



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: April 11, 2018

**RE: Item 5F – Consider Authorizing Expenditures of Possible Rapid Response to Zebra Mussels in Medicine Lake**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize staff to spend up to \$11,000 on a rapid response (chemical treatment) to zebra mussels in Medicine Lake.

**BACKGROUND:**

At your meeting in December, you approved the following recommended actions with regards to addressing zebra mussels in Medicine Lake:

1. Direct staff to discuss and work with Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) and, if deemed appropriate, apply for Hennepin County AIS Prevention Grant, to help fund either a) installing a CD3 (Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose) unit at the French Regional Park boat launch, or b) additional inspection hours at the park boat launch.
2. Perform a “meandering” survey of zebra mussel adults to determine the extent of the infestation in the lake and use up to \$8,000 of 2018 APM/AIS funds for this work, if needed.
3. If the meandering survey finds zebra mussels in a few locations (i.e., isolated clusters), and the MnDNR and MAISRC staff agree that the lake is a candidate for a rapid response treatment, use up to \$1,500 of staff time to apply for a MnDNR treatment permit.
4. If the MnDNR issues the treatment permit, apply for a Hennepin County Rapid Response Grant (different from the AIS Prevention Grant discussed in #1 above) to pay/help pay for quarantine and treatment costs.

Regarding recommendation #1, the BCWMC applied for and received a grant to purchase a decontamination unit for use at French Regional Park. The grant agreement was recently executed and the unit will be purchased by TRPD soon.

Regarding recommendation #2, once the ice is out on Medicine Lake, staff with TRPD will perform a survey along the shoreline to determine the geographical extent of the zebra mussel infestation (at no cost to the BCWMC). If mussels are found to be in very limited areas, TRPD and the BCWMC staff will consult with the MnDNR and MAISRC to discuss the possibility of a rapid response (i.e., chemical treatment of the mussels).

If a rapid response is appropriate, the newly approved [AIS Rapid Response Plan](#) indicates TRPD would take the lead on the project including hiring contractors and applying for the MnDNR permit. However, the Plan also states the BCWMC would help fund the treatment in partnership with Hennepin County and TRPD. The MnDNR recommends budgeting \$20,000 - \$50,000 for a zebra mussel rapid response. Approximately \$18,000 was spent treating a small area on Lake Independence in 2014.

Because the timing of a rapid response is critical, staff is requesting authorization to spend up to \$11,000 on a rapid response effort in Medicine Lake. The cities of Medicine Lake and Plymouth have pledged a total of \$6,000 towards the survey and treatment. TRPD would lend their floating barriers needed to isolate the treatment area from the rest of the lake (saving \$6,000 - \$7,000 in rapid response costs). BCWMC staff would also apply for a Hennepin County Rapid Response Grant (as previously authorized) and would seek other funding partners.

#### **BUDGET OVERVIEW:**

Here is a breakdown of the items already approved for implementation from the 2018 APM/AIS Budget:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>2018 APM/AIS Beginning Budget</b>   | <b>\$32,000</b> |
| Herbicide treatment of curly-leaf pondweed in Medicine Lake (contract NTE \$13,861; TRPD covers 17% or \$2,356)  | \$11,505        |
| Additional parameters to be collected through routine 2018 water monitoring program to determine vulnerability to AIS (approved with <a href="#">APM/AIS Committee recommendations</a> in September 2017)  | \$2,800         |
| Facilitation of meeting with lake groups to discuss and learn about options for more formally organizing ( <a href="#">letter contract with Freshwater Society</a> approved March 2018)  | \$2,000         |
| Contribution to TRPD to hire Level II inspectors to operate decontamination unit (approved March 2018)   | \$5,000         |
| <b>APM/AIS BUDGET REMAINING</b>  | <b>\$10,695</b> |
| NOTE: Previously approved expenditure of \$8,000 for survey of zebra mussels is not included here. TRPD is completing initial survey at no cost to the BCWMC. If SCUBA survey is needed, that cost is included with overall rapid response budget of \$20,000 - \$50,000 |                 |