



## LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

616 THIRD AVENUE, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616

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WWW.CO.LAKE.MN.US/SWCD

### Minutes

#### Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Thursday, June 8th, 1pm

408 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Chair Todd Ronning.  
Present: Ronning – Haus- Omarzu-Sagen  
Absent: Brodigan  
Staff: Tucker-Passe-Olson-Summer Apprentice Leanna Bender
- Agenda: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve the agenda as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve the minutes for May 11, 2017 meeting as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Financial and administrative reports:
- Treasurers Report: **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Omarzu to approve the treasures report as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- 2016 Audit: Samantha Wocken from the Peterson firm is here today conducting the 2016 Audit.
- Audit Committee: 24 Checks and 12 direct deposits for a total of \$54,180.45
- Envirothon Expense report was reviewed. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve the Envirothon Financial report. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Guest Updates:
- NRCS Report: Jon Sellnow's reported was reviewed.
- Staff Updates:
- District Manager's Report: Schutte was unable to attend the meeting. His report was reviewed and the following actions were taken. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve purchase of 200 trees from Hammer Nursery for a total of \$4,000. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Sagen and seconded by Omarzu to sign and approve payment of \$9,577.50 for the Beaver Bay project to the City of Silver Bay. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Sagen and seconded by Omarzu to sign and approve the Resolution to adopt Skunk Creek as an "other Watercourses" for inclusion in Local Water Management plans. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried. (Resolution attached)**
- Rainy River Coordinator: Passe requested the Board approve a fee for Service for him to certify non-complying septic systems for the County. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve charging Passes' loaded rate and mileage to the County for Engineering Services when he is involved with an Septic Compliance review activitty. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.** He updated the Board on the sampling that we will be doing on the Skunk Creek and his time in the Boundary Waters last month. The owners of Rustic Creek are willing to work with us on a solution to driveway run-off. Lilja's report was also reviewed.

- **Outreach Coordinator:** Nelson - No report
- **Conservation Technician:** Byrns – No report
- **GIS Technician:** Olson's update included receiving a \$7,500 Coastal STAR grant for consulting fees.
- **AIS Coordinator:** Smerud shared several of the education handouts she has been working on.
- **Conservation Corps Apprentice:** LeAnna Bender introduced herself and gave a brief update on her activities so far.
- **Correspondence:**

**Supervisor Committee Reports:**

- **Personnel Committee:**
  - Wording of the new policy for donated time: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve the wording for the personnel handbook additions. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
  - **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to accept Max Forster's resignation effective June 30th. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
  - Policy Manual Addition (w/in Probationary Period text):  
**Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve the following clarification to the policy manual. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
    - "During probationary period of employment (first six months), SWCD staff members who supervise other District staff, after documenting reasons for action and consulting with the Lake SWCD District Manager and Lake SWCD Personnel Committee members, are authorized to permanently dismiss employees not meeting expectations and stipulations of the job they were hired for.
- Area III Meeting-Ronning and Schutte attended. Three resolutions were shared.
- SWCD Governance 101: Reminder to check your calendars, action will be taken at July meeting.
- MASWCD Leadership Institute: No one is interested in attending this time.

**Motion to adjourn at 3:30 next meeting will be July 13th, 2017 at 408 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.**

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Todd Ronning, Chairman

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Doug Haus, Secretary

**Submitted by:**

Karen R. Tucker, District Clerk

**For:**

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD



June 8, 2017

## **NRCS Conservation Report: Lake SWCD**

Jon Sellnow, Acting District Conservationist (in absentia)

### Personal:

- New District Conservationist
  - It's final, I think....

### Programs:

- 29 Active EQIP Contracts
  - 27 are from 2017
- 1 Active CSP Contract

### Other:

- Mutual Agreement
- Cooperative Working Agreement
- Operational Agreement

### Meetings, Trainings, and Events:

- May 12 – ACEP-WRE Meeting at Fond du Lac
- May 16 – Prescribed Grazing Training (Webinar)
- May 17 – South St. Louis SWCD
- May 23 – Grand Portage
- May 24 – Cooperative Working Agreements and Operation Agreements Training
- June 5-9 – Leave

### Upcoming Items:

- June 12 – Carlton SWCD
- June 14/21/23? – Forestry Training
- June 15 – Area 3 All Employee Meeting
- June 20 – Area 3 Soil Health Training
- June 21 – South St. Louis SWCD
- July 6 – Cook SWCD
- July 10 – Carlton SWCD
- July 11-13 – Economics of Conservation Planning Training?
- July 13 – Lake SWCD



