

## Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA)

### FY 2015 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Grant Proposal

# Statewide AIS Facilities and Equipment Grant Proposal

#### 36 LETTERS of SUPPORT for PROPOSAL:

1st Silver Lake POA  
 Barnum Lake Association - Cass County  
 Becker County Board of Commissioners  
 Big Deep Lake Association  
 Birch Lake Association  
 Burtside Lake Association  
 Carver County Board of Commissioners  
 Cass County Board of Commissioners/Cass Soil &  
     Water Conservation District  
 Cass County AIS Task Force  
 Child, Girl and Woman Lake Property Owners Assoc.  
 City of Shorewood  
 Cook County COLA  
 Dead Lake Association  
 Itasca County COLA  
 Koronis Lake Association  
 Lake Detroiters Association  
 Lake Minnetonka Association  
 Lake Six Lakeshore Association  
 Leaf Lakes Lakeshore Association  
 Leek Trowbridge Lake Association  
 Long Lake at Vergas Lake Association  
 Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates  
 North Long Lake Association (Crow Wing County)  
 Otter Tail Lakes Property Owner's Association, Inc.  
 Pine Mountain Lake Association  
 Portage Chain of Lakes Association  
 Prairie Lake Lakeshore Owner's Association  
 Sanborn Lake Association  
 Stewart Lake Association  
 The Ten Mile Lake Association  
 Thunder Lake Association  
 Townline Lake Association  
 Wabedo Township Board of Supervisors  
 Webb Lake Association  
 Whitefish Area Property Owners Association

**\*\* Additional letters of support sent directly sent to  
 LSOHC are not included in this packet.**

#### DNR STATEWIDE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### RELATED CORRESPONDENCE

Association of Minnesota Counties  
 (AIS Policy Position)

Letter to DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr  
 (Can be successful in stopping AIS)

Response from DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr  
 (Need funding, LGU partnerships & stakeholders)

Letter to DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr  
 (Necessity for adequate funding)

**QUESTIONS: MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com**

August 1, 2013

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

The 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Lake Property Owners 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.

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.

1<sup>st</sup> Silver Lake Property Owners Association

Jim Kesler - President

Battle Lake, MN 56515

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

Dear Council Members,

Our Barnum Lake Association is very concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive (AIS), especially as a small lake very susceptible to quickly spreading AIS, and without the financial means to adequately defeat it. 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 and must accelerate the local government efforts to stop the spread of AIS, and we encourage your support.

Zebra mussels, as example, have already infested many of our most important lakes in Minnesota, but many thousands more are still unaffected. We believe prevention and control of such AIS is central to your mission.

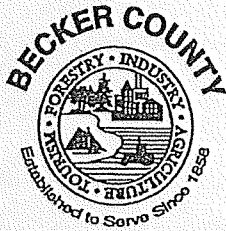
Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles E. Tralle', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles E. Tralle

Barnum Lake Association, Cass County  
4835 Barnum Road NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452



# BECKER COUNTY

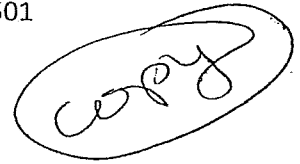
## County Administration

915 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

218-846-7201

[www.co.becker.mn.us](http://www.co.becker.mn.us)

HAIS - 4



July 24, 2013

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

Council Members;

Becker County is concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and has actively been pursuing a number of efforts underway locally which include:

- providing coordination and training of AIS educators;
- AIS education and outreach at public meetings;
- Working to facilitate local and regional planning on combating AIS in west central Minnesota.

We support the MN COLA grant request proposal for Statewide AIS Facilities and Equipment which would provide one-time capital grants for local governments to help keep Zebra mussels from coming into Becker County.

We believe this proposal would assist local government efforts to stop the spread of AIS, and we encourage your support.

Zebra mussels have infested many of our beautiful 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 to help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Don Skarie".

Don Skarie, Chair  
Becker County Board of Commissioners  
915 Lake Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501



August 13, 2013

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

The Big Deep lake assn. (Cass County) is very concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive (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. These species are being spread quickly and immediate action must take place on a large scale to have impact.

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.

Dave Kallemeyn

Member Big Deep Lake Assn..

18144, 152<sup>nd</sup> St,

Elk River MN 55330

July 30, 2013

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

Members of the Birch Lake Association are very concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and have 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. We encourage and ask for your support.

