



Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
From: Barr Engineering Co.
Subject: Item 6B – Consider Approval of Proposal to Develop Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan
BCWMC September 21, 2017 Meeting Agenda
Date: September 12, 2017

6B. Consider Approval of Proposal to Develop Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan

1.0 Recommendations:

1. Consider approving the scope of work and \$15,000 budget presented in this memorandum and direct the Engineer to develop the draft Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Rapid Response Plan.

2.0 Background

At their July meeting, the Commission reviewed and approved recommendations #1 - #5 of the Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species (APM/AIS) Committee. One of the approved recommendations was that the Commission begin developing a rapid response action plan for key species (including zebra mussels and starry stonewort) in Priority 1 lakes using the 2017 APM/AIS budget (up to \$15,000). The committee also recommended that the Commission request a proposal from the Commission Engineer to develop lake-specific rapid response plans that consider infestation thresholds for action, consider experience and recommendations of the DNR and other organizations, assign responsible parties, and list possible funding partners for plan implementation. The committee noted that their recommendation is a high priority so that the Commission, cities, and other organizations are poised to respond to infestations efficiently and effectively.

3.0 Content and Scope of AIS Rapid Response Plan

Effective rapid response to AIS introduction is crucial to preventing establishment, minimizing ecological and economic impacts, and maximizing the effectiveness of efforts to contain, and if possible, eradicate newly introduced AIS. The proposed BCWMC AIS rapid response plan will detail the response by BCWMC and other partnering entities to key AIS detected in BCWMC waterbodies. The plan will be divided into three parts:

1. Overall framework for rapid response to AIS species detected in BCWMC water bodies
2. Rapid response to AIS species detected in BCWMC Priority 1 water bodies
3. Rapid response to zebra mussels and starry stonewort detected in BCWMC Priority 1 water bodies; rapid response to Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) detected in Priority 1 BCWMC water bodies in which EWM is not currently present.

3.1 Overall framework for rapid response to AIS species detected in BCWMC water bodies

The overall framework for rapid response to AIS species detected in BCWMC water bodies will guide the response of BCWMC for all newly detected AIS species. The framework will discuss:

- Verifying the detected AIS species
- Reporting the new AIS infestation to MnDNR, Hennepin County, City, Lake Association or lake residents, and any other appropriate entities (e.g., Three Rivers Park District, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)
- Publicizing the new AIS infestation to raise awareness aimed at preventing and containing spread, including signage at the public boat landing, if applicable, and contacting local media
- Determining management action, including the:
 - Risks posed by the infestation
 - Available treatment methods, and best method if more than one management method is available
 - Feasibility/need for quarantine of the new AIS infestation
 - Estimated length of time needed for management efforts
 - Appropriate entity to perform management and partner roles in the management effort
 - Funding sources for management
 - Monitoring program needed to evaluate results of management efforts
 - MnDNR permits needed for the management effort and the process for obtaining them
 - Contracting needs for the management effort and recommendations for the process and/or contents of the contract

3.2 Rapid Response Plan for Priority 1 Waterbodies (Medicine Lake, Northwood Lake, Parkers Lake, Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, Westwood Lake, and Wirth Lake)

The rapid response plan for Priority 1 waterbodies will guide the response of BCWMC when new AIS species are detected in Priority 1 waterbodies. The plan will provide additional details not found in the overall framework that will help BCWMC effectively respond to new AIS infestations in Priority 1 waterbodies. The plan will discuss:

- Thresholds for action based upon infestation area. Actions may include quarantine, manual removal (e.g., scuba divers), small scale chemical treatment, and large scale chemical treatment.
- Responsible parties and their roles in the rapid response
- Funding partners and their roles in the rapid response

During plan preparation, the BCWMC Engineer will engage in discussions with potential responsible parties and funding partners to determine appropriate roles.

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3.3 Rapid Response Plan for Priority 1 Waterbodies for EWM (for waterbodies not currently infested), starry stonewort, and zebra mussel

The rapid response plan for Priority 1 waterbodies for EWM (for lakes currently not infested – Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, Westwood Lake, and Northwood Lake), starry stonewort, and zebra mussel will detail the management measures that will be initiated if a first time infestation is detected. The BCWMC Engineer will review existing rapid response plans, including Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s zebra mussel rapid response plan, and engage in discussions with researchers at the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, MnDNR staff, Hennepin County staff, and Three Rivers Park District staff to identify the most effective management measures based upon the latest research information and previous experience in management efforts.

4.0 Cost Estimate

The estimated cost of preparation of a draft AIS rapid response plan is \$15,000. The draft plan will be finalized in 2018 after review by the Commission (and BCWMC APM/AIS Committee, if directed by the Commission).

5.0 Schedule

The draft AIS rapid response plan will be completed by the end of the Commission fiscal year (end of January of 2018).