

Minnesota Statewide AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC)

March 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MN DNR Office, Sauk Rapids, MN

Members Present: Barb Halbakken Fischburg, Donovan Strong (phone), Eric Johnson, Jaime Jost, James Johnson, Jim Boettcher, Jim Stratton, John Deurr, Justine Dauphinais, Mary Alverson, Norman Baer, Paul Hamilton, Richard Lipke, Tera Guetter

Members Absent: Kelsey Wenner, Paul Thiede

Ex-officio Members Present: Doug Jensen, Nicholas Phelps

Ex-officio Members Absent: Nicole Lalum, Norman Deschampe

DNR Staff Present: Heidi Wolf, Jackie Glaser, Tina Wolbers, Phil Hunsicker, Dan Lais

Meeting Summary:

- The **Committee** finalized their top two or three 2018 priorities within each category: 1. MN DNR programs; 2. Legislative; 3. Communications and Education; and 4. Research.
- **H. Wolf** provided updates on the DNR Watercraft Inspection Program and Funding issues; staff attendance at the Aquatic Invader Summit III; 2017 and 2018 Wright County Regional Watercraft Inspection Pilot status; Invasive Carp Tagging ; upcoming AIS Personnel hires; State Fair interactive display on aquatic and terrestrial invasive species prevention; and lease agreement and approval requirements for placing local-government owned watercraft cleaning stations at MN DNR public waters accesses.
- Member **J. Stratton** presented a summary of Douglas County's 2017 AIS Program
- Member **N. Baer** presented an idea to create an AIS matrix to more easily communicate the economic impact of AIS, particularly to elected officials.
- **The Committee elected a new Chair, Jim Stratton, and Vice-Chair, James Johnson.**

Motions & Actionable Items:

- **T. Wolbers** will send out a Doodle Poll to Committee members to find an alternative date for the scheduled September meeting, which presents a conflict with DNR staff. **T. Wolbers** will send a reminder for the mileage reimbursement deadline.
- **H. Wolf** will share with the Committee via Basecamp the Wright County inspection report.
- **H. Wolf** will provide to the Committee an update on the DNR policy bill.

Handouts*

- SAISAC Priorities for 2018 (attached at the end of these notes)
- MN Sea Grant – variety of handouts
- Voyagers National Park cattail management plan

*If members shared a handout, they may post it on Basecamp if they wish to share it with those that could not attend the meeting. Members that could not attend may request handouts from those that shared them.

Meeting Logistics

- In the absence of a Chair and Vice-chair (participating via phone), **T. Wolbers** and **P. Hunsicker** facilitated the meeting through the election process.
- Members introduced themselves to one another.
- **Motion to approve the agenda: First by J. Stratton, second by E. Johnson, carried.**
- **Motion to approve the February 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes with corrections: First by J. Boettcher, second by B. Halbakken Fischburg, carried.**
 - Corrected meeting notes provided include **J. Johnson's** comments. **D. Jensen** and **B. Halbakken Fischburg** have small changes and have provided them to the facilitators.
 - **B. Halbakken Fischburg** would like to discuss pg. 6, "that tournaments are no different than other boaters." She is concerned the public will misunderstand that statement. She is concerned that large permitted tournaments could increase out of state boaters and could increase traffic at a lake, so they are different than other boaters.
- Discussed alternative date for the September meeting, since **H. Wolf** and **A. Pierce** are not available due to a required management meeting. **T. Wolbers** will send a with a few alternatives dates near the end of the September.
- **T. Wolbers** reviewed how to fill out the Mileage Reimbursement form. Be sure to fill out all fields and sign. February, March, and April forms must be submitted before the end of June, the end of DNR fiscal year. **T. Wolbers** will send a reminder about the deadline.

Committee Priorities

Members reviewed the 2018 Priorities document and participated in an activity to pick top two priorities from each of the four main categories (beyond general review and updates from DNR and members). Members indicated their choices on flip charts. Results and discussion for each of the four categories follow below.

Review DNR programs

1. "Sale and movement of used water-related equipment (docks, lifts, swim rafts, etc.) poses a high risk of AIS spread" (6 votes).
2. "DNR AIS communications need to focus on fostering behavior change" (6 votes).
3. "Some people perceive the watercraft inspection process as inconvenient" (5 votes). Members decided to combine this priority with the other watercraft inspection priority, "there aren't enough inspectors to cover all water accesses."