## DISTRICT MANAGER MONTHLY UPDATE

APRIL 14 – MAY 11

DAN SCHUTTE, DISTRICT MANAGER

LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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### GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- East Beaver River project
  - Design, EAW questions (general), access/materials coordination
- Natural Resource Field Day – May 25<sup>th</sup> – Great, smooth event, huge thanks to Courtney, Sonja, LeAnna, and Karen for their help with the day!
- Buckthorn management – Super One, Beaver Bay
- Stewart River signage, access, revegetation planning for summer work.
- Staff planning, intern coordination/set-up

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### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- WTIP – Grand Marais radio interview – plant sale and tree planting techniques
- Meeting with EOR on stormwater assessment/modeling methods
- MPCA WRAPS meeting, Tettegouche, for Lake Superior North watershed
- MPCA WRAPS meeting, Grand Marais, for Lake Superior North watershed
- Presentation w/ BWSR and Courtney to 2017 Conservation Apprentice group
- Tree nursery visits and stock coordination
- Finalized One Watershed, One Plan Memorandum of Agreement w/ Lake County and all participants.
  - Received word that all is submitted and approved by State.
- Buckthorn app training and management workshop – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, W. Knife River Road
  - 10 participants, 2.5 hours, good feedback and results

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### ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| • Tree Purchase, \$4,000 – Hammer Tree Nursery <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ 50 each of white pine, white cedar, tamarack, and white spruce</li><li>◦ \$20/tree, with intent for SWCD to sell to landowners/projects</li><li>◦ To be housed in the waterfront garden space</li></ul>                 | <i>Motion</i> |
| • Payment reimburse for Silver Bay E. Branch Beaver River project <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ \$9,577.50 for engineering services, Stantec (DNR-grant funded)</li></ul>  | <i>Motion</i> |
| • Donated sick time Policy addition <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Policy addition allowing staff to donate sick time to other staff with medical situation w/in family – Personnel Committee received/reviewed language</li><li>◦ Recommendation for motion comes from Personnel Committee</li></ul> | <i>Motion</i> |
| • Skunk Creek – “Other Waters” Resolution and Board adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Board motion to adopt resolution provided within Board packet</li></ul>   | <i>Motion</i> |
| • Max Forster submitted 4-week resignation via phone call on Friday, June 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Will work 10 hrs/week now through June 30<sup>th</sup>, last day</li><li>◦ Motion to accept Max’s resignation of June 30<sup>th</sup>, last day</li></ul>                                 | <i>Motion</i> |

## Rainy River Coordinator Monthly Update

April 13, 2017 – June 7, 2017



### Rainy Headwaters/Cloquet, LSS Citizen Engagement Contracts

- RRHW/Cloquet Watersheds
  - Attended Professional Judgement Group meeting for Cloquet and Vermilion Watersheds
  - Cloquet River in Lake County proposed to be changed from General to Exceptional use based on sampling results.
- LSS - Skunk Creek/Two Harbors Sediment and E. coli Impairments
  - Met with Jeff Jaspersen at MPCA to discuss Skunk Creek Analysis to determine sources of E. coli and sediment
    - Behi
    - E. coli TMDL Experts
    - Septic System inspections
  - Conducted turbidity sampling on Skunk Creek 4/19 & 6/5
  - Coliform sampling program
  - Met with LC Highway
    - Their record plans for TH County Roads are in disarray due to fire, will look for them in a couple months.
    - Indicated that CN had information regarding City Storm Sewer.
  - Discussed Skunk Creek modeling with Houston Engineering
  - Rustic Creek Apartments
    - Contacted Jodi at Metes and Bounds.
      - Very interested in repairing erosion issues to Skunk Creek
      - Would like to coordinate it with City repair of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave and M&B repair of their parking area.
  - Potential Sewer connection to Storm Sewer



### AIS

- Dumbbell Lake
  - VCC intern available to conduct sampling.
  - VCC Contract could provide lab testing budget \$1000-2000.
  - Met with USFS to look at available data on Dumbbell Lake

