



**Protecting  
Minnesota's lake  
and river heritage  
since 1994.**

# **Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy 2025 Priority Issues**

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

# 2025 Priority Issues

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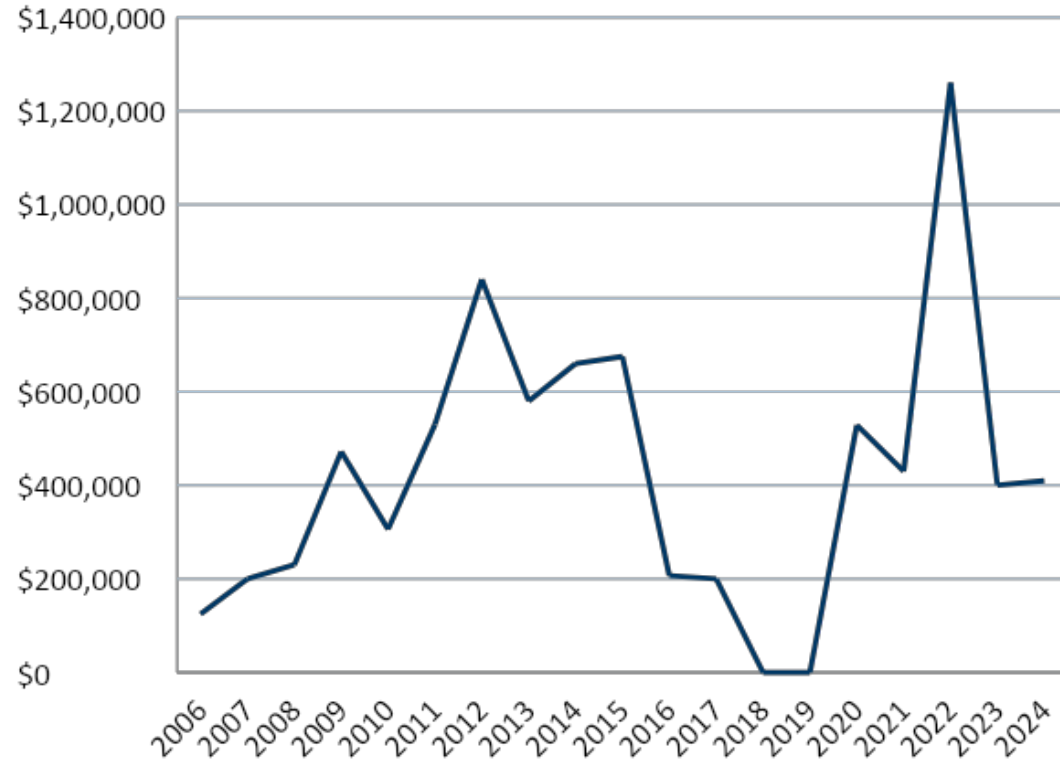
- 1) Funding for Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Grants
  - 2) Inclusion of specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) for wake surfing watercraft (500 feet from shore and other boaters and at least 20 feet deep)
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# AIS Funding

## AIS Surcharge

- ~\$6M in 1,500 grants since 2012
- Support invasive aquatic plant management (IAPM)
- Funds are used for reimbursement of expenses directly related to a control project
  - Pretreatment delineation survey
  - Treatment under an IAPM permit

Total grant awards distributed annually



## The Need is Greater Than the Funding

- Estimated \$3.5 spent by LA's annually for treatment.
- Local governments are using an estimated 30% of County AIS Prevention Aid for control efforts.

**Increase AIS Surcharge on Three Year Boat Registrations.**



# Wake Surfing - Growing Recreational Opportunity

- **Increasing in popularity**
  - Can include the entire family
  - Lower speed than water skiing or wakeboarding
- **Significant economic impact for boating industry**



## Wake Surfing Issue

- Rising conflicts with other user groups,
- Shoreland erosion and damage to docks, lifts and boats,
- Reanimation of lakebed sediments, destruction of aquatic plants, increased algae blooms.



Wake Surfing Controversy Heating Up

# Saint Anthony Falls Lab - Healthy Waters Study

## Three Phases:

- 1) Wake energy and dynamics of different watercraft - **Completed**
  - a) Crowd funded by Minnesotans
  - b) Most downloaded SAFL Study to date
- 2) Prop thrust and disturbance characteristics - Expected early 2025
- 3) Ecological impacts/characteristics of wakes and wind driven waves



## Next Steps

- Education Based on SAFL Study
  - 500 feet from shore,
  - At least 20 feet deep operating,
  - Increased AIS prevention actions
- Watercraft Operating and Certification - passed 2024
- Local Ordinances





# Questions?

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