



Letters of support for ENRTF proposal #2021-164 – Building Knowledge And Capacity For AIS Solutions
Submitted by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

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HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

June 22, 2020

Nicholas B. D. Phelps, MS, PhD
U of M Director, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Greetings:

The Hennepin County Department of Environment and Energy is pleased to provide this letter in support for the Minnesota Legislature (LCCMR) extending the current RFP for the life of MAISRC to 2025. Hennepin County and Minnesota is home to vibrant, freshwater-based, recreational tourism destinations with numerous urban and suburban lakes.

Independently, we just updated our County's AIS guidelines for the time period of 2020-2025. This included input from 63 key stakeholders within Hennepin County. MAISRC's research fits perfectly with our work in the field of AIS which was directed by these local stakeholders, specifically addressing all pathways; addressing behaviors of spread; supporting innovative, and incremental improvements.

Although it may be difficult to come to terms with, no program is fool-proof. Slowing the spread of AIS is our county's more realistic goal. We therefore lean heavily on MAISRC, along with their partners, to give us county managers future "tools in a toolbox" to avoid/minimize negative impacts caused by AIS.

The county views MAISRC to be innovative and helping empower all of us to take the correct actions. We have a special interest in supporting MAISRC with our existing and powerful program Hennepin-University Partnership (HUP). This is a strategic alignment between Minnesota's primary research university and the most populous county, coordinating partnerships that capture value for both organizations. I have utilized this program numerous times in the past and look forward to working with staff from the MAISRC in the future.

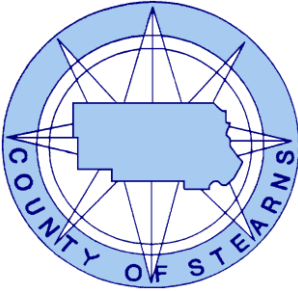
If you have questions or would like further information, please contact me (612-348-4378).



Tony Brough
AIS prevention program coordinator
Hennepin County Environmental and Energy

Hennepin County Environment and Energy
Public Works Facility
1600 Prairie Drive, Medina, MN 55340
612-348-3777 | hennepin.us/environment





COUNTY OF STEARNS

Environmental Services Department

Administration Center Rm 343 • 705 Courthouse Square • St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-656-3613 • Fax 320-656-6484 • 1-800-450-0852

07/06/2020

Becca Nash, Director
Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's Proposal to LCCMR

To whom it may concern,

The Stearns County AIS Committee is pleased to provide this letter in support of the MN Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Research Center's proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) to extend the life of the center to 2025.

The proliferation of AIS poses significant harm to ecologies, economies and quality of life for all Minnesotans. The Committee supports preventing the spread of AIS and considers the work of the center as an essential element in this endeavor. Research from the center is informing on-the-ground work, from optimizing watercraft inspection station placement to determining the most effective treatment regimes in response to new AIS infestations.

Continued investment in the center's research endeavors is a necessary component of the state's overall response to AIS. We acknowledge and support the work of the center and its proposal to the LCCMR to extend the center's life to 2025.

On behalf of the Stearns County AIS Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cole Loewen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cole Loewen
Environmental Specialist
Stearns County Environmental Services



**Sherburne
SWCD**

To whom it may concern,

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are a persistent threat to the Minnesota lakes and rivers that we hold so dear to us. These invasive plants and animals threaten not only our recreational enjoyment of the waters and their ecological health, but also the vast economy that developed to support our use of these waters. Investments into AIS research and mitigation are necessary if we are to address this threat. The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center is an organization that is worthy of our investment.

MAISRC is an internationally recognized research center that has made significant advancements in AIS research over the last 8 years. MAISRC approaches the AIS issue from all angles -- prevention and minimizing spread, early detection and risk assessment, and control and management. This diversified approach to research provides tools and information that can be used across the state to address unique, local AIS challenges. The research and outreach that happens at MAISRC directly benefits Minnesota's environment and natural resources by addressing AIS in the state and meeting the ecological, recreational, and economic challenges that AIS pose to the state's beloved waterways. All MAISRC research is conducted with the end-user in mind. The information and tools that MAISRC provides to local and state managers have real-world impacts on the front lines of AIS in Minnesota. Creativity is essential to solving complex issues with AIS and MAISRC's ability to pull together diverse research teams that can work together across disciplines means we're putting the best minds to work to solve this problem for Minnesota and communities like ours across the country. MAISRC's robust and inclusive process for prioritizing AIS research needs ensures that the most critical AIS issues are being met, and that state funds are being used efficiently and effectively to deliver results.

One of my primary roles is to oversee local AIS prevention efforts for Sherburne County. I also serve as a local source of information for all AIS and other water concerns. When I require guidance and assistance on the topic of AIS, the MAISRC has been my go-to resource. In Sherburne County we have integrated MAISRC programs for early detection, volunteer engagement and citizen education. We have used MAISRC's modeling results to help guide our watercraft inspection program, utilizing the best available science to prioritize our outreach and program structure. MAISRC staff have been extremely helpful and responsive to my questions and have gone out of their way to provide materials and in-person presentations for meetings held by our local Sherburne County AIS Task Force.

