

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) STRATEGIC PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Public Agency Center – Room 3224
West Bend, WI

May 31, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Members present:¹ John Jung (Chairperson), Ardell Zimmer (Vice Chairperson), David Berganini, Dick Baumann, Kenneth Hebbe, Bill Hilgendorf, Mark Rodenkirch

Absent: none

Excused: none

Staff present: Deb Sielski-Deputy Administrator, Paul Sebo-County Conservationist, Paul Klein-AIS Coordinator, Joshua Glass-Planner, Fay Fitts-Administrative Secretary

Also present: Michael Parsons-County Board/PCPC

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / REVIEW AGENDA – JOHN JUNG

Mr. Jung called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING – JOHN JUNG

Mr. Jung read the affidavit of posting.

INTRODUCTIONS – JOHN JUNG

All committee members and staff present gave a brief introduction.

ELECTION OF CHAIR – JOHN JUNG

Mr. Rodenkirch nominated Mr. Jung for the Chair position. No other nominations were made. Mr. Jung accepted the nomination and called for an unanimous ballot for formal approval. **Motion by Mr. Zimmer; seconded by Mr. Rodenkirch; to appoint John Jung as Chairperson via unanimous ballot. Appointment approved unanimously.**

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR – JOHN JUNG

Mr. Jung nominated Mr. Zimmer for the Vice Chairperson position. No other nominations were made. Mr. Zimmer accepted the nomination. Mr. Jung called for an unanimous ballot to approve the nomination. **Motion by Hilgendorf; seconded by Mr. Hebbe; to appoint Mr. Zimmer as Vice Chairperson via unanimous ballot. Appointment approved unanimously.**

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES - DEB SIELSKI

Ms. Sielski informed the committee that it is advisory to the Washington County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee (PCPC). This Advisory Committee (AC) will be approving the AIS plan and forwarding it to the PCPC for formal approval. The PCPC will conduct a formal public hearing and recommend the plan to the County Board for adoption.

Ms. Sielski stated that responsibilities of this committee include: 1) providing guidance during development of the strategic plan; 2) reviewing draft chapters in their entirety; 3) approving final draft chapters

¹ *Tod Maclay (Big Cedar Lake Property Owners Association) will be reviewing draft chapters as they are developed and providing recommendations.*

individually and approving the final draft of the plan as a whole; 4) participating in brainstorming activities; 5) formulating goals, policies and objectives through recommendations developed for a comprehensive action plan (noting that recommendations developed would be for both government and non-profit agencies/organizations).

Ms. Sielski noted that the AIS Committee has seven voting members; therefore a gathering of four members constitutes a quorum. A total of five meetings are tentatively planned. The PCPC has previously advised that a representative from Big Cedar Lake be included in this planning process. Tod Maclay, President of Big Cedar Lake Property Owners Association has volunteered to review the draft chapters and provide recommendations to the AIS Committee for their consideration. Ms. Sielski indicated the AC will be able to make plan recommendations over the course of the meetings held. Ms. Sielski advised that all discussion among AC members regarding the AIS Strategic Plan should be held within a formal meeting setting.

WHAT IS AIS – PAUL KLEIN

Mr. Klein gave a brief explanation of what an aquatic invasive species (AIS) is describing their basic characteristics and how they can be detrimental to ecosystems and local economies. Mr. Klein noted his main goal is to establish an AIS communication network system for the lakes to provide a method and system of control for AIS eradication.

Mr. Berganini questioned if Yellow Iris would be included in the plan as an AIS, noting that many shoreland owners are now planting it and it is very intrusive. Mr. Klein noted that it is regarded by the WDNR as “restricted” and not “prohibited”. Therefore, it will not be regarded as being a high priority species at this time, but it will be closely monitored. Mr. Klein indicated that he has visited landscaping operations within the County and they are not selling the Yellow Iris plant. Mr. Klein requested AIS Committee members contact him if they become aware of any “new” AIS populations in Washington County.

Mr. Berganini noted that there is now hybridization occurring between native milfoils and non-native Eurasian Water Milfoil. Ms. Sielski stated that paragraphs explaining such topics can be included in the plan upon the AC’s direction.

PURPOSE OF PLAN – PAUL SEBO

Mr. Sebo stated that many of the AC members present today had provided letters of support from their respective lake districts or protection districts/associations for the purpose of applying for the WDNR AIS Control Grant. The opportunity to hire a ¾ time AIS Coordinator was made possible as a result of obtaining the grant. As a condition of the grant, Washington County must develop, adopt and implement a county-wide AIS Strategic Plan. Mr. Sebo noted that the plan could be utilized by lake groups independently and the County could utilize the plan when applying for future AIS grants. Mr. Sebo encouraged committee members to focus on developing an all inclusive AIS strategic plan that could be utilized and referenced well into the future.

