

# Minnesota Statewide AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC)

---

## **April 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**MN DNR Office, Sauk Rapids, MN**

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

**Members Absent:** Mary Alverson,

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Doug Jensen,

**Ex-officio Members Absent:** Nick Phelps, Nicole Lalum, Norman Deschampe

**DNR Staff Present:** Heidi Wolf, Tina Wolbers, Phil Hunsicker, Greg Husak, Ann Pierce,

**Chair J. Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.**

**Motion to approve agenda by P. Hamilton. Second by T. Guetter. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion to approve Meeting Minutes. Current minutes include edit suggestion by J. Dauphinais, T. Guetter, and B. Halbakken Fischburg. New edit suggestion by J. Johnson on his comment on page 9. Contact time may not be less than an hour. Strike this sentence. Motion to approve minutes with edits by J. Boettcher. Second by B. Halbakken Fischburg. Motion approved unanimously.**

## **Meeting Summary:**

- Committee learned that Chip Welling's vacant position in the DNR has been filled by Wendy Crowell. She will start May 7, 2018.
- Committee learned more about the Bloody Red Shrimp found in Lake Superior in Wisconsin, not far from Minnesota
- Committee will self-organize a tour of Koronis Lake this summer to better understand the impact of starry stonewort
- Committee learned about Community-Based Social Marketing and how the DNR is infusing it into their AIS work.
- Committee discussed speakers and topics for upcoming meetings in 2018, and also discussed an opportunity to Skype with the Commissioner during one of those meetings.
- Sub-Committees had a chance to gather to discuss their priorities, and then reported out to the larger group

## **Motions & Actionable Items:**

- **A. Pierce** will check on the Commissioner's schedule to see when he is available to Skype with the Committee sometime between August-November 2018.
- **H. Wolf** will look into getting information about Bloody Red Shrimp (Hemimysis) on the DNR website

- **J. Johnson** will talk with Kevin Farnum about organizing a tour of Koronis Lake this summer
- **D. Jensen** will share on Basecamp an index produced by the Great Lakes Panel that gives a comprehensive snapshot of AIS communications and education campaigns, programs, and their resources being used across the Great Lakes Region

## Handouts\*

- 2016 and 2017 Invasive Species Annual Reports. 2017 report can be found online at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/programs.html>
- Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee (SAISAC) Priorities for 2018

## DNR Updates:

- **H. Wolf:** New management consultant with the DNR. Wendy Crowell replaces Chip Welling. Officially starts May 7<sup>th</sup>. She can attend future Committee meetings to discuss AIS plant management. Focusing on stakeholder education.
- Bloody Red Shrimp (*Hemimysis*). Found in WI in Lake Superior. Close to MN. Heard about it the day before the press release from WI DNR. No talking points in release. After action report was done to improve communications. Conversations with WI DNR to understand glitches and how to report better next time. Hemimysis might outcompete native Mysis. Not super concerned right now. GLRI grant will allow us to do tabletop discussion of Hemimysis and rapid response actions if it is found in MN.
- **D. Jensen** felt content of original press release was lacking. More impacts where there aren't native Mysis present. Predator of small plankton. One Hemimysis can consume up to 100 plankton per day. Healthy Mysis population in Lake Superior, which may deter impact of Hemimysis.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg:** What are other threats that we should be ready for, like snakehead? Hemimysis isn't really listed much on the DNR website. **H. Wolf** says Bloody Red Shrimp isn't yet a prohibited invasive species. Can the DNR put some information up on the website about Hemimysis? That's where people go for info. **H. Wolf** will see about putting something on the website.
- Working on 2 grant applications (interstate) for states with management plans and GLRI (\$800,000) grant. Applying for \$60 K for interstate grant. Super flexible. Can be used anywhere in state. May support canine teams and grad students to look at risk assessments.
- **J. Stratton** says, in regards to Hemimysis, when you put something on the web site, people will use that and make assumptions. "Yet to be determined" is a good phrase to use.
- **A. Pierce:** Policy bill. LSP pilot project. Specific accesses for each lake were listed. Need to change the language to open it up to all accesses on the lake. Clean nets. Extra language needed to clean plants and remove tags. Importation of minnows risk assessment. Working with minnow producers to see if we can't increase production of golden shiners in MN. Budget omnibus bill HF 4099 and SF 3656, \$425 K to lake associations for management of AIS, public awareness, watercraft inspection partnerships. One-time appropriation. Money would pass through the DNR.

