

**Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
(LMCD)**

2010 Annual Report



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LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Gregory S. Nybeck, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April, 2011

TO: LMCD Member Cities
Lake Minnetonka Legislators
LMCD Stakeholders

FROM: Greg Nybeck, Executive Director *gn*

SUBJECT: 2010 LMCD Report

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) is pleased to forward its Annual Report for 2010. The LMCD Board of Directors and staff manage the use of Lake Minnetonka's surface waters since the LMCD's inception in 1967. Management is performed with the highest regard and to the best of abilities.

These management efforts require a great deal of cooperation and partnerships with a number of other public and private sector organizations. A few of these include:

- 14 Lake Minnetonka communities;
- Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol;
- Hennepin County Environmental Services;
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR);
- Three Rivers Park District (TRPD);
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD);
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- Commercial Stakeholders (including marinas, charter boats, and dock installers); and
- General Public.

Activities and projects of the LMCD are done in compliance with an approved Strategic Plan. This is the second annual LMCD Report resulting from a goal established in the Strategic Plan to improve the public's awareness of the LMCD. This Report will provide you further background on the following:

- General background of the LMCD;
- An overview of the LMCD Strategic Plan;
- An overview of 2010 LMCD programs and activities; and
- An overview of 2011 LMCD programs and activities planned.

Your feedback on this 2010 LMCD Report would be greatly appreciated. Feedback, and any other questions you may have, can be directed to my attention at gnybeck@lmcd.org or at 952-745-0789.



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To protect and preserve Lake Minnetonka.

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Section 1- GENERAL BACKGROUND

How the LMCD Began

- The LMCD was created by state enabling legislation in 1967 (Minnesota Statutes 103B.601 through 103B.645).
- The creation of the LMCD was a result of concerned citizens working for nearly a decade to improve Lake Minnetonka. Those efforts included:
 - In 1889, a special law of the State of Minnesota provided "... no person shall pollute or defile the waters of Lake Minnetonka...";
 - In 1946, the Greater Tonka Council (composed of representatives of 100 civic organizations) was formed to conserve and improve Lake Minnetonka;
 - In the early 1950's, the League of Minnetonka Municipalities (a voluntary quasi-governmental organization with representatives appointed by area municipalities) was formed to increase the effort through more direct liaison with local government; and
 - A coordinated and more specialized authority (although still a cooperative local effort) was needed to "Save the Lake", with the Minnesota legislature passing enabling legislation and the LMCD was organized in October of 1967.
- The LMCD was charged with the following two general responsibilities: 1) to regulate the use of the Lake and 2) to develop a comprehensive program to eliminate pollution.

How the LMCD Has Evolved

- Early on, a key issue was red algae blooms on Lake Minnetonka caused by untreated regional sanitary sewage. This was resolved in the 1970's when sanitary sewers were installed.
- In the early 1970's, the concept of authorized dock use area rules was created. This established reasonable riparian rights for the placement of dock structures and watercraft. The rules have been amended over the years.
- In the early 1970's, the first Quiet Water Areas (QWA) were established on Lake Minnetonka. Each QWA was established for public safety and/or environmental concerns.
- In 1978, regulations for boat density were adopted, which included the current 1:50' General Rule. Other regulations have been subsequently adopted.
- In 1987, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was discovered on Lake Minnetonka. In response to this, the LMCD purchased mechanical harvesting equipment and, have since, harvested EWM for navigational purposes.
- Learning from the introduction of EWM, the LMCD has maintained that preventing the introduction of new aquatic invasive species (AIS) makes more sense than managing them after they have been introduced. Great efforts have been made on this since the early 2000's.

- The LMCD adopted regulations for the licensing and permitting of a number of activities on Lake Minnetonka. These include:
 - Multiple Docks (approved, legal storage of five or more restricted watercraft);
 - District Mooring Areas (sailboat buoy fields);
 - Charter Boats (including liquor licenses);
 - Permanent Docks (Residential);
 - Special Events (currently delegated to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol); and
 - Winter De-icing.
- The LMCD is governed by a Board of Directors composed of one member appointed by the 14 cities surrounding Lake Minnetonka. Board Officers include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The organizational chart on page 6 provides further details.
- LMCD consists of three full-time and one part time staff members. This includes the Executive Director, an Administrative Technician, an Administrative Assistant, and a part-time Administrative Clerk. The organizational chart on page 6 provides further details.

Contact Information

For further information or questions, please contact the LMCD at:

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