

Wright County

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management Plan



Wright County
Water and AIS Management Task Force Members

Voting Members

Auger, Merton	Cities' Representative
Borrell, Charlie	County Commissioner
Mark Daleiden	County Commissioner
Decker, Danny	Professional Fishing Representative
Fortner, Russ	Large Lake Representative
Grant Wynnemer, Gloria	Citizen-at-Large/Small Lake Representative
Krause, Charles	Citizen-at-large
McNamara, Mark	SWCD Representative
Nowell, Kay	School Liaison
Peterson, Bob	Sportsman's Representative
Stockamp, Jessica	Mayors' Association Representative
Triplett, Doug	Township Representative
Zabinski, Paul	Lake Association Representative

Non-Voting Advisory Members

Brooks, Charlene	Crow River Organization of Water
Gustafson, Dale	Wright Coalition of Lake Associations
Jacobs, Joe	Wright SWCD
Lowen, Cole	Clearwater River Watershed District
Sander, Diane	Crow River Organization of Water
Saxton, Kerry	Wright SWCD
Stewig, Joe	Minnesota DNR Fisheries

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I. Executive Summary

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are species that are not native to Minnesota and cause harm to economic prosperity, the environment, and human health. Some prevalent examples of these species include curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish, New Zealand mud snail, and zebra mussels. The spread of these species has led to habitat alteration, ecosystem degradation, and a loss of bio-diversity due to intensified competition for resources. AIS typically have little-to-no natural predators in their new environment, reproduce very quickly, and are more aggressive than native species. Along with negatively affecting aquatic wildlife, AIS impede recreational opportunities and disrupt industrial, municipal, and agricultural uses of public waters. Although great efforts are being made to eliminate invasives entirely from a water body, history shows that it is nearly impossible to fully remove a population once established. As a result, it is illegal to possess, transport, and/or introduce any aquatic plants or animals within Minnesota that are designated as “prohibited and regulated” invasive species by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR).

On May 20th, 2014, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton authorized the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid for counties [Chapter 308, HF3167: Omnibus tax bill. Article 1: Property Tax Aids and Credits. Section 11]. Counties receiving funds for aquatic invasive species prevention aid are required to develop guidelines for use of the proceeds and to provide said guidelines to the DNR. In July 2014, \$5 million dollars was distributed to the 87 Minnesota counties. In 2015 and thereafter, that value will increase to \$10 million. The distribution of funds is based 50% on the number of MN DNR owned “watercraft trailer launches” and 50% on the number of MN DNR owned “watercraft trailer parking spaces. Wright County will receive **\$108,325.00** in 2014 and **\$240,722.00** in 2015

According to MN Statutes 477A.19, subdivision 3, the intent of these funds is “to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at **all access sites** within the county. The county must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds. The guidelines set by the county board may include, but are not limited to, providing for site-level management, countywide awareness, and other procedures that the County finds necessary to achieve compliance”.

This Wright Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Management Plan is in accordance with the goals set for in MN Statute 477 A. 19 and fulfills the December 31, 2014 deadline for submission to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

A. Purpose of AIS Prevention and Management Plan

- Prepare and adopt an AIS Prevention and Management Plan that justifies the use of legislatively granted AIS prevention funds.
- Guide efforts that prevent the spread of AIS into Wright County’s lakes and streams.

- Exercise any and all powers necessary to assure implementation of this plan and its goals in order to preserve economic and environmental viability of Wright County’s water bodies.

B. Accomplishments to Date

- In 2014, Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Lake Sylvania Association contracted with Anchor Boat and Dock, located in Annandale, to coordinate 2000+ water craft inspections at its MN DNR public access. Lake Sylvania Association spent approximately \$25,000 on the program. The Wright SWCD serves as the delegated unit.
- 27 registered lake service providers in Wright County are in compliance with the new MN DNR permitting process.
- In 2014, 32 lakes spent \$9,000 on a lake/ Wright SWCD monitoring partnership to assess water quality.
- In 2014, the Crow River Organization of Water designed and presented an AIS activity at the Wright SWCD 5th grade fall field days, obtained a delegation agreement with the MN DNR, and a permit to transport invasive species for educational purposes.
- A number of Wright County’s lakes associations and lake improvement districts (LIDs) partnered with local natural resource entities and local units of government to purchase chemicals and professional services for in-lake treatment of Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil. As well, as provide AIS prevention education and awareness activities. Some partners include: Clearwater Watershed District, the City of Saint Michael, the Initiative Foundation, and the Wright SWCD.

Boating Season Funds Were Spent	Number of Lakes	# of Organizations Providing Funding and Assistance	\$ Spent on In-Lake Treatments	\$ Spent on Broader AIS Education and Prevention
2010	9	15	\$102,500	\$7,250
2011	8	13	\$98,000	\$10,750
2012	13	17	\$136,000	\$18,250
Total Spent (2010-2012)			\$336,5000	\$36,250

C. Summary of Wright County’s Priority Concerns (in order of importance)

These priorities were established by the Wright AIS/Water Task Force through a facilitated activity led by the Wright SWCD. Using a point system to help quantify individuals’ responses, the below categories are organized from most selected to least selected category of action.

- 1) Education/Outreach= 27 points
- 2) Inspection/Decontamination= 23 points
- 3) Treatment= 23 points
- 4) Ordinances/State Legislation= 17 points

D. Short and Long Term Goals

The Wright County Water/AIS Task Force defined the County's short and long term goals with robust discussion. "Short term" is defined as accomplishments that the group will pursue within the first five years, while "long term" is beyond this first five year period. These long term goals may change as research advances, potential infestations increase, and/or additional mandates affect policy.

Short Term Goals

- Establish infrastructure and systems to help with prevention efforts.
- Develop a model for other counties to use in the development of individual AIS programs.
- Build an in-depth volunteer program to create longevity through a team of well-trained groups of people to work around the county.
- Bolster efforts on smaller lakes that historically have not been actively addressed.

Long Term Goals

- Create consistently updated and regularly scheduled forums in which entities and individuals can share best management practices. The use of an iterative and collaborative approach will increase the likelihood of success.
- Identify similar counties and group AIS prevention efforts with the goal of enhancing programming.

E. Relationship to Other Plans

Numerous studies, conducted in the last decade, illustrate the potential for economic and environmental harm caused by the infestation of aquatic invasive species. Although AIS issues are not articulated in the 2006-2015 Wright County Water Plan, the Wright SWCD has augmented the Wright County Water Task Force with additional members that directly represent AIS concerns in the community.

Several lakes and rivers in Wright County share and/or create the border with neighboring counties, including Meeker, McLeod, and Stearns County. Striving to protect these resources will require collaboration and a basic understanding of adjoining counties' perspectives on AIS prevention.

Meeker:

Meeker County and their Water Plan Task Force created several "Action Steps" to provide technical and financial assistance, as available, to lake associations and similar groups for the implementation of AIS prevention and control efforts in their 2013-2023 Water Plan. Collaborative AIS management is listed under "Goal 1: Protect and Improve Surface Water" and "Goal 5: Effective Plan Administration and Coordination". Recently, the Meeker County AIS Committee expressed a desire to approach AIS prevention from a regional approach, especially concerning education and outreach.

McLeod:

When developing their 2013-2023 Water Plan, McLeod County and their Water Plan Task Force created an AIS specific “Action Steps”. Under “Section F, Aquatic Invasive Species Assessment”, McLeod County details the possible ecological and financial damage caused by these biological invaders. With this recognition, they provide technical and financial support to lake associations and natural resource entities to implement AIS prevention education, in-lake treatment, and other control efforts. McLeod County Environmental Services, McLeod County Board, and McLeod Water Task Force are making working with surrounding counties a priority to promote effective use of funds and administration.

Stearns:

Although, the 2008-2017 Stearns County Water Plan does not explicitly address AIS concerns, the priorities described in the document are congruent with several watershed district located within its boundaries. Both the North Fork Crow River Watershed District and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District list aquatic invasive species control as a priority in their Watershed Management Plans.

F. County Background Information

Located in central Minnesota, Wright County encompasses 18 townships, 17 cities, and 14 unincorporated communities with a population of 124,700 residents. The City of Buffalo, situated in eastern Wright County, is the County Seat. The County shares its border with Stearns County to the north, Carver and McLeod Counties to the south, Hennepin County to the east, and Meeker County to the west.

