SOUTH DAKOTA
GAME, FISH and PARKS

Role of Inter-agency Cooperation in AIS Prevention
Belle Fourche Dredging Project
August 2016

- Belle Fourche Irrigation District awards dredging contract to Veit Engineering.
- US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) notifies SDGFP.
- BOR and SDGFP identify and submit questions to Veit regarding Dreissenid risks, decontamination and planning.
September 2016

- 9/14 Veit responds to questions:
  - All equipment power-washed @ 150°F
  - Spud bars and pumps are new and not inspected
  - Equipment will be “dried” for 5 days (“should be adequate”)
  - Boats will be drained with plugs removed for transport
  - Barges are “water-tight”
  - First mention that equipment was last used in Lake Superior
September 2016

- 9/15 Veit submits detailed equipment list:
  - Nine barges (50’x20’x5’)
  - Support boats
  - Pumps
  - Multiple spud bars & pins
- Anticipated arrival: 9/18
- BOR & SDGFP determined all equipment needed full inspection prior to launch.
Inspection
Inspection

- Three staff each from BOR and SDGFP
Inspection
Inspection
Inspection
Inspection
Inspection Results

- Zebra Mussels found on:
  - All barges
  - Pins
  - Pump housing
- Additional violations
  - Standing water found in three barges
  - Support boats
    - Plugs in place
    - Water in bilges
Decontamination
Decontamination

- BOR prohibited launching of any equipment
- Veit transported all equipment to a Rapid City storage yard
- SDGFP provided decontamination protocol
  - Hot (140°F) power-wash for all equipment
  - Interior decontamination of three barges
    - SDGFP recommended hot water
    - Veit chose to utilize bleach
      - 235 PPM for six hours
Decontamination

- 9/24/-9/25
  - Veit completed decontamination procedures
  - SDGFP and BOR personnel were on site for verification
  - Veit purchased water from the City of Rapid City
  - Veit obtained a temporary discharge permit
    - Bleach was neutralized
    - Discharged into storm sewer
Decontamination
Decontamination
Decontamination (Re-inspection)

- 9/26/16
- Personnel (5 SDGFP, 2 BOR)
- Barges stacked
  - Inspected four at-a-time
  - Cleared barges moved to base
- Pins, bars, additional equipment
  - Inspected individually
Summary

- Veit was extremely cooperative and environmentally conscious throughout the event.
  - No citations were issued for the infested equipment.
  - Citations were issued for the boat plug violations as they were notified of the requirements in advance.
  - All costs associated with decontamination were paid by Veit.
- Lacey Act violations were not pursued
  - Most equipment originated and was “decontaminated” in Minnesota.
Lessons Learned

• Inter-agency cooperation was essential
  • SDGFP was not the permitting agency nor did SDGFP have the authority to quarantine the equipment.
  • BOR had the authority to prohibit launch, but did not have inspection or decontamination expertise, nor the ability to enforce SD AIS regulations.
  • The size and number of the barges and equipment required significant staff resources.
Additional Opportunities

• All levels of Government must be involved
  • Tribal and Federal with regulatory authorities regarding interstate business and commerce
  • State agencies with authorities that may not appear “water-related”
    • DOT authorities regulate most construction equipment
    • School and Public Lands has authorities for aquatic plant harvest
• Counties and Cities
  • Construction, maintenance, law enforcement, parks & recreation
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