

Minnesota Statewide AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC)

January 23, 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, Roger Imdieke, Kate Hagsten, Pat Brown (via phone), Holly Kalbus, Ryan Wersal, Isiah Tolo, Brian Gross, Michaela Kofoed

Members Absent: Eric Johnson, Jaime Jost

Ex-officio Members Present: Nick Phelps, Doug Jensen

Ex-officio Members Absent: Amy McGovern, Nicole Lalum

DNR Staff Present: Heidi Wolf, Phil Hunsicker, Tina Fitzgerald, Wendy Crowell, Brian Stenquist, April Rust (via Skype)

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

Motion to approve agenda. Motion made by R. Imdieke and second by J. Boettcher. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2019 made by C. DuBose and second by J. Dauphinais. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Summary:

- Newly appointed Committee members attended their first meeting and were introduced to returning members.
- DNR staff **A. Rust** and **B. Stenquist** discussed next steps with the Committee concerning the Angling, AIS, and Access Open Space Meetings that were held around the state in August 2019. Committee members read the notes from the three meetings, and were queried as to which issues had strong connections with the priorities of the Committee. **A. Rust** and **B. Stenquist** will compile the Committee's written responses and try to make them available to the Committee at the next meeting.
- The Committee's newest members were introduced to the DNR's Invasive Species Program via a PowerPoint Presentation.
- Committee discussed information to be included in their 2019 annual report.
- Committee learned about invasive aquatic plant management grants available for 2020.

Motions & Actionable Items:

- **A. Rust** and **B. Stenquist** will compile the Committee's written responses about AIS Angling and Access, and try to make them available to the Committee by the next meeting.
- **T. Fitzgerald** will format the Committee's annual report and share with Committee members for their comments.

Committee Member Introductions/Updates

Members were asked to introduce themselves for the benefit of new Committee members, and to please keep any updates brief.

- **N. Phelps:** MAISRC annual report is out. For benefit of new people to the board, MAISRC works closely with this Committee on research priorities. Tomorrow, MAISRC is sponsoring a panel discussion on AIS and water quality. Included on the panel are **H. Wolf**, **J. Dauphinais**, and a former Committee member, John Barten.
- **R. Wersal:** Teaching and research at Minnesota State Mankato.
- **M. Alverson:** Pilot and runs a seaplane flight school. Represents the MN Seaplane Pilots' Association. Has learned so much from being a member of this committee.
- **W. Crowell:** DNR aquatic invasive species consultant. IAPM grants for 2020. Will talk later. Starting to put together a full statewide program to address nonnative phragmites, which is based on previous MAISRC studies.
- **K. Hagsten:** Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe plant biologist. Restructuring the program to include AIS technician and will provide decontamination services. Leech Lake land is one-third water, so AIS is an important consideration. Background is in anthropology and cultural use of plants.
- **I. Tolo** is a graduate student at MAISRC. Studies pathogens that are species specific to invasives to use as potential control tools. They recently isolated the Koi herpes virus, a potential control for common carp. Excited to be involved in bigger picture.
- **J. Boettcher** is a retired auto engineer. Involved with the Carver County Water Management Organization and Riley-Purgatory Creek Watershed District. Started with AIS in 1990 in Detroit with zebra mussels. Avid angler. Committee has been a learning experience. No matter what your background is, you add a lot and your input is valuable.
- **J. Dauphinais** professionally works for Coon Creek Watershed District. Lives in Maple Grove and is the AIS committee chair on her local lake association. Former life as a researcher with MAISRC completing her Masters work on common carp. Before that she was a pesticide applicator. The Committee is a valuable forum for learning and sharing.
- **M. Kofoed** does bass fishing tournaments. Traveled on college circuit and does local tournaments now. A different perspective. Coaches for Hutchinson bass team. Co-owner of Aqua Weed Stick, a tool invented to remove weeds from boats. Works for 3M in Hutchinson.
- **K. Taylor** works for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and previously worked for the 1854 Treaty Authority. Grew up in Detroit Lakes. Went to school for marine biology and joined conservation corps. Works in three ceded territories – where tribes retain rights to hunt, fish and gather in northeastern Minnesota. On this Committee, making a lot of connections that wouldn't have happened otherwise, such as research for non-native phragmites work. Getting input from people has been helpful.
- **B. Gross** works for Brunswick Corporation for boat manufacturing. The industry wants to be involved to help and prevent the spread. Manufactures large and small craft. Recently worked with a MAISRC grad project.

