

Le Sueur County

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan

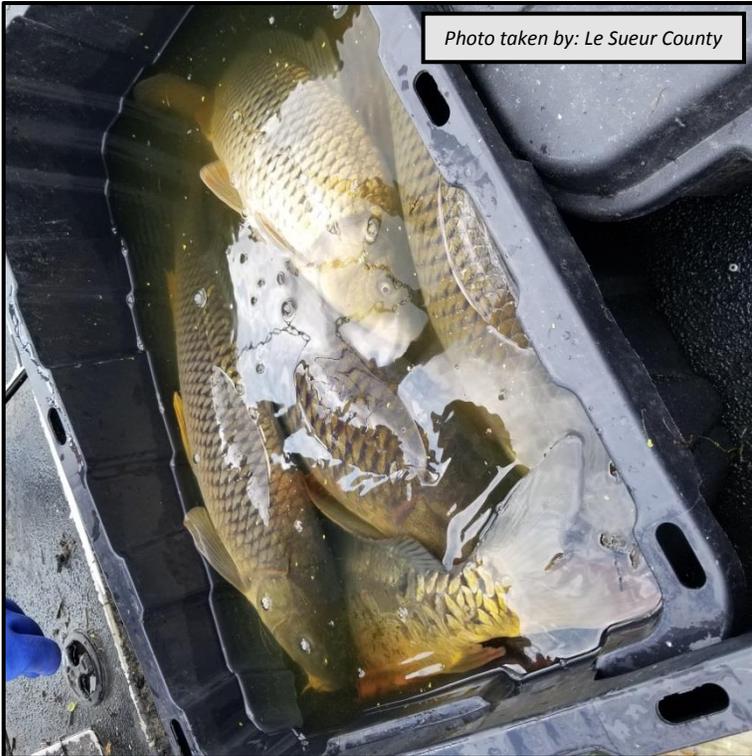


Photo taken by: Le Sueur County



Photo taken by: Blue Water Science



Photo taken by: Le Sueur County

Zebra mussel
Dreissena polymorpha

Plan Adoption Date: December 03, 2019

Plan prepared by: Le Sueur County with assistance from the Le Sueur County AIS Prevention Advisory Committee

Le Sueur County Aquatic Invasive Species

Prevention Plan

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1-3
1.1 Plan Purpose	1
1.2 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid	1-2
1.3 AIS in Le Sueur County	2
1.4 AIS Program Management	2-3
2. Strategies	3-13
2.1 Education and Outreach	3-5
2.2 Watercraft Inspections	5-7
2.3 Decontamination	7-8
2.4 Assessment	8-10
2.5 Management & Monitoring	10-11
2.6 New Infestation Plan	11-12
2.7 Enforcement	12-13
3. Appendices	14-27
Appendix A-Le Sueur County AIS Contacts	15-16
Appendix B- Grants and Programs	17-18
Appendix C-List of Accesses & Map (Figure 1)	19-21
Appendix D-Request for Proposals (RFP)	22-24
Appendix E-End of Season Report-DNR Metrics Template	25-27

1. Introduction

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) (sometimes called exotic, invasive, nonindigenous or non-native) are defined as aquatic organisms that invade ecosystems beyond their natural, historic range (US Fish & Wildlife Service). AIS often have economic and environmental impacts such as competing with native species, decreasing habitat and habitat quality, decreasing water quality, spreading pathogens, limiting recreational opportunities, decreasing value of waterfront property, and having huge costs associated with damaged infrastructure and removal.

Le Sueur County has 128 lakes, many creeks, streams, and rivers within its jurisdictional boundaries, which are among some of the County's greatest natural assets. Aquatic invasive species now threaten the habitat, ecosystem function, and recreational enjoyment of these resources. The desired outcome for Le Sueur County is to prevent the spread of AIS and minimize their impacts to the County's water resources.

1.1 Plan Purpose

The purpose of the Le Sueur County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan is to administer and coordinate federal, state, and local resources in order to help prevent and limit the spread of AIS. There are variety of ways that will provide support in achieving this including education and outreach, watercraft inspections, decontamination, assessments (research/studies), management, monitoring, and enforcement. The activities identified in this plan will have action items that will be prioritized with set goals and timelines.

The main objectives set forth in this plan are listed below:

- ◆ Stop the spread of AIS in the County.
- ◆ Reduce the economic and environmental impacts caused by current and future AIS infestations.

1.2 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

In 2014, the State of Minnesota (MN) approved a new funding source for counties, Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid, in order to prevent the introduction and/or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within each County (MN Statue 447A.19). The money allocated to each county is based on the total number of watercraft parking spaces and watercraft trailer launches. Distributions of funds in 2014 was \$4.5 million dollars and \$10 million dollars for subsequent years. Le Sueur County received \$148,373 in 2018, \$149,119 in 2019, and anticipates receiving similar funds in future years.

To view AIS Prevention Aid allocations for all counties each year since 2014, click on the following link: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention-aid>. The

funds that are received from the State of Minnesota assist Le Sueur County in completing the activities and goals outlined in this plan.

1.3 AIS in Le Sueur County

A number of AIS are already present within the County and surrounding areas. As of 2019, Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) are present in Le Sueur County lakes, and Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), and Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) are present in the Minnesota River which defines the County's western border. To find out more information about each of these species please visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s website-Guide to AIS <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/id.html>.

