



## LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

616 THIRD AVENUE, TWO HARBORS, MN 55616

P: (218) 834-8370

WWW.CO.LAKE.MN.US/SWCD

### Minutes

#### Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Thursday, December 13th noon

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

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by Chair Todd Ronning.  
Present: Ronning – Haus- Omarzu -Brodigan  
Absent: Sagen  
Guests: Jon Sellnow  
Staff: Tucker-Smerud
- Agenda: **Motion by Brodigan and seconded by Omarzu to approve the agenda. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Minutes: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve the minutes for November 8th, 2018 meeting as printed. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- Treasurers Report: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve the treasures report as presented. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**
- State Approved Audit: **Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve the Audit as approved by the State. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.** Bound Copies were given out.
- Guest Updates:
  - NRCS Report: Jon Sellnow shared his report which included 14 Lake County EQUIP contracts. They are waiting for the Farm Bill to be finalized. EQUIP deadlines are January 18<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be some money for invasive removal in the Lake Superior Basin. (\$200,000)
  - District Manager:
  - Cost Share: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Brodigan to approve Silver Bay payment upon receiving funds. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried**
  - Cost Share Policy: Hogfeldt and Smerud worked on adapting the BWSR Cost Share policy to fit out needs. Sonja reviewed it for the Board. **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve and sign the Cost Share Policy. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried**
  - AIS Contract with Lake County: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Haus to approve and sign the AIS two-year contract with Lake County for \$134,000 annually. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried**
  - Sonja Smerud presented the AIS Story Map and reports to the Board that she reported to the Lake County Commissioners. All agreed that it was great information.
  - Annual Buffer Monitoring Plan: **Motion by Omarzu and seconded by Brodigan to approve the plan Passe put together for monitoring buffers over a three-year rotation. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried** This plan and map will be posted on our website.

- **MPCA 2019-2020 Outreach Grant: Motion by Haus and seconded by Omarzu to approve signing this grant when it is received. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried** Nelson is working with the MPCA to get this in place by the end of the year.
- **Health Insurance update:** We are set to start our new policy with PEIP on January first. The first payment is due December 25<sup>th</sup>. We will adopt a Cafeteria Plan to be able to pay premiums pre-tax.
- **Stewart is working with NRRI on a Coastal grant for “Chloride Contamination in Lake Superior” it is submitted including some staff time for Stewart, we should hear about it next year.**
- **Flood IV funds have been spent and the Final Elink report needs to be approved and signed. Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to approve and sign the financial form. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried** Tucker will upload it into elink and work with staff to get all the documents needed into elink.

**Correspondence:** A thank you letter was shared that was received from Paul Sandstrom for our support of the River Conference.

**Supervisor Committee Reports and Concerns:**

**Audit Committee: Motion by Haus and seconded by Brodigan to accept the Audit committee’s signing 14 checks and 12 auto deposits for a total of \$50,325.15. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

- **Annual Meeting:** The Annual meeting was held this week Tucker went and asked that the Supervisors try to send a member next year.
- **RC&D meeting** was held this month but Ronning was unable to attend.
- **Book Report:** Brodigan recommended a book titled “Border County, Northern Part of Lake County”
- **Omarzu commented** that the Nature Conservancy asked to meet with her and she would like to have them come to the meeting in January to share with everyone.

Next meeting will be January 10th at Noon.

