

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EWM/EXOTICS TASK FORCE
MINUTES**

8:30 a.m., Friday, February 12, 2010

LMCD Office, 23505 Smithtown Road (Suite 120), Shorewood, MN 55331

Present: Herb Suerth, LMCD Board; Lisa Whalen, LMCD Board; Jay Rendall, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Chip Welling, MN DNR; Tim Ohmann, MN DNR; Brittany Hummel, MN DNR; Sean Sisler, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); John Skogerboe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Dr. Udai Singh, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Mark Washa; Denny Nelson; Tom Suerth; Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

Minutes

The minutes from the 12/4/09, 12/18/09, and 1/8/10 EWM/Exotics Task Force Meeting were accepted as submitted.

Mark Washa, presentation on the use of weevils for the management of EWM

Suerth asked for background on this agenda item.

Washa proposed the use of biological control (weevils) as another means of managing EWM on Lake Minnetonka. He provided the Task Force a YouTube video that documented the use of weevils on Puslinch Lake near Cambridge, Ontario that was choked off with EWM. Additionally, he provided an overview on the use of weevils via a PowerPoint presentation, with a summary as follows:

- Dispelling myths regarding the use because weevils cannot work in waters with sunfish (providing a photo from Puslinch Lake).
- A comparison on the use of weevils vs. herbicides.
- Before and after pictures of lakes that have used weevils.
- Marty Hilovsky will be calling from EnviroSciences to further discuss weevils and to answer any questions of the Task Force.

The Task Force provided feedback on the use of weevils, which is summarized as follows:

- Past research conducted by the MN DNR and Dr. Ray Newman on the use of weevils in the State of Minnesota.
- Questions and answers with Marty Hilovsky on the speaker phone.
- The baseline of the before and after pictures provided by Washa.
- The consensus of the Task Force was for Washa to meet with MN DNR representatives to further discuss the viability on the use of weevils.

LMA, review of quotes received for 2010 Coordinated Herbicide Treatment Project

Suerth asked for background on this agenda item from Osgood.

Osgood stated that the LMA had sent out Request for Proposal (RFP) in mid January based on the discussions at the January Task Force Meeting. Three proposals have been received, although the costs are being clarified due to discrepancies with the RFP. He asked the Task Force to review the proposals based on the goals and objectives spelled out in the Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP).

The Task Force provided feedback on the proposals, which is summarized as following:

- Some Task Force members expressed concern about what appears to be damage to the non-target native plants in 2009, in particular Grays Bay.
- Some Task Force members also expressed concern about what appears to be some fishery concerns on Grays Bay in 2009, based on public feedback and comments from Conservation Officers.
- Discussion took place on sending out an RFP for 2010 through a "Design and Construct" methodology by the herbicide applicators vs. having the herbicide treatment protocol established by the Task Force. Some concern was raised about changing the RFP process at this time rather than in January when this was last discussed.
- Feedback from the MN DNR was that new reports, as well as further analysis of the Army Corps Report, had taken place since the January Task Force Meeting.
- A number of Task Force expressed an interest in moving this project back towards how it was established in the LVMP. This included meeting the goals and objectives spelled out in the LVMP, as well as Task Force establishing the specifications for the 2010 herbicide treatments rather than the commercial applicators.
- The consensus of the Task Force was to schedule a special EWM/Exotics Task Force Meeting to establish this so that the LMA could send out an amended RFP for the 2010 project.

Discussion of draft 2010 Lake Minnetonka AIS Prevention Plan

Suerth asked for background on this agenda item from Osgood.

Osgood stated that a February 12th Working Draft was prepared based on discussion at the last Task Force Meeting, as well as follow-up e-mail feedback. This included summary text, which has been discussed by the Task Force in past meetings, as well a Lake Minnetonka AIS Prevention Plan matrix.

The Task Force discussed the February 12th Working Draft, including what should remain and what should be deleted. The consensus of the Task Force was for Osgood to update the matrix, based on the discussion at this meeting.

Additional Business

There was no additional business.

Next EWM/Exotics Task Force Meeting

A special EWM/Exotics Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 2/17/10, at 8:30 a.m. in the LMCD office to refine the specifications for the herbicide treatment protocol.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director