

This summary is for discussion purposes only and reflects the best effort of breakout session recorders to capture comments received during the AIS stakeholder meeting breakout sessions. The summary does not necessarily reflect the position or priorities of the state agencies involved in this meeting and should not be assumed to be the consensus of stakeholders involved.

**Michigan's Call to Action on Aquatic Invasive Species
March 5, 2008**

Rapid Response Breakout Session Summary

Mark Breederland, Facilitator

Linda Albro Sparks, Recorder

Top Priority Actions

- Need team of economists to review pros and cons of potential funding approaches to determine best options
- Document and highlight costs of existing AIS economic and environmental impacts
- Need to develop a revolving, viable funding source
- Modify administrative Rules Part 33-MNRPA- to allow for high priority exception for increase of Sonar treatment for rapid response to allow for treatments for newly detected hydrilla infestations
- Engage the public to make them feel part of the solution

Key unresolved questions for the funding breakout session: development of actions/priorities

A. Rapid response funding

1. What are the viable options for state funding mechanisms?

- Tax Boaters
- Vehicle registrations and trailers
- Launch Ramp fee
- Gas Tax
- Complete boat registration
- Inland Lake Boat - Sticker mandatory (Some discussion on previous State of Michigan AIS decal which included a contest and public awareness campaign that was administered by the Secretary of State. This resulted in few dollars raised and was a poorly led effort. Suggestions were made that if this mechanism still exists; why not make this mandatory for boat owners. This mechanism has sunsetted.)
- Surcharge on fishing licenses with out of state fee (could this result in fewer fishers)

2. How can we tap into federal funding mechanisms?

- Great Lakes Regional Collaboration
- Revolving fund for state/tribal
- \$8 million annually to fund state AIS
- To date, F&WS legislation was introduced somewhere in neighborhood \$12 million may be annually.

3. What other funding mechanisms should be developed?

This summary is for discussion purposes only and reflects the best effort of breakout session recorders to capture comments received during the AIS stakeholder meeting breakout sessions. The summary does not necessarily reflect the position or priorities of the state agencies involved in this meeting and should not be assumed to be the consensus of stakeholders involved.

- Fee on shipping industry – excise fee oceangoing vessels
- Fines drivers pulling boat trailers with plants in plain sight.
- Tax on water garden trade
- Bottled Water tax
- Required all boaters to obtain boater safety certificate and use fee funds
- Contribute a portion of lottery proceeds go to these costs, similar to the state of Minnesota
- Contributions from the tribes, e.g gaming revenue
- Need team of economists to review pros and cons of potential funding approaches to determine best options
- In emergency situations can take funds from other programs
- Some in-kind match from Lake Association or Lake Improvement Boards.

*Seek support from private foundations (Is there any hesitancy for private foundations to fund state agencies? Thought that Kellogg Foundation partially funded Corps of Engineers.)

B. Rapid response agency protocol

1. What are the key authorities needed and what steps need to be taken to ensure those authorities exist?

- State and federal agency authorities currently exist
- Riparian Rights in Inland Lakes
- Emergency authority needed
- Adequate advance planning
- Compliance with existing laws through NEPA/END Species Act.
- Develop “Programmatic” Environmental Assessments

*Some discussion occurred about the current Emerald Ash Borer funding strategies. Can AIS mimic some of those strategies? In Michigan Emerald Ash Borer is 100% federally funded which started with \$28 million a year initially, now it’s \$1 million a year approximately.

What are the full authorities in Michigan? What are the liabilities for neighbors?

- Use of Authority – you must take lawful steps to eradicate.
- Need for Incident Command System Team
- M.O.U. already in place except for AIS
- Ability to quarantine lake
- Shut public boat launch

C. Rapid response options

1. What unresolved issues remain for chemical use and what steps need to be taken to ensure all rapid response options are available for consideration?

This summary is for discussion purposes only and reflects the best effort of breakout session recorders to capture comments received during the AIS stakeholder meeting breakout sessions. The summary does not necessarily reflect the position or priorities of the state agencies involved in this meeting and should not be assumed to be the consensus of stakeholders involved.

- Consensus that this is a good time to go to state legislature for authority/regulatory.
- Some discussion about park service use of chemicals.
- Programmatic Environmental Assessment for all chemicals
- Funding for chemicals
- Decision Tree/Tools for Chemicals
- Chemical labeling
- Modify administrative Rules Part 33-MNRPA- to allow for high priority exception for increase of Sonar treatment for rapid response to allow for treatments for newly detected hydrilla infestations.

2. *What unresolved questions remain for public perception and what steps need to be taken to ensure acceptance of rapid response actions?*

- Cost/Benefits information is needed to gain public support
- Projection of impacts of AIS
- Pull together all known (positive & negative) on AIS
- MI database action need to match risk reduction
- Document and highlight costs of existing AIS economic and environmental impacts
- Distribute ID cards for AIS
- Utilize volunteers for early detection
- Engage the public to make them feel part of the solution
- Tough job selling eradication to public, if eradication isn't possible, management goals could encompass geographic containment
- Across G.L. networking
- Surveillance and monitoring groups have to be across lake networking - look at VHS as example although there are unmet needs (VHS)