**Motion by Omarzu and seconded Haus to adjourn the meeting at 3:25. Affirmative: Ronning, Haus, Omarzu, Brodigan. Abstain: None. Carried.**

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Todd Ronning, Chairman

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Doug Haus, Secretary

**Submitted by:**

Karen R. Tucker, District Manager

**For:**

Doug Haus, Lake SWCD



December 13, 2018

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

Jon Sellnow, District Conservationist

### Programs: 106 Active Contracts

- EQIP Contracts
  - Carlton: 26
  - Cook: 12
  - Lake: 14
  - S. St. Louis: 20
- RCPP-EQIP Contracts
  - Carlton: 5
  - Cook: 0
  - Lake: 0
  - S. St. Louis: 2
- CSP Contracts
  - Carlton: 8
  - Cook: 0
  - Lake: 2
  - S. St. Louis: 17
- EQIP FY2019 Application Deadlines
  - Signup 1: January 18, 2019
  - Signup 2: April 19, 2019
- FY2020 Local Work Group
  - Hold meetings by May 1, 2019

### Meetings, Trainings, and Events:

- November 13 – Carlton SWCD
- November 15 – North Shore Forestry Collaborative Meeting
- December 6 – Cook SWCD
- December 9-11 – MASWCD Annual Convention
- December 12 – Plant Material Center Annual Meeting
- December 12 and 13 – EQIP Training
- December 13 – Lake SWCD

### Upcoming Items:

- December 17 – Carlton SWCD
- December 19 – South St. Louis SWCD
- January 3 – Cook SWCD
- January 10 – Lake SWCD



## DISTRICT MANAGER MONTHLY UPDATE NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER

KAREN TUCKER, DISTRICT MANAGER  
LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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### GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Minutes and agenda (Up-loaded to the website for last month)
- Payroll/reviewed timesheets
- Staff meetings held on Tuesdays
- Balance checking and savings
- Invoiced for grants (Silver Bay Beaver River project)
- Attended a management training in Duluth.
- Attended a website meeting
- Met with County and Sonja about the AIS budget
- Worked on Closing out the Flood IV funding.

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### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Met with County about the website update, they will plan to move forward with the update (We requested a mini site inside the County site) A few more meeting looking into costs. They are looking at January.
- Worked with Derrick on the budget for the Beaver River project, worked on invoicing to make sure the dollars are in our account before we pay large invoices. Erin, Derrick and I went to the site to see the finished project.
- Worked with staff and PIEP to get Health and Dental Insurance in place for the end of the year.
- Worked on elink updates
- Worked on budget for 2018
- Attend Annual convention

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### ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED

Approve City of Silver Bay payment and sign Voucher  
Final Approval of the Audit (State Approved)

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### CORRESPONDENCE

# Engineering Monthly Update

November 3, 2018 to December 5, 2018

Prepared by Derrick Passe



## WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

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Reviewed driveway reconstruction at Rocky Ridge with Lake County. Some wetland impacts will occur, but below WCA De minimus.

## COST SHARE

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### East Beaver River Restoration

#### Schedule

- 11/2-11/7 Construction wrapping up.
- 11/5 – 11/7 Discussed restoration of temporary wetland impacts with Contractor and Stantec.
- 11/5 Boreal Natives unable to seed site, contacted them and they have scheduled work for Spring 2019 (\$9820).
- 11/5- 11/9 SWCD/CCMI planted trees (145 white pines, white spruce and white cedar available from SWCD Inventory.) Approximately 20 trees not planted due to early freezeup; THANKS Mackenzie! ↴



- 11/27/19 Reviewed Site with Karen Tucker and Erin Loeffler.
- **DNR Funding extended into 2019 to complete restoration.**
- Spring 2019- Anticipate shrub, willow, bare root planting of non-riparian areas. Apply for CWF Crew.

## PROJECTS

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John Hasse – Completed draitile installation. Unable to install gutters.

