

10-31-19 Committee Report (Please note that text in italics is related to HC COLA-related activities):

Info provided by two groups for this committee report and melded together in the “extended” report:

1) *HC COLA AIS Operating Team and others in HC COLA*

and

2) Nicholas Macklem, Hubbard County Environmental Services, Environmental Specialist

Summary of 2019 Accomplishments Related to Aquatic Invasive Species & AIS Operating Team-v2

Hubbard County Environmental Services – AIS Program & *Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)*

1. Public Awareness

- Continued Radio PSAs on KDKK, KXKK, KPRM Radio. Recorded Decon PSA & others.
- Utilized Lead Inspector employee to engage 39 resort owners/guests & other local businesses
- Distributed Hubbard AIS Identification Cards and Decon Cards to numerous local businesses/*establishments, lake associations, & at County Fair; partnering with HC COLA*
- *Co-sponsored Fishing Expo* with HC Envir Svcs, MN DNR, Pastor Chip / Riverside UMC, & HC COLA
- *Boy Scout built Kiosk for Wolf Lake Undeveloped Access re AIS prevention; HC COLA article in papers*
- *HC COLA ad on cleaning gear and equipment in PR Enterprise-sponsored Residents Guide*
- *HC COLA Mtgs with Educ Speakers open to the public; Spiny Waterflea, Zebra Mussels & AIS Program*
- *Downtown Business Association Membership – AIS Educational ad on Park Rapids Webcam Pages*
- *Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Discovery Guide Ad on AIS Prevention/on website/resort week info*
- *ACTION Park Rapids Lakes Area participation collaboration; Community Educ Club 309 & Kinship*
- *Billboard partnership on E Hwy 34 near Brauhaus Restaurant – 21 Day Dry Time Lifts, Docks & Rafts*
- *30-second movie ad partnership for summer Park Theater – Clean, Drain boat / trailer AIS prevention*
- *Community-Based Social Marketing Team including DNR AIS Specialist – clean & drain gear & equipment flyer for lake assocs, fair, showcase table at Walker event & interview / article on MPR.*

2. Prevention (Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination)

- Conducted 15,317 hours of watercraft inspection (overall cost per hour is \$21). 8698 hours funded from State AIS Prevention Aid funds of \$182,658. 6645 hours of supplemental inspection time funded by lake associations \$101,887 and Townships \$37,668 for a total of \$139,555 of supplemental funding for 2019. 26 supplemental hours will carry over to 2020 as not all contributing parties made contributions that equaled 8 or 10 hour shifts.
- Conducted 164 Decontaminations at the Hubbard County FREE Watercraft Decontamination Station.
- Coordinated law enforcement support for 1 violation:
 - We had one violation at the decon station with a LSP who was moving a boat lift from Long Lake to Eagle Lake in the same day. The Level 2 inspector caught it, called Nicholas who then called a DNR Conservation Officer (CO) who contacted the owner of the LSP to quarantine the lift for 21 days prior to dropping it in Eagle.
 - We had two zebra mussel violations with boats entering Kabekona early in the season with attached ZMs. Both boats were referred to the Hubbard County Decon to be brought into compliance, thus law enforcement was not needed for assistance.
- Kabekona Lake Assoc 1st yr I-LID Launch site *monitoring with watercraft inspector; will share analysis*
- Continued discussion with Hubbard County *exploring the potential for additional decontamination site(s)*
- Continued discussion for inspector scheduling *to increase effective coverage & maximize educ contacts*
- Partnered to monitor *fishing tournament scheduling and offer ais prevention aid as needed*
- *HC AIS Volunteer training organized w/ DNR; provided service at accesses – 2 tournaments / 1 resort*
- *Followed the Wright County pilot of free entry inspections at regional inspection site prior to launching water-related equipment at accesses on 3 lakes* http://www.wrightswcd.org/Water_Management/wrip.html

