

# Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species Summary – 2018



*Fleming Lake*

**Steve Hughes, Aitkin County  
AIS Coordinator**

Thanks to the AIS Committee, Aitkin County Board, Aitkin County SWCD, Aitkin County Sheriff's Department, DNR Conservation Officers, Terry Neff Environmental Services Director, and numerous volunteers

Huge thanks to Rich Courtemanche, Aitkin County Land Commissioner

February 4, 2019

Thanks to all of our partners in the AIS prevention efforts! 2018 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> summer of sustained and concentrated efforts to stop or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout Aitkin County and the rest of Minnesota.

On the next two pages you will find: A) a summary of inspections by lake or river, and B) a summary of the AIS budget.

A) Please note that nearly 11,000 inspections were completed. Approximately 20 boat landings throughout Aitkin County had inspectors present in 2018. A total of 250 AIS issues were noted (a 98% compliance rate)! Of the 250 AIS issues, 155 of them were for drain plugs being in upon watercraft arrival, 94 were plants, water, mud, etc. on the boat or trailer. Once again our busiest lake was Farm Island, with Big Sandy coming in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Cedar in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Decontaminations are under reported in our database, many more decontaminations were done throughout the summer. Fishing craft were the most common, especially early in the open water season. Pontoons and runabouts became more common as the lakes warmed up and swimming, wake-boarding, tubing, etc. made up a higher percentage of the lake use.

B) The budget summary shows where the funds are spent. This budget has remained pretty constant since we began our AIS prevention efforts in 2015. We are still interested in increasing the number of inspectors. Our goal is 30 inspectors working all weekends and holidays. Most summers we are able to put between 20 and 25 inspectors to work on those weekends and holidays. We will be adding some additional monetary incentives to hopefully recruit more inspectors.

Our number one AIS goal is education. We plan to accomplish AIS education through one to one conversations at the boat landings, news articles, a monthly radio show, the Rivers and Lakes Fair in June, and through partnerships with numerous lake associations and other groups. Contact me at any time if you have comments, questions, or new ideas on how we can fight the spread of aquatic invasive species.



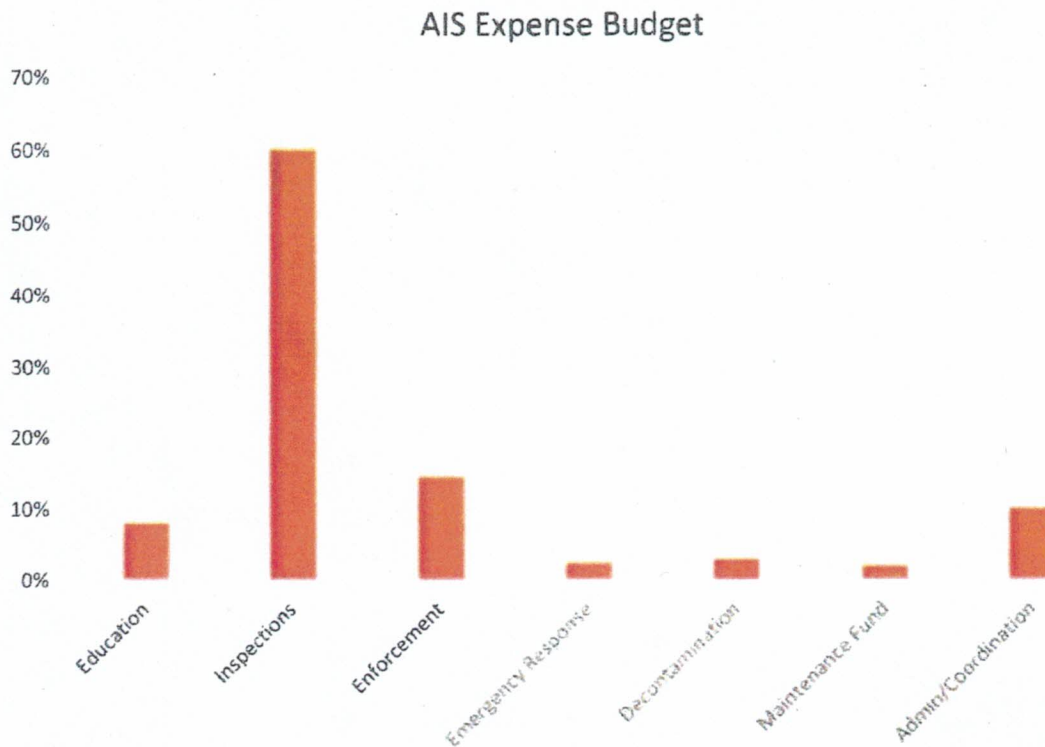
Steve Hughes

### Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species 2018 Watercraft Inspection Summary

Total Inspections																					
Equipment	BIG PINE	BIG SANDY	BIG SANDY RIVER	CEDAR	CLEAR	FARM ISLAND	FLEMING	HAMMAL	HILL	HORSE SHOE	LONE	LONG	MINNEWAWA	MISS. RIVER	RIPPLE	ROUND-HAZELT ON	SPIRIT	SUGAR	WILKINS	UNKN	Totals
Boat Lift/Dock/Or Similar	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Canoe/Kayak/Or Similar	18	6	-	18	22	3	1	14	2	-	11	3	-	-	9	9	4	2	-	-	122
Fishing Boat	662	963	150	989	787	1,953	33	129	80	1	255	201	374	1	250	413	255	71	25	22	7,614
Jon Boat	-	13	-	3	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	34
Personal Watercraft	33	96	5	66	36	157	-	5	-	-	43	28	26	-	6	19	20	6	3	3	552
Pontoon	83	211	41	147	148	221	2	25	15	-	40	43	110	1	27	111	46	5	6	4	1,286
Runabout or Ski-Boat w/o Ballasts	70	284	33	155	76	256	-	12	18	1	60	44	31	-	41	95	38	8	18	6	1,246
Sailboat	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Wakeboard Boat with Ballasts (blank)	12	16	-	8	8	25	-	-	-	-	1	1	18	-	2	3	3	-	-	-	97
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10,963</b>
Total Number of Issues																					
	BIG PINE	BIG SANDY	BIG SANDY RIVER	CEDAR	CLEAR	FARM ISLAND	FLEMING	HAMMAL	HILL	HORSE SHOE	LONE	LONG	MINNEWAWA	MISS. RIVER	RIPPLE	ROUND-HAZELT ON	SPIRIT	SUGAR	WILKINS	UNKN	Totals
Drain plug in upon arrival	20	42	0	10	19	26	0	1	0	0	0	7	12	0	2	9	7	0	0	0	155
Send boater away to drain water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plants, animals, water, mud etc.	1	37	1	4	8	29	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	3	2	0	1	2	94
Zebra mussels found	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decontamination necessary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Number of Issues</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>250</b>

Thanks to Rich Courtemanche, Aitkin County Land Commissioner for making sense out of a statewide database, so that we can enjoy this summary.

**2018 budget summary for Aquatic Invasive Species prevention in Aitkin County. Total AIS budget is approximately \$272,300.**



10,963 inspections were completed in 2018. We anticipate an increase in inspections for 2019.

Changes for 2019 include:

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- > an increase in the number of accesses that will be staffed
  - > added education and emphasis on docks and boatlifts
  - > an increase in lake partners
  - > additional education on draining of live bait containers

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