

AIS Prevention Operating Team Planned Goals with Accomplishments for 2023 & Plans for 2024

Version 11-01-2023 Key below:

HC AIS Prevention (HC AIS P) = Hubbard County Environmental Services, Environmental Specialist – AIS Prevention Program

HC COLA = Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations AIS Operating Team and Others

Both = HC AIS Prevention personnel & HC COLA working together on various aspects of the Planned Goals and Accomplishments

Responsibility	Public Awareness Goals for 2023	Accomplished in 2023	Plans for 2024
1) HC AIS P	Radio PSAs: KDKK, KXKK, KPRM on AIS Prevention	Emphasized free decontamination station	Yes
2) HC AIS P	Present Hubbard County AIS Program	HC COLA Apr / Oct mtgs & HC Township mtg	Yes
3) Both	Billboard partners on Major Hwy: Clean Drain Dry	Billboard, Lighted; Angler Clean Drain Dry Theme ;Hwy 34 E of Park Rapids at County 4	Billboard, Lighted Hwy 71 S, two images per year – Clean, Drain, Dry Theme - TBD
4) Both	Articles for local newspapers on AIS Prevention Education to Protect and Preserve Lakes	PR Enterprise: Aaron Anderson's articles: "Buying a used boat – protect yourself and our lakes" on 8/5/23 "What to do with wanted bait" on 5/20/23 "Gripper-Grabber – the right tool for AIS Prevention" on 5/13/23 HC COLA Column: "Walleye need us to Clean, Drain, and Dry too" – by Sharon 9/16/2023	Yes
5) Both	Waterproof AIS ID card use continues w/Decon #, 21-day dry time & bait disposal. Purchased 5000 in 2022.	Updated AIS ID ½ page card with new hand-written phone number. Restocked kiosks 2x.	Update AIS ID cards with new phone. Print Fish ID card with Decon number / QR code.
6) Both	AIS prevention outreach to engage resort, campground, short-term rental owners (STR), area businesses like bait shops, PR Chamber of Commerce website and kiosk plus Discovery Guide, Dwntrn Business Assoc website / kiosk, & PR Enterprise Resident's Guide plus HC SWCD plat book.	Updated resort / campground list. Mailed 2 Spring / Summer letters vis USPS & Chamber bags / email on services and educ on starry stonewort. Updated HC COLA related websites / utilize QR code. STR "Good Neighbor" Guide has AIS prevention info.	Continue AIS prevention outreach to resorts / campgrounds and others. County continues use of "Good Neighbor" Guide for STRs. HC COLA to email new STRs owners re services & AIS prevention. Use community-based social marketing toolset.
7) HCCOLA	Fair – Educational HC COLA Booth in the Environmental Education Building	Approx 1000 booth visitors: AIS Prevention, aquatic plant ID with live plant demo permit, videos & QR coded flyers for CD3 use / map, Loons , Keep It Clean MN / Be Nice to Our Ice.	Update HC COLA Fair materials. Provide an activity for youth plus live aquatic plant ID thru permit. Educate on impacts of AIS to native species like walleye with zebra mussel and spiny waterflea to illustrate why important to the anglers to prevent AIS & follow the Clean Drain Dry steps no matter which lake, if it is known to be infested or not. A lake may be infested, but not yet discovered, for example. Theme: "Keep Your Waters Healthy."

8) HCCOLA	Expand number of lakes monitoring for adult zebra mussels using zebra mussel settlement samplers (ZMSS) and lakeshore owners examining dock / lift legs	Provided ZMSS to lake assoc's & at fair to citizens. "Eyes on the Water" email list grows. Educ on monitoring for spiny waterflea (SWF)	Yes
9) HCCOLA	Use Updated Online AIS Curriculum for Hubbard County lakes area (Otter Tail has success with prog'm)	Used portion in 1 summer school classrm for aquatic plant ID bladderwort / AIS prevn	Yes
10) HC COLA	Educational offerings include: 1) AIS Prevention Education with speaker / info available; email HCColaMN@gmail.com to engage 2) Shoreline Monitoring Garage Talks for Early Detection of AIS for Lake Assocs and 3) Coaching on Aquatic Plant ID in groups, or Dockside plus can include Kidz Zone too Available on HC COLA website	HC COLA attendees at MAISRC Labs to Lakes in June & Dec. HC COLA AIS Detector-lead shoreline monitoring team volunteered at Garfield resort & trained staff mbr w / ID toolset. 7 th CW Resort - Provided unit booklets including AIS Prevention info.	Update HC COLA website area as will be referenced by QR code in 2024 in Community Based Social Marketing ads in Discover Guide and Residents Guide 2024, etc. https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/resort-resources.html Add snorkeling as an additional tool to ID aquatic vegetation.
Responsibility	Prevention Goals for 2023	Accomplished in 2023	Plans for 2024
1) HC AIS P	Conduct watercraft inspections at 34 different public accesses throughout Hubbard County.	Yes – Staffed inspectors for 14,600 hours at 34 public accesses at 32 different lakes/rivers. Had 7,215 hours funded through AIS Prevention funds, 7,385 hours funded through Lake Assns. and Townships. There were roughly 19,800 inspections (estimate there will be about 20,000 by end of Oct).	Yes – Plan for watercraft inspection schedule similar to 2023 number of hours. Will look into ways to maximize inspections/hour County-wide.
2) HC AIS P	Operate Hubbard County FREE Watercraft Decontamination Station with convenient call ahead: 218-616-1631	Yes – Staffed decontamination station May through September. Total of 144 decontaminations – 61 more than 2022!	Yes – Operate decontamination station May through September. On call seven days a week 10 AM – 6 PM.
3) Both	Monitor Fishing Tournament Activity to Minimize AIS Risk. Consider special inspection plans when justified.	Yes – Lake Assocs indicate annual tournaments for HC ESD each January for planning of watercraft inspection schedule. Check DNR tournament list and permits through Hubbard County Sheriff's office. This year, 2 Inspectors were present to help at Potato Lake tournament in Aug at 6 AM.	Yes
4) Both	AIS Volunteer Training; communicate process & use	Info provided to lake associations on the DNR AIS volunteers/Ambassadors. Requires background check and AIS Ambassador Grant Agreement with DNR before you can prearrange location, date/time to volunteer.	HCCOLA plans to schedule a class (requirement of 10 participants) for MN DNR AIS volunteers for spring 2024.

