

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN, 55155

May 13, 2025

Chair David Hartwell and Director Mark Johnson  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
RE: ML 2024, subd. 5(aa) – Protecting Upper Mississippi from Invasive Carp

Greetings Chair Hartwell and Director Johnson,

The Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Program last provided an update on the ML 2024 project “Protecting Upper Mississippi from Invasive Carp” at the Council’s January 3, 2025, meeting. Highlights from that update were that DNR was exploring the option to have USACE perform the engineering design work for the lock deterrent, and a draft scope of work was developed using essential criteria for the lock deterrent identified by the multi-agency technical team (USGS, USFWS, USACE, WI DNR, Tribal partners). The Project Coordinator, Carli Wagner, was also onboarded in January to add capacity on this project. Our second quarterly update for 2025 includes:

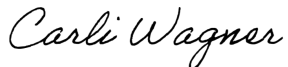
- A Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between the USACE and DNR Invasive Species Program has been initiated for signature. Under the CRADA, USACE will complete an assessment of feasibility and cost of the BAFF and uADS deterrent options for Lock and Dam 5 (LD5). DNR will choose the most suitable deterrent option for LD5 and USACE will complete the engineering design.
- DNR submitted an application to initiate the real estate agreement process with USACE to install and maintain a deterrent on their site. USACE is reviewing the proposal and scoping the process and cost associated with next steps.
- The DNR Invasive Carp Team visited Lock and Dam 19 in Keokuk, Iowa to train on fish surgeries for tagging implantations, observe local commercial fishing strategies for Invasive carp, and tour the uADS lock deterrent installation. Lock and Dam 19 has one of only two selective deterrents for invasive carp in the country. We learned from USGS staff about space and resource needs for a deterrent installation, how the deterrent operation interfaces with lock operations, and were able to learn about USGS’s experiences that will help us manage the LD5 lock deterrent project successfully. We are also planning to visit the Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) at Barkley Lock and Dam in Kentucky.
- The LD5 technical team developed a monitoring plan to increase our understanding of fish passage at LD5. Invasive carp and five migratory native species will be targeted for tagging. Collecting data on fish

passage prior to the lock deterrent installation will help us evaluate effects of the deterrent on Invasive carp and native species. These data will also inform the trap and sort and dam gate deterrent project components by providing information on fish aggregation and movement patterns at this location. The first tagging effort was completed during the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> with support from Wisconsin DNR, USGS, USFWS, and USACE. No Invasive carp were captured but 111 native fish were tagged and released.

- Interviews for a temporary Invasive Carp Contracts position have been completed.
- The LD5 technical team meets for two-hour meetings monthly. Partners continue to contribute valuable expertise and insight on the LD5 project activities.

We are tracking the budget and still utilizing the Council's initial \$500,000 allotment from the project appropriation. We will follow up soon with a timeline for requesting the release of additional funds for subsequent project work. We look forward to providing another update at a Council meeting when appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carli Wagner".

Carli Wagner

Project Coordinator