

## **NCRWN Seed Grant Semi-Annual Report 2016-2017**

Title: Establishing an Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group for the North Central Region Water Network

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### **Summary and Progress**

The NCRWN Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Working Group was established in 2016 after the NCRWN meeting in Lincoln, NE. The near-term goals of the AIS Working Group are to:

- Increase connectivity and learning related to AIS between university professionals and partners across a diversity of water-related disciplines and roles
- Build capacity of universities to address multi-state AIS-related issues and opportunities

The first 6 months of the AIS Working Group resulted in considerable progress towards these goals. The working group met three times online and once in person at the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, with travel supported by this Seed Grant. Working group members also participated in a workshop that was sponsored by the Mississippi River Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel and attended one MRBP meeting. The working group also provided content for the January NCRWN “The Current” webinar and has met with the UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center Evaluation Unit to develop a plan to assess and track impacts.

The activities of the first six months of the working group have created a solid working relationship among extension professionals interested in AIS across the NCRWN and have charted a course of increased collaboration. Working group members will continue to meet every two months online to discuss, share, and workshop ideas for programs and new initiatives. Additional efforts to be completed before the end of the project period include completion of an audit of existing AIS programs across the NCRWN. This will advance our understanding of what programs exist across the network and where opportunities for sharing programs might exist.

### **Update on Deliverables**

- Establishment of a new, standing NCRWN AIS Working Group that extends beyond the scope of this seed grant
  - In progress
- Three online meetings of the Working Group
  - Complete. The working group has met three times online (8/10/16, 10/13/16, 12/4/16). It is likely that the working group will meet at least two more times before the end of the reporting period
- Member participation in one regional invasive species conference (UMISC) with an in-person meeting

- Complete. The working group had 12 members participate in the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference; many of whom had not attended this conference previously. The working group had an informal meeting the Monday of the conference to identify shared concerns and opportunities for Network-wide collaboration.
- Member participation in one MRBP workshop
  - Complete. Three members of the working group participated in the “Live Bait Regulations” workshop at UMISC that was hosted by the MRBP.
- Provide content for a NCRWN networking webinar, blog post, or newsletter
  - Complete. Five members of the AIS working group presented on “The Current” webinar on 1/18, highlighting citizen engagement in AIS detection and monitoring efforts across the Network. About 65 people attended the webinar.
- Project summary at the conclusion of the grant period which includes a plan for NCRWN AIS working group collaboration after the end of the seed grant
  - To be completed at grant conclusion.