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

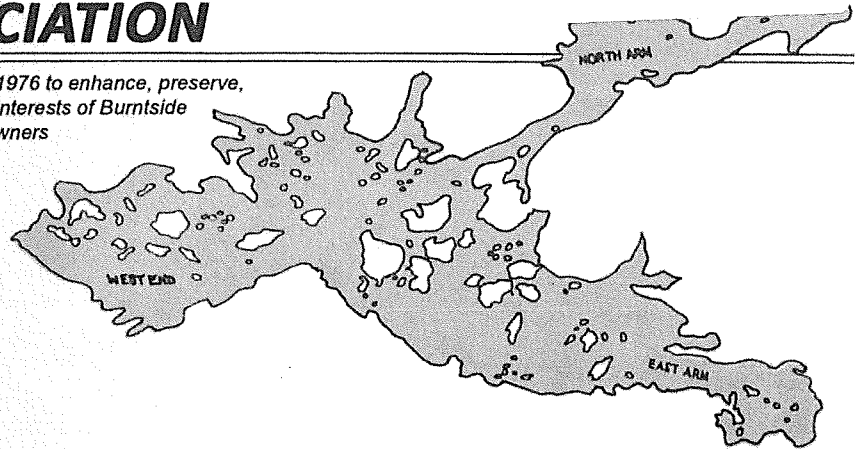
Thank you kindly,  
*Charles L. and Penny C. Swanum*

Birch Lake Association  
Hackensack, MN 56452

# 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.

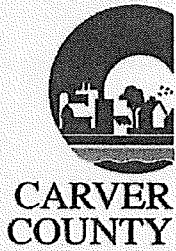
The use of the legacy funds for AIS control has been kicked around for sometime, but the funds have been held because there is no final solution to the AIS problem. Well there is a final solution, inspect all watercraft in the state for AIS. This would be a major undertaking but could be done by providing 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,

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



Office of County Commissioners  
Carver County Government Center  
Human Services Building  
602 East Fourth Street  
Chaska, MN 55318-1202  
Phone: 952 361-1510  
Fax: 952 361-1581

August 20, 2013

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

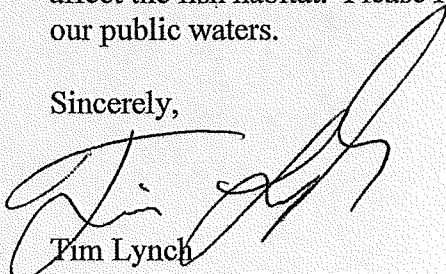
Dear Members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council:

Carver County is concerned about the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and has a number of efforts underway locally to prevent area lakes from becoming infested with 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.

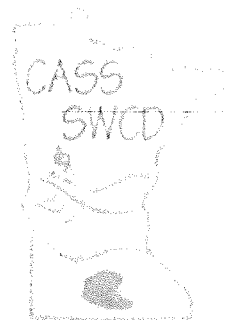
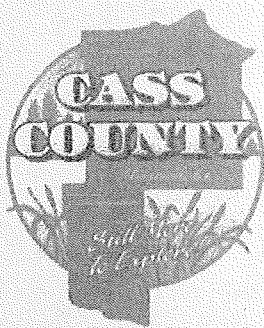
The MN COLA proposal would accelerate the local government efforts to stop the spread of AIS, and we encourage your support.

Zebra mussels and other AIS have already infested many of our most important lakes and rivers in Minnesota. Thousands of bodies of water are still unaffected. These infestations permanently affect the fish habitat. Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Sincerely,



Tim Lynch  
Carver County Board Chair



August 1, 2013

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

Dear LSOHC Members,

The Cass County AIS Task Force would like to formally go on record in support of the submitted LSOHC proposal "Statewide AIS facilities and Equipment" submitted by MN COLA. Cass County has recently formed a Planning Committee and Task Force with the stated goal of coordinating development and implementation of an AIS plan aimed at prevention of all forms of aquatic invasive species from entering the public waters of Cass County. This task force is made up of representatives from Cities in Cass County, Lake Associations including Leech Lake and Ten Mile Lake Associations and the Association of Cass County Lakes, the Leech Lake Chamber of Commerce, Cass County Resorts, Cass County Realtors, local Fishing Guides, the US Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, MN Dept. of Natural Resources and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The plan will undergo public review later this summer and be ready for implementation yet this year.

It is the feeling of the Task Force that the submitted proposal would be extremely beneficial, and possibly required, to jump start an effort to control and contain the spread of invasive aquatic organisms in Minnesota. Currently, Cass County has no revenue we can dedicate to this effort and depends on meager MNDNR funds when available, Lake Association contributions, and volunteer efforts. Until funding becomes available, we are limited as to County involvement. Inspections and limited decontamination programs on several lakes are currently being undertaken, mostly at Lake Association expense or with limited MNDNR grant funds. Any attempts at widespread decontamination efforts in Cass County are currently only a dream.

We are committed to putting the strategies outlined in Cass County AIS Management Plan into action, but are unsure where funding will come from to sustain any future effort. The support of the LSOHC and other forms of funding is essential in controlling and managing the threat of AIS. Our Task Force is asking that you please give careful consideration to this proposal to fund statewide facility and equipment efforts during the review process. Thank you in advance for your dedicated work to improve the natural resources of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Dick Downham, Chairman  
Cass County Board of Commissioners



Kenneth LaPorte, Chairman  
Cass Soil and Water Conservation District



**CASS COUNTY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE**  
PO Box 3000, COURT HOUSE, WALKER, MN. 56484

HAIS - 4

July 30, 2013

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

The twenty six members of the CCAISTF have been meeting regularly since April 5, 2013 to develop a comprehensive plan to coordinated Cass County's response to the threat of AIS through awareness, management and prevention efforts. Cass County with over 500 names lakes, several very popular destination fishing lakes, 115 resorts/campgrounds and many other related businesses who depend on a healthy, vibrant lakes and rivers industry with good water quality for their livelihood. All total, it represents a major industry for the county.

