



# Dakota County Watercraft Inspection Report

**SUMMER 2024**

**Submitted by:** Tom Hess, President

**Project Description:** Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Level I & Level II Watercraft Inspection Program

**Project Duration:** May through September 2024.

## Summary

It was a successful season! Many boaters thanked us for our work!

WaterGuards employed approximately 10 part-time inspectors for the season.

- We covered 4 Dakota County boat landings:
- Crystal – 341.25 hours
- Lake Byllesby L1 – 413.25 hours
- Lake Marion – 328.75 hours
- Orchard – 359.25 hours
- Lake Byllesby L2 – 433 hours
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WaterGuards inspectors worked a total of 1875.50 hours at Dakota County landings. This included 1442.5 hours of Level I inspections and 433 hours of Level 2 decontamination services.

## Successes

We served as a consistent reminder to boaters who already knew about aquatic invasive species, and we educated new and occasional boaters that were not familiar with AIS.

The DNR provided training to inspectors. Our inspectors completed training online and in person this year. We hope the DNR will offer more locations/dates/options for in-person training next year and will provide earlier notice of training requirements and training sessions.

Inspector vests and lanyards worked very well for visibility and authority.

WaterGuards provided inspectors with “Stop Here for Inspection” signs. These signs were effective in communicating to watercraft operators what we were doing and where to stop for watercraft inspection.

## Challenges

The timing of the RFP was a challenge for us. To get a team onboarded and trained in May was difficult.

Inspectors dealt with a few belligerent boaters. Inebriated boaters, boaters with bad tempers, and boaters with little patience made our inspecting job difficult at times.

***Thank you for the opportunity to serve Dakota County!***