### Lake County Activities

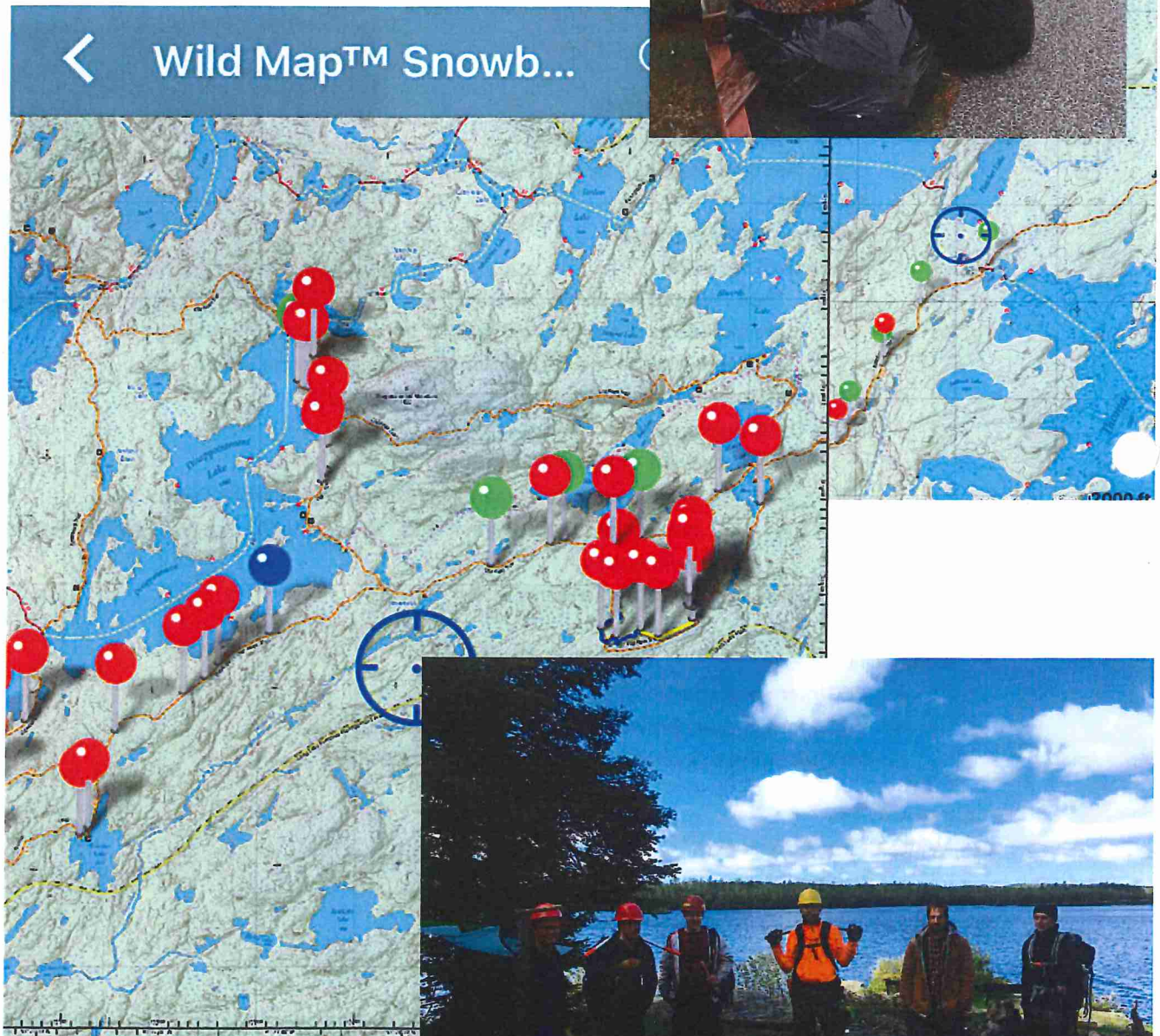
- White Cedar Restoration
  - Reviewed video
- Mike McGrach Site Visit
  - Existing retaining wall from 1940s
  - Concerned about settlement behind garage
    - Suggested connecting drainage in to existing pie to reduce runoff over Bluff line
- Visited Cliffhouse Commons
  - Discussed solutions to erosion and drainage problems on driveway.
- Report of oil sheen on drainage behind old public works building

June 7, 2017



- Reviewed drainage with Christine McCarthy.
- No significant pollution source found.
- Sweep the Skunk
  - Picked up trash between the Curling Club and Golf Course
  - Lots of Golf Balls

