



LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

616 THIRD AVENUE, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616

P: (218) 834-8372 F: (218) 834-8545

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Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Thursday, May 11th, 1pm

408 1st Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Chair Todd Ronning.
Present: Ronning – Haus- Omarzu-Brodigan-Sagen
Oath of Office: Teresa Sagen was sworn in as the District 1 Supervisor as the first action of the meeting.
Absent: None
Staff: Tucker-Schutte-Byrns-Lilja-Smerud-Olson-Sellnow(NRCS)
- Agenda: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the agenda as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve the minutes for April 13th, 2017 meeting as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Financial and administrative reports:
- Treasurers Report: Tucker pointed out that the shaded expenses were Envirothon. **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Brodigan to approve the treasures report as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- 2016 Audit will be held on June 8th.
- Admin Training: Tucker requested permission to attend the June 28-29 training in Walker. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve Karen attending the training. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Guest Updates:
- NRCS Report: The Acting DC, Jon Sellnow's reported that they have been busy signing contract with Lake County landowners, he thought they would have 30 contracts when they are all signed.
- Staff Updates:
- **District Manager's Report:** Schutte reported that the EAW for the East Beaver River project has been posted for a 60-day review in the EQB publication after the final design was approved by Silver Bay. Schutte is working on filling the gaps with Emily Nelson's absence. Envirothon went well, Cook County took first and second place. Two Harbors was unable to attend. Schutte requested an update to our policy manual to add the ability for staff to donate banked sick time to another staff member. **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve adding a policy to our Policy Manual. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to sign and approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Lake and Cook Counties for the Water Plan. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to adopt the resolution for the Lake Superior North Watershed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried. Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Brodigan to continue Max**

Forster at 10 hours per week. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.

- **Rainy River Coordinator:** Passe is in the Boundary Waters doing trail maintenance. Lilja reported a whole list of activities from his report including an update on water monitoring planned. **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Sagen to approve his job description and 1.25% pay raise. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **Outreach Coordinator:** Nelson - No report
- **Conservation Technician:** Byrns updated the Board on his forestry work. Our work crew for the summer will be starting on May 23rd led by Marie Hedland. Byrns is working with the DNR to adjust plans with fishing easements.
- **GIS Technician:** Olson updated the board on the hiring process for the Culvert Inventory intern. **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve hiring Mike at \$12 per hour for 20 hours per week through August. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.** She explained that she may be able to work with the Engineering firm doing the modeling for the Storm water project if she attended a training offered on June 7-8 in Winnipeg. The cost would be \$1,195 for the training plus expenses. There is money in the grant to cover the cost. **Motion by Sagen and seconded by Omarzu to approve the training if needed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan, Sagen. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- **AIS Coordinator:** Smerud has been doing outreach with students that she outlined in her report.
- **Correspondence:**

Supervisor Committee Reports:

- **Audit Committee:** 22 checks and 12 direct deposit for a total of \$39,618.68 including Envirothon payments.
- **NSFC:** Haus reported the fencing program sold double the amount from last year.
- **Tree report:** Tucker reported that we had almost double the trees this year and pick up is tomorrow.
- **SWCD Governance 101:** Reminder to check your calendars.
- **Ronning** reported that his 6.6-acre Golden Wing Warbler habitat project was approved by the NRCS office in Virginia.

Motion to adjourn at 3:52 next meeting will be June 8th, 2017 at 408 1st Avenue.

Todd Ronning, Chairman

Doug Haus, Secretary

Submitted by:

Karen R. Tucker, District Clerk

For:

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD



May 11, 2017

NRCS Conservation Report: Lake SWCD

Jon Sellnow, Acting District Conservationist

Programs:

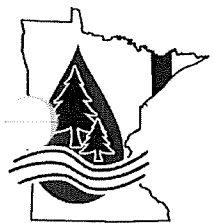
- 14 Active Contracts
 - 13 EQIP
 - 1 CSP
- 17 Approved Applications
 - Waiting on signatures and/or obligation

Meetings, Trainings, and Events:

