

Minnesota Statewide AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC)

*February 22, 2018 **Corrected** Meeting Minutes*

MN DNR Office, Sauk Rapids, MN

Members Present: Eric Johnson, Jim Boettcher, Barb Halbakken Fischburg, James Johnson, Norman Baer, Justine Dauphinais, Richard Lipke, Kelsey Wenner, Jim Stratton (phone), John Deurr, Tera Guetter

Members Absent: Paul Hamilton, Paul Thiede, Donovan Strong, Mary Alverson

Ex-officio Members Present: Doug Jensen, Cori Mattke (filling in for Nick Phelps), Nicole Lalum

Ex-officio Members Absent: Norman Deschampe

DNR Staff Present: Heidi Wolf, Tina Wolbers, Phil Hunsicker, Ann Pierce, Robb Collette, Jackie Glaser

With no current Chair, H. Wolf called the meeting to order at 10:00. She welcomed new members and asked each person at the table to introduce themselves and give a few sentences about their interests in AIS.

J. Stratton suggests that since we have no current Chair, a former Chair, **T. Guetter**, run the meeting. She agrees.

Motion to approve agenda: D. Jensen would like to add some time in the agenda to talk about Sea Grant's status in the federal budget. **J. Stratton's** presentation, scheduled for this month, will be postponed until next month. **N. Baer** asks that information be given about mileage reimbursement. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** makes motion to approve the agenda as amended. **J. Boettcher** seconds the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes from 11.30.2018: B. Halbakken Fischburg suggests changes: Page 1. What is meant by "respectful behavior" in the summary overview? **H. Wolf** says "getting beyond differences." **B. Halbakken Fischburg** suggest saying "cooperative efforts" instead. Pg. 2, if members shared a handout, can we post it on the website instead of Basecamp to be more transparent? Or can we attach it to the meeting minutes? Pg. 3, "we" should be replaced by "lake users." Also "potholes" should instead be, "less acreage lakes." On pg. 4, "High prize money tournaments attract boats from all over." On pg. 5, is the "we" in the sentence about alternative funding referring to "the agency?" If so, we should say that. Motion by **B. Halbakken Fischburg** to approve the minutes with changes. Second by **J. Deurr**. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Summary:

- Seven new members and four returning members introduced themselves to one another.
- Committee communications tools at their disposal: Basecamp, email, and their webpage on the DNR site.
- Committee was given an overview of the DNR's Invasive Species Program.
- Committee discussed how to distribute their 2017 annual report.
- Committee discussed the current list of priorities for 2018, including other issues that new Committee members might like to see included, and ultimately decided to have each committee member come up with their top two priorities for each category. These will be discussed at the next meeting.

Motions and Actionable Items:

- **J. Stratton's** presentation was postponed until the March meeting. It will cover the Douglas County AIS Prevention Program.
- **T. Wolbers** and **P. Hunsicker** will help the new members get connected to Basecamp and receive vendor numbers so they can receive reimbursement for travel to and from Committee meetings.
- Committee members will distribute the 2017 annual report through their individual networks.
- At the March Committee meeting, Committee members will look into the formation of sub-committees to specifically target issues associated with priorities like legislation, aquatic plant management, etc.
- Each member of the Committee will come up with their top two priorities for each category for 2018. These will be discussed at the March Committee meeting.
- **T. Wolbers** will share a new letter from the Committee supporting Sea Grant funding in the federal budget proposal. This show of support for Minnesota Sea Grant was an approved motion by the Committee. Once Committee members have had an opportunity to comment on the letter, **T. Guetter** will sign it, and it will be sent to federal Minnesota representatives in the House and Senate.

Handouts:

- Power Point - Introduction to the DNR Invasive Species Program
- DNR Invasive Species Contacts (also available online at www.mndnr.gov/ais)
- Statewide AIS Advisory Committee Charter
- Draft Statewide AIS Advisory Committee Priorities for 2018
- "2017 Legislative Session Invasive Species Chapter 84D and Rules 6216 Extract" booklet
- "The Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers? Phenomenon" distributed by **D. Jensen**
http://www.seagrants.edu/newsletter/2018/01/the_stop_aquatic_hitchhikers_phenomenon.html
- "Navigating" by John Downing. Distributed by **D. Jensen**
<http://www.seagrants.edu/newsletter/2018/01/navigating.html>

Review of Committee Processes:

