

Kandiyohi County Comprehensive Aquatic Invasive Species Work Plan Update

Adopted 12/16/14

Includes State Requirements 12/19/14

In October 2013, the Kandiyohi County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Taskforce created Kandiyohi County's first Comprehensive Aquatic Invasive Species Work Plan. This update intends to build upon that plan's vision and create a current course of action for addressing AIS issues in Kandiyohi County.

This plan update:

- Covers Kandiyohi County
- Addresses aquatic invasive species problems
- Is consistent with comprehensive water plans prepared by counties and watershed management organizations
- Will serve as the guideline for the use of County Aid funding, provided through Minnesota Statute 477 A.19
- Identifies three priority areas for addressing AIS (inspections and decontaminations, education and outreach, and local program grants)
- Has the capability to expand and allow for future laws to be enacted

Terminology used is the same of that in 2012 Minnesota Statutes 84D, including "Water-related-equipment: 'Water-related equipment' means a motor vehicle, boat, watercraft, dock, boat lift, raft, vessel, trailer, tool, implement, device, or any other associated equipment or container, including but not limited to portable bait containers, live wells, ballast tanks except for those vessels permitted under the Pollution Control Agency vessel discharge program, bilge areas, and water-hauling equipment that is capable of containing or transporting aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water."

Chapter One: Kandiyohi County Profile

Founded in 1858, Kandiyohi County is located in west central Minnesota, approximately 60 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. There are 12 cities and 24 townships in the County. The City of Willmar, located near the center of the County, is the County Seat. Kandiyohi County is characterized by numerous lakes, rolling hills, and vast agricultural land.

The lakes in the area range in size from our smallest, Unnamed Lake at 10 acres to our largest, Green Lake at 5,560 acres. Each lake is used for different recreational purposes and provides a demanding 56 public accesses.

Kandiyohi County Lakes					
All information received from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Lake Finder. *MPCA information					
Lake Name	Size (acres)	Maximum Depth (feet)	Water clarity (feet)	Public Access (including by waterway)	Parking spaces
Andrew (34-0206)	735.90	26	12.8	4	34
Big Kandiyohi (34-0086)	2682.50	18	2.7	2	
Calhoun (34-0062)	647.10	13	6.3	3	
Carrie (34-0032)	89.37	26	4.8	1	
Cedar Island (34-0153)	224.00*				
Crook (34-0218)	246.00*				
Diamond (34-0044)	1606.87	27	11.0	2	18
Eagle (34-0171)	843.98	67	6.5	1	20
East Solomon (34-0246)	675.04	14	2	1	10
East Sunburg (34-0336)	112.50*				
East Twin (34-0115)	161.00*	7.5*			
Elizabeth (34-0022)	1023.47	9	3.2	1	
Elkhorn (34-0119)	78.98	41	12.5	1	10
Florida (34-0217)	693.86	40	9.8	3	18
Foot (34-0181)	502.98	24	2.8	5	
Games (34-0224)	521.09	42	6.3	3	10
Gina (34-0126)	46.00*				
Glesne (34-0352)	205.00*	8.5*			
George (34-0142)	228.14	34	14.5	1	5
Green (34-0079)	5560.63	110	8.8	6	60
Henchien (34-0207)	61.00*				
Henderson (34-0116)	73.15	57	11	1	
Henjum (34-0316)	161.00*	9*			
Hubbard (34-0054)	57.00*				
Jesse (34-0060)	100.00*				
Knutson (34-0306)	54.00*				

Little Kandiyohi (34-0096)	932.00*				
Long (34-0066)	328.97	46	10.5	2	20
Long (34-0192)	1567.84	16	8	2	33
Mud (34-0158)	2270.88	14	12.5	7	
Nest (34-0154)	1007.93	40	5.4	2	45
Norway (34-0251)	2327.47	33	4.0	2	34
Pay (34-0023)	43.00*				
Reed WMA (34-0262)	72.00*				
Ringo (34-0172)	734.64	10	1	2	
Saint Johns (34-0283)	193.00	6.5			
Skataas (34-0196)	197.00	11.0	1.9	1	
Sperry (34-0040)	142.00*				
Summit (34-0027)	131.00*	6*			
Sunburg (34-0359)	416.00*	8.5*			
Swan (34-0285)	521.00*	3*			
Swenson (34-0321)	108.26	14	4.5	1	
Unnamed (34-0089)	93.00*				
Unnamed (34-0161)	330.00*				
Unnamed (34-0267)	58.00*				
Unnamed (34-0307)	101.00*				
Unnamed (34-0353)	66.00*				
Unnamed (34-0407)	10.00*				
Wakanda (34-0169)	1754.15	15	1	2	
West Lindgren (34-0297)	64.00*				
West Solomon (34-0245)	503.00				
West Twin (34-0117)	77.00*				
Willmar (34-0180)	632.24	14	1.8	2	
Woodcock (34-0141)	170.00*	8			
Total	32241.94				

Chapter Two: Priority Issues

The Kandiyohi County AIS Task Force has produced a list of priority issues that will be addressed within this plan, each with a different focus.