## Committee Housekeeping – Summer Field Trips and Future Presenters

- Summer Field Trips: **B. Halbakken Fischburg** suggests something with bait issue. **J. Johnson** suggests Koronis tour. New people on Committee didn't get a chance to participate 2 years ago. Could check with Kevin Farnum.
- **J. Boettcher** suggests MAISRC tour. Showcase will be on Sept. 12, 2018. Suggestion that **N. Phelps** can help organize tour for SAISAC.
- **J. Dauphinais** suggests a tour to watch the "Whoosh" in action as it removes common carp. Looking at using it in the Rice Creek chain.
- **D. Jensen** mentions UMISC in October in Rochester. Hoping for 700 attendees. Multiple states attend. Opportunities for field trips there.
- Committee Interest in Koronis tour. Just need to set a date and coordinate with Kevin Farnum. **J. Johnson** will work with Kevin Farnum to see what can be arranged. Use Basecamp to have conversation.
- **T. Guetter** says June 8<sup>th</sup> in Detroit Lakes is the AIS symposium with MAISRC researchers. Open to all.
- Permanent decon station on Lake L'Homme Dieu could be of interest to people. Busy public access.
- **J. Johnson** asks about Wright County Pilot and group giving comment. Is a field trip worthwhile? **J. Johnson** will be on those lakes, so he can relate experience. **J. Dauphinais** suggests combining it with Koronis field trip.
- Speakers for remaining meetings: **N. Phelps** is on the schedule for August. Wendy Crowell (DNR) and Dan Larkin (MAISRC) could be part of the September agenda to address Aquatic Plant Management questions.
- Possibility to Skype with Commissioner Landwehr from DNR Sauk Rapids office. **A. Pierce** will check to see when he would be available.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg** mentions walleye population. Impact of AIS on walleye. Update on status of that. Gary Montz and Melissa (DNR) could comment on that.
- **T. Guetter** wants LVMP discussion – it would take more than one hour to discuss. Would like to revive plant management discussions with DNR, lake associations, and applicators. Would be good to give input to Wendy Crowell to make those stakeholder meetings happen.
- **J. Stratton** is interested in discussions of early detection. Megan Weber (MAISRC) could talk about Starry Trek and how to promote it around the state. Need to include the fishing community, according to **J. Stratton**.
- **J. Jost** asks about displaying posters at marinas saying, "Keep an eye out for this." Watch cards are available through the DNR.

## Presentation by Greg Husak on Community-Based Social Marketing

- *Fostering Sustainable Behavior* is the book describing Community-Based Social Marketing. It is available online at [www.cbism.com](http://www.cbism.com)
- Building community norms around desirable behaviors.
- Behavior must be sustainable.
- Desired changes must be simple and indivisible
- Barriers must be overcome
- Benefits must be clear

## Community-Based Social Marketing presentation continued

- Community norms study in 1951. Individual was Influenced by those around him, even when they knew that the answer provided was wrong. This is because of the strong desire to be part of the group.
- Positive messages. “Don’t” messages don’t motivate.
- 5-step process
- Select behaviors: DNR will take the lead on this step and step 2 to determine barriers and benefits. Using a consultant. Behavioral science is not the DNR’s specialty.
- **P. Thiede** wonders if counties will be on board with what behaviors the DNR comes up with. **H. Wolf** says that counties agreed during the workshop that DNR take the lead. Strategies can be different that counties will attempt.
- **J. Johnson** asks how this process is typically used. **G. Husak** says it has been used frequently in the conservation realm. Used in recycling programs, for example. Used people of influence (diffusers) to make use of collection bins along with a sign saying, “Talk with me about my bin.”
- Focus on the greatest impact.
- Identify barriers and benefits. Don’t guess. Can use literature reviews, focus groups, etc.
- **A. Pierce:** CBSM now spreading throughout the DNR. Nongame promotions. Get away from “Don’t messages.”
- What makes it difficult and what makes it rewarding? 2 questions to better understand barriers and benefits.
- Don’t jump right to strategies. Local, personal, and relatable are the best strategies.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg** says DNR Fisheries goes out and talks with stakeholder groups. Are they using this method? Some, but not enough right now. Hopefully that will happen as the DNR goes through this process.
- DNR is trying to: change defeatist perceptions. If people think it’s a lost cause, they probably won’t change their behaviors. We’re trying to clarify actions of clean, drain, dispose.
- **P. Hamilton** says Doug McKenzie-Mohr did a nice job of psychological underpinnings and how not to be manipulative. Ask first for a small commitment. Later, they will be more likely to do a larger commitment.
- **T. Guetter** says to use the phrase, “Would you be willing...” It works on her husband.
- **D. Jensen** says using fear in environmental issues doesn’t work, though it may work in public health care.
- **P. Hamilton** wanted to improve organic recycling in Orono schools. Just 5% of the Orono population does it. Started to do informational messaging. Worked with 6<sup>th</sup> graders and used CBSM. Incentive was decal. Tried different designs. Kids wanted the sticker. Now a larger community outreach for families, not just kids in school.
- **J. Jost** says she has a wakeboard school. When boat is sold, they teach the new owner how to be a responsible boater. Understand how to inspect and clean the boat. Understand how to dock, how to back the boat down the ramp. A non-family member can give a different message than a spouse, especially when learning how to back a boat down a ramp.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg:** Question about her boat registration. Affirmation should say you have to keep it on your person. Doesn’t say it right now. Affirmation is a commitment, of sorts, but it is requirement, so that doesn’t have a big personal impact that a voluntary commitment would have.