		<p>More information here: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/volunteer.html</p>	
5) Both	Explore the use of tools - modeling software like AIS Explorer by MAISRC, CD3 units, I-Lid experience, other...	Expanded aqua weed stick (AWS) pilot to Hubbard trailer accesses (71) on DNR sign post with permission from the DNR Parks & Trails. Lake Associations provided 20 HC COLA-furnished AWS for resorts with accesses. Participating in Stop Starry Stonewort mtgs with 3 counties using CD3s thru grant with MLRA on Starry Stonewort accesses – staffed booth at Labs to Lakes. Participated in e-dna pilot with MAISRC.	<p>Continue use of AWS at accesses for 2024.</p> <p>Research and learn from other’s successful use of underwater drone technology, sonar use, cold and hot-water rinse stations at accesses, MAISRC toolset, learn from use of CD3 at Long south access that the Hubbard Township received as a grant gift from Stop Starry Stonewort program, continue learning from Kabekona I-Lid, etc.</p>
Responsibility	Early Detection Goals for 2023	Accomplished in 2023	Plans for 2024
1) Both	Starry Trek Search for Starry Stonewort & other AIS	Yes – 22 public accesses checked at 20 lakes. No new, unknown AIS found. Park Rapids Enterprise Staff provided 2023 article seeking volunteers for Starry Trek.	Yes - increase volunteers to sample more lakes; invite kids / parents – reaching out to groups desiring community service hrs.
2) HCCOLA	Continue zebra mussel veliger sampling on area lakes and analyze water sample for spiny waterflea also	Yes – 4 lakes analyzed for spiny waterflea (SWF); none found. 12 lakes sampled for Zebra Mussel Veligers (ZMV); none detected.	Yes –expand LA sampling for ZMV & SWF with additional surveillance techniques. Continue with eDNA any pilots w/MAISRC.
3) HCCOLA	Expand lakes monitoring - property owners place zebra mussel settlement samplers on docks & check and report on “Eyes on the Water” Survey in autumn.	Additional ZMSS placement by LAs citizens. Kabekona and Long AIS Detectors participating in SWF Surveillance Pilot. Twin Lakes lakeshore owner updating HCCOLA with results on DNR-approved management of small area of hybrid cattails.	Expand knowledge-base on wetland / water’s edge invasives such as purple loosestrife, phragmites, and invasive non-native cattails.
4) HCCOLA	Promote lakes participating in aquatic vegetation near-shore monitoring/meanders like Lake Belle Taine program – 2x/yr to detect Curly Leaf Pondweed in mid to late June and Eurasian Watermilfoil and Starry Stonewort in mid to late Aug plus look for zebra mussels and faucet snails clinging to aquatic vegetation sampled .	<p>Andrea Dutcher, Belle Taine LA volunteer & HC COLA Educ Team Member provided Shoreline Monitoring Coaching for Little Sand Lake Association team.</p> <p>Some other lake associations are utilizing this concept around their lakeshore and/or at high risk areas.</p>	2024 Pilot called “Rake Toss Tuesday” on 3 dates: Tues 7/9/2024, 7/23/2024 and 8/8/2024 afternoon. Be part of the pilot team for 1 or more Tues checking aquatic vegetation on lake(s) that don’t have a lake assoc and aren’t on Starry Trek for 2024, but that need “Eyes on the Water”. We’ll end with a toast to the health of the lake(s) checked that day. AIS Detectors will train!
5) HCCOLA	The AIS Operating Team asked the HC COLA Board to consider for 2024 only offering another \$4000 for granting for aquatic vegetation surveys for lake	The HC COLA board approved the additional \$4,000 from the HC COLA general fund for the focus of aquatic vegetation surveys to	The HC COLA Charitable Fund grant application info due 4/15/24 is here:

