



2/1/2023

Hello GLA Members,

I am writing this message and going to ask you to do something for Garfield Lake. Over the past week Sharon Natzel, President of Hubbard County Association of Lake Associations and I have written several of our Minnesota Congresspeople asking to increase the 2023 and 2024 funding of AIS Boat Landing Inspections. We are also asking for them to index this funding for potential future cost increases.

As you might have read in our GLA BOD minutes, thanks to the financial support of many of our GLA members and the significant support of the Garfield Lake Ice Racers, we were able to generate the funding to get the 2023 AIS boat landing inspection hours to be the same as last year, 2022. Thank you very much as AIS inspection is the number one way to prevent the spread of AIS within our state. This 2023 potential loss was due to the increase of the AIS hourly cost from \$22 per hour to \$25. The AIS funds were a "fixed amount" and therefore, Garfield would have lost 79 boat landing inspection hours. But we didn't, and Aaron Anderson, Hubbard County Environmental Specialist will arrange for the same hours, 549.

Now we need to go into the next phase of assuring funding for 2024 and beyond. This is a statewide issue and needs to be addressed that way. We have therefore written to the 4 Minnesota congresspeople who represent our area. They are Rep. Krista Knudsen, District 05A, Rep. Matt Bliss, District 02B; Senator Steve Green, District 02 and Senator Paul Utke, District 05. I have attached the message we sent to each of them.

Sharon Natzel has also contacted them and others, on behalf of the Hubbard County Lake Association and Lake Associations across the state. If you would like I can send you her message.

Tomorrow, I will send you a shorter message on this issue and am asking that if you agree with what we are trying to do, please print it, sign it, and send it to those 4 individuals as well as those congresspeople in the area where you may live. If you would like to modify it, please do so.

If you have any questions or comments, feel to contact me and or any of the other members of our GLA board. Our email addresses are on our GLA website: <https://garfieldlakeassociation.com/>. We are doing this as we do not feel that we will be able to continue to fund "lost AIS funding dollars" in the future. This is the responsibility of state budgeting members. They need to address how to protect our lakes from AIS invasion. After "AIS is in a lake" it's a real mess to correct and boat landing inspection is the number one way to prevent the spread. Let's work on the funding to do that.

Thank you for your action and involvement in "Keeping Garfield Healthy".

Ron Ray, President GLA

Copy: Sharon Natzel and Aaron Andersen