

## Minnesota Statewide AIS Advisory Committee (SAISAC)

*April 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes*

*WebEx Online Meeting*

**Members Present:** Will Bement, Shelly Binsfeld, Pat Brown, Beto Garcia, Kate Hagsten, Holly Bushman, Michaela Kofoed, Mike Sorensen, Ryan Wersal

**Members Absent:** Charlie Brandt, Chris DuBose, Chris Magnotto, KoriiRay Northrup, Maggie Stahley

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Nick Phelps

**Ex-officio Members Absent:** Nicole Lalum, Amy McGovern

**DNR Staff Present:** Heidi Wolf, Robert Gorecki, Kelly Pennington, Tina Fitzgerald, April Rust

**Guests:** Dan Cibulka, Dana Gutzmann, Ryan Logan, Arianna Richardson

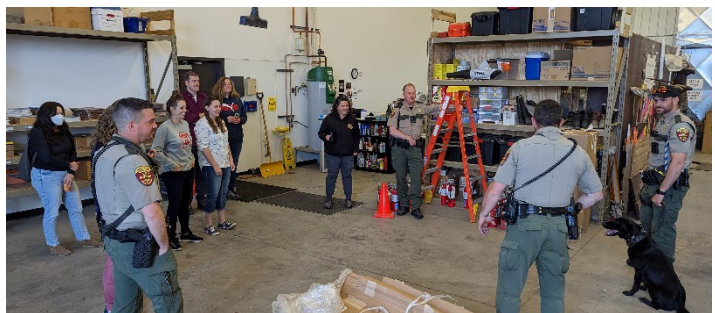
***Chair H. Bushman called the meeting to order at 10:08AM.***

***Motion to approve agenda: First by M. Kofoed, second by K. Pennington***

***M. Sorensen requests a correction to the March minutes should be 100 kg biomass, not 100,000. Motion to approve Meeting Minutes as amended from March 23, 2023: First by M. Sorensen, second by M. Kofoed***

### Meeting Summary

- A reminder that Kelly Pennington is the new DNR Invasive Species Program Supervisor!
- The Committee heard presentations from a panel of four local government staff leading their county's AIS Prevention Aid programs. The Committee and the panel discussed a wide diversity of AIS Prevention Aid activities and how the Committee can support this work.
- The Committee met and observed demonstrations from the DNR's three zebra mussel detection K9s.
- The Committee discussed AIS enforcement and education activities with DNR Enforcement.



## AIS Prevention Aid Programs

- Four local government staff leading their county's AIS Prevention Aid programs presented about their program's history, development, innovations, and current priorities.
- Brief summaries of the presentations and discussion with the panel members are included here. The Power Point presentations will be shared on Basecamp for Committee reference.

### Sherburne County

#### Dan Cibulka, Sherburne SWCD

- AIS prevention program includes: watercraft inspections, grant program/special studies, inspection/enforcement, early detection monitoring, and program administration with a budget of \$70K.
- Guided by Sherburne County AIS Task Force (developed in 2014) that meets 2x per year and develops 5yr plan. Made up of representatives from the township, education, lake groups, angler groups, recreational groups, Water Plan Advisory Committee, City / county staff, County Sheriff's Department, SWCD Supervisor, County Commissioner, DNR advisors.
- County currently has Eurasian Watermilfoil, zebra mussels, freshwater golden clams, curly-leaf pondweed and common carp.
- Watercraft inspection program has nearly 2 inspections per hour average, 95.7% drain plug compliance and 97.6% water / material compliance (2017-2022)
- Enforcement between 2017-2022 included 332.5 hours enforcement time, 1,319 watercrafts encountered, 4,085 people encountered, 79 warnings, 8 citations.
- Early detection rapid response program includes volunteers for Starry Trek (15 vols), Phragmites EDRR and management, zebra mussel settling plates monitoring (60 vols), and resources: EDRR visual toolkit, EDRR publications for lake residents, and AIS contingency supports rapid response efforts.
- Education program focuses on promoting MAISRC programs (AIS Detectors), social media, youth education, guest speakers, and youth projects.
- Sherburne County Grant Program includes: AIS Management Planning, AIS Control, AIS Education and Engagement (Public access education, Capacity building, and MAISRC Scholarships). Between 2017-2023: 65 grant projects approved, \$118,300 allocated, \$282,600 local funds leveraged.
- Completed special projects researching overwinter survival of Freshwater Golden Clam on Briggs Lake and Big Lake with Megan Weber and on common carp impacts to lake phosphorus budget and aquatic plant growth on Eagle Lake.

