

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Planning/Workshop Session
Meeting Report**

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2008
LMCD Office, 18338 Minnetonka Blvd., Deephaven, MN 55391

Members Present: Doug Babcock, Tonka Bay; Chris Jewett, Minnetonka; Tom Tanner, Wayzata; Lisa Whalen, Minnetrista; Greg Nybeck, Executive Director.

Others in Attendance: Richard Glidewell, Lake Minnetonka Association; Eric Lindberg, Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC; Dick Osgood, LMA.

Review of 12/10/07 2008 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Sub-Committee Meeting Report

The 12/10/07 AIS Sub-Committee Meeting Report was accepted as submitted.

Possible Components of a 2008 AIS Prevention Plan

Based on the discussion at the December 10th Sub-Committee Meeting and on previous experience, Nybeck believed that there were three components that should be taken into consideration when considering possible management techniques for 2008. These include: 1) inspection/enforcement, 2) public relations/education, and 3) deterrence.

LMCD Code Section 3.09- Special Events on Lake Minnetonka

Nybeck stated that all non-winter special events on Lake Minnetonka are required to receive a special event permit from the LMCD. This has been in existence since the late 1990's when the LMCD became interested in possible AIS being introduced into Lake Minnetonka by participating watercraft in fishing tournaments, regattas, and other special events. Currently, all watercraft are required to fill out an affidavit form to participate in a special event and he questioned how effective this was.

Babcock provided historical background of special event permitting by the LMCD on Lake Minnetonka. He questioned whether it might sense for special event coordinators to attend a LMCD Board meeting to allow for two-way communication and to place restrictions deemed necessary by the Board.

Whalen suggested that it might make sense to have all participating watercraft inspected prior to entering Lake Minnetonka, with this fee charged back to the special event.

Nybeck stated that one of the logistical problems that would need to be addressed with inspecting all watercraft is the launching of watercraft at multiple public accesses. He believed that most of these watercraft would be inspected with the proposed MN DNR watercraft inspection program in 2008.

Whalen stated that it might make sense to limit the number of public accesses for launching of watercraft for special events.

Jewett stated that this is further complicated because of pre-fishing that takes places prior to fishing tournaments on Lake Minnetonka.

The consensus of those Board members in attendance was to further discuss at a LMCD Board meeting in the near future.

Possible Management Techniques to Address These Components in 2008

The following management techniques were discussed:

- **Paid Inspectors (MN DNR)**

Nybeck reviewed proposed Plans A-D for 47 days from May 23rd through September 1st. He made the following comments:

- The targeted days for all four plans are Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.
- There are four primary and four secondary public accesses covered in all four plans. The four primary public accesses include: 1) City of Minnetonka (Grays Bay), 2) MN DNR (Maxwell Bay), 3) Hennepin County (North Arm), and 4) Hennepin County (Spring Park Bay). The four secondary public accesses include: 1) City of Deephaven (Carsons Bay), 2) City of Mound (Cooks Bay), 3) City of Wayzata (Wayzata Bay), and 4) Halstead Drive (Halsted's Bay). There are three additional public accesses, which are not covered in Plans A-D. First, it is proposed that car/trailers accessing Lake Minnetonka via the Regional Park would be inspected by the Three Rivers Park District when attendants are on duty. The remaining two public accesses, City of Minnetrista (Phelps Bay) and City of Tonka Bay (Echo Bay), would not have inspections conducted in 2008 due to the limited public use because of the limited number of car/trailer spaces.
- Plan A would consist of 3,520 inspection hours, at a cost of \$17.50 per hour, or \$61,600. Coverage times would be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays at the four primary and secondary public accesses; from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the four primary public accesses on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays; and from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays at the four secondary public accesses.
- Plan B would consist of 3,144 inspection hours, at a cost of \$55,020. The two primary differences from Plan A include: 1) a reduction in Friday coverage at the secondary public accesses from four to three, and 2) a reduction in the Saturday, Sunday, and holiday coverage from four to three.
- Plan C would consist of 2,888 inspection hours, at a cost of \$50,540. The primary difference from Plan B would be a reduction in coverage at the North Arm and Spring Park public accesses on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays to 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Plan D would consist of 2,768 inspection hours, at a cost of \$48,440. The primary difference from Plan C include: 1) a reduction in secondary public access coverage from three public accesses to two, and 2) to increase coverage at the Grays Bay public access for two inspectors on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

Whalen asked how much the LMCD spent on this in 2007.