Member introductions/updates continued

- **C. Dubose** is a Chisago County Commissioner involved in the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), One Watershed One Plan for the St. Croix, and Chisago Lakes Improvement District.
- **R. Imdieke** is a Kandiyohi County Commissioner and on the County AIS Task Force. Lakes are in the north end of the county, neighboring Lake Koronis that has starry stonewort. Was involved in the One Watershed One Plan for the North Fork Crow River. Started on the AMC environmental committee and now is on the transportation committee.
 - His AIS County Task Force had a question yesterday: Is curly-leaf pondweed still considered invasive? Is chemical treatment detrimental to the fishery or ecosystem? **R. Wersal** says yes, curly-leaf pondweed is a detrimental invasive. Herbicide effectiveness and impacts depends on the product, formulation and rate. **W. Crowell** adds that timing is really important with curly-leaf pondweed control too.
- **N. Baer** is on the board of North Browns Lake Association near Richmond. PhD in ecology. Interest in controlling curly-leaf pondweed. Learned a lot on this Committee. Encourages members to think outside the box.
- **J. Johnson** is a lake consultant. Used to work for Wisconsin DNR. Conducted his Masters work on curly-leaf pondweed control. Works mostly with aquatic invasive plants. Excited about the different viewpoints on the Committee.
- **H. Kalbus** is an environmental resources specialist and water planner for Le Sueur County and coordinates the county's AIS program. Works with water management and shoreland and is able to see how that all connects. Interested in southern Minnesota water quality and connections to AIS. For example, internal loading from plants and carp. AIS gets put on the backburner sometimes, but it is associated with water quality. Went to UW-Stevens Point. Enjoys doing program management activities.
 - **R. Imdieke** is also interested in the link to water quality. Community of farmers may not know how much they are contributing to water quality issues.
 - **J. Dauphinais** is also interested in overlap between AIS and water quality. The University of Minnesota Water Resources Center and MAISRC is hosting this exact conversation tomorrow.
- **D. Jensen** is with Minnesota Sea Grant, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There is a national office and 34 programs. For every \$2 of federal funds there is \$1 of state match. It is a network of expertise, including AIS. He wears many hats including the co-chair of the communications and outreach committee for the national aquatic nuisance species (ANS) task force and the Great Lakes Panel information and education chair. Also helps with St. Louis County's AIS plan. A lot of research, outreach and education on AIS. Initiatives include Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!, Habitattitude, surrender events, nab the aquatic invader, clean boats – clean tournaments, and HACCP for bait.
 - **J. Johnson** asks, what is the value of SAISAC to Minnesota Sea Grant? **D. Jensen** says it brings information back and forth.
- **B. Stenquist** is with the DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division's Communication and Planning Unit. He was part of the open space meetings in partnership with **A. Rust**, Invasive Species Unit, and this Committee as the host. He has been involved with invasives for 25 to 30 years. DNR holds roundtable meetings every year and before this committee was established, the evening portion was quite a lively discussion about AIS.
- **P. Brown** (via phone) is the fisheries director for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. Got his Masters from Duluth. Graduate work was done on Ruffe when it was first found in the harbor. Main focus now is walleye

recovery and protection. Recently found zebra mussels and starry stonewort in the lake. He is here to learn and contribute.

- **J. Johnson** mentions that **H. Wolf** is the main conduit for moving things up to leadership in the DNR.

DNR Update – Angling, AIS and Access Open Space Meetings

Background and Logistics Presented via Skype by April Rust, DNR AIS Training Coordinator

- At the last two DNR roundtables, a large stakeholder event that happens annually, there was a lot of conversation, frustration, and energy right when the Wright County regional inspection started. It became clear multiple groups were not talking with one another and DNR staff recommended to take the session outside of the round table. Held three meetings in August in Alexandria, Brainerd, and Monticello. There were about 200 people total that attended and participated.
- Central Question: What can we do to more effectively address the issues of promoting access to Minnesota’s lakes and rivers, providing excellent recreational fishing, and stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species?
- Open Space Meeting Format: People set the agenda, have conversations, and set next steps.
 - Principles: whomever comes is the right people, it’s the right time to have the conversation, and when the meeting is done, it’s done. The law of two feet – if you find yourself in a place where you are not participating/engaged, you can move to a different conversation.
 - Logistics: Put ideas on the wall and assign rooms/times. Someone in each conversation takes notes and then the facilitators photocopy notes that everyone can leave with.
 - At the end of each meeting, facilitators provided the opportunity to share how things went. A frequent comment was that people found more in common with one another than differences.
 - DNR reviewed the notes and took it to the DNR Commissioner’s office.

