

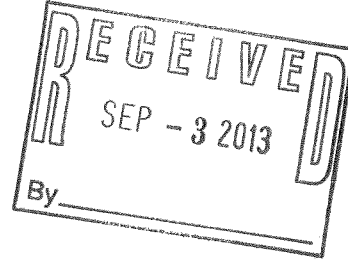
DNR STATEWIDE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert E. Olsen – Committee Chair

P.O. Box 66

Ivanhoe, MN 56142

August 23, 2013



Honorable Tom Landwehr, Commissioner DNR
500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4052

Dear Commissioner Landwehr,

At the August 22nd meeting of the DNR Statewide AIS Advisory Committee, appointed by you from a diverse group of experts and leaders across the state in January 2013, we unanimously recognized a pressing and immediate need for a one time infusion and ongoing funding of local AIS protection efforts for Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

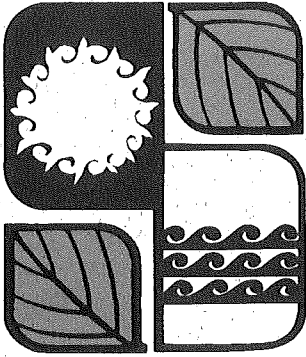
On March 28th, 2013, this committee sent a letter to the Minnesota Legislature affirming that, "Minnesota can and must stop the spread of AIS," and noted that reliable and ongoing funding to local AIS partners was key to success.

Last year's legislative session did not meet this need. The urgency has only increased since then. Today about 163 Minnesota lakes are known and designated as infested with zebra mussels further putting entire watersheds and natural eco-systems at risk.

The current DNR AIS plan focuses on containment of infested lakes coupled with shielding of water resources at the local level. And while DNR struggles with budgets in their containment efforts, and will need among other things, some increase in staff to support the management of local programs if/when they come online; the funding of local partners' efforts is dangerously inadequate. Local units of government are in desperate need of State investment if they are to get meaningful DNR protocols and programs up and running, and protect the State's public waters from further AIS spread.

New and more destructive aquatic plants and animals are on the way - zebra mussels are the advance guard of more serious threats.

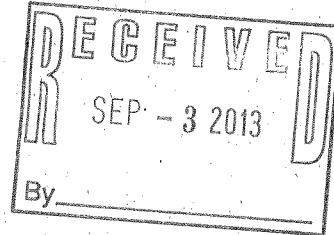
We are writing today to voice our support of proposals which make money available statewide for local AIS partners. Adequately funded local programs and infrastructure are a key component of Minnesota's statewide AIS efforts. We cannot be successful without vibrant local partners. The time is long past due for investment in this important work.



CITY OF SHOREWOOD

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August 26, 2013



Members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155


Dear Council Members,

The City of Shorewood is concerned about stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and has a number of efforts underway locally. Specifically, the City of Shorewood has undertaken responsibility for boat inspections at Christmas Lake, as well as support for milfoil treatments on several Lake Minnetonka bays. The City acknowledges the importance of efforts like this that are necessary to protect our waterways from the spread of AIS.

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.

Zebra mussels have already infested many of our most important lakes in Minnesota, but many thousands more are still unaffected. These infestations permanently affect the fish habitat which is central to your mission. Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

On behalf of the Shorewood City Council,


Scott Zerby
Mayor