

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Report – Ken Grob

1. Hubbard County continues to make progress on 2016 Objective

- **Public Awareness:**

Public Service Announcement (PSA) and Resort contact activities are winding down for the summer. Environmental Service Officer (ESO) is in the process of compiling a report on the resort visits. DeLaHunt Broadcasting has been very supportive of our public service messaging again this year. They are very proactive in publicizing the need for decontamination and AIS Prevention activities. We appreciate their support.

- **Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination:**

ESO is in the process of compiling the 2016 inspection and decontamination reports. AIS Coordinator is starting the process of allocating state funded inspection hours for each lake in 2017. Hopefully the targets can be presented at the October COLA meeting. Lake Associations must start to evaluate their commitments for 2017. It is suggested that each lake association consider repeating their 2016 financial commitments again in 2017, including the portion contributed by townships and cities. It will be imperative that commitments and payments be done earlier in 2017. More on the schedule at October meeting....

2. Transition Status

The County Commissioners on 9/20 formally adopted a resolution (#09201603) to dissolve the County AIS Task Force and transfer all responsibilities to the Hubbard County ESO Department. The transition that was planned this year has gone very smoothly, so it was apparent that the official transfer was now ready to be completed by resolution. The resolution also establishes an AIS Advisory Team to work with ESO. The members of the Advisory Team will consist one county commissioner and 5 appointed members, with one appointed annually from each of the five commissioner districts.

3. Minnesota AIS Infestations

- **Starry Stonewort**

A rash of Starry Stonewort infestations have been identified in Minnesota lakes. Stonewort is a very invasive vegetation plan (grass-like algae). It was first discovered in Lake Koronis near Paynesville, MN last year. It was the first known infestation in MN. As the 2016 summer unfolded and more eyes were focused on it, 6 new infestations have been identified so far. Of particular concern to Hubbard County is that 4 of those infestations are in our region...Cass Lake, Winnibigoshish, Big Turtle, and Upper Red Lake...in Beltrami County. The DNR is being very aggressive in containment and eradication. Upper Red, Rice, and Big Turtle are receiving treatment. Floating curtains are being installed, accesses closed, and the entire lake bottom at the access is being dredged of vegetation and sediment in hopes of eliminating the infestation. All new infestations have been found at watercraft launch sites.

- **Zebra Mussels**

Four new MN lakes have been identified with Zebra Mussels. It is typical this time of year for new lakes to be identified as equipment removed from lakes. Two of the lakes are in our area. Lake Sallie in Becker County and Lake Andrew in Douglas County. Lake Sallie is down stream of Detroit Lake (which is infested) and Lake Andrew is close to the group of lakes in Douglas that are infested. This re-emphasizes the fact that watershed and close proximity lake infestations significantly increase the risk of infestation. WE MUST CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT IN HUBBARD COUNTY TO PREVENT ANY INFESTATIONS.

4. Other Information

- The AIS Summit will be held on October 5-6 in St. Cloud. This is an excellent conference with full attention to AIS. Focus is on local actions for AIS prevention.
- The UMISC will be held on October 17-19 in LaCrosse,WI. This conference is held every other year. It includes several upper mid-west states and covers all invasive species. Many technical and research presentations on a full range of invasives. 220 presentations, 6 concurrent sessions, over 600 attendees. Lots of exhibits. A real professional conference. Ken Grob is on the planning committee and will be one of the presenters on AIS.

Lakeshore Education Committee – Sharon Natzel

1. **Info on Forming a New Lake or River Group is now on website under Helpful Links and Resources → Other Resources.** http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/forming_a_new_lake_or_river_group.pdf
Chances are you have acquaintances that live on one of the 335 lakes here in Hubbard County (per MN DNR Lake Finder) or numerous rivers that don't have a Lake or River Group. Forming a lake association (LA) may help interested parties come together to help fund water quality monitoring. Water Quality Monitoring helps the lake “converse” with the lakeshore owners. Opportunities can be discovered, communicated and actions shared. Please let us know if someone is potentially interested in understanding the benefits of and learning more about Forming a New Lake or River Group.
2. **Autumn HC COLA Newsletter: Please contribute your short articles by Mid-Oct to Dan / Sharon on Ideas your Lake Association is trying out!** Sharing may help others build upon your ideas!

Civic Service Committee Report - Peter Tuomisto

1. The last water monitoring was September 18th and 19th. **We will be reviewing our Water Monitoring processes later this autumn.** Sample temperature protocols are key as is 48 hr processing time.
2. **Zebra Mussel Veliger sampling** was done the first weekend in July (July 2 and 3) and the third weekend in July (July 16 and 17) and sent to RMB on July 17. **Results from RMB labs are in. There were no zebra mussel veligers found in the samples for all our lakes tested again this year.**
3. **Remember to look for adult zebra mussels when docks, lifts, swim rafts and cinder blocks (PVC tubes as well) are taken out of the water this fall!**

Membership – Hillary Stoltz

1. **Attendance List** to help with opportunity discoveries.
2. **Nifty Nine Hosts Teams List will be online in secured area along with Host instructions.**

Restore the Shore – Theora Goodrich

1. **See the handouts** at the meeting.
2. **Note the deadline** info shared at the meeting.