### Shoreline Erosion

- Coastal Fellow - BWSR and DNR Coastal have received funding to host Coastal Fellow to "provide data, tools and resources to area practioners and landowners tackling Lake Superior erosion".
  - Not guaranteed
  - Fellow Period 8/2019 to 7/2021
- Contacted by 3 new property owners with Shoreline erosion.
- Met with TSA on Site near Highway 3 and Highway 61.
  - Received recommendations from TSA for site.
    - Concrete retaining wall for 400', 4 property owners, \$143,000
    - Coir Log for 70', 1 property owner, \$8,800



- Updated datasheet of 'distressed' properties.
  - 24 entries
  - Shared datasheet with BWSR

## AIS

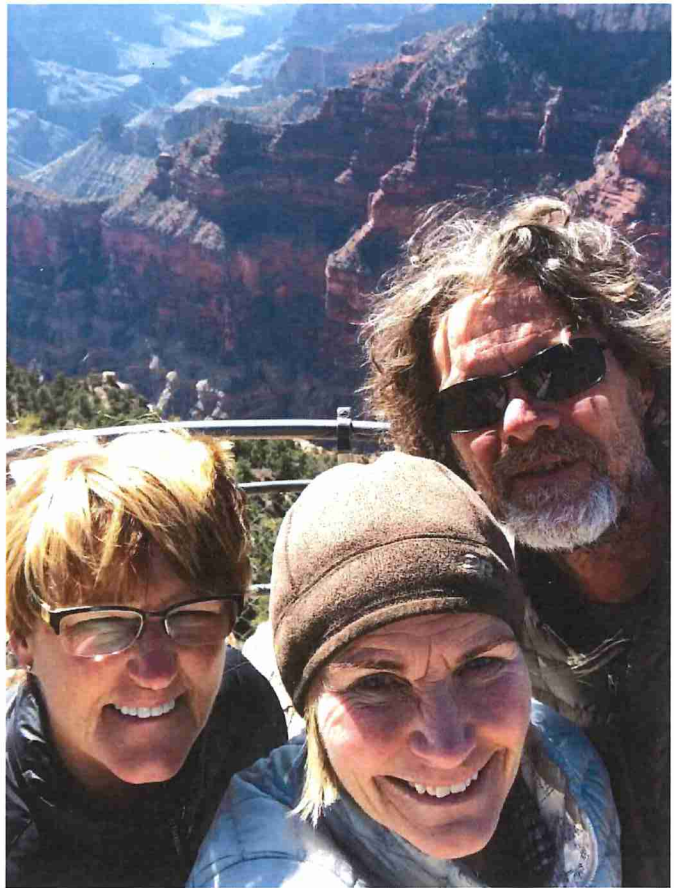
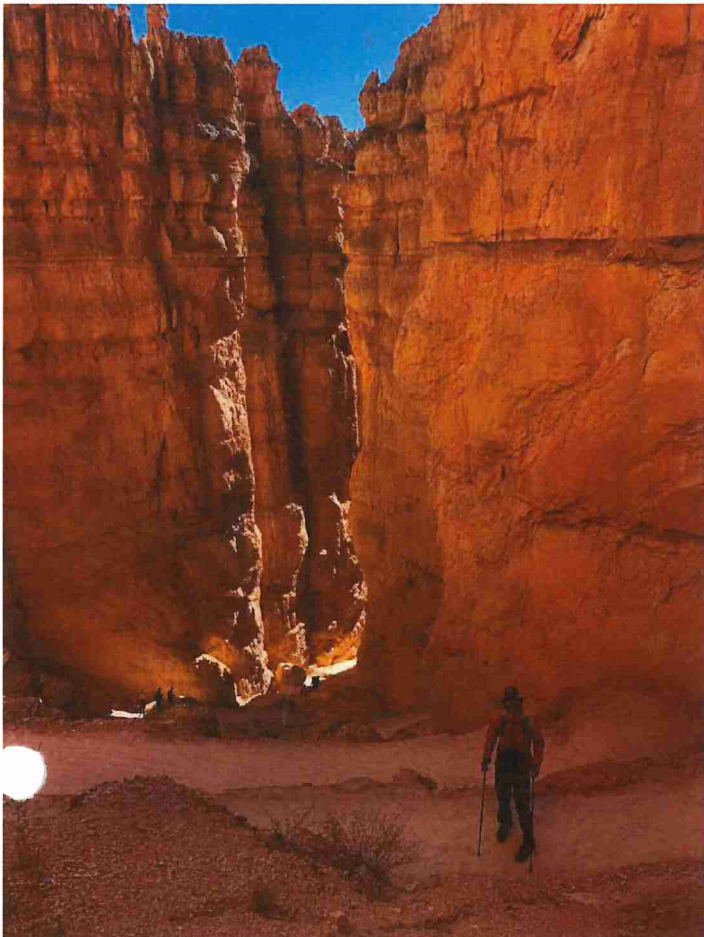
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Contacted Initiative Foundation – Trying to get Final report completed. Report template not created yet.

