



Lake Minnetonka Conservation District 2012 Annual Report (Executive Summary)



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LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Gregory S. Nybeck, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May, 2013

TO: LMCD Member Cities
Lake Minnetonka Legislators
LMCD Stakeholders

FROM: Greg Nybeck, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: 2012 LMCD Report

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) is pleased to forward its Annual Report for 2012. The LMCD Board of Directors and staff manage the use of Lake Minnetonka's surface waters since the LMCD's inception (via State of Minnesota enabling legislation) in 1967. Management is performed with the highest regard and to the best of abilities.

Management of Lake Minnetonka requires 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 Member Cities and their respective community;
- Hennepin County Sheriff's Office/Water Patrol;
- Hennepin County Environmental Services;
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources;
- Three Rivers Park District;
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and
- Commercial Stakeholders (i.e., marinas, charter boat operators, and dock installers).

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

- General background of the LMCD;
- An overview of the LMCD Strategic Plan; and
- An overview of the 2012 LMCD programs and activities.

Your feedback on this 2012 LMCD Report would be greatly appreciated. Additionally, I welcome any questions you may have. I can be reached at gnybeck@lmcd.org or at 952-745-0789.

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Section 1- GENERAL BACKGROUND

How the LMCD Began

- The LMCD was created by State of Minnesota (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 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.” Therefore, the Minnesota legislature passed 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 in a defined area.
- In the early 1970’s, the first Quiet Water Areas (QWA) were established on Lake Minnetonka (requiring watercraft to traverse at minimum wake) to address public safety and environmental concerns.
- In 1978, regulations for the storage of 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 public 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 only managing

them after they have been introduced. Great efforts have been made on this since the early 2000's. Unfortunately, zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Minnetonka in 2010.

- 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);
 - Watercraft for Hire (Charter Boats), including respective liquor licenses;
 - Permanent Docks (pile driven structures that remain year round);
 - Special Events (delegated, by resolution, to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol); and
 - Winter De-icing (to prevent damage to docks [generally permanent] from shifting ice).
- The LMCD is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of one volunteer member appointed by each of the 14 cities surrounding Lake Minnetonka. Board officers include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- LMCD consists of three full-time and one part time staff members. This includes the Executive Director, Administrative Technician, Administrative Assistant, and a part-time Administrative Clerk.
- The organizational chart on page six provides further details.

Contact Information

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

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LMCD Demographics

1. Lake Minnetonka Communities (14)

	<u>2010 U.S. Census Population Data</u>
• Deephaven	3,642
• Excelsior	2,188
• Greenwood	688
• Minnetonka	49,734
• Minnetonka Beach	539
• Minnetrista	6,384
• Mound	9,052
• Orono	7,437
• Shorewood	7,307
• Spring Park	1,669
• Tonka Bay	1,475
• Victoria	7,345
• Wayzata	3,688
• Woodland	437