Initial Discussion

- **J. Johnson** asks, how do these ideas get discussed by the DNR? The Committee had one representative at each meeting and said the Committee would talk about the results.
- **A. Rust** says this is our first conversation about this.
- **P. Hunsicker** adds that there was a little bit of confusion about what the purpose/topic of the meeting was. There was a learning process throughout the day.
- **J. Johnson** says people were thrown out of their comfort zone. No idea was rejected. At the end people didn’t realize everything DNR was doing and how complex AIS management was – this was a success.
- **D. Jensen** says it was a nice open process. Many positive comments, positive vibes.
- **J. Boettcher** mentions that he saw someone that had a sign that just said “wake boats.” It did eventually move towards the discussion about AIS. Some misunderstandings and some extremes. Bringing the groups together. It got heated, but people were able to agree. Understanding grows. Have to be realistic. A give and take.

Exercise led by Brian Stenquist, DNR EWR Communications and Planning Unit Supervisor

- Open Space Meetings are designed to acknowledge and recognize that participants are an actor. An opportunity to be seen as an individual instead of simply a member of a group. Becomes an opportunity to share unique ideas as individuals.
- **R. Imdieke** says this is similar to AMC’s effort called “bridging divides” for transportation. Recognizes the divide is due to misinformation. Similar conversations lead to find an area of agreement.

- When **B. Stenquist** and **A. Rust** brought the Open Space Meeting idea to the DNR Commissioner, she had experience using it and was excited to use it.
- **J. Johnson** asks, how did DNR cast the net out? **A. Rust** says they sent the invitation to as many connections and groups that would have interest. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, angling groups, social media, etc. focused on people that are interested in coming.
- **I. Tolo** asks, what was the purpose to influence people coming? **B. Stenquist** clarifies the design is set by folks that show up. You want to host a discussion to share or hear other people's thoughts. How motivated the actors are in the room and not an outside organization. DNR will read the notes, participate in conversations, and start to discuss the ideas in some fashion. The Committee agreed to read the notes and the energy will carry forward that way. Meetings were designed to empower actors and build relationships. **P. Hunsicker** says the purpose was to provide a forum to have a discussion about these topics. There was tension between anglers and shoreline property owners, but at the end of the day both agreed they need to open communication channels between the two groups. For example, invite each other to each other's meetings.
- Note takers were not told what to do, just to document the conversation somehow. Lots of interesting ideas.
- **B. Stenquist** gave Committee members time during the meeting to review the notes from the three open space meetings and provide their feedback on a worksheet.

What ideas struck you and your role in SAISAC?

- **K. Taylor** was intrigued by the idea to classify AIS as a pollutant. Would be interesting to discuss that concept with this committee, both the pros and cons. **D. Jensen** adds that in ballast water regulation, AIS are a biological contaminant.
- **D. Jensen** sees a need for a survey on perceptions and attitudes and differences between anglers and shoreline owners. Could be based on a similar 1999 survey.
- **P. Hunsicker** says a common complaint he hears is that fines are not severe enough. **B. Gross** asks, fines for what? The boat owner? The lakeshore owner? The public access? **H. Wolf** clarifies in this case these are fines to individuals for the transport of water and AIS or violation of the 21-day dry time. It is a common comment that the zebra mussel transport fine is too low, since zebra mussels causes significant long term impacts.
- **J. Johnson** saw some pretty draconian suggestions. There is a perception that the DNR is not going far enough in pushing this issue. Discussion on perception would be helpful. Perception is that the DNR is not going far enough and hard enough. **D. Jensen** says there is a perception that there is not enough compliance, even though that is not true. Surveys show 30% increase in reported compliance.
- **M. Kofoed** is interested in behavior change and increased enforcement. At shows she was at recently, people had no clue they could get a ticket. The odds of it happening seems low. They knew it was important, but didn't know why (ecologically). Recreationists don't get the "why" behind it yet. **J. Boettcher** agrees.
- **N. Phelps** says a current MAISRC survey could be somewhat compared to the 1999 survey. **K. Taylor** asks, are there demographics for the meetings vs. surveys? In the community she works with, AIS is not seen as an issue yet. Are the marginalized communities represented? Do the surveys say they are coming from the DNR? **H. Wolf** says there are surveys by Sea Grant, but done by MN DNR watercraft inspectors. There are surveys done by MAISRC students. The Open Space Meetings were open to anyone, attracted mostly people with a vested interest. Doubtful that smaller communities are represented.
- **B. Gross** in discussions about land owners wanting to shut public access; he asks, are you going to pay the state for that loss in recreational revenue? **H. Wolf** adds that Minnesota has public water rights.

