



## SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS TO DNR'S APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

The DNR is revising the agency's approach to management of Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP). This effort is guided by concerns expressed to the DNR by citizens. For background, please see materials under the heading "Stakeholder Engagement" at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/aquatic\\_plants.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/aquatic_plants.html).

We very much appreciate the energy and commitment that stakeholders bring to this very important and challenging issue. By working together, we are proving that we can make positive things happen.

At present, staff of the DNR's Invasive Species Program are busy with field inspections, review of applications for permit to allow control of invasive aquatic plants, and other activities. The unexpectedly early ice-out in many lakes presents challenges to both citizens and contractors on the lakes, as well as the DNR, in development of timely plans for management.

Here we present a brief summary of the status of improvements management of IAP in Minnesota.

### PERMITTING

#### a. Organizational and Operational Change

We assigned permitting authority for Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Permits to Ecological and Water Resources staff. This involves review by Invasive Species Specialists of applications for Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Permits and issuance of permits by the Division of Ecological and water Resources.

We have posted on the DNR web site [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/aquatic\\_plants.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/aquatic_plants.html) the following:

1. Lake or Bay-wide Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Permit Application
2. Instructions for completing an application for Lake or Bay-wide Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Permits
3. Guidance for issuance of Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Permits
  - This guidance was written in response to concerns expressed to the DNR by citizens, who want to see consistent approaches to permitting control of invasive aquatic plants. DNR staff will use the criteria in this document to evaluate applications for IAPMPs during the 2012 season.
4. Guidance for selective treatment of invasive aquatic plants in Minnesota
  - The purpose of this document is to provide general guidance for selective treatment of invasive aquatic plants in Minnesota.

### LAKE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

5. Guidance for preparation of a short-form Lake Vegetation Management Plan
  - The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for development of a short-form Lake Vegetation Management Plan focused on management of invasive aquatic plants.
6. Template for a short-form Lake Vegetation Management Plan
  - This template will be the starting point for development of a short-form Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) focused on management of invasive aquatic plants. Invasive Species Specialists will take the lead in development and timely completion of LVMPs for IAP. A list of invasive species program staff can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/contacts.html>. In some cases, a lake association or perhaps a local unit of government may begin development of an LVMP. This can be very helpful, though the DNR recommends that such groups contact the DNR as early in the process as possible to keep a clear focus on possible approaches.

### AIS GRANT PROGRAMS

The offer of grants to support management of invasive aquatic plants in 2012 has been simplified as follows: If you apply for, and receive, an Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Permit, then you are eligible to receive a grant to support the permitted work. In this way, the eligibility of projects to receive a grant from the DNR has been expanded. Also, the amount of funding available through grants has been increased.

7. Aquatic Invasive Species Control Projects Grant Program. A description of this offer and an application may be found at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/aquatic\\_invasive\\_control.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/aquatic_invasive_control.html)

For more information contact: Chip Welling, [chip.welling@state.mn.us](mailto:chip.welling@state.mn.us)