

**MEMORANDUM**  
**Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District**

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**To:** Board of Managers **Date:** February 3, 2022  
**From:** Mike Kinney  
**Subject:** University of Minnesota - AIS Detectors Training

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**Background**

The University of Minnesota’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Detectors program debuted an online AIS Management 101 class in 2020, which will be returning this February and March. This class has no prerequisites and is open to anyone who is interested. Course materials will cover topics such as AIS regulations, management options, monitoring strategies, and more. According to their webpage, participants will gain an introduction into plant management, better understanding of pesticides and their associated regulations, and a greater ability to evaluate the effectiveness of control measures. Registration is currently open at \$75 per person and access to the online course will run from February 14<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Discussion**

Staff have included this topic into the meeting materials for the Board to consider possible funding options for interested community members. District funding options could range from covering the full \$75 upon registration, full reimbursement upon completion, or some level of partial reimbursement. Staff believe fully or partially covering the class fee would help increase public engagement and knowledge on lake management activities. Such participants might then feel more inclined to serve on lake association boards or the District’s Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

**Class Information and Registration**

[EXT XAF.0062 AIS Management 101 | University of Minnesota \(umn.edu\)](https://www.extension.umn.edu/programs/ais/ais-101/)