## NATIONAL PARKS FROM A-Z - NOVEMBER 3- NOVEMBER 16

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Visited Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Death Valley, Grand Canyon (North and South), Joshua ....., Zion Canyon National Parks.



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Rainy River Citizen Engagement

- Ely Community Resource AIS monitoring projects
  - (Ongoing) Plankton Community project aimed at defining spiny waterflea densities in Burntside, Shagawa and Fall Lakes and characterize how the native zooplankton community responds. We are exposing several students per week to AIS/plankton sampling protocols, laboratory techniques, microscope use, and dichotomous key use. (ECR students conduct this activity during summer, and then the Ely High School picks it up while school is in session).
- Worked on obtaining 2 separate grants for 2 riparian improvement projects. Sites are: North shore of Pickerel Lake, and FS-owned land between Farm/Garden Lakes. I'm working with FS Silviculture folks for prescriptions and technical expertise. We've done similar projects on Birch Lake with success.
  - Update: We received FERC (Winton dam) funding to complete the Farm/Garden riparian improvement project. Treatment and planting is scheduled to occur in 2019. Any funds leftover will be used to bud-cap and release planted trees. The Nature Conservancy will likely lend a hand in bud-capping and releasing a second time (2 years later) to increase likelihood of survival.
- Researching different options for metals testing on Birch/White Iron Lakes. RMB lab is aiming to have metals testing capabilities in 2019, so this is another option to keep an eye on.
- Conducted an "exit interview" with Liz and collected gear and data. Liz performed at a very high level and I would highly recommend her for any future employment opportunities with Lake SWCD.
- Deployed and retrieved water conductivity sensors in two streams subject to disturbances. Tomlinson Creek – a temporary bridge installed for logging access. Two Island River – was scheduled to have culvert replaced, but never was.
- Miscellaneous gear maintenance. Cleaning WQ sensors and housings, auger blades, plankton net repair.
- Met with Carrie Ohly-Cusack to discuss Burntside Lake Association projects. Spiny Waterflea monitoring went well and will be continued next year. Discussed alternative methods for general AIS monitoring including use of underwater drone.



# 2018 Watercraft Inspection Report

## Background

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) coordinates the Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program through a bi-annual contract with Lake County's Environmental Services. Environmental Services provides oversight and direction for programming, and primary activities are structured around meeting goals outlined in the Lake County AIS Prevention Plan. Dedicated funding for AIS prevention comes through the State of Minnesota and is given to each County based on the number of Public Water Accesses (PWAs) and trailer spaces in each county. \*

Watercraft inspections are a focus of Lake County's AIS programming given the opportunity for one-on-one conversations and education. Secondly, watercraft inspections are an opportunity to enforce violations of Minnesota Statutes 84D regarding nonnative species transport. 2018 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of watercraft inspections administered by Lake County through a delegation agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR). The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) also allows watercraft inspections at USFS PWAs in partnership with Lake County. Conservation Officers aid enforcement as necessary. Lake County increased staffing for AIS programming by 2.5 in 2018. Additional watercraft inspections were conducted through a contract with North St. Louis SWCD in Fall Lake Township. The MNDNR also conducted watercraft inspections and decontaminations at Agate Bay, Silver Bay, and Fall Lake during peak use times of the open water season.

