

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, January 14, 2011

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

Present: Dick Woodruff, former LMCD Board; Lisa Whalen, LMCD Board; Chris Jewett, LMCD Board; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Sean Sisler, MN DNR; Brittany Hummel, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Kelly Dooley, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services (Hennepin County); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director. Also present: Tom Lowe, Carmans Bay resident; Chris Dillman, Sun Sailor.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

Welling stated that he had a few minor changes that could be forwarded to Nybeck in writing. He briefly reviewed the proposed minor changes, with the Task Force agreeing to them.

The minutes from the 12/10/10 AIS Task Force Meeting were accepted as amended, including the changes recommended by Welling.

2011 Coordinated Herbicide Treatment Project

Woodruff asked Welling for an update on the proposed herbicide treatment protocol.

Welling made the following comments:

- The proposed treatment plan was not a far along as he had hoped, although he believed that the discussion at this meeting would be beneficial.
- The goal for 2011 is to manage Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and have minimal damage to the non-target native plants. He provided further background on this goal.
- In December, Osgood and the LMA bay captains laid out proposed parameters for the 2011 herbicide treatment protocol. MN DNR staff, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers, has commented on the proposed treatment protocol, which were outlined in a document Welling prepared, dated 1/11/11.

Brough stated that the Task Force has previously discussed the committee's involvement should focus only on Carmans, Grays, and Phelps Bays. The document prepared by Welling makes reference to two new potential bays (Gideon and St. Albans). He questioned whether it was appropriate for the Task Force to have discussion on these bays.

The Task Force discussed the appropriateness of the committee getting involved on possible herbicide treatments on Gideon and St. Albans Bays. The consensus was to continue to focus its efforts on the three bays, with the MN DNR overseeing the possible projects on Gideon and St. Albans Bays. Future correspondence and written materials, including the Final Report for the three-bay project, should not be co-mingled and kept separate if possible.

Osgood reviewed the LMA's proposed treatment protocol recommended to the MN DNR based on the discussion of the bay captains and Patrick Selter from Professional Lake Management (PLM). He made the following comments:

- Potential treatments areas were scoped out by PLM last fall (90 acres on Carmans Bay, 76 acres on Grays Bay, and 26 to 60 acres on Phelps Bay).
- The consensus was that the target plant on all three bays would be EWM, with the possible exception of adding for curlyleaf pondweed on Carmans Bay.
- The use of triclopyr at a rate of 1.0 to 1.25 parts per million (ppm), depending on size of the treatment area and water depths. A later season treatment has been recommended based on the growth state of the EWM rather than water temperatures.
- Bay captains continue to have an interest in a guarantee as part of the treatments.
- The LMA prefers to expedite the Request for Proposals (RFPs) as much as possible.

Welling made a number of comments, which are summarized as follows:

- There is some concern at the MN DNR that the treatment of EWM at 1.0 to 1.25 ppm could be too high, especially for early season treatments based on the 2009 treatments, because the native plants are susceptible in late May or early June.
- The proposed rates are bay-wide target concentrations immediately following the treatments (two hours). The contact time in the water is a key element in determining the effectiveness of a treatment, including the potential impact on non-targeted native plants.
- A key element is to assemble as much water depth information that is available on these bays, which would assist in determining how much herbicide should be applied to attain target concentrations.
- A review of the timing of the treatments needs to be taken into consideration (growth of the EWM and water temperatures) when the decision is made because of potential impacts to natives.

The Task Force discussed the proposed LMA 2011 herbicide treatment protocol. A summary of the discussion was as follows:

- How target concentrations are addressed in the field.
- Organizational complexities of accomplishing target concentrations in the field (noting that this was originally discussed when the Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) was prepared for this project).
- Whether greater information is available on these bays because of the treatment projects the past three years.
- How scientific modeling (water volume measurements) could be of assistance in achieving target concentrations.
- Carmans Bay residents concerns on the 2010 treatment protocol, including whether it is known what application rates are appropriate to achieve target concentrations. There was a discussion of 2010 treatments (including re-treatments) on Carmans Bays.
- This is more of a demonstration project rather than a clean, scientific project. In particular, this is a balancing act of managing EWM while not damaging non-targeted native plants.
- The consensus of the Task Force was that not enough information was available at this point for the Task Force to make a decision on. The consensus was to allow the LMA to work with the MN DNR on resolving the herbicide treatment protocol, with the LMA to send out a RFP for Proposals for 2011. These Proposals would then be reviewed at the next AIS Task Force Meeting, with the proposed February meeting date rescheduled from the 11th to 18th. Barten expressed an interest in reviewing the final RFP for comment purposes.

Welling provided an update on the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be publishing a public notice for this General Permit in the

State Register on January 18th to comply with NPDES requirements. There will be other large treatment projects like these; however, the fees are not known at this time. Informal feedback has indicated that the Environmental Protection Agency is considering moving the deadline back. He recommended that the Task Force wait until the MPCA publishes their General Permit, pointing out that there is a 30-day comment period until February 17th. The MPCA has recognized that timing could be a problem for 2011.

Brough suggested that it would be beneficial to extend an invitation to a MPCA staff member to attend a future Task Force Meeting to discuss what this General Permit accomplishes.

The Task Force discussed the timing of the General Permit and whether it could impact the 2011 three-bay herbicide treatment project. The consensus was to take a wait and see approach.

Woodruff asked Welling to provide an update on possible changes to the LVMP.

Welling stated that there are a finite number of changes. His recommendation was to bring the LVMP in line with how this project is being implemented. He provided an overview of possible changes, which was detailed in a draft version of the LVMP (dated January 2011).

A number of possible changes were discussed by the Task Force. The consensus was to further review this draft LVMP at the next AIS Task Force Meeting.

Update of Zebra Mussel Action Items

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

Update from MN DNR on the Use of Weevils

Welling stated that Mark Washa had recently sent him an e-mail, with a number of references, which stated that weevils work fine for the management of EWM. He asked Welling whether the information provided by Washa was new information, including an assessment of it.

Welling stated that the MN DNR would love biological control agent for management purposes of EWM. Between 1990 and 2000, roughly \$1.3 million was invested in research on this. Weevils will damage EWM, primarily in the absence of fish, in controlled settings (such as tanks and shallow lakes). In deeper lakes, the weevils tend not to be very effective. Crashes do occur, although they do not appear to be permanent. He did not believe that there was any new information included in Washa's e-mail that would justify further investment on the weevils at this time. Most of the information provided was anecdotes by a company that produces weevils.

A summary of the Task Force discussion was as follows:

- There are currently no commercial producers of weevils in the State of Minnesota.
- Some believed that this was an indication on the questionable effectiveness on the use weevils for managing EWM.
- The cultivating of Minnesota grown weevils was a possibility, although this would need to be permitted by the MN DNR and further investigated into.
- There was discussion of concerns of the MN DNR in allowing weevils from other states to be introduced into Minnesota bodies of water.

Additional Business

There was no additional business.

Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next AIS Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 2/18/10, at 8:30 a.m. at the LMCD office.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director