



# ***Aquatic Invaders Summit:***

**An Exploration of Local Collaboration, Innovation and Opportunity**

**Jan. 20-21, 2015 | River's Edge Convention Center | 10 4th Ave. S. | St. Cloud, Minn.**

Bringing together Minnesota local governments  
and their partners to work together to limit  
and prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

## **Your Host**

Initiative Foundation

## **Co-Sponsors**



Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts



In collaboration with:  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Association of Minnesota Counties



*The Minnesota Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment is working to restore, protect and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests and habitat for fish, game and wildlife.*

For more information, visit [lsohc.leg.mn](http://lsohc.leg.mn).

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Minnesota's lakes and rivers are among the state's greatest natural assets. Yet today, aquatic invasive species (AIS) eminently threaten the quality of these legacy resources for the enjoyment of future generations. Many species are already here, Zebra mussel infestations are increasing and other species are quickly approaching Minnesota to further threaten our lakes and rivers.

Preventing and limiting the spread of these aquatic invaders is critical to the future of Minnesota's water resources, the state's annual \$11 billion-plus tourism industry, and the quality of life for Minnesotans and visitors who enjoy our state's waters.

## **Why Attend? Who Should Attend?**

Minnesota is gearing up to aggressively fight the spread of AIS with two new local funding opportunities passed by the 2014 legislature:

- \$4.05 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to the Initiative Foundation for pilot projects throughout the state for innovative approaches for local AIS prevention.
- \$10 million annually in AIS prevention aid to Minnesota counties which, working with their local partners, will plan and implement programs to prevent and limit the spread of aquatic invasive species.

With these new funding resources available, this two-day Aquatic Invaders Summit is a timely opportunity for local and tribal governments and their partners—lake associations, lake improvement districts, service providers, angling and conservation groups, hospitality industry businesses, chambers of commerce, and others—to come together to learn about resources and plan together for effective, local AIS prevention.

Attendees will ...

- Have a unique opportunity to hear from national AIS prevention leaders about successful programs in other states and on-the-ground applied science and actions for preventing the spread of AIS.
- Learn about various Minnesota local government plans and approaches as models for action.
- Develop an understanding of current Minnesota practices/laws related to AIS management and prevention.
- Gain insights into successful communication and education tools to encourage public participation and compliance.
- Network with other regional leaders to develop shared visions, approaches and resources.
- Participate in the development of a first-of-its-kind Local AIS Action Framework (LAF) that will be a guidance tool for local governments and their partners to utilize in planning for and allocating local AIS prevention aid. (More on LAF on Page 5).

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## PROGRAM (Tentative - Check Back for Details)

### Day 1: Jan. 20, 2015

9-10 a.m.	<b>Registration:</b> Continental breakfast and coffee		
10-10:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Conference Overview:</b> Don Hickman, Initiative Foundation vice president for community and economic development		
10:15-10:45 a.m.	<b>Plenary: Controlling the Spread of AIS: The Importance of Local Management</b> Lindsay Chadderton, Great Lakes project aquatic invasive species director, The Nature Conservancy		
10:45-11:15 a.m.	<b>Plenary: What Makes Organisms Invasive in Minnesota? Why Do We Worry About Them, and What Must We Consider?</b> Dr. Peter Sorenson, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center		
11:15-11:45 a.m.	<b>Plenary: Economic Impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species-What's at Risk?</b> Dr. Sarah Nicolls, Michigan State University (Invited)		
11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.	<b>Lunch and Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Responsibilities That Come With the AIS Prevention AID</b> Sen. Rod Skoe</li> <li><b>Lessons Learned Over 30 years of Battling AIS - What Could We Do Differently in the Next 30 Years?</b> Gabriel Jabbour, Department of Natural Resources AIS Task Force member, marina owner, boat manufacturer</li> </ul>		
1:15-2:45 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session 1</b>		
<b>Track 1: Education and Communications</b>		<b>Track 2: Prevention Programs Inspection, Decontamination and Rapid Response</b>	<b>Track 3: AIS Planning</b>
<b>Using Social Marketing to Prevent AIS Spread</b> Angie Timmons, Hennepin County Environmental Services		<b>Centralized Inspections, Decontamination and Innovations to Prevent the Spread of AIS in the Flathead Basin, Montana</b> Caryn Miske, executive director, Flathead Basin Commission	<b>AIS Activities in Wisconsin Led by Counties, Lake Associations and Others</b> Bob Wakeman, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
<b>Engaging an Army of Youth in AIS Prevention</b> Gertrude Jensen, LeSueur-Henderson public schools		<b>Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species via Recreational Boats</b> Bob Wiltshire, Montana Invasive Species Action Network (Invited)	<b>Key Elements for a Local Plan</b> L. Eric Evenson-Marden, Evenson-Marden and Associates
<b>AIS Messages That Achieve Action</b> Marty Keller, Media Savant		<b>Pathways of Spread, Early Detection, and Rapid Response to Zebra Mussels in Minnesota</b> Dr. Mike McCartney, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center	<b>Local Government AIS Plans and Collaborations</b> A panel showcasing county and municipal government AIS prevention plans

