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2010 MSRPO Annual Meeting

The 2010 MSRPO Annual Meeting is next Wednesday, October 13th, from 7pm to 9pm at the Kelly Inn in Saint Paul.

We invited the gubernatorial candidates to speak, but Sen. Mark Dayton was previously scheduled in International Falls. Sen Dayton, whose family has a cabin on Lake Vermilion, did take some time to meet with Executive Director Jeff Forester last week. The meeting was productive, and Sen. Dayton agreed to send a letter to MSRPO members to be read at the annual meeting.

Independent Party Candidate for Lt. Governor Jim Mulder will be attending in person. Tom Horner and will be able to make a short presentation and answer questions.

At this writing, Rep. Emmer's schedule is in flux, and his campaign has not confirmed his appearance.

MSRPO E.D. Jeff Forester will present the outline for our 2011 Legislative Agenda, and lay before the membership some of the many issues in addition to property taxes that MSRPO has engaged in the last year. MSRPO is a volunteer organization, and each and every member has a voice in it. We are as good as our members, and we need you to be engaged, and help guide our advocacy. Please attend this year's annual meeting.

Check out our blog

We want to hear from you. Please
leave a [comment](#).

MSRPO and AIS Issues

Over the last year a number of members have sent emails or notes to the office asking why more can't be done to stop the spread of AIS. As most of you know, zebra mussels were just discovered on docks being pulled from Gull Lake. Read the *Tribune* article on this disaster.

This summer, Jeff Forester spoke at the Burntside Lake Association meeting after that group had discovered spiny water flea in their lake. Over 260 lakes in Minnesota have been infested since eurasian milfoil first made its way into Lake Minnetonka. In the last few years, however, the rate of spread of aquatic invasive species has accelerated dramatically. By far boats are the main way that AIS

spread, so the more popular the lake, the higher its risk. Every lake -- yours -- is at risk to this biological pollution. The fact is that not nearly enough is being done to contain AIS in Minnesota.

MSRPO has hundreds of members on Gull Lake, and the introduction of zebra mussels to that lovely lake is a huge environmental disaster. Even more so because it is preventable. Aquatic invasive species can be contained.

Zebra Mussels on sail boat hull.



Photo: Steve Krynock, www.miseagrant.umich.edu

Most importantly, aquatic invasive species can be contained. Once a lake is infested there is no way to clean it up. But there are proven methods to containing aquatic invasive species. Education and study are important, but they have both been in place for decades. To stop the spread of AIS we need two things that have so far been missing in Minnesota:

- 1) **Leadership.** The DNR has proven to be ineffective at containing AIS. They have failed to fully implement even the recommendations made by their own scientists.
- 2) **Political Will.** We need a statewide organization that is willing to put the protection of Minnesota's lakes and rivers ahead of corporate-backed special interest groups, no matter how "green" their name, bureaucratic complacency, or politicians unwilling to take a stand.

MSRPO will provide the leadership. We cannot be co-opted by corporate money.

pressure, or foundation dollars. We are funded entirely by our members, and our members have told us loud and clear they want us to take a stand against A... We know that this issue is important to our members, and at over 6,000 members growing, we can also generate the political will to act.

Attend the 2010 MSRPO Annual Meeting, learn exactly what type of threat ze... mussels pose to your lake, how they can be contained, and what we as the r... stewards of Minnesota's waters can do to protect the lakes and rivers we love... children and grandchildren. We must act now, or we will look back some day... too distant future and wonder: Why didn't we do something when we had the



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