

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

Public Agency Center – Room 1113B
West Bend, WI

September 19, 2012
3:02 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Excused: Dick Baumann

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

Also present: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / REVIEW AGENDA – JOHN JUNG

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. The agenda had been reviewed by members.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING – JOHN JUNG

Mr. Jung read the affidavit of posting.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL – MINUTES 08/23/12 – JOHN JUNG

Motion by Mr. Berganini; seconded by Mr. Hebbe to approve the minutes with no additions or corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

WISCONSIN WATERWAYS COMMISSION – PAUL KLEIN

Mr. Klein informed the committee that he had contacted Mr. Roger Walsh, Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District in regards to grant funds available from the Wisconsin Waterways Commission. Mr. Walsh serves on the Board of the Directors for the Wisconsin Waterways Commission and informed him that there is approximately \$70,000.00 available to lake organizations for the entire State of Wisconsin. Grant funds are allocated through the WDNR for purposes of improving navigable waterways (i.e., lake dredging for boat access, boat launch pier construction) and other purposes but cannot be used for AIS chemical treatments needed for vegetation removal.

Mr. Rodenkirch stated that WDNR grant funds are available for AIS grants to assist in the development of a strategic plan but questioned the reason why no funds were available for annual chemical treatment control. Staff indicated that the WDNR's main targets are to promote AIS information through education, prevention planning grants and early detection and rapid response grants.

COUNTY BOAT LAUNCH FEES – DEB SIELSKI

Ms. Sielski reviewed County boat launch fee information with the committee members, noting that there are currently two County-operated boat launch sites (Henschke Hillside Lake Access and Ackerman's Grove County Park). Ms. Sielski stated that all County boat launch base fees

and surcharges were established and derived under Wisconsin State law to be used for the maintenance and operation costs of the boat launches. Currently the daily fee is \$8.00 per trailored launch or \$80.00 for an annual sticker. There is no fee for carry-in launching. Ms. Sielski stated that boat launch fees collected are minimal when compared to the costs of developing and maintaining the boat launches.

Besides the two County-owned boat launches, it was also estimated that there are six other boat launches in the County offering public access whether they be publicly or privately owned.

Ms. Sielski stated that years ago the lake groups had requested that a portion of the boat launch fees collected be returned to the lake groups, noting that a request by resolution had been brought before the Washington County Planning, Conservation & Parks Committee (PCPC) in 2001 and that the request had been denied by PCPC.

Discussion ensued on the total operation cost of the Parks Division versus the boat launch fees collected. The Committee was satisfied with the information presented and agreed that no additional research would be necessary at this time.

OVERVIEW OF CITIZEN LAKE MONITORING AND CBCW TRAINING WORKSHOPS – PAUL KLEIN

Mr. Klein gave a brief overview of the training workshops being conducted. Klein noted that he had a very good response at the Citizen Lake Monitoring workshop held in the Town of Erin on September 12th. Klein noted that his primary goals for conducting workshops were to provide information for educational purposes and bring awareness of AIS to the public.

Mr. Klein stated that three people had signed up for the Clean Boats Clean Waters workshop for September 13, but due to conflicts, it is being rescheduled for a later date. He also noted that he will be conducting two more workshops at the West Bend Town Hall on September 25th and 26th.

WISCONSIN LAKES AIS 2013-2015 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSAL – PAUL SEBO

Mr. Sebo noted that the Wisconsin Lakes Association had done the research and provided the background information regarding this budget proposal / resolution to garner more AIS grant funding. Mr. Sebo stated that AC members could consider taking this resolution to their respective lake groups for their discussion.

It was noted that this budget proposal and resolution is also being presented at the County PCPC meeting on September 26, 2012 for their information.

Mr. Jung stated that the budget proposal indicates that any law enforcement agent in the State can enforce the AIS laws. Jung recommended that the Sheriff's Department become involved in learning about AIS laws, become trained participants and share this at the Sheriff's staff meetings. Jung stated that he would like to see law enforcement officers become actively involved by having their presence (in uniform) at boat launch sites. He also noted that he would like to propose this recommendation as a planned action. Ms. Sielski indicated that Ms. Heidi Bunk (WDNR) had also reviewed the workplan and had also recommended to include additional language for consideration involving a joint effort between water guards and law enforcement

personnel. Ms. Sielski stated that Ms. Bunk's recommendations will be discussed later in the meeting.

REVIEW REVISIONS AND STAFF RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO DRAFT CHAPTER 4 – JOSHUA GLASS

Mr. Glass reviewed all changes that were made to Draft 2 of Chapter 4. Mr. Berganini noted that on Page 2 under Control, the following sentence should read: "It is important to recognize that ~~each~~ AIS ~~is~~are unique and require different measures..."