- April 11-13 – ARC Meeting in St. Paul
- April 18-19 – CSP Training
- April 20 – DC Meeting
- April 21 – North Shore Forestry Collaborative Meeting
- April 24 – Carlton SWCD
- April 24 – Area Soil Health Team Meeting
- April 26 – Lake SWCD
- May 1 – Carlton SWCD
- May 2 – Lake SWCD
- May 4 – Cook SWCD
- May 9 – Carlton SWCD

Upcoming Items:

- May 12 – ACEP-WRE Meeting at Fond du Lac
- May 16 – Prescribed Grazing Training (Webinar)
- May 17 – South St. Louis SWCD
- May 22 – PHEL Training
- May 23 – Prescribed Grazing Training (Webinar)
- May 23 – Grand Portage
- May 24 – FluteReed TMDL Meeting
- May 24 – Cooperative Agreements Training
- May 30 – Prescribed Grazing Training (Webinar)
- June 1 – Cook SWCD
- June 5-9 – Leave
- June 12 – Carlton SWCD



DISTRICT MANAGER MONTHLY UPDATE APRIL 14 – MAY 11

DAN SCHUTTE, DISTRICT MANAGER
LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- East Beaver River project
 - Final design approved by Silver Bay, EAW posted, Lake SWCD is sponsoring RGU
- Staff planning
- Envirothon, Natural Resource Field Day
- Stormwater planning
- Materials/planning prep for invasives this summer.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Presented to U of M Water Resource Specialist class with Barb Liukkonen
- On-site meeting at Stewart River to discuss re-planting options/plans/financials (~\$50K)
- Stormwater conversations with City, County, and Consulting groups
 - Meeting with EOR, One Watershed, One Plan consultants, on May 16
- Lake Superior property owner site visits – erosion, stabilization project consults
- Presented to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on SWCD role in Governor Dayton's 25 by 25 Initiative
- Assisting Clean Water Council (CWC) Coordinator with field trip planning for CWC regional visit, Aug. 27-29
- Two Harbors Arts and Beautification committee
- Stormwater/Assessment planning with BWSR and Courtney/Tim/Derrick
- Master Gardener's planning meeting with Karen
- Culvert Intern interviews
- Sweep the Skunk event – 25+ participants, 1,500-1,700 lbs of trash!!
- Envirothon event – HUGE thanks to Courtney, Karen, collaborating SWCD staff
- Lake County Invasives Team meeting
- Natural Resource Field Day classroom visits
- GIS strategies meeting with Coastal, BWSR, SWCD staff
- Chainsaw Training, Brodigan's shop

ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • 1W1P adoption as LWM plan for area covered, per plan area. | <i>Motion</i> |
| • Memorandum of Agreement signature/approval | <i>Motion</i> |
| • Max Forster position/hours | <i>Motion</i> |

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



Rainy River Citizen Engagement

- MPCA Advanced Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
 - Set up all our "usual" lakes, plus Browns Lake with RMB Labs.
 - Coolers, paperwork, and sampling equipment was distributed to volunteers.
 - I held a citizen lakes monitoring program refresher training with participation from all lead volunteers, Kaitlin, Courtney, and Sonja.
 - Finalized dates and plans for the first sampling round on each 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. (CyaScope citizen science program through iNaturalists.org.
 - Initiated discussions on 2017 rusty crayfish trapping (Burntside River), and spiny waterflea density monitoring (Burnside, Shagawa, and Fall Lakes). ECR is reaching out to obtain verbal commitments from student volunteers.
- Aided in developing AIS Sentry program in Ely area. We currently customized existing training materials to NE Minnesota biology and have made plans to put on 4 classroom/field trainings on Ely area lakes.
- Constructed plankton net rope spools with meter-marked rope for WICOLA's new plankton nets.
- 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. 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.
- Planning and assisting Jenny Jaspersen of MPCA with her 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.

