

Beltrami County Aquatic Invasive Species Program Report 2020

Beltrami County received \$203,781.00 from the Minnesota Department of Revenue in Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid in 2020. This report describes the strategies that Beltrami County has in their Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management Plan, and how state aid funds were applied toward these efforts. Various organizations also donated funding to help with the Beltrami AIS Program, including Northern Township, the City of Bemidji, Grace Lake Association, and Farden Township-Hubbard County. Funding received in 2020 from both state and local sources totaled \$214,881. The AIS Program also has a rapid response and management fund. In previous years we built that fund up to \$48,833. The pay for the position of AIS Lake Technician comes out of the AIS state aid money. That position is in charge of AIS prevention, monitoring, and management for the County. Time spent by the Technician on these activities is figured into the totals for each strategy. Total moneys spent on the Beltrami County Aquatic Invasive Species Program in 2020 is \$241,288.19.

A. Education/Prevention: \$50,845.85

The main key to successfully preventing AIS from spreading is to fully inform the public of the issues at hand and the importance of their actions in limiting the spread of AIS.

KARE11 Cabin Cast

Bookmarks from Habitattitude, "Don't Release Aquarium Pets," were distributed to pet shops and suppliers

Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) online advertising and web page development

Bemidji Pioneer advertising and geo-fencing

Paul Bunyan Cable advertising on five cable channels: "Be a Hero Transport Zero"

Paul Bunyan Radio multiple 30-second ads to remind boaters to clean, drain, and dispose

AIS sustainability BSU talk on Beltrami County's AIS Program

Presentation at two townships about supplying hot water to boaters

Talk with City of Blackduck about hot water decontamination for boaters

-Follow-up planning session to install a hot water unit at rest stop in Blackduck

B. Inspections: \$132,051.98

Public accesses are a major contact point to interact with watercraft owners and operators. One-on-one contact at public water accesses with MN DNR-authorized inspectors is critical, as educational efforts can and should be combined with law and/or regulation compliance efforts.

Presentation at Bemidji City Council meeting: gave City Council an update on the watercraft inspection program from 2019, including boater numbers, contributions to the AIS Program, and threat of new invasives

Total inspections: 12,221 with 10 inspectors working a total of 5,731.5 hours

C. Enforcement: \$730.92

Enforcement can have a major influence on how a local population conforms to AIS laws and regulations. The support of local law enforcement can help reduce the threat of spread by adjusting the public's perception of what is acceptable and/or unacceptable behavior regarding AIS laws and regulations. It is important for the public to be informed, understand, and be held accountable to the laws and regulations set in place.

Two zebra mussel violations this season – investigated and gathered information

Documents on AIS laws sent to various fishing organizations (requested)

Research on other states' AIS laws

D. Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Management: \$18,228.20

An effective early detection and rapid response (EDRR) plan is crucial in order to reduce the possibility of new AIS introductions and eventual establishments. If an AIS is detected before or soon after introduction, the probability of containment and eradication greatly increases; but the longer a population goes unimpeded, the more greatly it becomes embedded, and difficult to contain or eradicate. Successful EDRR is therefore dependent upon effective AIS monitoring and reporting programs to alert managers to potential issues and/or new introductions.

Aquatic plant surveys done by RMB Environmental Laboratories on Big Bass and Gull Lakes

Multiple public water accesses surveyed throughout the season (47)

Hand pulling starry stonewort in Lake Beltrami

Multiple zebra mussel settlement tubes placed and monitored.

Two chemical treatments on Big Turtle Lake for starry stonewort:

-August 10

-September 2

E. Decontamination: \$27,340.18

Having the ability to spray and rinse boats and equipment with very hot water is a key component in the best management practices (BMP) for preventing the spread of AIS. Ultimately it is the owners' responsibility to decontaminate their watercraft. Beltrami County has a responsibility to assist by having the BMP options available for water resource users. This includes having hot water and high pressure available to the users of the water resource so that boaters can effectively decontaminate their watercraft when needed.

Watercraft decontaminations: 40

Towels and keytainers with Decontamination Unit information

F. New Technology/Methods/Support: \$9,609.18

The Beltrami County Aquatic Invasive Species Program must consistently review alternative, up-to-date solutions for efficient prevention and management of AIS for Beltrami County lakes. Funding, support, and participation in new programs is essential in order to stay current with present AIS issues in addition to emergent AIS issues which have not found their way to local waterbodies at this time.

Purchased GoPro equipment to help in documentation of new and current infestations. Also hoping to produce a video of Beltrami County's AIS work.

Attended the virtual MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) showcase and the UMISC (Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference)

G. Other Expenditures: \$2,481.07

This category is for items like oil changes, fuel, and other incidental needs. If I purchase something specifically for a program, I include those expenses in the program category. An example of a category-specific purchase is safety vests for inspectors.