The comprehensive management plan that will be utilizing a multi-agency and organization approach is very near completion and implementation should begin by October. Staff from the Cass County Environmental Services Department will be responsible for coordinating the overall plan.

A board base of stakeholder support is ready to get to work; but, realistically will have little impact on prevention of AIS in Cass County with out the necessary financial resources. For this reason, the CCAISTF unanimously supports the MN COLA grant request for funds that will be used to combat AIS. The current local efforts are very limited with serious questions regarding there sustainability. We strongly encourage you to approve the MN COLA Grant Proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of the MN COLA grant request for funding.

Sincerely,

The 26 members of the Cass County AIS Task Force

- Cass County: John Ringle (ESD), Will Pehling and Kelly Condiff (SWCD), Jim Dowson (BOC)
- City of Walker: Scott Bruns
- Leech Lake Association: John Eaton, Jim Dawson
- Resort owners: Cathy Duvall, Mark Novotny, Martin Adnresen, representing the 115 resorts and campgrounds in Cass County
- Chamber of Commerce: Cindy Wannarka
- Assoc. of Cass Cty Lakes: Jerry Lerom, Jim Bedell, Stan Kumpula
- Ten Mile Association: Ivar Siqueland, Bob Iversen
- Fishing Guides: Al Maas, Larry Anderson
- Cass County Realtors Assoc.: Jed Shaw
- US Forest Services: Chippewa Nat. Forest – Carolyn Upton, Todd Tisler
- US Army Corp. of Eng.: Timm Renneke
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa: Bobby Henderson
- Mn. DNR: Doug Schultz, Joe Eisterhold, Molly MacGregor (Coordinator)

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
G-95 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

August 12, 2013

*Honorable Members:*

The **Child, Girl and Woman Lake Property Owners Association** represent more than 500 households in the greater Longville lakes area. We have collectively engaged in many programs for the benefit of our waters and residents including septic inspections, the placement of safety buoys in the lakes, volunteer water safety patrols, tree planting, walleye egg-take and fry stocking, the acquisition of a 60 acre AMA in Lantern Bay on Woman Lake, roadside litter cleanup, walleye catch and release, water quality sampling and aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention.

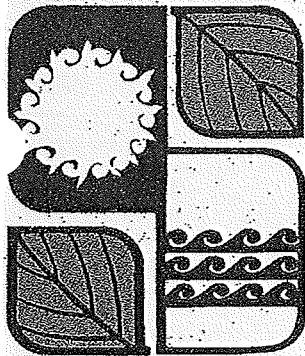
Perhaps the most important effort we have launched is the fight against AIS. To that end we have partnered with the Minnesota DNR to conduct boat inspections, distributed AIS DVDs to all of our member households, ordered and placed 'Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers' signs at area resorts and co-hosted a Rusty Crayfish Boil last month in Longville with Mr. Ron Schara to highlight the threat of AIS. Area residents are also working with Cass County and the MN DNR to develop a Cass County AIS Management Plan. Should additional AIS reach our waters they will quickly spread to many other waters via the Boy River system. Ultimately all of the lakes from Ten Mile Lake in Hackensack to Leech Lake in Walker could be infested along with other lakes not in the Boy River watershed. WE MUST TIRELESSLY CONTINUE TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING.

Because we simply cannot achieve such success by ourselves or at the local level only, we support the MN COLA grant request proposal for Statewide AIS Facilities and Equipment. We concur that regional inspection and decontamination stations and additional decontamination stations at public accesses are a KEY step in combating the spread of AIS statewide. Each new infestation ultimately contributes to the further spread of AIS and we must make every attempt we can to prevent them. Please help us to enable Minnesota watercraft operators to better do their part in AIS prevention by fully funding this proposal.

Sincerely,

*Don Kruse*

Mr. Don Kruse, President, CGWLPOA



# CITY OF SHOREWOOD

5755 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD • SHOREWOOD, MINNESOTA 55331-8927 • (952) 960-7900  
FAX (952) 474-0128 • [www.ci.shorewood.mn.us](http://www.ci.shorewood.mn.us) • [cityhall@ci.shorewood.mn.us](mailto:cityhall@ci.shorewood.mn.us)

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



# Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (CCCoLA)

130 Poplar Lake Lane, Grand Marais, MN 55604

August 14, 2013

The Board members of the Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (CCCoLA) unanimously support the grant submission of the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA). The submission requests funds for the acquisition of decontamination units and sites for decontamination to be applied in the fight to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota lakes and streams. Invasive species, spread by lake-to-lake boat traffic, are altering the waters of the state in ways in which we do not yet understand. There is, however, no doubt that entire lake ecosystems are affected by their presence. As our waters become infested, whole industries built upon the economic value of these resources are also affected. Tourism and local businesses will experience the negative effects of invasive species according to research conducted at the University of Minnesota. Minnesota needs to fight the spread of invasive species now as science works to discover effective means to eradicate them once they reach our lakes and streams.