- Committee has a Chair and Vice Chair (elections will take place during the March meeting) and one leads the meeting. Robert's Rules of Order will be used for motions, seconds and approvals by the Committee.
- Committee can communicate via Basecamp, emails, and the DNR website.
- New members will soon receive information on mileage reimbursement and Basecamp.
- Committee members were introduced to the Committee Charter. A copy was included in the folder for new members. It is also up on the Committee webpage, and new members were encouraged to read it.
- Question by **J. Johnson**: How is information passed from this Committee to DNR decision-makers? **A. Pierce** and **J. Glaser** are both in attendance. If they are absent, **H. Wolf** brings it to the attention of **A. Pierce** and the Division Director, Luke Skinner. **R. Collette**, a regional manager, can also bring it up the chain. Usually a DNR manager is present at Committee meetings.
- **T. Guetter** adds that field trips for the Committee have been scheduled in the past. It is up to the Committee members to organize them. Not reimbursed for travel, but good for team building and learning about new things. In the past, the Committee met at Lake Koronis to learn about starry stonewort.

Teambuilding and Mentoring:

- **P. Hunsicker** says former members of the Committee have expressed interest in helping new members. Former members will be kept as part of Basecamp, which will make it easy for communication between new members and former members.
- **T. Guetter** suggests the formation of sub-committees. These could concentrate on things like Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM), education, legislation, etc.
- **D. Jensen** says that taking part in other meetings is also good for team building. Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC), for example, meets twice per year and he will send out dates of future meetings. The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) is October 15-18 in Rochester, MN. He encourages Committee members to attend. Next meeting in April 18, 10AM-3PM, Shorewood DOT office.
- **J. Johnson** asks if we could include former members in team building activities to take advantage of their experience.

Overview of DNR Invasive Species Program:

- PowerPoint presentation on DNR's Invasive Species Program by **T. Wolbers**.
- **H. Wolf** suggests that new members review the booklet in their folder that covers 84D and rules. **D. Jensen** adds that other states have looked to MN for guidance on AIS laws/rules.
- **H. Wolf** explains differences between prohibited vs. regulated species, as listed in Rule. Regulated cannot be released into the wild. Zebra mussels are prohibited and spiny waterflea and rusty crayfish are regulated.
- **H. Wolf** and **A. Pierce** explain Clean In, Clean Out training for offenders and how it morphed from the repealed trailer sticker and training requirement.
- **T. Guetter** asks about sea legs on pontoons. Do they qualify as a dock when considering the 21-day law for moving docks and lifts from one waterbody to another? No. **K. Wenner** asks about moving a dock on the same lake. If it travels on a public road, it needs to be dry for 21 days. If it stays on riparian property, it does not. **J. Boettcher** asks about moving equipment and the cleaning process. That is different than moving a dock or boat lift.
- **J. Boettcher** asks about the AIS Prevention Aid. On the DNR website and **T. Wolbers** or **P. Hunsicker** are the contacts for that. County allocations can be found there, or by going to the Minnesota Revenue website.
- **D. Jensen** asks about Chip Welling's old position and when it will be refilled. **H. Wolf** says the wheels are turning to fill that position.
- **A. Pierce** adds that the Ecological and Water Resources Division (EWR) works closely with other divisions: Enforcement, Fisheries and Parks & Trails.
- **H. Wolf** explains that general fund monies that support the DNR cover terrestrial invasive species and Enforcement, along with AIS. Federal funds are grants. Program gets about \$3.25 million from general fund. The rest goes to Enforcement. **A. Pierce** explains that the invasive species account is money from boat registration surcharge and out-of-state fishing licenses. That fund is going into the red because revenues aren't going up. **R. Collette** explains that economy affects boat registrations. When economy is hurting, people don't buy new boats, so registration surcharge is affected. **J. Johnson** asks about local funds. Those are funds that are leveraged – not money given to DNR. For example, groups get IAPM grants, and many provide additional funds to cover the costs of treatment. This number is only for grant recipients. This is to

show that the DNR isn't the only group spending money. **J. Johnson** suggests presenting that figure differently. It is more clearly defined in the DNR's annual report. **D. Jensen** asks if that figure includes in-kind. No. **H. Wolf** says Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates recently did a survey through Concordia College to gauge how much lake associations have contributed to work around the state. This is not DNR data. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says MNCOLA did another survey a few years back to better understand contributions to AIS work by lake associations and others.

