

Angling, AIS and Access Open Space Meeting Session Notes

Date: 08/01/2019

Location: Alexandria High School, Alexandria, MN

All notes have been typed unedited, directly from handwritten participant notes.

Topic 1: Wake Boats (10 attendees)

Convener: Chuck Becker

Discussion Notes

- Drivers don't know how to drive
 - Need education for boat operators
 - More for water skiers
- Experienced last 3-4 years
 - Take docks, shoreline, etc.
 - Tried to educate to get out farther
 - Wake boaters were out 200'
 - At least same restrictions as jet skiers
- Volume of Water and AIS
 - No wake restriction (300') with high water
 - No ability to enforce on a particular type of watercraft
- Vegetation Churned Up
- Damage to Fishing
- Note: Had rep from National Marine Mfg. Associations
- Are boat manufacturers doing anything?
- What does DNR do?
 - Ordinances
 - But most is through Legislative
- Own your Wake Campaign
- Nothing Manufacturers requirements for new models
- WSIA Campaign "Wake Responsibility"
- AIS
 - Adam Doll Study
 - Design changes recommended
- Will take legislation to address the issues
- Effects on fish and fishing
- Economic Impacts to the State

- People shouldn't have to buy different dock, lifts, etc. because of these boats or have to restore their shores.

Topic 2: Fish Stocking Loon Nests (17 attendees)

Convener: Jerry L. Rapp / Jim Bosek – Douglas County

Discussion Notes

- Walleye stocking – Fry or fingerlings
- Reduce limit? Area's northern pike are predators of stocked walleye.
- Lakeshore owners that fertilize, spray for bugs, spray for weeds and draw water from the lake. They are part of the problem.
- Sauger = natural reproduction exists
- Musky fishermen probably spend more money per fisherman.
- Fishing tournaments be regulated; too much pressure in one area.
- Teach and promote proper release; the quicker to get them back to the water.
- Catching fish in deep water should be more education, high mortality.
- When you catch a fish and pull it out of the water you hold your breath and the fish needs to be released before your next breath.
- Selective harvest.
- More walleye stocking. State fisheries need to spend more for the amount of users put and take system.
- Walleye hatcheries need to become more recirculating.

Topic 3: Additional Educational Methods (12 attendees)

Convener: Jeff Mosner

Discussion Notes

- Be aware of risks: (Tom)
 - Need to do more than minimum (5 days not adequate?)
 - Avoid lakes infested.
 - Evenings problematic.
- People uninformed (don't care – behavior change)
- Deploying limited inspectors appropriately.
- Counties could coordinate efforts more.
- Training kids thru school-based efforts.
- Quarantine / Decon-required
- Build a certification process (much like drivers test – license to drive) (developed in 12-? 15)
 - Some Consensus – better chance now?
 - Look at other states ... i.e. Maine?
- Where to spend limited \$
- Incentives (\$)

- Regional Inspection?
 - Punitive punishment ...
 - Inconvenience
 - Education
 - ATTITUDE
 - Change

Topic 4: How public are public waters? (9 attendees)

Convener: Spencer McGrew

Discussion Notes

- Public waters are written into law, but what does that mean?
- Who is responsible for public waters?
- In a perfect world, no need for rules. World is imperfect. There needs to be a balance between public access and protection of public goods.
- Opportunity of occurrence x frequency = risk
- Education is better than it's ever been before.
- How are things done in Pacific NW?
- Why does Minnesota do it the way it does?
- What do we want our society to look like? What do we want our natural resources to look like? What is our willingness to sacrifice individual freedom for the greater public good?
- Federal Aid Program – Dingle Johnson Act – fishing equipment sales go toward acquisition of public land for public access.
- Minnesota lake culture.
- How have public access evolved over the history of the state?
- Minnesota is unique in its geography
- It's against the law to text and drive. It's against the law to transport AIS. lines in the sand.
- What does public mean? Must/can/should it be redefined? This is the vexing question.

Topic 5: MFG Support to AIS Prevention (15 attendees)

Convener: Bill Witt

Discussion Notes

- Introduction for the group.
- Told about what is being designed to limit remaining water after launching a boat – (live well design, plumbing access).
- Eliminating carpet from boat trailers.
 - Replace w/vinyl or rubber material.
- Casing all exposed wires to prevent from grabbing weeds.