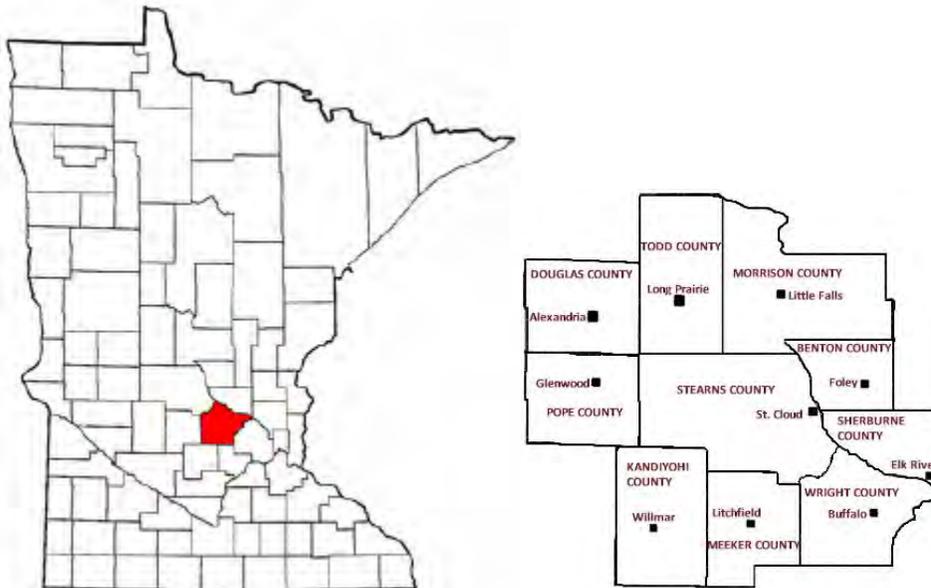


Figure 1. Wright County and Surrounding Counties

II. Preliminary Budgets

Considering that funding for 2014 is half the amount that will be allocated in 2015, and thereafter, and was allocated in July, organizational costs were predominant. These

administrative costs include task force development, planning, staff trainings, plan writing, coordination of staff and programming, coordination of educational activities, and assessment of needs.

a. 2014 Expenditures

2014 Budget Breakdown			
(Total Funds: \$108,325)			
<i>Activities Completed</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Provided match for Initiative Fund AIS grant application	Education	\$12,960.00	12.00%
Contracting with CROW to write AIS prevention plan	Plan Development	\$9,650.00	7.50%
	Total Funds Spent:	\$22,610.00	19.50%
	Total Funds Rollover:	\$85,715.00	80.50%
	Total Funds for 2015:	\$326,437.00	

Table 1. 2014 Expenditures Budget

III. Goal 1: “Assessing Wright County’s Needs”

Understanding the extent of nearby threats and collecting relevant background information is crucial to design and broaden efforts in a cohesive and effective manner. Movement and boat traffic to-and-from these water bodies also needs to be considered in decision-making. Any relevant information about conditions outside and surrounding Wright County will be included to guide the planning and allocation of resources for management, control, and prevention of additional infestations. For example, this information will tell us where all of the water access points are within the county and who manages the property. This information is necessary when deciding who to contact when increasing signage on an access site.

Summary of “Assessing Wright County’s Needs” Action Steps

Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Understand the variety of pathways of introduction	Knowing the common pathways for spread is essential to effective prevention	Wright AIS Task Force	Fall 2014 and adaptive as research progresses
Identify water bodies that currently have AIS	Knowing existing infestations helps adjust prioritization of control and prevention efforts for surrounding surface waters	Wright SWCD/MN DNR	Fall 2014 and adaptive as water bodies’ status may change

Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Identify access sites and contact responsible managing parties	Knowing points of access and vulnerabilities to AIS spread helps prioritize	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015
Ensure that local businesses are reducing the risk of AIS spread in their operation; for example, lake service providers are now required to be certified by the MNDNR	The day-to-day operations of some businesses, whether regulated or not, can pose a risk of AIS spread	MN DNR/Wright SWCD	Winter 2014
Collaborate with other counties, watershed groups, etc. to develop a regional approach to AIS prevention	Because AIS and the individuals who could transport them do not stay inside county borders, effective coordination is necessary to prevent AIS spread	Wright and Surrounding Counties/ CROW	Continuous and adaptive
Organize taskforce comprised of stakeholders to inform AIS prevention program	The sustainability and long-term operation of Wright County's AIS program is dependent on buy-in from citizens and community leaders	Wright SWCD	Fall 2014

Table 2. Summary of “Assessing Wright County’s Needs” Action Steps

a. AIS Plan and Program Prioritization Strategies

Public input was essential to the development of this plan. Although natural resource professionals work closely with monitoring and improving the health of water bodies, local residents provide substantially more eyes and ears on the ground. Their perspective and buy-in are necessary for successful implementation of AIS prevention efforts. Striving towards transparency and relevancy, the Wright SWCD and partners organized several events to seek ideas and feedback. Along with a brainstorming session held by the Wright County Coalition of Lake Associations, a public meeting was held in October 2014. Here individuals broke up into groups to discuss several categories of potential action. The Wright County AIS Task Force, which represents a wide range of interests mulled through input to establish priorities for fund allocation. This group will continue to meet as the County proceeds with prevention activities.

b. Current AIS Infestations

The appendix includes information about all of the lakes and rivers in Wright County with a public water access(es) and/or any AIS infestations. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) maintains a list of infested waters throughout the State. *As of October 6, 2014, there are 38 known AIS infestations of Eurasian water milfoil in Wright County.* One lake in Wright County, Fish Lake, has been listed as infested with zebra mussels. Although, no actual mussel populations have been discovered in the lake, Fish Lake serves as a floodplain for the

Mississippi River, which is also considered infested. The Mississippi River on its northern border and several neighboring counties are considered significant source areas threats to Wright County. These include new infestations of zebra mussels in Green Lake (Kandiyohi County), Lake Independence (Hennepin County), Christmas Lake, and Lake Virginia (Carver County).

IV. Goal 2: “Supporting Community Efforts and Education”

To maximize AIS prevention and management efforts, the County will need to connect with citizens who care deeply about the ecosystem health, quality, aesthetics, and recreational suitability of Minnesota’s over 10,000 lakes and streams. Success will require the input, feedback, and support of these individuals. Substantial and transparent efforts will be made to include the voices of the community and their goals for the allocation of finances and resources.

As such, it will be necessary to pursue an education campaign that includes a variety of mediums and techniques. People respond to signage, publications, hands-on trainings, volunteer opportunities, etc. differently and the County will accommodate a number of learning styles. The goal is to create a citizen base that has a common understanding of the impacts of invasive species and build human capital in the future of the Minnesota’s water resources.

Summary of “Supporting Community Efforts Action Steps

Education Type	Action Step	Targeted Audience & How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Active	Create mini-grant program to support local efforts to prevent the spread of AIS	<u>Community Groups, Lake Assoc., and LIDs:</u> By leveraging existing capacity of other local organizations, the county can maximize the effectiveness of its AIS prevention funds	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015 and every spring thereafter
Active	Investments in long-lasting educational products and materials	<u>All Citizens:</u> Creating long standing educational materials that are durable enough to be moved from place to place	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015
Active	Organize Public Meetings and Events	<u>All Citizens:</u> Purposeful and intentional events will help gain feedback and keep citizens informed about how their taxpayer dollars support their vision for protecting Minnesota’s waters	Wright SWCD/ Partners	Winter 2014 and as needed

Education Type	Action Step	Targeted Audience & How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Active	Participate in forums to discuss AIS prevention best management practices	<u>AIS Prevention Programs Partners and Local Entities:</u> The county will help prevent AIS spread by developing and sharing new risk-reduction methods and strategies	Wright SWCD/All Partners	All year around
Active	Coordinate AIS prevention trainings for a range of audiences	<u>Community Groups and Interested Citizens:</u> Lead trainings and/or provide programming guides and materials to create a well-informed and strengthened community	Interested Community Groups/CROW	Spring/Summer 2015 and thereafter
Active	Utilize training evaluations to monitor change in AIS-specific knowledge and practices	<u>Training Participants:</u> Citizen feedback is important	Training Coordinator	Spring/Summer 2015 and thereafter
Active	Develop and utilize existing curricula for schools and education material to support youth education about AIS	<u>Youth and Young Adults:</u> Young people can help prevent the spread of AIS through their own actions and by demonstrating their knowledge and actions to their families	CROW/Wright SWCD	Winter 2014 and thereafter
Passive	Expand upon signage efforts	<u>All Citizens:</u> Making basic information very visible and accessible is one approach for reducing spread of AIS	Wright SWCD/Task Force	Fall 2014, Spring 2015
Passive	Provide up-to-date news content and information through multiple mediums to support citizen groups and individuals.	<u>All Citizens:</u> Ensuring that locals feel confident about AIS prevention and increase efficiency by providing information to partners to share.	Wright SWCD/Interested Community Groups	Fall 2014 and periodically thereafter

Education Type	Action Step	Targeted Audience & How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Passive	Develop new and utilize existing publications to inform the public of AIS concerns	<u>All Citizens:</u> A great deal of existing material that has been developed can be used to inform the public and newer materials can be created to be community specific	Wright SWCD	Fall 2014/ Spring 2015 and thereafter
Volunteer/ Active	Create and/or support a volunteer and ambassador program with MNDR support	<u>Watercraft Operators and Owners:</u> Using community leaders and groups to help promote a water craft user's sense of personal responsibility to reduce AIS spread through one-on-one education and contact	Wright SWCD/Lake Assoc./LIDs	Spring 2015
Volunteer/ Active	Incorporate AIS training into Citizen Stream Monitoring Program (CSMP)	<u>Existing/Interested CSMP Volunteers:</u> This is an efficient way to get more perspective through an already established program	CROW	Winter 2014 and thereafter

Table 3. Summary of “Supporting Community Efforts Action Steps

a. Active Community Partners

i. Lake associations and Lake Improvement Districts

Wright County has a well-established and very active “Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA)” that has been working with the County to implement water quality improvement projects and AIS treatment. Many of the individuals are community leaders that routinely volunteer their own time, money, and energy to protect, treat, and monitor area lakes and streams. As AIS issues continue to move to the forefront, the County and AIS prevention partners will work closely with the COLA in an effort to continue their great work and gain more momentum in stopping the spread.

ii. Local Natural Resource Agencies

Clearwater River Watershed District

The Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) is an established unit of government that focuses on the improvement of water quality in the Clearwater River Watershed. In the last few years, this organization assists local community groups with fiscal administration, who treat and prevent AIS infestations. In 2014 the CRWD served as the fiscal agent for the Cedar Lake Conservation Club, Clearwater Lake Property Owners, Lake Augusta Association, and Chain of Lakes Association. In total, these organizations treated approximately 157 acres of Eurasian water milfoil and 38.25 acres of curly-leaf pondweed.