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2:45–3:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>		
3:15–4:45 p.m.	<b>Breakout Session 2</b>		
<b>Track 1: Education and Communications</b>		<b>Track 2: Inspection and Decontamination</b>	<b>Track 3: AIS Regulation and Enforcement</b>
<b>Lake George, New York: Building Community Support for Mandatory Inspections and Decontamination</b> Dave Wick, executive director, Lake George Park Commission  <b>Building Partnerships With Community Stakeholders</b> A panel representing various stakeholder groups discussing key messages for their constituency		<b>Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Interception Programs</b> Stephan Phillips, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  <b>Becker County Inspection Program: One County's Innovative Approach</b> Barb Halbakken-Fischburg, Becker County Aquatic Invasive Species Panel  <b>Watercraft Decontamination and Wastewater Management: Science to Application</b> Jim Foust, Hydro Engineering, Salt Lake City, Utah	<b>Lessons From Regional AIS Plans and Programs in Colorado</b> Elizabeth Brown, AIS program supervisor, state of Colorado  <b>Enforcing AIS Laws</b> A panel of local and state AIS law enforcement officers  <b>Municipal Experience With AIS Ordinances and Enforcement</b> Tim Keane, Kutak Rock, LLP
5–6:30 p.m.	<b>Exhibitor-sponsored Reception With Cash Bar and Networking Opportunities</b> (Dinner on Own)		

## Day 2: Jan. 21, 2015

7:30–9 a.m.	<b>Legislative Review</b> – A listening session to provide attendees an opportunity to share recommendations on how the Legislature can help with effective local and statewide AIS efforts. Lawmakers will be invited. Moderators: Ray Bohn, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts & Association of Minnesota Counties (TBA)
7:30–9 a.m.	<b>Continental Breakfast &amp; Coffee</b>
9–9:40 a.m.	<b>Plenary: Ecological Risk Screening: A Toolbox Used to Support Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Management Decisions</b> – Michael Hoff, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
9:40–10:45 a.m.	<b>Plenary Panel: Local AIS Prevention Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Aquatic Invasive Species Program Evaluations</b> – Dr. Mae Davenport, University of Minnesota</li> <li><b>Minnesota DNR Framework for Local AIS Plans</b> – Heidi Wolf, DNR aquatic invasive species program supervisor</li> <li><b>Taking the Next Step for Local Action: Introducing the Local AIS Action Framework</b> – Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates</li> </ul>



