

MN Cola Winter meeting 12/7/21

2022 Legislative agenda MLR:

Wake boat study phase 2

Aquatic plant management

Boat ramp improvements

5 year coordinated statewide AIS plan

No export of MN water

Property tax relief

MN COLA legislative agenda:

Adopt best practices for watercraft users

Adapt the 2014 AIS prevention Aid funding models

Continued Support for MAISRC- want to increase watercraft license surcharge from \$10.60 to \$25 with \$ 4 going to MAISRC and \$12 going to lake ass. For AIS

Initiate watercraft operators license program to increase safety

Support DNR proposal for bonding to improve public accesses

Protect future MN sensitive watersheds by re-routing future crude oil pipelines

Keep BWCA and St Louis river watersheds free from Copper nickel mining

Presentation on Cattail removal from Jim Kutzner

Experiment going on withing MAISRC on hybrid cattail

Hybrid cattail homogenizes the near shore zone blocking out natives like bull rush and native broad leaf cattail- European is narrow leafed

Hybrid- Takes over lake, Grows faster, taller, Much more biomass

Decreases dissolved O2 levels in lake, dense stands prevent wave action from bringing in O2 rich water

Decreases fish abundance, minnows do bad, sunfish do well but all you get is little fish

Study is on the way where they are clearing the hybrid cattail and seeing how O2 and fish respond

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Watercraft Operators license has past through several committees

2nd phase of wake boat study Prop wash phase- trying to get funding

This is an election year so they don't expect too much to happen

\$450,000/year supplement for AIS secured for 2 years

Presentation on protecting the sponge: Rebecca Carlson

Maintaining cover- trees, prairie grass to maintain filtration

MN has lost 1/3 of forrest cover since Europeans

Much higher percentage of impaired water where the sponge has been lost

After 25% reduction in sponge of watershed total phosphorous in lakes starts to drastically increase

Goal to maintain 75% of forest, prairie, native plants