

MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

To: Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney
Subject: 2016 AIS Management Plan

Date: February 17, 2016

Background/Discussion

Preparation for the 2016 AIS management season has begun. Though a formal plan is not yet in place, staff has outlined AIS activities including role assignments, timelines and budgets. District staff met with Jason Naber to discuss this outline as well as goals and strategies for the program. Staff will meet with Steve McComas within the next week to go over contents of the 2016 proposal from Blue Water Science and discuss management strategies.

Invasive aquatic plant management permit applications were submitted to the DNR for Forest Lake, Comfort Lake and Bone Lake along with accompanying grant applications for each. In addition to the DNR grant, three grant applications were submitted to Washington County for AIS activities on Forest Lake. As of this date, only the intended grant awards from Washington County are known.

Another grant application was submitted to the DNR for watercraft inspections by DNR staff on Bone Lake, Comfort Lake and Forest Lake. This grant program is designed to assist local organizations that would like additional watercraft inspections (beyond what is done by the DNR Watercraft Inspection Program) at particular water accesses.

Additional grant opportunities through the Initiative Foundation's AIS pilot projects grant program are also being explored.

District staff will meet with Chisago County in early March to continue planning for the watercraft inspection program. Preliminary discussions were had in February and will continue once the Joint Powers Agreement between CLFLWD and Chisago County is finalized.

With the help of the District's new Program Assistant, Mike Sorensen, we plan to significantly increase the level of communication and outreach in 2016; especially with regard to AIS-related communications. Mike S. plans to draft monthly AIS newsletters that will be available via email, website, Facebook, and Twitter to anyone who may be interested. Mike S. also plans to personally attend occasional lake association meetings as appropriate and serve as a line of communication with the CLFLWD. He will also assist with ongoing program management and Board updates.