The aquatic invasive species located within Le Sueur County are listed on the prohibited and regulated species lists. With prohibited species, it is unlawful to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce unless you are permitted to do so. A few examples of these species located in Le Sueur County include: Flowering Rush, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and Zebra Mussels. Regulated species are allowed to be sold, transferred, bought, etc., but may not be introduced into a free-living state unless you are permitted to do so. An example of this species located in Le Sueur County is Common Carp. Management and prevention of these species are important in continuing to protect the water resources within Le Sueur County.

Infested waters are defined in MN State Statute 84D.03 a,b,c, " a) As the water contains a population of AIS that could spread to other waters if not regulated b) or the water is highly likely to be infested by AIS because it is connected to water that contains a population of AIS. c) The presence of common carp and curly-leaf pondweed shall not be the basis for listing a water as infested." To see the complete infested waters list for Le Sueur County or other Minnesota Counties, click on the following link:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>. There are a number of AIS that have infested waterbodies in Minnesota that have not been introduced to Le Sueur County. This poses an increased risk for those aquatic invasive species to be introduced into Le Sueur County waters. Despite whether Le Sueur County's lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks contain aquatic invasive species or not, users should always follow AIS prevention best management practices.

1.4 AIS Program Management

It will be the responsibility of Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department and the Le Sueur County AIS Prevention Advisory Committee to develop the County's AIS Prevention Plan. The Environmental Services Department and the AIS Prevention Advisory Committee will review the plan annually to determine its effectiveness. If at that time they feel the plan needs

major updates and/or amendments, changes will be made accordingly and approved by the Le Sueur County Board. The County will likely not update and/or amend the plan every year, but instead updates/amendments will be made every 3-5 years. The Environmental Services Department, AIS Prevention Advisory Committee, Minnesota DNR, County Sheriff's Department, Lake Associations, and other local stakeholders will work together to enact different aspects of this plan.

This plan is intended to outline goals, activities, actions, and timelines that will help achieve progress towards limiting and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. The items discussed in this plan are not meant to limit what activities can be completed and pursued. Rather, the plan helps guide the County, Minnesota DNR, Lake Associations, Sheriff's Department, and other stakeholders in reaching the outcomes as described later in the plan. It is recognized that aquatic invasive species are very dynamic and over time the goals, activities, and actions will change due to individuals and groups gaining knowledge and effectiveness in working towards stopping the spread and preventing the introduction of AIS.

2. Strategies

The strategies listed below were selected by the AIS Prevention Advisory Committee. They continue to be of importance and can be found in past and current Le Sueur County AIS Prevention Plans. Each strategy will continue to be implemented and/or will be implemented in the future in Le Sueur County to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The diversity in strategies demonstrates that there are numerous ways to implement and administer the program, and ultimately, help limit and prevent the spread of AIS. Each strategy continues to grow and change overtime in order to reflect the experiences and knowledge that are gained throughout the years.

2.1 Education and Outreach

The education and outreach aspect of the Le Sueur County AIS Prevention Plan will focus on the following: raising public awareness, educating adults and children at numerous events and functions, distributing and utilizing AIS educational materials for events and functions, media advertising (TV, radio, billboards, etc.), presenting at events and functions, funding AIS education and outreach programs and projects, and partnering with local and nonlocal organizations as well as other government units. Education and outreach may also involve AIS ambassadors and volunteers. These individuals are required to go through DNR training, but are not authorized to do Level 1 watercraft inspections. Instead they interact with individuals to discuss AIS, explain the laws, and help them understand the importance of completing watercraft inspections. By utilizing all of these resources and tools, Le Sueur County will be able to promote the adoption and consistent practice of AIS prevention behaviors by all residents and visitors throughout the county.

Table 1.

Activity Item	Timeline	Responsible Party	Prioritization of Activity	How Activity Supports AIS Prevention
Activity #1: Attend events and functions such as lake association meetings, fishing contests, county fair, etc. to present information about AIS.	Annually, Numerous times per year	County & MN DNR	High	Presentations at these events and functions are direct education and outreach that reaches a variety of stakeholders and reviews a variety of topics related to AIS.
Activity #2: Acquire and distribute AIS educational materials (books, identification cards, handouts, promotional items, etc.) for events and functions.	Annually, Numerous times per year	County	High	Educational materials provide additional ways in supporting and spreading the message of AIS prevention.
Activity #3: Acquire and utilize educational props and displays at events and functions.	Annually, Numerous times per year	County	High	Educational props and displays will help convey AIS prevention messages and engage the public.
Activity #4: Advertise AIS prevention through local media sources (TV, radio stations, newspapers, social media, and websites) and through different platforms (signs, billboards, etc.)	Annually, Numerous times per year	County & MN DNR	High	By utilizing numerous media sources and platforms to increase awareness about AIS prevention, a wide variety of audiences will be reached.
Activity #5: Place signage at county parks and accesses.	TBD	County	Moderate	The signage helps create awareness about how to prevent the spread of AIS, how to clean water orientated structures and equipment, and what bodies of water have AIS infestations.
Activity #6: Encourage and fund AIS education classes at Le Sueur County public schools.	Annually	County	High	The education classes are tailored towards youth, and help increase their awareness about AIS prevention.