*e. coli -
USFS beach
testing*



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April, 2017 Forestry Report

Tim Byrns

Meeting/Conferences

- Contractor Storm Water BMP training- April 11
- DNR Plan Writers Workshop- May 18

Forestry

- EQIP contracts awarded
- EQIP contribution agreement for SWCD services
- EQIP contractor/crew coordination for landowners
- MCC crew scheduled to start May 31- Crew leader meet and greet May 23
- Gretchen Gilbertson-10 ac CCM forest stand improvement and wildlife habitat management implemented
- Larry Ronning- 4 acres forest stand improvement and woody residue treatment
- Don Anselment- 21 acres forest stand improvement and woody residue treatment
- Larry Johnson- tree planting
- Carl Schaffer- site visit
- Ron Lanthier-site visit
- Jeff Boll- site visit
- Don Mitchell- site visit
- John Fagerson- site visit
- North Shore Adventure Park
- Lynn Bogey- planning
- Nick Cane- planning
- Barb Omarzu- planning
- John Cloutier- planning
- Sam Nelson- planning
- Dave Gilsvek- planning
- Tim Fisher- planning
- Gydesen and Juenemann DNR fishery easements

Engineering

- North Shore Horizons Surveyed
- Paul Fish Bank Stabilization Surveyed
- Cliff House Commons Site Visit



