

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, October 8, 2010

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

**Present:** Herb Suerth, LMCD Board; Dick Woodruff, LMCD Board; Lisa Whalen, LMCD Board; Chris Jewett, LMCD Board; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Gary Montz, MN DNR; Brittany Hummel, MN DNR; Tim Ohmann, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Dr. Udai Singh, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services (Hennepin County); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director. Also present: Rosemary Iverson, 2835 Casco Point Road; Mary Drazin, Carmans Bay resident; Kevin Kennefick, Carmans Bay resident; Mark Washa, MCWD Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with three changes. First, agenda item 6 (Update from the MN DNR on 2010 Coordinated Herbicide Treatment Project) was moved in front of agenda item 5 (Lake Minnetonka Zebra Mussel Discussion). Second, discussion of a "HullMasters" zebra-mussel free zone pamphlet was added under "Additional Business". Third, an update from Welling on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permit requirements was added after "Hullmasters" under "Additional Business".

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 6/11/10 and 8/27/10 AIS Task Force Meetings were accepted as submitted.

**Update from MN DNR on 2010 Coordinated Herbicide Treatment Project**

Welling stated that the Army Corps of Engineers has completed its survey work for 2010, with a draft Report pending by the end of October. Until this Report has been received, there is not a lot to discuss about scientific results of the 2010 project. He briefly updated the Task Force on the site visits and conversations he had for the three bays during the 2010 season.

To accommodate concerns of the LMA relating to the sequencing and permitting of the project for 2011, the consensus of the Task Force was to schedule a special AIS Task Force Meeting for November 19<sup>th</sup>. This special meeting was subject to receiving the draft Army Corps Report in a timely manner that would allow Task Force members adequate time to review it. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to discuss this Report, as well as initiating plans for the 2011 project.

**Lake Minnetonka Zebra Mussel Discussion:**

- **Update from MCWD on September 13-14<sup>th</sup> Surveys**  
Singh stated that a scientific follow-up was done in early September by the MCWD, in partnership with a number of stakeholders. A Report is planned for the October 14<sup>th</sup> MCWD Board of Managers Meeting, although he provided the Task Force a brief overview of this project. This included: 1) the purpose of this project was to update the August 4<sup>th</sup> MN DNR rapid response survey, 2) he reviewed the methodology utilized by the various stakeholders that volunteered their time, 3) he reviewed the 55 sites that were completed as part of this project, and 4) he reviewed the preliminary results. At this

point, no adult zebra mussel populations were located as part of this project.

There was a brief discussion amongst the Task Force relating to zebra mussels. A summary of this discussion was as follows:

- The types of surfaces that zebra mussels might attach to.
- The feasibility of treating the lake with chemicals, such as zequinox, as a means of managing zebra mussels.
- A brief update from the MN DNR was provided on the use of zequinox. Because of the potential non-native impacts and the lack of background on using it on open public body of waters, its use is not practical at this time. However, the MN DNR stated that they would continue to monitor the use of zequinox as a potential option in the future.

Singh stated that he would forward a copy of the MCWD Report after it has been finalized and approved by the Board of Managers.

Hummel provided the Task Force a brief update on the coordination between the MN DNR and local dock installers on residential sites where zebra mussels are located on docks when they are being removed for the 2010 boating season.

- Discussion of Action Items from the 8/27/10 AIS Task Force Meeting

The Task Force received an update on Action Items established at the August 27<sup>th</sup> AIS Task Force Meeting. Additional Action Items were established at this AIS Task Force Meeting. The following attachment provides further details on this discussion

- Discuss Strategy for changing citation fund distribution for AIS enforcement

A summary of the Task Force discussion on this was as follows:

- The LMCD adopted a resolution in early September. A copy of this resolution, plus a sample resolution, was forwarded to the member cities and number of the stakeholders that serve on this Task Force, encouraging them to adopt a similar resolution.
- It was noted that Executive Director Eric Evenson was coordinating this effort for the MCWD.
- A meeting has been scheduled for the November 4<sup>th</sup> TRPD Board Meeting as part of a Lake Minnetonka zebra mussel update.
- A presentation will be made at a Lake Area Police Chiefs Meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Topics that need to be discussed in the future include: 1) what does the change in fine distribution mean, 2) who would sponsor the necessary legislation and if this would set an undesirable precedent, 3) how this would be enforced, and 4) how the peace officers would be trained.
- A further update on existing State laws could be provided at a future Task Force Meeting from Jay Rendall of the MN DNR, if needed.

**Additional Business:**

- HullMasters Brochure

Woodruff stated that an e-mail had recently been forwarded from John Arend on the possible use of an electronic device to minimize the attachment of zebra mussels to a hard surface (boats, dock pipes, boat lifts, etc.). He stated that he was not promoting this product; however, this technology is available. He had a brief conversation with one of the principals in the company, who in turned forwarded these brochures. This device has been tested at marinas at other bodies of water. One unit could potentially

cover a commercial marina, with each unit costing approximately \$80,000. Any additional questions should contact HullMasters directly.

- **NPDES Update**

Welling stated that this is a new development at the federal level for herbicide treatment projects. Due to some recent issues, there is a possible movement at the federal level to further regulate the use of pesticides under the Clean Water Act. For the State of Minnesota, most treatments will be permitted through a general permit, although the thresholds are not known at this time. New steps will most likely require a "Submittal Notice of Intent", as well as the development of a "Pesticide Discharge Management Plan". There is an expectation that a draft general permit will be available in December, with the MPCA working on developing the approaches and capacities on how to deal with this Minnesota.

Osgood stated that one concern is that this could add longer delay time in satisfying the permit requirements than what has been done for this project in the past (possibly 30 to 45 days). Thus, there is a need to get started on the 2011 project that much sooner.

Welling stated further details of the general permit should be known in the near future.

**Next AIS Task Force Meeting**

The next AIS Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 11/19/10, at 8:30 a.m. at the LMCD office.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director