



**Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Martin County
December 2016**

Guidelines for using Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid (MN Statute 477A.19)

INTRODUCTION

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Minnesota waters. These nonnative species harm fish populations, water quality, and water recreation. This plan outlines the efforts that Martin County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Minnesota. At this time there are no known aquatic invasive species in the county. Therefore we will use this plan in conjunction with the Martin County Water Plan to educate the public and local governments about the implementation of actions to prevent the spread of AIS.

ACTIONS

Table 1. Actions that Martin County plans to implement in order to prevent the spread of AIS. In the following table, related actions and elements from the state plan are cross-referenced.

Actions for county plan	How action supports AIS prevention	Element in state plan	Action in state plan
Assess the county’s resources and risk of AIS introduction			
Understand the variety of pathways of introduction to local waters.	Knowing the common pathways by which AIS can be spread is essential to effective prevention.	Prevention – Understand Risks	I-1-c
Using MNDNR’s list of water bodies that are designated as infested in the county, identify linkages to other water bodies.	Some AIS may travel or be more easily transported between infested waters and other connected water bodies; knowing these linkages will help prioritize prevention resources.	Prevention – Understand Risks	I-1-c
Increase county enforcement resources			

Ensure that all of the county's law enforcement officers are trained to enforce AIS laws.	This action will extend the capacity of local enforcement to ensure compliance with AIS laws.	Prevention – Enforcement	I-6-b
Utilize county deputies and city police to patrol roadways to issue compliance checks with AIS laws.	Compliance checks away from boat launches can be effective at communicating the presence of law enforcement and help to educate lake users on the seriousness of AIS laws and the penalties for infractions.	Prevention – Enforcement	I-6-b
Assess the feasibility of hiring authorized watercraft inspectors through a delegation agreement with the MNDNR.	Watercraft inspectors can help spread helpful and accurate messages to boaters and help prevent the spread of AIS.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Public Awareness	II-8-a
Work with the County Sheriff's department, adding a certified seasonal employee to work with AIS enforcement and water patrol.	Consistent enforcement of AIS regulations aimed at containment will help to prevent the further spread of AIS.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Enforcement	II-10-c
Increase public awareness and participation in prevention			
Train county staff (e.g., Planning and Zoning, Highway Department, Ditch Administration, SWCD) and City of Fairmont staff on practices to avoid spreading invasive species.	County staff and city staff can take simple steps to prevent AIS spread or new introductions, and can also set an example for businesses and individuals in the county and city.	Prevention – Research and Technologies	I-7-d
Ensure that local businesses are reducing the risk of AIS spread in their operations; for example, lake service providers are now required to be certified by the MNDNR.	The day-to-day operations of some businesses, whether regulated or not, can pose a risk of AIS spread.	Prevention – Research and Technologies	I-7-d

Develop and distribute AIS prevention messages targeting riparian landowners who launch watercraft from their own private residential access.	Many watercraft enter lakes and rivers from private residential property and are not reached by education and prevention efforts directed at public accesses and cooperating private non-residential accesses.	Prevention – Public Awareness	I-8-a & e
Survey launches for AIS signage. Install signs with the AIS prevention message where necessary.	Education is key to AIS prevention.	Prevention – Public Awareness	I-8-a & e
Collaborate with other counties, watershed groups, and/or jurisdictions whose water bodies connect to the county’s to develop a regional approach to AIS prevention.	Because AIS and the individuals who could transport them do not stay inside county borders, effective coordination is necessary to prevent AIS spread.	Prevention – Regional Approaches	I-9-a
Train county staff and city staff on management practices that will maintain and/or create diverse, native landscapes that are resilient to invasive species.	Making the environment more resistant to AIS can help prevent AIS infestation.	Prevention – Manage for Prevention	I-10-a
Hire seasonal educators, trained by the MN DNR, to distribute educational materials at selected public access points, and enlist additional volunteers to support this effort, particularly at high priority landings during peak usage times (holidays and weekends).	Targeting educational efforts to the users of a water body may help prevent AIS spread from or into that water body.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Public Awareness	II-8-a
Work with the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers campaign to strengthen awareness of AIS issues in the county.	Consistent messaging such as that from the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers ads may help educate individuals about their role in AIS prevention.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Public Awareness	II-8-d
Continue to build the partnership opportunities	Leveraging existing communications materials	Early Detection, Rapid Response,	II-8-d

with existing outreach efforts developed by the MNDNR and the Minnesota Sea Grant Program.	ensures that the public receives accurate messages about rules and best practices related to AIS prevention.	and Containment – Public Awareness	
Develop tailored messages aimed at lake-related businesses (home builders, developers, realtors) and local government staff regarding AIS prevention.	Ensuring that individuals are aware of AIS prevention measures that they can take in the course of their daily work will help to reduce the risk of AIS spread.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Public Awareness	II-8-f
Increase available resources and leverage partnerships			
Seek additional funds to implement unfunded actions in county prevention plan. Encourage other LGU's to apply for grants from other sources to match invasive species dollars.	The effectiveness of AIS prevention actions can be limited by inadequate financial resources.	Prevention – Funding	I-11-a
		Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Funding	II-11-a
		Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Funding	II-11-b
Assist with funding local outreach and monitoring efforts by entities other than the county.	Overall AIS prevention efforts can be strengthened by supporting the capacity of other local organizations to conduct AIS outreach and monitoring activities.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection	II-1-h
Utilize the Martin County Conservation Alliance in implementing the County's AIS prevention plan.	Additional partnerships among local organizations will increase the county's capacity to implement its AIS prevention plan.	Leadership and Coordination - Local	IV-3-b
Broaden knowledge of and participation in early detection and rapid response activities			
Encourage county staff, businesses, and individuals to submit samples of suspected AIS to the MNDNR.	The county can support early detection and prevention efforts by helping the MNDNR to quickly confirm new infestations of AIS.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection	II-1-d