### Discussion highlights

- **M. Sorensen:** Inspections/hour table – thoughts about data? **D. Cibulka:** In 2016 when program started had a few inspectors going to lakes with little use during shift. Shifted where place inspectors over time. 2020/2021 bump in use followed trends. Average includes variability with weather and usage.
- **R. Wersal:** What common carp contribute to loading, is there a journal article or resource? **D. Cibulka** says yes he can share, but the example is specific to Eagle Lake – it would vary elsewhere.
- **S. Binsfeld:** Started in AIS world via AIS detector scholarship/program. Strongly recommend entry points for people. Starry Trek great event that family has been a part of. Enjoy connection with lots of people – good exposure to new folks in county. Live on a lake with a rapid response happen – helped that we had someone

to go to for help, quickly pay for something and make a difference. Eurasian watermilfoil isn't found anymore. Lake association really connected with SWCD – can trust and move fast.

## Meeker County

### Arianna Richardson, Meeker County Planning and Zoning Dept.

- AIS Program History, Developments, and Priorities.
- Program provides services, resources, and logistical and financial support of projects that reduce risks of AIS spread, funded by State AIS Prevention Aid, and guided by local and state data and strategies backed by research and aligned with state and national efforts.
- Program history: Started in 2014 with 17 officers and 4 civilian staff as DNR Level 1 inspectors and partnered with neighboring counties on a pilot through the Initiative Foundation. In 2015, provided financial Support for Community Led Projects, developed AIS Advisory Committee that works with CROW on development of AIS grant applications, and updates lake shore owners on new infestations/ Installed signs at Public Water Accesses. In 2016, program added 60+ Zebra Mussel Plates and booklets to local groups. In 2017, program contracted for County Wide Inspections and funded AIS time for Water Deputies. In 2019, added an AIS Coordinator, Piloted AIS Explorer, and advised for long term control. In 2020, added end of year reporting for grantees and joined MISAC. In 2021, began two-year Herbicide Stewardship and established AIS Tool Stations.
- Lessons learned: Using local examples is key, address barriers of interest to community groups, there's a knowledge gap or action gap around water quality and infestation severity, focus on increasing grantees pursuing long term control rather than cheapest management options, need to assess tool stations.
- AIS Prevention Program highlights: \$100,000 annually awarded for AIS community grants including treatment, inspection coverage, signage and educational projects. Over 6,300 inspection hours in watercraft inspection & decontamination program with a focus on infested to un-infested traffic. Outreach and early detection efforts include addressing barriers to best behaviors, seasonal monitoring, and sampling to detect & monitor at-risk waters. Key projects and initiatives include: maintaining county tool stations and offering identification workshops.
- Program priorities and concerns for 2023-2024: budgeted \$320,000/\$103,500 in grants. 24 workshops on identification, restorative management of AIS and reporting suspected AIS. Bait disposal outreach and education, water quality & AIS, and sustainable direction for funding control. Priorities include: control for local spread, early detection, inspection and decontamination, enforcement, and stewardship/outreach. Future concerns include: holistic AIS control, sustainable funding, standards for monitoring, watershed approach, and phragmites.

