

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) TASK FORCE

**MINUTES**

**November 29, 2023**

**Dethlefs Community Center, Spicer**

Present: Randy Alsleben, Duane Anderson, Jerry Brustuen, Dean Drexler, Ellie Faber, Brian Hedlof, Wes Holmberg, Bill Newman, Oscar Oakes, Amanda Toutges (alternate for Ruth Schaefer) and Sheriff Eric Tollefson

Unable to

Attend: Harlan (Harley) Davenport, Dave Nester and Ruth Schaefer

Staff: Russ Hilbert, AIS Coordinator

Secretarial: Diane Beck, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc.

Chairperson Duane Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. noting a quorum was present. Self-introductions were conducted.

**AGENDA**—Added to the Agenda under Open Discussion was Weed Sticks for Nest Lake.

IT WAS MOVED BY Brian Hedlof, SECONDED BY Randy Alsleben, to approve the Agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

**MINUTES**—

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Alsleben, SECONDED BY Wes Holmberg, to approve the Minutes of August 23, 2023 as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY Jerry Brustuen, SECONDED BY Bill Newman, to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2023 as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

**Auditor’s Report.** Russ Hilbert presented the Auditor’s Report from January through December 2023 which is the final report for 2023. He reported there are two grants not listed in the Auditor’s report (Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and Lake Andrew), which will be included on the 2023 annual report.

**2024 Local Grants.** Hilbert reported several grant applications were submitted for 2024. It is the recommendation of staff to approve 75% for all applications. The chart below gives information on each application with staff’s recommendation:

<b>Applicant Request</b>	<b>Amount Total Project</b>	<b>Amount Request</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
George Lake	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 7,500.00	chemical treatment of CLP	\$ 2,812.50
Big Kandi Lake	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	mechanical/chemical control of CLP	\$ 5,625.00

Lake Florida	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	chemical treatment of CLP	\$ 5,625.00
Lake Florida	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 28,500.00	chemical treatment of EWM	\$ 5,625.00
Green Lake POA	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	chemical treatment of EWM	\$ 5,625.00
Calhoun Lake	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,100.00	chemical treatment of EWM	\$ 1,875.00
Diamond Lake	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 99,600.00	chemical treatment of CLP	\$ 5,625.00
Henderson Lake	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	chemical treatment of EWM	\$ 2,625.00
Nest Lake	-	-	N/A	\$ N/A
PWELC	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	water rally days	2,250.00
Elkhorn Lake	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	chem treatment of EWM	\$ 3,750.00
Lake Andrew	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 20,000.00	chem treatment of EWM	\$5,625.00
YES!	\$ 3,891.00	\$ 14,288.00	YES! AIS/water quality education	\$ 2,918.25
Willmar Area Lakes	-	-	N/A	N/A
Norway/Games Lakes	\$ 7,500.00	\$35,000.00	chem treatment of CLP & EWM	\$ 5,625.00
Long Lake (Hawick)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	treatment of Starry Stonewort	\$ 4,500.00
Eagle Lake	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	removal of invasive carp	\$ 5,625.00
Shelly Holmquist (Bass Lake)	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	chemical treatment of EWM	\$ 5,625.00
Gregg Price (Bass Lake)	\$ 415.00	\$ 830.00	chemical treatment of EWM	\$ 311.25
Kandiyohi County Fair Board	-	-		N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95,556.00</b>	<b>\$343,318.00</b>		<b>\$71,667.00</b>
<b>2024 Budget Amount</b>	<b>\$ 55,000.00</b>			

Hilbert indicated if Long Lake applies for a state grant, there is a good chance it will receive it, which will bring down the total 2024 local grant dollars plus he plans to hire fewer inspectors next season, which will also reduce the total budget. As to the two lake associations (Bass Lake and Florida Lake) that submitted two applications, Hilbert commented it is not prohibited noting more than one lake association submitted two applications each last year. Discussion was held on lake associations being allowed to submit more than one grant application. Further discussion of this issue will be on the next meeting agenda. A lengthy discussion was held as to allowing local grant applications for carp removal. It was noted carp is an invasive species. This topic will also be discussed at the next meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY Oscar Oakes, SECONDED BY Wes Holmberg, to reject the 2024 Local Grant Application by Gregg Price for Bass Lake. MOTION CARRIED with Sheriff Eric Tollefson abstaining.

Hilbert will notify Price that his grant application was denied.

IT WAS MOVED BY Dean Drexler, SECONDED BY Duane Anderson, to approve the 2024 Local Grant Applications per staff recommendation for a total of \$71,356. MOTION CARRIED with Sheriff Eric Tollefson abstaining.

**Long Lake Hawick Final Report.** Hilbert noted the Starry Stonewort Management in Long Lake report and shared information on the surveys done, hand pulling and chemical treatments completed since July and reported the final survey showed there was a reduction of starry stonewort.

**Draft New Infestation Response Grant.** Hilbert reported he modified the current local grant application and developed an Application for Aquatic Invasive Species Funds for Newly Discovered Invasive Species, which he presented.

IT WAS MOVED BY Randy Alsleben, SECONDED BY Wes Holmberg, to approve the Application for Aquatic Invasive Species Funds for Newly Discovered Invasive Species and limit the application to only cover starry stonewort infestations with the exception that if another newly-discovered infestation is found, it will be addressed at that time. MOTION CARRIED.

**Public Time/Open Discussion.** Holmberg requested a weed stick station at the Nest Lake west access. Hilbert shared there is a weed stick station at the east access. Discussion was held on checking the weed stick stations during the summer fishing season. Holmberg volunteered to check the weed stick stations on Nest Lake and Alsleben volunteered to check the Lake Andrew weed stick stations. Hilbert shared the weed stick stations were removed for the winter.

Holmberg noted he will be unable to attend Task Force meetings in January and February and will find an alternate to attend in his place.

Brustuen shared Big Kandiyo Lake Association was exploring the possibility of creating a land improvement district and received an estimate of \$373,000 from PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. for curly pond leaf surveys and chemical treatment(s) for the 536-acre lake. The cost to lakeshore and second tier landowners would be \$600-\$1,400. At this time, the Association decided not to pursue the land improvement district.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next AIS Task Force meeting is **6:00 p.m., January 24, 2024**, or as needed at the Dethlefs Community Center, Spicer.