

OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION WITH HUBBARD COUNTY TOWNSHIPS
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)
SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION:

- √¹ **COMMUNICATE THE THREAT OF AIS...ESPECIALLY ZEBRA MUSSELS**
- √¹ **UPDATE ON COUNTY'S AIS TASK FORCE**
- √¹ **REPORT ON THE COUNTY'S AIS TASK FORCE ACTIONS FOR AIS PREVENTION IN 2013**
- √¹ **REPORT ON THE 2013 WATERCRAFT INSPECTION PROGRAM**
- √¹ **REPORT ON FUTURE INITIATIVES**
- √¹ **ENCOURAGE TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATION IN HELPING TO FUND WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS ON HUBBARD COUNTY LAKES AGAIN IN 2014**

BACKGROUND MESSAGE:

- √¹ **ZEBRA MUSSELS FIRST DISCOVERED IN US IN 1988. RAPID EXPANSION IN THE GREAT LAKES STATES---MINNESOTA SERIOUSLY THREATENED IN ABOUT 2000.**
- √¹ **PREVENTION IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE ACTION AND THE CORNERSTONE OF MINNESOTA APPROACH**
- √¹ **SUPER SPREADER LAKES (HIGH USE/BIG/DESTINATION) ARE THE SOURCE, E.G. MINNETONKA, MILLE LACS, ETC.**
- √¹ **WATERSHEDS MUST BE PROTECTED...ZM VELIGERS FLOAT DOWNSTREAM**
- √¹ **IMPACTS ARE ECONOMIC, RECREATIONAL, AND ECOLOGICAL**
- √¹ **EVERYONE IS AFFECTED; EVERYONE RESPONSIBLE**
- √¹ **DNR CAN'T STOP SPREAD ALONE---THEY CAN PROPOSE LAWS, POLICIES, AND SOME MANPOWER & ENABLE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DO PREVENTION WORK TO SHIELD UNINFESTED LAKES**
- √¹ **WATERCRAFT INSPECTION IS A VITAL ELEMENT TO PREVENTION**
- √¹ **THERE IS HOPE TO CONTROL EXPANSION—RESEARCH; SLOWER SPREAD THROUGH PUBLIC ACTIONS; LAWS ON BAIT HARVEST, LAKE SERVICE PROVIDERS, ENFORCEMENT; DRAIN PLUG REMOVAL; MORE POLITICAL WILL FOR FUNDING, AND PUBLIC DEMAND FOR INCREASED PROTECTION.**

BACKGROUND ON HUBBARD COUNTY AIS PREVENTION PROGRAM

- √¹ **HUBBARD COUNTY COLA WITH HELP FROM LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (AND SOME FUNDING FROM DNR) HAVE HAD AN ACTIVE AIS PREVENTION PROGRAM SINCE 2005**
- **BILLBOARDS & ROAD SIGNS; AIS SIGNS AT ALL PUBLIC LAUNCH SITES**
 - **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (RADIO)**
 - **DESIGNED AND DISTRIBUTED MULTIPLE PUBLIC AWARENESS INFORMATION MATERIALS**
 - **AIS EDUCATION AT CIVIC EVENTS (GFO, COUNTY FAIR, LEGENDS&LOGGING, TASTE OF DORSET, LSP OPEN HOUSE, PRESENTATIONS TO CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS)**
 - **ACTIVE PROGRAM TO VISIT ALL RESORTS IN COUNTY ON ANNUAL BASIS WITH AIS PREVENTION INFORMATION**
 - **PARTICIPATION IN STATE LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEES**
 - **VOLUNTEER INSPECTION PROGRAMS**
 - **LAKE MONITORING PROGRAMS (VELIGER TESTING AND VEGETATION SURVEYS)**
 - **WATERCRAFT INSPECTION FUND RAISING ..INCLUDING TOWNSHIPS,CITIES, AND LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**
 - **WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS**
 - **COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTIES IN THE REGION**
- √¹ **HUBBARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHED A COUNTY AIS TASK FORCE BY RESOLUTION IN OCTOBER 2011. NINE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ARE INCLUDED (Handout Provided)**
- **RECOGNIZED ECONOMIC IMPACT TO COUNTY**
 - **SHOWED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PREVENTION WORK**
 - **PROVIDED \$35,000 FOR WATERCRAFT INSPECTION IN 2013**
 - **HUBBARD COUNTY RECOGNIZED STATE-WIDE AS A LEADER IN LGU/CITIZEN AIS PREVENTION**
- √¹ **IN 2012 THE HUBBARD COUNTY BOARD AGREED TO HAVE SWCD BE THE FISCAL AGENT FOR A STATE LGU WATERCRAFT INSPECTION GRANT. AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM STARTED AND EXPANDED IN 2013. EXPECT TO EXPAND MORE IN 2014**
- (SEE SEPARATE HANDOUT FOR DETAILS)**

HOWEVER: MORE WORK IS NEEDED TO ADEQUATELY COVER ALL WATERSHEDS

CURRENT COVERAGE:

- 1) **FISH HOOK/POTATO FLOWAGE IS COVERED (EXCEPT TWO INLETS LAKE IN BECKER COUNTY)**
- 2) **MANTRAP CHAIN FLOWAGE IS COVERED**
- 3) **KABEKONA LAKE COVERED (EXCELLENT COMBO OF STATE, VOLUNTEERS, AND LGU INSPECTORS)**
- 4) **PLANTAGENET COVERAGE EXPANDED WITH SUPPORT FROM HELGA AND ROCKWOOD TWPS**
- 5) **CROW WING RIVER CHAIN NOT FULLY PARTICIPATING....(11TH CW ONLY IN 2013; 8TH CW AND LOWER CROW WINGS COMMITTED TO 2014 SUPPORT)**
- 6) **GRACE LAKE PARTICIPATING (VOLUNTEERS AND LGU INSPECTORS)**
- 7) **FARDEN TWP NOT PARTICIPATING – Wolf & Midge (WORKING ON IT)**
- 8) **GARFIELD; BENEDICT; LAKE GEORGE LAKES NOT PARTICIPATING (FUTURE ACTION)**
- 9) **WORKING TO INCREASE COVERAGE ON DESTINATION LAKES NEAR HUBBARD COUNTY**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (SEE ATTACHED Q/A FOR LAKE/TOWNSHIP):

- 1) **WHY SHOULD A LAKE OR TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATE?**
- 2) **WHAT IS MEANT BY THE SHIELDING STRATEGY?**
- 3) **WHY DON'T WE WAIT FOR THE DNR TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**
- 4) **WHAT ARE OTHER TOWNSHIPS DOING?**
- 5) **WHAT HAS HUBBARD COUNTY TASK FORCE/COLA ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE?**

HOW DOES A TOWNSHIP PROVIDE FUNDING?

- 1) **MN STATUTE 365.10**
- 2) **IS THIS A DONATION (DO STATE LAWS FOR TOWNSHIP DONATIONS APPLY) ?– NO**
- 3) **SUPPORT OF WATERCRAFT INSPECTION IS A CONTRIBUTION TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY (SWCD) AND CAN BE AUTHORIZED BY A TOWNSHIP AT ANY TIME, IF FUNDS AVAILABLE.**
- 4) **SAMPLE RESOLUTION DOCUMENT CAN BE PROVIDED**
- 5) **MONEY IS SENT DIRECTLY TO HUBBARD SWCD AS FISCAL AGENT; FULL DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HOURS AND FINANCES PROVIDED TO TOWNSHIP.**