3. Early Detection

- *Distributed Girl Scout ZM settlement sampler PVC tubes / info packets at fishing expo & fair & meetings*
- *Increased “eyes on the water” campaign participation to 55 lakes (an increase of 20 lakes); had ZMSS at the public accesses in Hubbard County that have docks. The DNR Intern for summer with the AIS Specialist visited the accesses on rainy days, searched for AIS and installed a ZMSS if there was a dock. HC COLA team members collected the samplers mid-Oct & reported results in survey; cleaning samplers for next season.*
- *In 2019, 30+ volunteers were trained in aquatic vegetation identification increasing our number of trainees to approximately 250 since 2006 through HC COLA training partnering with UMN Extension & DNR AIS Specialist*
- *Nicholas Macklem, Hubbard County Environmental Services headed up the Starry Trek for Hubbard County 8/17/19. Twelve accesses on 8 lakes were checked by 4 Starry Trek participants searching for Starry Stonewort (SSW) & other AIS. HC COLA lake associations were encouraged to check their own accesses too.*
- *19 lakes participated in zebra mussel veliger sampling (ZMVS) in 2019; HC COLA sampled Lake George in 2019 with one sample being paid for. No ZM veligers were detected in the Hubbard County samples.*
- *9 lakes participated in spiny waterflea analysis in 2019; none detected*
- *Belle Taine Shoreline Monitoring Program with teams shared its results; great model for other HC COLA lakes too*
- *3 HC COLA team members conducted AIS vegetation and critter analysis for a resort at their request on Upper Bottle*

4. Rapid Response and Containment

- *\$30,000 budgeted for Rapid Response Fund (RRF) for 2019. Hubbard County Environmental Services spent roughly \$500 on buoys / anchors for the 2 Wolf Lake buoys that mark the Starry Stonewort area of caution at the undeveloped DNR Wildlife Management Area in Hubbard County. The Hubbard County Sheriff's team places the buoys annually as it is in the Hubbard County area of Wolf Lake – not Beltrami County.*
- *Using the Hubbard County Rapid Response framework, supported Rapid Response activities Wolf Lake; hosted info sessions for lakeshore owners in partnership with Hubbard & Beltrami Counties plus DNR*

5. Mitigation and Management

- *Individual lakes fund management of existing infestations – no DNR AIS Grants / aid available in 2019*
- *Garfield Lake Assoc collaborating with MN DNR Fisheries for zooplankton/phytoplankton analysis re ZM*
- *Bad Axe Lake Assoc aquatic vegetation survey in 2019 – received HC COLA Charitable Fund 2019 Grant*

6. Administration

- *AIS Operating Team worked closely with Hubbard County Environmental Services AIS Program to support a healthy and effective Countywide AIS program.*
- *Attendance at all 3 locations for the DNR / AIS Advisory Committee-sponsored “Open Space Meeting” Angling, AIS and Access to MN Lakes & Rivers. Jeff Mosner lead a discussion topic in Alexandria. See the meeting notes by scrolling down on this website below. The DNR will share a summary of the meetings in the annual report to the MN Legislature. Consider applying for the open AIS Advisory Committee positions; they along with the DNR will be reviewing the notes to identify next steps / management actions.*

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aisadvisory/index.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- *Attended MAISRC showcase in Sept. Encouraged lake association members to sign up for the MAISRC newsletters. See October newsletter for 6 study outcomes, links to showcase presentations and more:*
<https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/oct19-newsletter>

Summary of Planning with AIS Operating Team Thus Far for 2020

Hubbard County Environmental Services – AIS Program & *Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)*

Notes:

- 1) *Continue the efforts from 2018 and 2019 that were effective.***
- 2) *List below is not all inclusive as of 10-31-2019. Much to explore yet with Hubbard County Environmental Services – AIS Program and HC COLA as cost share / potential partners.***

1. Public Awareness

- Continue Radio PSAs on KDKK, KXKK, KPRM Radio
- Explore HC Envir Svcs – AIS Program opportunity for paragraph in joint HC communication in tax envelope
- Reach even more riparian owners *using community-based social marketing (CBSM) on AIS prevention techniques for gear & equipment, decon, 21-day dry time for lifts / docks & disposing of unwanted bait*
- Continue to Utilize Lead Inspector employee to engage resort owners/guests, other area businesses plus *partner with HC COLA to expand the outreach; track to compare and increase overall effectiveness*
- Partnering with HC COLA for *ad at Park Theatre and Hwy 34 billboard*
- Explore use of wrap on vehicle for mobile ad billboard concept based on other counties experiences
- *HC COLA hosting Tues 1/28/20, 7:45 AM Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Buzz to promote even better understanding of AIS Prevention efforts and partnering opportunities with members*
- *Continue the memberships and activities promoting educational opportunities, partnerships & publications: MN COLA, Conservation Minnesota, Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, Park Rapids MN Downtown Business Association, Volunteer Heartland Lakes, ACTION Park Rapids Lakes Area, MAISRC Showcase attendance, Fair, 4-H, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, HC COLA Column in Park Rapids Enterprise, etc.*

