

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center: building knowledge and capacity to solve AIS problems

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center is working across the state to coordinate, conduct, and implement critical research. Our mission is to solve the aquatic invasive species problems our lakes, rivers, and wetlands are facing. We're working hard to ensure that Minnesota's 10,000 lakes are clean, fishable, and swimmable – now, and for future generations.



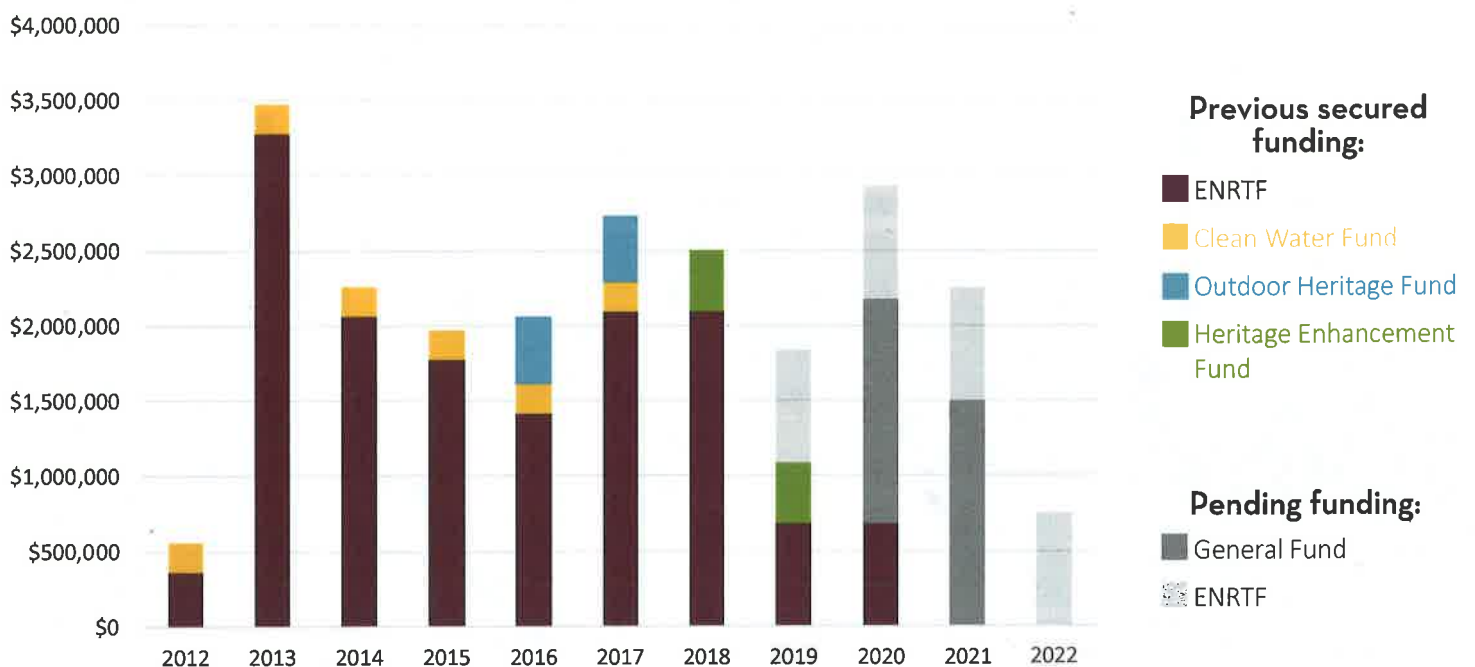
THE OPPORTUNITY

- Science-based solutions to Minnesota's AIS problems
- An independent voice to improve efficiencies and enhance effectiveness of decision-making
- Innovative tools to prevent, control, and manage AIS
- Coordination and collaboration among agencies, lakeshore associations, and counties
- Stable funding is critical for research prioritization, project support, and translating science into action

