



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**Date: 10/22/2020**

### **Protect our Waterways from Aquatic Invasive Species!**

*Douglas County is committed to protecting our waterways from damage by Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and wants your input on how best to keep our lakes and rivers clean.*

**Superior, 10/22/2020:** Did you know that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) like Eurasian Water Milfoil, Rusty Crayfish, and Zebra Mussels cost the Great Lakes States an estimated 230 million dollars per year? Invasive species commonly have a competitive advantage over native species because they do not have to contend with the natural predators, pathogens and pests that dwell in their native habitats. When they outcompete native species, AIS can damage water quality, ecosystem services, recreational opportunities, and angling. This means AIS are a serious threat to our environment, our economy, and our enjoyment of local waterways! Douglas County is beginning the process of updating its AIS Strategic Plan, which is intended to establish clear goals and objectives that support an overall vision and contribute to a long-term strategy and targeted approach for combatting AIS in the County.

**All are welcome to join Douglas County at 3:00 PM on Thursday, Nov. 5** for a public meeting to gather input and comment about AIS priorities and management strategies.

Join by phone: 1 (803) 801-1094 PIN: 334 314 278#

Join by video: <https://meet.google.com/uiy-ghay-ebc>

Attend in person: Boardroom 201, Government Center, Superior, WI

A brief presentation about AIS will be followed by discussion and opportunity for public input. Think about these questions:

- What are your biggest concerns about AIS?
- What are the top actions you think could be taken to reduce the impact of AIS?
- How can you or your organization work with the County to help fight AIS?

Visit <https://www.douglascountywi.org/666/AIS-in-Douglas-County> for more information about AIS in Douglas County.