1. Inspections and Decontamination

The 2012 Minnesota State Statutes 84D.105 Inspection of Water-related Equipment allows Kandiyohi County Compliance inspections. Kandiyohi County also has a Delegation Agreement for Tribal and Local Government Inspection Programs with the MN Department of Natural Resources and has the ability to train by DNR Watercraft Inspection Program and authorize those individuals to inspect water-related equipment for aquatic macrophytes, aquatic invasive species, and water. If aquatic macrophytes, aquatic invasive species, or water are present on water-related equipment, and the inspector is not a licensed peace officer, they will refer the violation to a conservation officer or licensed peace officer.

Level 1 and Level 2 inspectors both have the training and authority to inspect watercraft at boat launches. Level 2 inspectors are trained and able to decontaminate water related equipment.

The intent of Kandiyohi County’s inspections and decontamination is as follows:

- Provide DNR trained Level 1 inspectors
- Adequately staff public accesses with Level 1 inspections
- Focus on heavily used lakes, as evaluated by their changing usage
- Confirm that there are no traffic delays or public safety issues
- Conduct inspections in accordance with the DNR training
- Identify decontamination station locations within a reasonable distance of inspection stations that can bring water-related equipment into compliance. Kandiyohi County acknowledges the need to comply with Minnesota DNR standards for reasonable distances to inspection and decontamination stations and further amend this section of the plan, if mandatory inspections are pursued, rather than the voluntary inspection program contained within this work plan
- Ensure that water-related equipment is in compliance

Travel times to existing decontamination station at Saulsbury Beach (Green Lake) in Spicer, MN		
Lake Name	Travel by distance (miles)	Travel by time (minutes)
Andrew (34-0206)	8.8	15
Big Kandiyohi (34-0086)	20.1	27
Calhoun (34-0062)	8.9	15
Carrie (34-0032)	18.4	25
Diamond (34-0044)	7.4	12
Eagle (34-0171)	5.4	8
Elizabeth (34-0022)	20.4	27
Elkhorn (34-0119)	2.3	7
Florida (34-0217)	6.1	11
Foot (34-0181)	11.4	15
Games (34-0224)	14.7	19
Green (34-0079)	0	0

Henderson (34-0116)	2.6	5
Little Kandiyohi (34-0096)	12.8	18
Long (34-0066)	8.6	10
Long (34-0192)	5.6	9
Mud (34-0158)	19.2	25
Nest (34-0154)	4.0	9
Norway (34-0251)	20.2	29
Ringo (34-0172)	3.9	8
Skataas (34-0196)	8.0	11
Swenson (34-0321)	12.9	23
Wakanda (34-0169)	15.5	21
Willmar (34-0180)	10.3	17

(Using the lake location on Google maps for travel time and distance)

Expansion of Existing Program - Kandiyohi County intends to continue its voluntary inspections of water-related equipment before a person places or removes water-related equipment into a water body within the County. These inspection stations may be located at or near public water access points or throughout Kandiyohi County. Any changes in inspections or decontamination would build upon and be in conjunction with the current program located in Spicer on Green Lake.

Kandiyohi County intends to pursue voluntary inspections using a variety of approaches, including, but not limited to, the following.

- Providing up to 7 days/week inspections at varied locations and during varied times, which makes it harder to purposely avoid inspections
- Coordinate the use of part-time Sheriff's deputies, who would also be Level 1 inspectors, to assist in enforcement and the inspection efforts conducted by other Level 1 inspectors, as well as Level 2 inspectors
- Utilize car counters at lake public access points to enable the optimal placement of inspectors
- Provide additional inspections for peak times and events, such as fishing tournaments and summer holidays
- The possibility also exists for establishing multiple voluntary inspection stations throughout Kandiyohi County

Possibility of Multiple Locations - In order to minimize travel time and encourage decontamination, Kandiyohi County is pursuing the use of multiple or portable inspection/decontamination stations within Kandiyohi County. One concept would place up to three stations within Kandiyohi County, including stations located in the New London / Spicer area (northern part of Kandiyohi County), Willmar (centrally located), and in the southern part of Kandiyohi County (where the possibility exists for a partnership with Renville County).

Another possibility is partnering with private companies to perform decontamination services within Kandiyohi County.

Possible Multicounty Partnerships – In order to increase levels of convenience for lake users in West Central Minnesota, Kandiyohi County has an initial interest in creating a “frequent flier” program in conjunction with neighboring counties. By entering the proposed program, users would be able to complete an AIS training session and have their watercraft inspected. Upon completion users would then be able to by-pass county operated inspection stations in participating counties. A “frequent flier” pass would not apply toward Minnesota DNR operated inspection stations. The intent is to reward responsible boaters with quick and convenient access, while educating users on how to protect area lakes.

2. Education and Outreach

The Kandiyohi County AIS Taskforce will work to ensure that all residents of Kandiyohi County know and obey AIS laws and best practices. In order to accomplish this goal, Kandiyohi County will pursue both targeted outreach to specific groups (primary focus), as well as general education (secondary focus).

A. Media Plan

The AIS Taskforce will develop communications and social media plans, which will outline a strategies for educating targeted user groups (primary focus), as well as general information distribution (secondary focus).