Discussion: **D. Jensen** says he has 20 years of survey data that could inform #2. **J. Johnson** asks about the Committee's role, is it to formulate new ideas or review current DNR programs? **H. Wolf** clarifies that the Committee typically identifies a need, either a specific tool or strategy. Or they want to learn more about a specific topic, like fishing tournaments. **D. Jensen** provides an example of how to overcome barriers and the development of the "don't dump bait" message. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says she has been here since the beginning. The first thing we agreed upon is that AIS can be stopped and to advise the DNR. What can we

recommend that can make the biggest impact on stopping the spread of AIS in Minnesota? A list that we can easily share and communicate our priorities with the DNR Commissioner. For example, regional vs. statewide approach to inspection, because we can't cover all accesses. **P. Hamilton** says we don't have enough information on the regional inspection program to make that a priority right now. He adds that new things, like starry stonewort, shifted things dramatically. **T. Guetter** adds that our role is to review programs, what is working and where there are holes. For example, if we review the Wright County program and determine legislative changes need to be made, we recommend that. **N. Baer** asks who **H. Wolf** was referring to as "us." **H. Wolf** says you are your own group. **N. Baer** where do our recommendations go? **H. Wolf** it flows to the DNR, but depending on the topic could go to the invasive species unit, the Ecological and Waters Resources Division, or the DNR Commissioner's office. **R. Lipke** asks, will these priorities drive what the sub-committees do? **P. Hunsicker** says it is up to you.

Legislation

1. Funding for statewide AIS programs (13 votes)
2. Support IAPM grants (9 votes) – could be combined with above
3. Boat operators permit (5 votes)
4. Federal rulemaking (3 votes)

Discussion: **P. Hunsicker** says funding has been an issue for a while. There are things that the committee can recommend and do. There is a bill at the legislature to provide \$400,000 for one year for AIS inspection, awareness, and management grants. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says she is big on "dry," because federal programs have it, but it is not mandatory in Minnesota. What is going to have the biggest impact, dry could prove beneficial and offer more interstate consistency. **D. Jensen** clarifies that the recommendations in the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force guidelines are communication guidelines, not policy guidelines. They are socially acceptable messages. **H. Wolf** adds that "dry" is nearly impossible to enforce, but we continue to promote it as a recommended action. **J. Deurr** says it is a matter of semantics. **D. Jensen** adds the idea is that removing all the large stuff reduces the risk and the little stuff will likely dry. **P. Hamilton** asks, how dry is dry? **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says studies in Arizona and Montana show zebra mussel survival at 14 days or 30 days in residual water. Even if you remove big stuff, residual water can grow zebra mussels depending on temperature and humidity conditions. **D. Jensen** says for the federal initiatives, the national invasive species act has not been reauthorized in a long time; which funds the regional panels on invasive species. US Fish and Wildlife Service provides funds to state plans. **H. Wolf** adds that the DNR gets funding from two federal sources, state and interstate plans and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. DNR is on two of the regional panels.

Communication and Education

1. Stakeholder groups inherently have different objectives and sometimes have biases or misconceptions about other stakeholder groups (6 votes).
2. Lake associations are a strong volunteer force (6 votes).
3. Decontamination locations are sometimes difficult to find (5 votes).

Discussion: **D. Jensen** says the challenge is that people don't understand the life history of invasive species, but once they understand the life history they understand the laws. **H. Wolf** says for #3, DNR can create a sign template. **M. Alverson** says she worked with DNR to make a sea plane sign. **D. Strong** says that is key, he

bounces around a lot as lake service provider, so a decontamination sign would be helpful. Need a uniform message. **H. Wolf** reminds the members that the DNR has a decontamination unit finder App for hours and locations. **P. Hamilton** suggests the lake association work (#2) be connected to the community-based social marketing work. **J. Boettcher** says Bass Club and other large angling groups have banquets and monthly meetings where you could do outreach. **D. Jensen** adds he has been working with townships, and coordination between townships.

Research

1. Starry stonewort (9 votes)
2. Added (4 votes each):
 - a. Evaluate new use of herbicides to better control IAPM while protecting natives.
 - b. New techniques on plant management.
 - c. The Committee has unique ideas that may translate into novel research projects.

