

Douglas County Resolution No. 11-____

WHEREAS, the “Chain Of Lakes” in central Douglas County was found to be infested in 2009 with Zebra Mussels, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), and;

WHEREAS, Zebra Mussels and other AIS are known to prolifically spread from lake to lake by human activities and may have detrimental impacts on the ecologic, economic, and recreational vitality of lakes in this County, and;

WHEREAS, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, out of concern for the County’s residents and resources, formed a Citizen’s Committee to study the challenges and opportunities presented by AIS, specifically Zebra Mussels, and make recommendations to the Board prior to the 2011 open-water season, and;

WHEREAS, the Citizens Committee has gathered current information on the extent of AIS infestations, investigated how AIS are being addressed in other States and local jurisdictions, polled Douglas County residents about attitudes toward AIS, engaged community groups and organizations, and reported these results to the Board of Commissioners, and;

WHEREAS, the Citizens Committee has participated with other concerned stakeholders including coalitions of lake associations, sportsmen’s clubs, chambers of commerce, and natural resource professionals to inform the Minnesota State Legislature about the threat and consequences of the continued spread of AIS, particularly Zebra Mussels, and to encourage them to pass legislation that provides not only directives to state agencies, but also funding for the control, containment, and ultimate eradication of AIS;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, with the recommendation of the Citizens Committee:

1. Supports the passage of State Bill SF0847 (March 16, 2011), which directs State agencies to better protect waters from AIS, strengthens enforcement of new and existing rules, and provides for permitting and inspection measures.
2. Requests the State Legislature make available dedicated funding from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Act, devoted to the control, containment, and eradication of AIS, particularly Zebra Mussels.
3. Urges the State Legislature to continue support of the Department of Natural Resources AIS initiative by providing ample and continued funding of the

Natural Resources Fund – Invasive Species Account and passing legislation that enhances inspection, education, and enforcement for the 2011 and future boating seasons.

Dated at Alexandria, Minnesota this 12th day of April, 2010.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGLAS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Norm Salto, Chair

ATTEST:

William B. Schalow, Coordinator
Clerk of the Board
Douglas County, Minnesota