

## **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Report for Grand Lake Improvement District**

**Jim Bartelme, LID Board Member & President of Stearns County COLA**

**May 2020**

2019 was another positive year in our efforts to control Aquatic Invasive Species in Grand Lake. With the combined help of the DNR, Blue Water Science, AIS Consulting Services, Lake Management, and the Stearns County AIS committee, we have been able to control the spread of Curley Leaf Pondweed and Starry Stonewort and prevent the introduction of any new AIS into Grand lake.

For 2020 we will continue our efforts in managing AIS spread and introduction into Grand Lake. We have centered our efforts into three (3) main categories. The control of Curley Leaf Pondweed, the surveying and manual pulling of Starry Stonewort, and boat inspections to prevent the spread of Starry Stonewort into and out of Grand Lake.

### **Details:**

#### **Control of Curly Leaf Pondweed:**

1. A full lake survey was conducted by AIS Consulting to map out the treatment areas.
2. DNR has provided a \$4000 grant to help offset a portion of the cost of treatment.
3. Treatment by Lake Management will be completed in May or early June 2020.

#### **Control of Starry Stonewort:**

1. AIS Consulting will continue to do six monthly full lake survey to look for any spread of Starry Stonewort outside to the DNR access area.
2. Blue Water Science will continue to perform up to 4 manual pulls of the Starry Stonewort in the access area with the help of the DNR.
3. The Stearns County AIS Committee has awarded us \$4200 to help offset the survey and management costs related to Starry Stonewort.
4. Attached is the current Monitoring Report from the DNR which shows continued success in controlling the spread of Starry Stonewort.

#### **Continuation of Boat Inspections:**

1. Boat inspections will continue for 2020 with funding from the Stearns County AIS Committee of \$15,633 for 827 hours of inspections.
2. Boat inspections started on Opening Day and will continue through the end of September. Seven day a week inspection will start after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to better monitor the spread of Starry Stonewort into and out of Grand Lake during its high growth period.
3. Monitoring of the ILID lake access camera will continue in 2020 to cover boat launching activities at the access especially during non-inspection hours.

Included in this report is a spreadsheet that details the expected costs and offsets for 2020. Total estimated expenses for 2020 is \$43,788,82 with grants totaling \$23,833 for an estimated Lake Improvement net expense of \$19,955.82.

Grand Lake Improvement District has also received a \$3000 grant from the DNR for a Social Marketing Campaign to be implemented in 2021 to help educate and gain commitment from lake residents to help prevent the spread of AIS.

Sincerely

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