The MAISRC is a group that not every state is fortunate to have. The research and guidance coming from this organization is second to none, and this work is critical if we are to turn the tide against AIS infestations of our many waterways in the state. As previously mentioned I view an opportunity to fund MAISRC as an investment into our state's water resources as well as an investment into our economy and "10,000" lakes legacy. With that, I would ask that the LCCMR give full support to the MAISRC's funding proposal to continue their groundbreaking work to protect our waters. Thank you for your time and consideration for their proposal.

Dan Cibulka
Senior Water Resource Specialist
Sherburne SWCD
763-220-3434 ext 103
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550 South Snelling Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116



ENRTF ID: 2021-188

651.690.9602
mccomas@pclink.com

Date: June 26, 2020

To: Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
From: Steve McComas, President, Blue Water Science

Regarding: MAISRC LCCMR Proposal

It is my experience that the research and outreach that happens at MAISRC directly benefits Minnesota's environment and natural resources by addressing AIS throughout the State of Minnesota.

I have found all MAISRC research is conducted with the end-user in mind. The information and tools that MAISRC provides to local and state managers benefits all Minnesotans.

MAISRC has shown the ability to pull together diverse research teams that can work together across disciplines means we're putting the best minds to work to solve AIS problems not only for Minnesota that can be applied to the rest of the country as well.

MAISRC has demonstrated that state funds are being used efficiently and effectively to deliver results.

On behalf of all Minnesota lake users please consider funding MAISRC at the level requested.

Thank you,
Steve McComas, President
Blue Water Science
St. Paul, MN 55116

June 25, 2020

RE: Support for Funding of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

State Office Building, Room 65

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear LCCMR Members:

I am writing to support the proposal submitted by the *Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center* (MAISRC). As the current Chair of the *Minnesota Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee*, I have a front-row view of the interplay between University AIS research, DNR programs, and actions taken to prevent and manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Minnesota lakes. As an aquatic ecologist and owner of a lake consulting business, I also get to see the issue from the perspective of citizen lakeshore homeowners who expect me to provide them with answers on how to address invasive species in their lakes. Without evidence-based guidance and clear communication from researchers, AIS management and prevention programs quickly go astray. This wastes funds on ineffective actions and undermines citizens' confidence in AIS policies and management strategies. The work being done at MAISRC is absolutely vital for guiding and focusing work to manage and prevent the negative impacts of AIS on our State's waters.

In the past 20 years, I have been a part of hundreds of AIS projects scattered throughout the state. Before MAISRC was created, my work was largely guided by research conducted in Florida, Mississippi, and overseas. Although this work was very helpful, it was often hard to determine if the findings reported in these studies were appropriate for Minnesota waters. Lake management in the Upper Midwest requires a consideration of our lakes' proximity to each other, our deep-seated culture of lake-use, and the novel geology and weather in our state. After the formation of MAISRC, I saw a dramatic increase in the volume and quality of research coming out of the University that was relevant to AIS in Minnesota. Furthermore, I saw a refocused approach that aimed to connect this research with real-world solutions and ensure that new findings were shared with agencies, local environmental staff, and citizen groups. I truly believe that these efforts by MAISRC have put Minnesota at the forefront of AIS research, and are leading to a renaissance in prevention and management strategies in our state. The LCCMR has done a great job of funding AIS management projects in the past, but I believe that providing stable, long-term funding for MAISRC would provide the greatest benefit per dollar to our state's waters. I urge you to continue this investment in MAISRC.

Sincerely,



James A. Johnson

Chair – MN Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee
Aquatic Ecologist – Freshwater Scientific Services



Jun 24 2020

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources,

I'm writing you to urge you to support funding for MAISRC. The work done by MAISRC is vital not only to Minnesota's natural resources, but to our nation's lakes and waterways at large. It brings an enormous amount of positive and long lasting results. I have been a 50 year resident of a Lake Minnetonka, during which time I have been active in the preservation of our natural resources and benefitted directly from the results of MAISRC's research.

As an owner of four marinas and a boat manufacturing business , I partnered with MAISRC , the DNR and Brunswick Corporation in a four year research project that was recognized nationally in a positive way , it affected boat design to minimize transfer of AIS. The collaborative work with USGS and the respect that they enjoy by the private sector gives them immediate access to the resources that exist for them and their students to do research. I have attended meetings throughout the United States for AIS. US Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, the American Yacht Council and others. When see the findings of the University of Minnesota and MAISRC projected on the screen and viewed as the authority on some of the AIS subjects, I take pride that our state , the University of Minnesota and MAISRC are part of the solution to the ongoing threat of AIS. I also believe there is a small financial benefit derived from those outside of Minnesota seeking out MAISRC.

As a former Mayor of my city I clearly understand the pressures and demands all government agencies have and the limited funding, but it is my belief that funding the AIS research center is essential to protecting our natural resources now, and for the future.

Respectfully

Gabriel Jabbour



June 25, 2020

RE: Support for Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Dear Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources,

Today I am writing in support of the MAISRC recent proposal to the LCCMR for continued funding. My name is Patrick Selter and I am the Vice President of PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation's (PLM) mid-west operations, serving the state of Minnesota. I also am an avid outdoorsman, and father in which we value the states natural resources. PLM is the leader in Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management and I personally have the opportunity to interact with many of the great state and local stakeholders when it comes to AIS prevention, education, and management.

