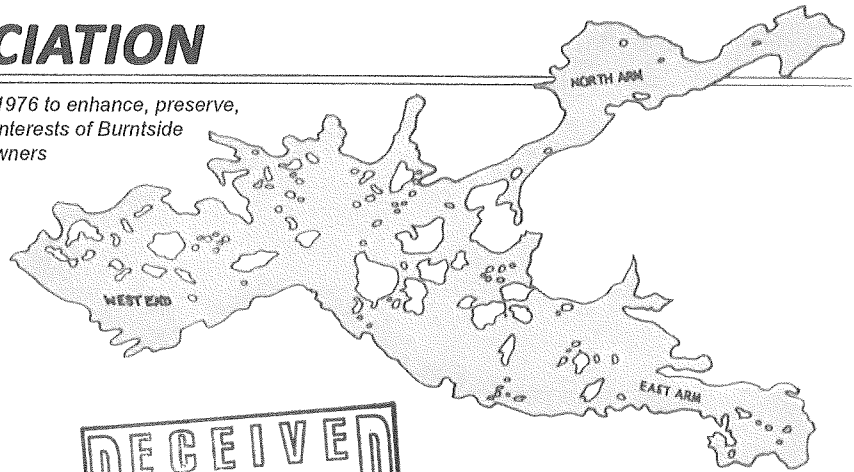


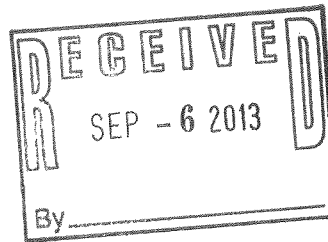
BURNTSIDE LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 81 ELY, MINNESOTA 55731

*Incorporated in 1976 to enhance, preserve,
and protect the interests of Burntside
Lake property owners*



Members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
G-95 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155



August 29, 2013

The Burntside Lake Association is concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and has a number of efforts underway locally. We support the MN COLA grant request proposal for Statewide AIS Facilities and Equipment, which would provide one-time capital grants for local governments. We believe this proposal would accelerate the local government efforts to stop the spread of AIS, and we encourage your support.

The use of the legacy funds for AIS control has been kicked around for sometime, but the funds have been held because there is no final solution to the AIS problem. Well there is a final solution, inspect all watercraft in the state for AIS. This would be a major undertaking but could be done by providing inspection points at all truck scales and rest areas in the state. For the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota; 4 inspection stations on the major entrance points into the region could cover the entire area. {i.e., inspection points at Hwy 53 and Hwy 169 as 169 turns towards Ely, plus an inspection point in Ely at Hwy 1 and 169.} The inspections would not be mandatory to avoid the privacy issues for boat owners, but if your boat is inspected it would receive a seal between the boat and trailer that has to be broken to remove the watercraft {Like what is being done at Christmas Lake in the Twin Cities.}. No seal, you don't get into the lake and hopefully peer pressure of others {who cherish our waters} could be a factor on the landings. This is the start of a final solution. Other inspection points could be set up for the Arrowhead as we learn and evaluate this approach. In addition, the DNR offices in Tower and the new Forest Service offices in Ely could be inspection and decontamination points for the area. Minnesota is the land of ten thousand lakes but this legacy is threatened. Aquatic Invasive Species threaten hundreds of millions in recreational dollars, perhaps billions in lost property values, and strike at the core of our state heritage, funding for this fight needs to be provided.

Again we are writing to ask you to support this MN COLA proposal that would also provide education to boat owners on Minnesota's AIS laws and best management practices at these inspection points. Perhaps most importantly this would include Minnesotans as well as out-of-state visitors that bring their boats into Minnesota to use our public waters.

Thank you for your consideration, remember that the lakes in Minnesota are truly the "Legacy" of Minnesota,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Reynold Mack'.

Reynold Mack
Burntside Lake Association
2274 Passi Rd.
Ely, MN 55731

cc: Jeff Forester Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates
St. Louis County Commissioner Mike Forsman
Minnesota COLA