



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3A

Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** March 9, 2021

**Title of Item:** Aquatic Invasive Species Program Update

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
<b>Submitted by:</b> Steve Hughes		<b>Department:</b> Aitkin County SWCD
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Steve Hughes, District Manager		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 15 minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b>  <p>Aitkin County began receiving Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) annual funding in 2014. These funds are from the State of MN and are to be used to stop or slow the spread of AIS in surface waters of the county. An AIS Committee was formed in 2014 and the County Board delegated the administration of the AIS program to the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Most of the funds go back into the community through AIS Inspector wages and educational activities. The inspectors meet with boaters at many public accesses and inform the boaters on how to inspect and clean their watercraft to reduce the possibility of AIS spread.</p> <p>The Aitkin County Board, County Departments, and public support is very strong. The AIS program is running smoothly and boater compliance is extremely high. Aitkin County has implemented innovative ideas to better educate the public. These ideas are being used as models for other counties.</p> <p>A spreadsheet and charts will show how the funds were and are being spent to protect the county's lakes and the local lake based economy.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b> We are always open to new ideas.		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Discussion and up-date item		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.