



Environmental Services

301 Court Avenue, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone: 218.732.3890

www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/index.php

2021 Supplemental AIS Watercraft Inspection Hours Funding Process

Dear Hubbard County Lake Associations,

In 2021, the Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program will continue its AIS prevention work through watercraft inspections. The County will be providing State-funded inspection hours on lakes that will closely match the number of 2020 State-funded hours. The choice to contribute supplemental funding to the AIS Program, and if so, what amount is entirely your decision. As was the case in 2020, the 2021 contribution deadline will be **January 31, (2021)**. This deadline is necessary in order to be able to orchestrate all of the logistical scheduling steps involved with the supplemental funding portion of the AIS Program.

There are very important variables that are dependent on the supplemental funding portion of our Watercraft Inspection Program. The amount of funding that the program receives from Townships and Lake Associations dictates how many watercraft inspectors the staffing agency will need to hire. The supplemental funding that we received the last several seasons allowed us to contract for almost twice as many watercraft inspectors as we could with only a State-funded program. The difference between 25 inspectors and 50 inspectors is very significant in terms of the time requirements for recruiting, training, and equipping watercraft inspectors, developing the year's watercraft inspection schedule, and being ready in time for the open-water season.

Additionally in 2021, as you consider what amount to possibly contribute, please know that the cost of providing supplemental inspection hours will again be **\$21.00/hr**.

The 2021 watercraft inspection schedule will continue to use standard watercraft inspector daily work shifts:

Two - 8 hour shifts

7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Two - 10 hour shifts

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Please include a cover letter with your check that provides any related information of note such as whom to contact if we have any questions. Doing so allows us to efficiently and effectively process your contribution.

Program Logistics and Guidelines

Given the current situation surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the AIS Program can and will make necessary programmatic adjustments as this fluid situation continues to evolve. We will do our best to update contributing parties of any changes that occur. Please keep this and the following guidelines in mind when choosing whether to contribute to the Program.

The Hubbard County AIS Program must run according to the terms laid out by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in our Delegation Agreement. This Agreement is what gives the County the legal



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authority to conduct watercraft inspections. Our inspectors are trained and certified by the DNR and must follow all State laws regarding AIS and watercraft inspections. Although some stakeholders may not always agree with those specific laws, they must and will be strictly followed. While we definitely appreciate input and feedback, there are certain Agreement requirements that we must follow. When choosing to contribute to the Hubbard County AIS Program, please know that we will follow all State laws and regulations regarding how we conduct inspections and interact with the public.

We ask that you also keep in mind that contributing to the program does not give a stakeholder say in how the Program is carried out. We administer a very large program with many moving parts and individuals involved. Once our inspection schedule is set, it cannot be altered during the season. We deal with programmatic issues such as illness, family emergencies, or severe weather on a weekly, if not daily, basis. We do our best to execute the schedule as planned, but must be able to adjust when issues arise.

Lastly, due to the size of our program and amount of available resources, **please note that contributed funds are non-refundable.**

To Summarize:

- **Contribution Deadline: January 31, 2021**
- **Cost to Provide One Supplemental Inspection Hour: \$21.00**
- **Please include a cover letter with contribution check**

Contributions are to be made by check payable to “Hubbard County” and mailed to:

Hubbard County Environmental Services
Attn: Nick Macklem
301 Court Avenue
Park Rapids, MN 56470

As always if you have any questions or comments, please contact Nick Macklem by email: nick.macklem@co.hubbard.mn.us or phone: 218-732-2376.

Please also visit our AIS webpage: www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais/index.php where a copy of this letter along with other Program information can be found.

We greatly appreciate your continued partnership in our AIS Program and look forward to working with you in 2021.