

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Safety Committee
Meeting Report**

3:00 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2011

Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol Headquarters, 4141 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park, MN 55384

Committee Members: Lt. Steve Hartig, Sheriff's Water Patrol; Sgt. Andy Peterson, Sheriff's Water Patrol; Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services; Conservation Officer Aaron Kahre, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Chris Jewett, LMCD Board- Minnetonka; Steve Johnson, LMCD Board- Mound; Keith Kask, LMCD Board- Deephaven; Greg Nybeck, Executive Director; Judd Harper, Administrative Technician. Also present: Jerry Rockvam, Rockvam Boat Yards.

Minnetonka Power Squadron Watercraft Inspections

Rockvam stated that he recently had an inspection done by a Power Squadron in Florida. He believed that this inspection was beneficial to the public and he questioned whether this could be done on Lake Minnetonka, based on his observation of watercraft condition he has seen at his marina, in particular the gas dock.

A summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- The Minnetonka Power Squadron is a voluntary organization that is stretched thin.
- Voluntary vs. mandatory inspections was discussed.
- Johnson and Kask stated that they would check on the number of volunteers available at an upcoming Power Squadron general membership meeting.
- There was interest in considering this request in 2011 on a voluntary basis. Possible dates included: 1) the Annual Safety Day, 2) National Marina Day, and 3) a Voluntary Night.

2010-2011 LMCD Winter Speed Limit Changes

Nybeck stated that a number of speed limit changes were made by the LMCD prior to this winter. These included: 1) increasing the shorezone from 15 to 25 m.p.h., 2) increasing when within 150' of a number of activities from 15 to 25 m.p.h., 3) increasing the nighttime speed limit for snowmobiles from 30 to 50 m.p.h., and 4) establishing the daytime and nighttime speed limit for Black, Emerald, and Seton Lakes at 25 m.p.h.

A summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- Public feedback on the changes indicates that they worked well.
- The signage at the entrances leading into Black, Emerald, and Seton Lakes was difficult to see.
- The number of speeding citations increased from 11 to 26.
- There was a decrease in shorezone citations from 17 to three.

2011 LMCD Solar-Light Program

Harper provided background on this project. This included:

- The project was initiated in 2002 to assist in nighttime navigation.
- The number of red and green solar-lights increased in 2010 from 58 to 70.
- These solar-lights were installed in 2010 by volunteers from the Lake Minnetonka Charter Boat Association.

- 12 new solar-lights are recommended for 2011, with a need to establish a replacement schedule in upcoming years.
- \$2,000 has been budgeted for this project from "Save the Lake" in 2011, with an additional \$1,000 possibly necessary. There is \$3,067 of contingency funds available in the adopted 2011 "Save the Lake" Budget.

The committee discussed this project and the consensus was to proceed with the recommendations made by Harper.

LMCD "High Water" Emergency Regulations

Nybeck stated that there was a good chance that the LMCD would be initiating a "High Water Declaration" based on the LMCD Code in 2011. He reviewed the Code in detail, which included the trigger points and the associated minimum wake restrictions. He questioned whether the committee would like recommend changes to the Board on the existing ordinance. One possible change was to make the entire lake minimum wake during a "High Water Declaration".

The consensus of the committee was that the ordinance worked well the last time a "High Water Declaration" was made in 2006. No changes were recommended by the committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck, Executive Director