Activity #7: Advertise AIS prevention through media sources used by Lake Associations (newsletters, social media, and websites).	Annually	Lake Associations	High	By utilizing numerous media sources to increase awareness about AIS prevention, a wide variety of audiences will be reached.
Activity #8: Partner with local and nonlocal organizations and other government units to provide AIS education and outreach.	Annually	County, MN DNR, and Lake Associations	High	Partnerships provide additional resources and will reach an increased audience size when spreading awareness about AIS prevention.
Activity #9: Encourage local participation in becoming an AIS ambassadors/volunteer at accesses.	TBD	All stakeholders	Low	AIS ambassadors/volunteers assist with educating/informing the public about AIS and how to slow their spread.
Activity #10: Support AIS ambassadors/volunteers in attending required DNR trainings.	TBD	All stakeholders	Low	Trainings provide the skills and knowledge for individuals to be effective in educating others about the importance of preventing/limiting the spread of AIS.
Activity #11: Attend conferences, trainings, and seminars to stay up to date and knowledgeable about AIS.	Annually	All stakeholders	High	Trainings provide the skills and knowledge for stakeholders to increase their awareness as well as help increase others awareness in AIS prevention.
Activity #12: Provide education to stakeholders about AIS best management practices for lakes, rivers, stormwater ponds, etc.	Annually	County, MN DNR, Lake Associations	Moderate	Education about AIS best management practices will increase stakeholders' awareness about AIS prevention, and increase adoption of practices.
Activity #13: When deemed appropriate and necessary, seek out additional funding opportunities to help with education and outreach.	TBD	County and Lake Associations	Low	Additional funding opportunities will help the County spread awareness about AIS.

2.2 Watercraft Inspections

The watercraft inspection component of the plan will utilize the County's Sheriff Department, the City of Elysian and Waterville, and private sectors. Additionally, delegation agreements will need to be completed by the County and/or City with the Minnesota DNR. Once a delegation

agreement has been approved, the DNR will provide trainings and then can authorize individuals to become Level 1 or Level 2 watercraft inspectors. Only after the delegation agreement has been signed and training has been completed can an individual serve as an authorized watercraft inspector.

According to Minnesota State Statutes in section 84D.105, inspectors are able to do the following:

- Visually and strategically inspect watercraft and other water-related equipment. This may include drainage, decontamination, removal, or treatment of equipment
- Prohibit launching or operation of watercraft and other water-related equipment if a person refuses to allow inspection or removal of AIS
- Require a watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching

Le Sueur County is fortunate to have numerous bodies of water, but that also means higher risk for infestations. Many of lakes and rivers within the County serve not only residents, but also visitors from other Minnesota counties and visitors from other states. The lakes and rivers within the County offer recreational opportunities such as swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, and hunting. Additionally, there are numerous seasonal and permanent residents around Le Sueur County lakes. With high traffic of watercraft and people, it is imperative for Le Sueur County to continue to conduct watercraft inspections to prevent and limit the spread of AIS among Le Sueur County lakes, rivers, streams, etc. and bodies of water that are not located within the County.

Table 2.

Activity Item	Timeline	Responsible Party	Prioritization of Activity	How Activity Supports AIS Prevention
Activity #1: Utilize County Sheriff's Department to complete watercraft inspections at boat accesses located throughout the county. <i>(see Appendix C for complete list)</i>	Annually	Sheriff's Department	High	Watercraft inspections are one of the most effective methods in preventing and limiting the spread of AIS.
Activity #2: Utilize the City of Waterville and Elysian to complete watercraft inspections at boat accesses located within their jurisdiction. <i>(see Appendix C for complete list)</i>	Annually	City of Waterville and Elysian	High	Watercraft inspections are one of the most effective methods in preventing and limiting the spread of AIS.

Activity #3: Utilize private sectors to complete watercraft inspections at boat accesses located throughout the county. (see Appendix C for complete list)	Annually	County, Contractor	Moderate	Watercraft inspections are one of the most effective methods in preventing and limiting the spread of AIS.
Activity #4: Support watercraft inspectors attending required DNR training to become an authorized Level 1 or Level 2 watercraft inspectors.	Annually	Sheriff's Department staff, City Staff, Contractor	High	The required trainings provide the skills and knowledge for individuals to be effective in performing watercraft inspections and using decontamination units.
Activity #5: If additional AIS trainings are offered, encourage watercraft inspectors to attend.	Annually	Sheriff's Department staff, City staff, Contractor	Low	These trainings enhance the skills and knowledge that individuals have in order to be more effective as a Level 1 or 2 watercraft inspector.
Activity #6: When deemed appropriate and necessary, seek out additional funding opportunities to help with Le Sueur County's watercraft inspection program.	TBD	County, Cities, and Lake Associations	Low	Watercraft inspections are one of the most effective methods in preventing and limiting the spread of AIS. Additional funding may be needed in the future to help cover costs.

2.3 Decontamination

Another strategy to reduce the spread of AIS is the use of a decontamination unit. A decontamination unit reduces the chances of spreading AIS by utilizing heated pressurized water to kill and remove AIS from boats and trailers. The success of a decontamination unit is dependent on the individual that is using the equipment, usually a DNR authorized Level 2 watercraft inspector. At this time there are no plans for the County to provide and manage a decontamination site. Plans may be pursued in the future if there is sufficient interest and funding.

Table 3.

Activity Item	Timeline	Responsible Party	Prioritization of Activity	How Activity Supports AIS Prevention
Activity #1: Purchase decontamination unit(s) and place in various locations throughout Le Sueur County. Equipment will be purchased based off of interest, logistics, and funding availability.	TBD	County	Low	Decontamination units will limit and help reduce the risk of spreading AIS to non-infested waters.