Crow River Organization of Water

The Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) was formed in 1999 as a result of heightened interest in the Crow River. A Joint Powers Agreement has been signed between all ten of the Counties with land in the Crow River Watershed. The CROW Joint Powers Board is made up of one representative from each of the County Boards who signed the agreement. The Counties involved in the CROW Joint Powers include Carver, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Pope, Renville, Sibley, Stearns and Wright. In 2014 CROW staff pursued training and made assisting partners with funding prioritization and AIS education a priority.

b. Active Education

Long-term Education Investments

Exploring the purchase of equipment, displays, software, hardware, and activities to support long-term education and awareness goals may be appropriate for Wright County. With the recognition that current funding measures may change in the near future, making more expensive investments initially may create a more sustainable program. These investments could include:

- Highly durable AIS prevention displays to be used at events and poster sessions
- Larger AIS-specific fixtures, models, and educational props e.g. DNR State Fair Exhibit
- Curriculum development for children events or local programming
- Curriculum development for training the local community for AIS prevention

Community AIS Training Program and Assessment

Wright County and its partners will develop and lead county-wide AIS trainings for lake associations, lake improvement districts, youth groups, and interested constituents. These opportunities will provide hands-on activities to teach proper water equipment care, AIS identification, relevant legislation, and build confidence on the topic. These events will be duplicated around the county on various days and times to encourage attendance.

An assessment will be developed and administered during training and educational opportunities to gain insight and track participants' knowledge change. This assessment will be utilized as a mechanism to guide actions that are consistent with the community's needs, direct the appropriate use of funds, and promote integrity in the decision-making process.

Community Granting Program

Wright County has shown leadership by supporting grass-root efforts that focus on improving upstream land-uses that pollute surface and groundwater. The county has invested time, money, and energy into local efforts. In order to continue and strengthen this momentum, a structured granting program can be developed to provide financial support to these community partners. An application process will be used to record requests and provide transparency. These grant funds will be available for any legal activities that promote the priorities described in this plan and help promote community engagement specifically. The number of granted projects and total granting amount may vary from year-to-year.

Educational Activities and Programming

The incorporation of AIS programming into festivals, fairs, education days, workshops, conferences, trade shows, etc. can be an effective way to reach people on a more direct basis. In

addition, it connects citizens to AIS experts, which provides a more effective path for information transfer. Some programming can include:

- Fishing clinics with AIS focus
- Educational 5th grade field days- Nye Park
- Hands-on and interactive activities
- Q&A panel discussions, poster sessions, and presentations
- Recreational events i.e. paddle days
- County Fairs

Working within the existing school systems may be an effective way to educate children between the ages of 5-18. The Wright Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes that teachers and principals must meet state standards for subject matters and has appointed a local teacher to serve as an advisor on the AIS Task Force. Her input allows the work team to research the most stringent curriculum and package materials/presentations to fit their “how humans interact with the environment” criterion. As well as learning in the classroom, many schools in Wright County require their students to serve 16 hours of community service. This pool of engaged students may also be a wonderful resource to spread information about AIS prevention.

c. Passive Education

Publications

Along with signage and programming, utilizing publications and providing content is another tool Wright County can utilize to spread the word. National, state, and local efforts started spreading the word about aquatic invasive species and their spread over a decade ago. At this time, entities including universities, federal initiatives, state agencies, and non-profits have written, developed, and printed hundreds of publications and materials for various mediums. These resources can be accessed and personalized to stretch funding. In addition, in-house services can be used to design print and digital pieces that are appropriate for the community.

Along with using physical media, such as signs, brochures, pamphlets, and display units, to inform the public about the negative effects of AIS on the ecosystem and Minnesota economy, the County needs to build its digital presence. Communication styles differ among the varying population groups that visit and recreate on the water; thus, a publicity strategy must encompass multiple mediums. Several of the organizations in the area have webpages, Facebook accounts, online newsletters, etc. that can be accessed for this purpose. The messaging will need to be consistent, accurate, and constant to keep up within a fast pace news cycle.

d. Volunteer Efforts

Volunteer and Ambassador Program

The DNR created an AIS Ambassador and Volunteer Program to educate the public about invasive species at the water access and at educational events. These individuals talk to water equipment users regarding compliance with Minnesota laws and help people understand the necessary steps to self-inspect their boats, trailers, rafts, etc. Volunteers and ambassadors are trained by the DNR; however, they are not considered watercraft inspectors and are not legally permitted to deny access. Watercraft users are not required to speak with these educators and any interaction is voluntary. Wright County will support individuals and community

organizations undertaking this program through coordination, training, scheduling, and providing assistance and informational materials.

Incorporate AIS into Citizen Stream Monitoring Program

The already established Citizen Stream and Lake Monitoring Program (CSMP) through the MPCA (supported by local units of government and natural resource entities) is a great place to establish a volunteer AIS monitoring program. Individuals go out to a site(s) of their choice, sampling for turbidity and weather patterns. Adding an additional parameter to search for any new AIS infestations would be relatively easy. Incorporating AIS, may also bolster the CSMP program as well in light of the heightened attention on aquatic ecosystems.

Improved and Increased Signage

The Minnesota DNR and the “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” campaign has found signage at access sites, roadways, and public spaces to be an effective way to spread information and communication on the prevention of AIS. Although quite a bit has already been done in this medium, it will still be important to do a regional assessment to get a better understanding of potential communication gaps. Creating uniform messaging on both private and public access may require the county to assess current signage and any possible locations with high exposure. Luckily, this region has not experienced many infestations; therefore the County must be proactive to keep these water bodies protected and venture into areas that may not have been addressed in the past. Currently the DNR public accesses are signed according to the agencies standardization policy; however city, township, and private access sites will need to be contacted to improve and increase signage at these locations.

V. Goal 3: “Preventing New Introductions”

The lakes and streams in Wright County are highly prized; therefore the Wright County AIS Task Force recognizes that protecting lakes and streams from new infestations of invasive vegetation and animals requires direct contact with the public. Current research suggests that water-craft recreation and movement is a primary risk for AIS spread. Thus, building a water-craft inspection and decontamination program that balances access to recreation, helping the public stay in compliance with AIS legislation, and prevents the spread of AIS will be crucial for success.

Summary of AIS Inspection Program and Roving Strategy Action Steps

Category of Action	Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Inspection Program	Continue and broaden County-wide inspection program	Utilizing one-on-one interactions to inspect potentially infested boats at accesses is a useful way to educate the public	Wright SWCD/ Lake Assoc./LIDs	Spring 2015

Category of Action	Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Inspection Program	Continue to contract with local lake service(s) provider to schedule and manage inspection program	Having clear and established point persons can create consistency and integrity in the inspection program	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015
Inspection Program	Train county field staff i.e. parks and trails, water patrol, etc. on practices to avoid spreading AIS	County staff can take steps to prevent AIS spread and serve as an example for local citizens and business	CROW	Spring 2015
Inspection Program	Increase watercraft inspections within the county by hiring authorized watercraft inspectors	Watercraft inspectors can help spread accurate messages to boaters and help prevent the spread of AIS	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015
Inspection Program	Continue to purchase inspection and survey equipment for watercraft inspectors as needs change	This technology is used by the MN DNR already to collect data on inspections	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015
Inspection Program	Expand scheduling efforts to more lakes through adaptive management of watercraft inspectors based on data collection	Creating a comprehensive inspection program requires using resources in the most effective and efficient way possible	Local Lake Service Provider	Summer 2015 and continuous thereafter
Roving/ Inspection Program	Utilize rovers to make a larger wide-spread presence	Utilizing individuals who travel randomly throughout the access sites to help education and warn potential violators may help the county create a larger presence	Wright SWCD	Spring and Summer 2015 and thereafter

Table 4. Summary of AIS Inspection Program and Roving Strategy Action Steps

The 2012 Minnesota State Statues 84D.105 Inspection of Water-related Equipment allows Wright County and authorized partners to conduct an inspection program on public assess sites with MN DNR support and training. The Wright SWCD currently has a Delegation Agreement for Tribal and Local Government Inspection Programs with the MN DNR and has the ability to hire staff who are trained by MN DNR. Once authorized, these individuals can inspect water-

related equipment for aquatic macrophytes, aquatic invasive species, and water. If any of these things are present on the water-related equipment, the approved and trained inspector, who is not a licensed peace officer, shall refer the violation to a conservation officer or licensed peace officers.