Cook County has the cleanest and healthiest lakes in the state, lakes that include the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Some of these lakes are already infested with spiny water fleas. Our concern is to halt further infestation of our developed lakes, host to our many resorts which are important to the economic vitality of the county. Property values are also at risk from infestations of aquatic invasive species in our developed lakes.

The only recognized way to stop the spread of invasive species is to inspect and, where indicated, decontaminate, all boats launching in the county lakes. Like many other counties, Cook does not have the resources to purchase effective decontamination units but funds from the Council would enable Cook County to purchase a unit and deploy it an area of greatest traffic. The fact that this proposal would make grant monies directly available to counties to do this is foundational to our support.

With statewide expansion of a decontamination program through funds from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the state can intensify its efforts to halt the spread of aquatic invasive species and reduce the number of new infestations reported with increasing regularity.

Please give your support to the MN COLA proposal submitted to the Council.

Thank you,

Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations  
Linda Hendrickson, Biz Clark. Co-Chairs  
130 Poplar Lake Lane  
Grand Marais, MN 55604

*CCCoLA member lakes and associations, 2013*

Caribou~~Devil Track~~Gunflint~~Holly~~Hungry Jack~~Pike~~Poplar~~ Seagull/Sag~~Trout~~West  
Bearskin~~Friends of Tait Lake Association~~Leo Lake Road Association~~Mid-Trail Property Owners'  
Association~~Voyageur's Point Homeowners Association

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

The Dead Lake Association in Otter Tail County 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.

Zebra mussels have already infested many of our most important lakes in Minnesota, and several in Otter Tail County, 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.

We ask you to decide affirmatively on this important proposed project.

Regards,

Phyllis Freeman, President  
Dead Lake Association  
34147 Freeman Beach Road  
Richville, MN 56576



August 14, 2013

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

The Itasca County Coalition of Lake Association is concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and has a number of efforts underway locally with various partners, including the County. 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.

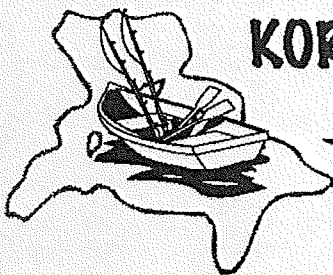
Zebra mussels have already infested many of our most important lakes in Minnesota, including key lakes in Itasca County that sit on top of two continental watersheds. Many thousands of lakes in Minnesota remain unaffected and need to stay that way. These infestations permanently affect both fish habitat and recreational opportunities, which is central to your mission. Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom Nelson

President, Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations





## KORONIS LAKE ASSOCIATION

Box 333 • Paynesville, MN 56362

*"An association formed to  
promote the protection  
and improvement  
of Lake Koronis".*

August 14, 2013

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

The Koronis Lake Association is concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and has a number of efforts underway locally with various partners, including the Paynesville Township, Paynesville City, Meeker County, Union Grove Township, and the North Fork of the Crow River Watershed District. 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, and we are spending over \$35,000 this our first year in preventive activities. Many thousands of lakes in Minnesota remain unaffected and need to stay that way. These infestations permanently affect both fish habitat and recreational opportunities, which is central to your mission. Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karen Langmo

President, Koronis Lake Association



August 12, 2013

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

Council Members:

Lake Detroiters Association (LDA) encourages the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) to support and approve funding for the statewide aquatic invasive species (AIS) Decontamination grant program submitted by Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA).

Aquatic invasive species compromise the natural eco-system of our treasured lake and river resources. Our community and county depend on a healthy fishing industry for the recreational value it offers tourists and residents alike. The State of Minnesota needs to protect the native fish habits in order to maintain a healthy fishery and natural eco-system that millions of Minnesotans and tourists depend on for recreation.

Members of the Lake Detroiters Association support using LSOHC 2008 Legacy Amendment funds to protect lake habitat, which is identified as one of your areas of emphasis for AIS in FY 2015. This program helps protect our state public water resources for what the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" means to all Minnesotans.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in our area protecting natural eco-system from AIS. That pace cannot be sustained. Public monies are needed in order to protect public waters. Decontamination equipment needs to be made readily available for all water recreationists to help prevent the further spread of AIS already here and avoid the introduction of AIS not yet in Minnesota. This proposal provides the infusion a statewide AIS program needs.

Thank you for prioritizing fish habit and AIS as an important emphasis of funding.

Sincerely,

Barb Halbakken Fischburg  
President

cc: LDA Board of Directors

Lake Detroiters Association • P.O. Box 1503 • Detroit Lakes, MN 56502

***Lake Detroiters Association Promoting the Protection and Enhancement of the Lake Since 1944***

[www.lakedetroiters.com](http://www.lakedetroiters.com)

Find us on

facebook

Lake Detroiters

[LakeDetroiters@gmail.com](mailto:LakeDetroiters@gmail.com)

LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION | 1  
MN COLA Grant Proposal

July 23, 2013

**To:** Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**From:** Lake Minnetonka Association

**Re:** MN COLA Grant Proposal

MN COLA, the statewide coalition of Lake Associations has submitted a \$25.2 million grant request from the Legacy Fund to provide funds to local government units in support of their AIS initiatives. The Board of Directors of the Lake Minnetonka Association is asking for your support.

