

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) TASK FORCE MEETING
MINUTES**

8:30 a.m., Friday, August 27, 2010
MCWD Office, 18202 Minnetonka Blvd., Deephaven, MN 55391

Present: Dick Woodruff, LMCD Board; Lisa Whalen, LMCD Board; Luke Skinner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Gary Montz, MN DNR; Jay Rendall, MN DNR; Brittany Hummel, MN DNR; Sean Sisler, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Rich Brasch, TRPD; Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Dr. Udai Singh, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Eric Evenson, MCWD; Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services (Hennepin County); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director

Woodruff stated that he would be chairing the meeting in the absence of Co-Chair Herb Suerth.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

The minutes from the 8/10/10 Special AIS Task Force Meeting were accepted as amended, with one change recommended by Brough to the first sentence on page four. He recommended changing the sentence so that it reads "Brough questioned are there actions that should be taken at the Arcola and Narrow channel bridges since zebra mussels have not been located on the Upper Lake".

Discussion of Roles and Responsibilities

Woodruff stated that this was discussed at the August 10th AIS Task Force Meeting. There are currently a number of agencies and organization working on the zebra mussel issue. However, he wanted to ensure that these efforts are done in a coordinated manner to maximize progress. He asked Skinner to comment on the roles and responsibilities that the MN DNR has committed to.

Skinner re-stated the following roles and responsibilities for the MN DNR:

- Provide a lead role on communication and technical guidance, using the MN DNR webpage as an example.
- To assist the local level on the preparation of an Action Plan. This Action Plans needs to be a collaborative effort and implemented at the local level.
- To conduct future survey work, although this will be coordinated with the MCWD and other local stakeholders.
- Zebra mussels need to be managed because effective eradication methods currently do not exist. The MN DNR can assist on containment efforts, in particular education. The MN DNR will take the lead in preventing the spread to other bodies of water.

Evenson stated that the MCWD would be working in early September to support the MN DNR to inspect for adult breeding populations, in particular on the Lower Lake. In the long-term, there is a need to look at zebra mussels and other AIS to prevent their spread to other watershed bodies of waters.

Woodruff asked if the MCWD efforts could be coordinated with the AIS Task Force.

Evenson stated that he believed the MCWD's efforts could be coordinated with the Task Force, although he questioned how this would work on a watershed basis outside of Lake Minnetonka.

Woodruff stated that he wanted to ensure that it is clear what organization(s) is in charge to ensure that the efforts are all going in the same direction. For this reason, he hoped that the MCWD's efforts could be coordinated with the AIS Task Force.

Mr. Gabriel Jabbour, owner of Tonka Bay Marina, made a number of comments on the lack of knowledge of zebra mussels by the general public. A summary of these comments are as follows:

- Recently, he talked to inspectors at all of the public accesses about the need to inspect outgoing boats, as well as incoming boats. A number of these inspectors do not take the time to get out of their chair and educate the public on AIS laws.
- He complimented the efforts made in 2010 to train local lake service providers, although he expressed concern about an incident at the North Arm public access where a personal watercraft (PWC) was being impounded and the employee of the towing company was reluctant to pull the plug from the PWC.
- One of the challenges is that some of the lake providers that have not attended a training session to ensure compliance with State AIS laws are getting the business from the public, citing commercial transporters as an example.
- State AIS laws at Lake Minnetonka need to be enforced by local police departments, not just the MN DNR. He recommended enforcing existing laws rather than creating new laws that will not be enforced.

Whalen stated that she recently received a phone call from a friend that observed vegetation attached to a private harvester at Highway 55 and Vicksburg Lane in Plymouth. A subsequent phone call was placed into Conservation Officer Jackie Glaser, although Whalen stated that she was unable to talk to Glaser when the phone call was made. A message was on Glaser's voicemail was to contact the State Patrol for emergencies, with a subsequent phone call made. The dispatcher seemed to be uneducated on AIS and improvements need to be made to educate these personnel.

Sisler stated that the MN DNR Turn-In Poachers (TIP) Hotline Number would most likely be the best means of getting a hold of a Conservation Office. The number is 1-800-652-9093.

Woodruff shared similar concerns about the difficulty of contacting law enforcement officers when needed.

Evenson stated that that he believed the LMCD and the MCWD are both uniquely organized to effectively improve this. LMCD Board members could assist in educating the city councils on the need to improve enforcement of AIS locally. In the meantime, the MCWD could possibly assist in the training of police officers on enforcement of AIS laws locally, although there is a need for local police departments to make this one of their priorities.

Discussion of Action Items from 8/10/10 AIS Task Force Meeting

The Task Force received an update on Action Items established at the August 10th AIS Task Force Meeting. Additional Action Items were established at this AIS Task Force Meeting. The following attachment provides further details on this discussion.

Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next AIS Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 10/8/10, at 8:30 a.m. at a place to be determined.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director