## Committee Member Updates

- **J. Jost** and **R. Lipke** had to leave at the lunch break.
- **E. Johnson:** Working with Voyagers National Park on a springtime plan for AIS education for park staff employees. Having their eyes and ears open when working with visitors. MPR MN most loved lakes contest – hoping for Rainy Lake as the winner.
- **P. Hamilton:** Mentions the news release from MAISRC concerning the study on the diversity of aquatic systems – concerned that the results may not be true for aquatic invasives, particularly in impaired lakes. The results indicated that increased diversity does not resist invasion, which makes it even more important to prevent the spread. **J. Johnson** adds he heard “native plants aren’t that important” or at least that is what the media reported. The paper isn’t looking at whether or not invasives will have an impact, it just looks at diversity. He talked with **N. Phelps** about the concern for misunderstanding of the results. **A. Pierce** agrees the study is nuanced.
- **T. Guetter:** Adds that flowering rush decimated the native plant population when it first invaded. She expressed her frustrations with her Lakewide Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) and control of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) using Diquat. Much was discussed by the group, but the main points were: There are inconsistencies with her LVMP requirements. There are inconsistencies with how the EWR Invasive Species Specialist and the FAW Aquatic Plant Management Specialist want to distribute the 15% littoral zone treatments for CLP control versus nearshore control of natives. Fisheries has concerns about early-season use of Diquat impacts on walleye fry based on one study, even though it is labeled for use by the EPA. **H. Wolf** says that DNR is facilitating internal meetings between EWR and FAW to resolve these inconsistencies now – there is a case by case basis set up now, in-field testing planned for next season, and the end product will be a Diquat best management practices document developed for internal use to make things consistent in the future.
- **N. Baer:** Working on curly leaf pondweed management.
- **J. Boettcher:** Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District in June the 10-year plan will be in effect. Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) is now taking public input on their 10-year plan. CCWMO is looking at viability of zebra mussel survival in all the lakes – they have the data, just need to do the correlation. They plan to use that information to direct monitoring efforts and inspection prioritization using AIS prevention aid.
- **K. Wenner:** Teaching classes for elementary kids, taking them out in the field and doing plankton tows and crayfish traps. Will be doing early detection surveys this year. Hiring watercraft inspectors. Hiring 3 invasive technicians for both aquatic and terrestrial invasives work.
- **B. Halbakken Fischburg:** No updates.

## Committee Member Updates Continued

- **J. Dauphinais:** 10-year plan will include AIS. For Fish Lake in Maple Grove – they will be funding a common carp study, a delineation for CLP and Eurasian watermilfoil post alum treatment. She has been trying to reach out to DNR aquatic plant management program to try to understand what percent of the littoral zone is already accounted for. She will be interested to hear how the balance between the EWR invasive aquatic plant management and FAW aquatic plant management programs works out.
- **J. Johnson:** Adds that Diquat is very fast acting, which allows for smaller treatment areas. Cost is also something to consider – it’s cheaper. **H. Wolf** responds to a question about how Diquat treatments might be managed and says DNR is looking at an acreage limit. **J. Johnson** says it is very important to do herbicide testing as part of any treatment.