REVIEW CHAPTER 1 – JOSHUA GLASS

Mr. Glass reviewed Draft 1 of Chapter I highlighting key points and welcomed suggestions by the Committee to improve the chapter. The following changes were requested by the Committee:

- Page I-2, 6th paragraph – Add Purple Loosestrife to the list of AIS common to the region.
- Page I-2, 7th paragraph – Change text to the following: *This plan will focus on what can be controlled at a County and local government level along with efforts from lake protection and rehabilitation districts and others well as related non-profit conservation organizations.*
- Page I-6, 4th paragraph, 3rd sentence – Move this sentence so it follows the sentence that reads: *Between 1970 and 2010, the rate...15 percent in the Region.*

- Page I-8, last paragraph, 4th sentence – Add an introductory paragraph to beginning of Part IV using similar language and explain how development around lakes has transitioned from weekend retreats to permanent residents.

Mr. Jung stated that he recently received a postcard invitation to an AIS informational workshop (events to be held June 19th and 20th) and questioned who had received invitations. Ms. Sielski stated that all Washington County riparian landowners on major lakes and rivers, all municipal City/Village/Town elected officials and County Board Supervisors were mailed invitations. Mr. Jung suggested inviting all registered boat owners and licensed fisherman to such events. Ms. Sielski stated that she will contact the WDNR to see if that data could be utilized by the County in the future and she will report back to the AIS Committee.

Mr. Berganini and Mr. Jung engaged in conversation regarding septic system failures and the impending effect they have on local waterbodies. Discussion ensued. Ms. Sielski stated that upon the Committee's discretion, this discussion could be continued at a later date and a series of related recommendations could be included in the appropriate plan chapter.

REVIEW CHAPTER 2 – JOSHUA GLASS / PAUL KLEIN

Mr. Glass reviewed Draft 1 of Chapter II highlighting key points and welcomed suggestions by the Committee to improve the chapter. The following changes were requested by the Committee:

- Page II-1, 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence – Add language as follows: *...to the well-being of residents and property values as they...*
- Page II-1, 4th paragraph, 1st sentence – Remove sentence from paragraph and make reference to Map 20 in comprehensive plan as a footnote.
- Page II-6, 4th paragraph – Add more identifying characteristics for Eurasian Water Milfoil such as stalk not being stiff or rigid like native milfoils.
- Part IV – Move Table II-1 and II-2 so they precede their corresponding maps in the chapter and modify language in 2nd paragraph on Page II-13 accordingly.

Mr. Glass explained that the section on Page II-10 regarding Asian Carp will be moved to the “Potential AIS Threatening Washington County” portion of the chapter.

Mr. Sebo suggested adding language to Table II-2 on Page II-32 explaining that not all lakes in this table have been verified nor inventoried by Washington County, the information may not be all-inclusive, and that the main source of the data provided was the WDNR.

Mr. Glass stated that the title of Table II-2 will be changed to: *Other Washington County Waterbodies (Less Than 50 Acres) and Identified AIS*.

It was also noted that some map revisions will be incorporated into Draft 2 of the chapter along with the Committee's recommendations, all to be presented at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION – PUBLIC OUTREACH EVENTS – DEB SIELSKI / PAUL KLEIN

Ms. Sielski stated that the grant award includes a public outreach component which has been directed towards riparian landowners. AIS informational workshops will be held on June 19th and June 20th at The Columbian in West Bend and the Hartford Town Hall, respectfully, both events scheduled from 6:30-8:00 p.m. with a presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 2,000 invites were mailed in the northern portion of the County and approximately 2,100 in the southern portion. Informational displays will be on-hand and a survey will be provided to all in attendance. Ms. Sielski reviewed the survey form with the

Committee. Mr. Bauman suggested changing Question #2 to read “Do you own property on...” Ms. Sielski confirmed that change will be made.

BRAINSTORMING CRITICAL ISSUES – JOSHUA GLASS

Mr. Glass presented the general rules of brainstorming and conducted an exercise that covered the following five topics of discussion:

How should Washington County and appropriate entities (such as lake protection districts)...

- 1) **Educate** residents and visitors of the County about the existence of AIS?
- 2) **Prevent** the spread of AIS?
- 3) **Monitor** existing AIS populations and maintain an inventory?
- 4) **Control** the spread of AIS?
- 5) **Sustain** the implementation of the AIS Strategic Plan?

Committee members were given the opportunity to provide as much input as they wished on each of the topics above and Mr. Glass recorded a summary of the responses. Results of the exercise will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting and will be utilized during development of goals and objectives for the plan.

DISCUSSION REGARDING UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS AND DATES – DEB SIELSKI

Ms. Sielski explained that at the next meeting, the Committee will be presented with the minutes from today’s meeting, Draft 2 of Chapters I and II will be reviewed and considered for approval; and Draft 1 of Chapter III will be presented for initial review.

Ms. Sielski asked Committee members if they would prefer to receive draft chapters via email or in hard copy format. All members requested that future correspondence be sent via email and no hard copies were requested.

The next meeting of Committee was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 24th at 3:00 p.m. in Room 3224 of the Washington County Public Agency Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jung; seconded by Hebbe; to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Debora Sielski
Deputy Planning and Parks Administrator

Approved by _____
John Jung, Chairperson

Date _____