Wright SWCD provides DNR-trained level 1 and 2 inspectors that conduct inspections on access sites in accordance with training protocols and their delegation agreement. Level 1 inspectors are authorized to inspect water-related equipment for AIS, deny access to a water body, and require decontamination if an individual is out of compliance with legal mandates. A level 2 inspector is an individual that is tasked with the same responsibilities as level 1 inspectors with the additional ability to operate a decontaminations station.

In 2014, Wright SWCD partnered with one lake associations to create a lake-specific inspection program. This program proved to be successful and several zebra mussel encrusted boats were turned away. Without the presence of an inspector on these high-use recreation lakes, they may have been infested with these destructive invaders. Although this effort was very successful at preventing new infestations, many incoming water-craft users gradually came to expect the presence of an inspector. Some individuals may avoid these lakes entirely and travel to nearby water bodies where inspectors are not stationed. These water bodies are left more vulnerable due to this change in use. Individual lakes have established a reputation for being proactive against AIS, but the County would like to extend that over their entire geographic area.

In the upcoming years, the goal is to make this program more robust and comprehensive through a roving structure. Rovers are individuals, potentially retired peace officers, who move around the county and randomly conduct water-craft inspections at public water access sites. The use of rovers may make people more aware of their behavior considering they may be surprised by an unplanned inspection. The exact structure for the program will be evaluated by the Wright County AIS/Water Task Force and will be determined based on assessed needs and realistic goals. The Wright AIS program may need to prioritize staffing needs on various lakes based on rate of use, number of access points, existing or nearby infestations, vulnerability to infestation, and number of parking spots.

The Wright SWCD currently contracts with a local lake service provider, who manages temporary summer employees, follows guidelines listed in the MN DNR delegation agreement, fill-in for scheduling gaps, and serve as a point person for safety and personnel concerns. As the program grows, the SWCD and Task Force will be responsible for negotiating future business terms. The budget for an inspection program includes hourly wages for inspectors and supervisors, along with any necessary equipment associated with this task. This may include mirrors, electronic survey devices, identifying clothing, etc.

Although this business is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the program, the Wright SWCD is the ultimate point-person with the MN DNR and responsible for meeting the requirements stated in the legal Delegation Agreement.

Summary of AIS Decontamination Program and Development Action Steps

Category of Action	Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Decontamination Program	Encourage the development of boat decontamination service or partner with existing businesses that could provide such services	Decontamination of watercraft is a key tool in preventing AIS spread	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015
Decontamination Program	Investigate the cost and feasibility of purchasing one decontamination trailers for use in cleaning boats and equipment used in infested waters	Decontamination of watercraft is a key tool in preventing AIS spread	Wright SWCD/Task Force	Winter 2014/Spring 2015
Decontamination Program	Coordinate with other counties and entities to ensure appropriate distribution of decontamination units	Ensuring users have nearby access and the units are in appropriate locations	Task Force	Spring 2015
Decontamination Program	Establish contracts and maintenance agreements for decontamination units	Decontamination units require long-term maintenance and these arrangements need to be set in place for long term longevity of the system	Wright SWCD	Spring 2015
Decontamination Program	Train eligible inspectors to operate portable decontamination unit	A level 2 inspector is required to operate such machinery in conjunction with a delegation agreement	Wright SWCD/MN DNR	Spring 2015 and thereafter

Table 5. Summary of AIS Decontamination Program and Development Action Steps

In 2014, the Wright County SWCD contracted out decontamination services with a local lake service provider (LSP). Anytime a water-craft was denied access to a lake by an inspector, the operator was sent to this LSP to have all aquatic plants and animals removed at no cost. The SWCD and lake associations ultimately paid a flat rate per decontamination. If a water-craft operator chose to get their boat pressure washed on their own terms, that individual was charged

directly. Although education is a large portion of an inspection program, giving people the tools to return to compliance is also important. By working with already existing businesses, the County can provide more comprehensive and sustainable coverage, while supporting the local economy.

Although the Wright SWCD has already taken steps to begin a decontamination program, the Wright AIS/Water Task Force will continue to research ways to broaden the efforts. Decontaminations units come in various shapes and sizes and include a number of features and accessories that need to be judged based on perceived threats. The use, strategic placement, and needs of Wright County should be determined. Considerations must be made when purchasing a decontamination unit, including product quality and durability, ability to heat water to necessary temperatures, usability for level 2 inspectors, ability to keep water from flowing into adjacent water bodies, and sufficient water pressure.

VI. Goal 4- “Managing AIS Source Areas with the Community and Innovation”

Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species includes minimizing the ability for a plant or animal to hitchhike onto water-related equipment. Managing and controlling existing AIS populations reduces source areas and decreases AIS contact with boaters, swimmers, fishers, hunters, etc. In addition, to managing any current and/or future invasive vegetation, the AIS Task Force recognizes that animal invaders may also need to be addressed with unique technology, innovation, research, and mechanisms.

Summary of “Managing AIS Source Areas” Action Steps

Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Provide funding through a grant program to control invasive populations in Wright County	Eliminating source areas of invasives is an effective way to reduce spread potential	Wright SWCD	Spring/ Summer 2015 and thereafter
Cultivate partnerships with organization interested in AIS prevention to support AIS surveys in water bodies	Leveraging the resources of existing organizations will help to find new AIS infestations more efficiently and to prevent further spread of those AIS	Wright SWCD/Lake Assoc./ LIDs/ AIS Partners	Summer 2015 and thereafter
Develop “Rapid Communication” plan and identify contacts	Creating a quick communication chain will work to ensure consistency and common knowledge of infestations	Wright AIS/Water Task Force	Winter 2014

<p>Provide research funds to organization and community groups utilizing new technology for controlling AIS population</p>	<p>As AIS infestations multiply, a number of entities are working on experimental treatment options to manage and control populations.</p>	<p>Wright SWCD</p>	<p>Spring 2014 and thereafter</p>
<p>Research and fund 1 pilot project i.e. gated access, x-ray machine</p>	<p>In the fight against the spread of AIS, innovative ideas need to be researched and explored to further the effort</p>	<p>Wright SWCD/AIS Task Force</p>	<p>Spring 2014 and thereafter</p>

Table 6. Summary of “Managing AIS Source Areas” Action Steps

a. Invasive Treatment Strategies

Currently, there are 38 lakes in Wright County infested with Eurasian water milfoil and a number with curly-leaf pondweed. The exact number of lakes infested with curly-leaf pondweed is inexact due to legislatively deemed listing-protocols. Although this invasive is a prohibitive species, a water body cannot be deemed infested solely on the discovery of this plant.

Considering the proximity of infested lakes to non-infested water bodies, it will be important to remain diligent about controlling invasive population. Wright County already works with local community groups and associations to support annual in-lake treatment on numerous lakes and will continue to pursue these efforts.

b. Rapid Communication Plan

Several of the lakes in Wright County have established lake associations, lake improvement districts, and engaged citizens who are constantly looking out for the health and well-being of their local resources. With this being said, there are many lake and streams that do not have the constant eye of stewardship-minded citizens and need to be evaluated. Time and energy will be spent developing a “rapid communication plan” for new infestations, especially for water bodies that are not routinely monitored. It is important to spread the word about new occurrences as soon as possible to minimize damage to the ecosystem and allow the task force to respond appropriately.

Currently the DNR has an established response plan for new infestations, including the Eurasian watermilfoil found in Wright County’s Lake Charlotte in October 2014. Knowing that their reactions to new suspected infestations are quick and thorough, the County can focus on communicating information to its constituents. The first step is establishment of a list of

individuals or organization to be informed about infestations as soon as they are confirmed. This list should include government official and businesses operating in the area of the new infestation.

c. Funding Innovation

The Wright County Coalition of Lake, Wright County AIS Task Force, and Wright SWCD have held numerous brainstorming sessions with the public in an effort to identify possible prevention efforts that are outside the current range of options. With the recent funds provided to each of Minnesota’s 87 counties, Wright County now has the ability to research and fund one or more of the ideas presented during these sessions. Below are a few of the many ideas presented:

- Electronic kiosks at access sites to provide a more vibrant user experience
- Utilize QR codes to provide access to information and videos
- Partner with local and regional aquatic related retailers and chambers
- Utilize digital imaging technology
- Create decal for boats originating from infested lakes
- Develop detection protocols for infestations on lakes and streams
- Pilot project for gating lake accesses
- Create programs addressing dock and boat lifts
- Contact Craigslist and pursue “auto-insert” language about AIS prevention on water-equipment and water-craft postings

VII. Goal 5: Building a Reputation- “Wright County is Tough on AIS”

People are driven to protect natural resources by a sense of personal responsibility and awareness of their potential impact on the environment. In addition to these motivators, penalties can be a source of persuasion towards compliance with AIS prevention laws. In light of the increasing number of water bodies infested in neighboring counties, Wright County wants to create a “tough on AIS reputation” to prevent the careless spread of invaders.

