

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, on April 12, 2011, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 11-27 supporting the passage of legislation that better protects waters from AIS and encouraging the continued support of the Department of Natural Resources AIS initiative, and;

WHEREAS, the Citizens Committee has completed efforts to gather current information on AIS infestations, investigate AIS programs in other jurisdictions, explore potential opportunities and issues related to control, containment, and eradication of zebra mussels and reported the following conclusions to the Board of Commissioners:

- Public education can be a key factor in the containment and control of invasive species by engaging local residents through increased knowledge and providing instructional resources to lake-users at the point of entry (public accesses).
- Vigilant inspection and decontamination of watercraft leaving or launching on local lakes can drastically decrease the chances of invasive species transport, and has been demonstrated in other jurisdictions.
- Technologies for the control and eradication of zebra mussels are well-along in their development and direct correspondence with researchers in the field suggest the technologies are near-ready for field trials and Douglas County presents a unique opportunity for such tests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Commissioners:

1. Takes the position that no further lakes in Douglas County shall become infested with Zebra Mussels or other AIS.

2. Shall appoint an existing County staff-person as a Zebra Mussel “Czar” to facilitate the implementation of the actions listed below, implement other actions as directed by the Board, and to keep the Board informed of current and developing issues related to the control, containment and eradication of zebra mussels.
3. Agrees to sign a letter of intent with County lake associations, committing to present a united front in efforts to address the control and containment of Zebra Mussels.
4. Commits funding and resources, as recommended by the Citizens Committee Report, April 26, 2011, for the development and placement of educational materials including signage.
5. Commits funding and resources, as recommended by the Citizens Committee Report, April 26, 2011, for the establishment of one pilot watercraft decontamination facility (washing station) within Douglas County.
6. Encourages County staff, residents, and stakeholder groups to work cooperatively with the Department of Natural Resources in implementing the above actions and to ensure that any statewide initiative that effectively addresses AIS is successful in Douglas County.

Dated at Alexandria, Minnesota this 26th day of April, 2011.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DOUGLAS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Norm Salto, Chair

ATTEST:

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