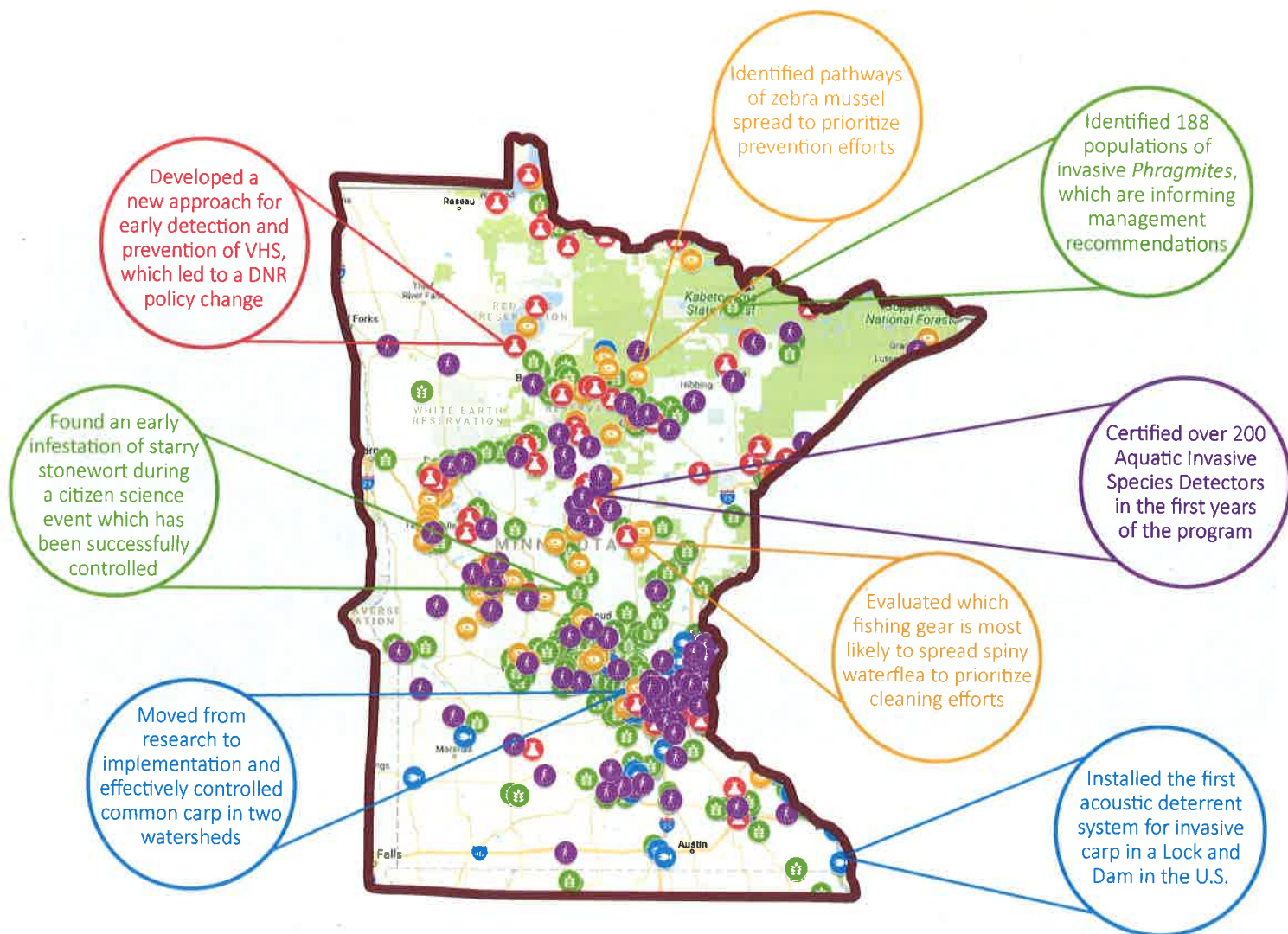
THE INVESTMENT

- \$2 million in recurring funds from the General Fund
- Continued support from ENRTF for project-based grants

THE DETAILS: MAISRC program funds averaged over time



Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center research and outreach highlights



MAISRC activities around the state:

-  Invasive plants
-  Invasive fish
-  Invasive invertebrates
-  Pathogens and harmful microbes
-  Citizen scientists



For more information: MAISRC Director Dr. Nick Phelps · phelp083@umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

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February 11, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

As members of the Center's Advisory Board, we are writing to express our support for the value of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and its innovative and forward-thinking approach to addressing the aquatic invasive species (AIS) problems that face Minnesota's cherished lakes, rivers and wetlands.