Summary of “Building a Reputation” Action Steps

Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Provide funding to ensure that county’s peace officers and sheriffs have received MN DNR training to enforce statue	To ensure consistency with enforcement of existing statue 84D, peace officers need to be informed and feel comfortable	Sheriff’s Department/County	Spring 2015, Continuous as needed

Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Utilize sheriff's department to promote AIS compliance and education	The county sheriff department has a great deal of exposure with the public and is an excellent resource for educating the public on AIS statute	Sheriff's Department	Continuous
Communicate AIS goals with county attorney's office	AIS enforcement requires close and constant communication with legal professions serving the County	Sheriff's Department	Continuous
Publically post violations and violators	<u>All Citizens:</u> Making basic information very visible and accessible is one approach for reducing spread of AIS	Wright SWCD/AIS Task Force	Spring and Summer 2015 and thereafter

Table 7. Summary of "Building a Reputation" Action Steps

a. The Role of Enforcement and the Sheriff's Department

Minnesota Statute 84D.13 (Enforcement; Penalties) describes the provisions for conservation officers and licensed peace officers to enforce rules and regulations to aid in the prevention of new aquatic invasive species infestations. These laws are listed in the appendix and they detail information about civil and criminal penalties, prohibitions on transport of aquatic macrophytes and animals, prohibitions and allowed exceptions on the transport of water, Minnesota's drain plug law, and the role of Mn Department of Natural Resources trained inspectors.

Wright County Sheriff's Department may continue to train and educate enforcement staff and work alongside MN DNR conservation officers to build confidence and familiarity with the laws listed in statute. Increasing an enforcement presence may include issuing citations, assistance to delegated inspectors, inspecting watercraft/equipment themselves, and providing educational opportunities to local residents and visiting recreationalist. This is one area that will require a close working relationship with the Sheriff's department to make certain that there is a balance of priorities with the availability of funds and staff hours. To help facilitate this goal, the Wright AIS Task Force will pursue an iterative evaluation process to determine what issues arise to maintain efficacy and relevancy.

b. Increasing Public Awareness of Violations and Violators

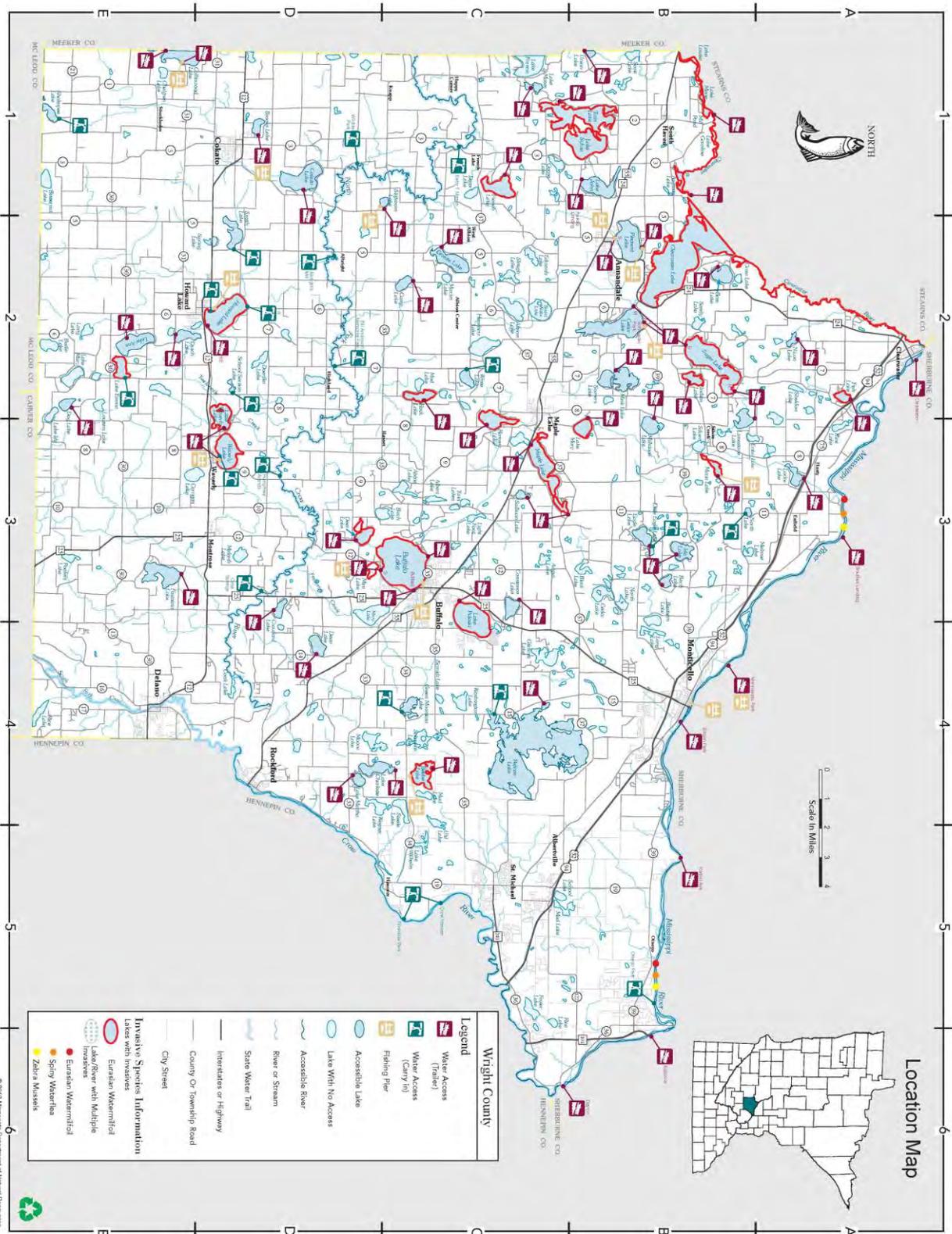
Many people are unaware of the fines and penalties for violating any of the AIS statutes in law. Wright SWCD and its Task Force believes that making this information more available and posted in public forums will help deter negative, careless, and/or ignorant behaviors that may lead to the further spread of zebra mussels and other nuisances. Information can be posted at non-MN DNR access sites, where additional signage can be posted. In addition, in an effort to make the potential for receiving a citation a concern to increase self-action, the Task Force is interested in posting information about violators and the penalties they received.

Appendix A: Action Step Timeline

Category of Action	Action	Responsible Party	Fall/Winter 2014	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall/Winter 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2016	Fall/Winter 2016
Needs Assessment	Understanding pathways	Wright SWCD	X						
	Identify AIS infested waters	Wright SWCD/MN DNR	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Identify access sites	Task Force	X						
	Ensure business are operating with AIS BMPs	Wright SWCD/MN DNR	X			X			X
	Collaborate with other counties, etc.	Wright and Surrounding Counties/CROW	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Organize taskforce	Wright SWCD	X						
“Managing AIS Source Areas with the Community and Innovation”	Develop “Rapid Communication” Plan	Task Force	X						
	Cultivate partnerships with organizations to broaden management efforts	County/CROW	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Provide support for in-lake treatments	Wright SWCD		X	X		X	X	
	Research and fund 1 pilot project	Wright SWCD		X			X		
	Provide research funds for development of treatment options	Wright SWCD		X			X		
“Preventing New Introductions”	Broaden inspection program	Wright SWCD/Lake Assocs./LIDs		X					
	Continue contracting with local LSP	Wright SWCD		X			X		
	Train county field staff	Wright SWCD		X			X		
	Adaptive schedule and data evaluation	Local LSP		X	X		X	X	
	Develop stations at existing businesses	Wright SWCD	X	X	X		X	X	
	Coordinate decontamination units	Wright SWCD		X	X		X	X	
	Establish maintenance contracts	Local LSP	X						
	Coordinate training for inspectors	Wright SWCD		X	X		X	X	
	Utilize rovers to make wide-spread presence	Wright SWCD		X	X		X	X	
Provide funding to train county sheriff’s on AIS statute	Sheriff’s Department	X	X		X	X		X	

Category of Action	Action	Responsible Party	Fall/Winter 2014	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall/Winter 2015	Spring 2016	Summer 2016	Fall/Winter 2016
“Building a Reputation- Wright is Tough on AIS”	Communicate enforcement goals to county attorney	Sheriff’s Department		X	X	X	X	X	X
	Utilize sheriff’s department for AIS education	Sheriff’s Department		X	X	X	X	X	X
	Utilize online and print sources to publically announces violations and violators	Wright SWCD/Lake Assoc./LIDs		X	X		X	X	
“Supporting Community Efforts and Education”	Create community grant program for lake associations, LIDs, and local natural resource agencies	Wright SWCD		X	X		X	X	
	Investments in long-lasting educational products	Wright SWCD	X	X					
	Organize public events	Wright SWCD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Develop local trainings to reduce risk of AIS spread by government and business	Wright SWCD	X	X			X		
	Coordinate public AIS prevention trainings	CROW/Interested Community Groups/ Wright SWCD		X	X		X	X	
	Utilize training evaluation	Training Coordinator		X	X		X	X	
	Develop curricular for schools and youth	CROW, Wright SWCD	X	X			X		
	Expand upon signage efforts	Wright SWCD/Task Force	X	X					
	Provide up-to-date news content for distribution	Wright SWCD /Interested Community Groups	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Develop new and utilize existing publication	Wright SWCD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Create/support Volunteer and Ambassador Program	Wright SWCD		X	X		X	X	
	Incorporate AIS into CSMP	CROW		X	X		X	X	
Participate in AIS BMP forums	Wright SWCD/all partners	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Appendix B: Wright County Public Water Access



Appendix C: Selected Minnesota Laws Related to Water-related Equipment, Watercraft Inspections, and Decontamination (August 1, 2013)

M.S. 84D.01 DEFINITIONS .