Activity #2: Train watercraft inspectors to become authorized Level 2 inspectors in order to utilize decontamination units.	TBD	MN DNR	Low	Level 2 Inspectors will be properly trained to utilize the decontamination unit and can assist the public in correctly utilizing the equipment to prevent further spread of AIS.
Activity #3: When deemed appropriate and necessary, seek out additional funding opportunities to help Le Sueur County acquire decontamination equipment.	TBD	County	Low	Decontamination units will limit and help reduce the risk of spreading AIS to non-infested waters. Additional funding may be needed in the future to help cover costs for the decontamination unit(s).

2.4 Assessment

Work will be done to explore possible avenues for AIS introduction, risk, and movement to waterbodies within the County. The first step in assessment is to understand the current status of aquatic invasive species in Le Sueur County’s water resources. This information and data is often collected by the Minnesota DNR, and should be reviewed before making any future assessment and management decisions. Additionally, Le Sueur County has completed assessments of AIS within the County that should be taken into account. Lastly, ongoing studies and research is being completed by the Universities within Minnesota and throughout the United States. The knowledge and information from the research conducted by Universities is considered very valuable and will be taken into account when conducting assessments. Assessments will be an ongoing effort to collect as much data as possible to reflect the changes that occur with AIS.

There are a variety of ways to assess AIS and their impacts to the County. Areas that would be of interest to the County include, but not limited to, the following: carp populations & spawning areas, evaluation of AIS pre & post-treatment conditions, risk of infestation of water resources, feasibility & success of AIS removals/treatments, potential management, AIS impacts to water quality, current AIS conditions, integrated pest management plans, etc.

Aquatic invasive species assessments and research have been completed in Le Sueur County in past years for a variety of reasons. Aquatic Invasive Species Action Plans were conducted in 2015 to determine a risk assessment for 12 lakes located within the County. To review the AIS Action Plans please click on the following link: <https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/499/Research-and-Studies>. The information gathered from these studies will be utilized to better direct management efforts as well as allow the County and AIS Prevention Advisory Committee to track changes that occur with AIS. In 2019, Le Sueur County hired a contractor to conduct carp assessments on 11 lakes. The assessments will help the County determine the current carp

population for each lake, and whether they are having an impact on water quality. If it is determined that carp are having an impact on water quality, additional research and studies may be needed to determine how to reduce carp numbers. To review the results of the carp assessments please click on the following link: <https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/499/Research-and-Studies>.

Table 4.

Activity Item	Timeline	Responsible Party	Prioritization of Activity	How Activity Supports AIS Prevention
Activity #1: Identify and maintain a list of current AIS infested waters.	Annually	County & MN DNR	High	The AIS infested waters listed is often updated. Being aware of County and neighboring counties infestations will help reduce risk of spreading AIS.
Activity #2: Compile AIS reports, research, studies, and data that have been completed by the County, DNR, Universities, and Lake Associations.	Biannually	County	High	This information will be used to determine what is known or unknown about the current conditions of AIS throughout the County, Minnesota, and the U.S. as well as what has or hasn't worked in managing/reducing the spread of AIS.
Activity #3: Pursue AIS (vegetation, fish, and invertebrates) assessments and research to determine how they impact water bodies in Le Sueur County.	Every 3-5 years or if there is need due to gaps in data	County & MN DNR	Moderate	The impacts that AIS have on water bodies varies. In order to have a better understanding of how AIS impact water bodies and potential avenues to manage AIS; additional research/assessments may be needed.
Activity #4: Pursue AIS (vegetation, fish, and invertebrates) feasibility studies to determine how management would impact water bodies in Le Sueur County.	Every 3-5 years or if there is need due to gaps in data	County & MN DNR	Moderate	Management can be difficult with AIS, and is not always effective. Feasibility studies will help determine if and what AIS management is appropriate for a specific water body.

Activity #5: Pursue additional AIS (vegetation, fish, and invertebrates) reports/plans in order to apply for other funding opportunities to complete AIS activities.	Every 3-5 years or if there is need due to gaps in data	County	Moderate	Additional plans and reports will help the County be more competitive in obtaining funding for AIS prevention activities.
Activity #6: Evaluate AIS removals and/or post-treatment conditions.	TBD	All stakeholders	High	Monitoring AIS treatment efforts will determine if treatment of AIS was successful and if additional treatment is needed.

2.5 Management and Monitoring

The County will work with the MN DNR and Lake Associations on managing AIS within the County. Management of AIS within the County may include activities, but not limited to, the following: mechanical treatment, chemical treatments, biocontrol, structures/barriers to prevent AIS movement, drawdowns, monitoring, recruitment mortalities, etc. If the County or any other entity pursues any type of management, the proper federal, state, and local permits will be secured before work begins.

Le Sueur County has assisted with mechanical treatments for lakes located within the County. If any type of treatment is needed for a particular water body, the County will coordinate with all stakeholders involved to determine if treatment is needed and appropriate. Funding opportunities may be available from the County to support treatment efforts.

In order to monitor AIS, the County will encourage seasonal surveys. These surveys will be used to determine the current growth of AIS already known to be infesting a water body or utilized to scout for the introduction of new AIS not already known to be present in a lake. Additionally, these surveys may be utilized to better direct AIS control efforts.

Table 5.

Activity Item	Timeline	Responsible Party	Prioritization of Activity	How Activity Supports AIS Prevention
Activity #1: Support local efforts for AIS removal and treatment (funding, obtaining permits, etc.)	TBD	County	High	The County will work with all stakeholders in AIS removal/treatment in order to reduce/limit AIS presence in water bodies.