For several years I have been actively engaged with the MAISRC thru projects, cooperative research, as well as the individual staff from MAISRC. MAISRC has been actively pursuing the AIS issues from various perspectives including prevention, early detection and rapid response, various formats of risk assessment, control and management efforts. Only MAISRC is equipped locally, here in Minnesota, to tackle AIS as a whole, benefitting Minnesota's natural resources directly, with an emphasis on maintaining the ecological benefits and balancing them with the recreational opportunities for the end users. It is essential to solving the very complex issues AIS present that a high level of creativity is presented. MAISRC has the ability to bring diverse research teams that not only are able to work across many platforms, they can place the best minds for solutions and overcoming challenges, both locally and nationally. MAIRSC, since its beginning has designed a process which prioritizes the research needs, ensuring that the most critical AIS issues are being met, and the funding provided is used extremely efficiently.

Here is an example of how their research is being used in the field today by my company.

Lake Minnetonka Hybrid Milfoil: Current research being conducted by the MAISRC is being incorporated into the states largest Eurasian and Hybrid control efforts allowing for us to provide an adaptive management strategy which genetically identifies various strains of milfoil and apply proper control method and products based upon the genetic variation and its ability to adapt or develop resistance to the control method. To date, nearly 500 acres of Eurasian and Hybrid Milfoil have been eradicated from Lake Minnetonka with no or undetectable impacts to native plant diversity.

It is imperative that these projects continue to be funded and I would encourage the LCCMR to approve the proposal put forth by MAISRC.

Sincerely,

Patrick Selter, VP of Midwest Operations.



June 18, 2020

Dear Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources:

It is our pleasure to submit this letter of support for the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) as a testament to their substantial research efforts to protect and conserve Minnesota bodies of water.

Our company, Waterfront Restoration, provides Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control and Prevention Services throughout Minnesota. Our AIS prevention services include watercraft inspections for counties and other local government units (LGUs). In 2019, we serviced 75 lakes and 45 cities to maintain aquatic ecosystems, reduce the spread of AIS, and enhance recreational aquatic activities. MAISRC has had an essential role in our ability to effectively and efficiently provide this breadth of services.

Since the inception of MAISRC, their research and education has informed and enhanced the services we provide to the growing number of lakes and cities we serve. Their research is pragmatic and oriented towards companies like ours, making application of recommendations and tools accessible. For example, we regularly reference their research on the risk of infestation of zebra mussels and starry stonewort. They created a model that assesses this by individual lakes, helping us prioritize watercraft inspections. Placement of inspectors at lakes is made more efficient and effective by having this model. The MAISRC annual showcase has allowed us to stay abreast the most current research practices related to AIS and collaborate with researchers and professionals in the field.

Prior to MAISRC, working to preserve and protect Minnesota's most valuable aquatic resources without such a robust research center presented with much difficulty for small companies like ours. Their presence aids us in our daily work to preserve and protect some of Minnesota's most valuable natural resources and have helped us become exemplary aquatic plant managers in the community. As our service area throughout the state expands, our implementation of MAISRC's research and tools parallels this expansion.

MAISRC has consistently demonstrated an unyielding commitment for innovative research to cultivate best practices for AIS management. We have been agents to implement their high impact approach across the state, bearing witness to tangible results of their research and outreach. MAISRC has become an integral entity to the legacy of the Land of 10,000 lakes and we hope to see continued funding support for their efforts.

Sincerely,

Thomas Suerth
Founder and President, Waterfront Restoration



June 23, 2020

TO: Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 State Office Building, Room 65
 St. Paul, MN 55155

FROM: Phillip Rollins, President
 Bay Lake Improvement Association
 15449 Woodland Beach Lane
 Deerwood, MN 56444

RE: MAISRC Funding

Greetings from the Bay Lake Improvement Association and our 500+ members.

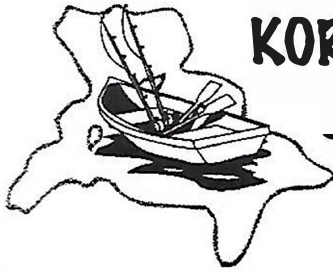
I write to urge the commission to support full funding for MAISRC through 2025. We believe one of the best opportunities for solutions on AIS issues can be found through the center's ongoing research and with new programs. Full funding of \$5M would allow the center to launch up to 20 new AIS prevention, containment and elimination research projects.

In 2018, after over 20 years of robust volunteer and paid inspection programs, zebra mussels were found in Bay Lake. We are facing a serious infestation, which I expect to explode in 2020. Other AIS lurk in the area and we fear they may also invade Bay Lake.

Earlier this year, I met with center staff to consider the creation of new resource material to assist lake associations, lake shore property owners, and other stakeholders with learning how to "live" with AIS. The project is low cost and an example of how center staff are eager to explore new ways to engage the public and consider new avenues to help address the AIS crisis.

I imagine that there are many important funding requests to be considered by the commission. Our Board supports the center's work with an annual contribution of \$10,000. Please continue to support MAISRC with full funding through 2025, giving lakeshore owners like those on Bay Lake one of the best opportunities for solutions to AIS challenges.