Level 1 Inspectors have DNR authorization to inspect watercraft and deny access if necessary. Level 2 inspectors have all Level 1 authorization, as well as authorization to use decontamination equipment. Lake County does not conduct Level 2 inspections due to a lack of decontamination equipment, but North St. Louis SWCD and the MNDNR do conduct Level 2 decontaminations in Lake County.

## Summary

2,839 watercraft inspections were conducted at over 14 different PWAs in Lake County in 2018 from 12 May to 13<sup>th</sup> of October. Of these, 991 were at Lake Superior PWAs (713 at Agate Bay), and 1,848 were at inland lake PWAs (1,151 at Fall Lake Campground). 1,881 inspections were conducted in 2017.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Total Watercraft Inspector Hours: 1,949<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Lake County Hours: 1,263</li><li>○ NSLSWCD Hours: 498</li><li>○ MNDNR Hours: 188</li></ul></li><li>• Total Watercraft Inspections: 2,839<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Entering Inspections: 1176</li><li>○ Exiting Inspections: 1640</li><li>○ Courtesy Inspections:</li></ul></li><li>• Inspections per hour: 1.5</li><li>• Entering from In-State: 89%</li><li>• Required 1-way Transport for Prohibited Species: 0</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drain Plug in on Arrival: 52<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 4% violations upon entering</li><li>○ &lt;1% violations upon exiting</li></ul></li><li>• Vegetation/Mud on Arrival: 16 (1.4%)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Plants = 69% of violations</li></ul></li><li>• Spiny Waterflea: 9 of 12 exiting watercraft violations<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Occurred at Agate and Silver Bay</li><li>○ Occurred between August 12 and September 22, 2018</li></ul></li><li>• Number of Decontaminations (by Partners): 24</li></ul>
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# 2018 Watercraft Inspection Report

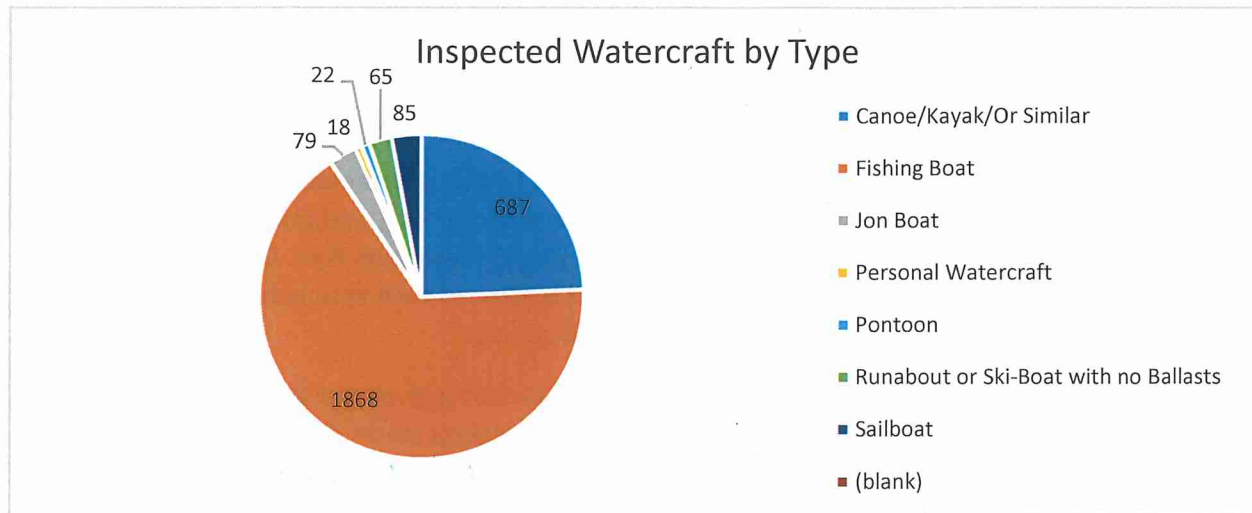


Figure 1. During the 2018 season, fishing boats were the most frequently inspected watercraft type in Lake County (1,868 of inspections). Canoe/kayaks were the second most common watercraft (687), followed by sail boats (85), jon boats (79), runabouts (65), pontoons (22), and personal watercraft (18).