Conversations were really helpful about how things work regarding public waters and how complex it is. Trying to work eliminating us vs. them.

- **B. Stenquist** says participants were mostly older, white, and interested in the issues. Clearly not picking up the whole community. An experiment. They are thinking about how the DNR can use it more creatively in the future.
- **K. Taylor** suggests to have a little bit more moderation. It can be intimidating otherwise. To ensure it doesn't devolve into racist issues, which happens a lot.
- **J. Dauphinais** mentions the complexity and lack of understanding. People need the basics of how DNR is structured and manages AIS. What are DNR's headaches? How to improve communications? How can this Committee make recommendations to fix those issues?
- **J. Boettcher** says the biggest complaint online was that it was on a Thursday and they can't take time off.
- **C. Dubose** says DNR could do a lot more with a little bit more money.
- **B. Gross** doesn't see much of a difference between traffic violations vs. AIS fines. People don't understand boater safety, navigation, etc. **K. Hagsten** says the fine amount should reflect the impact. **P. Brown** mentions the need for support and follow through from enforcement.
- **D. Jensen** says people like the advanced trainings for watercraft inspectors.

2020 Roundtable

The Open Space Meetings will be discussed at the DNR Roundtable tomorrow. What is the DNR Roundtable? The DNR hosts conversations with folks that have shown interested Fish and Wildlife Division and Ecological and Water Resources Division topics. Started 30 years ago as strategic planning process for fisheries. The DNR hosts it every January. About 400 people are invited. A DNR conference on a variety of issues. Started as being a way of stakeholder engagement, but is now more of a celebration of stakeholder engagement. **J. Boettcher** and **J. Johnson** will be there tomorrow representing this Committee. They will cover that the Committee talked about it and what we plan to do in the future. People have the misconception that it was a public input meeting, which it was not. That is something to be addressed at the Roundtable.

Next Steps

- **B. Stenquist** made copies of all the worksheets for DNR reference.
- **B. Stenquist** suggests the Committee select a few topics that they want to do a deeper dive on.
- **J. Boettcher** asks, is DNR going to host more open space meetings? **B. Stenquist** says that is something to discuss and could be recommended to the DNR.
- **R. Imdieke** mentions that at the DNR Roundtable, the conversations you have in the hallways are just as valuable as the sessions that you attend.
- **I. Tolo** says it seems the attendees were people that are the most engaged. Good use of time, but not all represented, so it could be skewed. Showing examples of how the ideas generated benefit the community would be helpful. A concrete thing to encourage people to attend. Set expectations of what it is and what it isn't.
- **J. Dauphinais** suggests for the future instead of facilitation (which could interfere or stifle), set clear ground rules. **A. Rust** mentions there were rules that were in their handouts. Set a safe space. Interested in getting more diversity of attendees.
- **J. Johnson** mentions the PDFs are searchable, if you have specific interest you can find it.
- **B. Gross** asks, what is our objective to drive forward next steps? Such as top ten action items?

- **J. Johnson** says the notes help him see outside of his blinders/specific areas of interest.

Homework – Committee members individually review the notes in more depth and identify a few things to address in 2020.

Brief Introduction to DNR’s Invasive Species Program

- See PowerPoint, which is included in welcome packet.
- According to **J. Johnson** and **M. Kofoed**, affirmation is difficult to discern when you register your boat. Not sure how effective it is. Registration and affirmation must be on person when boating.
- Common carp and curly-leaf pondweed present does not add a lake to the infested waters list. This is based on statute, and part of the reason they are not included in statute is because they are so commonplace in MN.
- Chelsey Blanke, who is working on invasive organisms in trade (IOIT) such as water garden plants and aquarium pets, can come to a future meeting to talk about this concern.

