate them.
 - Strategy: In-store surveillance. For example, recent county-level surveillance studies in Minnesota (Hennepin, Dakota) found one prohibited species and a few regulated species.
- Risky Practice: Species available in neighboring states.
 - Strategy: “AIM” (Aquatic Invaders in the Marketplace) is an online tool that documents regulations in different states (needs to be updated), could be a helpful resource for sellers.
- Tools for stakeholders that desire not to contribute to spread.
 - Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP).
 - Voluntary codes of conduct (Canada).
- Prevention strategies include regulations, risk assessments, and trade-specific regulations.

Discussion

- Discussed earthworms used for bait and compost. **J. Johnson** asks, are there bait harvesting regulations? **H. Wolf** says it is illegal to import bait into Minnesota. Risk is very high. Risk assessment is available online. There has been push to import recently for specific species due to seasonal shortages. **D. Jensen** says he did “ride-a-longs” with bait shops/harvesters to see where things are collected and moved.
- **J. Dauphinais** asks if there is something other than EDDMapS to track distribution of these species. Is there a database? **C. Blanke** says her research focused on species that are available in trade, not necessarily what is on the landscape in Minnesota. You can track anything in EDDMapS. **D. Jensen** says the NAS database may add more. GLANSIS is option too. EDDMapS is not regularly interfaced with those two.
- **J. Johnson** asks, are there restrictions on where people can harvest bait? **H. Wolf** says yes, it is complicated. There are permit conditions – meant to reduce/mitigate risk. For example in zebra mussel waters, harvest must start/stop based on water temperature, due to veliger presence at certain water temperature thresholds. Depends on gear type, VHS presence, infestation status/species, and other conditions. There were adjustments made to make regulations easier to comply with – still had to be consistent statewide and not be risky. **T. Kanieski** adds people can collect for personal use too. Can’t transport bait water. It’s complicated. **M. Kofoed** asks, what about on private water? **H. Wolf** says all water is public.
- **J. Johnson** suggests the Committee invites Sean Sisler (DNR Fisheries) to talk about bait. **D. Jensen** volunteers to talk about HACCP.

Opportunities and Proposed Projects

- Develop relationships with industries.
 - Would also help address trade amongst individual customers – trade amongst hobbyists is common.
 - The Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) working session held for trade stakeholders last summer included the Minnesota Water Garden Society, Minnesota Aquarium Society, Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, and Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (Habitattitude sponsor). A good start in conversations – report is available online (search for “CBSM project”).
 - Existing connections – regulators and Habitattitude.
 - **H. Kalbus** asks, are you working with resorts and outfitters? **C. Blanke** said that could be a next step.
 - Project: Letter to businesses with regulation information, a survey and opportunity to sign up for email lists for continued communications.

- Project (long-term): seller training and recognition.
- Develop and distribute educational materials.
 - Would include topics for customers and sellers.
 - Would include clear information about regulations.
 - Could be combined with commitment forms.
 - Could partner with industry to distribute information.
 - Could be developed in partnership with Habitattitude.
- Surveillance and enforcement.
 - Could use existing Dept. of Agriculture and Dept. of Health inspection programs for the horticulture and food trades. Need to make sure the DNR has authority to do things this way first.
 - DNR Enforcement already checks bait shops when opportunities arise.
 - DNR invasive staff could do surveillance of pet shops.
- Surveillance of online sales: Use GLDAITR and AIM.
- Industry self-management: Use HACCP.
- Risk assessments: Important to continue to assess risk, especially for new species and considering the impacts of climate change.
- Pathways specific opportunities
 - Horticulture: master gardeners, trade shows, outreach to sellers in bordering states.
 - Pet: Surrender events and addressing pets as prizes.
 - Food: Crayfish boils.
 - Bait: Support positive norms (bait disposal sites).
 - Biological: Curriculum developers, outreach to schools/teachers, and alternatives to euthanasia.