Glass distributed copies of additional planned actions suggested by staff and Heidi Bunk for the Committee's consideration and incorporation into the workplan, noting that these would also need to be ranked by priority. Sielski stated that the first suggested action listed under Sustained Planning be divided into two actions (one regarding a full-time AIS Coordinator and one regarding seasonal students). Sebo also suggested changing "full-time" to "permanent" in that action.

Mr. Sebo suggested modifying the first additional action under Control Issue, Objective #2 to "Obtain and maintain an AIS Coordinator with chemical applicator status..."

The consensus of the Committee was to include all the recommended additional planned actions into the workplan and incorporate the revisions as discussed.

DISCUSSION OF RANKINGS OF PLANNED ACTIONS OF DRAFT CHAPTER 4 – JOSHUA GLASS

Mr. Glass distributed copies of the planned action ranking spreadsheets to the Committee to review. Ms. Sielski provided an explanation for the ranking process and how results were tabulated using a quantitative analysis approach. She explained that the actions listed under each issue had been ranked by the AC members. Responses of the AC members were tallied and averaged. The status of priority rankings were summarized by being listed as high, medium or low. Ms. Sielski indicated that the Committee accept how the actions were ranked as shown or discuss alternatives.

It was stated that the AIS recommended goals and objectives will become the basis for focusing available County resources, measuring outcomes and reporting progress made on a countywide basis. An executive summary will also be developed which will incorporate highlights of the plan. The executive summary will also include information regarding the top rankings of each planned action component, noting that specific details can be found in the plan document.

Motion by Mr. Hilgendorf; seconded by Mr. Berganini to highlight actions of the highest priority (via an asterisk and/or color), list them first within their corresponding objective, and to not indicate a level of priority for the remaining actions. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sielski requested that the Committee consider selecting the top overall planned actions from all of the goals and objectives. She noted that this discussion can be revisited at the next meeting.

The Committee then reviewed and prioritized the additional planned actions provided by staff and Heidi Bunk (WDNR) and recommended the following changes to be included and incorporated into the plan.

Sustained Planning Issue, Objective #3

- Incorporate recommendations of this Strategic Plan into the County's Land & Water Resource Management Plan and County Comprehensive Plan – Ranking **HIGH** – *add as a new planned action.*
- Explore the potential of local governments funding a position for ~~an AIS point person~~ a permanent AIS Coordinator in Washington County. Ranking **HIGH** – *combine with existing language.*

Prevention Issue, Objective #1

- Enforce existing regulations and encourage waterbody users to report violations. Consider a joint effort with WDNR water guard wardens and Washington County Sheriff Department to conduct several enforcement days at the busiest boat launches during the open water season. – Ranking **HIGH** – *combine with existing language.*
- Identify alternative sources for long-term funding of watercraft inspection programs and ~~AIS Coordinator~~ seasonal staff. – Ranking **HIGH** – *combine with existing language.*

Control Planning Issue, Objective #2

- Seek dedicated funding for rapid response of pioneering and established AIS infestations. – Ranking **HIGH** – *add as a new planned action.*
- Encourage riparian landowners to be proactive by removing AIS populations themselves if they are able ~~and~~ or work with lake organizations to contract out for chemical treatment of lakes and other waterbodies. Ranking **HIGH** – *combine with existing language.*
- Encourage the AIS Coordinator to seek, obtain and/or maintain a chemical applicator status for chemical treatment of wetlands. – *No Ranking* – *add as a new planned action.*

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CHAPTER 4 – JOSHUA GLASS

The Committee's consensus was to postpone action on approving Chapter 4 until next meeting allowing staff to make all necessary changes and incorporations into the draft.

DISCUSSION REGARDING UPCOMING MEETING AGENDAS AND DATES – DEB SIELSKI

Ms. Sielski noted that at the next meeting, the Committee will be reviewing Draft 3 of Chapter 4, discussing the overall top priority planned actions of the plan and draft Chapter 5 (Implementation). Ms. Sielski also indicated that after the October meeting, there would be one more AC meeting which will involve the final review and approval of the plan in its entirety. An executive summary may also be available for the Committee's review.

The next AIS meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Berganini questioned the potential use of County sales tax for the possibility of future AIS funding. Ms. Sielski stated that the sales tax was originally established for capital improvement projects (CIP) but has evolved for different uses over the years by means of County Board action. Ms. Sielski indicated that as stated in the recommended action under Sustained Planning, more research would need to be completed on the feasibility of this idea.

Public comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Berganini to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Rodenkirch. Motion carried unanimously.

Debora Sielski
Deputy Planning and Parks Administrator

Approved by _____
John Jung, Chairperson

Date _____