**And then there was MAY. 30 days, 200 hours (Unpaid)**



**Rainy River Headwaters Outreach Coordinator Monthly Update (Darren, not Derrick)**  
**May, 2017**



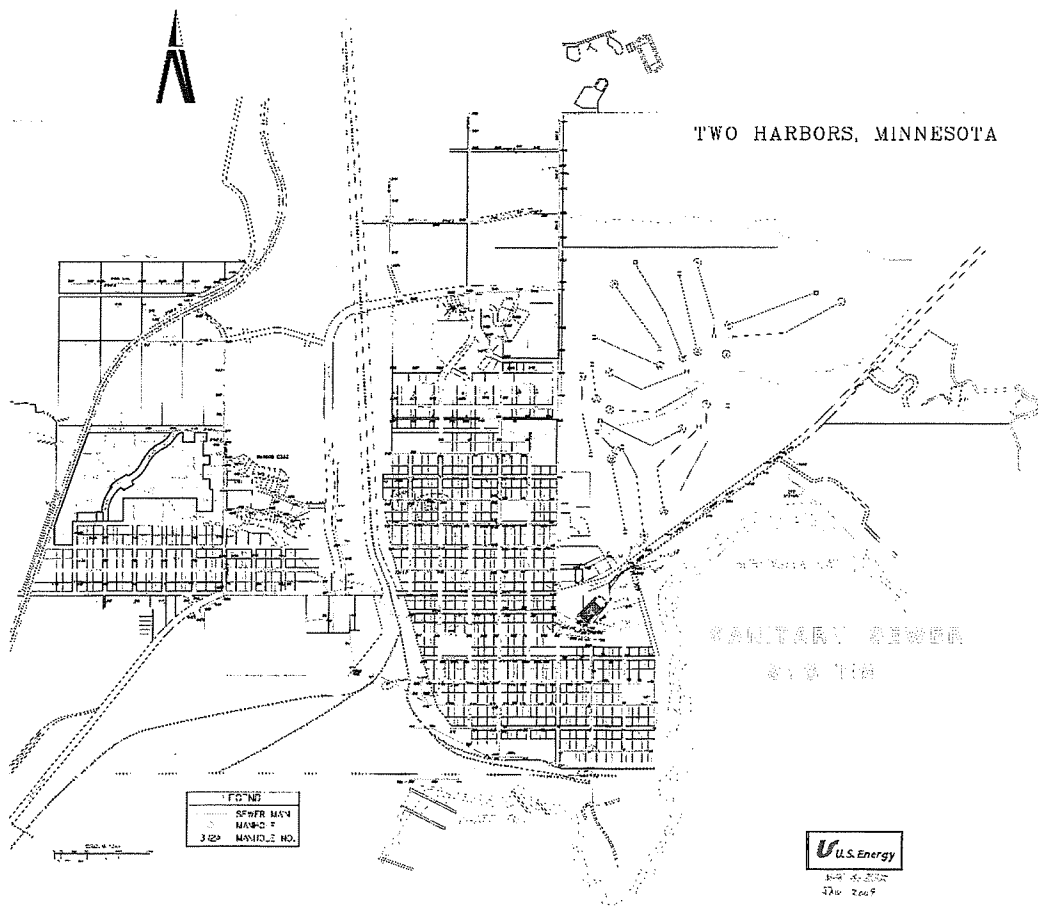
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Rainy River Citizen Engagement

- MPCA Advanced Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
  - Completed first round of sampling on all our "usual" lakes, plus Browns Lake.
- Ely Community Resource AIS monitoring projects
  - Continuing the Native Plankton Community project aimed at characterizing the current plankton community in Shagawa and Fall Lakes to see how it responds to spiny waterflea colonization. We are exposing several students per week to AIS/plankton sampling protocols, laboratory techniques, microscope use, and dichotomous key use.
    - Cyanoscope kits were purchased to serve as extra capacity for additional students.
    - The Kit will also be used for its intended purpose during the open water season. (CyanoScope citizen science program through iNaturalists.org.
  - Set schedule for 2017 rusty crayfish trapping (Burntside River), and spiny waterflea density monitoring (Burnside, Shagawa, and Fall Lakes). ECR has reached out to obtain verbal commitments from parents/students.
- Lead a discussion on AIS and crayfish trapping/IDing exercise with a U of M class at Hubachek wilderness research center.
- Aided in finalizing the development of the new AIS Sentry program in Ely area. We customized existing training materials to NE Minnesota biology and have made plans to put on 4 classroom/field trainings on Ely area lakes starting on June 10/Shagawa Lake.
- Applied for and received appropriate state permits for our summertime AIS sampling efforts and water monitoring in infested lakes. Received a permit to transport AIS, and a separate permit for transporting infested waters.
- Attended EAIT and citizen sentry meetings.
- Performed routine sonde maintenance including replacing probes and calibrations.
- Acquired a source of crayfish bait in the Finland DNR office. Dean Paron has agreed to save white suckers for our rusty crayfish trapping efforts.
- Finalized workplans with MPCA, NRRI for the "Chemical Extremes" project. Conducted the first round of sampling. This project aims to model how the frequency and magnitude of droughts followed by precipitation events are effecting pH in 3 lakes in Lake County with low buffering capacity. Hydric soils (wetlands) undergo a chemical response to drying out that makes them more acidic.
  - Deployed 2 sondes in Dunnigan Lake.
  - Developed modified sampling protocols from last years' sampling.
  - Completed first round of grab sampling and profiles, delivering grab samples to NRRI.
- Assisted VCC interns and Jenny Jaspersen of MPCA with field-work in Lake County including temperature logger deploys on several streams.
- Working with Amy Mustonen to coordinate metals sampling on Birch Lake.
- Scheduling VCC interns into FS, and SWCD workplans. Currently "on the hook" for e. coli exceedance testing at 11 Forest Service owned beaches, and helping volunteers with MPCA citizen lake monitoring.