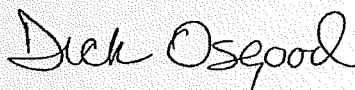
Lake Minnetonka was the first lake in Minnesota to get Eurasian watermilfoil and was one of the first to get zebra mussels. Our members and our communities have been greatly impacted by these (and several other invasive plants and animals) ever since. We are painfully aware that once in a lake, there are no ways to get rid of them. Invasive species problems are multiplying and last forever!

The top priority of the Lake Minnetonka Association is to keep additional invasive species from being introduced and established in Lake Minnetonka. The first goal of the Lake Minnetonka Associations is to have 100% of incoming boats and trailers inspected and cleaned.

The MN COLA grant will go a long way in assisting Lake Minnetonka and many other lakes.

The Board of Directors of the Lake Minnetonka Association asks for your support of the MN COLA proposal as a way to preserve and protect the health of Lake Minnetonka and other Minnesota lakes.

Thank you for your consideration.



Dick Osgood  
Executive Director, Lake Minnetonka Association

August 9, 2013

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

Lake Six Lakeshore 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.

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.

Lynelle Jacobson

Vice President

Lake Six Lakeshore Association

August 2, 2013

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

RE: Letter of Support to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

We are members of the Leaf Lakes lakeshore association (LLAA). The LLAA is concerned about stopping the spread of aquatic Invasive Species 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.

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.

Brenda & James Brown, Members  
LLAA  
Deer Creek, MN

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

Leek/Trowbridge 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.

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.

Leek/Trowbridge Lake Association

Vergas, MN 56587



August 8, 2013

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

Long Lake at Vergas Lakeshore 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.

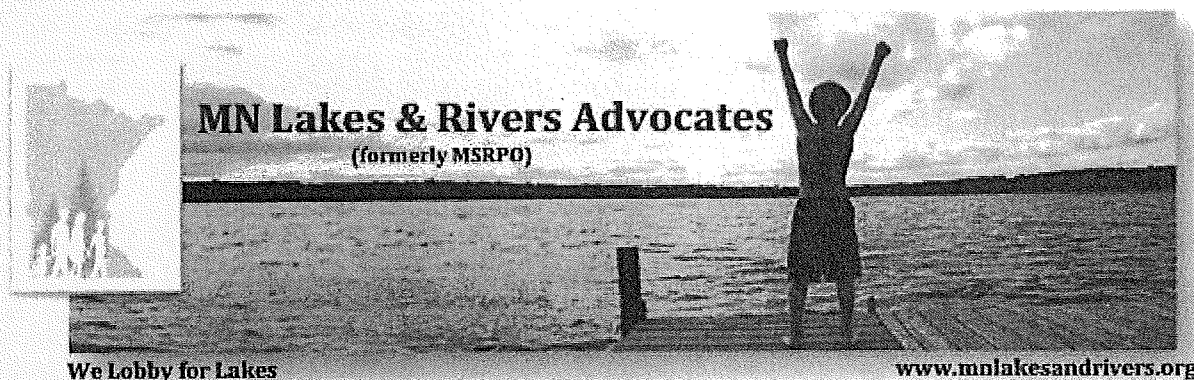
Zebra mussels have already infested many of our most important lakes in Minnesota, but many thousands more are still unaffected. *Long Lake at Vergas, on which we reside, can uniquely benefit from these funds:* neighboring Rose Lake has been recently infected and it is critical that we continue to be vigilant about preventing infestation in our beautiful and abundant lake. These infestations permanently affect the fish habitat, which is central to the tourism in our area. The commerce and livelihood of our community depends on it.

Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Sincerely,

Members of the Long Lake at Vergas Lakeshore Association

Vergas, MN 56587



August 20, 2013

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

For the last five years MN lakes and Rivers Advocates has been working to implement a comprehensive plan to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. I speak at many Lake Association meetings every year, as well as Chamber of Commerce meetings and other groups. People in Minnesota are almost universally concerned with this issue and are doing heroic work with very little support from the state.

I am writing to support the MN COLA grant request proposal for Statewide AIS Facilities and Equipment which would provide one-time capital grants for local governments. This is exactly the type of proposal that will have both an immediate and positive impact in protecting Minnesota's water resource.