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10:45-11 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
11-12:15 p.m.	<b>Breakout 3: Developing the Local AIS Action Framework (LAF)</b> Attendees will discuss and suggest revisions to a "strawman" framework provided to attendees for review prior to the Summit. The Framework is a toolbox for building and implementing effective local AIS Prevention plans.	
<b>Track 1: Education and Communications</b>	<b>Track 2: Inspection and Prevention Options</b>	<b>Track 3: Planning and Regulation</b>
Facilitator: Marty Keller, Media Savant	Facilitator: James Johnson, Freshwater Scientific Services	Facilitator: Dave Rush, Douglas County land and resource director
12:15-1:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>  <b>Luncheon Speaker: Dealing with Change and Building Community Capacity: Lessons from Minnesota to Ukraine</b> – Richard and Irina Fursman, Brimeyer Fursman LLC	
1:30-2:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary: Where Do We Go From Here? A Discussion of Next Steps for Local Action</b> An interactive session reporting on Breakout 3 discussions on the Local AIS Framework and building consensus on a revised, useable framework for local governments and their partners. Moderator: Tera Guetter, Pelican River Watershed District, Detroit Lakes, Minn.	
2:45 p.m.	<b>Closing Comments and Next Steps</b> – Don Hickman, Initiative Foundation	
3 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>	

## MORE ABOUT THE LOCAL AIS ACTION FRAMEWORK

Minnesota's new AIS funding streams present a great opportunity while raising many questions and challenges for county resource managers, policy makers and elected officials. The 2015 Aquatic Invaders Summit will help county officials and staff, other local government officials and local leaders to plan strategically to deliver effective AIS prevention programs.

Current federal and state plans provide limited guidance for local prevention programs. At the 2015 Aquatic Invaders Summit, local governments, tribal nations, watershed districts, lake improvement districts, soil and water conservation districts, lake associations, sportsmen and conservation organizations will help develop a DRAFT Local AIS Action Framework (LAF). The LAF begins with the current Minnesota DNR template for a county AIS prevention program and expands on the template to build local consensus and provide greater detail, depth, flexibility and innovation for local units of government initiating or expanding local AIS programs.

### Attendees will ...

- Build consensus for a draft Local AIS Action Framework for Minnesota that can be adapted for local needs and built upon with local successes.
- Initiate a statewide communication network between diverse local AIS stakeholders.
- Discuss consistency of best management practices, protocols, definitions, tools, goals and expectations.
- Develop a system for standardizing accountability measures that will help the long-term success and continuation of these local AIS funding programs.
- Share innovative approaches and new technologies that assist in preventing the spread of AIS.

On Day Two, attendees will review and discuss concepts for the Local AIS Action Framework that will be developed by a preliminary workgroup and based on responses to an attendee pre-summit survey. Following the summit, the initial Local AIS Action Framework will be drafted from attendee input gathered during the summit and then distributed. The Framework will be revised and enhanced in subsequent years as local successes are documented, new needs are identified and additional tools are available.

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## REGISTRATION

### Registration Fee

\$150 per person (Jan. 20–21, 2015). Includes continental breakfast and lunch both days, all breaks, conference materials, and exhibitor-sponsored reception on Jan. 20.

### Limited Scholarships Available

A limited number of scholarships are available for nonprofit organizations where attendance cost is prohibitive. Scholarships are available on a first-request basis; only one per organization. For more information and before registering, contact Paula West at (218) 838-5010 or [westcom@brainerd.net](mailto:westcom@brainerd.net).

### Late Registrations

\$165 per person for registrations postmarked after Jan. 6, 2015.

### Registration Refunds

There is a \$25 processing fee on all pre-paid refunds; no refunds after Jan. 13.

**Register online and pay by credit card at: [mnwatershed.org](http://mnwatershed.org)**

### To Register by Mail and Pay by Check

Print and complete the registration page and mail with check to:

AIS Summit %MAWD

540 Diffley Road, St. Paul, Minn. 55123

**Make checks payable to: AIS Summit/Initiative Foundation**

**For registration questions contact:** Peg Bohn at (651) 452-8506 or [pegbohn@gmail.com](mailto:pegbohn@gmail.com)

**For summit questions contact:** Paula West at (218) 838-5010 or [westcom@brainerd.net](mailto:westcom@brainerd.net)

## LODGING

A limited block of rooms at special rates have been reserved at two hotels adjacent to the River's Edge Convention Center. To receive the summit rate, mention "AIS Summit" when making a reservation. Rates are available until Jan. 7, or until room block is fully reserved.