Discussion: **J. Johnson** would like to see more money to the emerging threats, plants are more tangible and we have a better handle on that. **P. Hunsicker** says University of Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) takes our recommendations during their research needs assessment and we get an update at every meeting from **N. Phelps**. **N. Phelps** adds that the needs assessment process is happening again this year, so the Committee will be consulted on that. **D. Jensen** adds there is a lot of research going on in nearby states and throughout the Great Lakes area. **T. Guetter** says the Pelican River Watershed District, Becker, Hubbard and Ottertail Counties are hosting a MAISRC Research Update Symposium on AIS on June 8, at M-State, Detroit Lakes. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** is concerned about the spread of starry stonewort within MN, plus AIS not yet in MN. Integrate it into other programs, to slow and stop the spread. **N. Phelps** says there are many projects that are already going on and as projects end the next step is informing management. **H. Wolf** suggests instead of focusing on hundreds of potential new species, focus on pathways. A risk assessment on all potential invasives is very challenging. For example, people infer starry stonewort got into Koronis and then it spread, but we have no data on that. Think about how we can close pathways, which is easier than guessing what the next thing might be. **T. Guetter** says at a recent Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) meeting, members had attended the Aquatic Invader Summit and were very impacted by the ecosystem building resiliency topic and the influence of climate change on AIS. They really liked Shelby's presentation. Other ways to reach out to audiences, like storytelling.

Sub-committees

Members wrote their names on flip charts next to the category/categories and priority/priorities they are interested in being part of or leading a sub-committee on. Sub-committees typically do work outside of the meetings and bring information for discussion at Committee meetings. Sub-committees and volunteer members are listed below:

- **Review DNR Programs:** D. Jensen, J. Deurr, J. Boettcher, J. Johnson, T. Guetter (Plant management)
- **Legislation:** E. Johnson
- **Communication and Education:** P. Hamilton, J. Jost, R. Lipke, J. Deurr, D. Jensen
- **Research:** N. Phelps, J. Dauphinais, N. Baer, J. Johnson, T. Guetter

DNR Updates

Provided by **H. Wolf**.

- **Review of the Watercraft Inspection Program.** Looking at funds available. Had slightly less than 100 DNR inspectors last year. Hiring process is going very well, which gives more time for supervisors to do more trainings for both DNR and LGU. The discussion is how to be more strategic. This season is set, but for future ones, priorities such as making sure inspectors are well trained and quality assurance are priorities. Many options. For example, the program could exchange 10 inspectors for an additional trainer that would also help in the field. This Committee will weigh in on this. Looking at trade-offs for the greater good. Will bring things for the Committee to react to. Some things we have to do according to statute and to keep the program running, but beyond that there are options. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** asks if the trainer would be a seasonal position. **H. Wolf** says options are totally open right now. Another option would be to add a full time lead-worker, with two seasonal trainers. They would do things in the off season like start scheduling trainings and updating training materials. The program is looking at real scenarios that we can bring to the Committee. **D. Jensen** asks about additional/advanced trainings? DNR only provides inspection process/authorities training, and hoped the local governments would provide customer service, etc. but that is not always true. Quality assurance work would be helpful for this. Discussion on the types of additional trainings that local governments do, which varies by organization.

DNR Updates Continued

- **Aquatic Invader Summit III.** Five DNR staff attended and Kelly Pennington participated on the closing panel. There will be follow-up questions and issues based on the presentations. Recordings of most of the presentations will be shared by the organizer, and can be shared with the Committee.
- **Wright County Regional Watercraft Inspection Pilot.** Statute allows for local governments to conduct regional inspection programs. Wright County is the first group. They ran their program for 3 weeks in October 2017 and have applied for this season. Seen as a pilot. DNR Divisions reviewed it and invasive species program staff met with Commissioner's office. Concerns with failures last year to meet mandatory and minimal requirements. For example taking surveys (Received less than half) and wait time data (they did not collect it). An undercover DNR staff person went through and reported the process was not satisfactory. This time DNR clearly communicated that if they fail to do these things, the pilot fails. They made some small changes, such as bulk inspection – up to 10 things with 3 business days' notice they can meet the group at the access. DNR clarified that the bulk inspection process has to be fair and open to anyone. DNR also clarified that tags must be attached to boat and trailer. DNR set meeting dates to check in once a month in the summer. They submitted a report which **H. Wolf** can share. As long as they agree to our monitoring requirements, DNR will approve the pilot. DNR is waiting for the final proposal. **J. Johnson** asks about what makes it a pilot. **J. Dauphinais** says they reported a lot of information at the Aquatic Invader Summit. **H. Wolf** can send the report, a lot of that was estimated. She will post the report on Basecamp. **T. Guetter** asks, "What constitutes a 'reasonable' amount of wait time?" and shared her recent experience of a 45 minute wait time at the carwash. She noted it would be a good option to have a boat "pre-inspected" to expedite the inspection process, especially on high lake use days, such as the 4th of July. DNR provided additional language on travel time, but it is also an issue of staffing. The question is can it be done well and for what dollar amount – the premise is that it is cheaper. But less staff and longer wait times for the public is not