- Two Harbors Bike Trail Erosion Site Visit

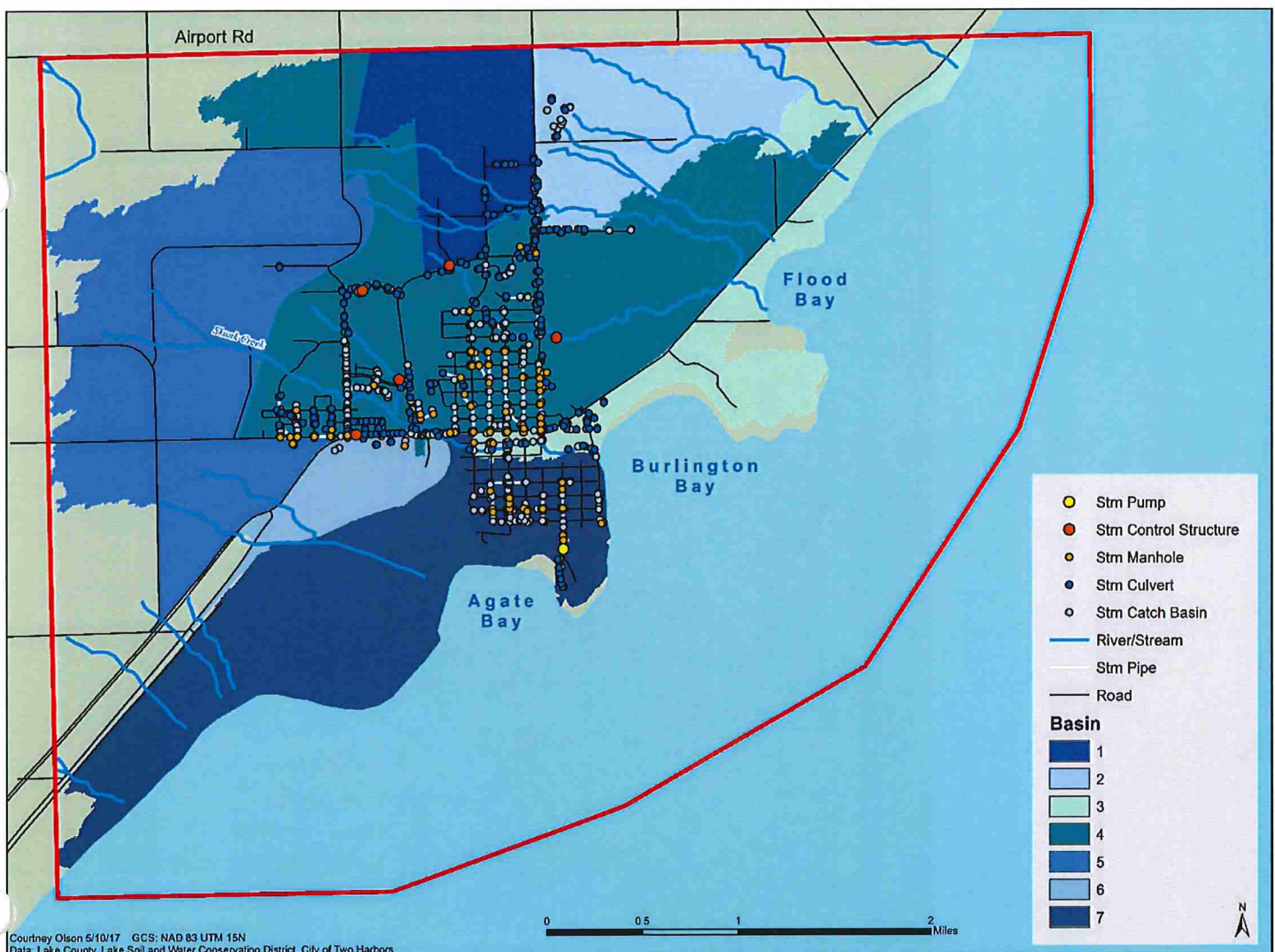


➤ Interns

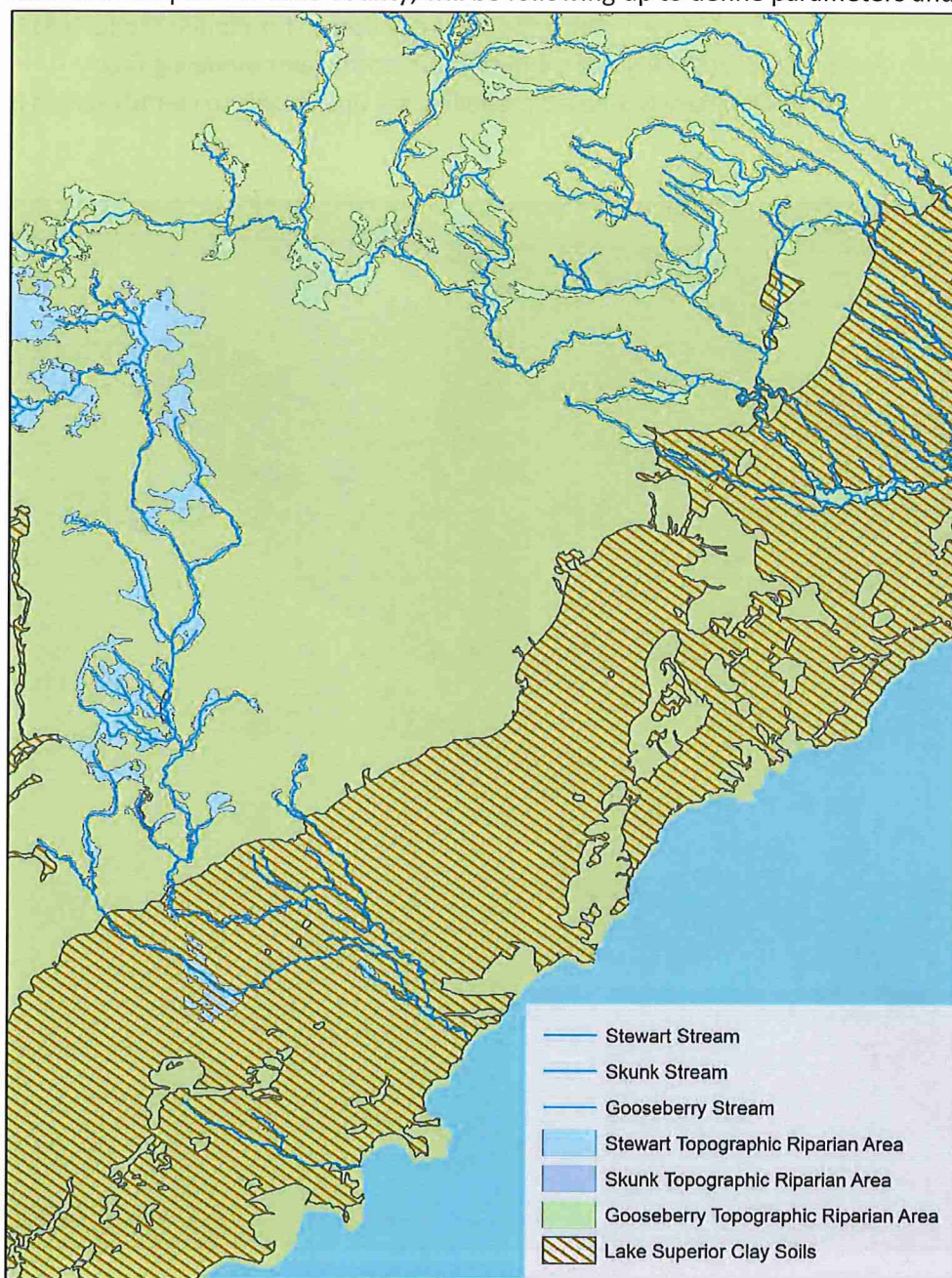
- Culvert: 4 interviews
 - Mike Ferrera: starting his 20/hours/week on Monday, May 15
- LeAnna Bender: starting Monday, May 22