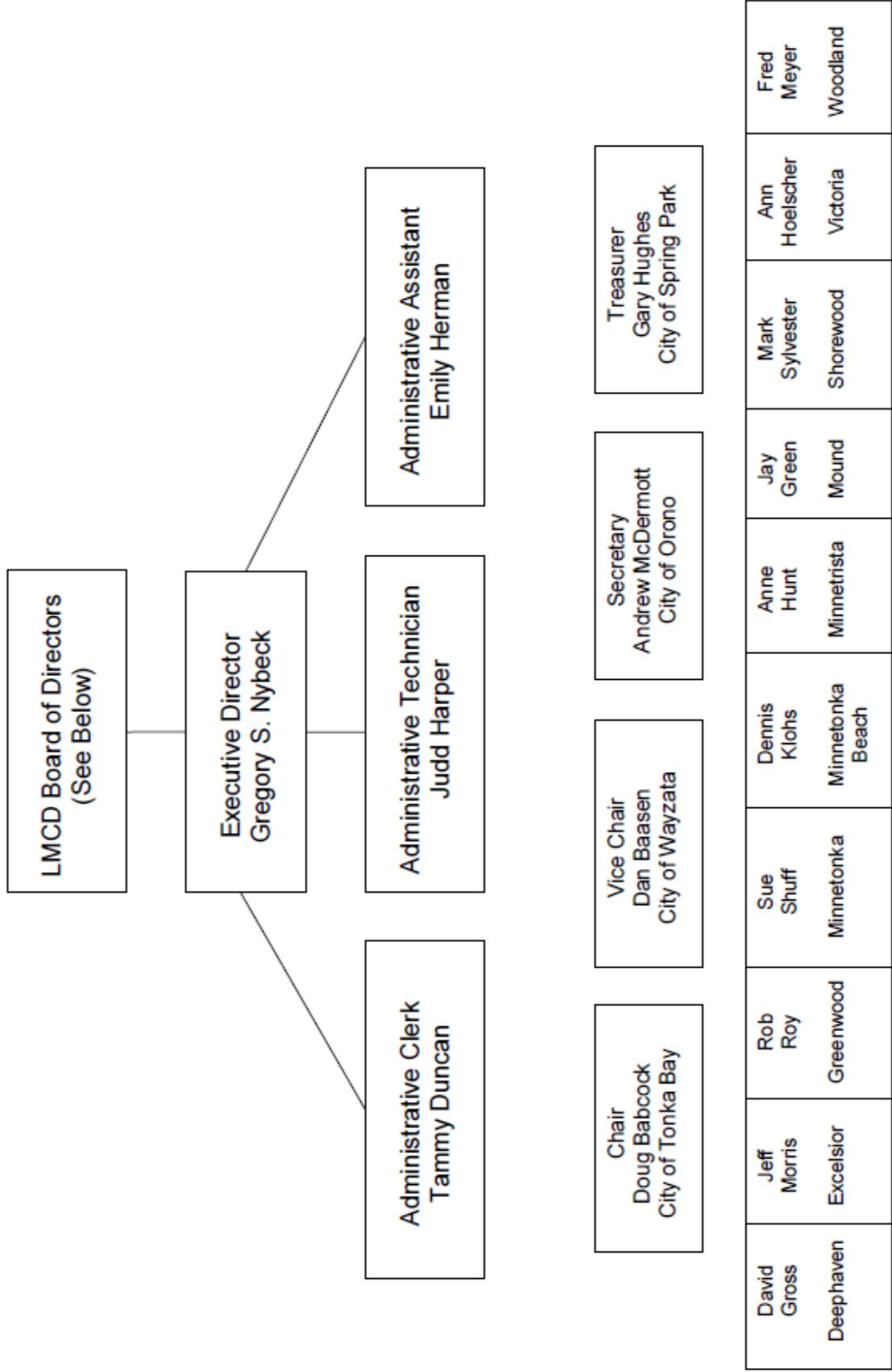
2. Total Population: 101,585 (based on 2010 U.S. Census Population Data)

3. Lake Minnetonka Physical Features:
 - Shoreline- 125 miles
 - Surface Use Area- 14,043 acres
 - Number of Bays/Areas: 42
 - Mean Water Depth: 30 feet
 - Maximum Water Depth: 113 feet (Crystal Bay)
 - Water Depths of Less Than 15 Feet- Approximately 39% of Surface Use Area

4. Public Access Ramps (10)

	<u>Managed By</u>	<u>Location</u>
Carsons Bay	City of Deephaven	City of Deephaven
Cooks Bay	City of Mound	City of Mound
Grays Bay	City of Minnetonka/MN DNR	City of Minnetonka
Halsted Bay	City of Minnetrista	City of Minnetrista
Lake Minnetonka Regional Park	Three Rivers Park District	City of Minnetrista
Maxwell Bay	MN DNR	City of Orono
North Arm	Hennepin County	City of Orono
Phelps Bay	City of Minnetrista	City of Minnetrista
Spring Park Bay	Hennepin County	City of Spring Park
Wayzata Bay	City of Wayzata	City of Wayzata

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT (LMCD)
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



