



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM 2015

Minnesota waters are threatened by aquatic invasive species (AIS). Minnesota Statute 84D defines invasive species as species that are non-native species that cause or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health or threatens or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state. 2014 Legislation allocated counties across Minnesota Species Prevention Aid to do education, enforcement, watercraft inspections, and signage relating to AIS. The available aid as of January 1, 2015 to Pine County is \$182,313. Pine County, in collaboration with the interested stakeholders have identified the areas of aquatic invasive concern:

- 1.) The Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly Leaf Pond Weed infestations that are already within some county lakes.
- 2.) The future immediate potential for a Zebra Mussel infestations because many of the lakes in Pine County have visiting boaters which may have come from infested lakes.

These areas of concern will be addressed by:

- a.) Support the lake associations' eradication effort of Milfoil and Curly Leaf. Pine County Lake Associations receive DNR grants; however the county recognizes that the grant funds received from the DNR do not cover the total project costs. The following amounts are allocated to the lake associations less any DNR grants received:

Windemere Lake and Landowners Association – \$25,000
Cross Lake Association – \$7,500
Pokegama Lake Association – \$2,000

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$34,500

- b.) Collaborate with the St. Croix River Association in their efforts to develop a Strategic Works Plan addressing AIS threats within the St. Croix Watershed, which encompasses most of Pine County.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$5,000

- c.) Develop an early detection and rapid response program through a partnership with 4-H Aquatic Robotics. Early detection of a Zebra Mussel infestation is important to preventing further spread of Zebra Mussels. 4-H will develop aquatic remotely operated vehicles to assist with these tasks. The following amount is allocated to the 4-H Aquatic Robotics program less any grants received:

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$26,650

- d.) Provide significant coverage at high traffic boat landings throughout the county on a consistence basis. This will include up to five Level II Watercraft Inspectors, deputy assistance, and volunteers.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$40,000

e.) Purchase a Decontamination Unit for the use of the watercraft inspectors if they encounter a watercraft which needs decontaminating.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$20,000

f.) Participate in the Pokegama Lake Association Freshwater Fair and/or the Pine County Fair to educate the public about AIS.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$1,000

g.) Gather the data and apply for grant to provide signage at Private Boat Landings within the county.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$500

h.) Administrative Costs of implementation including salaries and benefits (10% of expenditures).

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$12,765

Other Important Plan Notes:

- 1.) Any funds not expended in 2015 will be rolled over into the budget for the Pine County AIS Program 2016 (approximately \$41,898)
- 2.) This plan may be amended at any time as needed to support Pine County's AIS efforts.
- 3.) Implementation of this plan is contingent upon sufficient state funding. Activities will be scaled to account for increases or decreases in available state funding.

Adopted by the Pine County Pine County Board of Commissioners this 17th day of March, 2015.



Stephen M. Hallan
Pine County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



David J. Minke, Administrator
Clerk to Pine County Board of Commissioners