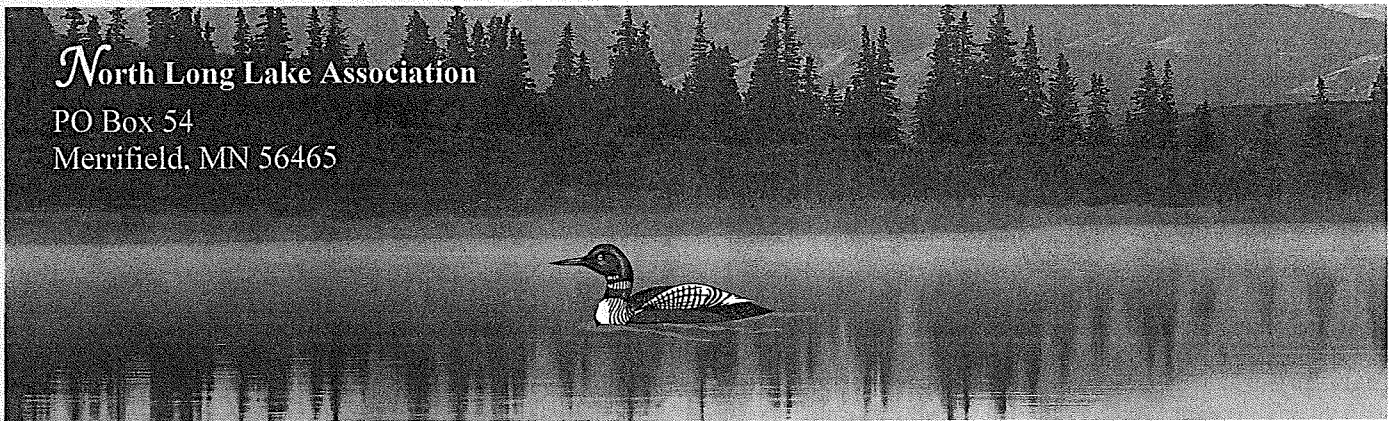
By jump-starting the immediate capital requirements of local AIS inspection and decontamination efforts, better tools can be available for the public to "practice personal responsibility" when moving from waterbody to waterbody.

AIS like Zebra mussels, hydrilla, VHS, spiny water flea and others have infested many of key lakes in the state, but many thousands are still pristine. These pristine lakes will be critical habitat for both fish and waterfowl in the future, and are central to your mission. I urge you to fund this proposal, and protect Minnesota's lakes now and into the future.

Sincerely,

• Jeff Forester, Executive Director

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates  
 P.O. Box 22262  
 St. Paul, MN 55122



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 30, 2013

Dear Members of the Council:

The North Long Lake Association enthusiastically supports the MN COLA grant request for Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Facilities and Equipment which would provide one-time capital grants for local governments.

Local lake associations like ours have few resources of their own to fight the increasing AIS problem and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has had miniscule funding to help us. Our association, which serves a 6,000 acre lake in Crow Wing County, has been able to fund only a small prevention program even though we are surrounded with infested lakes. We have successfully sought assistance from the Department of Natural Resources but this is so limited that we are able to pay for only a small percentage of what we need.

We believe a state-wide program focused on inspection and decontamination is sorely needed and cannot understand why Heritage funds have not been allocated earlier for this purpose. Minnesota voters cast their ballots a few years ago to assist with conserving our lakes and rivers, but as yet, we have no state-wide program to meet the AIS threat – our most pressing riparian need. We therefore ask the Council -- please -- to recommend funding this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Kay Hondo, President  
North Long Lake Association  
(Crow Wing County)



August 2, 2012

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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

Dear Sir or Madame:

The Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc., is concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and has a number of efforts underway locally. Our Association has been in existence since 1967 and has never before faced a challenge as formidable as that of stopping 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 lakes in Minnesota, but many thousands more remain unaffected. These infestations permanently affect the fish habitat which is central to your mission. Please fund this proposal and help prevent further damage to our public waters.

Thank you.

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. T. Carlisle", is written over the printed name.

Daniel T. Carlisle  
Its: President

August 9, 2013

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

Pine Mountain Lake Association is very concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive (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.

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.

Robert Buonauro

Pine Mountain Lake Association

Backus, MN 56435

August 14, 2013

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

The Portage Chain of Lakes Association is very concerned about eliminating the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). We have sent a large number of our members to DNR Boat Inspection Training and try our best to inspect as many boats launching onto our waters through the main public boat landing site. We strongly support the MN COLA grant request proposal for Statewide AIS Facilities and Equipment that would provide one-time capital grants for local government units.

Our Association and its members believe this proposal would accelerate the local government efforts to halt the spread of AIS and we strongly encourage your support of these efforts.

As you should know, Zebra Mussels have already infested many of the most important lakes in Minnesota and in the area lakes around us but there are still many thousands more that are still unaffected around our chain of lakes. These infestations permanently affect the habitat which is central to your mission. Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Thank you,

Darrell W. Zenk, President  
Portage Chain of Lakes Association  
Backus, Minnesota, 56435



August 6, 2013

To: 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 capital grants for local governments.

The Prairie Lake Lakeshore Owner's 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 AOS, 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.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pladson, President  
Prairie Lake Lakeshore Owner's Association  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

August 1, 2013

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

Sanborn Lake Association is concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and has some 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 that 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 with more being discovered often, 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.

Virginia Smith  
President  
Sanborn Lake Association  
Backus, MN 56435

August 1, 2013

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

Stuart 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.

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.

Stuart Lake Association

John Bowling, President

Clitherall, MN 56524

August 6, 2013

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

The Ten Mile Lake Association is very concerned about and committed to stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Our lake association has initiated a number of local efforts, and are supportive of more regional and statewide actions. 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 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. The Ten Mile Lake Association has an active AIS prevention program using volunteer inspection-educators, but without any nearby means of decontaminating boats and trailers our efforts may be pointless. Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters.