2. Prevention

- Conduct similar amount of inspection hours as 2019, dependent on budget approval and supplemental funding amounts from Lake Associations and Townships; supplemental \$\$ due 1/31/2020 for all.
- Continue operation of the Hubbard County FREE Watercraft Decontamination Station.
- Continue to coordinate with law enforcement support on watercraft violations.
- Partner in sharing locations of decon sites *in surrounding counties & analyze site opportunities*
- Explore inspector scheduling to provide even more *effective coverage & maximize educational contacts*
- *Monitor fishing tournament activity to minimize the AIS risk. Consider special inspection plans when justified*
- *Schedule AIS Volunteer Training, communicate process and opportunities for using skillset*
- *Utilize CBSM Social Marketing techniques from study, apply for DNR grant, hone ads for sustainable behavior*
- Explore use of tools such as modeling software to determine best mix of *state watercraft inspection hours on Hubbard Cty lakes, I-Lid to encourage best behavior & understand traffic, eDNA detection, robotics, CD3, etc*

3. Early Detection

- *Explore ability to conduct zebra mussel veliger sampling on approximately 30 Hubbard County lakes* potentially funded with sample analysis costs from other funds separate from HC COLA dues and/or lake associations. Costs for 30 lakes at \$180 per lake = \$5400 less funds from Mantrap Township for 3 lakes thru SWCD. One-time cost \$200 per plankton net per lake, as needed. Would be dependent on volunteers for lake*
- *Expand lakes monitoring for adult zebra mussels (ZM) settlement samplers that circle each lake (N-S, E-W)*
- *Continue to conduct monitoring for adult zebra mussels at public/county access sites in Hubbard County.*
- *Increase AIS Citizen Watch Volunteers participating in HC COLA's "Eyes on the Water" online survey.*

- *Provide AIS / aquatic identification and lake monitoring training opportunities in conjunction with MN DNR.*
- *Promote participation in Starry Trek, a statewide 1-day search for Starry Stonewort & AIS*
- *Increase number of lakes participating in vegetation & critter monitoring like Belle Taine Lake Monitoring*

4. Rapid Response and Containment

- *Budgeting \$30,000 to Rapid Response Fund (RRF) for 2020*
- *Over winter, practice on paper a “dry run” of rapid response effort for AIS discovery in 2 large lake scenarios*
- *Work with DNR & Hubbard County on Rapid Response & AIS containment on HC lakes that become infested*

5. Mitigation and Management

- *Individual lakes will continue to manage existing infestations & apply for DNR AIS Grants / aid as available*

6. Administration

- *AIS Operating Team continues with Hubbard County Environmental Services AIS Program to support a healthy and effective Countywide AIS program and work across county boundaries as the need arises*

HC COLA proposes the expansion of the veliger monitoring program to include the following Hubbard County lakes in 2020 – for discussion purposes:

Approximately 30+ targeted lakes sampled by lake association volunteers. These lakes potentially include:

- Mantrap Chain – Big Mantrap, Upper & Lower Bottle (composite of 4 sites), Big Sand, Little Sand, & Belle Taine. (5 lakes)*
- Fish Hook Chain – Eagle, Island, Potato and Fish Hook. (4 lakes)*
- Crow Wing Chain – 3, 6, 8 & 11 (4 lakes)*
- Other targeted lakes – Long, Boulder, Kabekona, Duck, Blue, Plantagenet, Portage, Garfield, Lake George and Lake Benedict. (10 lakes)*
- 3 Mantrap Township lakes sampled currently by SWCD & paid by the township – Spider, East Crooked and Middle Crooked (3 lakes)*
- Other optional lakes – 5th Crow Wing, West Crooked, Ojibway, Big Stony. (4 lakes)*
- Two Inlets – potential partnership with Becker County as close to Fish Hook Chain and thought of as in the Park Rapids Lakes Area*