- Interns
  - Culvert Inventory
    - About 95 culverts logged
  - CCMI
    - LeAnna is great!
- Miscellaneous Activities
  - Talked to CCMI Apprentice group at their orientation
  - Split Rock Natural Resources Day
  - Survey total station training with Tim at Cliff House
- Stormwater Analysis Update
  - Meeting with EOR May 16
    - Info on PCSWMM; tested it out with a free trial; still a possibility
  - Coastal STAR grant successful: full \$7,500 for consulting fees funded
    - Will be writing an amendment to switch funds within project
  - Sanitary potential
    - Went out with Tim and LeAnna; found strong indicators of sanitary
    - Traps set at 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave & 3<sup>rd</sup> St and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave & 3<sup>rd</sup> St

## TWO HARBORS, MINNESOTA





# Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Monthly Update

11 May – 8 June 2017

Sonja Smerud



## DATA & LOGISTICS

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See printed maps, field guides, pocket field guide

Preliminary Aquatic Plant survey, Lax Lake

Secured crayfish permits; picked up traps (NRRI) and floats

Dumbbell Lake work plan

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

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SeaGrant RiverQuest outreach – Habitattitude Campaign outreach; some students had cabins in Lake County; hundreds of students total reached

Taught Naturalists at Wolf Ridge – May 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>; will include crayfish identification in future curriculum and plan to continue AIS visits to naturalist “citizen science” lessons next year (about 8 students)

10<sup>th</sup> Grade Two Harbors classroom visits – May 15 (AIS presentation & article analysis on management perspectives in a group-work setting) (about 60 students)

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom visits Silver Bay – May 22 and 24 (sea lamprey lesson – chaos but great; 30 students)

Mae Davenport / UofMN Outreach– May 16 (crayfish trapping & social science of invasive management) (about 18 students)

EAIT Meeting – final preparation for AIS Citizen Sentry workshops

Outreach to Finland Youth Group – secured scheduling and 3 Finland students for 6 week AIS Aquatic Science summer program starting June 28 (partner with 4-H)

Natural Resources Field Day – AIS/Sea Lamprey Lesson on population dynamics; now known as the “sea lamprey lady” – May 25 (45-60 6<sup>th</sup> graders)

Presentations at Northern Tier Boy Scout Base – May 30 and June 5; (over 80 scouts/leaders) many very excited about crayfish trapping on trips/in rural BWCAW and Quetico. Planning additional purple loosestrife removal later in the season.

Now a registered UMN Extension “AIS Detector” – completed training in Grand Rapids June 2

## INSPECTIONS & STAFF

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Training for Inspectors: DNR Watercraft Inspection Training – May 20; Advanced Watercraft Inspector Training w/N. St. Louis SWCD including conflict resolutions techniques and biology presentations – May 31

# Conservation Corps Apprentice Update

LeAnna Bender



1. Removal of buckthorn by SuperOne
2. Door knocking to get permission from land owners to remove buck thorn and Japanese barberry from land
  - ❖ So far about 20 owners on Shoreview and Valley Road are interested
3. Storm water Inventory
  - ❖ Working as Courtney's assistant
4. Sixth Graders at Split Rock
  - ❖ 90 sixth graders from Silver Bay and Two Harbors
  - ❖ Working with Courtney to teach kids how to use a GPS and what GIS is
  - ❖ Played a geocaching game
5. Two Harbors Community Garden
  - ❖ Pulled weeds
  - ❖ Some perennials were coming up, along with a bed of wild strawberries
  - ❖ Laid down black tarp over isles
  - ❖ Poured and spread out wood chips from the city