

# AIS prevention application

## Project goals and summary description of project (25%)

Organization name:	Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Project title:	AIS Decontamination Unit for Medicine Lake
Project location:	French Regional Park Boat Launch
Applicant name/organization:	Laura Jester/Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Amount request:	\$18,200

- Executive summary:** Provide a summary of the project that describes project goals, why the project is needed, where it will be implemented, project participants, proposed activities and expected outcomes (200 word limit).

### Need to insert

## Project activities and outcomes (40%)

- Project description:** For each proposed activity, describe the activity including who will do the proposed activity, how it will be implemented and the anticipated outcomes. List all the project activities.
  - Be specific about each activity.
  - Describe when the activity will begin and when it will conclude.
  - Identify the party responsible for each activity.
  - Is this a new activity? Or is it an expansion of an existing activity/program?
  - Describe anticipated outcomes and how outcomes will be measured.

*This project involves the purchase, deployment, and operation of an AIS decontamination unit for the French Regional Park - Medicine Lake access by 1) purchasing a decontamination unit, 2) hiring and training Level II watercraft inspectors, and 3) scheduling inspectors to execute their duties at French Regional Park – Medicine Lake access.*

*Medicine Lake is a regionally significant lake in Hennepin County and was recently added to the list of zebra mussel-infested waters. In order to prevent the spread of zebra mussels from Medicine Lake and the arrival of new AIS into Medicine Lake, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is requesting financial support from Hennepin County to purchase a decontamination unit to be operated at the Medicine Lake access located within Three Rivers Park District's (TRPD) French Regional Park. The decontamination unit will be used to expand and improve the existing watercraft inspection program currently implemented by TRPD. Medicine Lake is regionally significant as it's the second largest lake in the metropolitan area, is designated a Priority 1 lake by the BCWMC, and receives a considerable amount of recreational use. Based on a Three Rivers Park District Visitor Study in 2013, French Regional Park receives approximately 18,146 visitors a year for boating recreational opportunities (this does not represent the number of boats using the access). TRPD currently implements an extensive watercraft inspection program at the Park that has primarily targeted incoming boats. In 2017, TRPD performed 3,208 watercraft inspections within 1,567 inspection hours. This equates to approximately 2.1 boats/trailers inspected per hour, which is considered a "high use" access by the MnDNR standards of 0.9 boats/hour. The percent of watercraft reported as being contaminated was relatively low in 2017 at 2%. Despite low contamination percentage, zebra mussels were discovered in two different locations on the south end of Medicine Lake in the fall of 2017. The extent of the zebra*

mussel infestation in Medicine Lake is currently unknown and will be studied by the BCWMC in 2018. The lake should be considered high risk for the potential to infest other lakes within the metropolitan area due to the high use access. A decontamination unit located at the French Regional Park will provide better service for watercraft recreationalists by providing on-site decontamination, will reduce the risk for potential new infestations of other aquatic invasive species, will increase the number of inspections for outgoing boats, and will reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species to other lakes. The decontamination unit will be located near the French Regional Park – Medicine Lake access and will be operated by Three Rivers Park District staff from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The additional inspection hours required for the staffing of the decontamination unit will expand and augment the existing watercraft inspection program at this launch. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission will provide financial support for the additional staffing and operation of the decontamination unit and/or will seek other partners to contribute funds. The training of Level II inspectors to operate the decontamination unit will be carried out by MnDNR watercraft inspection training staff, and assisted by Three Rivers Park District water resources staff and operation supervisors. Once training and authorization as a Level II inspector is completed, inspectors will be scheduled and supervised by the Three Rivers Park District operations or facility supervisor at French Regional Park.

The inspection outcomes for the project will be tracked and measured through the use of tablets loaded with the application developed by MnDNR to guide watercraft inspectors through the process and record results. If there are temporary issues with the tablets, paper records based on the information provided by the MnDNR application may be used, then reviewed/summarized/uploaded to the tablet as soon as possible. All inspection records will be uploaded to MnDNR's statewide data base, and will be used to generate final project reports.

Purchase of the decontamination unit is an investment in both current and future AIS prevention activities as the unit will be maintained and will be utilized every year for the expected life of the unit.