### Discussion highlights

- **H. Bushman:** Have you considered doing sediment cores? Goals for internal loading – would help with LVMP (lake vegetation management plans) and for future planning efforts. Also ties into AIS work well. **A. Richardson:** Yes, considered it.
- **S. Binsfeld:** Talk more about cost share. What's strategy to build volunteer base? What do you want volunteers to do? Do you have a OLID (improvement district)? **A. Richardson:** Use committee members to do local connections with local organizations. Previously connected with local COLA, public radio, flyers,

social media, and others. A large amount of the challenge due to timing with pandemic. Open to any suggestions. For cost sharing, going to use a 3-year approach. First year ask orgs that have interest and fundraising ability to cover 2% of inspection coverage during peak traffic times. Working to ensure we have current numbers for the COLA in July. In years 2-3, plan to ask for 5-10% of organizations' budgets contributed on annual basis. Would like volunteers to do surveys, shoreline checks, and participate in starry trek. Reporting on zebra mussel monitoring – want more involvement, to build up vols to participate in community events. We have Lake Koronis LID – active north of the county. All other local lake groups use them for outreach and building volunteer base.

## Cass County

### Dana Gutzmann, Cass County Environmental Services Department

- Cass AIS Program overview: Budget \$502,000 per year, 28-34 Inspectors, 12,000-16,000 inspections annually, Roughly, 1.5-1.8 inspections per hour, AIS Task Force meets annually.
- Innovations: Cass County Five Star Lake Service Providers, Adopt-a-Harbor, AIS steps prompts (i.e. sponges), tool stations.
- Private access monitoring – Financially support lake associations that pay companies to conduct AIS monitoring at private accesses and high traffic areas. Questions about aquatic plant management companies – should they be required to become LSPs? Are they responsible for verifying that they aren't treating AIS before conducting APM permitted work?
- Control work: Difficult decisions to continue to focus primarily on prevention or increase funding for control efforts. Infestations at lakes with no active lake association – what expectations are we creating?

### Discussion highlights

- **D. Cibulka:** Private launches tremendous challenge. Any idea where the reluctance lies? **D. Gutzmann:** Time is bigger reasons – they are in their busy season. Also wary of infestation found in their area. Larger lakes maybe more used to AIS, smaller lakes think will be shunned by lake groups if something was found.
- **R. Logan:** Partnering with 30 organizations to install 30 stations. How are you doing that? **D. Gutzmann:** Association of Cass County lakes came to us with cost share. **T. Fitzgerald** has helped support/create signage. We have quote from a vendor, local partners can buy and install tools. Local partners will pursue agreements locally.
- **K. Hagsten:** Is adopt a harbor only on leech lake? Do you have outreach materials I can share? Highlight that you are also helping with CD3 stations. **D. Gutzmann:** Adopt a Harbor will be county wide. Yes, will share outreach materials! Leech Lake CD3 stations – we help pay for pumping.
- **S. Binsfeld:** How many AIS detectors in your county? How many participate in Starry Trek? **D. Gutzmann:** Think we have about 40. 9-13 participate at starry trek.
- **H. Bushman** will send sign vendor info for printing signs.

