

December 14, 2009



TO: Lake Associations in Douglas County
FROM: Douglas County Lakes Association
SUBJECT: Grant opportunities for Aquatic Invasive Species awareness and prevention

The Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) is submitting an application for the following grants:

1. "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" signs for boat accesses;
2. Watercraft inspections for boat accesses; and
3. An educational campaign to bring awareness and understanding to the users of the lakes in Douglas County.

The DNR is offering these grants to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The DCLA is interested in applying for the watercraft inspections in cooperation with area lakes associations. This involves the DNR providing a person to inspect boats at accesses. The cost for this is \$12 per hour. The grant would pay for ½ of this. If you are interested in paying for boat inspections on your lake, you need to determine the number of hours you can pay the \$6 for and let us know. One consideration to think about – you may wish to pay for hours of inspections at the boat access on the chain of lakes to prevent the spread of zebra mussels from there to the rest of the lakes in the county.

As part of this campaign, we are partnering with area lake associations like yours to provide the signage and watercraft inspections that your lake requires. The signage portion of the grant has no need for matching dollars. The DNR will put up the signs at their accesses. They may need some time from the association during that process, but that is the only contribution from you. The request for applications and pictures of the signs can be found on the DNR website at:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/aq_inv_prevention.html

If you are interested in participating in this grant application process, we need the following information and commitment:

- Number of lake accesses, number of parking spaces at each access, type of sign requested (18" x 24" or 3' x 4' large sign), if your lake is infested by any invasive species;
- A board action agreeing to participate in the grant process for signage;
- A board action allocating the amount of money they are willing to spend on watercraft inspections at boat landings (and if the inspections will be on your lake or the chain); and
- Appointment of a contact person to see this process through. This person would need to be available for a meeting on January 8th (time and location) with the DCLA and the DNR to actually get the grant written.

We are excited to have this opportunity to work with the lakes within Douglas County for the common good. Plan to attend the meeting on the 8th. Only the lakes present with the appropriate commitments from their associations will be included in the application. You may contact (name and number/email) for more information.