



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **County Lakes Confirmed Free of Zebra Mussels & Spiny Water Flea**

Crow Wing County Land Services has released test results confirming 17 area lakes remain free from Zebra mussels and 20 lakes free of Spiny Water Flea. Crow Wing County partnered with local lake associations to collect water samples, and conduct testing on participating lakes within the county for veligers, larval-state Zebra mussels, and Spiny Water Flea. No veligers or Spiny Water Flea were detected!

“These results show boaters are doing their part to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), and that our watercraft inspection program is effective in not only slowing the spread, but educating boaters about AIS,” stated Jessica Shea, Land Services Operations Manager, “Because boaters are more knowledgeable about the dangers of AIS they are committed to doing the right thing to limit the spread in county waters.”

Veliger testing is the best method of early detection for the possible presence of zebra mussels in a body of water. Samples were collected during late June through August, when the concentration of veligers in the water column is the highest. The presence of veligers was not detected in any lake sampled, including lakes such as Crow Wing Lake, Little Pelican, Upper & Lower Mission, and Sibley.

Draining all water, cleaning all visible weeds, and removing zebra mussels from watercraft before leaving a lake are the most important steps boaters can take to prevent the spread of AIS. Twenty one (21) days of drying time is needed when purchasing used docks, lifts, or swim rafts before locating them in a different water body. Information about county AIS prevention efforts can be found on the web by visiting [www.crowwing.gov/ais](http://www.crowwing.gov/ais)

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping our residents make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County’s extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 for more information or visit our website at [www.crowwing.gov](http://www.crowwing.gov)

**Our Vision:** Being Minnesota’s favorite place.

**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

**Our Values:** Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.