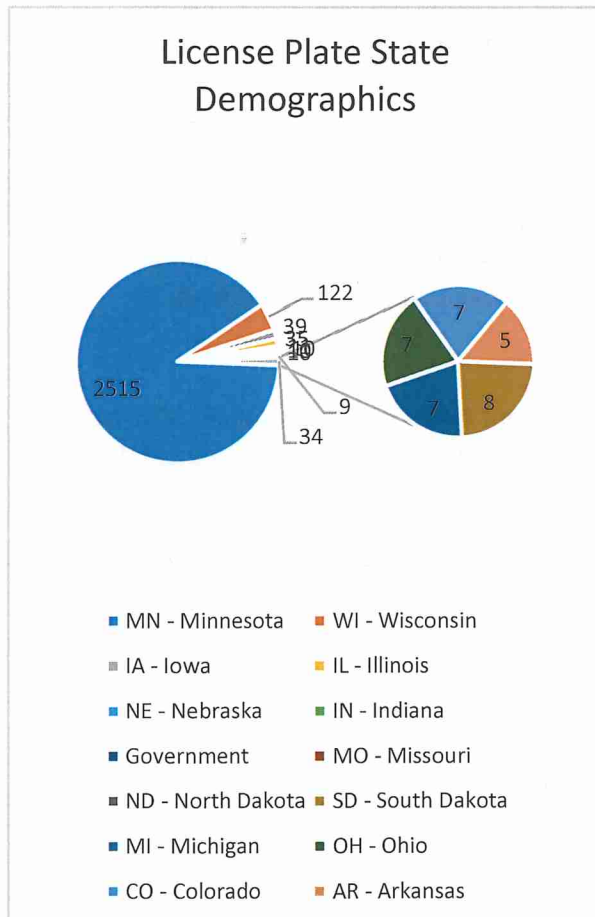


Figure 2. Inspected watercraft originate largely from Minnesota (88.6%), as determined by vehicle license plate.

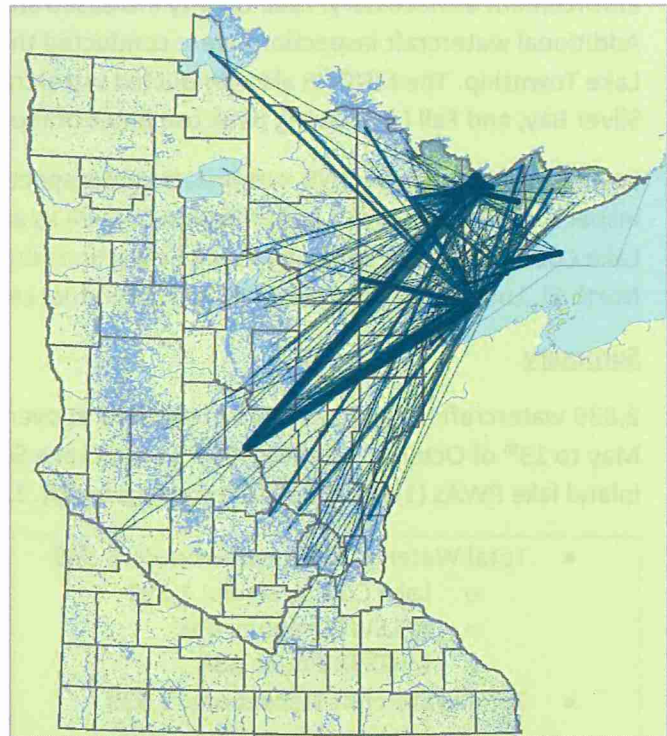


Figure 3. Boater movement to Lake County PWAs based on 2018 self-reported watercraft inspection responses referring to "last lake" and "next lake" visited. Heavier lines represent more traffic.

