

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

8:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 17, 2010
LMCD Office, 23505 Smithtown Road (Suite 120), Shorewood, MN 55331

Present: Herb Suerth, LMCD Board; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Tim Ohmann, MN DNR; Brittany Hummel, MN DNR; Sean Sisler, MN DNR; Randy Lehr, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); John Skoggerboe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Dr. Udai Singh, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director. Also in attendance were: Jack Kimball- a Phelps Bay resident; Terry Bryce- a Grays Bay resident; Bob Pillsbury- a Grays Bay resident; Thomas Lowe- a Carmans Bay resident; Mary Drazan- a Carmans Bay resident.

Nybeck stated that there was discussion at the February 12th Task Force Meeting to consider proposals from three herbicide applicators for the 2010 Coordinated Herbicide Treatment Project. These proposals were similar to the 2009 project where the applicators were allowed to design and construct a treatment protocol to meet the goals and objectives in the Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP). At this Task Force meeting, some members expressed concern about fisheries and native plant damage in 2009 and the consensus was that the treatment protocol in 2010 should be established by the Task Force. The purpose of this meeting is to refine the specifications so that the LMA can send out a second Request for Proposals (RFP) based on what is agreed to at this meeting. He envisioned that quotes received for this amended RFP would be discussed at the March EWM/Exotics Task Force Meeting.

Osgood stated that there were bay representatives in attendance to observe the discussion at this meeting because they have concerns, in particular about fundraising. These guests understand that their role at this meeting is to observe the discussion and they believe that it is important to do so first hand. He hoped that the Task Force would keep all of its options available, including the first option that was discussed at the last Task Force meeting.

Nybeck stated that he would like to keep this meeting focused on refining the herbicide treatment specifications. He understood that there might be some concerns with feedback at the last Task Force meeting on fisheries and native plants. These discussions should be conducted outside of this meeting. However, the conference room is available after the meeting is adjourned if the Task Force members have time to stay. He asked Skoggerboe to lead the discussion on the herbicide treatment protocol for 2010.

Skoggerboe provided recommendations for 2010, which are summarized as follow:

- Phelps Bay
 - Possible treatments areas for EWM, which included a 13 acre plot and a 21 acre plot. He did not believe that every EWM plant needed to be treated in 2010 and that the native plants damaged in 2009 could use some rest.

- Possible treatment areas for curlyleaf pondweed (CLP), which included plots of three acres, 45 acres, and 59 acres.
- Herbicides he recommended included: 1) 1 part per million (ppm) of endothall for the CLP and, 2) 1 ppm of triclopyr for the EWM (most likely granular).
- An early season treatment protocol when water temperatures are cooler (50 to 60 degree temperatures).
- Prohibit “tank mixing” of the herbicides.

The Task Force concurred with Skogerboe's recommendations. It was noted that the treatment areas could be adjusted based on the field delineations by the herbicide applicator in consultation with a member of the Task Force, most likely the MN DNR.

- Grays Bay

- A possible treatment area for EWM of 2.4 acres near the public access ramp, which is more of a maintenance effort. He recommended the same herbicide treatment protocol as Phelps Bay.
- Possible treatments areas for CLP, which included plots of 2.6 acres, 3.8 acres, 16 acres, 21 acres, and 26 acres. He recommended the same herbicide treatment protocol as Phelps Bay.
- Similar to Phelps Bay, an early treatment season protocol was proposed, with 50 to 60 degree water temperatures.
- Prohibit “tank mixing” of the herbicides.

The Task Force concurred with Skogerboe's recommendations. Re-treatments for EWM and CLP, in particular EWM, will be done based on the objectives spelled out in the LVMP. In particular, whether the initial treatment to EWM and CLP resulted in frequencies below 20% of the littoral zone. Field delineations will be conducted in the spring to assess this, particularly for EWM.

- Carmans Bay

- Plan A: He recommended not treating this bay in 2010 to wait and see what happens on Grays and Phelps Bays. He concurred with the MN DNR's concerns about plant selectivity on these scale of treatments. He based this on the plant data, his observations in the field, and past experiences with other treatment projects.
- Plan B: One alternative he proposed was to reduce the herbicide rate to protect the native plants, in particular the water lilies, with no assurances that the treatment will work. He proposed an early season treatment protocol of 0.20 ppm liquid triclopyr for EWM in 2010 on a baywide basis [177 ac]. This is based on application of liquid triclopyr to specific areas at a rate planned to provide a concentration of 0.75 ppm [mg per L]
- Plan C: Application of granular triclopyr
- Plan D: The Army Corps proposed a smaller combination herbicide treatment project, possibly 20 to 30 acres, for both EWM and CLP that would not be funded by the abutting property owners.
- Plan E: Control of nuisances.

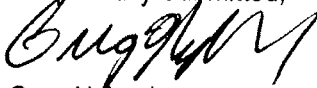
The consensus of the Task Force was for the LMA to submit a revised RFP for the first alternative proposed by Skogerboe. This treatment will be done in compliance with the objectives in the LVMP.

Nybeck stated that the next EWM/Exotics Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 3/12/10, at 8:30 a.m. in the LMCD office. The LMA will send out an amended RFP based on the Task Force direction at this meeting, with quotes to be discussed at the March 12th meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Nybeck
Executive Director