Section 2- STRATEGIC PLAN

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Strategic Plan (Approved)			
Vision: To protect and preserve Lake Minnetonka.			
Mission Statement: The LMCD provides leadership in protecting, improving, and managing Lake Minnetonka. This is accomplished through administration and regulation; promoting cooperation and partnerships; through innovation and education; and effective stewardship of public and private funds.			
<p>Objective 1</p> <p>Reduce the levels of existing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)</p> <p>Goals</p> <p>No matting of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) that impedes public navigation from Memorial Day through Labor Day</p> <p>Manage three bay herbicide treatment pilot project on Carmans, Grays and Phelps Bays (2010-2012)</p>	<p>Objective 2</p> <p>Prevent the introduction of new AIS</p> <p>Goals</p> <p>Inspect incoming watercraft at 11 designated public accesses, from mid May through mid September, from sunrise to sunset (18,942 hours)</p> <p>Educate lake users and service providers on prevention of AIS</p> <p>EWM/Exotics Task Force to create annual comprehensive AIS Plan</p>	<p>Objective 3</p> <p>Ensure that LMCD ordinances and policies are relevant and enforceable</p> <p>Goals</p> <p>Identify problematic ordinances, with recommended solutions</p> <p>Review Management Plan by 4/30/10 to see if Plan should be updated</p> <p>Establish annual enforcement plan</p> <p>Review and update Strategic Plan annually</p>	<p>Objective 4</p> <p>Maintain a strong financial foundation</p> <p>Goals</p> <p>Establish Fund Balance policies</p> <p>Increase Save the Lake revenues to match current year expenditures</p>
<p>Objective 5</p> <p>Promote public access to Lake Minnetonka</p> <p>Goals</p> <p>Document current car/trailer spaces on Lake Minnetonka</p> <p>Evaluate the adequacy of car/trailer spaces for public accesses</p> <p>Document the number of incoming watercraft launches at the 11 designated public accesses during a boating season</p> <p>Evaluate and document all types of public access</p>	<p>Objective 6</p> <p>Ensure that Lake Minnetonka is safe</p> <p>Goals</p> <p>Annual assessment for condition and adequacy of navigational buoys on Lake Minnetonka</p> <p>Promote public safety education</p> <p>Coordinate annual meeting with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol</p>	<p>Objective 7</p> <p>Improve public awareness of the LMCD</p> <p>Goals</p> <p>Publish two newsletters annually</p> <p>Redesign and regularly update the LMCD's website</p> <p>Utilize local newspapers</p> <p>Utilize cable television programming</p> <p>Provide annual Report to member cities</p> <p>Visit with the member city councils annually</p>	<p>Objective 8</p> <p>Protect the Lake's ecological systems</p> <p>Goal</p> <p>Develop policies and ordinances based on the recommendations of the LMCD Environmental Technical Advisory Committee</p>

Section 3- HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

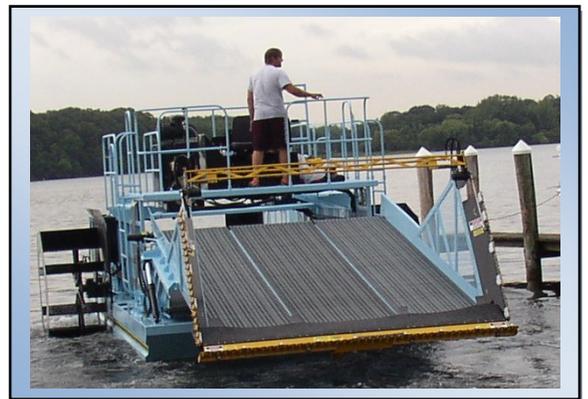
LMCD Standing Committees

- Board members, and other Lake Minnetonka stakeholders, served on a number of advisory committees of the LMCD. These committees included the following:
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force;
 - Finance Committee;
 - Ordinance Review Committee;
 - Personnel Committee;
 - Public Safety Committee; and
 - Save the Lake Committee.
- Each advisory committee greatly contributes to the LMCD; which is further evaluated in the following 2012 programs and activities:

Reduce the Levels of Existing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Harvesting Program

- Mechanical harvesting of EWM was conducted for 35 working days from mid June through mid August.
- EWM harvesting priorities were based on the accessibility of the harvesting equipment and impediment to public navigation, with a higher priority given to areas of the Lake that were matted. All areas that were accessible by the harvesting equipment were evaluated using this priority (the vast majority of Lake Minnetonka).
- The total number of harvester loads was 228.25 (181 truck loads or 5.17 loads per day).
- The total acreage harvested was 412, which was computed utilizing handheld Global Positioning System and Geographic Information System software.
- LMCD's fleet of equipment consisted of three harvesters and a transport barge. This included the delivery of a new harvester on July 16th (herein). Funding for this purchase included the use of the LMCD's Equipment Replacement Fund (established for such purpose) and an insurance settlement (to replace a formerly owned harvester) with the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust.