Thank you.



KORONIS LAKE ASSOCIATION

Box 333 • Paynesville, MN 56362

*"An association formed to
promote the protection
and improvement
of Lake Koronis".*

Letter of support for MAISRC

The Koronis Lake Association is pleased to be able to support the work of the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

The Koronis Lake Association is a volunteer organization made up of shore owners of Lake Koronis in Stearns County Minnesota. Lake Koronis has approximately 625 properties around a 2968 acre lake. The Koronis Lake Association was formed in 1971 to promote the protection and improvement of Lake Koronis.

In 2015 an invasive species named Starry Stonewort was identified in Lake Koronis. Along with the MN DNR coming to the rescue to help Lake Koronis, so did the AIS Research Center. Over the last several years we have partnered on several projects, they have worked independently on several other projects, all helping to increase the knowledge about Starry Stonewort for the state of Minnesota and also the nation, and to help us work on management strategies and solutions. To that end we collectively have developed a management approach that after 4 years of testing give great hope to managing this invasive to a below nuisance level thereby benefiting the people of Minnesota and keeping the lake usable for all. This kind of collaboration has been amazing and lead to a fruitful result.

With this kind of experience the Koronis Lake Association fully endorses and encourages any and all support available to continue on their work, not only in the case of Starry Stonewort, but any other aquatic invasive species work they can become involved. This kind of organization compliments the work of DNR adding to the science component, but assists the work of the local lake associations, who often have no one else to assist them scientifically.

Sincerely,

Karen Langmo

President, Koronis Lake Association



June 26, 2020

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Continued Funding for the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Dear Commission Members:

The Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1968 to promote the preservation, protection, and the reasonable use of Lake Minnetonka and which serves as an information source and advocate for the Lake Minnetonka community. Lake Minnetonka is one of the most heavily used lakes in Minnetonka with over 62,000 launches each year.

I am writing to encourage the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to continue funding the valuable work of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC).

Lake and rivers are the backbone of Minnesota's \$13 billion dollar tourist industry. Over the past decades dozens of aquatic invasive species (AIS) have taken a foot hold in our waters and many more are just a boat ride away from our state. Aquatic invasive species adversely affect the health of our waters and could have long term adverse economic impact to our fisheries and tourism industry.

Research being done by the MAISRC helps the Lake Minnetonka Association and other lake associations in Minnesota to implement programs to control AIS already in our lakes and to prevent new ones from being introduced. For example, the Lake Minnetonka Association and PLM Lake Management are using MAISRC protocol to survey sixteen of the busiest boat launches and over 100 private locations on Lake Minnetonka for starry stonewort. If found, we are prepared to partner with the MnDNR to implement a "rapid response" treatments based on MAISRC research to prevent this invasive weed from spreading.

The multi- disciplinary approach to research done by the MAISRC give us the information we need to explore creative uses of technology, such as the I-LIDs systems and social media, to change boater behavior and to better understand how AIS is transported from lake to lake. MAISRC staff and researchers are available and willing to discuss the feasibility of proposed programs, offer insights to make our existing programs more effective, and to provide unbiased, science based information about the spread and control of AIS which we can share with our members and policy makers around the lake.

MAISRC approaches the AIS issue from all angles -- prevention and minimizing spread, early detection and risk assessment, and control and management. This diversified approach to research provides tools and information that can be used across the state to address unique, local AIS challenges. Additionally, research funds given to the MAISRC are often leveraged by local funds, support from local paid and volunteer staff, and access to boats and equipment.

By using what we have learned from the MAISRC and our private sector partners, the Lake Minnetonka Association is moving towards effectively controlling Eurasian watermilfoil, flowering rush, and curlyleaf pondweed in Lake Minnetonka. In fact, today, these weeds are no longer a nuisance in several of the bays on the lake.

Over the years, a trusting and respectful relationship has grown between the scientists and staff at the MAISRC and lake advocates and lake users across the state. We are confident the MAISRC will find new ways to protect lakes from AIS. But our hope of controlling AIS in Minnesota rests on the shoulders of policy makers such as yourselves to fund the research and staff they need. Please join us in being a steward of our lakes, their legacy, and their future by financially supporting the important work of the MAISRC.

Best regards,

L. Eric Evenson

L. Eric Evenson, Director Lake Minnetonka Association



June 20, 2020

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Commission Members:

The Vermilion Lake Association (VLA) strongly supports MAISRC's research to protect Minnesota lakes from invasive species. We encourage LCCMR to recommend the funding they need to continue their essential service to Minnesota.

The Vermilion Lake Association's mission is both simple and enormous – "To Protect and Improve Lake Vermilion." Invasive species prevention is just one element of that mission and perhaps the most important we currently face. We need MAISRC's help.

We need MAISRC's help to develop the knowledge and tools to improve watercraft inspections at our 17 public accesses and 20+ resort accesses. Over 20,000 visitors launch 16,000 boats at Lake Vermilion annually. Many come from lakes with known AIS infestations ... or from out-of-state lakes posing unknown risks.