## St. Louis County

### Ryan Logan, St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Dept.

- Allocation of State Funding: Based on 50% of trailer boat launches, and 50% of trailer parking spaces. St. Louis County has 1,068 lakes, 171 Launches, 1,444 Parking Spaces. 2023 budget is \$712,235. St. Louis County manages its AIS Prevention Program as a grant program. Each year, the County invites and encourages organizations, through an application proposal process, to address AIS issues with multidisciplinary, integrated solutions based on science, related to natural resources sustainability, and social and economic concerns. The County supports projects that address one or more of the seven categories and associated actions outlined in the St. Louis County AIS Prevention Plan.
- With the professional and technical expertise from MN Sea Grant, the St. Louis County AIS Prevention Plan was drafted and adopted on May 12, 2015. The purpose of the plan is two-fold: 1. Guide St. Louis County AIS Prevention response (prevent, control, and minimize impacts of AIS within the county and limit their spreads elsewhere) and 2. Define actions for which the allocated funds may be used to prevent the spread of AIS.
- AIS Grant recipients: 1. BLA – BLA AIS Prevention Program; 2. Canosia Twp. – Pike & Caribou Lakes Inspection Program; 3. City of Babbitt – Birch Lake AIS Prevention Project; 4. City of Duluth – AIS Prevention at Munger Landing; 5. Community Action Duluth – St. Louis River Estuary Non-native Phragmites Control; 6. Grand Lake Twp. – Caribou Lake Inspection at Birch Point Access; 7. Izaak Walton League of America – Rapid response mobile ballast water treatment for Lake Superior Harbors; 8. St. Louis River Alliance – Non-native Phragmites control, and AIS sentry program; 9. VLA – VLA AIS Prevention Program.
- County Wide Projects include North St. Louis SWCD – Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination, Wildlife Forever – Clean Drain Dry Education, Outreach, and Behavioral Change Campaign, Natural Resources Research Institute (Baseline Survey and geospatial data, AIS Introduction Risk Assessment, Spiny Water Flea Research), and St. Louis County Sheriffs – AIS patrolling at many different water access sites, outreach and education.
- Projects include Lake Association AIS Prevention Programs, Watercraft Inspection Programs, decontamination, Community based social marketing initiatives are being implemented to influence behavioral change and increase the number of decontaminations, an Early Detection Program, CD3 waterless cleaning stations, Wildlife Forever Clean Drain Dry Campaign, AIS species control efforts (non-native phragmites), and law enforcement support.

## Discussion highlights

- **S. Binsfeld:** Really using organizations that specialize. Fascinating and great to have passionate folks have funding. Curious if have measurables on wildlife forever campaign – social media campaign. Is this making a difference, beyond impressions? Possible end results – more citations. Do you have watchful eye – how do you know on lakes where people don't come to you? What are we missing? How much money is not spent?
- **R. Logan:** Hard to measure but think successful with most boaters, they are aware of AIS laws. Wildlife Forever is looking into new options (bait bags, etc.). Sherriff's Department finds 98% compliance with drain plug law, citations are minimal in county – enforced more by DNR. Difficult that we really rely on our RFP to get experts to participate. Why do some large, populated lakes not participate? Would need county commissioner support to switch approaches to implementations. Do an RFQ instead and develop own



project to develop own programs. Pandemic was when saw some funding not being spent. 1-2% out of \$700,000 – a little more during pandemic. We do have contingency fund for rapid response.

- **K. Hagsten:** Could Civic Engagement (Jeff Forester) be applied to St. Louis County – to help identify gaps. **R. Logan:** Spoke with Jeff about AIS Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Coalition.
- **M. Sorensen:** Curious if anyone is during EDRR in Duluth harbor? **R. Logan:** Hopes yes, but not from county AIS allocation. In 2018, funded a ballast water emergency treatment project.
- **M. Kofoed:** A lot of funding goes to watercraft inspection for low levels of inspection. When get to a point when we know that the majority of people know what to do, but do we shift funding to private access and enforcement? Angling community thinks watercraft inspection is the biggest waste of money. Mandatory AIS training? **S. Binsfeld:** But inspection presence is accountability. There are values of having eyes on the space. **A. Richardson:** Sees a lot of information bias – many people who don't know – the enforcement conundrum is the lack of route to enforcement on private land. How to get inspection law to be broader? Inspections are about visibility and education. People might or might not know what to do. **B. Garcia:** Maybe public isn't as educated as we think. Maybe use analogy of near miss messaging, like in safety training. **H. Bushman:** adaptive management. Use inspections at specific lakes each year for education or perception reasons – important to have flexibility and change approach to things within AIS programs.
- **K. Hagsten:** What do we know about businesses that provide plant removal services?