Overview of DNR Invasive Species Program continued:

- **N. Baer** asks about curly leaf pondweed (CLP) on his lake – North Browns Lake. **H. Wolf** explains that CLP lakes are not included on infested waters list, in part because it has been in MN for a very long time. **T. Wolbers** suggests that the Committee refer to statute and notes that waters with CLP and common carp do not get classified as infested. **J. Johnson** says it would be nice to have a better understanding of what specifically is in a lake, even if it isn't considered to be infested. **T. Wolbers** informs the group that the Geo Commons GIS layer includes CLP, which is linked on the DNR webpage. **R. Collette** adds that just because a lake isn't listed as infested, doesn't mean it isn't infested. Also, when we talk about "connected waters," we need to think about how connected it is and the risk of AIS spreading because of that connectedness.
- Watercraft inspection data is public. To access license plate data, however, you must have an official enforcement connection. **K. Wenner** talks about the survey and having it available for tribal nations. **H. Wolf** says that the DNR can share our info about I-Survey with tribal entities. They can use our survey, and set it up so they would be the only ones with access. DNR can help tribal groups who are interested in using the survey.
- **J. Glaser** says Enforcement is talking with local law enforcement agencies about AIS. She can supply monthly AIS enforcement numbers at Committee meetings. Check stations are done periodically.

Distribution of the Committee's 2017 Annual Report:

- **T. Wolbers** puts report up on screen. **T. Guetter** summarizes report contents. From this Committee, she has learned the value of communicating with other groups. Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) is an exciting new way to change behaviors.
- Reviewed **T. Guetter's** list of organizations that should receive a copy of the annual report.
- **D. Jensen** sent it to the Great Lakes Panel and has been distributing it to AIS-related groups across the region.
- **N. Baer** can give it to his lake association board members to distribute.
- Need to add lake associations. Jeff Forester with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates can send it to lake associations.
- **H. Wolf** suggests that it may be more powerful if it comes from Committee instead of DNR. On the other hand, a member suggests the report be sent by Commissioner Landwehr in support of his Committee.
- **N. Lalum** can do tourism groups and Outdoor News.
- **P. Hunsicker** and **T. Wolbers** can send it to counties.
- Suggestion to get it to your legislators. No legislative sub-committee exists right now except for **B. Halbakken Fischburg**.
- **E. Johnson** can share it with Voyageurs Natl. Park and Park Service.

- **B. Halbakken Fischburg** posted it on her lake association website.
- **T. Guetter** asks the Committee to think about this process for the end of 2018 for when they have to go through this process again of writing a report and distributing it. Suggest doing some homework time to go back and read minutes from previous years.

Review and Update 2018 Priorities:

- **T. Wolbers** puts the document up on the screen.
- **T. Guetter** says meeting with Commissioner Landwehr should happen in 2018. That should be a priority. She suggests that the Committee put together a schedule for what we'd like to do at each meeting. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says this could be a conversation that could happen on Basecamp since we only have a couple of meetings left before our break for the summer.
- **T. Guetter** says to look at legislative priorities. Legislature is meeting now. She is meeting with legislators in 2 weeks to talk about watershed issues, but can also talk about Committee issues.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg** suggests that Committee members subscribe to the mailing lists for various environmental committees at the Legislature. Plant the seed with your legislator even if this year isn't a budget year. Reinforce importance of grant dollars for lake associations. She wants "dry" included in AIS laws. There are issues with enforcement, but drying is a national movement. Now, with Bloody Red Shrimp found in Lake Superior, desiccation is an important practice. **H. Wolf** explains that dry isn't the law, but it is a recommendation of 5 days minimum, and that recommendation is always included in DNR press releases along with the Clean, Drain, Dispose information. An ad for the 21-day-dry law is in fishing regulation book. Question to **J. Glaser** about how other states enforce the dry part. Not sure. **D. Jensen** thinks it might be a law in Colorado or Utah.
- **N. Baer** has met with local legislators. Problem is they don't seem interested in AIS. Pushes it with his lake association board. They don't want to talk with their legislators because they disagree with them about other issues.
- **J. Johnson** asks about things that were tried and didn't succeed. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says trailer sticker with accompanying online AIS training was moving forward, and was supported by legislature, but they reversed their decision because of push back from anglers and resorts, so it wasn't implemented.
- **D. Jensen** brings up old watercraft inspection sticker, for boat trailers with AIS laws. The sticker became something of a collector's item by many boaters. **H. Wolf** adds that stickers are a great prompt to keep your boat clean and AIS-free. DNR is thinking about how to use stickers as CBSM tool.
- **J. Johnson** asks if anything has been done funding-wise for a specific species, like starry stonewort. It is new and somewhat confined to a handful of lakes. The Lake Koronis Association got funding for starry stonewort (\$200,000) from the legislature to match Initiative Foundation grant dollars.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg** suggests using a zip-tie process like in Colorado. It is successful there. **J. Boettcher** says a pilot project failed in Carver County. **H. Wolf** reminds the group that Colorado has just 200 water bodies, compared to 11,000+ in MN, and all Colorado water bodies are privately owned. Very different than MN. We've looked at it closely, but it is an apples and oranges comparison. **D. Jensen** says that Nathan Owens is the leader in Utah. Travis Kinsell, an AIS Specialist with the DNR, used to work in Utah and is now with DNR in MN. He might be a good one to talk to about comparing the two programs. **J. Boettcher** says they tried 2 years with a zip tie system. He wants inspectors to clean boat ramps so weeds aren't

