

## **Q and A: Tribal and Local Government Delegation Agreements for Watercraft Inspection Programs**

### **Q: What is a Delegation Agreement and what does it do?**

**A:** The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can enter into agreements with tribal and local governments that are interested in implementing an aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program that includes watercraft inspectors at water accesses. The Delegation Agreement defines responsibilities for implementing local watercraft inspection programs. The DNR will provide training, testing, and authorizations to inspectors working for tribal and local governments that have a Delegation Agreement with the DNR. Tribal and local government inspectors authorized by the DNR have the authority to require watercraft inspections and can deny launching of watercraft that do not comply with AIS laws.

### **Q: Who can enter into a Delegation Agreement with the DNR?**

**A:** The DNR can enter into a Delegation Agreement with tribal and local governments that assume all legal, financial and administrative responsibilities for an aquatic invasive species inspection program on some or all public waters within their jurisdiction. Watercraft inspectors must be employed by the tribal or local government or be working for contractors hired by the tribal or local government. Tribal and local governments are responsible for complying with all provisions in the Delegation Agreement.

### **Q: Can a Lake Association enter into a Delegation Agreement?**

**A:** Minnesota Statutes only allow the DNR to enter into Delegation Agreements with tribal and local governments.

### **Q: Can lake associations partner with tribal or local governments to establish an inspection program on specific water accesses?**

**A:** Yes, lake associations have provided funding to local governments for watercraft inspection programs. The tribal or local government would need to have a signed Delegation Agreement with the DNR for the watercraft inspection program and assume all legal, financial, and administrative responsibilities, including the scheduling and supervision of staff.

**Q: What are some of the administrative responsibilities that tribal and local government must perform under the Delegation Agreement with the DNR?**

**A:** Tribal and local governments are responsible for hiring and supervising watercraft inspectors and making sure these individuals complete the required training and are authorized by the DNR to be an inspector. A plan that describes the inspection program must be submitted to the DNR for approval. This plan must indicate where and when the inspectors will be working so that DNR can schedule our staff at other locations and avoid duplication. Tribal and local governments must work with local licensed peace officers and DNR Conservation Officers to ensure adequate law enforcement support when inspection stations are being operated. This is only a partial list of administrative responsibilities, please read the Delegation Agreement to understand all requirements.

**Q: What will the DNR provide?**

**A:** The DNR provides training, testing and authorizations for tribal and local government watercraft inspectors. The DNR develops protocols for inspection and decontamination procedures and is available for technical guidance as needed. DNR Conservation Officers can also offer training to licensed peace officers on the enforcement of invasive species laws related to the transport, possession and use of water-related equipment.

**Q: Can this agreement be terminated?**

**A:** Yes, the agreement can be terminated with a 30 day notice to the other party at any time.

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**For Further Information and help with Delegation Agreements, please contact:**

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