We need MAISRC's help to develop the knowledge and tools to improve our AIS early detection efforts. Early detection is a challenge for a lake with over 300 miles of convoluted shoreline forming many bays, points, and unique habitats. Our volunteer corps – no matter how dedicated and well trained – cannot cover our 15,000 littoral acres by inspecting our shoreline with current technology.

MAISRC approaches AIS research from many perspectives – understanding threats, prevention, early detection, and control. They have proven methods to prioritize what's important and to bring creative minds together from across the country to pursue the most critical issues. They deliver effective, science-based tools to lessen the burden on our front-line local volunteers.

The Vermilion Lake Association respectfully asks you to continue to recommend funding for MAISRC's critical research.

Sincerely,

Terry Grosshauser
Board Member
President

Jeff Lovgren
Board Member
AIS Program Coordinator

TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE LAKE VERMILION

P.O. Box 696 • Tower, MN 55790 • www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org

To: Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
From: Cecilia Riedman and Stephen Long
Subject: Letter of Support for Continued MAISRC Funding from LCCMR 2024-2025
Date: June 26, 2020

We're Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Detectors volunteers on Turtle Lake in north Itasca County. AIS Detectors, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's (MAISRC) cooperative volunteer program with partner UMN Extension has literally changed our lives and changed the priorities of the lake we retired on.

MAISRC plays a critical role in Minnesota's battle to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and to better understand the physiology and habit of each AIS species in order to mitigate the negative effects of these invaders on Minnesota's waters. Without MAISRC, the state would certainly lose this battle. We urge you to continue LCCMR's financial support of MAISRC at a level that allows them to grow their critical work.

AIS Detectors is an extraordinary program that arms ordinary people like ourselves with the tools and opportunities to become valuable partners to AIS professionals, to inspire other ordinary people to make a difference in AIS prevention and monitoring, and to tailor strategies and approaches to their own community. The program's flexibility allows the diverse group of volunteers to find niches that fit their personalities and abilities.

MAISRC arms us with a wide variety of tools to help us engage other citizens in AIS prevention and monitoring:

- MAISRC's **AIS Identification Guide** is an exceptional, easy to use tool for anyone who needs to identify potential aquatic invasive species. We use the guide ourselves and give copies to other lake residents who volunteer to monitor their own shorelines. Citizens with no other training are using the guide to correctly identify different species of crayfish, snails, and the native plants that are AIS look-a-likes. It is very likely that these citizens will be able to identify early infestations on AIS, if present on their shorelines.
- MAISRC makes scientific research accessible to citizens through **Webinars** targeted for non-professionals in the field. We take information from webinars directly to lakeshore property owners to build stories about why we need to work so hard at preventing the spread of AIS. This accessibility to current research gives us much more credibility when dealing with skeptics.
- **Starry Trek**, the annual citizen science collaboration between Minnesota and Wisconsin to identify new infestations of Starry Stonewort is a well-designed program we can essentially take out of the box and use. In one day in the field, volunteers who were previously generally conservation-minded often become strong AIS prevention advocates.

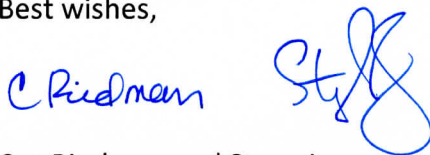
- While not specifically a tool, the **MAISRC culture related to volunteers** clearly demonstrates that MAISRC understands that much of the on the ground work of AIS prevention and monitoring can only be done by volunteers. The way that MAISRC has nurtured and acknowledged our volunteer work has taught us that small successes can be turned into a virtuous cycle to keep volunteers enthusiastic and committed. Accessibility to MAISRC's professionals and the nurturing of volunteers by MAISRC professionals is unmatched in the overall professional AIS community we rely on.

MAISRC's scientific research is unmatched. The mix of pure science and field research and the evolution of that research over time appears to be strategically planned to help other AIS professionals and volunteers prioritize where to focus limited resources for greatest impact. Recent social science research will likely have significant influence on future AIS policy making.

MAISRC recognizes that accessibility of their research to lay people is critical. How they assure that accessibility is very effective. At the annual **MAISRC Showcase**, AIS professionals and lay people from all over Minnesota gather for a day to learn about current research, to collaborate, and to build and refresh relationships. At the Showcase, researchers bring complex science down to a level that allows non-professionals to effectively apply it and communicate important learnings to others.

We believe backing MAISRC has received has been instrumental in gaining the support of citizens and communities around Minnesota in their efforts to fight the spread of AIS. With this in mind, we strongly encourage LCCMR to continue and possibly increase funding MAISRC, thereby allowing them to enhance and expand their efforts in the AIS arena.

Best wishes,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'C Riedman' and the second, on the right, is 'Steve Long'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cec Riedman and Steve Long



June 15, 2020

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
c/o
Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
2003 Upper Buford Circle, Skok Hall 135
St Paul, MN 55108

Dear Committee Members:

I serve as a board member of the Vermilion Lake Association and coordinator of our Sentry Program which provides inspections three times each boating season of our seventeen public boat landings. In addition, I am an AIS Detector having completed the required training, continuing education and service hours for the past two years. There are four certified AIS Detectors for Lake Vermilion, and they actively participate in our AIS Early Detection Program.