## AIS Prevention Aid Discussion

### How can this Committee support you and your programs?

- **H. Bushman:** Being on this Committee is eye opening.
- **D. Cibulka:** Appreciates the DNR creating tools for local managers. Always have a need for funding.
- **A. Richardson:** With One Watershed One Plan transition, we've been slower getting off ground. Has there been conversation around setting expectation for local AIS programs working with watersheds and what that looks like – what does reporting look like? We could use tools on how to work with county board – DNR AIS management that highlights importance of water quality being funded. **H. Bushman:** Good conversation to have about how be more effective working together with different funding and programs.
- **S. Binsfeld:** AIS spread via construction activities, there should be information in their permits. No inspections done. If counties checked, there would be interesting finds. **M. Sorensen:** shared example of project with pilons and bridge work – they had decontamination protocols already ready to go.

## DNR Zebra Mussel K9s

### Lieutenant Phil Mohs, DNR Enforcement West Metro Supervisor and K9 Coordinator

- **DNR K9 Unit:** The DNR has five K9s total, two just finished their training today. Three are trained in zebra mussel detection – these will not be trained on fish. Mack is trained in apprehension, the other two are not. All three are also trained on venison, duck, turkey, pheasant, grouse, firearms, shell casings, and human article detection.
- **Training:** When the dogs are purchased, they don't know any commands, no drives capped, and no boundaries. They are then trained through classical conditioning by creating value in the odor we want them to detect. We want them to get as close to the odor as possible and then give a response – a sit. Handlers

recognize change of behavior and sometimes help them. Dog training has changed – moved away from handler control/lead to “free-shaping” where they work without the handler to find the odor; an independent searcher. Shared examples of working with various K9s, training, and responses. The three K9s work differently and have different personalities. Constantly working on fixing problems to get them working just right. End result: Dog smells odor, dog reacts, and dog gets reward.

- **Purchasing:** Put out for bid, screen the dog, and require the vendor provides a guarantee – if the dog cannot finish training, they have to replace it. This makes the cost a little higher, but comes with guarantee.
- **Working:**
  - A typical interaction is the contact officer explains what they are going to do, then the handler and dog walk around the boat and trailer. The wind can impact how they search. Dogs develop value in different parts of the boat, where the odor is typically found. They can find things we can't see and much faster. If the dog responds, indicating presence of zebra mussels, the boat needs to be decontaminated.
  - They have to detect 10g for certification. Sometimes zebra mussels are dried out for odor training. If they search a lot of boats at once, they keep their interest and energy up by planting (with permission from the boater) zebra mussels in a box, so they have something to react to everyone once in a while.
  - They mostly work for toys. They can also work for food.
  - Different activities based on the season. Summer is AIS, fall is hunting, etc.
  - They stay at their handlers home, typically in a heated kennel. Not a family dog, to keep work time drive with the handler high.
  - Dogs are certified for probable cause, allowing the handler to search. Don't typically take enforcement action for something someone couldn't see, but if something is an obvious violation then it is.
- **Education:** Most important role of dogs is education. For example, when they get out and search a boat at Lake Minnetonka, everyone in line sees what is happening and they get out of their vehicles to do an extra check. The kids get to meet the dogs, which is something they always remember, and then they remind their parents to check the boat like the dog did. Dogs have always been very well received by the public.
- **Coverage:** All handlers have primary responsibilities for their station. All AIS work is tracked for grant reporting. For check stations, the goal is to have a dog there 90%. There are no geographical boundaries for the handler – go to where we get the most bang for the buck. Any plans to increase the number of K9s? It is a funding and utilization issue. Would like 8 for the state with 4 used for zebra mussels.
- Enforcement gets a lot of calls from people wanting help to train their dog to do similar work. If there is not a law enforcement angle, then it is not feasible. Could do it on their own if they wanted. We are not going to allow people to possess zebra mussels for training.
- Always looking for more ways to utilize the dogs, so if you have a need, reach out!

## Enforcement

**Major Robert Gorecki, DNR Enforcement Operations Manager and EWR Liaison**

Answers questions posed by the Committee in earlier meetings and provides additional discussion on related topics. He has 16 years of experience as a DNR Conservation Officer. Appreciates all the conversations so far today.

