

AIS Advisory Committee
Thursday October 18th 1:00pm
Wright county Courthouse
10 2nd St NW Buffalo, MN 55313 Rm 111

MINUTES

In attendance: Luke Johnson, Mike Zieska, Alicia O'Hare: Wright SWCD; Greg Kryzer: County Attorney's Office; Chris Hector, Jim Gray: WRIP Lake Association Governance Council; Terry Klaers: Wright County Sheriff's Department; Heidi Wolf (phone): MN DNR; Christine Husom: County Commissioner; Darek Vetch: County Commissioner

Missing: Jeff Herr: City of Annandale Police Department; Chris Wall: Transient Boater; Jefferson Bishop: Anchor Dock and Lift

Vetch requested that the minutes be posted on a public website. O'Hair took the action item to post the minutes on the Wright County WRIP page. Agendas are not required.

http://wrightswcd.org/Water_Management/wrip.html

Vetch clarified that the participation of Commissions Vetch and Husom are advisory in nature and that they are not making decisions or recommendations on behalf of the County Board.

Hector took an action item to contact Chris Wall and confirm his contact information and desire to continue.

Hector described the Application Program Interface (API) available for iSurvey. Heidi Wolfe took an action item to confirm with the DNR that they had no issue with sharing access to the iSurvey data. Hector confirmed that testing could be done in the off-season. O'Hair expressed willingness to assist in development. The API will be used in developing the Rover Application and will provide real time data to the rovers on whether seals have been used before and assist in improving the integrity of enforcement data.

Husom and Vetch indicated that user feedback seems to indicate that the public wants to see exit inspections. O'Hair suggested that the public may be asking for at-the-ramp exit inspections. Kryzer indicated that exit inspections are difficult to enforce. Klaers indicated that enforcement needs to identify the individual committing the act.

Kryzer indicated that the County would not follow people out of the water or track down 6 days after the usage. The person committing the act must be identified. State law must be changed before you could enforce exit inspections.

Hector suggested that the task of this group was to have the discussion, identify the issues and make recommendations for possible solutions. In this case the recommendation proposed is to make the equipment owner co-liable as is done with parking violations. Hector asked the group whether this would solve the enforcement problem.

Vetch suggested that the problem requires having a station open 24 hours per day. Expressed concern about a boater leaving at midnight and then driving to Brainerd.

O'Hare commented that there was human error involved in data collection.

Hector suggested that this is harder to implement county by county, statewide support would allow exit inspections to be conducted if you left the local area. Hector suggested that currently only the license plate is collected but the trailer license plate and boat registration number may be needed.

Vetch asked if statewide law change was reasonable.

Kryzer suggested that it would be easier for law enforcement to pull you over at any time.

O'Hare stated that any law change would not take effect before August 2019 at the earliest and therefore was not something we could address with the 2019 program.

Hector agreed but stated that we still had a need to recommend potential changes as part of our mandate for the pilot project.

Vetch asked why we should do entrance inspections on Sylvania. Hector stated that there are 32 AIS in the state like Spiny Waterflea - you can't abandon lakes because they have one invasive. Further, Sylvania had successfully contained the infestation of Starry Stonewort, reduced the infestation to where it did not pose a risk to other lakes. Not inspecting on inbound would allow more Starry Stonewort to be introduced.

Hector called for the group to provide recommendations for how to move forward.

Kryzer suggested that bar codes should be added to boat licenses to simplify this effort.

Hector stated that in 2019 we have lakes willing to step up financially and we should allow them to be protected.

Zieska asked if it was a step forward to get all/most lakes within the DNR guidelines into the program.

Vetch indicated that we need to sell to the general public. This is what it costs, this is what it does, this is where it is going, where does the money come from.

Kryzer stated that we need an increase in boating fees and that we could provide grants to Lake Improvement Districts (LIDs).

Hector suggested that we not look at exit inspections for 2019 but consider a review of the process for future work.

Zieska suggested the next meeting focus on 2019.

Hector indicated that we will work on getting lakes committed for 2019.

General discussion about next steps with a recommendation to produce a 2018 year-end report and general plan for 2019 to the Commissioners in the second week of December (after the elections).

Next Meeting

No meeting was scheduled until after the elections.