- Trailer tubing closed.
- Attach a cleaning tool to the trailer, like a 5-foot section of metal or rake to snake the weeds out from under the boat/trailer.
- Are visiting boats or stationary (docked) boats the bigger problem?
- Put filtration system on bilge and other water pumps.
- Put vent on front of boat to put air through when trailering it as a way to dry the boat.
- Jet propulsion boats vs regular outboard motor boats?
- Would be good to have trailer manufacture here as well.
- CD3 system vs pressure washer.
- Marketing advocacy – “do your part”!
- More AIS advertising, teaching people everything – similar to driving a car.
- Make AIS messaging the first information people see.
- QR scan code to bring up you-tube video for how to properly clean your boat after taking it out of the lake.

Topic 6: Conflict (20 attendees)

Convener: Kevin Farnum

Discussion Notes

- Things that can help resource – follow shoreline rules.
- “Protect” is a key word - it means several things. Protection of a lake can mean several things to customers.
- Conflict exists with meeting all the requirements of the different customers.
- Discussed federal funds usage in purchasing access locations.
- Discussed priorities within mission statement – none are stronger
- Access seems to be priority.
- Allowing people to see and touch an access gets support.
- Don’t equate access to movement of AIS.
- Access to public waters does not just mean trailers.
- Question as to funding the AIS activities.
- Looked at if an access had ever been closed for AIS to protect the other lakes. Thought was how do you close areas then for everyone? Treat everyone equally.

Topic 7: Allowing treatment in Southern Minnesota Lakes (5 attendees)

Convener: Dallas Cornell

Discussion Notes

- Talked about the littoral zone of lakes.
- Littoral zone is the area in the lake that aquatic plants can grow typically less than 15 feet in depth.

- Talked about prairie pothole lakes and how the entire lake is littoral zone.
- Talked about the law that allows treatment in lakes. 15% chemical treatment of littoral zone without variance, 50% mechanical harvesting of littoral zone without variance.
- Talked about how potentially changing the law to allow a larger area to be treated in prairie pothole lakes that are entirely engulfed in aquatic plants be allowed to provide access to lakes.
- Talked about Lake Benton having 50% coverage of curly-leaf pondweed and a maximum depth of 12'. Talked about fluridone treatments on the lake and how successful it was. Talked about the process to get a variance through the DNR and the pre and post treatment monitoring.
- Talked about Lake Shaokatan and all the work by local units of government, DNR, MPCA, Department of Ag to clean the water on the lake. In turn, changing the water clarity from 2-3 feet to 100% (10'). This caused a large growth in native plants. These plants engulfed the entire lake and are currently matting at the surface.
- Talked about setting up Lake Improvement Districts to provide funding for treatments.
- Talked about different types of chemicals to treat aquatic plants.
- Talked about the process of getting a permit to chemically treat native plants in Lake Shaokatan.
- Was able to treat 14% of the lake this last Tuesday.
- Talked about the cost involved with chemical treatment.
- Last talked about working with local Senators on changing the law to allow a larger area to be chemically treated without a variance.

Topic 8: High Water Levels (4 attendees)

Convener: Gary Olson – Spitzer Lake

Discussion Notes

- “No Work Zone”
- Douglas & Ottertail Counties
- Pomme de Terre Watershed management
- Funding dilemma
- DNR

Topic 9: How can an access be used to creatively build funds to help lakes with AIS activities? (21 attendees)

Convener: Kevin Farnum

Discussion Notes

- Three events kick off survey – U of M survey, Increased License, potential LID formation, 103(d). Survey was explained from a person who had taken it. Idea to have a fee for everyone, people are paying today taxes but not directly going to AIS. Comment on everyone pays then went to charging the users.

Discussed this may drive people away and then funds are lost. Watercraft regulation won't deliver enough.

- From survey questions the amount of fees will depend on part of the state. (Personal preferences will be important).
- We were able to get a federal update on AIS funding in several states and at government.
- User fees at access could be considered a barrier. User fees may not be enough. Access fees are considered barrier.
- Legislative influence is an issue. They need to be sold on having clean lakes is for the public good. Problem is we need to fund a large funding source. At the access may be politically problematic.

Topic 10: Manage and Control (Existing Invasives) (9 attendees)

Convener: Tom Webber

Discussion Notes

- A. DNR required littoral area 15% - Increase treatment area
 - B. 50% Mechanical Harvest
1. High School Fishing Club! AIS Training DNR /County AIS
 2. Source of funding / Watersheds 103d
 3. Partnership with DNR – Pilot Programs
 4. Raise penalty! Enforcement

Topic 11: National Scale – International shipping (10 attendees)

Convener: Dean Beck

Discussion Notes

- D? Johnson – positive interest in current control means chemical/Zequanox
- Discuss to walleye stocking