Status of 2019 Committee Annual Report

- Refer to 2-sided bullet list that **J. Johnson** put together and is included in welcome folder. **J. Dauphinais** added phragmites field trip info.
- **T. Wolbers** made edits directly to the draft document up on the screen. The notes below highlight some of the questions brought up by Committee members during the discussion.
- **N. Phelps** had suggested concentrating on outcomes. Did something the Committee did result in a positive outcome?
- Phragmites – “supported” the reclassification of phragmites. Outcome will be result of noxious weed advisory council decision.
- Attendance at MAISRC Showcase
- According to **D. Jensen**, letter by Committee in support of Minnesota Sea Grant, along with other letters of support from other organizations, resulted in bump of funding.
- Rule change on common carp. Could harvest if harvester was not responsive. Statutory change mentioned in DNR’s Invasive Species Annual Report for 2019, which is now posted on the DNR website.
- Value of graph showing compliance rate. Evidence that prevention activities are making a difference. Other graphics?
- Report is for the Committee to show what they’ve done. Goes to DNR leadership. Goes to Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). Goes to other interested organizations – MAISRC, Sea Grant, etc. Posted on DNR website.
- Include picture of board. Include photos from phragmites field trip. **D. Jensen** sent some.
- Copy of report should go to state representatives.
- Include quote from chair. Include names of committee members.
- How have the Committee’s accomplishments gone back out to various stakeholder groups represented on the committee?
- Phragmites field trip included a visit to see the CD3 unit on Weaver Lake. According to **J. Dauphinais**, this resulted in an application for a CD3 unit to be located on Fish Lake.
- After hearing about the need to coordinate phragmites work, **J. Dauphinais** did that in her county.

- Economic impacts of AIS – MAISRC study on Eurasian watermilfoil on property values. Got a lot of property information from Zillow that will be helpful to the study.
- Importance of cleaning boat ramps so plants won't be captured and transported by boat or trailer. Committee wrote letter in support.
- Boat designs. Letter from Committee was to follow ABYC recommendations. Sent to MN boat manufacturers. Can **B. Ross** pick up the work previously led and promoted by former Committee member, John Deurr?
- Looking forward to efficacy of decontamination unit and CD3. Infrared technology.
- Genetic biocontrol meeting put on by Kelly Pennington of the DNR. Next step is for DNR to consult with tribes. Research is happening, according to **H. Wolf** and **N. Phelps**. Interesting topic to discuss.
- Can we stop feeding invasives by limiting nutrients entering lake? **W. Crowell** says aquatic invasive plants, for the most part, are rooted plants. They take up nutrients in sediment. Moving forward, we should further explore the link between AIS and water quality.
- What is the effect of management over a long period of time? **N. Baer** says coontail has replaced some of the curly-leaf pondweed that has been managed and diminished by treatment.
- **K. Taylor** has concerns with including genetic biocontrol in annual report. Too hot of a subject.
- Keep "moving forward" list to 3-5 entries.
- How can the Committee improve the perception by public about what DNR is doing and what others are doing?

DNR Update – Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Grants for 2020

- **W. Crowell** – Aquatic Invasive Species Management Consultant, specializing in invasive aquatic plants.
- Working with invasive species specialists to create IAPM grants for 2020.
- Data analysis is being rolled into advertised grants coordinator position. There has been a lot of data collected over the years.
- For her Master' degree, she looked at harvesting of Eurasian watermilfoil and impacts. Provided a window of time to remove biomass at surface where it interferes with boats. Eventually grows back. Can be expensive and effective, but temporary relief. Does harvesting affect the plant that grows back? Not sure. Removal of phosphorous is result along with removal of plants. Is the amount of nutrients you remove significant? Not sure. Curly-leaf pondweed – treat earlier when plants are smaller. Will this impact nutrients in water? No discernable differences.
- What is successful aquatic plant control? Manage growth of invasive, minimize the harmful effects, and protect native plant communities.
- Biocontrol for Eurasian watermilfoil – native weevils that feed on native northern watermilfoil, but prefer Eurasian watermilfoil. A lot of money went to research this. Showed so much potential since weevils burrow into stems and kill the growth. Not really successful based on studies. Discovered that weevils also are a food for small fish like bluegills. Insects weren't building up the populations as expected. Salli Sheldon is active in this research. Working with lake associations to harvest and raise, in situ, and then release a lot to control Eurasian watermilfoil. Generally, DNR money does not go towards research. Mostly LCCMR-supported. DNR sometimes contributes, but it does not come from designated grant monies for aquatic invasive plant control that are made available to lake groups.