Activity #2: Coordinate with MN DNR to identify and establish management efforts when necessary.	TBD	County	Low	Le Sueur County and the MN DNR will work together to determine what management efforts would be effective in preventing the spread of AIS.
Activity #3: Monitor pre & post treatment of AIS infested waters in Le Sueur County.	TBD	County, MN DNR, Contractor, and Lake Associations	High	Monitoring AIS treatment efforts will help determine if management was successful and if additional management is needed.
Activity #4: Monitor water bodies (lakes, rivers, wetlands, stormwater ponds, etc.) in Le Sueur County for current conditions of AIS.	Annually	County, MN DNR, Lake Associations, and other stakeholders	High	Data will be available in order to determine the extent of AIS presence in water bodies and determine if management is needed in order to prevent the spread of AIS.
Activity #5: When deemed appropriate and necessary, seek out additional funding opportunities to complete AIS management activities.	TBD	County and MN DNR	Low	Funding is often a limiting factor for completing projects. Additional funding opportunities will help the County and MN DNR complete AIS management activities that will be needed.

2.6 New Infestation Plan

A New Infestation Plan will be developed to address new, localized infestations in an effort to keep AIS from becoming established within a water body. This plan will be utilized solely to deal with new, isolated introductions and not with AIS that have already become established. Infestations are considered new when the AIS have not been previously recorded by the MN DNR in the water body in question. Suspected new infestations should be reported directly to the MN DNR immediately to start the response process. The MN DNR is required to verify or deny the report. If the new infestation is verified by the MN DNR, communications should be initiated by the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department, Lake Association (if applicable), any local businesses on or near the lake, and neighboring counties about the new AIS occurrence.

Le Sueur County has set aside funds to help respond to new infestations. In order to be eligible for funding, the proper permits need to be obtained by the MN DNR. Additionally, the funds can be used for mechanical, biological, or chemical removal with County Board approval. A response guidance group made up of MN DNR staff, local resource managers, local organization leaders, consultants, and other experts as needed will be convened for each new infestation.

The group will discuss available funding, the pros and cons of various treatment options, and monitoring that will be needed. A treatment and monitoring plan will be developed and implemented. A report summarizing response efforts and recommended next steps will be submitted to Le Sueur County.

Table 6.

Activity Item	Timeline	Responsible Party	Prioritization of Activity	How Activity Supports AIS Prevention
Activity #1: Provide financial support for AIS removal and/or treatment of new infestations.	TBD	County	High	The County will provide financial support in AIS removal and treatment to limit/prevent further spread of new infestations.
Activity #2: Obtain appropriate permits and documentation for AIS removal and treatment of new infestations.	TBD	County	High	The County will obtain the required permits and documentation needed to support AIS removal and treatment to limit/prevent further spread of new infestations.
Activity #3 Report suspect new AIS infestation to the MN DNR. The MN DNR is required to verify or deny the report. If the new infestation is verified by the MN DNR, communications should be initiated by Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department, Lake Association (if applicable), any local businesses on or near the lake, and neighboring counties about the new AIS occurrence.	TBD	All stakeholders	High	Quick responses and communication to all stakeholders will help reduce the risk of new infestations spreading throughout the same water body or to additional water bodies.

2.7 Enforcement

Enforcement of AIS prevention within the County will be handled by the local sheriff's department. With the continued spread of AIS within the State of Minnesota, it is becoming more important to enforce prevention if we hope to reduce or halt the spread of these organisms and protect our waters for future generations.

Enforcement of the County's AIS will be conducted on two main fronts, at access sites and on the road. Boats will be inspected as they enter and leave the access. By inspecting before a

boat enters a waterbody, we can prevent new introductions. By inspecting a boat when it leaves, we can prevent the unlawful transport of AIS from infested lakes. If an individual refuses to have their water related equipment inspected, the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department will be notified. If enforcement trainings are offered by the Minnesota DNR for officers, the County will encourage the sheriff's department to attend.

Table 7.

Activity Item	Timeline	Responsible Party	Prioritization of Activity	How Activity Supports AIS Prevention
Activity #1: Utilize local sheriff's department to promote and enforce AIS laws and regulations.	Annually	Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department	High	The local sheriff's department is knowledgeable about AIS laws and regulations and is able to enforce them. This will prevent AIS from spreading to and infesting other waters.
Activity #2: Encourage and support the sheriff department's attendance at MN DNR enforcement trainings.	Annually	Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department	Low/Moderate	The enforcement trainings sharpen the sheriffs departments' skills and knowledge to be more effective in enforcing AIS laws and regulations.

3. Appendices



Appendix A. Le Sueur County AIS Contacts

Le Sueur County staff (Environmental Services Department) is responsible for administering and coordinating the County's Aquatic Invasive Species program.

The Sheriff's Department assists the Environmental Services Department with Aquatic Invasive Species education and outreach efforts. The department also performs watercraft inspections and enforces Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species laws and regulations.

Minnesota DNR staff provides guidance and advice to the County when administering the AIS program. Additionally, the Minnesota DNR participates with many of the activities that are listed in this plan.

The AIS Prevention Advisory Committee was created to help the County direct its AIS prevention efforts in a manner that was effective and comprehensive while including local, county, and state AIS prevention goals/objectives. The Committee provides feedback about the current AIS prevention efforts in the County and brings forth knowledge/ideas to the group.