Launching of New LMCD Harvester

- Approximately \$85,000 was spent on this program in 2012. Primary funding sources included the LMCD’s AIS Management and Prevention Budget and a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) grant.
- For further details, view the 2012 EWM Harvesting Report at www.lmcd.org, under Pamphlets and Reports.

Coordinated Herbicide Treatment Project

- The LMCD participated in a public/private, five-year herbicide demonstration project on Carmans, Grays, and Phelps Bays to evaluate whole-bay or large scale herbicide treatments as another cost-effective means of managing EWM and Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP). This project commenced in 2008 and concluded in 2012.
- This project was supervised by the LMCD’s AIS Task Force; serving as the technical advisory committee charged with coordinating project compliance with an approved Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP). The LVMP was prepared for Lake Minnetonka prior to the 2008 boating season. Professional representatives are appointed to the Task Force by the LMCD Board of Directors. Representation included current and past LMCD Board Members, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA), MN DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD), Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), Hennepin County Environmental Services, and other interested Lake stakeholders.
- Management of this project was conducted by the LMA in 2012.
- The LMCD Board of Directors agreed to contribute up to \$10,000 per bay or 25% of the commercial applicator costs, whichever is less, from the Save the Lake Fund. Herbicide applicator invoices, forwarded by the LMA in 2012, totaled \$94,404. This further breaks down to \$10,658 for Carmans Bay, \$53,726 for Grays Bay, and \$30,020 for Phelps Bay. Based on the calculations noted above, the 2012 LMCD contribution, via the Save the Lake Fund, totaled \$20,169.
- Total project costs, including project management, incurred from 2008 through 2012 on the three bays are detailed below:

Year	Carmans Bay	Grays Bay	Phelps Bay	Totals:
2008	\$48,553	\$66,557	\$60,857	\$175,967
2009*	\$0	\$64,399	\$70,150	\$134,549
2010	\$57,277	\$8,683	\$34,535	\$100,495
2011**	\$44,863	\$0	\$51,517	\$96,380
2012***	\$11,724	\$59,099	\$33,022	\$103,845
Totals Costs:	\$162,417	\$198,738	\$250,081	\$611,236
(*) A treatment was not done on Carmans Bay in 2009 (private fundraising shortfall).				
(**) A treatment was not done on Grays Bay in 2011 (due to high lake levels).				
(***) Costs include 10% project management costs in 2012.				

- A summary of the annual public sector contributions (included in the total expenses above) are detailed below:

Year	LMCD (*)	MN DNR (**)	Cities (***)	Totals:
2008	\$30,000	\$24,999	\$24,000	\$78,999
2009	\$20,000	\$24,788	\$21,000	\$65,788
2010	\$20,707	\$24,999	\$24,000	\$69,706
2011	\$19,866	\$36,500	\$13,000	\$69,366
2012	\$20,169	\$32,214	\$9,000	\$61,383
Totals Costs:	\$110,742	\$143,500	\$91,000	\$345,242
(*) The LMCD provided its contributions from the Save the Lake Fund.				
(**) The LMA secured grant funding from the MN DNR on an annual basis.				
(***) The LMA secured voluntary contributions from the Cities of Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, and Shorewood for these three bays.				

- In April of 2012, the LMCD's AIS Task Force assessed the results of the treatments from 2008 through 2011 based on the LVMP goals and objectives. The consensus of the Task Force was that the LMCD should not extend treatments on the three bays beyond 2012, or expand the project to other bays, until a Comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan (CVMP) was developed for all of Lake Minnetonka. The LMCD Board concurred with this recommendation.

Comprehensive EWM and CLP Plan for Lake Minnetonka

- In June of 2012, the LMCD's AIS Task Force met to discuss how to prepare the CVMP for Lake Minnetonka. The consensus was to establish a subcommittee of the Task Force for the development of a Comprehensive EWM and CLP Plan (Plan) for Lake Minnetonka; providing for the first draft of the Plan to be reviewed by the full Task Force before Board consideration. Task Force members that agreed to serve on this subcommittee included John Barten (TRPD), Eric Fieldseth (MCWD), Dick Osgood (LMA), and Chip Welling (MN DNR).
- Upon its draft and a final review (with minor amendments) by the full AIS Task Force, the Plan went through a series of Board meetings (including a public hearing). After additional revisions, the Plan was adopted by the LMCD Board on March 13, 2013. Highlights of the adopted Plan include the following:
 - Introduction- Background and History;
 - Comprehensive EWM and CLP Management Plan- Purpose, Plan Components, AIS Subcommittee, and Goals/Objectives; and
 - Implementation- Mechanical Harvesting, Whole Bay or Large Scale Herbicide Treatments, and Role and Responsibilities.
- For further details, view the Plan at www.lmcd.org, under "Pamphlets and Reports."

