

Sherburne SWCD
Sherburne County AIS
2018 1st Quarter Accomplishments

Administration:

AIS Grant Program:

- Discussed 2018 AIS projects with lake groups. Assisted in project design and development and answered questions for grant applications. Ranked incoming applications, developed contracts and presented awards to successful applicants.

2018 Planning:

- Moved forward on a number of programs for 2018, including those in the education, inspections/enforcement and monitoring categories below. Facilitated an AIS Task Force meeting.

AIS Networking:

- Attended a day-long DNR facilitated workshop to discuss programs with staff from neighboring counties. Attended a 2-day statewide AIS Summit conference. Presented at the State of the Waters conference on SWCD / lake association efforts to prevent AIS.

Education & Outreach:

School education:

- Oversaw contracted work with CLIMB Theater for interactive elementary school presentations on AIS and presented to Becker High School and to Becker Bass Team on AIS..

General education:

- Secured billboard space along Hwy 10 for an AIS billboard. Developed custom handout pamphlets and gift items with AIS messaging.

Inspections & Enforcement:

AIS Inspections:

- Lined up WaterGuards LLC as contractor for Level 1 inspections again this year. Partnered with two lake groups for additional funds for inspections for a total of 1,300 hours.

Water Patrol:

- Worked on agreement for water patrol deputies and reserves to expand their program to conduct AIS outreach on lakes during holiday weekends as well as limited Level 1 inspections.

Early Detection Monitoring:

Zebra mussel monitoring:

- Prepared for third year of zebra mussel larvae monitoring. Lined up more volunteers to expand program to include 11 volunteers and 15 lakes this year. A new partnership has been formed with a student who is working on becoming an Eagle Scout. His community service project will consist of building zebra mussel sampling plates to provide another tool for early detection. The student will pay for materials with funds he has raised and some AIS Prevention funds. Zebra mussel sampling plates will be constructed and given to lake associations free of charge, and the student will give a presentation at a Sherburne Coalition of Lake Associations meeting.

AIS Grants and Scholarships:

Grant program:

- A total of six lake groups were awarded nine grant awards for AIS monitoring, AIS management, surveying, strategy development and watercraft operator education.

AIS Detector Scholarships:

- A new program was developed which allows a scholarship to cover registration costs with the University of Minnesota's AIS Detector program. The program trains volunteers on AIS identification and surveying techniques. Three volunteers completed the training and received a scholarship which covers their registration fees.

Sherburne SWCD
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2018 2nd Quarter Accomplishments

Administration:

AIS Task Force:

- Hosted a biannual AIS Task Force meeting, which engages stakeholders from different areas of the county. Upcoming 2018 programs were discussed and a presentation was given by Sheriff Water Patrol on AIS laws.

2018 Planning:

- Administration for paid and volunteer watercraft inspectors (hiring and scheduling), oversight for 2018 grant award projects, and discussions on new potential projects.

Education & Outreach:

County COLA event:

- Assisted in planning for the Sherburne County COLA event. AIS was a strong point of discussion at the event. A presentation was given on AIS monitoring and a booth was set up with AIS literature and references.

Inspections & Enforcement:

AIS Inspections:

- Roaming inspections were conducted by WaterGuards LLC. In May and June, over 510 hours of inspections were completed. The contractor schedule and volunteer efforts were coordinated to increase inspection time and to ensure no duplicate scheduling occurs.

I-LID:

- Partnered with the City of Big Lake and Big Lake Community Lakes Association on a project to purchase I-LID camera systems for public access locations. The city and association provided funds for the bulk of the upfront and maintenance agreements, and Sherburne County provided \$10,000 towards this effort. The cameras are meant to remind boaters of removing aquatic vegetation before and after launching their watercraft.

Early Detection Monitoring:

Zebra mussel monitoring:

- The County's annual zebra mussel larvae monitoring protocol, developed to catch early infestations from larvae zebra mussels, has been implemented on 15 lakes this year. Additionally, a partnership with an Eagle Scout resulted in 36 adult zebra mussel monitoring devices being distributed to area lake owners, who will keep an eye out for the adult form of the mussel.

AIS Grants:

Grant program:

The nine grants that were awarded in spring 2018 have been used to implement a number of AIS studies and control actions. These include funding professional AIS surveys, conducting aquatic plant surveys, developing strategic plans, and controlling AIS in public water areas. SWCD staff assisted in comments on survey designs, information on project timing, education/outreach and other program aspects as requested by grant recipients.

Sherburne SWCD
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2018 3rd Quarter Accomplishments

Administration:

AIS Networking:

- SWCD staff attended a regional AIS workshop held by DNR staff. Roughly 20 attendees from nearby counties discussed challenges with AIS monitoring, seasonal staff and new infestations.

New Project Discussions:

- Sherburne SWCD hosted a meeting with DNR and Hennepin County AIS staff to discuss increased calls from residents about purple loosestrife, a wetland invasive plant. DNR shared experiences in attempting to manage purple loosestrife. A native weevil has been used in the past to control loosestrife with good success. Sherburne and Hennepin staff anticipate beginning a pilot project in 2019 to raise these beetles with the goal of determining if enough can be successfully raised to release into purple loosestrife areas.