Discussion

- **N. Baer** mentions that all universities have biology programs. Find out who is doing the ordering and what they do with leftovers.
- **K. Taylor** asks, what is your strategy to reach out to Amazon? Great idea, but seems challenging, where do you start? **C. Blanke** start with the marketplace, the companies using Amazon to sell things. Looking at corporate level. Similar to the chain pet stores, going to need a different approach for them. **D. Jensen** says when they started Habitattitude there were major cultural differences between small shops and chain stores. For chain stores the initiative has to come from corporate, not the local store manager.
- **J. Johnson** says there are animal ethics review for biology labs. Is there anything built into that? Even nationally? **D. Jensen** says there are euthanasia guidelines for all live specimens.
- **J. Dauphinais** says these are huge pathways. Seems underfunded. Has there been data collected in Minnesota that could be shared with legislators? MAISRC did a small study by ordering seeds and plants – the samples had high rate of contamination. Emphasize need to MAISRC about these pathways. **D. Jensen** says he visited stores in mid-90's. **J. Johnson** asks if bait sellers have to have certification. Yes. **D. Jensen** says in the past there were 1,200 licenses.

What are Possible Committee Actions?

- Supporting funding for research.
- If DNR needs more/different inspection authority or regulations.
- Having an industry representative on this Committee.

- Keep this concern in mind in your own activities.

Discussion of Committee's Legislative Agenda

- **T. Fitzgerald** shows a document summarizing rulemaking initiatives being led by the DNR's Invasive Species Program developed by the program's Prevention Consultant Kelly Pennington. The document outlines what rulemaking authorities DNR has and lists new species that are being proposed to be added to the prohibited and regulated aquatic invasive species lists through this rulemaking process. There will be a public comment period so this Committee can comment. Includes nonnative phragmites and species from the least wanted list for Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers. Fishes will be added to match Federal Lacey Act. **H. Wolf** says DNR is working with landscaping groups on jumping worms, as they are spread by mulch. Trying to stop their use for angling. Public comments by this Committee are helpful. We have risk assessments for all of the proposed species. More useful if the Committee as a whole weighs in as opposed to some individuals of the Committee weighing in. DNR has rulemaking authority. DNR proposes and involves Office of Revisor and attorneys. Legal process, which includes public comment period. **T. Fitzgerald** will share this document with the Committee.
- Policy initiatives shared by Jeff Forester with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.
 - Self-inspection endorsement. **H. Wolf** says self-inspection already exists, it is the law. It seems this wants to give the ability to bypass inspection, which is not feasible.
 - Boat operator license that is required for everyone and would include AIS training – something that has been supported by this Committee in the past.
 - Increase in fines – already in progress. Committee is going to watch it to see where it goes.
- **H. Wolf** says the only other thing is to have the invasive carp tagging authority to not sunset, keep it going. We have learned a lot through that ability and want to continue.
- **C. DuBose** would like to support a grant program for wastewater treatment plants to replace nonnative phragmites. State senator for Chisago County brought it up to **C. DuBose**. This Committee should support it. **H. Wolf** says the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds will be paying for on-the-ground treatment. DNR is also pursuing having Julie Bohnen with MASIRC to do testing on possible replacement plants. There is also the GLRI inter-jurisdictional grant, which is new this year. States working together. Minnesota is proposing to lead a grant project on finding a replacement plant for nonnative phragmites for wastewater treatment plants. Dan Larkin with MASIRC is pursuing funds too.
- The old Committee work plan lists adding "dry" to Minnesota AIS laws. **D. Jensen** provides background – the national campaign recommends clean, drain, dry; with the understanding state-specific laws might be different. **H. Wolf** says "dry" is not enforceable, but it is recommended.
- **N. Baer** suggests increasing invasive aquatic plant management (IAPM) grants, since the funds went so fast through the most recent grant process. **H. Wolf** says it took 20 years to increase surcharge, which is how those grants are funded. **J. Johnson** agrees, that since they went out in 3 minutes, it shows there is significant need/interest. **J. Dauphinais** says in the past there has been separate legislation specific for IAPM funding, separate from the surcharge. **H. Wolf** explains past funding issues. The funds were going negative, because the appropriation was higher than what was coming in. The program had to put money back in every year. The surcharge increase made the fund solvent again and allowed us to appropriate more. \$570,000 out of \$800,000 is going to IAPM. Right now all funds are spoken for, not sure where more would come from, but

there may be rollover for second year. **J. Dauphinais** says if stand-alone IAPM funding legislation appears this year, it is something this Committee could support.