Environmental Services Department Staff

Holly Kalbus, Environmental Resources Specialist, 507-357-8540, hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Sheriff's Department Staff

Allan Sowieja, Le Sueur County Deputy Water Patrol, 507-380-8239, asowieja@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Brett Mason, Le Sueur County Sheriff, 507-357-8557, bmason@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Minnesota DNR Staff

Carli Wagner, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, 507-389-8812, Carli.Wagner@state.mn.us

Tina Fitzgerald, AIS Prevention Planner, 651-259-5146, Tina.Fitzgerald@state.mn.us

Travis Kinsell, Regional Watercraft Inspection Supervisor, 320-234-2550 ext.247, Travis.Kinsell@state.mn.us

AIS Prevention Advisory Committee

Dave Gliszinski, Le Sueur County Commissioner, dgliszinski@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Dennis Byron, Lake Francis Lake Association, dennisfbyron@hotmail.com

Eric Lomen, Waterville Lakes Association, elomen@lomen.com

Holly Kalbus, Environmental Resources Specialist (contact information above)

John Stephanie, Lake Elysian Association, jgsteph@hotmail.com

Michael Schultz, Le Sueur SWCD, mschultz@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Nicki Weber, Lake Volney Lake Association, nickiweber02@gmail.com

Ralph Redding, The Greater Jefferson-German Lakes Association, rreddingjr@outlook.com

Shane Bugeja, Le Sueur County Extension Office-Extension Educator, sbugeja@umn.edu

Tina Fitzgerald, MN DNR AIS Prevention Planner (contact information above)

Tom & Karin Miller, Gorman Lake Association, tkmiller@fmwildblue.com

Tom Veilleux, Lake Washington Improvement Association, Tveilleux13@gmail.com

Travis Kinsell, MN DNR Regional Watercraft Inspection Supervisor, (contact information above)

Val Vail, City of Waterville City Council, val.vail@cityofwaterville.com

Please note that the Le Sueur County AIS contacts may change over time due to individuals no longer in the position as described above. Additionally, individuals may be added to the list above. If you are having troubles contacting any one on the list, please contact the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department.

Appendix B. Grants and Programs

Grants and programs from the DNR and other organizations are typically available for a variety of AIS activities such as monitoring, decontamination, treatment, education/outreach, new infestations, etc. The grants and programs listed in this Appendix are known grants/programs that have occurred in the past or are currently being offered. Funding availability determines when grants become available, and they will be pursued as needed. New grants and programs may come about during the lifespan of this plan, and hence, would not be included. The plan, specifically Appendix B, may be updated when new grants & programs become available.

To see what DNR grants and programs are currently available please visit the following link:
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/index.html

Grants

AIS Public Awareness Projects

The Public Awareness grant provides funding to help local organizations/entities (lake associations, Coalitions of Lake Associations, tribal organizations, watershed districts, and counties) collaborate with the DNR to create education and outreach projects that relay the message of preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to, the following: education materials (brochures, flyers, handouts) and tv/radio/ local newspaper advertisements.

AIS Control Projects

The AIS Control Projects Grant provides funding to help cover the cost of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil and flowering rush control projects. The grant assists in covering the cost of herbicide, mechanical control or a combination of both treatment types. Entities such as lake associations, watershed districts, cities, and counties may apply for funding.

Watercraft Inspections by DNR Staff

The grant for Watercraft inspections by DNR staff is intended to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. This grant will help local entities gain additional hours of watercraft inspections and assist with offsetting the costs associated with inspectors. Eligibility of the grant is based off of funding, and if the proposed water body/access is meeting grant criteria. Grant criteria is based off the following: if the water access is high use (based off of the number of parking spaces and past inspector data reflecting traffic), if the waterbody is located in a high use travel destination, and lastly if the water access is near or on an infested water.

Watercraft Inspections by Local Government Units

The grant for Watercraft inspections by local government units is intended to help prevent and limit the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. Local government units and tribal government units are eligible to apply. The watercraft inspectors must either be employees of the local or tribal government units or are individuals working for a contractor that was hired by said government units. Training will be provided to the watercraft inspectors.

Programs

DNR Signs at Water Accesses

The DNR provides a limited number of Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! Signs are at no cost for lake associations, local governments, and other groups to post at water accesses. You may also print your own signs.