Subdivision 1. Terms. For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. Aquatic macrophyte. “Aquatic macrophyte” means a macroscopic non-woody plant, either a submerged, floating leafed, floating, or emergent plant that naturally grows in water.

Subd. 3a. Decontaminate.

“Decontaminate” means to wash, drain, dry, or thermally or otherwise treat water-related equipment in order to remove or destroy aquatic invasive species using the “Recommended Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Interception Programs for Dreissenid Mussels in the Western United States” (September 2009) prepared for the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, or other protocols developed by the commissioner.

Subd. 8a. Introduce .

“Introduce” means to place, release, or allow the escape of a nonnative species into a free-living state. Introduce does not include: the immediate return of a nonnative species to waters of the state from which the nonnative species was removed; or the seasonal return of nonnative species attached to water-related equipment, such as a dock or boat lift, that has been stored on riparian property and directly returned to the same waters of the state from which the water-related equipment was removed.

Subd. 8b. Inspect.

“Inspect” means to examine water-related equipment to determine whether aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water is present and includes removal, drainage, decontamination, or treatment to prevent the transportation and spread of aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, and water

Subd. 8c. Inspector.

“Inspector” means: (1) an individual trained and authorized by the commissioner to inspect water-related equipment under section 84D.105, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); or (2) a conservation officer or a licensed peace officer.

Subd. 16. Transport.

“Transport” means to cause or attempt to cause a species to be carried or moved into or within the state, and includes accepting or receiving the species for transportation or shipment. Transport does not include:

- (1) the movement of infested water or a nonnative species within a water of the state or to a connected water of the state where the species being transported is already present; or
- (2) the movement of a nonnative species attached to water-related equipment or other water-related structures from a water of the state to the shore of riparian property on that water or the return of water-related equipment or structures from the shore into the same water of the state.

Subd. 18a. Water-related equipment.

“Water-related equipment” means a motor vehicle, boat, watercraft, dock, boat lift, raft, vessel, trailer, tool, implement, device, or any other associated equipment or container, including but not limited to portable bait containers, live wells, ballast tanks except for those vessels permitted under the Pollution Control Agency vessel discharge program, bilge areas, and water-hauling equipment that is capable of containing or transporting aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water.

M.S. 84D.02 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR AQUATIC PLANTS AND WILD ANIMALS

Subdivision 1. Establishment.

The commissioner shall establish a statewide program to prevent and curb the spread of invasive species of aquatic plants and wild animals. The program must provide for coordination among governmental entities and private organizations to the extent practicable. The commissioner shall seek available federal funding and grants for the program.

M.S. 84D.05 PROHIBITED INVASIVE SPECIES. Subdivision 1. Prohibited activities.

A person may not possess, import, purchase, sell, propagate, transport, or introduce a prohibited invasive species, except:

- (1) under a permit issued by the commissioner under section 84D.11;
- (2) in the case of purple loosestrife, as provided by sections 18.75 to 18.88;
- (3) under a restricted species permit issued under section 17.457;
- (4) when being transported to the department, or another destination as the commissioner may direct, in a sealed container for purposes of identifying the species or reporting the presence of the species;
- (5) when being transported for disposal as part of a harvest or control activity under a permit issued by the commissioner

according to section 103G.615, when being transported for disposal when specifically authorized under a commercial fishing license issued by the commissioner according to section 97A.418, 97C.801, 97C.811, 97C.825, 97C.831, or 97C.835, or when being transported as specified by the commissioner;

- (6) when the specimen has been lawfully acquired dead and, in the case of plant species, all seeds are removed or are otherwise secured in a sealed container;
- (7) in the form of herbaria or other preserved specimens;
- (8) when being removed from watercraft and equipment, or caught while angling, and immediately returned to the water from which they came; or
- (9) as the commissioner may otherwise prescribe by rule.

Subd. 2. Seizure.

Under section 97A.221, the commissioner may seize or dispose of all specimens of prohibited invasive species unlawfully possessed, imported, purchased, sold, propagated, transported, or introduced in the state.

M.S. 84D.07 REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES.

Except as provided in rules adopted under section 84D.12, subdivision 2, clause (1), a person may not introduce a regulated invasive species without a permit issued by the commissioner.

M.S. 84D.09 AQUATIC MACROPHYTES. Subdivision 1. Transportation prohibited.

Unless specifically authorized under a license or permit issued by the commissioner, a person may not transport aquatic macrophytes except as provided in this section.

Subd. 2. Exceptions.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a person may transport aquatic macrophytes:

- (1) that are duckweeds in the family Lemnaceae;
- (2) for purposes of constructing shooting or observation blinds in amounts sufficient for that purpose, provided that the aquatic macrophytes are emergent and cut above the waterline;
- (3) when legally purchased or traded by or from commercial or hobbyist sources for aquarium, wetland or lakeshore restoration, or ornamental purposes;
- (4) when harvested for personal or commercial use if in a motor vehicle;
- (5) to the department, or another destination as the commissioner may direct, in a sealed container for purposes of identifying a species or reporting the presence of a species;
- (6) that are wild rice harvested under section 84.091;
- (7) in the form of fragments of emergent aquatic macrophytes incidentally transported in or on watercraft or decoys used for waterfowl hunting during the waterfowl season; or
- (8) when removing water-related equipment from waters of the state for purposes of cleaning off aquatic macrophytes before leaving a water access site.

M.S. 84D.10 WATERCRAFT REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS.

Subdivision 1. Launching prohibited.

A person may not place or attempt to place into waters of the state a watercraft, a trailer, or aquatic plant harvesting or control equipment that has aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species attached except as provided in this section.

Subd. 3. Removal and confinement.

- (a) A conservation officer or other licensed peace officer may order:
 - (1) the removal of aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species from water-related equipment before it is placed into waters of the state;
 - (2) confinement of the water-related equipment at a mooring, dock, or other location until the water-related equipment is removed from the water;
 - (3) removal of water-related equipment from waters of the state to remove prohibited invasive species if the water has not been designated by the commissioner as being infested with that species.; and
 - (4) a prohibition on placing water-related equipment into waters of the state when the water-related equipment has aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species attached in violation of subdivision 1 or when water has not been drained or the drain plug has not been removed in violation of subdivision 4.
- (b) An inspector who is not a licensed peace officer may issue orders under paragraph (a), clauses (1), (3), and (4).

Subd. 4. Persons transporting water-related equipment.

- (a) When leaving waters of the state a person must drain water-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the water-related equipment off the water access site or riparian property.
- (b) Drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges, and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting water-related equipment.
- (c) Emergency response vehicles and equipment may be transported on a public road with the drain plug or other similar device replaced only after all water has been drained from the equipment upon leaving the water body.
- (d) Portable bait containers used by licensed aquatic farms, portable bait containers when fishing through the ice except on waters designated infested for viral hemorrhagic septicemia, and marine sanitary systems are exempt from this subdivision.
- (e) A person must not dispose of bait in waters of the state.
- (f)) A boat lift, dock, swim raft, or associated equipment that has been removed from any water body may not be placed in another water body until a minimum of 21 days have passed.
- (g) A person who transports water that is appropriated from non-infested surface water bodies and that is transported by a commercial vehicle, excluding watercraft, or commercial trailer, which vehicle or trailer is specifically designed and used for water hauling, is exempt from paragraphs (a) and (b), provided that the person does not discharge the transported water to other surface waters or within 100 feet of a surface water body.
- (h) A person transporting water from non-infested surface water bodies for firefighting or emergencies that threaten human safety or property is exempt from paragraphs (a) and (b).

M.S. 84D.105 INSPECTION OF WATER-RELATED

EQUIPMENT. Subdivision 1. Compliance inspections.

Compliance with aquatic invasive species inspection requirements is an express condition of operating or transporting water-related equipment. An inspector may prohibit an individual from placing or operating water-related equipment in waters of the state if the individual refuses to allow an inspection of the individual's water-related equipment or refuses to remove and dispose of aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, and water.

Subd. 2. Inspector authority.

- (a) The commissioner shall train and authorize individuals to inspect water-related equipment for aquatic macrophytes aquatic invasive species, and water.
The commissioner may enter into a delegation agreement with a tribal or local government where inspection authority as provided under paragraphs (b), (g), and (h) is delegated to tribal and local governments that assume all legal, financial, and administrative responsibilities for inspection programs on some or all public waters within their jurisdiction.
- (b) Inspectors may visually and tactilely inspect watercraft and water-related equipment to determine whether aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water is present. If a person transporting watercraft or water-related equipment refuses to take required corrective actions or fails to comply with an order under section 84D.10, subdivision 3, an inspector who is not a licensed peace officer shall refer the violation to a conservation officer or other licensed peace officer.
- (c) In addition to paragraph (b), a conservation officer or other licensed peace officer may inspect any watercraft or water-related equipment that is stopped at a water access site, any other public location in the state, or a private location where the watercraft or water-related equipment is in plain view, if the officer determines there is reason to believe that aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water is present on the watercraft or water-related equipment.
- (d) Conservation officers or other licensed peace officers may utilize check stations in locations, or in proximity to locations, where watercraft or other water-related equipment is placed into or removed from waters of the state. Any check stations shall be operated in a manner that minimizes delays to vehicles, equipment, and their occupants.

