



Waukesha County

Department of Parks and Land Use

Date: June 30, 2016

To: Lake Organizations in Waukesha County

From: Dale Shaver, Director *Dale R. Shaver*

Subject: **Support for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education & Prevention Program**

As many of you may know, Waukesha County is now in the early stages of implementing a county-wide AIS program in partnership with Washington County and lake organizations like yours. Brad Steckart, AIS Coordinator and Jenna Bales, AIS Summer Intern have been hard at work educating local residents on AIS issues and best practices at workshops and community meetings, as well as boat ramps. County parks staff have been installing large (4' x 4') AIS signs at the five County-owned boat ramps. The SE Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is compiling existing AIS data and working with county staff to collect new data on a number of local lakes as the first steps in preparing a Waukesha County AIS Strategic Plan next year. A local advisory committee will be assembled to help us with that effort. County budgets are also being prepared for 2017, as well as plans for another AIS grant application this fall. Many lake groups have asked how they could help support the county-wide AIS program, which is why I am contacting you.

The County plans to apply for a 3-year grant (2017-2019) from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to help prevent the spread of AIS in local waters. The grant would aim to continue funding a full-time AIS Coordinator position shared with Washington County, and to provide one AIS Summer Intern to work exclusively in Waukesha County. The intern, working weekends, would continue to implement Clean Boats, Clean Waters at local boat landings throughout the summer and assist the AIS Coordinator with aquatic plant surveys, monitoring and outreach activities. While most of this work can be completed within state grant caps (\$50,000/year), budgeting for completion of the AIS Strategic Plan (SEWRPC contract) and additional educational work at boat launches is proving to be a challenge. The grant requires a 25% local match, which is currently met through in-kind County services, but can include lakes groups as well.

Additional financial (and in-kind) support from local lake organizations would help the County complete the strategic plan and hire a second AIS Summer Intern to implement the above noted programs and activities. Financial support from local lakes not only helps build strong partnerships, it gives the County's AIS grant application a competitive edge over other applicants vying for limited state grant funds. We are reaching out to your organization in hope that you would consider committing \$1,000 per year for a three-year period to the County to implement the AIS program. We ask that you consider the cost-effective benefits a countywide AIS Education and Prevention Program offers for the future of your lake.

For more information or to offer your support, please reach out to Bradley Steckart, AIS Coordinator (262-335-4806 or ais@waukeshacounty.gov) or Perry Lindquist, Land Resources Manager (262-548-7867 or plindquist@waukeshacounty.gov). We would be happy to schedule a meeting with your lake organization to discuss the AIS program and this request. We would appreciate a response by mid-August and would like an official commitment letter submitted by the end of September to include in our grant application.

Thank you for all you do for our county lakes!

Land Resources Division

515 W Moreland Blvd., AC 260 • Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-3878 • Phone: (262) 896-8300 • Fax: (262) 896-8298