Appendix C. List of Le Sueur County Accesses & Map

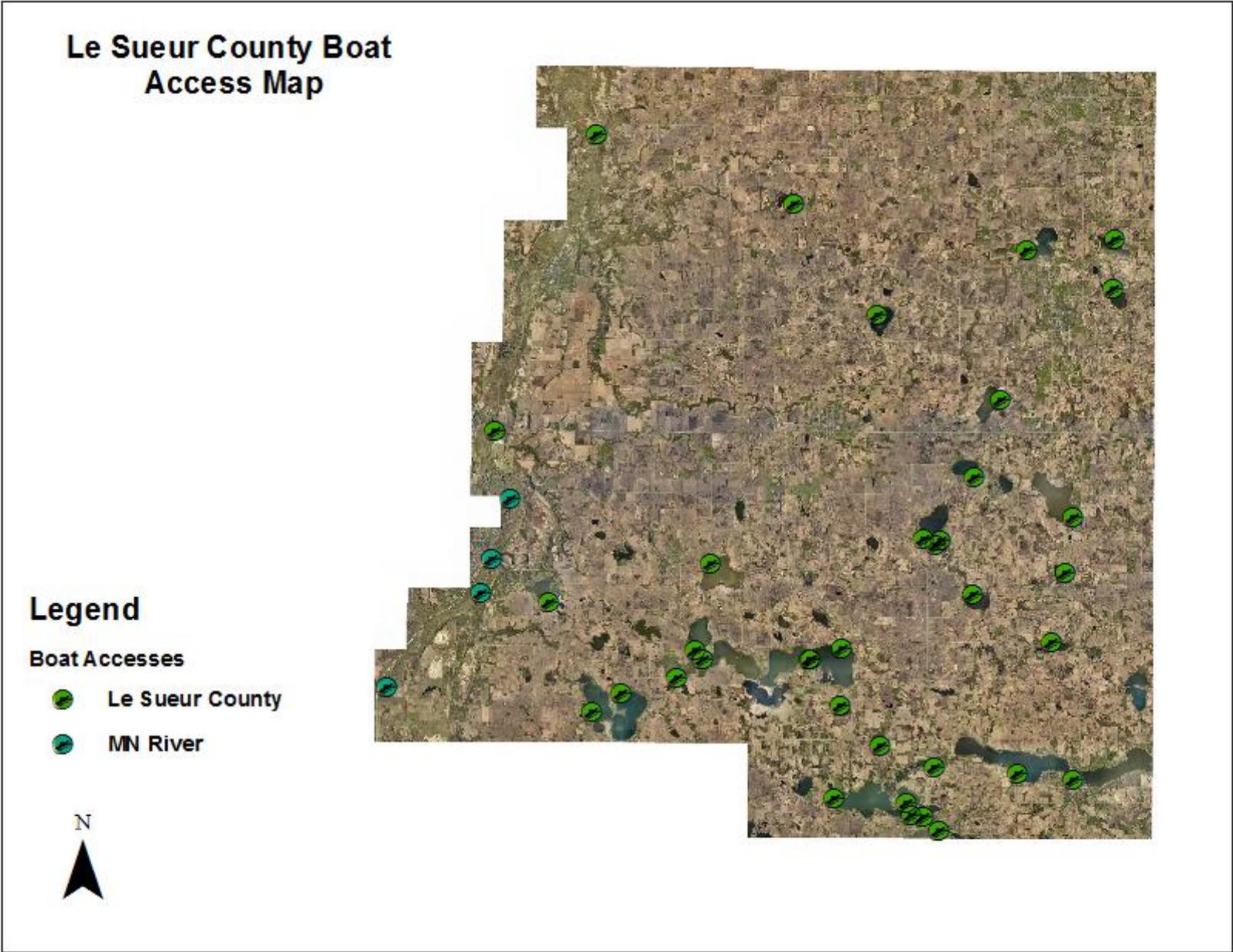
Table 8.

Water Body Name	Ramp Type	Administrator
Cannon River-Waterville	Concrete	City
Clear Lake	Concrete	DNR
Clear Lake	Fishing pier	County
Diamond Lake	Carry in	DNR
Dora Lake	Gravel	DNR
Lake Emily	Concrete	DNR
Fish Lake	Concrete	County
Francis Lake (West)	Concrete	County
Francis Lake (East)	Concrete	DNR
German Lake (North)	Concrete	DNR
German Lake (Southwest)	Carry-in/pier	DNR
Gorman Lake (West)	Gravel	County
Gorman Lake (South)	Concrete	DNR
Gorman Lake (Southeast)	Carry-in	County
Greenleaf Lake	Concrete	DNR
Henry Lake	Gravel	DNR
Jefferson Lake	Fishing pier	County
Jefferson Lake (West)	Concrete	DNR
Jefferson Lake (East)	Concrete	DNR
Jefferson Lake (Geldners Sawmill)	Fishing pier	County
Minnesota River-Kasota	Carry-in	County
Minnesota River-Saint Peter	Concrete	City
Minnesota River-Ottawa	Carry-in	County
Minnesota River-Le Sueur	Carry-in	City
Minnesota River-Henderson	Concrete	City
Pepin Lake	Concrete	County
Ray's Lake	Gravel	County
Ray's Lake	Fishing Pier	County
Rice Lake	Carry-in	DNR
Roemhildts Lake	Concrete	DNR
Sabre Lake	Gravel	County
Saint Peter Trout Ponds	Shorefishing	DNR
Sakatah Lake (State Park)	Fishing pier	DNR
Sanborn Lake	Gravel	DNR
Scotch Lake	Gravel	DNR
Steele Lake	Gravel	County

Sunfish Lake	Concrete	County
Tetonka Lake	Concrete	DNR
Tetonka Lake	Fishing pier	DNR
Tetonka Lake	Fishing pier	City
Thomas Lake	Carry-in	DNR
Tustin Lake	Carry-in	DNR
Volney Lake	Concrete	DNR
Washington Lake (West)	Concrete	DNR
Washington Lake (North)	Concrete	DNR

If you are interested in access information for Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) or Aquatic Management Areas (AMA) please contact the local Minnesota DNR office in Waterville. Their contact information is as follows: 507-362-4223 or waterville.fisheries@state.mn.us

Figure. 1



Appendix D. Request for Proposals (RFP)

Allocation of AIS funding will be managed through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. All RFPs will be reviewed and awarded by County staff and/or the Le Sueur County board. Other groups (Lake Associations, Lake Improvement Districts, community organizations, schools, etc.) may submit proposals to the County for review. Proposals will be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis and will be awarded funding based on the size, scope, and benefits associated with the project. Funds are not eligible for activities that have already or plan to be completed by the County, State agencies, Soil & Water, and any other entities.