realistic. DNR worked with them to tailor the survey very specifically to their program. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says AIS is an inconvenience. What is a reasonable standard? It is different today. If you understand the benefits of AIS prevention, watercraft operators will be more willing to spend the time in order to protect public waters. **H. Wolf** adds in the report, the surveys from users show the inspectors were not actually doing the inspection process. **J. Johnson** says many lake associations want to keep boats out, so wait time is important, because this could be seen as a deterrent mechanism. The data is critical.

- **Invasive Carp Tagging.** DNR got authority to tag and release invasive carp. DNR tagged one last season and it remained alive. Planning to pick it up in spring, because overwintering location is very deep. Could do it on more fishes if they are captured next season. **J. Dauphinais** asks what species and what location? **H. Wolf** will check. **T. Guetter** asks if this is similar to tagging common carp. **H. Wolf** says DNR thinks it could be a “Judas fish,” to show where other invasive carps might be schooling. The travel pattern was different than expected. It is a lot of work. DNR staff have to pull sensors from the river and download the data. Fish was caught in Minnesota, tagged and put directly back into the same water. We don’t think we have a breeding population. Will recapture and euthanize before spawning season. Tagging and recapturing fishes has been done successfully before.
- **AIS Staff.** New trainer, Felix, started today. Chip’s position is changing from coordinator to consultant, in the hands of Human Resources right now.
- **State Fair interactive display on aquatic and terrestrial invasive species prevention.** Last year was the first year. Large touch-screen where you do different prevention activities. Working to make it more interactive, more interesting for this year. Thinking of redesigning the space and adding tablets for differently abled people to access it.
- **Local-government owned watercraft cleaning stations at DNR accesses.** **T. Wolbers** explains there has been a push to place watercraft cleaning stations at public water accesses. This is in reference to the CD3 stations (clean, drain, dispose, dry) – waterless cleaning station with air hose, vacuum, and tools. DNR owns a majority of the public water accesses in the state. DNR doesn’t have the capacity to staff, maintain, or fund these stations, but DNR does support the efforts, since they may work to prevent the spread of AIS. We do have the capacity to allow local governments to place these on DNR land, through a lease process. So our division worked with Parks and Trails Division, which administers the public water accesses, and Lands and Minerals Division, which administers leases of DNR land, to create a template lease agreement and additional terms. The process is nearly complete. **J. Johnson** asks, can they install anything? **H. Wolf** clarifies this is for watercraft cleaning stations. DNR can’t endorse or favor one private business over another. Any equipment would be reviewed by DNR before they could be installed. DNR generally supports the idea of providing tools at the access. We want to work with people. DNR is interested in more specific details on the use of the station and its tools. Observational data would be helpful as well.

Member Updates:

Douglas County’s 2017 AIS Program (J. Stratton) – Power Point Presentation

Presentation outline: on-site prevention (watercraft inspection); Le Homme Dieu permanent, staffed decontamination station for 2018; monitoring – AIS detectors, Starry Trek, veliger density and early detection; aquatic invasive plant management grants; public relations and education; and collaboration with various local and state organizations.

