

# WCOLA AIS Rapid Response Plan

July 11, 2018

**Objective**-Define an in-place plan of action to quickly react to an AIS infestation. The plan is intended to enable a head start should a concern arise and provide a step-by-step process to follow. It is also intended to provide the lake residents with knowledge of the issues involved, funding required, education opportunities, and responsibilities.

**Content**-the following topics are discussed in this plan:

**Prevention**

**Permit requirement**

**Contractors**

**Detection**

**Verification/identification**

**Documenting and informing**

**Determine the extent**

**Define treatment plan/responsibilities**

**Define Lake Residents and WCOLA roles**

**Follow-up**

**Financial issues**

**Prevention**-Prevention is clearly the most important action we can take. Therefore, we need to continue financial support to the AIS boat landing inspection program. Continue encouraging the Wabana Township financial support. Create and implement a strategy to prevent AIS infestations. Develop and distribute AIS information packages for resorts and camps to use with their guests. Continue to provide educational materials and make the lake residents aware of the concerns and their responsibilities.

**Permit required**-A permit via the MNDNR Permitting and Reporting System (MPARS) at <https://www.dnr.mn.us/mpars/index.html> is required to chemically treat any body of water. The plan is to run through a test application to identify the information needed to complete the application for any future AIS event and have a ready (almost) application and to define who will represent WCOLA on the permit as well as home address, phone numbers, and email address.

**Contractors**-Identify potential contractors that the Association may have to hire including divers, containment systems suppliers, treatment providers, etc.

**Detection**-Early detection is the next most important step. A SWCD AIS inspection of the Wabana chain of lakes was performed in 2016. The AIS inspection teams checks boats and trailers and the waters around the boat landings. Jean Panchyshyn has been trained (via the UofM AIS Detector Program) to detect and identify AIS items. We will need to arrange for education programs and encourage all lake residents to actively search for items of possible concern as an individual responsibility. The AIS Coordinator (Bill Grantges) has developed a number of educational programs, events, scholarships, and classes that could benefit the detection process greatly. Basically, alert people to actively inspect their own docks, lifts, boats and shoreline. Provide AIS identification materials to assist in the detection/identification process.

**Verification/identification**-Anyone observing a potential AIS concern should photograph the item and note its location. Then immediately contact the Itasca AIS Coordinator-Bill Grantges 218 256-4243, and/or our local trained AIS Detector -Jean Panchyshyn 952 250-6690, and the DNR AIS Specialist-Rich Rezenka 218 328-8821 for on-site identification, verification, and documentation.

At this point the WCOLA Board of Directors and Water Team should be informed and most probably all lake residents.

Contact appropriate contractors that the Association may have to hire.

**Determine the extent**-The DNR and other agencies as-well-as the Itasca AIS Coordinator will perform an on-site examination to determine the extent of the infestation. This may involve shoreline walks, lake viewing and possibly divers.

An alert should be sent out to all lake shore residents (Bill G has a template) to make them aware and to pay special attention. WCOLA members and other lake residents may be asked to do lake examinations at and near their own property to monitor and hopefully limit the spread and to fund some or all special efforts.

Call an emergency WCOLA Board meeting to authorize spending.

Finalize the permit.

Define remedial actions possible to contain the spread and develop a preliminary treatment plan. Work with the AIS Coordinator and implement those actions possible. WCOLA may have to pay for this.

Contact the county and various government agencies to get their involvement and to apply for grants.

**Treatment**-A treatment plan will be developed by the DNR which may involve eradication, containment barriers, other forms of control, or potentially to ignore if the AIS is too widespread. Divers may well be necessary. If the plan is to ignore, then WCOLA and all lake residents will have to alter their focus to AIS best management practices to prevent further AIS infestations.

Define WCOLA's role in the treatment, follow-up, and funding required.

If some form of treatment is selected, submit the permit application with approval of the WCOLA Board, Itasca AIS Coordinator and DNR AIS Specialist. The DNR will select the treatment and treatment vendor in conjunction with WCOLA.

The treatment plan is implemented.

Inform lake residents of the situation and their role.

**Follow-up**-The treatment outcome will be reported by the vendor. The outcome, if successful will be validated by the DNR and revisited for three succeeding years. If unsuccessful, a complete reevaluation will be required. The DNR permit will require 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluation of the treatment site for a three year period (zebra mussels).

**Financial issues**-The lake association will be expected to provide the permit and maybe pay for the initial verification activities. Due to the government process in getting approvals for action, WCOLA will likely choose to take preliminary action steps very quickly with hope of containment. These can be worked out with the Itasca AIS Coordinator. Additionally, the Lake Association may be forced to fund much of the treatment including barriers, chemicals, labor etc. These costs, based upon the experience of other lake associations, can be estimated to run \$20,000-\$30,000.

WCOLA currently has a \$5000 reserve for AIS issues which we need to continue to grow (Bill G. recommends >\$10,000). In addition, we may want to apply for CAP and other grants and perform various fund raisers.

**Conclusions**-Prevention is our first line of defense against an AIS infestation, next most important is early detection. We, WCOLA and all lake people have significant responsibilities in this regard and can take action in both these areas. Should a problem be detected, we have additional responsibilities to assist minimizing the extent and most likely funding much of the treatment efforts. Continued work with DNR and Soil and Water officials and other agencies and contractors is necessary.