

## Statewide AIS Annual Report Template – Member’s Statements

Name: **Kenneth Grob**

Location: **Park Rapids**

Representing: **Hubbard County AIS Task Force/ COLA**

### AIS Accomplishments in 2013:

1. Hubbard County organized a county-wide watercraft inspection program in 2013 that resulted in 6658 hours of inspection and over 10,000 inspection/education contacts. 22 watercraft inspectors were hired and trained by the DNR, including three level 2 inspectors. Twenty one lakes participated. \$142, 000 of funding was provided by Hubbard County Commissioners, 11 townships, participating lake associations, and a DNR LGU Grant. A centralized decontamination station was purchased and used when the inspection protocol warranted it.

2. Hubbard County conducted several public awareness and education initiatives. Information/education folders were provided to 60 resort owners for use with their guests. Road side billboards and radio public service announcements were funded in cooperation with Wildlife Forever and the DNR. Hubbard COLA provided AIS information booths at the Governors Opener, Hubbard County Fair, Park Rapids Legends and Logging Days, Taste of Dorset Day, and a Lake Service Provider open house event in Walker. In addition, AIS information/education presentations were provided to nine Township meetings, two city meetings, the Association of Hubbard County Townships, several lake association annual meetings, and Beltrami County/City of Bemidji.

### AIS Goals for 2014:

1. Expand the watercraft inspection program. Add several lakes and increase the number of hours on the high risk lakes. Add more decontamination stations. Increase the number of townships participating in funding. Continue education/public awareness programs for resorts and general public. Codify a Hubbard County AIS Prevention Plan and a local Rapid Response Plan.
2. Mount a major effort at the local and state level to establish a sustainable funding source to provide matching funds to LGU’s for AIS prevention work.

### Lessons Learned from Serving on the Committee:

1. The prevention of AIS introduction and movement is very complex. There are many views and many stakeholders to accommodate. One solution does not fit all. However, the passion to protect Minnesota’s lakes and rivers from AIS is shared by all the stakeholders.
2. There are many resources available to local organizations that can be used in the fight against AIS.

### Value Added by My Participation in the Statewide AIS Advisory Committee:

I believe that I bring a broad set of experiences on developing partnerships between local organizations & government participation in AIS prevention. Hubbard COLA has had a program for 8 years. Our most recent successes on funding and managing a local watercraft inspection program is unique in the state. I provide a strong voice for sustainable funding (from the state) to match local funding for inspection/decontamination and experience with a model that can work for other counties.