- **D. Jensen:** Sea Grant has been busy at events in partnership with many other organizations. He did 7 presentations last week, including one on community-based social marketing for Cass County's supplementary training for inspection staff. Also in Rockville for Stearns County COLA. Riverquest event for seniors – celebration of the recovery of the river – a shipboard education program. Sea Grant has 5 interns, 3 are volunteers. Habitattitude surrender event yesterday at UMD. Didn't have any pets surrendered, but 100 people stopped by. This Saturday he will be in Bloomington at another surrender event and auction.
- **J. Deurr:** The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) finally resolved 45 comments on the technical document and the vote passed! T32 is now out for vote for publication in December. What he is concerned with now is, what do we do next? How do we get the manufactures to believe this document? A long 3 years, but we are there. **P. Hamilton** asks, is the obstacle production costs? **J. Deurr** doesn't think so, just need to get them aware they are contributing to the problem and have a responsibility to do something about it. **H. Wolf** comments that she was at a past meeting and it was interesting to hear different perspectives and says the process itself has been very valuable. **J. Deurr** can present the information at an upcoming meeting. **P. Hunsicker** brings up the past idea of having an "AIS aware" sticker like Energy Star. **J. Deurr** puts "clean, drain, dry" sticker on his boats. **H. Wolf** suggests to pitch it as easier/convenient for consumers. **J. Boettcher** adds he knows of a new boat design coming out soon.
- **P. Thiede:** For the Crow Wing AIS funds, rather than putting county employees on, they contract with employment agency. But he was recently told the lake associations can't pay the contractor directly to extend hours. So now the county has to get the money, to then provide it to the agency. **H. Wolf** says the program just received clarification about this from a DNR attorney. A past issue was a different county ended their program, but the lake association continued to pay the contractor without county involvement, which is not legal (the authority lies with the local government). Crow Wing's issue was how and when things get paid, which the DNR attorney says is not DNR business. It is up to the county to figure out those details. **P. Thiede** is satisfied now – the billing can be biweekly as usual, and don't have to get the funds up front.
- **J. Stratton:** His AIS coordinator, Dave Rush, says a Committee field trip to the permanent decon station would be great at the end of June or early July. Shout out to Jeff Forester for sharing the Summit videos.

## Sub-Committee Discussions

- Members split into sub-committees on research, communications, Review of DNR programs, and legislation and met for about 30 minutes. Each sub-committee reported out to the group as a whole, as noted below. Members that met are listed below, but sub-committees are open to participation to any/all interested members.

### Research

- **Participating Members:** J. Johnson, J. Dauphinais, N. Baer, J. Deurr
- Determined their role is advisory to the DNR Commissioner, but DNR is not a research organization. It was clarified that DNR can fund research. They came up with the following list of ideas, to start: Diquat impacts on walleye and CLP management; 15% littoral zone treatment limit rule; starry stonewort emerging topics like "how bad is this," age of current infestations, potential impacts; hybrid milfoil and Dr. Ray Newman's work on Minnetonka; Milfoil weevils and Dr. Sallie Sheldon's work; New Eurasian watermilfoil herbicide (ProcellaCOR), registered by EPA but not by Minnesota Department of Agriculture yet – does DNR plan to monitor effectiveness as part of the permitting process; Economic impacts of AIS on lakes – we see the costs

of management, but not the value of dollars saved / ecology saved. **N. Baer** asks if DNR works with Water Resources research program at Mankato State. **H. Wolf** says not directly, but MAISRC does an RFP for all their projects, so anyone could submit a proposal to conduct the work. **T. Wolbers** reminds them the MAISRC biannual priority review will take place this year and the Committee will be consulted by **N. Phelps** for research priorities. This will be at the August SAISAC meeting.

### Communications and Education

- **Participating Members: D. Jensen, P. Hamilton**
- The first topic discussed was that lake associations have the opportunity to be strong volunteer force, but typically only a few people are active. Since studies have shown a small ask followed by a bigger ask can be a successful strategy, we could provide resources that serve as basic information at their annual meetings (e.g. 15 minutes of information) and then ask them to make a public commitment. e.g. yard sign. The second topic was the need for consistent messaging. The Great Lakes Panel created an index of types of AIS publications/materials that are out there. **D. Jensen** will share on Basecamp and these are customizable.

### Legislative

- **Participating Members: B. Halbakken Fischburg, E. Johnson, K. Wenner**
- They would like to meet with Bob Meyer (DNR) and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates lobbyist; Explore possible ideas from the general public; Require AIS prevention training for new and current boat operators as well as adding information to ATV and fire trainings; Explore insurance company reforms; Look at other states with similar laws; Engage the Coast Guard Auxiliary; Ability to use the TIP report line for AIS violations; and prevent new AIS from coming into the state.

### Review DNR Programs

- **Participating Members: T. Guetter, J. Boettcher, P. Thiede**
- They would like to address private lot issues such as boat ramps/accesses as well as sale of water-related equipment. They had multiple items to address under plant management, including: permitting, herbicide efficacy and new methods using approved chemicals, LVMPs, hybrid cattail management, sharing management information, and fisheries buy-in with IAMP. Things they put in the “parking lot” because DNR is already pursuing them include community-based social marketing, centralized inspection, and inspection processes (e.g. tagging).

***Adjournment at 2:55 p.m.***

***Next Meeting to be held at the MN DNR Sauk Rapids Office, 10:00AM-3:00PM, August 23, 2018. On the agenda for the next meeting is N. Phelps to talk about MAISRC’s priority research interests and to get input from the Committee.***