

2015 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Polk County

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, property values and water recreation. This plan outlines the efforts that Polk County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Minnesota.

ACTIONS

The following categories will provide a template for implementing action items in order to prevent the spread of AIS in Polk County.

- **Education/Public Awareness**
- **Decontamination**
- **Inspections/Enforcement**
- **Special Projects**
- **Emergency Response**
- **Administration/Coordination**

Education/Public Awareness

Public Service Announcements – Conduct radio, newspaper, billboard, and other media ads promoting the awareness and prevention of AIS in the County.

Educational Handouts – Work with local agencies to distribute information on AIS prevention through educational handouts including but not limited to constructing signs, billboards, and information stands at water access sites across Polk County.

Youth Outreach – Work with schools around Polk County to provide an educational information/presentations to school age children to learn about the prevention and control of AIS.

Public Outreach – Establish a presentation/information stand and or program that may be used for special events across Polk County like the Polk County Fair. Develop and distribute promotional pamphlets and material to distribute around Polk County.

Collaborate with lake associations, local and state agencies to conduct outreach, education and monitoring of AIS related activities.

Decontamination

Investigate the cost and feasibility of purchasing high pressure wash/decontamination units for use in cleaning boats and equipment used in lakes within Polk County.

Establish a priority list and plan to purchase and maintain decontamination units within Polk County, including but not limited to site improvements, training, signage, installation, operation and maintenance of those units. 2015 will focus on research only. If implemented, money would be carried over to hopefully implement in 2016.

Inspections/Enforcement

Research starting program to conduct watercraft inspections at water accesses using authorized inspectors. Utilize seasonal staff, lake associations, volunteers to support this effort, especially during high priority water accesses and peak usage times.

Use local peace officers to monitor and enforce state regulations by ensuring peace officers are properly trained to deal with AIS laws and by increasing patrolling and monitoring of waterways in Polk County. 2015 will focus on research only. If implemented, money would be carried over to hopefully implement in 2016.

Special Projects

Allow local units of government and or lake associations to apply for grant funding from the County to utilize the AIS funding for special projects as long as it is directly tied to the spread and prevention of AIS across Polk County.

Emergency Response

Develop management strategies to detect new invasive species infestations and limit the spread of established populations of AIS within Polk County and to other waters of the state. Research and develop rapid response plan in hopes of limiting spread or eliminating new outbreak of AIS. 2015 will focus on creating plan and carrying over a set amount of funding that will be available to implement rapid response measures.

Administration/Coordination

Administration and coordination of AIS funding and the AIS taskforce will be handled by the Polk County Environmental Services Department (PCES). PCES will be the lead in implementing projects, coordinating meetings, and providing financial oversight.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

It is the intent of the AIS Taskforce that in 2015 education and public awareness will be given the highest priority. Work will be done to make sure the AIS message is properly advertised around Polk County. Special projects will also be funded and allocated funding. After adequate public awareness measures are achieved, Polk County will begin to focus on Inspection/Decontamination efforts.

It is the intent of Polk County to utilize all of the 2014 funding dollars by the end of 2015 for projects

noted above. Polk County plans to carry over approximately 10% of funding from 2015 for an emergency response fund. Additional funding will be allocated to this fund in 2016 and beyond.

Any remaining 2015 grant funds shall be carried over and utilized with 2016 grant funds in order to have enough funding available to start/build an inspection/decontamination program within Polk County in 2016 and beyond. 2015 funding may also be utilized in 2016 for other projects relating to the Polk County Action plan.

UPDATING AND AMENDING THE PLAN

This plan will be reviewed annually by the Polk County AIS Committee and updated as needed.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Polk County will track and monitor progress made by the Polk County AIS Taskforce in an effort to achieve measurable goals and actions laid out within this plan. A copy of projects completed will be kept on file at Polk County Environmental Services and reviewed by the Polk County AIS Taskforce as needed.