- **J. Johnson** mentions the work plan item addressing private boat ramps. **H. Wolf** says the DNR doesn't have authority to do inspections on private property, unless we get permission. Could leverage the owners themselves to do something at their accesses. **J. Johnson** asks, does anyone have teeth to do something? **H. Wolf** says legally they should be following the laws. **T. Fitzgerald** says a few northern counties are seeing success working with resorts and having inspectors at their private accesses, even using the same DNR survey template, so they have comparable data. **P. Brown** says they have a lot of high-use resort accesses and they need outreach. **J. Johnson** asks about contractors for inspectors. **H. Wolf** says local governments with delegated authority can sub-contract. She also adds in the past the DNR had a template letter resort owners could send their guests about AIS prevention. **P. Brown** asks, what about creel clerks? Training those individuals? **H. Wolf** says the program thought about it, but were told it would interfere with their clerk responsibilities/authorities/data collection. **P. Brown** asks, what about just handing out info? **H. Wolf** would welcome that.
- **J. Johnson** says the Committee will wait to hear from the DNR on what, if anything, they need to review or support legislatively.

Committee's Priorities for 2020

- Nonnative phragmites.
- Invasive aquatic plant management and aquatic plant management programs. Wendy Crowell (DNR AIS Management Consultant) presented at the last meeting, but the Committee didn't have/offer any recommendations about the program.
- Tournament anglers? **H. Wolf** says there is a bias perceived by the public, but DNR does not differentiate – they are the same as any other transient boater – everyone has to follow the laws every time. Most tournament leaders have taken responsibility and inform their participants. **K. Taylor** says the 1854 Treaty Authority has been inspecting at bow tournaments. **D. Jensen** observed and worked with large tournaments in Minnesota and Wisconsin. **H. Kalbus** says the Sheriff's Office puts on a big banquet the night before a big tournament and she presents there. Then the Sheriff's Office does inspections during the tournament. **H. Kalbus** heard that schools are not required to get a permit when they do tournaments. **H. Wolf** confirms that they don't need one if all participants are under 18 years old. **M. Kofoed** says, how do we change the narrative? We are not against each other. We are all here to protect our lakes. **J. Johnson** says these stakeholders don't talk with one another frequently enough. Could focus on improving cooperation.
- Open Space Meetings. Is DNR doing these again? If the Committee sees them as a priority based on what was learned from the ones hosted last year, that is an option.
- Spiny waterflea – next meeting? **D. Jensen** will contact Donn Branstrator.
- Invasive crayfish by Gretchen Hansen.
- Amit and Lucy with MAISRC, study focusing on economic impacts – maybe in April?
- Water quality and AIS. For example meeting requirements in the Clean Water Act. AIS as a pollutant – **D. Jensen** says the EPA has regulatory authority to do this for ballast water for larger watercraft.
- Boat design for AIS prevention.
- Difference between roadside check and public access inspection data.

- **K. Taylor** mentions Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) she saw a virtual reality piece that showed a forest before and after EAB (emerald ash borer) invasion. Could be done for a lake too. A visual representation.
- Snails and rusty crayfish. **K. Taylor** could talk in more detail about her Chinese Mystery Snail work.
- **D. Jensen** suggests members take opportunities to go out to events, help staff booths, etc. to hear from the public and talk about issues.
- **M. Kofoed** would like to hear about the effectiveness of inspectors. Are they changing behaviors or hindering behaviors? What do boaters do when inspectors are not there?
 - Adam Doll, DNR Watercraft Inspection Program Coordinator, can speak about the DNR's program.
- **N. Baer** is interested in blue green algae. This could be combined with water quality topic.
- Update on invasive carp in the Great Lakes – distribution, control structures, etc.
 - Nick Frohnauer, DNR Invasive Fish Coordinator, can speak about this topic.
- Community-Based Social Marketing. **T. Fitzgerald** can speak about this topic.
- Movement of docks and lifts.
- April Rust, DNR AIS Training Coordinator, could speak about the Lake Service Provider Permit Program in the fall.

Reschedule April 23, 2020 Meeting

- **T. Fitzgerald** will send a doodle and a new date will be chosen based on majority of Committee availability.

Wrap-Up

Upcoming events:

- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC), October 12-14 in Duluth
- Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) Showcase, September-ish in St. Paul
- North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) Conference, starts November 16 in Minneapolis
- Gathering Partners Conference, May 17-19 in Two Harbors

Adjournment at 2:55 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday March 26, 2020 at the DNR Sauk Rapids office.