Approve an early detection and rapid response program in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes, Fox Lake, and South Silver Lake with the county acting in a resource support agreement with the MNDNR.	This program will ensure that new infestations are properly reported and rapid response is deployed, if required.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection	II-1-d
Augment communication and reporting mechanisms for citizen monitoring of lakes and rivers.	Ensuring that local discoveries of AIS are quickly communicated to the right people will maximize prevention efforts related to new infestations.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection	II-1-j
Cultivate partnerships with organizations interested in AIS prevention (e.g., lake associations) to support AIS surveys in water bodies (infested and non-infested) and on docks and lifts.	Leveraging the resources of existing organizations will help to find new AIS infestations more efficiently and to prevent further spread of those AIS.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Prioritize	II-3-b

Manage existing populations of aquatic invasive species

Contingent Plan in the event an invasive species infects a water body in Martin County.

Where appropriate, use integrated pest management to control populations of high priority aquatic invasive plant species (e.g., Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, flowering rush, purple loosestrife).	Effective management of existing AIS populations may reduce the likelihood of further spread.	Management of Invasive Species – Implement IPM Plans	III-3-a
Coordinate with the MNDNR for information on management of AIS, and adopt control plans utilizing safe and cost-effective techniques.	Effective management of existing AIS populations may help prevent further spread.	Management of Invasive Species - Coordination/ Communication	III-4-b

Contract with private vendors that possess the equipment, knowledge, and expertise to facilitate management of AIS in water bodies the county deems impaired or damaged by aquatic invasive species.	Effective management of existing AIS populations may help prevent further spread.	Management of Invasive Species - Implement IPM Plans	III-3-a
Encourage the development of a boat decontamination service or partner with existing businesses like car washes that could provide such services.	Decontamination of watercraft is a key tool in preventing AIS spread.	N/A	N/A

IMPLEMENTATION

It is the intent of the plan development committee that at least in its first two years, administration and oversight of this plan should require 8% percent of a Martin SWCD full-time equivalent, or approximately 160 hours per year. Additional funding could possibly come from other organizations such as conservation clubs, lake associations, LGU’s (local governmental units), or grants.

UPDATING AND AMENDING THE PLAN

This plan will be reviewed annually by the Martin County Board of Commissioners and will be updated as needed.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Plan participants

Table 2. Organizations partnering with Martin County to implement the AIS prevention plan, including contacts and their roles.

Organization	Contact(s)	Role(s)
MN DNR	Allison Gamble - DNR AIS Specialist	AIS Specialist – Education, and monitoring
	Eric Schettler – DNR Conservation Officer	Education and enforcement of AIS Laws
University of Minnesota Extension	Tina Wolbers – DNR	AIS Prevention Planner Education
Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR)	Jill Sackett Eberhart	Clean Water Fund contact
All Townships with public accesses	Township Chairperson	Education, shared information
Martin County Commissioners	Scott Higgins Commissioners	Education, Enforcement of AIS Laws
Martin County Planning & Zoning	Pam Flitter	Enforcement of AIS Laws
Martin Co. Sheriff’s Dept.	Sheriff Markquart	Enforcement of AIS Laws, Monitoring of boats on the water and in transport on county’s roads.
City of Fairmont	Mike Humpal, Troy Nemmers, Tyler Cowing	Education, Enforcement of AIS Laws by the Fairmont Police Dept. and monitoring of boats on the accesses and city streets
Fairmont Police Department	Police Chief Michael Hunter	
Martin SWCD	Ashley Brenke - manager, Dustin Benes - technician.	Coordination of AIS Prevention Plan
Fairmont Lakes Foundation South Silver Lake Assoc. Fox Lake Association	Mike Katzenmeyer Harold Rehling Rochelle Krusemark	Education, monitoring at boat accesses

Clear Lake Association	Terry Tonneson	
Hall Lake Cabins	Leland Leichtnam	Monitoring Boats at the resort
A & J Docks The Boat House Sommer's Bait Shop Chain of Lakes Yacht Club	Jim Draper John Betts Justin Sommer	Dock and Boat Lifts Dock and Boat Lifts Information, education
Fox Lake Conservation League	Jim Miller, Tim Eisenmenger	Education – Volunteers
Martin County Conservation Club	Bruce Moore	
Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce	Margaret Dillard	Education, Promotion of AIS Plan
4-H Clubs	Kristi Pomeranke	4H Extension Coordinator
High Schools		
Faribault, Watonwan, Jackson Counties		Shared resources and information
Iowa Counties – Emmet, Dickinson, Kossuth		Shared resources and information
Property owners and boat owners		Shared information, compliance with AIS Laws

Appendix B: County water resources

Table 3. Characterization of Lakes in Martin County

Number of lakes more than 10 acres in size	69
Number of lakes designated as infested with aquatic invasive species	0
Total number of public water accesses	24
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by the MNDNR	24
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by MnDOT	0
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by the county	6
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by a township	0
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by a city	7
Estimated number of non-public water accesses	6

Appendix C: Glossary of Acronyms used in plan:

BWSR: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

MNDNR: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MnDOT: Minnesota Department of Transportation
MDA: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MPCA: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
NPS: National Park Service
NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service
SWCD: Soil and Water Conservation District
USACE: United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS: United States Forest Service