

## **2024 & 2025 Pennington County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan**

**Approved by the Pennington County Board of  
Commissioners on September 10, 2024**

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated funds for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention aid directly to Minnesota Counties. Pennington County was allocated \$20,394 for 2024 and \$20,382 for 2025.

The Pennington SWCD is proposing the following plan for the 2024 and 2025 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid allocations:

- Develop a bi-annual plan for 2024 & 2025 approved by the Pennington County Board (Submit plan to DNR by December 31 of the year payments are received)
- Annual Employee Training: Attend Webinar(s), Workshop(s), Conferences, etc. related to the AIS Program.
- Publish AIS program updates to the local newspapers and/or the Pennington SWCD social media, website, newsletters, and individual mailings as needed/requested.
- Promote the Clean, Drain, Dry campaign to reduce the spread of AIS through sponsoring NCOR Guide Service and Linder's Angling Buzz.
- Develop AIS awareness products (such as posters, rulers, license holders, etc.) and distribute at county DNR license vendors and public events, such as the county fair, Home and Sport Show, and other local events, to promote awareness to residents.
- Maintain signs for Pennington County owned landings for public awareness along with displaying poster(s), rack cards, brochure(s), etc. at the Pennington SWCD office.
- Educate area students at annual education events, such as 6th Grade Outdoor Education Day, Northwest Minnesota Water Festival, and other education events as requested.
- Continue monitoring for zebra mussel, specifically in the Red Lake River. Determine locations to deploy settling plates for long-term zebra mussel monitoring.
- Maintain the AIS link on the Pennington SWCD website to provide information and public awareness. Update the website annually and as needed/requested.
- Track AIS expenditures and reporting requirements annually.

Pennington SWCD will be responsible for annual plan development, submitting the annual plan to Department of Natural Resources for approval, program implementation, tracking all AIS expenditures, and meeting any reporting requirements.

  
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Chair, Pennington County Board