\* Lake County will receive \$177,029 in 2019 from the State of Minnesota (35 launches and 424 trailer spaces). 2019 goals include targeted and increased inspection staffing at inland and Lake Superior PWAs.

# 2018 AIS Prevention Programming Report

## Background

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) coordinates the Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program through a bi-annual contract with Lake County. Program priorities for the Lake County AIS Prevention Program include: (1) outreach and education, (2) early detection and monitoring, (3) watercraft inspections and compliance, (4) management and rapid response, and (5) partnerships. The Lake County AIS Plan was created and adopted in 2015 and updated in 2018 to reflect programmatic elements, summarized here. More information is available at:

[http://www.co.lake.mn.us/Lake%20County%20FINAL%20AIS%20PLAN 2018%20Update.pdf](http://www.co.lake.mn.us/Lake%20County%20FINAL%20AIS%20PLAN%202018%20Update.pdf).

## Accomplishments



### In 2018, Lake County's AIS Prevention Program:

- Facilitated over 5,608 unique conversations
- Reached at least an additional 476,00 contacts through advertising
- Educated 5 ISD381 students through the "Water Watchers" Lake County 4-H Extension Program and an additional 45 visiting University students
- Fostered a presentation on youth education and AIS at an international conference to over 50 session attendees
- Funded 3 full-time seasonal, one full-time year-round, and 2 part-time seasonal positions
- Taught 25 individuals about aquatic plant identification through workshops hosted in Lake County and with partners
- Leveraged at least 363 hours of volunteer time staffing festival booths, learning about AIS, and trapping crayfish



Figure 1. Water Watchers participants working with MNDNR Finland Fisheries to survey for AIS.



Figure 2. Infographic representing conversations at outreach events in 2018.



# 2018 AIS Prevention Programming Report



Figure 4. Lake SWCD Staff and partners in the 2018 Heritage Days Parade.



Figure 3. Volunteer with statewide BioBlitz event "Starry Trek" – August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – monitoring for Starry Stonewort.

## Summary – Plan Update and Public Input

- In 2018, two focus groups were held to determine effective current programming and outline future efforts. At the focus group meetings, outreach and education were highlighted as a priority, specifically: face-to-face interactions such as through watercraft inspections, youth education, and materials such as signs and giveaways.
- The 2018 Plan update also included input from surveys collected at public accesses. Survey results indicated conversations with watercraft inspectors were the primary source of information about AIS while signs at boat launches, regulation and registration materials, and media on TV and radio were secondary sources of information. Conversations with watercraft inspectors were considered the best source of information among those surveyed, indicating a continued need for watercraft inspectors in Lake County.
- Almost all watercraft users had heard of the impacts zebra mussels cause, but less so other invasive species including spiny waterflea, rusty crayfish, Eurasian watermilfoil, and purple loosestrife.
- Many watercraft users were previously unaware of bait disposal practices, and if aware, they learned about best practices from a watercraft inspector or a boating regulation book.

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Early  
Detection

- Surveyed 70 lakes in the Lake Superior and Rain River Watersheds for spiny waterflea, trapped for rusty crayfish, and scanned the littoral zone for invasive vegetation.
- Compiled monitoring data into a usable ArcMap format for 2019.

Managed approximately 10 acres of Purple Loosestrife infestations, both known and new to Lake County.