Sincerely,

Lee Sand, President  
The Ten Mile Lake Association  
PO Box 412  
Hackensack, MN 56452

August 9, 2013

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

The Thunder Lake Association (representing the 300 property owners of Thunder Lake) is very 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.

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.

Thank you for your public service.

John A. Bogard, Chair

Thunder Lake Preservation Committee

Remer, MN 56672

July 26, 2013

To: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

From: Townline Lake Association

Townline Lake Association is concerned about stopping the spread of AIS and has a number of efforts underway locally, including treating for eurasian milfoil. We support the MN COLAS 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 local government efforts to stop the spread of AIS, and we strongly encourage your support.

Please fund this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our waters by Zebra mussels.

Steve Johnson  
Townline Lake Association  
1632 Townline Lane. Longville, Mn, 56655  
218 363 3799

**Wabedo Township**

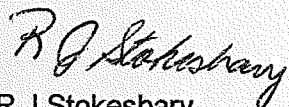
**August 14, 2013**

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

Wabedo Township is concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and supports a number of efforts underway locally. At our monthly meeting August 13, 2013, we voted to 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.



R J Stokesbary

Chairman, Wabedo Township Board of Supervisors

Longville, MN 56655



**WEBB LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**PO BOX 273**

**HACKENSACK, MN. 56452**

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

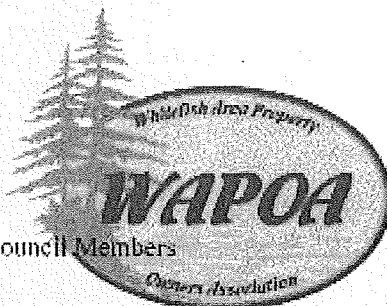
Dear Council Members,

The Webb Lake Association is very concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive (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.

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.

Maggie McGill, President



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Members

G-95 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Council:

The Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) supports the MN COLA grant request proposal for Statewide AIS Facilities and Equipment which would provide one-time capital grants for local governments and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. We believe this proposal would accelerate the local efforts to stop the spread of AIS, and we encourage your support.

WAPOA, a 501c3 non-profit organization started 43 years ago and composed of over 1,000 members, is located on the Whitefish Lakes Area chain of 14 lakes. We are concerned about stopping the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and have been active in AIS prevention for a number of years. As a large lake association presenting an area of northern Crow Wing County and a part of the Pine River Watershed with 3,700 riparian parcels, over 14,400 acres and about 115 linear miles of lakeshore, WAPOA has spent over \$500,000 in AIS prevention, inspections, research, and education.

This is not only a natural resources matter, but also an economic issue. Travel and tourism is a major economic factor in the Whitefish Chain of Lakes and northern Crow Wing County. The University of Minnesota Extension Service completed a study of the two year period from June 2006 to May 2008 of the economic impact of travel and tourism throughout Minnesota. The one year June 2007 to May 2008 direct expenditures in Crow Wing County was over \$110 million, with 49% spent (or over \$50 million) in the three month period of June, July and August 2007. AIS prevention is not only significant to combat the threat to our water quality and our natural resources, but also the presence of AIS can have a major negative impact on the local economy that is so critical to areas like ours in Minnesota. The State of Minnesota benefits from the related income and sales tax revenue, as do local governments.

Zebra mussels have already infested many of our most important lakes in Minnesota including Cross Lake and Lower Hay Lake in the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. We are threatened by Eurasian Watermilfoil and other invasive aquatic plants and animals, which are on lakes in our area even though we have had no detections. These infestations permanently affect the fish habitat, recreation, tourism and private properties which are central to your mission of "protecting the quality of our lakes". We will continue our responsibility in this "battle", but we need assistance.

Please find this proposal and help prevent further ecological damage to our public waters, a state asset.

With sincere regards,

Whitefish Area Property Owners Association

Thomas N. Wilson

Vice President and Director, Land Use and Government Relations

Post Office Box 342 Crosslake, MN 56442

ARKLYNHEAD MUD EGO TROUT ISLAND LOON UPPER WHITEFISH LOWER WHITEFISH RUSH HIDDEN DAGGETT LITTLE PINE BERTHA CANNON  
PIG CROSS LOWER HAY UPPER HAY STAR CLEAR KIMBLE OSSAWINAWAKE EAST FOX WISH HOX DOODRICH ORBEN OX BASS DUOX



March 29, 2013

AMC President Joe Vene  
1415 Birchmont Drive NE  
Bemidji, MN 56601

Dear President Vene:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee (ENRPC) to express our organization's support for allocation of additional resources to control the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Because of your membership on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee we hope that you can carry the message forward about the need for more resources, grants, and education.

The ENRPC has had several discussions about AIS over the past few years and has developed the following policy position on the subject. This position has been adopted by AMC and is part of our policy platform.

*AMC supports the continuation and creation of Aquatic Invasive Species programs funded by license fees, the state General Fund and other state funding sources, which are implemented by the DNR and local authorities. AMC supports further restrictions on infested waters, temporary controls, and increased fines.*

The ENRPC continues to evaluate public and private efforts to combat AIS and may recommend new platform positions to AMC as that information is disseminated.