The Sentry Program is staffed by fourteen dedicated volunteers with training in identification of AIS particularly invasive weeds, fish and crustaceans. The MAISRC provides essential training and resources to our volunteers which is invaluable to their work.

My purpose in writing to you today is to express my sincere gratitude for the MAISRC for their essential education and training services they provide for the volunteers throughout the State of Minnesota who work diligently to discover new infestations of invasive species in in our precious lakes and waterways.

Although the scientists are working diligently to find a method to eradicate invasive species, the only true defense we have today is early detection. The MAISRC is essential in this effort because they reach out and provide the most current information in identification in our changing lake environments. The annual AIS Showcase has been invaluable to me in acquiring the knowledge and inspiration to continue this fight.

I encourage you to support them in any way you can so my volunteers can be well trained and supported in this critical effort to protect what makes Minnesota a great place to visit and live; its lakes and waterways.

Sincerely,

Mary McNellis
Board Member

TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE LAKE VERMILION

P.O. Box 696 • Tower, MN 55790 • www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org



ENRTF ID: 2021-325

Board of Commissioners

Lake County Service Center

616 Third Avenue

Two Harbors, MN 55616

Phone: 218-834-8320 Fax: 218-834-8360

Website: www.co.lake.mn.us

First District – Peter R. Walsh

Second District – Derrick (Rick) L. Goutermont

Third District – Richard (Rick) C. Hogenson

Fourth District – Jeremy M. Hurd

Fifth District – Rich Sve

May 6, 2020

Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Room 65/State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear LCCMR Commissioners,

We write in support of the \$650,000 grant request by Veterans on the Lake to the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources for much needed accessibility upgrades to the facility. Veterans on the Lake is a resort and recreational facility for disabled American Veterans and their families, created on a lake partially within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, in Lake County. Founded in 1982 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the resort is made up of more than 30 aging cabins, pathways, trails, common areas, pool, boat house, docks, lodge and supporting facilities.

For 38 years, these facilities have been adequate to addressing the mission to provide quality access to the wilderness and outdoor recreation for their guests and their families. Now, with a limited budget that covers only their operating expenses and maintenance, it is time for targeted upgrades focusing on increasing accessibility and repairing the trails, pathways, docks, and roadway to allow barrier free access for guests.

This is an effort to increase public access for recreation, particularly in the area of providing high quality access for disabled American Veterans and their families to access Minnesota's BWCAW and nearby outdoor recreation opportunities and educational/cultural programs through area attractions near Ely such as the International Wolf Center, the North American Bear Center, the Dorothy Molter Museum, and the US Forest Service BWCAW information center.

Veterans on the Lake is a valued organization in the Ely/Babbitt/Winton and Lake County communities, and we ask that you give the organization full and fair consideration for funding assistance as they work to serve our disabled American heroes.

Sincerely,

Rich Sve

Chair, Lake County Board of Commissioners

Laurel D. Buchanan

Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

laurel.buchanan@co.lake.mn.us

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

April 27, 2020

Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 65/State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear LCCMR Commissioners,

I write today in support of the \$650,000 grant request by Veterans on the Lake to the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources for much needed accessibility upgrades to the resort facility in northern Minnesota.

Veterans on the Lake is a resort and recreational facility for disabled American veterans and their families, created on a lake partially within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and bordering St. Louis and Lake Counties. Founded in 1982 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the resort is made up of more than 30 aging cabins, pathways, trails, common areas, pool, boat house, docks, lodge, and supporting facilities.

For 38 years, these facilities have been adequate to addressing the mission to provide quality access to the wilderness and outdoor recreation for disabled veterans and their families. Now, with a limited budget that covers only their operating expenses and maintenance, it is time for targeted upgrades focusing on increasing accessibility and repairing the trails, pathways, docks, and roadway to allow barrier free access for guests.

All of this is an effort to increase public access for recreation, particularly in the area of providing high quality outdoor experiences for disabled American veterans and their families to access Minnesota's BWCAW and nearby outdoor recreation opportunities and educational/cultural programs through area attractions near Ely such as the International Wolf Center, the North American Bear Center, the Dorothy Molter Museum, and the US Forest Service BWCAW information center.

Veterans on the Lake is a valued organization in northern Minnesota and I ask that you give them full and fair consideration for funding assistance as they work to serve our disabled American heroes.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress
Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Voyageurs National Park
360 Highway 11 East
International Falls, MN 56649



IN REPLY REFER TO:

7.C (3 yrs)

July 24, 2020

Members
 Legislative-Citizen Commission
 on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 State Office Building, Room 65
 St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear LCCMR Members:

I am writing to affirm that Voyageurs National Park is dedicated to working in good faith with the community of Crane Lake, and other potential partners, to establish the proposed visitor contact facility, boat launch and municipal campground facilities (ENRTF ID #2021-329 and 420) that would benefit both residents and visitors to the area. Crane Lake's location is ideal to provide outstanding services to visitors seeking to enjoy Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of Superior National Forest and Quetico Provincial Park.

Crane Lake is one of four gateway communities associated with Voyageurs National Park, and the only one that does not have a formal visitor contact facility. The community is seeking funding for a municipal campground to be managed by the community, and a central community center / municipal office / visitor contact station. Additionally, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be improving a boat launch facility associated with the site. The park, and the National Park Service's (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program have been working with the community to assist in defining what this facility might look like once developed.

