



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
Date: December 7, 2016

RE: Item 5E. Consider Approval to Submit Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Grant Application to Hennepin County

On November 28, 2016 Hennepin County issued a request for proposals (RFP) for their Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Grants program. Proposals are due Friday, January 20, 2017 (the day after the January Commission meeting). The attached flyer provides more information about the grant and eligible projects.

The BCWMC Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species Committee has been working to identify an appropriate role for the Commission in these issues. One role identified by the committee is to take the lead in AIS studies that include 1) pathways analysis and vulnerability assessment; 2) AIS inventory; and 3) AIS prevention and/or management plan development. The committee equated this work to a TMDL, but for AIS. This type of work aligns well with the eligible county grant activities.

RECOMMENDATION: The APM/AIS Committee and BCWMC staff recommend that the Commission apply for an AIS prevention grant. Grant application development will cost approximately \$1,000. The final grant application would be brought to the January Commission meeting before being submitted to the County.

The grant application would include:

- \$25,000 - \$30,000 grant request
- Study of Medicine Lake, Parkers Lake, Sweeney Lake
- Study to be performed by the Commission Engineer with grant/project management by the Commission Administrator

Study tasks:

1. Inventory and monitoring – Gather and summarize available AIS, water quality, and physical information from each lake, determine gaps, and collect additional information to fill in any gaps. The following monitoring data may need to be collected:
 - Water quality data (for suitability analyses): dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, hardness, alkalinity, sodium, calcium, magnesium, calcium carbonate, pH, temperature, Secchi disc, chlorophyll a, and phosphorus. Many of these parameters are not collected during routine lake monitoring.

- Substrate information: muck, sand, submerged, gravel, rubble, boulder
2. Suitability Analysis – Determine the suitability of each lake to harbor each AIS species. Parameters for the suitability analysis have been determined for these eight AIS: zebra mussel, faucet snail, Chinese and banded mystery snail, rusty crayfish, starry stonewort, spiny waterflea, hydrilla, and flowering rush. Additional research would be needed to determine parameters for suitability analysis if additional AIS species are included in the analysis.
 3. Pathways Analysis – Determine the potential pathways for introduction of the AIS species to the lakes and estimate the risk of the various potential pathway, i.e., low, moderate, high.
 4. Vulnerability Analysis – Use the suitability assessment and the pathways analysis results to determine the vulnerability of each lake to each AIS species evaluated.
 5. Prevention/Management Plan – The Management Plan will provide prevention or management options/recommendations to manage the risk of AIS introduction. The results of the pathways analysis/vulnerability analysis will determine the focus of the management effort to prevent AIS introduction to BCWMC water bodies.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Grants

Hennepin County has up to \$300,000 of grant funds available to help local units of government and organizations implement projects that prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Eligible recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government agencies, such as cities, watershed organizations and park districts Nonprofit organizations Public companies and institutions Private, for-profit companies
Examples of projects	<p>Eligible prevention activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the risk of AIS introduction and the resources available to respond. Increase available resources and leverage partnerships. Broaden knowledge and participation in early detection and rapid response. Prevent the spread of AIS. Address specific pathways of introduction. Increase enforcement resources. Increase public awareness and participation in prevention. Promote research.
Eligible expenses	Consulting fees, staff time, materials, supplies, labor, printing and promotions.
Application timeline	Applications due January 20, 2017. Depending on the number and quality of proposals submitted, this may be the only time the county solicits for proposals.
Amount of funding available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typical projects awards range from \$15,000 to \$25,000. Maximum amount awarded per grant is \$50,000.
Matching funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No match required.
Project timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 to 24 months to complete project. Project start times cannot occur before contract approval by Hennepin County.
Reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each project must enter into a formal project contract/ agreement with the county addressing conditions of the award. Work plan and budget. Project design and specifications (if applicable) Documentation regarding expenses , such as time sheets, invoices and receipts. Interim and final reports as identified in the grant agreement.



Contact us today

Our staff is available to answer questions and offer resources:

- Visit hennepin.us/aisprevention
- Contact Tony Brough at 612.348.4378 or Tony.Brough@hennepin.us