Prevent the Introduction of New AIS

Watercraft Inspections

- Since 2002, the LMCD has coordinated inspection of watercraft/trailers at public accesses on Lake Minnetonka. The 2012 program was a cooperative effort of the LMCD, MCWD, MN DNR, and TRPD.
- The goals of this program were to:
 - Inspect incoming watercraft/trailers, as well as educate watercraft owners and operators, to assist in preventing the introduction of new AIS into Lake Minnetonka; and
 - Inspect outgoing watercraft/trailers, as well as educate watercraft owners and operators, to assist in preventing the spread of other AIS, in particular zebra mussels, from Lake Minnetonka.
- In 2012, the MN DNR established Level 1 and 2 watercraft inspections throughout the state. In general both inspectors may:
 - Inspect watercraft for plants, other AIS, and contained water;
 - Notify a licensed peace officer of an alleged AIS violation;
 - Deny a launch or use of Lake Minnetonka (when deemed appropriate); and
 - Require action for problematic watercraft.

There are two additional authorities provided to Level 2 inspectors, as follow: 1) they may visually inspect the inside of a watercraft (with respect) and 2) conduct de-contamination of a watercraft (when deemed appropriate).

- In 2012, the MN DNR conducted Level 1 and 2 watercraft inspections on Lake Minnetonka (at no costs to the Lake Minnetonka community). Peak days and times covered by the MN DNR were coordinated to parallel coverage by LMCD inspectors at the Grays, Maxwell, North Arm, and Spring Park Bay public accesses.
- To compliment MN DNR inspectors, the LMCD contracted with Volt Workforce Solutions (Volt) to conduct Level 1 watercraft inspections at the Carsons, Cooks, Halsted, and Wayzata Bay public accesses. Of the 2,420 hours contracted with Volt, the LMCD was invoiced for 2,464 hours in 2012. These additional inspection hours focused on a Ron Schara Fishing Tournament on May 5th, as well as additional inspections after Labor Day.
- In 2012, watercraft inspections were conducted from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day during the following days and times:
 - Fridays (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.);
 - Saturdays and Sundays (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.); and
 - Holidays (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.).
- The Three Rivers Park District, through its gate attendants, inspected watercraft at the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park from early May through



MN DNR Inspector at Work; Copyright MN DNR

Labor Day. This was offered as an in-kind service estimated at 1,000 hours.

- Approximately \$39,000 was spent on this project in 2012. Funding sources included the LMCD, MCWD, and the MN DNR. This does not include the in-kind service from the Three Rivers Park District.
- For further details, view the 2012 Lake Minnetonka Watercraft Inspection Program Summary Report at www.lmcd.org, under Pamphlets and Reports.

Lake Service Provider Training

- In 2011, the Legislature passed a number of new laws relating to prevention and management of AIS, one of which requires “Service Providers” to obtain a state permit (via attending and passing a training session) prior to conducting work relative to the placement or removal of water related equipment from any state waters.
- In early 2012, the MN DNR and Minnesota Waters coordinated training of lake service providers for such a permit. Lake Minnetonka area training sessions were conducted at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Tonka Bay Marina. The LMCD greatly assisted in notification of this training via an established service provider database that is regularly utilized to communicate to the partnering stakeholders (resulting in very high attendance).
- The LMCD coordinated joint press releases in the spring and fall to encourage residents to comply with state law and use permitted lake service providers.
- The MN DNR provides a list of permitted service providers on their website. This list can be viewed on the MN DNR’s website at www.dnr.state.mn.us, under “Permits.”

Special Event Permitting

- Special events on Lake Minnetonka (fishing tournaments, sail regattas, etc.) are permitted for the purpose of insuring safety for all, as well as confirming AIS prevention practices are maintained.
- To streamline this process, the LMCD has delegated (since 2011) its special event permitting authority to the Sheriff’s Water Patrol, working closely with them to insure AIS prevention practices are communicated to the event coordinators.
- The LMCD continued to be a leader in the management and prevention of AIS by working closely with 2012 special event coordinators and their participants in the decontamination efforts of their watercraft. In particular, regattas coordinated by the Minnetonka and Upper Minnetonka Yacht Clubs to inspect and spray incoming and outgoing watercraft.
- The LMCD commends the efforts of the event coordinators in the fight against AIS. Further activities are planned for 2013.