## Project staff, partners and volunteers (25%)

- **Project coordinator and organization information**

- Organization: *Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission*
- Primary project coordinator (name, title, role): *Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator*
- Address, phone number, email address: *c/o 16145 Hillcrest Lane, Eden Prairie MN 55346; 952-270-1990; [laura.jester@kestonewaters.com](mailto:laura.jester@kestonewaters.com)*
- Organization website and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc.):  
Website: [www.bassettcreekwmo.org](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCWMC/>
- Describe the organization's mission and how this project aligns with the organization's goals. *The mission of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission is "Stewardship of water resources to protect and enhance our communities." The BCWMC 2015 Watershed Plan includes the goal to "support and collaborate with other entities to manage and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species." In 2016 and 2017, the BCWMC convened and facilitated an Aquatic Invasive Species/Aquatic Plant Management Committee to identify gaps and determine the BCWMC's role in these issues. Approved committee recommendations include cooperating with partnering organizations (such as TRPD) and providing financial assistance for equipment purchase and inspections at boat launches.*

- **Contracting organization information** *(the organization that will sign the contract)*

- Contracting organization *(if different than above): Same as above*
- Designated contract signatory: *BCWMC Chairperson (currently Commissioner Jim de Lambert)*

- Address and phone number: *c/o City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley MN 55427; 952-346-3866*
- Has the organization received funding from the county in the last three years?
  - Yes; if yes, list the programs or briefly explain:
    - *Hennepin County Opportunity Grant for Plymouth Creek Restoration Project to restore streambanks and reduce erosion along Plymouth Creek. Awarded April 2017.*
    - *Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund Grant for Bassett Creek Main Stem Erosion Repair Project. Awarded 2017 (agreement documents gathering county signatures currently)*

**Staff and volunteers:** List the staff and volunteers who will implement the project and briefly describe their role in the project and their qualifications. Please include the person who will manage financial reporting for the project. Are these leaders part of an existing team, such as a green team or a student group?

*Financial reporting and grant management:*

- *Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator, will perform overall grant management and financial reporting with assistance from Sue Virnig, BCWMC Deputy Treasurer and Financial Director for the City of Golden Valley. Ms. Jester has 25 years of experience in water resources management, watershed administration, grants management and grants reporting. Throughout her career she has successfully managed multiple State and Federal grants totaling millions of dollars in awarded funding.*

*Other key staff that will be involved in implementing the project includes:*

- *Jill Caffee, Three Rivers Park District Operations Supervisor for French Regional Park, will oversee operation of the decontamination unit and will directly supervise inspection staff. She has been in her current post for 4 years, and she was in a similar position at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park for 8 years, where she managed watercraft inspection efforts for incoming and outgoing watercraft at the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park access. In her current position, she manages inspection activities at TRPD accesses on Medicine Lake, Fish Lake, and Twin Lakes.*
- *Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District's Senior Manager of Water Resources, will provide overall management of boat launch operations. Brian has worked for Three Rivers Park District in the Water Resources Department for the past 20 years. Brian has coordinated monitoring/research efforts as well as rapid response initiatives for control of aquatic invasive species within the park district. Mr. Vlach manages and coordinates all water resources initiatives associated with aquatic invasive species risk reduction. He has over 24 years of professional experience in management of fisheries and water resources projects.*
- *Three Rivers Park District seasonal staff will be hired and will receive Level II inspection training to operate the decontamination unit and carry out and record inspections.*

## **Budget (10%)**

- Complete the budget form, available at [www.hennepin.us/aisprevention](http://www.hennepin.us/aisprevention), and submit it with your application.
- Additionally, explain:
  - Why do you need this funding and what project work will not happen without AIS Prevention funding?

*Medicine Lake is a regionally significant lake and a high priority lake for the BCWMC. The French Regional Park – Medicine Lake access receives a significant amount of recreational use. In 2017, 3,208 boat inspections were performed at a rate of 2.1 inspection per hour. Unfortunately, zebra mussels were discovered in the lake in the fall of 2017, significantly increasing the need for boaters to access effective decontamination. Although the extent of the zebra mussel infestation is currently unknown, there is a high risk for the lake to be a source of zebra mussel infestations in other metropolitan lakes. Further, additional effort is warranted to prevent the spread of new AIS into Medicine Lake. While the BCWMC has some funding set aside for AIS issues, it currently does not have the funds needed to purchase the decontamination unit. Currently, watercraft requiring decontamination are sent to the nearest MnDNR decontamination station. MnDNR stations may be many miles away and sometimes the listed schedules (times/locations) of the unit are incorrect, leading to boater frustration and distress. A decontamination unit located at the French Regional Park will provide better service for watercraft recreationalists by providing on-site decontamination, will reduce the risk for potential new infestations of other aquatic invasive species, will increase the number of inspections for outgoing boats, and will reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species to other lakes by ensuring that boats are actually being decontaminated before leaving the park district. The decontamination unit will also be able to provide service for other watercraft accesses located in the vicinity of Medicine Lake.*

- Identify other funding sources and their respective contributions.

*Three Rivers Park District's general fund operating budget is the primary source of funding to support the existing watercraft inspection/boater education program at French Regional Park – Medicine Lake access. The TRPD total watercraft inspection costs were \$15,646 in 2017, (\$5,010 of which was reimbursement through a Hennepin County AIS prevention grant). Three Rivers Park District expects to spend a similar amount from the general fund operating budget in 2018. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission is expected to contribute an additional \$5,000 to assist with increased inspection hours and staffing of a decontamination unit and/or will work with other partners to secure the additional \$5,000.*