	associations who apply using the HC COLA charitable fund process / requirements which already has \$4000 available for 2024 also. So that would make \$8000 available. Limit per LA is still \$2,000 & match required	help with early detection of AIS. The application process is the same as the HC COLA Charitable fund with deadline being 4/15/2024 and grants would be paid in June.	https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hc-cola-charitable-fund--grant.html
6) HCCOLA	Pilot "Lake Sharing" by Zoom on the items that Lake Associations indicated they wanted to learn more about from other lake association.	Pilot the first of 3 topic areas the lake associations wanted to share information about. The last Thurs of the month Zoom mtg is 11/30/2023, 6:30 PM for 1 hr. Topic is early detection including aquatic vegetation surveys and techniques. Email hccolamn@gmail.com for the Zoom Registration information.	Continue with Zoom Pilot for 2 optional dates in 2024 with lake associations sharing experiences on last Thurs of the month at 6:30 PM for 1 hour or less: 1. 1/25/2024 topic is techniques utilized for gaining involvement in social activities and / or board activities. 2. 2/29/2024 topic is on communication techniques used by lake associations
Responsibility	Rapid Response & Containment Goals for 2023	Accomplished in 2023	Plans for 2024
1) HC AIS P	Stop new AIS introductions from occurring by prevention and containment through the watercraft inspection program.	Belle Taine: Used pontoon from unknown origin / new owner attempted to launch with Zebra Mussels over the 4 th of July weekend. Denied launch, sent to decon station. New owner unaware of AIS laws.	Yes: Continue Watercraft Inspections More public emphasis on new boat owners.
2) HC AIS P	Stop new AIS introductions from occurring by prevention and containment through the watercraft inspection program.	Garfield Lake: Used pontoon from Lake Bemidji / new owner attempted to launch with Zebra Mussels over the 4 th of July weekend. Denied launch, informed they could not launch until pontoon was decontaminated. New owner unaware of AIS laws.	Yes - Continue Watercraft Inspections. More public emphasis on new boat owners.
3) HC AIS P	Stop new AIS introductions from occurring by prevention and containment through the watercraft inspection program.	Long Lake: Pontoon owner from Kandiyohi County attempted to launch pontoon with sea legs. Zebra mussels discovered. Pontoon sent to decon station and was decontaminated. Pontoon owner was very impressed by the inspector and decon operator.	Yes: Continue Watercraft Inspections Possible news article series detailing specific watercraft – where to look for AIS.
4) HC AIS P	Maintain existing AIS Response fund for initial AIS treatments - not adding contributions annually though.	Keep up-to-date on potential new methods of treatment / prevention. Monitor long-term efficacy.	Yes

5) HCCOLA		<p>Encouraged Lake Associations AIS Coordinators and LA Boards to review, update and / or implement LA's Rapid Response Plans as part of their Lake Management Plans and lake-related best management practices.</p> <p>https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/developing_a_lake_management_plan.pdf AND</p> <p>https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/example_lake_association_ais_rapid_response_action_plan.pdf</p>	Yes – continue to encourage Lake Associations AIS Coordinators and LA Boards to review, update and / or implement LA's Rapid Response Plans as part of their Lake Management Plans and lake-related best management practices.
Responsibility	Administration Goals for 2023	Accomplished in 2023	Plans for 2024
Both	AIS Prevention Operating Team continues to support a healthy and effective County-wide program. Work across county boundaries as the need arises.	Participate in Stop Starry Stonewort Monthly Meeting with 3 other counties/LLBO and MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates. Educated on CD3 use in the northern lakes area with SSW infestations during the Fair & HC COLA mtgs.	Hubbard Township received CD3 grant gift for south access of Long Lake. Educate lake users on the CD3 and promote use of free decon at South Transfer Station. Continue outreach w/ other counties.
Responsibility	Mitigation & Management Goals for 2023	Accomplished in 2023	Plans for 2024
1) HCCOLA	<p>Individual lake associations (LA) will continue to manage their existing infestations for containment and to prevent the spread to other lakes.</p> <p>LAs fund treatments and apply for DNR AIS Grants / other aid. HC COLA collaborates in AIS prevention & techniques.</p>	<p>Lake Associations shared their containment and mgmt efforts during HC COLA mtgs in July, Aug & Sept 2023 plus other LA topics:</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fpVN_puyyAz1LyEBDQeu7XepGJowmZ2f/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Several attended MAISRC showcase and Labs To Lake events plus utilize YouTube recordings for continuing education.</p> <p>HC COLA became member of NALMS – North American Lake Mgmt Society to learn more.</p>	<p>Research management techniques for faucet snail (FS) / mystery snail mitigation opportunities.</p> <p>Keep abreast of AIS research, mitigation and management techniques for zebra mussels, starry stonewort, Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Plus share info on webinars, articles, zoom AIS Detector Connector with UMN Extension / MAISRC. ID emerging AIS topics of interest.</p>
2) HC AIS P			The County AIS Prevention Program understands the benefit of containing an infestation once it is found. They are open to using the AIS Prevention reserve funds in the event they feel a new infestation can be sufficiently neutralized using field-proven methods.