Ensure that LMCD Ordinances and Policies are Relevant and Enforceable

- The LMCD ensures ordinances and policies are relevant and enforceable via many different avenues. Some of which include, but not limited to: 1) a review of ordinances and how they are written by the Ordinance Review Committee and 2) annual licensing and inspections of approved sites/stakeholders (multiple dock licenses, watercraft for hire, de-icing sites, and the established [since 2006] Proactive Code Enforcement Program relative to watercraft density at residential sites).

Establish Annual Enforcement Plan

- One of the goals of the approved Strategic Plan is to establish an annual enforcement plan, in which the Proactive Code Enforcement Program is outlined below.
- The primary enforcement efforts established for the Proactive Code Enforcement Program are to identify and/or re-inspect sites storing: 1) five or more restricted watercraft that do not have a multiple dock license and 2) those storing three or four larger, restricted watercraft that do not comply with the 1:50’ General Rule.
- In 2012, the following enforcement priorities were established: 1) to take the necessary steps to resolve problematic sites from 2006 forward, 2) document only new, flagrant violations, 3) continue with the previously established communication process, and 4) re-inspect and define sites where necessary (working with LMCD prosecuting attorney when warranted).
- The LMCD encourages voluntary compliance for all sites identified as being out of compliance with LMCD’s watercraft density ordinances. This process is offered via a two-part, non-sequential written communication process; both of which offer the LMCD’s staff assistance and educational material to further assess their storage needs.
- If compliance efforts are exhausted, staff documents the watercraft storage three days within a 14 day period, at which time a Complaint is filed with the LMCD prosecuting attorney.
- A summary of 2012 efforts are listed below. For further details, view the 2012 Proactive Code Enforcement Program Report at www.lmcd.org, under, “Pamphlets and Reports.”

Category	Primary Enforcement		Foot Note
	5-Boats No Multiple Dock License	3-4 Boats Based On 1:50’ Rule	
In Compliance	47		Confirmed (shoreline/ownership)
New Violations (1 st Letter)	17	16	
Repeat Violations (2 nd Letter)	10	7	
Customized Violations	5	4	Variances, shared docks, etc.
Written Formal Complaints	3	0	Received and resolved in 2012
Prosecuting Complaints	7	5	
Proactive Reminders	3	6	

Coordinate and Present Shoreline Inventory Project

- The LMCD has conducted an inventory of watercraft being stored at riparian and multiple dock sites on Lake Minnetonka since 1971. Since the year 2000, this project has been completed on even years only.
- The following three primary objectives have been historically provided and adhered to:
 - Establish the total number of watercraft stored on Lake Minnetonka;
 - Outline data collected from historical shoreline boat storage counts; and
 - Identify any observable trends from the data collected.
- The total number of watercraft stored in 2012 was 10,691 (6,918 for riparian sites and 3,773 for multiple dock facilities). Over one half of the storage counts for both riparian and multiple dock facilities each were found to be in the runabout/cruiser category (52% and 57%, respectively).
- The current methodology established (outlined within the Report) has been consistently utilized since 1998. Taking those past years into consideration (1998-2012), the total count of 10,691 is 10% higher than the nine year storage count average of 9,733. This provided for a non-significant change in storage counts for runabouts, cruisers, and sailboats.
- For further details, view the 2012 Lake Minnetonka Shoreline Boat Storage Count Report at www.lmcd.org, under, “Pamphlets and Reports.”

2012 Low Water Conditions

- At the beginning of the 2012 boating season, water levels on Lake Minnetonka were low; recognizing they were significantly lower in the late 1980's and early 1990's.
- When lake levels are below 928.00 feet, the LMCD Code allows the Board of Directors to declare (via resolution) “Low Water Conditions.” This declaration provides for Lake Minnetonka’s licensed multiple/commercial and unlicensed residential dock site owners to lawfully extend their dock(s) to a specifically defined length.
- On April 11, 2012, the Board declared “Low Water Conditions” based on a water level reading of 927.90 feet. Although the declaration was terminated by the LMCD Board on June 13th, dock extensions were allowed to remain in place through November 15th.
- On November 29, 2012, the Lake level reading was 927.64 feet. As of this writing, the Board of Directors had further refined this ordinance and 2013 readings will be considered after ice out.