M.S. 84D.13 ENFORCEMENT;

PENALTIES. Subdivision 1.

Enforcement.

Unless otherwise provided, this chapter and rules adopted under section 84D.12 may be enforced by conservation officers under sections 97A.205, 97A.211, and 97A.221 and by other licensed peace officers.

Subd. 2. Cumulative remedy.

The authority of conservation officers and other licensed peace officers to issue civil citations is in addition to other remedies available under law, except that the state may not seek penalties under any other provision of law for the incident subject to the citation.

Subd. 3. Criminal penalties.

- (a) A person who violates a provision of sections 84D.03 or 84D.06 to 84D.11, or a rule adopted under section 84D.12, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (b) A person who possesses, transports, or introduces a prohibited invasive species in violation of section 84D.05 is guilty of a misdemeanor. A person who imports, purchases, sells, or propagates a prohibited invasive species in violation of section 84D.05 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
- (c) A person who refuses to obey an order of a peace officer or conservation officer to remove prohibited invasive species or aquatic macrophytes from any water-related equipment is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Subd. 4. Warnings; civil citations.

After appropriate training, conservation officers, other licensed peace officers, and other department personnel designated by the commissioner may issue warnings or citations to a person who:

- (1) unlawfully transports prohibited invasive species or aquatic macrophytes;
- (2) unlawfully places or attempts to place into waters of the state water-related equipment that has aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species attached;
- (3) intentionally damages, moves, removes, or sinks a buoy marking, as prescribed by rule, Eurasian water milfoil;
- (4) fails to remove plugs, open valves, and drain water water-related equipment before leaving waters of the state or when transporting water-related equipment as provided in section 84D.10, subdivision 4; or
- (5) transports infested water, in violation of rule, off riparian property.

Subd. 5. Civil penalties.

A civil citation issued under this section must impose the following penalty amounts:

- (1) for transporting aquatic macrophytes in violation of section 84D.09, \$100;
- (2) for placing or attempting to place into waters of the state water-related equipment that has aquatic macrophytes attached, \$200;
- (3) for unlawfully possessing or transporting a prohibited invasive species other than an aquatic macrophyte, \$500;
- (4) for placing or attempting to place into waters of the state water-related equipment that has prohibited invasive species attached when the waters are not designated by the commissioner as being infested with that invasive species, \$500 for the first offense;
- (5) for intentionally damaging, moving, removing, or sinking a buoy marking, as prescribed by rule, Eurasian water milfoil, \$100;
- (6) for failing to remove plugs, open valves, and drain water from water-related equipment, other than marine sanitary systems, before leaving waters of the state, \$100; and
- (7) for transporting infested water off riparian property without a permit as required by rule, \$200.

Subd. 6. Watercraft license suspension.

A civil citation may be issued to suspend, for up to a year, the watercraft license of an owner or person in control of a watercraft or trailer who refuses to submit to an inspection under section 84D.105 or who refuses to comply with a removal order given under this section.

Subd. 7. Satisfaction of civil penalties.

A civil penalty is due and a watercraft license suspension is effective 30 days after issuance of the civil citation. A civil penalty collected under this section must be paid to either: (1) the commissioner if the citation was issued by a conservation officer and must be credited to the invasive species account; or (2) the treasury of the unit of government employing the officer who issued the civil citation.

M.S. 86B.811 CRIMINAL

PENALTIES. Subd. 1a. Petty misdemeanor.

A watercraft owner who fails to obtain or display an aquatic invasive species rules decal or a person who operates a watercraft that does not display an aquatic invasive species rule decal in violation of section 86B.508 is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

MINNESOTA RULES 6216.0250 PROHIBITED INVASIVE SPECIES.

Subpart 1. Designation. The species in subparts 2 to 5 and any hybrids, cultivars, or varieties of the species are designated as prohibited invasive species.

Subp. 2. Aquatic plants. The following aquatic plants are designated as prohibited invasive species:

A. African oxygen weed (*Lagarosiphon major*) (Ridley) Moss ex Wagner; B. aquarium watermoss or giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) Mitchell; C. Australian stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*) (Kirk) Cockayne; D. brittle naiad (*Najas minor*) Allioni; E. curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) Linnaeus; F. Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) Linnaeus; G. European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) Linnaeus; H. flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) Linnaeus; I. hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) (Carl von Linnaeus) Royle; J. Indian swampweed (*Hygrophila polysperma*) (Roxburgh) T. Anders; K. purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*, *Lythrum virgatum*, or any variety, hybrid, or cultivar thereof) Linnaeus; L. water aloe or water soldiers (*Stratiotes aloides*) Linnaeus; and M. water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) Linnaeus. N. the aquatic plants listed in Code of Federal Regulations, title 7, section 360.200, are also designated as prohibited invasive species except for Chinese water spinach (*Ipomoea aquatica*)

Subp. 3. Fish. The following fish are designated as prohibited invasive species:

A. bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) Richardson; B. black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) (Richardson) Peters; C. grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) Valenciennes; D. largescale silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys harmandi*) Sauvage; E. northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*); F. round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*); G. rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*) Linnaeus; H. ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*) Linnaeus; I. sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) Linnaeus; J. silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) Valenciennes; K. tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*) Pallas; L. western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) Baird & Girard; M. white perch (*Morone americana*) Gmelin; and N. zander (*Stizostedion lucioperca*) Linnaeus.

Subp. 4. Invertebrates. The following invertebrates are designated as prohibited invasive species: A. faucet snail (*Bithynia tentaculata*); B. New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*); C. quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*); D. red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*); and E. zebra mussel (*Dreissena spp.*).

6216.0260 REGULATED INVASIVE SPECIES.

Subpart 1. Designation. The species in subparts 2 to 5 are designated as regulated invasive species.

Subp. 2. Aquatic plants. The following aquatic plants are designated as regulated invasive species: A. Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*) Planchon; B. Carolina fanwort or fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) A. Gray; C. Chinese water spinach (*Ipomoea aquatica*) Forsskal; D. parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) (da Conceicao Vellozo) Verdcourt; E. nonnative waterlilies (*Nymphaea spp.*) Linnaeus, or any variety, hybrid, or cultivar thereof Native Minnesota waterlilies are: *Nymphaea odorata* Aiton subsp. *odorata* Aiton, *N. leibergii* Morong, and *N. odorata* Aiton subsp. *tuberosa* (Paine) Wiersema & Hellquist; and F. yellow iris or yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) Linnaeus.

Subp. 3. Fish.

A. alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) Wilson; B. common carp, koi (*Cyprinus carpio*) Linnaeus; C. goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) Linnaeus; D. rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) Mitchell; and E. tilapia (*Tilapia*, *Oreochromis*, *Sarotherodon spp.*).

Subp. 5. Invertebrates. The following invertebrates are designated as regulated invasive species:

A. banded mystery snail (*Viviparus georgianus*) I. Lea;
B. Chinese mystery snail, Japanese trap door snail (*Cipangopaludina spp.*) Hannibal; C. rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) Girard; and D. spiny waterflea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) Leydig.

Appendix D: Location of Lake Service Providers near Wright County



County	City	Business Name
Wright	Annandale	A1 Marine
Wright	Annandale	Anchor Dock & Lift
Wright	Annandale	Dave Rasset Dock N Boat Lift Service
Wright	Annandale	Dingmann Marine and More
Wright	Annandale	Dock Doctors
Wright	Buffalo	Adam Downing
Wright	Buffalo	Dirks Weedroller Sales and Service
Wright	Buffalo	Easy Dock Service
Wright	Buffalo	Home Service Irrigation
Wright	Buffalo	Jeff Bonde
Wright	Buffalo	Paul's Docks, Lifts, and More
Wright	Buffalo	Skraba Irrigation
Wright	Buffalo	Wright Rain Irrigation LLC
Wright	Buffalo	Zach's Dock Service
Wright	Clearwater	Clear Waters Outfitting Co
Wright	Cokato	Brad's Boats
Wright	Cokato	Minnesota Shoreline Sales
Wright	Clear Water	Use Your Water Right Dot Com, LLC
Wright	Delano	Anchore Marine Repair
Wright	Delano	Ault Marine
Wright	Delano	Bantas Point Estate Care
Wright	Delano	Fosters Bros. Marine
Wright	Howard Lake	HLWW Wrestling Team
Wright	Otsego	Midwest Landscapes
Wright	South Haven	Adrian Haabala
Wright	South Haven	J&J Marine
Wright	South Haven	Pest Patrol

Appendix E: Lakes and Streams with Public Accesses Sites and/or AIS in Wright County