Additional comments from **J. Stratton**: As a county commissioner, it is not his job to run the AIS program, but he does approve it. Hold them accountable for year-end report and budget. Receiving \$260,000 a year. Everyone should know how much your county is getting and what they are doing with the funding. Watercraft inspection data gives us a picture of who is coming to the area. Inspections stopped zebra mussel boats from entering uninfested lakes, twice. Manned permanent decontamination station that meets runoff specifications and has water on site. Going to track to see how it works, because there are a number of sites that it could work for. Having it at the lake makes it easy to find. Starry Trek was a great success. People that use the water should be the eyes on the water. For example in nearby Minnewaska, it can be contained because it was identified really early. **J. Johnson** has heard many positive things about Starry Trek. **N. Phelps** adds this year it will include more species and is happening on August 18. **J. Stratton** says the people that took part were really engaged and really felt a part of it. For public education, it is a balancing act – we want people to recreate, but also want to encourage them to adopt good AIS behaviors. Trying to get “top 10” counties, who get half of the AIS aid, to have a unified voice has been challenging. You should have a report from your county with this kind of information, including budget.

Discussion: B. Halbakken Fischburg asks, are you sharing with AMC Environmental Committee? To show other counties your work? **J. Stratton** says we can do that at the special breakout sessions. They have to be interested. Member asks, does the county supplement funding for AIS? **J. Stratton** responds, not yet, but might be proposed in the future. For example with the permanent decontamination station. Hubbard and Carver were brought up as counties that are already supplementing their AIS programs with funding from other local organizations.

AIS Matrix Idea (N. Baer)

N. Baer asks if there is any information developed by DNR, or could be created by the committee, to take the list of all AIS and develop a matrix, with a summary for each species. Elected officials don’t seem to know or care about AIS. When he talks with his representatives, he tries to find things in common to start a conversation. At the local level, they respond to quantitative data. For example, simply the presence of curly leaf pondweed comes off as whining versus the economics associated with sea lamprey impacts are more interesting. For the sea lamprey example, things to note are the stakeholders impacted, occurrences, economic threshold, economic impact, and current management techniques. He is suggesting this as a tool to talk with legislators – with simplified language. For example his association is spending \$1,300 to control curly-leaf pondweed in their 300-acre lake. How much is being spent statewide?

Discussion: J. Stratton suggests to take it a step further, to say what is on our doorstep and the likelihood of those species getting in and their potential impacts. Does this exist in a simple, easy to understand format? **J. Johnson** says people always want to focus on money, is that useful? **J. Stratton** says you are focusing on the tax base. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** adds in 2011, her county commission found out that 54% of parcels were influenced by water. Therefore, any impact there is felt county-wide. If elected officials get twelve calls about a topic – they will likely want to learn more about that topic. **T. Guetter** suggests talking about opportunities missed. For example, lake days that can’t be used and impacted fishing opportunities. **D. Jensen** says treatment of sea lamprey costs \$20 million, but the economic benefit of Great Lakes fisheries is \$7 billion. **N. Phelps** says as far as research goes, there are a few studies on single species and/or individual lakes, but not statewide and

multi-species. It has been on MAISRC's list of request for proposals, but no one has submitted one yet. **D. Jensen** says the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) did some work while developing the plan, to look at species that were having significant impacts. **N. Baer** asks, is it worth something for the DNR to spend more time getting this information together? **J. Stratton** says this sounds like a legislative sub-committee task. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says the legislature could appropriate funds to do this work. **N. Phelps** clarifies that it wasn't a money issue, it was an expertise issue. He will keep trying. Ecosystem services studies may be more interesting to people. E. Johnson adds there are economic studies on tourism. **N. Phelps** adds that for economic impacts, it may take some time for the impacts to play out. It is a tricky one to address. **D. Jensen** adds that Lake Minnetonka has had Eurasian watermilfoil since the 1980's, but property values haven't decreased there. **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says she heard a realtor on the radio say zebra mussels are a positive, due to increases in water clarity. **J. Boettcher** adds that a study in Wisconsin showed that zebra mussel lakes saw a small increase in property values.