MAISRC is a one-of-a-kind center that brings together highly skilled research teams, local property owners, influential resource managers, and leading AIS professionals to work together to find and implement AIS solutions. While rigorous peer-reviewed research is core to MAISRC's mission, MAISRC was built on the understanding that lasting impact comes from moving research findings out of the lab and into the hands of managers and citizens. In doing so, MAISRC has become a national leader in AIS research.

MAISRC has proven its commitment to addressing AIS threats head-on by working with diverse stakeholders to prioritize species of concern and areas of greatest research need, supporting innovative research teams, and training volunteers to prevent and detect AIS. Since its inception, researchers and staff at MAISRC have exceeded initial expectations and made progress on many fronts.

We have reason to be optimistic about AIS in Minnesota, but as managers, professionals and other stakeholders on the front lines, we also know that our work isn't done yet. Research is a long-term investment and the coordination and collaboration for AIS prevention, detection, and management requires ongoing support. We strongly believe that long-term, stable funding of MAISRC's unique, interdisciplinary approach to AIS research from the State of Minnesota is necessary to solving this complex issue in our state. It is our pleasure to serve on the Advisory Board for MAISRC and its programs.

Sincerely,

John Barten, Retired Natural Resource Director, Three River Park District

Brian Buhr, Dean, UMN College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences

Craig Dawson, Retired Director of Research and Monitoring, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

John Downing, Director, Minnesota Sea Grant

Sue Galatowitsch, Head, UMN Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology

Jeff Lovgren, AIS Program Lead, Vermilion Lake Association

Steve McComas, Owner, Blue Water Science

John Schneider, Associate Professor of Biology, Metropolitan State University

Patrick Selter, Minnesota Vice President, PLM Lake & Land Management Corp

Doug Shaw, Associate Chapter Director, The Nature Conservancy in MN, ND, SD

Dave Rush, Land and Resource Management Director, Douglas County

Chris Tiedeman, Public Affairs and Political Consultant, Weber Johnson Public Affairs

Tom Watson, Past President & Director Land Use & Government Relations, Whitefish Area Property Owners Association

STATEWIDE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

James A. Johnson – Committee Chair
15771 Creekside Ln
Osseo, MN 55369
james@freshwatersci.com

March 9, 2019

RE: Support of HF 2574 – Funding for the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

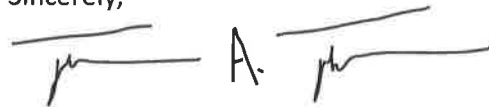
Representative Rick Hansen, Chair, Environment & Natural Resources Finance Division
407 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Hansen and Committee Members:

As the Chair of the Minnesota Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee (SAISAC), I am writing to express our committee's support of HF 2574, which proposes to provide vital funding to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). Our committee members come from all over the state and represent a wide range of backgrounds, business interests, and academic disciplines, but we are uniformly focused on protecting our waters from aquatic invasives.

The cutting-edge research conducted by MAISRC and its team of scientists has produced real results that have improved existing management strategies, brought forth new innovative approaches, and moved us toward evidence-based assessments of what works and what doesn't. Without such guidance, we are condemned to rely on old strategies that are insufficient to protect our waters from aquatic invasives. The funding proposed in HF 2574 is needed to ensure that the important work being done at MAISRC continues. We urge you to support HF 2574 and the proposed funding to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

Sincerely,



James A. Johnson – AIS Committee Chair

AIS Committee Members:

Mary Alverson
Norman Baer
Jim Boettcher
Justine Dauphinais
John Deurr
Chris DuBose
Tera Guetter
Barb Halbakken Fischburg
Paul Hamilton
Roger Imdieke
Eric Johnson
James Johnson
Jaime Jost
Donovan Strong
Kelsey Wenner

Ex-Officio Members:

Doug Jensen – University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program
Nicole Lalum – Explore Minnesota
Nick Phelps – University of Minnesota