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Management



## **WATER PLAN REPORT NOVEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 6, 2018**

**PREPARED BY: SONJA SMERUD, WATER PLANNER  
LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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### **COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Drafted cost-share policy
- Community Education Class – assistance to MN Green Corps, Lake County
- Schedule developed for 2019 meetings
- Annual Update (see printout)

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### **LAKE SUPERIOR NORTH ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN**

- Coastal Erosion Hazard Map (CEHM)
  - Completed Coastal Annual Grant for CEHM Project, submitted by the North Shore Management Board – November 19<sup>th</sup>
    - Coordinated (with Cook SWCD) secured 1:1 match from ARDC and Lake and Cook Counties
    - Meeting with ARDC, NSMB, Clint Little, Lake County Environmental Services and GIS/IT on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> regarding direction of the project and project leadership
  - Sent coastal update email and updated work plan to partners – November 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Coastal Fellow Update Meeting – MNDNR November 29<sup>th</sup>
- Urban Stormwater Assessment Follow-Up with EOR per contract
- Nature Conservancy-hosted Conference Call for SOGL North Shore Riparian Restoration Project – November 21<sup>st</sup> - \$5,000 in-kind staff match for plan writing and connecting with landowners, funds available for riparian plantings for long-lived conifers in priority watersheds
- Scheduled 2019 meetings

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### **ITEMS OF NOTE AND/OR MOTION NEEDED**

- Governor Elect-Walz hosted a listening session at the Silver Bay Veteran's Home on December 3<sup>rd</sup> – local issues primarily brought up included:
  - The Sulfate Rule and proposed mining in the Region, specifically Polymet, including representatives expressing both for and against opinions
  - Veteran's Benefits
  - Agriculture and a sustainable food economy in the Arrowhead region
  - Value of education, specifically field-based environmental education



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## **November 2018 Forestry Report**

**Tim Byrns**

### **Forest Stewardship Plans**

- Rodney Johnson FSP- 90 acres, plan delivered
- Eric Sismo FSP request- 40 acres (plan rewrite)

### **NRCS EQIP Plans**

- John Coultier Forest Stand Improvement and Woody Residue Treatment project – 12 acres of 36 acres implemented
- Steve Dlohy Forest Stand Improvement, Woody Residue Treatment plan complete
- Dores Gerdes, Forest Stand Improvement, Woody Residue Treatment plan complete
- Voyageurs Outward Bound School, Woody Residue Treatment plan complete
- Alan Neske, plan request
- Janine Otto plan request
- Lloyd Bodle plan request
- Nic Cain flagging complete

### **Fall Lake TWP Firewise Plans**

- Lisa Bengé
- Don Stocks
- Sharon Magliulo
- Julie Schmidt
- Jeff Vosburgh
- William Chellow
- Todd Cyriacks
- Thomas Christiansen
- Eagle Point LLC
- Micheal McGill

### **Other**

- WTIP Interview November 19
- Encampment Forest shoreline erosion assistance



# Zach Stewart

## Board Report 12/3/2018

### E. coli Source Investigation

- Used R- programming environment to perform Principle Component Analysis, data imputation, and spatial analysis of mean E. coli counts for 2018 season
- Following grant reporting plan developed with District Manager: preparing for first quarterly report through Dec. 31
- Continuing review of pertinent peer-reviewed primary literature in preparation for drafting technical report
- Initial data analysis of 2018 culture and environmental sampling
- Studied Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) manual in preparation for IDDE component of E. coli investigation
- Prepared to document Outfall Reconnaissance Inventory (ORI) for Skunk Creek (per IDDE manual) during low-flow leaf-off conditions

### Other Water Resources Projects

- Pursuing additional funding for water resource conservation projects in Lake County
- Worked closely with partners at NRRI and UMD to develop chloride contamination project
- Submitted application “Assessment of Chloride Contamination in the Lake Superior South Watershed” to MN Coastal Program
- Obtained support letter for chloride assessment project from Dan Walker, City of Two Harbors administrator
- Continued assessment of culverts and stream crossings for aquatic organism passage

### Aquatic Invasive Species

- Analyzed 2018 Watercraft Inspection Data using MN DNR Pivot table
- Edited Watercraft Inspection Report
- Inventory/cleaning of WIP kits and restocking of supplies