Member Updates Continued

- **J. Boettcher:** Carver County's AIS coordinator Drew Dickhart got a \$22,000 IF grant to manage the accesses for weeds, to prevent them from getting stuck on exiting trailers. Compare data from last year to this year.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg:** It is an election year. Doing civic engagement of candidates about AIS. Citizens should make AIS a platform. Now is the time to engage. Aquatic Invader Summit evaluation comments were great. Codes for the recordings will be on the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates website. She will share on Basecamp. When will the new boating guide be out? Are there new pages on AIS? You can order these from DNR, a great resource for AIS and other things. State political conventions are in June. Official directory of the MN legislature book, is also available online. Can **H. Wolf** provide an update on the DNR policy bill?
- **R. Lipke:** Did some research to bring himself up to speed. There is a lot more to this than he thought there was. One interesting thing, on Facebook, a page about DNR check-points to show where they are so people avoid them, but no activity since 2012. Need to take away the pain and make it easier for people to comply rather than to not comply.
- **N. Baer:** His association is going through invasive aquatic plant management application process. Landowners want to do something, land management wise. Fisheries electroshocking. Water quality and AIS have places where they overlap, for example phosphorus.
- **P. Hamilton:** In response to **J. Stratton's** point about connecting with the county – Cass County – they developed cost-share program for control of curly-leaf pondweed. Rake and sonar sampling of the lake. Impoundment on the Pine River. At the Aquatic Invader Summit he presented with Sallie Sheldon about Eurasian watermilfoil control using weevils. It is becoming clearer this really is an experiment. Not going to get off the ground this spring. Challenges with funding. The model engages high school students and connects them with experts.
- **E. Johnson:** Voyagers National Park is going through a hybrid cattail removal and restoration project right now. Outstanding water resources designation restricts use of herbicide, so will be using other mechanical means. **J. Stratton** asks, did high water have an effect? No, because the hybrid floats. Provided pamphlets.
- **D. Jensen:** Update on the status of Sea Grant. They are in at \$76.5 million in the House budget! Thanks to this committee for the letters!!! They made a difference. Riverquest handout. Single individual of bloody red shrimp in Lake Superior – resampling to be done this season. Haven't seen impacts in other great lakes, but

don't know what it will do in Lake Superior. Aquatic Invader Summit, there were 110 people at **P. Hamilton's** weevil presentation and 160 people at the community-based social marketing presentation. Hosting a few surrender events, providing education and alternatives to aquarium release, in partnership with many local businesses and organizations. Upper Midwest Invasives Species Conference, October 15-18 in Rochester, abstracts are open now.

- **J. Jost:** New!
- **J. Deurr:** A month has gone by and hasn't heard anything from ABYC about the technical document.
- **J. Stratton:** Already heard from him.
- **T. Guetter:** gives a shout out to Brenda Moses in her office, since the Sea Grant letters were too long to email, she gathered addresses. Meeting with DNR AIS specialist tomorrow. Finishing mix-stand flowering rush / bulrush treatments. Lake vegetation management plan. **H. Wolf** says you've done such a great job, do you even need one? Discussed snail control.
- **M. Alverson:** New!
- **J. Johnson:** The EPA officially registered ProcellaCOR to treat Eurasian watermilfoil. It acts like 24D, but is taken up very rapidly, which allows for small area treatment. Need to see proof of concept, because it is all marketing from the company right now. This is the first new product in 30 years. Extremely low toxicity. **H. Wolf** says DNR will permit its use, but will require pre and post monitoring, because it is new. SeaPro is the company. Auxin mimic. Could revisit the topic this fall.
- **N. Phelps:** The best way to follow the research updates is through the newsletter, every 2 months. About 30 projects going on right now. For the RFP, 21 projects were submitted, moved 6 forward which are now moving through peer-review process and will be announced in June.
- **J. Dauphinais:** Funding at the local level from cities has been very helpful. Had 3 AIS projects funded by the City of Maple Grove. Could be an avenue for additional funding. A lot of success working with cities.

Elections

P. Hunsicker calls for Chair nominations three times.

Nominations for Chair

- **T. Guetter** nominates **J. Stratton**, he accepts (7 votes)
- Based on Charter, current Vice-Chair **D. Strong** is interested in becoming Chair (3 votes)

J. Stratton is elected and accepts the position of Chair.

P. Hunsicker calls for Vice-Chair nominations three times.

Nominations for Vice- Chair

- **J. Johnson** (all in favor)

J. Johnson is elected and accepts the position of Vice-Chair.

Adjournment as J. Stratton calls the meeting to an end at 2:57 PM

Next Meeting to be held at the MN DNR Sauk Rapids Office at 10:00AM-3:00PM on April 26, 2018.