APPENDICIES

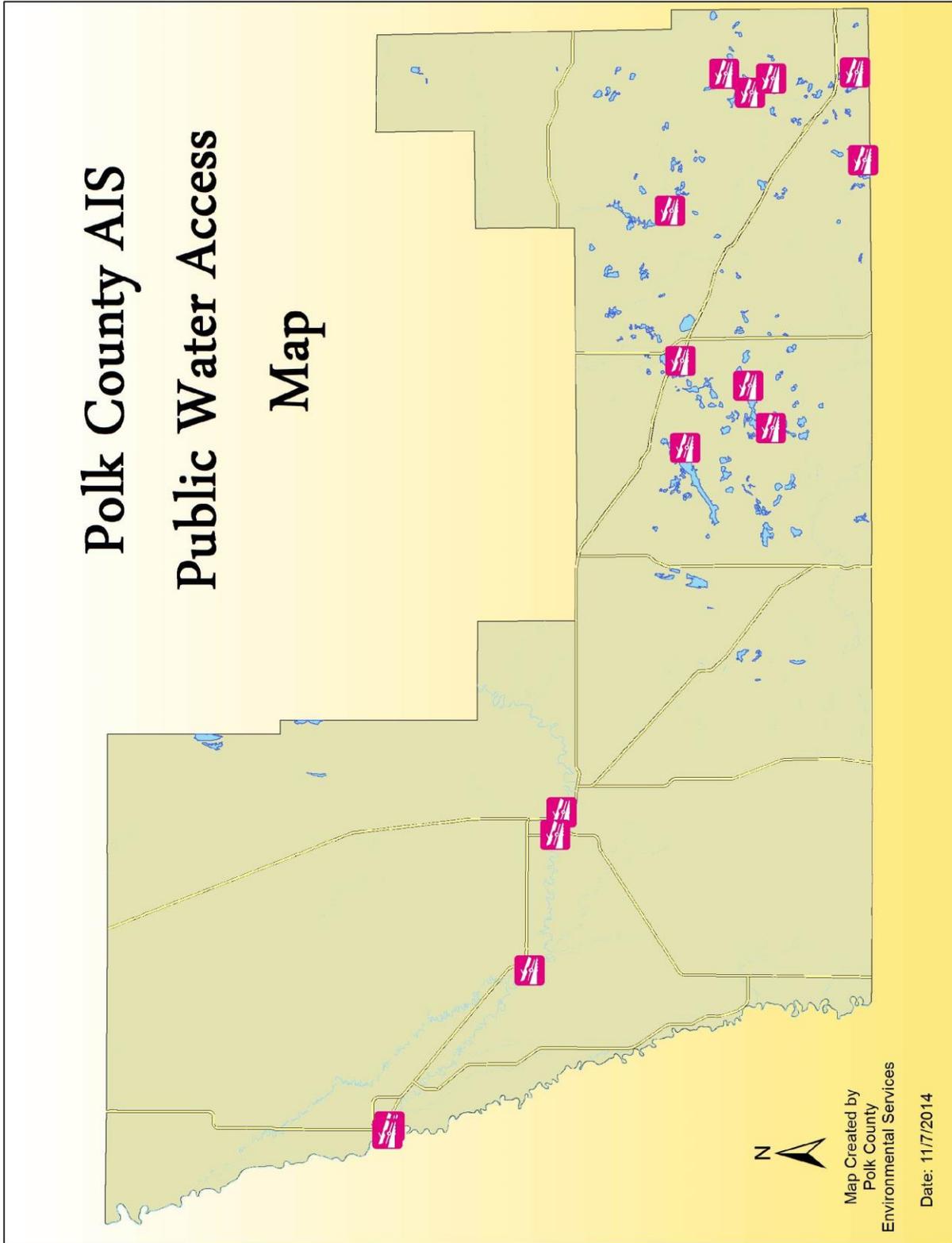
- A. Polk County AIS Committee**
- B. Polk County Lake and River Public Access Map**
- C. Budget Plans**

A.

Polk County AIS Committee

Committee Members	Contact	Alt. Contact
Polk County Board	Joan Lee	
East Polk SWCD Board	Al Bauer	Ken Pederson
West Polk SWCD Board	Vacant	
Township Official	Ilane Rue	Steve Tischman
Maple Lake Improvement District	Mike Schultz	Dennis Yell
Union-Lake Sarah Imp. District- Union	Richard Rock	Lonnie Paradis
Union-Lake Sarah Imp. District- Sarah	Daryl Halverson	Rolland Gagner
Polk County Sheriff	Barb Erdman	
Polk County Sherriff's Office	James Tadman	
Polk County Environmental Services	Jon Steiner	
Polk County Planning and Zoning	Josh Holte	
Polk County Public Works	Rich Sanders	
East Polk SWCD	Lisa Newton	
West Polk SWCD	Nicole Bearnd	Aaron Habermehl
Red Lake Watershed District	Ashley Hitt	
Youth Outreach	Margo Bowerman	
Other Members – TBD	River Watch, Other Watersheds, DNR	

B. - Polk County AIS Map



C. - Polk County AIS Budget

<u>ANNUAL BUDGET</u>		
	% budget	\$
<u>2014 Final Budget</u>		
2014 Grant		24,932.00
Education/Public Awareness	0	
Decontamination	0	
Inspection/Enforcement	0	
Special Projects	0	
Maintenance Fund	0	
Admin/Coordination	0	
Total		
2014 Funds carried over to 2015	100%	<u>24,932.00</u>
<u>2015 Final Draft Budget</u>		
2014 Carryover		24,932.00
2015 Grant		55,405.00
		<u>80,337.00</u>
Education/Public Awareness	15%	12050.55
Decontamination	0%	0
Inspection/Enforcement	0%	0
Special Projects	10%	8033.70
Administrative Supplies	5%	4016.85
Emergency Response Fund	10%	8033.70
Carry Over Fund	55%	44185.35
<u>Administration/Wages</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>4016.85</u>
Total	100%	<u>80,377.00</u>
<u>2016 Preliminary Draft Budget</u>		
2015 Carryover		44,185.35
2016 Grant		55,187.00
		<u>99,372.35</u>
Education/Public Awareness	10%	9937.23
Decontamination	20%	19874.47
Inspection/Enforcement	20%	19874.47
Special Projects	10%	9937.23
Administrative Supplies	5%	4968.62
Emergency Response Fund	5%	4968.62
Carry Over Fund	20%	19874.47
<u>Administration/Wages</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>9937.23</u>
Total	100%	<u>99,372.35</u>