Bow-Fishing on Lake Minnetonka

- The LMCD and Hennepin County Sheriff’s Water Patrol (Water Patrol) annually receive communication asking if one can bow-fish on Lake Minnetonka. As this sport is becoming increasingly popular, the LMCD, through its Public Safety Committee, considered whether it is feasible to have a lake wide bow-fishing ordinance for the purpose of streamlining public

communication and providing documented guidance to both the Water Patrol and MN DNR enforcement personnel.

- Although initial communication (to address individual enforcement policies) with the 14 member cities was established in 2011, further communication has been on-going through 2013.
- Throughout 2012 and more recently, in January of 2013, the LMCD provided in-depth information to the member cities relative to: 1) background as to why this matter is being addressed, 2) an overview of previous communication (2011), 3) an outline of current state law, 4) the Public Safety Committee recommendations, and 5) the request to receive specific feedback on options offered from the collective city council of each member city.
- In consultation with the Water Patrol, member cities, and MN DNR, the LMCD Board of Directors considered and approved a lake wide bow-fishing ordinance for Lake Minnetonka (effective May 1, 2013). This ordinance is more restrictive than state law.

Maintain a Strong Financial Foundation

- The LMCD's operating budgets are comprised of both a General and AIS Management and Prevention Budget. Those budgets are funded, in most part, by a levy through the 14 Lake Minnetonka member cities. The 2012 collective levy of \$322,208 was a 2.6% decrease from 2011. In fact, the levy has remained relatively flat since 2009 because the LMCD recognizes the economic challenges facing our member cities.
- The Save the Lake Fund was established in the 1970's. It is a non-profit initiative of the LMCD to provide supplemental funding from privately raised, tax-deductible donations. The donations received fund projects that benefit the environmental and recreational needs of Lake Minnetonka, which are not currently being funded through the 14 member city levies. Revenue and expenses reached \$48,604 and \$65,060, respectively in 2012.
- The Save the Lake Committee is considering additional project(s) that are targeted for implementation in 2013
- Some of the projects partially funded by Save the Lake in 2012 included: 1) the purchase of a Remotely Operated Vehicle by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, 2) the coordinated Herbicide Treatment Project, 3) public safety equipment for the Long Lake Fire Department (for Lake Minnetonka's use), 4) a one-time herbicide treatment on Libbs Lake (the LMCD's harvesting equipment cannot access this area), and 5) expansion of the Solar Light Project (fully funded by the Save the Lake Fund).
- The LMCD contracted with Abdo, Eick, & Meyers for the completion of the 2012 financial audit. Upon completion of this audit, it was confirmed the LMCD was in compliance with state financial standards. Additionally, that the fund balances for the General and AIS budgets were consistent with the established reserve policies. For a number of years, the LMCD's auditor has recommended the budgeting of funds for depreciated EWM harvesting equipment (EWM Equipment Replacement Fund). This fund documented a decrease due to

the purchase of the new harvester (described above), which was considered an appropriate expenditure for such use. The auditor continues to recommend funds be budgeted into this account to address future needs.

Ensure that Lake Minnetonka is Safe

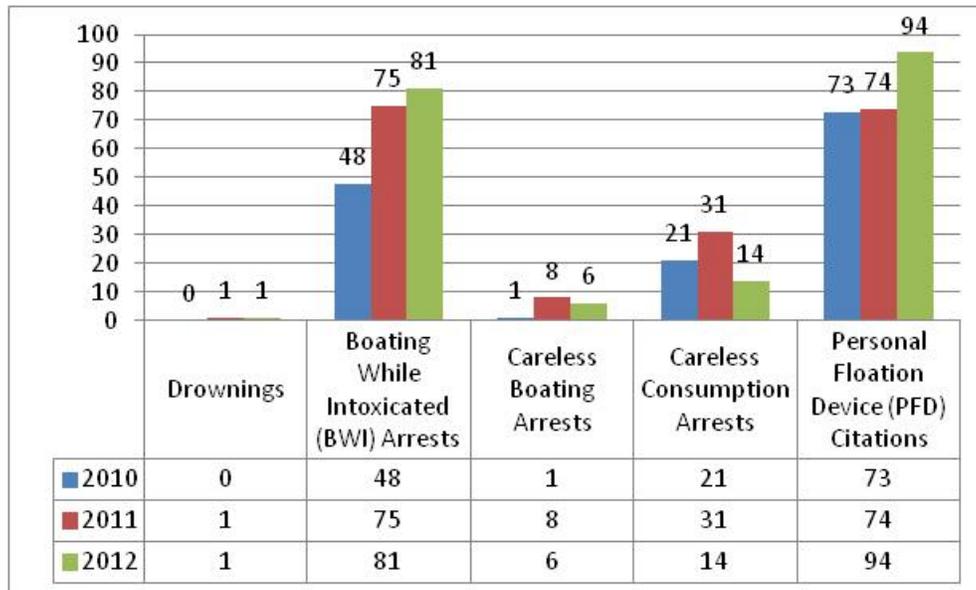
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol

