

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
AIS TASK FORCE  
MINUTES**

8:30 a.m., Friday, June 11, 2010

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

**Present:** Herb Suerth, LMCD Board; Dick Woodruff, LMCD Board; Lisa Whalen, LMCD Board; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Randy Lehr, TRPD; Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Sean Sisler, MN DNR; Dr. Udai Singh, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Jack Kimball, Phelps Bay resident.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 3/12/10 AIS Task Force Meeting were accepted as amended, within one change. Welling recommended adding “, although it can grow in zero to eight feet” at the end of the third sentence in the third paragraph on page three.

The minutes from the 4/9/10 AIS Task Force Meeting were accepted as amended, with one change. Osgood recommended deleting the word “emergent” in the first change for the March 12<sup>th</sup> minutes and inserting the word “emerging” in its place.

**MN DNR Update**

Welling stated that the TRPD has a historical flowering rush (FR) report near Noerenberg Park on Maxwell Bay dating back to 1976. Of course, this is much sooner than the most recent discovery in 2009. It raises the question of how widespread and abundant FR could become because it took over 30 years to recognize it on the main part of Lake Minnetonka.

The Task Force discussed this, with a summary of the comments as follows:

- The locations that FR was discovered in 2009 with higher abundance, in particular Crystal Bay, makes sense because of its proximity to the Noerenberg Park.
- It appears that FR has not spread too aggressively over the past 34 years.
- FR is still a problem, although there appear to be limitations on its growth and spread on Lake Minnetonka.
- This is an example of another pathway that AIS can be introduced into a body of water other than by boats.
- There is a need to better educate the public on what can be planted that are not AIS.
- The Task Force needs to be careful in any conclusions that it might draw from this new information.

Welling stated that the MN DNR is planning a media campaign event planned at the Grays Bay public access on July 1<sup>st</sup> relating to AIS laws and the actions that are needed by the public. This is the kick-off event planned for that weekend, which is being coordinated by Jay Rendall. Further information will be provided once it has been finalized.

**2010 Management of EWM**

Welling stated that he participated in a recent boat tour on May 17<sup>th</sup> with the LMA and Professional Lake Management (PLM) for the herbicide treatment project on Carmans, Grays, and Phelps Bays. Observations he made on this boat tour are summarized in a summary report he prepared, dated 6/3/10. He provided an overview of this Report.

Osgood provided an overview of his observations of the May 17<sup>th</sup> boat tour. He reviewed mapping of areas on Grays and Phelps Bay that might need to be treated for EWM. Additionally, there are treated areas on Carmans Bay that might need to be re-treated, which he was waiting for mapping from PLM. A decision on these new or re-treatments will be made soon by the LMA, with an application to be submitted to the MN DNR for such requests. These treatments would most likely take place sometime in June.

Nybeck provided an overview of the LMCD's EWM Harvesting Program. He pointed out a deviation in the rotating harvesting schedule to cut North Arm early on based on observations made by staff. After these areas have been harvested, he envisioned the LMCD would get back on schedule as detailed in the Lower Lake North Option. There are areas on the lake, in particular Crystal Bay, where vegetation has matted in the past and the LMCD has channel cut in these areas to provide the residents relief. If these areas are matted with vegetation in 2010, including EWM and FR, he suggested that it might make sense to deviate from the prohibition on the MN DNR permit and allow harvesting in these areas.

The Task Force discussed this and the consensus was that harvesting made sense in these areas, if deemed necessary, due to the length of time that FR has been in Lake Minnetonka. The Task Force recommended that this could be done on a case by case basis, provided the equipment is decontaminated by the LMCD. Sisler stated that he would checking into amending the LMCD 2010 permit to allow for this to occur.

**Progress Review on 2010 AIS Prevention Plan**

Woodruff stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to discuss what activities on this matrix were planned for 2010. This discussion should take into consideration what organization(s) will coordinate each activity, as well as timelines.

Actions on the approved matrix were discussed by the Task Force, with the attached annotated version (in **bold**) of the Implementation Plan containing the draft updates.

Woodruff stated that he would like to discuss continued updates to this matrix at upcoming AIS Task Force meetings.

**Preliminary Discussion of How to Proceed with Reviewing LMCD AIS Ordinances.**

This was postponed for discussion to a future AIS Task Force Meeting.

**Additional Business**

There was no additional business.

**Next AIS Task Force Meeting**

The next AIS Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 8/13/10, at 8:30 a.m. in the LMCD office.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director