- *How has the tone changed over the past 5 to 10 years when interacting with the public about AIS, e.g. more or less hostile, more or less educated?*
  - They are definitely more educated. They pay an AIS watercraft registration surcharge. People know the rules. Many local groups have inspection and enforcement programs. New people and young kids might not know all the rules.
  - The hostility varies. Saw enforcement fatigue during COVID, along with huge license sales increase. Enforcement doesn't get it as much as inspectors do. Not more or less, it varies. Important to know when to disengage.
- *How are the hours determined? How are the regions split up? What hours go where?*
  - Conservation Officer hours are completely driven by fund sources (licenses, registrations, etc.), which are then appropriated by the Legislature to the DNR. DNR then gets # hours of fishing enforcement, # hours of boating, # hours of AIS, etc. They are spread equally across the state, a little less in the southwest for AIS due to lower number of water bodies. Conduct saturation and regional events. Conservation hours are expensive, e.g., compared to inspection hours.
- *Who is giving citations out, DNR COs and/or local officers? Do we have data on citations/warnings given out by local enforcement?*
  - We know what Conservation Officers give out. The DNR is not given information about what local enforcement gives out.
  - It is political at the local level – does a Sheriff want to write a bunch of tickets to their constituents or would they rather the DNR be the bad guy? Not always the most popular thing to do, so if they have a choice they go with warning vs. ticket. This is not bad; it is why we have layers of enforcement. Typically they want the State to do it.
- Officer discretion: Need to find a good balance. A fine can be a hardship on a family that is just out to recreate. AIS prevention is a priority for the state, for lake homeowners, etc. Acknowledges the decline in warnings and violations by the DNR. Every now and then, we all need a reset – looking to do that this year. DNR enforcement does get a lot of AIS money, so the taxpayers deserve more and they are going to get that. Right now, hundreds of thousands boat checks each year. Reminding officers that AIS is a priority.
- Local enforcement: **H. Bushman** says in Le Sueur County they give the Sheriff's Office money for AIS work, but it is political. Right now, they do patrol, but still not being effective enough. Would like to see more, but don't know how to go about that discussion or use local enforcement more effectively without getting pushback from local leaders and Sheriff's office? **R. Gorecki** says the state telling them what to do is not the way to do it. Have their constituents tell them it is important. They are elected officials, they are going to be more responsive. **H. Bushman** shares an idea – she could ask the lake associations what they want to see from enforcement and then tell the Board that. **R. Gorecki** says letters of support are also helpful. Take the approach of asking vs. telling.
- **S. Binsfeld** mentions other states check boaters when entering the state, but she doesn't hear that of Minnesota, why? **R. Gorecki** says it has to do with search and seizures rules. We are allowed to do roadside check stations, a narrow definition. If we set up on I-90, we would never be able to do check stations again.



Couldn't safely check all those watercraft or even have the capacity to do that. Other states are western states that have fewer primary roads, less lakes, less boats, western water rights, etc. Apples to oranges.