➤ Stormwater Analysis Update

- Meeting with EOR May 16
 - Overview of various models & why they use PCSWMM; workplan for consulting
- Training in Winnipeg June 7-8—2 Day Workshop \$1,195
 - PCSWMM & EPA SWMM 5
 - Hydrologic modeling for stormwater, wastewater and watershed systems
 - Comes with 60-day license for model; Model is \$180/month
- Coastal STAR grant submitted for stormwater modeling fees
- Preliminary GIS-based modeling: set up a model to identify basins in future projects



- Cedar restoration surveys with Sonja
- Miscellaneous mapping:
 - One landowner map requested (\$10 fee for service)
 - Setting up template to print maps for landowners for free during Open House
 - Continuing to dig through past projects to set up SWCD project map in time for Open House
- Targeted Forestry Protection
 - Meeting to brainstorm adaption to Lake County; will be following up to define parameters and run analysis



Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Monthly Update

13 April – 11 May 2017

Sonja Smerud



DATA & LOGISTICS

Utilized DNR "Metrics" template to summarize AIS work in a larger project file > will update quarterly

Updated AIS map with purple loosestrife infestations per new findings on EDDMaps

Work plan draft for Dumbbell Lake (and gained additional information from 1854 Treaty Authority)

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

April 18: Volunteer Water Monitoring Training at VCC for WICOLA

April 20: Ely Area Invasives Team Meeting > guides printed this week; schedule for workshops set in Ely; curriculum outlined/powerpoint presentation completed > aided additional press & outreach

April 20: Phragmites open house in Duluth > new threat to great lakes, current control in St. Louis Estuary

April 24: Finalized and printed canoe information handout on backcountry AIS mitigation

April & May: Meetings with area extension educators on Driven to Discover / AIS "Junior" Detectors curriculum development and summer program > late June start (20th-ish), subject to interest

May 1: North Shore Elementary 4th Grade Sea Lamprey lesson & May 11: William Kelley High School 7th grade classroom general AIS > finalized 3 4th grade lesson plans; developed 7th and 10th grade lesson plans

May 3: Lake County Invasives Team Meeting > purple loosestrife control this summer

May 9: Outreach to area resorts and bars (coasters); additional outreach to greenhouses and bait shops soon

May 10: Printed AIS map of the county after proofing

Additional work outside of AIS: Papermaking (May 8-9) in 6th Grade Classrooms & prep for Ntl Resources Field Day (May 25); Sweep the Skunk (April 30th), White Cedar Restoration Survey (May 5)

UPCOMING

Lessons in Two Harbors 10th Grade Classrooms (Biodiversity & AIS), Silver Bay 4th Grade Classrooms (Sea Lamprey), at Wolf Ridge with Graduate Naturalists (Citizen Science/GLEDN & AIS), and with a UofMN course in Ely (Rusty Crayfish & management – with Darren). Attending trainings on outreach with MN SeaGrant and finishing AIS Early Detector Training course. Attending and overseeing for other staff training from MNDNR on Level 1 Watercraft Inspections and an Advanced Watercraft Inspector Course. Tabling at RiverQuest (SeaGrant – Duluth). Presenting about AIS/Citizen Science and backcountry connection at Northern Tier. Reaching out to Finland Youth Group about summer programming. Beginning watercraft inspections at area boat landings.