transported. **H. Wolf** says DNR inspectors do that as part of their job. She requests that if you see an inspector not doing their job properly, please let us know and we will follow up.

Review and Update 2018 Priorities continued:

- **J. Johnson** asks about decontamination stations on main route to grab traffic at rest stations. **H. Wolf** says there are costs involved. Observed them being used in Nevada. Cost is about \$100,000, not including staffing costs. DNR has 23 decon units spread around the state. We have locator map on our website so everyone can find where the closest decon unit is. Counties and others can add their units to the map, but they have to maintain the site. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says decon is only as good as the operator.
- **D. Jensen** says CD3 (clean, drain, dispose, dry waterless cleaning stations) provides a different opportunity for boaters to clean their boats. Tools, vacuum, air and lights. Mixed reviews of CD3 in the room. **H. Wolf** says DNR would like more information on the stations, because current data doesn't tell us what we need to know about usage.
- **N. Baer** says his lake association looked into acquiring a decon unit, but ran into issues with available water and costs. **H. Wolf** says some units have their own water supply tank and a separate capture tank for waste water.
- **T. Guetter** suggests that the Committee think of priorities for both 2018 and 2019. They could use Basecamp to say what their top 2 or 3 issues are.
- **J. Dauphinais** suggests the following: clarification/guidance on how to develop Lake Vegetation Management Plans (LVMPs) to get a variance from the 15% maximum treatment protocol. This could create possible research opportunities on herbicides. She would also like to better understand the cattails issue as she often hears from lake association people who want to remove cattails. Can they be removed and replaced with bulrush? **H. Wolf** says cattails are not recognized as an invasive species, and they are managed as natives by DNR Fisheries. **J. Johnson** states that the DNR has required an LVMP to get a variance to treat more than 15%, but that research/treatment plans were developed first. Simply developing an LVMP does not lead to a variance permit being approved. He also adds that hybrid cattails are an issue in some lakes.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says our job is to advise DNR. Starry stonewort is an important issue. Fishing tournaments are still being permitted on starry stonewort lakes. Should we take a closer look at this? **H. Wolf** brings up former Committee member Jay Green's argument that tournaments are no different than other boaters. Difference is they are very visible and that most fishermen are aware of AIS and do what they have to do to keep AIS from spreading.
- **K. Wenner** worked tournaments before. Timing is important. A good idea would be to somehow streamline the process for tournaments. Did a 200-boat tournament. DNR inspectors showed up, and they weren't in the know with a plan that had already been worked out between the tournament organizer and other DNR staff. Better coordination is needed.
- **D. Jensen** says Sea Grant has been working with tournaments for many years. Found that most fishermen are doing what they need to do. Encourages AIS folks to get mic time during the tournament rules presentation that happens with all anglers in the room. That has helped a lot.
- **T. Guetter** suggests that each member of the Committee choose their top 2 priorities for each category.

DNR Updates:

- Water access maps include infested waters information, by highlighting lakes different colors based on the invasive species present. They are somewhat consistently updated online, but printed copies remain available for multiple years. Thus the challenge being that the infested waters list changes every year. Since the required prevention actions apply no matter if a water body is infested or not, it is proposed that we emphasize those steps in the map instead, and provide links to the current infested waters list. The Committee expressed general agreement with that approach.
- Infested waters information in the fishing regulation booklet. Kept full list of infested waters in last year's version, but not for 2018. Now, we are including more info on AIS prevention, but those wanting infested waters information will need to go somewhere else for that.
- **T. Guetter** suggests that printed maps will soon be out-of-date. Everyone is now using smart phones, especially the younger generation. DNR should take advantage of that. **H. Wolf** mentions EDDMapS and using that Application to report and track AIS occurrences.
- **H. Wolf** will make an offer next week for new LGU watercraft inspection trainer. DNR will be at the Aquatic Invaders Summit next week. Wright County is re-submitting to the DNR their proposal for 2018 mandatory inspection and tagging program on 3 lakes.