- **K. Hagsten** understands the amount of the fine can be a hardship and talk a lot about education. A new infestation compared to drunk driving violation – a new infestation costs a lot vs. one fine of one family. Struggle to find balance point. **M. Kofoed** adds, if someone couldn't physically take the weeds off, she wouldn't want to ticket them; but then you are setting different standards for different people and creating lots of grey areas. **R. Gorecki** gives the example of Mille Lacs – drastic changes to the lake (water clarity, fisheries, etc.). Example of what AIS can do to a lake, but still have people there that violate. It is hard for the average person to see why having a few weeds effects anything. If people can't see how their actions impact the lakes and other people – they won't change their behavior. Similar to climate change. **K. Hagsten** references food shortages during COVID. When starry stonewort comes into a rice bed, it impacts a food source. **R. Gorecki** adds tribes have been on the forefront of impacts of environmental issues and actions; they have been great partners with DNR enforcement.
- **S. Binsfeld** asks, what is your quick AIS message? **R. Gorecki** says "Don't be that guy," don't be the person that infects this lake. But then he hears excuses, e.g., they are here, we can't stop it, it's the birds, etc. His response is "Would you like another 20 years before it happens?" Be part of the solution. Don't be a quitter. **S. Binsfeld** says it is interesting you used social reasoning instead of scientific reasoning. Is the DNR taking that approach vs. just pushing knowing more information? **R. Gorecki** says social behaviors are the key. Don't have enough officers to regulate behaviors out of existence. Need people to get on board, so that's how do we do it. We can be a deterrent, but also relate to people on the human level.
- That kid that pet the zebra mussel K9 is always going to remember that.
- **S. Binsfeld** asks, have you thought of "planting" people at certain spots doing the right thing and then watching to see what other people are doing?
- **R. Gorecki** says Aitkin County gave out towels and people loved them and were really nice to inspectors. Positive reinforcement. Incentives. Even a small behavior.
- **R. Gorecki** goes into different schools/grades on various topics and include invasive species stuff. Positive interaction with law enforcement – kids bring that home to their parents. Youth education is going to pay dividends, that is the future. **S. Binsfeld** asks, how is education is dispersed in all of the DNR's work? **R. Gorecki** says enforcement is part education. They have also done a "DNR day" – helicopter, fishes, animals, etc. and some kids still remember a decade later. DNR started in the 80's with firearms safety, hunting, etc. and now it is various recreational activities – environmental enforcement will outpace hunting/fishing enforcement. Water quality and usage. AIS took off in about the last decade, last five very heavily. **S. Binsfeld** says you have to measure this – survey high schoolers? **R. Gorecki** says education varies across the state. Outstate more often than metro. Minnesotans care about the outdoors, but there is so much competing with it.
- **M. Kofoed** says the Anoka video on lake health helps people understand. Even though zebra mussels make the lake clear – they don't know the "but" behind that. How can we show people that? The generational impacts? **T. Fitzgerald** says the DNR Invasive Species Program applied for federal funds to create some videos, as suggested by this Committee. **R. Gorecki** adds that you can try to make a lake into a poolside, but there are negative impacts. Tries to explain the value of native plants and other things. **H. Bushman** says at

the MAISRC carp workshop they had an example of when the ecosystem recovered, people were mad there were plants. But good water quality impacts your property value – talk about the pocketbook.

- Someone will share articles about the Little Rock Lake project.
- **R. Gorecki:** On fines, civil citations must prove 51% guilt, it goes through a civil administrative law judge, and it does not appear on their record. Criminal citations must prove 95% guilt, it goes through criminal court, and it appears on their record. DNR prefers criminal, because it costs the state a lot of money to hear a civil violation and it depends on county attorneys willing to process. For check stations – some counties support that, some don't. Fines:
  - Transporting prohibited AIS = \$385; Transporting aquatic vegetation = \$135; Placing equipment in waters with prohibited AIS attached = \$385; Failure to drain = \$135; Refuse to submit to an inspection = \$185; Lake service providers (LSPs) failure to completing training = \$115. Fines double on repeat offenses. See that a lot with LSPs.
  - Rare cases boating privileges getting revoked and get AIS training; but have to catch them. How often do they revoke privileges? About 5 a year. Not a lot. Judges don't like to take away privileges.
- **R. Gorecki:** Check stations in 4 regions of the State. Weekend before or around busy holidays. Cognizant of when and where we do them – e.g., not on I-169 on 4<sup>th</sup> of July when there are thousands of boats moving. That would not work. If the check station is full, we let the rest go past. Minnesota has almost the highest number of registered watercrafts – over 800,000 or about 1/6 people have boats.
- **R. Gorecki:** Also do saturation events – sitting at pinch points where traffic has slowed. Can see violations passing by and pick them out. We don't keep track of saturation efforts.
- Ran out of time to answer all the questions. **R. Gorecki** can come back in the fall and report out on the AIS activities of the summer.

**Adjourn at 3:15PM**

***Next Meeting to be held on August 24, 2023.***