### Best Western Plus Kelly Inn

100 4th Ave. S.

St. Cloud, Minn. 56301

(320) 253-0606

Rate: \$82 for one king or two queen rooms

### Also within a several-block walking distance (no summit rates):

Grandstay Hotel

213 Sixth Ave. S.

St. Cloud, Minn. 56301

(855) 455-7829 or (320) 251-5400

### Le St. Germain Suite Hotel

404 W. St. Germain, St. Cloud, Minn. 56301

(320) 654-1661

Rate: \$109 for king suite; \$129 for room with two queen beds

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## ABOUT SUMMIT SPONSORS

The **Initiative Foundation** ([ifound.org](http://ifound.org)) is a regional foundation working to strengthen local economies and communities in Central Minnesota. Through its Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program, the Foundation was the grant recipient of \$4.05 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to fund and evaluate pilot projects throughout Minnesota for effective local AIS prevention. For more information on funding and the application process, see [ifound.org/community/aquatic-invasive-species/](http://ifound.org/community/aquatic-invasive-species/)

**Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates'** mission is to protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates, and policy makers. Learn more at [mnlakesandrivers.org](http://mnlakesandrivers.org).

The **Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts** represents 45 watershed districts in the state and provides educational opportunities and information and training for watershed district managers and staff. Watershed districts in Minnesota are partners in water protection and management. Learn more at [mnwatershed.org](http://mnwatershed.org).

## PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Kristen Blann, The Nature Conservancy
- Ray Bohn, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
- Eric Evenson-Marden; Evenson-Marden Associates
- Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates
- Tera Guetter, Pelican River Watershed District
- Barb Halbakken Fischburg, Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations
- Don Hickman, Initiative Foundation
- Mike Hoff, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- James Johnson, Freshwater Scientific Services
- Telly Mamayek, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- Dr. Michael McCartney, University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
- Dave Rush, Land & Resource Director, Douglas County
- John Sumption, Sumption Environmental
- Paula West, West Communications
- Heidi Wolf, AIS Program Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

## DIRECTIONS TO RIVER'S EDGE CONVENTION CENTER

### From the east on Interstate Highway 94

1. Take I-94 to Highway 15 N.
2. Turn right at Highway 23.
3. Turn left at Fifth Avenue South.
4. Turn right at First Street South.
5. The convention center is ahead on the left.

### From the west on Interstate Highway 94

1. Take I-94 to Highway 15 North.
2. Turn right at Highway 23.
3. Turn left at Fifth Avenue South.
4. Turn right at First Street South.
5. The convention center is ahead on the left.

### From Highway 10

1. Take Highway 23 West to Fourth Avenue.
2. Turn right at Fourth Avenue.
3. The convention center will be on the right

Parking is available for \$5 per day.  
Additional parking and directions at:  
**[riversedgeconventioncenter.com](http://riversedgeconventioncenter.com)**

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To register online via credit card, visit [mnwatershed.org](http://mnwatershed.org)

To register by mail via check, fill out this form and return as indicated.

## REGISTRATION FORM

**Participant #1** First Name

Last Name

Email (please print):

**Participant #2** First Name

Last Name

Email (please print):

County/Department/Organization

Title/Position:

Address

City

State

ZIP

Minnesota County (if applicable)

Daytime Phone

Mobile (if different)

- ☐ **Registration Fee:** (if postmarked on or before Jan. 6, 2015)  
\$150/person for two-day conference fee (includes two continental breakfasts,  
two lunches, all breaks and conference materials)

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of registrations enclosed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

- ☐ **Late Registration:** (postmarked after Jan. 6, 2015)  
\$165/person for two-day conference fee (includes two continental breakfasts,  
two lunches, all breaks and conference materials)

**Registration Refunds:** A \$25 processing fee will be applied to all refunds; no refunds  
after Jan. 13, 2015.

- ☐ **Method of Payment:**  
Enclosed is a check payable to **AIS Summit/Initiative Foundation**  
**Mail to:** AIS Summit % MAWD, 540 Diffley Road, St. Paul, Minn. 55123

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