- Enforcement of the majority of LMCD regulations relating to surface use activities was done so by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol (Sheriff's Water Patrol). Representatives from the LMCD and the Sheriff's Water Patrol meet annually to update a Joint and Cooperative Agreement that provides for this.
- The Sheriff's Water Patrol provides enforcement for bodies of water within Hennepin County, with Lake Minnetonka receiving the majority of its patrol time. Approximately 4,360 hours (84%) of patrol time was logged on Lake Minnetonka in 2012, slightly down from 4,732 hours in 2011.
- Full-time staffing for the Sheriff's Water Patrol in 2012 consisted of a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, six Deputies, and support staff. One additional Deputy was assigned to Lake Minnetonka during the 2012 boating season.
- Staffing was supplemented by 28 Special Deputies (volunteers) in 2012, which are required to go through an extensive training program. The LMCD (through Save the Lake) annually recognizes one of the Special Deputies for their dedication to Lake Minnetonka.
- Educational safety programs are a high priority for the Sheriff's Water Patrol. In 2012, they formed a Minnesota Water Safety Coalition, working with many other agencies, in an effort to decrease the pool and beach drowning events that happen each year.
- Staff is regularly dispatched for search, rescue, and recovery efforts, which include boaters in distress. In 2012, they collaborated with five other enforcement agencies (1,011 hours) in these efforts. Of those hours, 335 (or 33%) were logged on Lake Minnetonka.



Hennepin County Sheriff Water Patrol

- A summary of key 2012 Lake Minnetonka statistics (compared to 2010 and 2011) are as follows:



Expansion of Solar Light Program



- Since 2002, red and green solar lights have been installed on navigational buoys on Lake Minnetonka to assist in nighttime navigation.
- This program has been highly successful and has expanded over the years; more recently 82 red and green solar lights in 2011 to 98 in 2012.
- The cost for this expansion was fully funded by the Save the Lake Fund.

Improve Public Awareness of the LMCD

- The LMCD published two newsletters that summarized spring/summer and fall/winter projects and activities. The newsletters were distributed to lakeshore property owners and community stakeholders.
- In 2011, the LMCD created a new and improved website. The goal for this project was to improve public awareness while providing a more efficient navigational tool. The LMCD regularly updated the new website so that all can be kept up-to-date on current projects as well as general information. More pertinent information was highlighted under the “Hot Topic” section of the website, found on the front page.
- The LMCD continued partnering with the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC) on the taping of Board of Director meetings for public viewing. Cable subscribers in the Mediacom viewing area can view these meetings on the LMCC Government Channel 20. Air times are listed on their website at www.lmcc-tv.org, under Community TV/Channel 20. Additionally, you can view the meetings on their website under “Video on Demand.”

Protect the Lake's Ecological System

A great deal of the work conducted on this objective focused on AIS. In particular:

- The LMCD has prepared a Comprehensive EWM and CLP Plan for Lake Minnetonka. See page 10 for further details.
- The LMCD supported the efforts of the MN DNR and Minnesota Waters in the training of lake service providers. See page 11 for further details.
- The LMCD supported the development of a watershed-wide AIS Protection and Management Plan by the MCWD. The LMCD supports a collaborative and coordinated approach that builds on past efforts and experience of the LMCD and other AIS stakeholders on Lake Minnetonka. Past efforts and experience were communicated via LMCD Board members and staff serving on the MCWD's respective committees.