The RFP must describe and explain what the Aquatic Invasive Species funds would be used for; a need must be demonstrated. Furthermore, additional information that needs to be provided includes: the calendar year the funds will be used and the total amount of funds that will be requested. Other documents may be requested by the County along with the RFP such as permits, list of participants, etc.

In order for a lake association to be eligible for funds, it must be registered through a nonprofit organization and recognized by the State of Minnesota. This means the lake association is required to follow open meeting laws, keep meeting minutes, and can be audited. To find out more information on how to register as a lake association please click on one of the following links: <http://www.mnlakesanddrivers.org/lake-associations> or <https://minnesotawaters.org/>. The Le Sueur County board has preapproved Lake Associations with set funds each year that they would be eligible for. The Jefferson/German Chain of Lakes and Tetonka/Sakatah Lakes (Waterville) are eligible up to \$10,000/yr due to the number and size of the water bodies. All other Lakes Associations are only eligible up to \$5,000/yr.

What the funds are eligible to be used for:

- Education classes
- Advertising-TV, radio, billboards, etc.
- Promotional Items and/or donations for AIS outreach events
- Expenses related to hosting AIS outreach events
- Trainings & Conferences
- Educational materials-literature, signs, etc.
- Watercraft inspections
- Mechanical and Biological treatment of AIS
- Research/Studies

What the funds are ineligible to be used for:

- Chemical treatments of AIS (at this time)
- Activities that are not related to AIS
- Activities that Local, State, or Federal government agencies are already doing

If an entity would like to request AIS funds from the County, an RFP must be submitted via email or mail. Once the RFP has been reviewed, the County will notify the entity on whether they have been approved (County board approval may also be required). Projects should not start until the County has approved. If a project has started before approval from the County, funds will be forfeited. After the proposed project(s) has been completed, an invoice will need to be submitted to the County. The County can then issue reimbursement.

AIS Funding-Request for Proposal (RFP) Form

Name of Organization: _____

Anticipated Date to Use Funds: _____

Total Funds Requesting: \$ _____

Please select **(circle)** the type of project the funds will be used for from the following:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Watercraft Inspections | Research/Studies | Mechanical or Biological treatment of AIS |
| Advertisements | Trainings/Conferences | Educational Materials |
| AIS Outreach events | | |

Will this project need any federal, state, or local permits? If yes, please explain:

Please describe and explain in detail what the Aquatic Invasive Species funds would be used for:

Category	Metrics
 Funds Distributed and Leveraged	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation nonprofits and outdoor groups (angling, hunting, paddling, sailing, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> businesses <input type="checkbox"/> local governments Our county [does/does not] have an AIS Task Force or Committee
 Communities Engaged	<input type="checkbox"/> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics <input type="checkbox"/> residents and visitors reached about AIS during events <input type="checkbox"/> in-school presentations about AIS <input type="checkbox"/> children taught about AIS
 Watercraft Inspected	<input type="checkbox"/> inspections performed <input type="checkbox"/> hours of inspections performed <input type="checkbox"/> accesses covered by inspectors <input type="checkbox"/> water bodies covered by inspectors <input type="checkbox"/> % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out <input type="checkbox"/> decontamination units in operation <input type="checkbox"/> boaters engaged by AIS Volunteers/Ambassadors at water accesses
 Law Enforcement Supported	<input type="checkbox"/> local law enforcement officers trained on AIS laws <input type="checkbox"/> local law enforcement officers conducting AIS work <input type="checkbox"/> boaters contacted by local law enforcement
 Monitoring Conducted	<input type="checkbox"/> lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS <input type="checkbox"/> zebra mussel settling plates deployed <input type="checkbox"/> water bodies where veliger tows were taken <input type="checkbox"/> aquatic plant surveys conducted <input type="checkbox"/> volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors <input type="checkbox"/> people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and AIS Research Center's "Starry Trek" event
 New Infestation Response Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ ___ spent on new infestation response(s) <input type="checkbox"/> new infestation response(s) coordinated Our county [does/does not] have a new infestation response plan

Category

Metrics



Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM)

■ water bodies with IAPM activities (funded with AIS Prevention Aid)

Program Spending Summary

[Instructions (delete when complete): Insert a pie chart of or list the estimated dollar amount or percentage of funds going to specific categories this year here (see example below – please try to keep the colors the same for each category for easier comparison between programs, for example: administration = light blue, education = orange, inspection = yellow, etc.), or delete this heading.]



Success Stories

[Instructions (delete when complete): Insert a story or two of success here, or delete this heading. Example: a watercraft inspector prevented a boat covered in zebra mussels from launching into an uninfested lake; a stakeholder was trained to identify AIS and then detected a new infestation.]

Reports and Products

[Instructions (delete when complete): Insert a list of reports (rapid response, lake assessments, research, surveys, etc.) and/or products (brochures, fliers, giveaways, etc.) created using AIS Prevention Aid, or delete this heading.]

Photo(s) of AIS Activities

[Instructions (delete when complete): Insert photo(s) and caption(s) of AIS activities here, or delete this heading. Photo tips, be sure to always: Obtain permission from people before taking their photograph; Obtain permission from the photographer before using their photo anywhere; Provide photographer credit for every photo used.]