It is important to note that while some counties are very interested in high levels of participation in AIS efforts, other counties do not have the staff capacity to do so. Because of this we hope that a variety of alternatives for county participation in efforts are available. We want to ensure that the fight against AIS does not rest solely on counties and in effect become an unfunded mandate on counties.

AMC members hold the waters of our state in high regard and counties make every effort possible to provide protections to them. We value the partnership of the DNR and hope to increase communications as we move forward and address AIS in our state waters.

Sincerely,

Rich Sve  
AMC Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Chair  
Lake County Commissioner

## STATEWIDE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert E. Olsen – Committee Chair

P.O. Box 66

Ivanhoe, MN 56142

April 1, 2013

Tom Landwehr  
DNR Commissioner  
500 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4040

Dear DNR Commissioner Landwehr:

As the Chair of the Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee, I am writing at the request of the full committee to firmly rebut a developing theme in recent news stories and legislative committee debate that Minnesota cannot be successful in stopping the spread of AIS, that statewide infestation of Minnesota's water by zebra mussels and other aquatic threats is only a matter of time and that increased funding of AIS is futile and unjustified.

We uniformly disagree.

At the March 28th, 2013 meeting of the Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee, representing an array of stakeholders, business interests and academic disciplines, we affirmed that Minnesota can and must stop the spread of AIS and that this work demands ongoing and dedicated funding at sufficient levels to meet the challenge:

- Past efforts have significantly slowed AIS spread over the last thirty years.
- While new threats like zebra mussels, spiny water flea and VHS pose unique challenges, and Minnesota's unique web of watersheds adds a layer of complexity to the work, our review of new technology and developing science based strategies and protocols have convinced us Minnesota can rise to the challenge.
- Recent surveys by the Environmental Quality Board, Conservation Minnesota and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates all confirm that protecting Minnesota's waterways from further spread of Aquatic Invasive Species has overwhelming public support. Voices of dissent are loud, but they are in the minority and the facts are not on their side.
- The potential loss of billions in tax base for local communities, tourism and related business revenue, and way of life justify a significant investment.

In order to meet this challenge, Minnesota must provide a framework and dedicated funding to counties, LGUs and local organizations so they can expand containment efforts at known infested waters and improve shielding of non-infested waters against current and future AIS threats. We strongly urge the legislature to pass and the Governor to sign a dedicated and ongoing funding mechanism for AIS

that is fair, that increases education of lake users of AIS laws and best management protocols, and supports current and developing AIS containment and shielding efforts across the state.

Sincerely

Robert E. Olsen - AIS Committee Chair

AIS Committee members:

Barb Halbakken Fischburg

John Barten

Michelle Marko

Carol Altepeter

Rachael Crabb

Jerry Byron

Kenneth Grob

Jay Green

Doug Jensen

Tera Guetter

Michael Hoff

Gary Botzek

Jeff Forester

Pat Conzemius

Gabriel Jabbour

Norman Deschampe

Greg Oswald

Peter Sorenson

Joe Vene

CC: Governor Dayton

Speaker Paul Thiessen

Members of the House Environment & Env. Funding Committees

Sen Environment Committee & Env. Funding Committees

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555

HAIS - 4



April 17, 2013

Mr. Robert E. Olsen, Chair  
AIS Advisory Committee Chair  
P.O. Box 66  
Ivanhoe, Minnesota 56142

Dear Chairman Olsen and Committee Members:

Thank you for the letter of support for long-term, dedicated funding needed to address the serious challenge of aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and management. I agree that AIS issues will only be effectively addressed if we have adequate funding and strong partnerships between all levels of government and concerned stakeholders.

The committee is correct in noting that Minnesota faces unique challenges with its vast number of waters. We have a lot to protect and a lot to lose if we do not tackle AIS issues effectively. The level of public support to do more on this issue is demonstrated by the strong support we have received from the Governor and legislature for increased funding and additional authority to work with local and tribal governments.

I greatly appreciate the committee's commitment to Minnesota's precious aquatic resources and your willingness to volunteer your knowledge and time on AIS issues. The state is lucky to have your energy and passion to help us address the AIS needs of the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Landwehr', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Landwehr  
Commissioner



**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.

Respectfully,

**Robert E. Olsen, AIS Advisory Committee Chair**

**AIS Advisory Committee Members**

Barb Halbakken Fischburg

Gabriel Jabbour

Gary Botzek

Greg Oswald

Jay Green

Jeff Forester

Jerry Byron

John Barten

Ken Grob

Michelle Marko

Norman DeSchampe

Rachael Crabb

Tera Guetter

**AIS Advisory Ex-Officio Members**

Carol Altepeter

Doug Jensen

Mike Hoff

Pat Conzemius

Peter Sorenson

cc: Governor Mark Dayton  
Representative Jean Wagenius  
Senator David Tomassoni  
Speaker Paul Thissen  
Senator Thomas Bakk  
Bill Becker; Executive Director, LSOHC  
LCCMR Committee Administrator  
Ann Pierce; DNR Committee Liaison