Waterbody Name and ID Number	Nearest Town	State Water Access Site (SWAS) Name and Type	Administrator	Infestations if Any
Crow River	Buffalo	Crow Springs Park SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Crow River	Howard Lake	Bill Anderson Park SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Crow River	Cokato	Wildlife Park SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Crow River	Hanover	Riverside Park SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Crow River	Cokato	North Fork, Albright's Mill SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Crow River	Waverly	North Fork, Humphry Arends SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Crow River	Cokato	North Fork, Betty T Mason SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Mississippi River	Monticello	Otsego Park SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	Zebra Mussels
Mississippi River	Monticello	Montissippi Park SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	Zebra Mussels
Mississippi River	Elk River	Kadler Avenue SWAS	City of Otsego	Zebra Mussels
Mississippi River	Monticello	Ellison Park SWAS	City of Monticello	Zebra Mussels
Pelican Lake	Monticello	Pelican Lake (W) SWAS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
Ann 86019000	Howard Lake	Ann Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Augusta 86028400	Fairhaven			Eurasian water milfoil
Bass 86023400	Annandale	Bass Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Beebe 86002300	Saint Michael	Beebe Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Birch 86006600	Monticello	Birch Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Brooks 86026400	Cokato	Brooks Lake SWAS	City of Cokato	
Buffalo 86009000	Buffalo	Buffalo Lake (N) SWAS	City of Buffalo	Eurasian water milfoil
Buffalo 86009000	Buffalo	Buffalo Lake (E) SWAS	City of Buffalo	Eurasian water milfoil
Buffalo 86009000	Buffalo	Buffalo Lake (N) SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil

Waterbody Name and ID Number	Nearest Town	State Water Access Site (SWAS) Name and Type	Administrator	Infestations if Any
Camp 86022100	Maple Lake	Camp (Henry) Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Caroline 86028100	Fairhaven			Eurasian water milfoil
Cedar 86022700	Annandale	Cedar Lake, Schroeder Park SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Cedar 86022700	Annandale	Cedar Lake (W) SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	Eurasian water milfoil
Charlotte 86001100	Hanover	Charlotte Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Clearwater 86025200	Annandale			Eurasian water milfoil
Cokato 86026300	Cokato	Cokato Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Collinwood 86029300	Dassel	Collinwood Lake (S) SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Collinwood 86029300	Dassel	Collinwood Lake (E) SWAS	Wright County, Park Department	
Constance 86005100	Buffalo	Constance Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Crawford 86004600	Montrose	Crawford Lake SWAS	Wright County, Park Department	
Dean 86004100	Buffalo	Dean Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Deer 86010700	Buffalo	Deer Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Dog 86017800	Oster	Dog Lake, Johnson Park SWAS	Wright County, Park Department	
Dutch 86018400	Howard Lake	Dutch Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Eagle 86014800	Maple Lake	Dutch Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
East Lake Sylvia 86028900	South Haven			Eurasian water milfoil
Emma 86018800	Howard Lake	Emma Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Fish 86018300	Hasty	Fish Lake SWAS	Clearwater Township	Zebra Mussels, Eurasian water milfoil
Fountain 86008600	Montrose	Fountain Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
French 86027300	Annandale	French Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil

Waterbody Name and ID Number	Nearest Town	State Water Access Site (SWAS) Name and Type	Administrator	Infestations if Any
Goose 86010800	Buffalo			Eurasian watermilfoil
Granite 86021700	West Albion	Granite Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Green Mountain 86006300	Buffalo	Green Mountain SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Howard 86019900	Howard Lake	Howard Lake, Memorial Park SWAS	City of Howard Lake	Eurasian water milfoil
Howard 86019900	Howard Lake	Howard Lake, Lions Park SWAS	City of Howard Lake	Eurasian water milfoil
Howard 86019900	Howard Lake	Howard Lake (N) SWAS	Middleville Township	Eurasian water milfoil
Ida 86014600	Silver Creek (Wright)	Ida Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Indian 86022300	Silver Creek (Wright)	Indian Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
John 86028800	Annandale	Lake John SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Limestone 86016300	Clearwater	Limestone Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Little Eagle 86014700	Silver Creek (Wright)	Little Eagle Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Little Mary 86013900	Silver Creek (Wright)			Eurasian water milfoil
Little Waverly 86010600	Waverly	Little Waverly Lake SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	Eurasian water milfoil
Locke 86016800	Clearwater	Locke Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Maple 86019700		Maple Lake (W) SWAS	City of Maple Lake	Eurasian water milfoil
Maple 86019700		Maple Lake (E) SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	Eurasian water milfoil
Maria 86013700	Silver Creek (Wright)	Lake Maria, Lake Maria SPK SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Martha 86000900	Hanover	Martha Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Mary 86015600	Maple Lake	Mary Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Millstone 86015200	Silver Creek (Wright)	Millstone Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	

Waterbody Name and ID Number	Nearest Town	State Water Access Site (SWAS) Name and Type	Administrator	Infestations if Any
Mink 86008800	Buffalo			Eurasian water milfoil
Mink 86022900	Maple Lake	Mink/Somers Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Moose 86027100	French Lake	Moses Lake SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Mud 86026600	Albright	Mud Lake, Skifstrom SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Nixon 86023800	Hasty	Nixon Lake SWAS	Clearwater Township	
North 86007200	Monticello	North Lake, Harry Larson Park SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
North Twin 86012300	Buffalo			Eurasian water milfoil
Pelican 86003100	Saint Michael	Pelican Lake (SW) SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Pleasant 86025100	Annandale	Pleasant Lake (S) SWAS	City of Annandale	
Pleasant 86025100	Annandale	Pleasant Lake (N) SWAS	Wright County, Parks Department	
Pulaski 86005300	Buffalo	Pulaski Lake, Griffing Park SWAS	City of Buffalo	Eurasian water milfoil
Ramsey 86012000	Maple Lake	Ramsey Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Rock 86018200	Maple Lake	Rock Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Round 86019200	Oster			Eurasian water milfoil
Schmidt 86002900	Buffalo			Eurasian water milfoil
School Section 86018000	Waverly	School Section Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Shakopee 86025500	Lamson	Shakopee Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Silver 86014000	Silver Creek (Wright)			Eurasian water milfoil
Smith 86025000	Smith Lake	Smith Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Somers 86023000	Maple Lake			Eurasian water milfoil
Sugar 86023300	Annandale	Sugar (S) Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil

Waterbody Name and ID Number	Nearest Town	State Water Access Site (SWAS) Name and Type	Administrator	Infestations if Any
Sugar 86023300	Annandale	Sugar (N) Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
Sullivan 86011900	Maple Lake	Sullivan Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Union 86029800	South Haven	Union Lake SWAS	City of Waverly	
Waverly 86011400	Waverly	Waverly Lake SWAS	City of Waverly	Eurasian water milfoil
Waverly 86011400	Waverly	Waverly Lake, Waterfront SWAS	City of Waverly	Eurasian water milfoil
West Lake Sylvia 86027900	South Haven	Twin/Sylvia Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	Eurasian water milfoil
White 86021400	Albion Center	White Lake SWAS	DNR Division of Parks and Trails	
Wiegand 86024200	Clearwater			Eurasian water milfoil

Appendix F: Wright County Board AIS Plan Approval Resolution

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WRIGHT COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Date December 16, 2014
Motion by Commissioner Borrell

Resolution No. 14-80
Seconded by Commissioner Daleiden

RESOLUTION FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID

Whereas, Session Law Chapter 308 enacted by the Legislature provides \$10,000,000 to Minnesota counties a County Program AID grant for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. The amount designated for each county is based on the number of watercraft trailer launches as well as the number of watercraft trailer parking spaces within each county. Wright County was allocated approximately 2.4% of the total, which equates to \$108,325.00 for 2014 and \$240,722.00 for 2015 and years following, and

Whereas, the legislation requires that Wright County must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds which are to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county. This plan will provide support goals identified in the 2013-2023 Wright County Water Plan and established by the Wright County Water Task Force for the implementation of AIS prevention and/or control efforts, and

Whereas, the county may appropriate the proceeds directly or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section, and

Whereas, the county must annually submit a copy of its guidelines for use of the process to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31 of the year the payments are received, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners of Wright County, Minnesota designates oversight of Wright County's AIS prevention efforts to the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District and delegates to them the responsibility to implement reporting and funding allocation requirements in the above legislation. For 2014/2015, the plan is on file in the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District.

	YES		NO
HUSOM	<u> X </u>	HUSOM	<u> _____ </u>
SAWATZKE	<u> X </u>	SAWATZKE	<u> _____ </u>
DALEIDEN	<u> X </u>	DALEIDEN	<u> _____ </u>
POTTER	<u> X </u>	POTTER	<u> _____ </u>
BORRELL	<u> X </u>	BORRELL	<u> _____ </u>

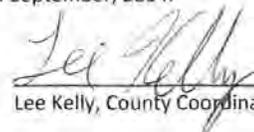
STATE OF MINNESOTA)

ss.

County of Wright)

I, Lee Kelly, duly appointed, qualified, and acting Clerk to the County Board for the County of Wright, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution or motion with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Wright County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 16th day of September, 2014 on file in my office, and have found the same to be true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at Buffalo, Minnesota, this 16th day of September, 2014.


Lee Kelly, County Coordinator