The visitor contact facility would be primarily utilized by the community with some involvement by the NPS. The potential exists for the NPS to lease office space (~ 3 to 4 spaces) within the facility for staff in the Crane Lake area; the park may recruit and supervise volunteers that could assist with staffing of a center; the park, our not-for-profit partner, and other partners, including Tribal Nations may work collaboratively with the community to design, fabricate and install exhibitry that conveys the story of the area to visiting public.

The Crane Lake area has the great potential for several organizations to work collaboratively to assure success of the community facility / visitor contact center. The community is an access point to Voyageurs National Park, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of the Superior National Forest, and Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park. These three protected areas form the corps of the larger Heart of the Continent geotourism area of NE MN / NW Ontario, and includes the Quetico / Superior wilderness, some of the oldest protected wilderness areas in North America. Partners also include several U.S. Tribal Nations, and Canadian First Nation Communities that are associated with the lands and waters of the area. Additionally, the public land agencies have official not-for-profit partners that can play an integral role in the success of the facility.

The park is unable to commit funding towards the construction of a facility within the community because the park owns no lands in the community. This is the primary reason the community is seeking support for the project through other opportunities. The NPS does see the benefit in a collaborative community / agency / Tribal / NGO partnership to assure the implementation and management of a quality facility that will welcome and orient visitors to the community and the public lands we all enjoy.

Sincerely,



Bob DeGross
Superintendent

CC:

Crane Lake
Town Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 402
Crane Lake, MN 55725

Correspondence sent via email and hardcopy to both parties.



Saint Louis County

Seventh District Commissioner • 1810 12th Avenue East, Room 214 • Courthouse
Hibbing, MN 55746 • Phone: (218) 262-0201 • Fax: (218) 262-0203
Email: jugovichm@stlouiscountymn.gov • Website: www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Michael A. Jugovich
County Commissioner

Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 65/State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

April 27, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

We write in support of the City of Brookston's \$500,000 grant request to the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources for the development and construction of a campground facility and boat launch.

Brookston is a small city located on the beautiful Saint Louis River in Saint Louis County. Established in the early 1900's and incorporated to a village in 1907, the town began to grow. Finnish and Swedish immigrants emigrated from their native countries and settled in the area.

The abundance of timber brought many settlers to the area, as did Duluth Mesabi & Iron Range Railroad, which hauled iron ore from the Iron Range to the Duluth area, through Brookston. The city was destroyed in 1918 by a fire started by the railroad 8 miles west of Brookston. The city was completely devastated and there was nothing left. Gradually, the citizens began to rebuild, and the little city of Brookston eventually became a village again.

A campground here would be beneficial to Brookston and the entire area. It would bring tourists from around the state to enjoy Brookston's beautiful river scene. Fishing, tubing, canoeing and kayaking are just some of the activities this campground would have to offer guests. A bike trail would also run along the river and there would be connectivity to the area snowmobile trail. The Saint Louis River also has the Artichoke river running in from the north, the Stoneybrook River running in from the south, the Saint Louis River downstream from the campground meets up with the Cloquet River, offering visitors multiple connections for fishing and recreation.

This campground is a gamechanger for Brookston and will bring new people, new business opportunities, jobs and growth to this community, all while connecting visitors to the great outdoors and beauty of northern Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Jugovich
Chair Board, St. Louis County

July 23, 2020



Becca Nash, Director, LCCMR
 State Office Building, Room 65
 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Nash:

On behalf of the Land Stewardship Project, I write in support of LCCMR Proposal ID 2021-396, "Bioacoustics for Broad-Scale Species Monitoring and Conservation." We are pleased to endorse this effort by Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery, the University of Minnesota, and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Along with expansion of research on red-headed woodpecker habitat and the use of state-of-the-art technology for identification and presence of this threatened bird species, the Land Stewardship Project looks forward to the identification of new breeding locations around the state, and helping to restore populations of this beautiful bird.

More than twenty years ago, in a joint effort between our organization and the U of M's Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, we developed a [Monitoring Toolbox](#) in conjunction with innovative, stewardship-minded farmers around the State. That toolbox is known nationally for its unique integration of wildlife watching, soil testing, water analysis, quality of life analysis and gauging of finances to create a well-rounded system for measuring the success of a farm. It is a comprehensive, accessible guide for farmers and others trying to be intentional about why and how they manage their land. This guide covers the monitoring of quality of life issues, farm sustainability and financial data, as well as birds, frogs and toads, soils, streams and pasture vegetation.

In that monitoring project, learning to observe and track birds on the farm quickly became a great point of interest and satisfaction for the farmers participating in the project. We wrote in the final summary of the project: "Birds can add color, song, and even joy to your farm. And, because birds respond to both short and long-term changes in habitat, they also serve as good 'biodiversity barometers.' Management decisions and practices that protect or restore a diversity of habitats not only can bring more birds to your farm, but also contribute to its sustainability. Monitoring bird movements and abundance can help you see the impact of management on biodiversity and ecosystem health."