B. Targeted User Outreach (primary focus)

Customized AIS information will be designed and distributed to the following targeted groups.

- 1) Watercraft Operators receiving an Inspection within Kandiyohi County
- 2) Lake Associations
- 3) Anglers, such as Bass Fishermen
- 4) Marine Dealerships
- 5) Property Owners with Private Lake Access
- 6) School Age Education emphasizing the dangers of AIS, rather than regulations

C. General Outreach (secondary focus)

Information Distribution Coordination – The AIS Taskforce will designate a media representative to serve as the primary contact for any AIS media related issues.

Press Releases – The AIS Taskforce will periodically prepare information for distribution to media outlets, as well as lake associations.

Website - The Kandiyohi County AIS Taskforce will utilize the Kandiyohi County Website for the posting of AIS information. This website will feature a portion focusing on AIS issues within the County and ongoing efforts taken by the Kandiyohi County AIS Taskforce.

Social Media – AIS information will also be posted on the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's and City of Willmar Police Department's Facebook pages.

Public Access Television – The AIS Taskforce will develop and prepare content to be featured on public access television.

Content – Kandiyohi County's public relation efforts will emphasize the following laws and best practices.

AIS Laws

- All water-related equipment can be thoroughly inspected for invasive species anywhere in the state by licensed peace officers or authorized inspectors. Removal of invasive, decontamination and/or treatment orders may result.
- Remove drain plug and drain all water-related equipment before leaving lake access. Leave out until arriving at next access point. It is illegal to transport watercraft with the plug installed (\$100 civil penalty or misdemeanor).
- Refusing to comply with inspectors can result in being prohibited from launching a watercraft or loss of watercraft license for up to one year.
- Minnesota law prohibits removing any water from Minnesota lakes. Before leaving an access, drain all water from: live wells, motors, bilge, bait buckets.
- 2012 Minnesota Statutes 84D.09 Aquatic Macrophytes. A person may not transport aquatic macrophytes (\$100 civil penalty or misdemeanor).
- Transport zebra mussels and other prohibited species of animals (\$500 civil penalty of misdemeanor).
- Place or attempt to place into water of the state a boat, seaplane, or trailer that has aquatic plants (\$200 civil penalty), zebra mussels, or other prohibited invasive species attached (\$500 civil penalty of misdemeanor).
- Water from infested waters may not be transported on a public road or off riparian property on infested water except in emergencies or under permit (\$200 civil penalty or misdemeanor).
- Federal law prohibits the transportation of mussel and other injurious wildlife across state lines. Violators face a penalty of up to \$10,000 and six months in prison for each offense. (Lacey Act, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Title 18, Chapter 53, April 30, 2004).

Minnesota Best Practices

- All types of watercraft and water-related equipment are potential carriers of zebra mussels and other invasive species.
- Know which lakes are infested before you go. Visit the Minnesota DNR's website at dnr.state.mn.us and view the complete designated infested waters list.
- Remove all visible aquatic plants, mud and foreign objects from watercraft and trailers before leaving access.
- Lower motor for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving access point.
- Run jet ski motor for 5-10 seconds out of the water.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash—not the lake. To save bait, bring an extra container of fresh water.
- Be prepared with a cooler of ice to transport your catch.
- Consider renting or borrowing a boat when arriving at an infested water destination
- If you take a watercraft to infested water, it should be decontaminated before entering another lake to prevent the spread of waterborne invasive. Decontaminate with hot water (>140 degrees) and high pressure
- Dry boats for at least five days. Recommended by the MN DNR.

3. Local Program Grants

In order to maximize the impact of AIS funding, the Kandiyohi County AIS Taskforce will implement a local grant program for lake associations. The intent is to provide funding to encourage lake associations to pursue AIS projects.

High priority projects to be funded fall within the following priority categories:

- Prevention
- Treatment (High Priority purposes including prevention of spread and long-term eradication efforts)

Secondary priority projects to be funded fall within the following priority categories:

- Containment
- Enforcement
- Education
- Treatment (Secondary Priority purposes include the treatment of plants to provide for recreational access)

For the purposes of considering grant funding requests, the various categories are defined as follows:

- Prevention – preventing the introduction of AIS into new water bodies
- Treatment – treating existing AIS to limit its spread. High priority treatments are intended to prevent the spread of AIS or lead toward long-term eradication. High priority treatments do not include the treatment of plants for the goal of providing recreational access. Treatments intended to provide recreational access are considered a secondary priority
- Containment – limiting the spread of AIS from an infested water body. Containment efforts are intended to minimize the risk of the spread of AIS, rather than prohibiting access
- Enforcement – enforce AIS laws and regulations to prevent their introduction or limit their spread
- Education – education to help prevent introduction or limit spread

The Kandiyohi County AIS Taskforce will develop a series of guidelines and an application process, which will encourage the use of matching funds by lake associations and build on existing projects, without replacing existing funding sources.

Signature Page

Kandiyohi County AIS Taskforce

Date

Kandiyohi County Board of Commissioners

Date

Department of Natural Resources

Date