DNR Update – IAPM grants continued

- Started Eurasian watermilfoil grants in 2001. Before that, we managed infestations. Then set up a nuisance control program to provide funding to lake groups based on size of littoral area and infested area. 2006 started looking at curly leaf pondweed management. Need at least 3 years of control to see significant results from treatments. DNR contracted with University to do research. Good collaboration. North Browns Lake was part of early curly leaf pondweed research, according to **N. Baer**. Went from 93 acres down to 53. Seen as success by lake association. Less dense plant mass, too. Reduced turion numbers over time.
- Grants are not a great way to do EDRR (early detection and rapid response). This is because grants take time to get everything organized.
- In 2012, started control grants for curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil and flowering rush. Funding fluctuated. A lot to very little (just \$200 K in 2017). Completely eliminated in 2018 and 2019 due to budget deficits. Invasive species fund was going negative. Something had to go, and it was grants. With surcharge increase, DNR will bring back grants in 2020 and in following years.
- In 2020, \$530 K to give out.
- Nonnative phragmites is covered by another pot of money. Will help cover costs of University researcher to do outreach and coordinate management efforts. Will assist with the payments for treatments. Phragmites isn't currently a prohibited invasive species. Grants would be too spotty of treatment – not a well-coordinated statewide effort if done by grants. Some money from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to support this program. Noxious weed advisory committee to determine status of phragmites – prohibited control vs. regulated.
- Another pot of money for starry stonewort projects.
- \$530 K for basic grants and \$50 K for special projects. For basic, grant is based on treatment area. Maximum grant available for any project is \$7,000. First come first serve. New for 2020 is 3rd party delineation. Grant funds were increased to cover the cost of delineation. What if doing delineation for both curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, can lake groups double dip? Can apply for 2 separate grants and can get reimbursed for both delineations. If this becomes a problem, we will reevaluate. If delineation results in no areas adequate to treat, don't have to treat. Intent of grant is to do treatment. We'll see how this works. If problems arise, may have to change it. Delineation is for the area you treat.
- Can you do non-herbicide treatment and apply for grant? Yes, grant can also cover costs associated with hand-pulling and mechanical harvesting, which also require permits.
- Reimbursement grant. Must apply for grant to get in line. How to get in line? Permit will not be issued until the delineation map is added to the permit application. Grant processing will be as quick as possible to facilitate work being done in spring. Expecting 150-200 applications. First thing to do is apply through MPARS. Check that delineation is pending. Fill out application and get that to **W. Crowell** after 9:00 a.m. on January 31st. Good idea to get into MPARS now so you are ready to go. Applying is based on what they did before or what they suspect. Delineation will determine exactly how much they get. Don't ask for too much thinking the delineation will verify that. Base it on past requests. Work with invasive species specialist. Time crunch for grants, especially with curly-leaf pondweed.
- \$50 K for special projects. Innovative control methods for curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil and flowering rush. Treatment may be more expensive, but has potential for being more effective. \$25 K maximum for 2 grants. Reimbursement up to 75%. Looking for input. Does this work? Application should have the potential to improve the management of a target species in the state. For example, the use of

bubble barrier to keep the chemical from drifting away. Holds potential to be operationally useful in the future.

- Thoughts on general approach about special projects? Still in draft stage. This won't be first come first serve.

Wrap-Up

- Logistics. Look in packet. Skype vs phone connection. You will be invited by MNIT to join Basecamp.
- Next meeting will be prioritizing topics of concern, legislative priorities.
- Mileage reimbursement form. Get reimbursed for miles driven for each meeting. Set up vendor account with State of MN. 58 cents to 57.5 cents for IRS travel. 2019 and 2020 different. Make sure you understand that.
- Look into Gretchen Hansen in morning, if possible. Donn Branstrator will have announcement soon on spiny waterflea. Another option is Chelsey Blanke to talk about invasive organisms in trade (IOIT).

Adjournment at 2:59 p.m.

Next meeting will be Thursday February 27, 2020 at the DNR Sauk Rapids office.