Personally, I can attest to the joy and wonder at having the occasional red-headed woodpecker visit our farm south of Winona. We've seen them here the last two years. This project will help us all understand the habitat needed for this species to flourish once again on woodlots and farmsteads around the State. Thanks for your strong consideration of funding this project.

Sincerely,

Douglas Nopar, Co-Director
 Bridge to Soil Health Program
 Lewiston, MN 55952
 507-523-3366 dnopar@landstewardshipproject.org

LEWISTON OFFICE
 180 E Main Street, Box 130
 Lewiston, MN 55952
 Phone: 507-523-3366

MONTEVIDEO OFFICE
 301 State Road, Suite 2
 Montevideo, MN 56265
 Phone: 320-269-2105

TWIN CITIES OFFICE
 821 East 35th Street,
 Suite 200
 Minneapolis, MN 55407
 Phone: 612-722-6377

landstewardshipproject.org

Diana Griffith

Subject: FW: _SUPPORT LETTER - FW: Red-headed woodpecker recovery project - LCCMR

From: Dunkley, Rick B (DNR) <rick.dunkley@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 10:11 AM
To: Becca Nash <becca.nash@lccmr.leg.mn>
Subject: Red-headed woodpecker recovery project - LCCMR

Good morning Becca.

My name is Rick Dunkley and I'm the Park Manager at St. Croix State Park. I'm emailing to mention our staff's support for LCCMR Proposal ID: 2021-396 that would aid efforts to better understand red-headed woodpeckers, the habitats needed and their populations. This research would provide a practical approach for land managers limited by the scale and staff/volunteer time needed to locate and monitor red-headed woodpeckers, which will ultimately allow the opportunity for habitat restoration efforts where they're most needed. In 2011 a major windstorm damaged over 13,000 acres in St. Croix. Our resource management plan called for the creation of more oak savanna and jack pine barrens and this storm accelerated that effort. I believe the management prescriptions for different locations (*based on amount of damage*) in the form of logging and prescribed burning thereafter, created the habitat needed for this species and many others that we're now seeing. That is a managers best guess based on 30 years of park and forest management.

Thanks for your consideration to fund this project. If you have any questions, please send an email or give a call.

Take care.

Rick Dunkley
Park Manager
St. Croix State Park
320-384-6050



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458

ENRTF ID: 2021-396



IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/IR3/NWRS/

Ms. Becca Nash
Director, LCCMR
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Ms. Nash:

On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) I am writing in support of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project proposal that was submitted to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources: Bioacoustics for broad-scale species monitoring and conservation (LCCMR ID: 2021-396). I understand that this proposal is a collaborative effort between the University of Minnesota, the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project and the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, and that it will help researchers and partners understand the statewide population numbers of Red-headed woodpeckers.

There is a current partnership between the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project and the Service in the efforts to document woodpecker populations in restored oak savanna habitat on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), Rapids Lake Unit. The work is valuable to Refuge staff as they continue to restore savannas throughout the Refuge.

Our partnership with the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project supports our mission of working with others to conserve protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge attracts local, regional and international visitors to experience the birds that live and migrate here. Although Red-headed woodpeckers still can be seen on the Refuge, loss of habitat has seriously reduced their numbers. Refuge efforts to restore degraded oak savanna habitat fit perfectly with the goals and work of our partner, the Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery Project and the current proposal that they have submitted. Discovering more about the factors that relate to the nesting success and overwintering of Red-headed woodpeckers will be beneficial to our restoration efforts. Their work will help the Refuge understand the importance of oak savanna habitat to Red-headed woodpeckers and how they may be used as indicators to the health of oak savannas being restored on the Refuge.

If you have any questions about Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge or the partnership with the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project, please contact Refuge Manager, Sarena Selbo. She can be reached at sarena_selbo@fws.gov, or by phone at 952-858-0701.

Sincerely,

Suzanne C. Baird
Regional Chief
National Wildlife Refuge System



July 17, 2020

Becca Nash, Director
LCCMR
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Proposal ID: 2021-396

We are writing in support of the grant proposal to the LCCMR by Dr. Elena West of the University of Minnesota for "Bioacoustics for broad-scale species monitoring and conservation." This extends an impressive study that has been under way for several years at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve on the nesting of a population of Red-headed Woodpeckers, a species that has been in decline in many parts of the country and whose numbers have dropped by an estimated 95% in Minnesota. The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has been supporting this work as the "Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project" (RhWRP) and would continue to contribute funds if the new project proceeds, as documented in the proposal.

The U of MN proposal is for a carefully thought-out further study outside the Cedar Creek reserve - in partnership with the reserve staff, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the RhWRP - that will contribute significantly to statewide management practices that support the recovery of this iconic species. The study will involve and work with Minnesota park managers, farmers, and other land owners in areas where Red-headed Woodpeckers nest or winter. The proposal includes state-of-the-art bioacoustics technology (Autonomous Recording Units or ARUs) that will gather essential information far more effectively than is possible currently. The research will fill key information gaps about the kinds of habitats the birds require and clarify the breeding distribution around the state, a critical component of habitat management and restoration efforts.

Thank you for your help supporting this effort.

Constance Pepin
Stephen Greenfield

Co-chairs, Advocacy Committee, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

P.O. Box 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403