PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION:

- Communicate the threat of AIS...especially Zebra Mussels
- Update on County’s AIS Task Force
- Report on the County’s AIS Task Force actions for AIS prevention in 2013
- Report on the 2013 Watercraft Inspection Program
- Report on future initiatives
- Encourage township participation in helping to fund watercraft inspections on Hubbard County lakes again in 2014

BACKGROUND MESSAGE:

- Prevention is the most cost effective action and the cornerstone of Minnesota approach
- Super Spreader Lakes (High use/big/destination) are the source, e.g. Minnetonka, Mille Lacs, etc.
- Watersheds must be protected...ZM veligers float downstream
- Impacts are Economic, recreational, and ecological
- Everyone is affected; everyone responsible
- DNR can’t stop spread alone---they can propose laws, policies, and some manpower & enable local organizations to do prevention work to shield uninfested lakes
- Watercraft inspection is a vital element to prevention
- There is hope to control expansion—research; slower spread through public actions; laws on bait harvest, lake service providers, enforcement; drain plug removal; more political will for funding, and public demand for increased protection.
BACKGROUND ON HUBBARD COUNTY AIS PREVENTION PROGRAM

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA WITH HELP FROM LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (AND SOME FUNDING FROM DNR) HAVE HAD AN ACTIVE AIS PREVENTION PROGRAM SINCE 2005

- BILLBOARDS & ROAD SIGNS; AIS SIGNS AT ALL PUBLIC LAUNCH SITES
- PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (RADIO)
- DESIGNED AND DISTRIBUTED MULTIPLE PUBLIC AWARENESS INFORMATION MATERIALS
- AIS EDUCATION AT CIVIC EVENTS (GFO, COUNTY FAIR, LEGENDS&LOGGING, TASTE OF DORSET, LSP OPEN HOUSE, PRESENTATIONS TO CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS)
- ACTIVE PROGRAM TO VISIT ALL RESORTS IN COUNTY ON ANNUAL BASIS WITH AIS PREVENTION INFORMATION
- PARTICIPATION IN STATE LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEES
- VOLUNTEER INSPECTION PROGRAMS
- LAKE MONITORING PROGRAMS (VELIGER TESTING AND VEGETATION SURVEYS)
- WATERCRAFT INSPECTION FUND RAISING ..INCLUDING TOWNSHIPS, CITIES, AND LAKE ASSOCIATIONS
- WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS
- COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTIES IN THE REGION

HUBBARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESTABLISHED A COUNTY AIS TASK FORCE BY RESOLUTION IN OCTOBER 2011. NINE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ARE INCLUDED (Handout Provided)

- RECOGNIZED ECONOMIC IMPACT TO COUNTY
- SHOWED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PREVENTION WORK
- PROVIDED $35,000 FOR WATERCRAFT INSPECTION IN 2013
- HUBBARD COUNTY RECOGNIZED STATE-WIDE AS A LEADER IN LGU/CITIZEN AIS PREVENTION

IN 2012 THE HUBBARD COUNTY BOARD AGREED TO HAVE SWCD BE THE FISCAL AGENT FOR A STATE LGU WATERCRAFT INSPECTION GRANT. AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM STARTED AND EXPANDED IN 2013. EXPECT TO EXPAND MORE IN 2014

(SEE SEPARATE HANDOUT FOR DETAILS)

HOWEVER: MORE WORK IS NEEDED TO ADEQUATELY COVER ALL WATERSHEDS
CURRENT COVERAGE:

1) FISH HOOK/POTATO FLOWAGE IS COVERED (EXCEPT TWO INLETS LAKE IN BECKER COUNTY)
2) MANTRAP CHAIN FLOWAGE IS COVERED
3) KABEKONA LAKE COVERED (EXCELLENT COMBO OF STATE, VOLUNTEERS, AND LGU INSPECTORS)
4) PLANTAGENET COVERAGE EXPANDED WITH SUPPORT FROM HELGA AND ROCKWOOD TWPS
5) CROW WING RIVER CHAIN NOT FULLY PARTICIPATING....(11TH CW ONLY IN 2013; 8TH CW AND LOWER CROW WINGS COMMITTED TO 2014 SUPPORT)
6) GRACE LAKE PARTICIPATING (VOLUNTEERS AND LGU INSPECTORS)
7) FARDEN TWP NOT PARTICIPATING – Wolf & Midge (WORKING ON IT)
8) GARFIELD; BENEDICT; LAKE GEORGE LAKES NOT PARTICIPATING (FUTURE ACTION)
9) WORKING TO INCREASE COVERAGE ON DESTINATION LAKES NEAR HUBBARD COUNTY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (SEE ATTACHED Q/A FOR LAKE/TOWNSHIP):

1) WHY SHOULD A LAKE OR TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATE?
2) WHAT IS MEANT BY THE SHIELDING STRATEGY?
3) WHY DON’T WE WAIT FOR THE DNR TO SOLVE THE ISSUE
4) WHAT ARE OTHER TOWNSHIPS DOING?
5) WHAT HAS HUBBARD COUNTY TASK FORCE/COLA ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE?

HOW DOES A TOWNSHIP PROVIDE FUNDING?

1) MN STATUTE 365.10
2) IS THIS A DONATION (DO STATE LAWS FOR TOWNSHIP DONATIONS APPLY) ?– NO
3) SUPPORT OF WATERCRAFT INSPECTION IS A CONTRIBUTION TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY (SWCD) AND CAN BE AUTHORIZED BY A TOWNSHIP AT ANY TIME, IF FUNDS AVAILABLE.
4) SAMPLE RESOLUTION DOCUMENT CAN BE PROVIDED
5) MONEY IS SENT DIRECTLY TO HUBBARD SWCD AS FISCAL AGENT; FULL DETAILED ACCOUNT OF HOURS AND FINANCES PROVIDED TO TOWNSHIP.