End of Summer Wrap-Up:

- Completed administrative tasks related to completing seasonal monitoring and inspection work. Began assembling data for annual report and planning the date for the season's end AIS Task Force.

Education & Outreach:

AIS Management:

- Hosted an informative session with the Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association to discuss effectiveness of their multi-year curly-leaf pondweed treatment program. Provided recommendations and options for continued work.

Inspections & Enforcement:

AIS Inspections:

- Coordinated inspections from WaterGuards LLC and volunteer lake residents. In all, over 1,350 hours were logged completing inspections on Sherburne County lakes. The data collected from watercraft operator interviews will be analyzed and presented to the AIS Task Force in December 2018.

Early Detection Monitoring:

Zebra Mussel Monitoring:

- Compiled results of mid-July zebra mussel monitoring. No new occurrences of zebra mussels were found. The program engaged 13 volunteers to complete work on 15 lakes.

Starry Trek Volunteer Monitoring Event:

- Hosted a training as part of the statewide Starry Trek AIS monitoring event. Over 225 volunteers participated statewide, Sherburne County had 14 volunteers participate. For one hour, SWCD staff trained the volunteers on AIS identification and monitoring techniques. The volunteers then split into groups to survey 10 lakes, primarily for aquatic plant species. No new AIS were found.

Phragmites Mapping:

- Phragmites is a non-native wetland plant that can grow up to 12 feet tall. A native variety exists that is very close in appearance but is shorter and does not display invasive qualities. Participating in a UofM program to map phragmites in Sherburne County, SWCD staff and summer intern visited numerous locations to identify the phragmites and native or non-native. Samples were collected and sent to the UofM for record keeping.

Sherburne SWCD
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 2018 4th Quarter Accomplishments

Administration:

End of Summer Wrap-Up:

- Completed an analysis of watercraft traffic at public boat access points and inspection data.
- Talled volunteer efforts with associated SWCD programs (32 volunteers, 252 volunteer hours).
- Drafted a final report for 2018 activities and program expenditures.
- Presented 2018 activities overview and hosted guest speakers at a December 2018 AIS Task Force meeting.
- Developed plans for a 5-year program review with task force in 2019.

Education & Outreach:

AIS Task Force:

- Hosted an AIS Task Force meeting, developed a survey to gain information on preferences for 2019 meeting formats.
- Recruited AIS Task Force members from fishing interests to sit on the Task Force.

Inspections & Enforcement:

AIS Inspections:

- Examined and presented data from summer 2018 inspections. 1,757 inspections performed over 1,3451 hours on 10 water access points.

Early Detection Monitoring:

Purple loosestrife:

- Developed relationship with Isanti County staff to look into monitoring purple loosestrife locations, as well as piloting a purple loosestrife beetle control program.

FY18 Payments Received

7/30/2018	12/31/2018
\$34,455.50	\$34,455.50
✓	✓

2018 Program Log Entries – Staff Time

	1 st Qtr.	2 nd Qtr.	3 rd Qtr.	4 th Qtr.
Administration	\$738.00	\$228.60	\$32.22	\$225.54
Outreach / Education	\$42.01	\$516.83	\$372.56	\$256.14
Technical/Engineering	\$6,256.16	\$5,451.12	\$4,696.76	\$2,554.83
Total	\$7,036.17	\$6,196.55	\$5,101.54	\$3,036.50

As of 2/12/2019

		Grant Amount	Total Expenses Incurred	Available Balance
A	Administration			
1	AIS Plan Administration	\$ 17,943.67	\$ 21,370.76	\$ (3,427.09)
				\$ -
	Subtotal	\$ 17,943.67	\$ 21,370.76	\$ (3,427.09)
B	Education/Outreach			
2	Billboard Coverage	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 550.00
3	K-12 Education	\$ 2,067.00	\$ 2,067.00	\$ -
4	Supplies & Materials	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 491.99	\$ 1,508.01
5	Workshops & Trainings	\$ 850.00	\$ 728.00	\$ 122.00
	Subtotal	\$ 7,917.00	\$ 5,736.99	\$ 2,180.01
C	Early Detection Rapid Response			
1	Zebra Mussel EDRR	\$ 2,583.00	\$ 2,551.00	\$ 32.00
2	Eurasian Watermilfoil & Starry Stonewart Monitoring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Subtotal	\$ 2,583.00	\$ 2,551.00	\$ 32.00
D	Inspections & Enforcement			
1	Sheriff Patrol Training	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 900.00
2	Water Patrol (3 holiday weekends)	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 2,492.94	\$ 907.06
3	Level 1 Inspectors (Water Guards)	\$ 23,700.00	\$ 23,799.00	\$ (99.00)
	Subtotal	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 26,291.94	\$ 1,708.06
E	Special Projects			
1	Mini Grant Program	\$ 19,400.00	\$ 17,025.00	\$ 2,375.00
	Subtotal	\$ 19,400.00	\$ 17,025.00	\$ 2,375.00
	FY18 Budget	\$ 75,843.67	\$ 72,975.69	\$ 2,867.99