Nybeck stated that he believed around \$24,000 was spent on this project in 2007. In 2008, the MN DNR will have a Prevention Grant Application available, most likely for around \$15,000. All four of these plans are the most comprehensive ever considered by the LMCD. Late afternoon coverage on these public accesses should also assist in the inspection of watercraft leaving Lake Minnetonka, which will be of particular interest to the MN DNR.

Whalen asked what the maximum amount the LMCD could apply for with the MN DNR.

Nybeck stated that he was unsure of this because he had not received the grant application from the MN DNR.

- Video Monitoring

Nybeck stated that Lindberg had prepared a proposal for 2008 for Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors (I-LIDS). He asked Lindberg to provide an overview of it.

Lindberg reviewed page three of the proposal. This included:

- No I-LIDS unit at the Spring Park Bay public access because of the launching dynamics at this public access.
- A second I-LIDS unit has been proposed at the Grays Bay public access since the footing already exists at this site. This second unit would be in response to the problems that occurred in 2007 relating to visual difficulties to being able to see all three launch ramps at this site.
- He reviewed seasonal costs from May 10th through October 11th, which would allow for early and late season coverage when MN DNR interns were not present.
- All costs are fixed, excluding video processing. The proposal, based on discussion with Nybeck, would allow for review of videos on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The proposal would allow for 13 weeks of video review at the Grays Bay ramp, Spring Park, and North units, with four weeks of video review at the Grays Bay drive-in option.
- He recommended that power was needed at the Maxwell Bay and North Arm Public accesses in 2008 to ensure the maximum number of video sequences. He estimated those expenses at \$1,500, with both parties picking up 50% of these expenses.
- He reviewed a spreadsheet that provided a summary of the best method to review launches at the North Arm public access, MN DNR inspectors versus an I-LIDS unit.

Babcock stated that he would like to see some form of an educational letter sent out to the public that appeared to be in violation of MN AIS laws.

Whalen stated that one of the advantages of MN DNR inspectors over I-LIDS was a physical presence to stop the introduction of a new AIS into Lake Minnetonka.

Lindberg stated that he believed the combination of signage and the I-LIDS units have improved boater behaviors.

There was discussion of the possibility of enforcing MN AIS laws or the LMCD ordinance relating to the launching of watercraft with attached vegetation. The consensus of the Board was for Nybeck to: 1) determine what the final 2008 AIS Prevention Program Budget will be, 2) to forward the 2008 MN DNR Grant Application to the LMCD Board members once it is received in the LMCD office, applying for as much grant funds as possible for this project in 2008 utilizing Plan C, and 3) to priority rank the primary and secondary public accesses with MN DNR inspectors and I-LIDS for 2008.

- Training of Local Peace Officers & Commercial Marinas on MN AIS Laws

Nybeck stated that he understood that training of local peace officers was scheduled for the Lake Minnetonka area in the near future by the MCWD. Additionally, he believed that similar training could be provided for commercial marinas on Lake Minnetonka.

- Enforcement/Education of MN AIS Laws on Selected Days by MN DNR Conservation Officers
Nybeck stated that he hoped to work with the MN DNR in 2008 to saturate one or more public accesses in 2008 for selected days that is agreeable to both organizations. He hoped that Luke Skinner from the MN DNR could assist the LMCD on this management tool.

Possible Funding Sources for 2008 AIS Prevention Plan Management Techniques

- Adopted 2008 LMCD Invasive Species Management Funds (\$25,000)
- 2008 LMCD "Save the Lake" Funds (To be determined)
- MN DNR Prevention Grant Funds (To be determined)

What's Next

- A Meeting Report will be prepared to summarize this meeting
- A 2008 AIS Prevention Plan will be recommended in the near future, either at the February 13th or 27th LMCD Board Meeting.
- A MN DNR Prevention Grant Application will need to be submitted in the near future.

Adjournment

Nybeck adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck, Executive Director