Member Updates:

- **J. Boettcher:** There is a 10-year plan for Purgatory/Carver County. Found Brittle Naiad in Lotus Lake. Looking at a treatment plan.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg:** plug non-compliance rate went up in Becker County. Why? Inspections were down, too. Encourages everyone to attend the Aquatic Invaders Summit. State Mgmt. Plan was last done in 2010. Will that be updated? **D. Jensen** says MISAC puts that plan together. Took 5 years to do the 2010 version. Intended to do implementation, but never got around to it. Still a viable plan.
- **K. Wenner:** Busy with a management plan, citizen science, and education on reservation. Classes with kids. River Watch Initiative. Looking for funding. Looking to hire 15 staff to do AIS work.
- **E. Johnson:** Nothing to add.
- **R. Lipke:** Realtor who deals with lakeshore buyers and sellers. Lots of homework to do.
- **N. Lalum:** Busy with Governor's Wilmer Lakes Area fishing opener on Green Lake.
- **J. Dauphinais:** \$40,000 for Rapid Response contingency plan. Zebra mussel sampling plan. Some native plantings and monitoring success/failure. Fish Lake has CLP and EWM. Alum treatment. Improving water clarity. Working with Three Rivers Park District.
- **C. Mattke** is wrapping up request for proposals (RFP) process. 21 proposals for just \$1 million. Narrowed that list down to 5 projects. Will be announcing soon. Focused on detection and treatment. Mostly fish and invertebrates. Not a lot of proposals for plants.
- **J. Deurr:** Getting the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) technical report published, hopefully this year. Wishes it had more teeth, but it is a start. Sharing it rather than using it as a marketing tool for Premier. If no one supports/implements it, we may use it to market our boats. Suggestion by **K. Wenner** to give sticker for better designed boats that can then get an easier/quicker inspection.
- **N. Baer** wants sub-committees as an agenda item next time.

- **J. Johnson** is working with the DNR on new approaches to manage CLP and EWM. New herbicide for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) treatment likely available this year. Metro Area is great place to try things out. Metro Lake Improvement Districts and Watershed Districts generally very willing to test new management strategies and have money available for the extra monitoring needed to evaluate such efforts.

Member Updates continued:

- **T. Guetter** is working with the University of Minnesota's AIS Research Center (MAISRC) to showcase their successes in research. Flowering Rush management project for 10 years. Working with Mississippi State University. Spent over \$1 million. Created Food and Beverage Tax to fund research, plus Corps of Engineers, DNR, and other partners. Long process of testing in the lab and then in the lake. Exposure timing was important discovery. 2 times per year. New protocol based on measurement of beds. No treatment or once per year or twice per year based on amount present. If Flowering Rush is mixed in with bulrush, they were able to treat the Flowering Rush and increase bulrush densities. Went from 100 acres down to 32 acres. Lakes are very different from one another. What works on one might not work on another. Greatly improved recreational value of lake. People were selling their properties before this project, but not anymore.
- **D. Jensen:** Habitattitude event where 800 people were educated. Hosted another Surrender event in Cities. Over 400 people came. Duluth Cooperative Management Group is talking AIS. 2,600 people stopped by Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers booth at Duluth Boat Show. Usually 1600 visitors. Two handouts to share with group. Notice in the one document that rate of spread changed in 1991. It went from 12% down to 6% -- due mainly to DNR and Sea Grant education and awareness campaigns. Sea Grant was zeroed out in the federal budget proposal last year. A successful letter writing campaign saved us. Sea Grant is not included in the current federal budget proposal. Calling for another letter writing campaign to support Sea Grant.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg makes motion to do a new letter similar to the one before.** Second by **J. Deurr**. Committee will resurrect letter written before and make appropriate changes. Motion passes unanimously. **T. Guetter** offers to sign it as a former Chair of the Committee. Share it by Friday afternoon. **D. Jensen** adds individuals can submit their own letters.
- Think about election of chair and vice-chair at next meeting. Think about priorities. Sub-Committees will be on agenda for next time. Give agenda items to **P. Hunsicker** and **T. Wolbers**.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting to be held at the MN DNR Sauk Rapids Office, 10:00AM-3:00PM, March 22, 2018. On the agenda for the next meeting is election of new Chair and Vice Chair, formation of sub-committees, a short presentation on Douglas County's AIS Prevention Program by J. Stratton, and finalization of 2018 and 2019 Committee priorities.