

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, April 12, 2013

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

**Present:** Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Jay Green, LMCD Board and Anglers for Habitat; Fred Meyer, LMCD Board, Rob Roy, LMCD Board; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Heidi Wolf, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services; Gabriel Jabbour, Tonka Bay Marina; Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: State Representative Cindy Pugh, District 33B; Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 2/8/13 AIS Task Force Meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Task Force Member Reports**

Brough provided an update on social marketing efforts planned for 2013 at the North Arm and Spring Park Bay public accesses. In particular, AIS banners with targeted messages, in which he provided further background.

Barten reported on the following:

- The MN DNR has recently trained three TRPD employees so that they can trained the estimated 65 to 70 seasonal employees for watercraft inspections. The TRPD is planning an estimated 2,000 hours of inspections for seven or eight sites. He stated that the TRPD will be investing in the purchase of I-Pads, and downloading the available MN DNR application, for reporting of survey results in 2013.
- A high pressure sprayer is in the process of being purchased for when TRPD equipment is moved from lake to lake, in particular the mechanical harvester. This pressure sprayer will be on the truck that hauls TRPD equipment.

Jabbour questioned whether the public was aware that the TRPD in the past assisted the LMCD in its annual EWM mechanical harvesting efforts.

Barten stated that the harvester would spend part of a season on Lake Minnetonka and it has not been used in recent years because a request has not been made.

Nybeck stated that it had been a number of years since the TRPD harvester was used on Lake Minnetonka, in coordination with the LMCD's annual program. It was typically on Lake Minnetonka for a week or two each season. He believed that one of the contributing factors was the requests that the TRPD received from other bodies of water for its use.

Barten stated that the TRPD would entertain a request from the LMCD, noting that the TRPD has used it to harvester through typically June in recent years.

Jabbour stated that his commercial operations will continue to be an extension of agencies that need help. He continued to offered these services, where needed.

Representative Pugh provided a legislative update on pending AIS legislation, in particular H.F. No. 976 and 1442. She stated that she was a freshman legislator and that she was in attendance to learn and observe the discussion. Green provided background of H.F. No. 1442 (in particular, the language of the bill for a decal system and the progress of the bill in the committees). The primary concern he had testified about was the implementation of the bill. Green, Jabbour, and Barten raised concern that this legislation was not coordinated through the MN DNR Advisory Committee.

Roy recommended that this committee take up discussion of licensing boats (within the context of AIS). He stated that the Greenwood City Council currently supports this.

Jabbour provided an update on current efforts for boat operators licensing (to address both public safety and AIS). He reported that both the MCWD and LMCD have supported the concept, in which he provided further background on coalition efforts.

Green stated that the MN DNR Advisory Committee has been meeting and has agreed that doing nothing is not an option. Thus, a letter has been sent to MN DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr and legislators supporting funding for AIS activities. Bob Olson has been elected by the committee to chair it. He reported that Wolf was in attendance at one of the committee meetings, with a discussion of watercraft inspections state-wide and how they possibly could improve.

Woodruff stated that he would be interested in monitoring the minutes from the MN DNR Advisory Committee meetings. He reported that the City of Shorewood would be contracting with Volt Workforce Solutions for watercraft inspections on Christmas Lake in 2013. He provided further details of planned watercraft inspections, in which he communicated he would have interest in data collection options from the MN DNR this year.

Wolf provided a brief overview of methods used by the MN DNR to collect survey data (paper, PDAs, and an application). The application has been offered with local governmental units (LGU) with approved Delegation Agreements for 2013. She provided further background of the new application (as well as the Google Nexus tablets that will be used by MN DNR inspectors in 2013). All questionnaire information, whether it be the MN DNR or a LGU, will be stored in a central database and will able to be retrieved through a querrie. Paper questionnaires will be offered as an alternative for 2013, with the MN DNR using this option as a back-up in 2013. She provided an overview of the questions to be asked in 2013.

Welling stated that he was the Management Coordinator for the MN DNR (focused more on plants rather than animals). He reviewed recommended stakeholder changes from 2011 (including implementation of changes that made sense). One of these changes, which was implemented in 2012, was to move permitting from fisheries. He provided an overview of management efforts that have been implemented in recent years.

Osgood provided an update on herbicide treatments planned for 2013. 2,4-D is being considered as an alternative to triclopyr on Carmans and Phelps Bays, in which he provided further background. He believed that his role in making this decision is to provide assurance of its efficacy. Professional Lake Management, Inc. will be used on all bays other than Carsons/St. Louis Bays, in which Lake Management, Inc. will be used on these bays (based on historical use). A request has been made for the use of fluridone on St. Albans Bay.

Welling commented on the request to use fluridone. The request has been discussed amongst MN DNR staff and the recommendation is to continue to use similar herbicides used in the past. He briefly commented on concerns of the MN DNR with the use of fluridone.

**Discussion of Future Direction of LMCD's AIS Task Force**

Morris stated that he had heard from a number of committee members that they would like to talk about other AIS (rather than just EWM). He asked for feedback on this.

A summary of the comments were as follows:

- Jabbour stated that he believed the LMCD is ineffective in the management of AIS if the primary topic is just EWM. There are a number of other possible AIS that face Lake Minnetonka and he hoped that this team (the LMCD and this advisory committee) could move forward to other issues. The LMCD in the past has provided unique leadership and he hoped to get back to this.
- Roy stated that he believed that decision on topics get bogged down when this committee meets only every two months.
- Jabbour stated that he hoped the LMCD Board would enable the chair of this committee to provide leadership on some topics (i.e., testifying before the legislature in a timely manner).
- Morris stated that an exercise was conducted by the committee recently where goals of prevention and management were discussed. Perhaps the committee jumped the gun and the committee needs to harness the horsepower in this room and meet more frequently.
- Nybeck stated that it would easy to facilitate monthly meetings if that is the direction the committee would like to go. At one time, the Task Force met monthly; however, it was changed to bi-monthly when the agenda items were becoming repetitive.
- Green stated that he would like to focus on credible threats to Lake Minnetonka (including indentifying different actions that what are currently being done today). He used hydrilla as an example.
- Morris stated that he believed these are the most informative committee meetings he can attend. He suggested the idea of meeting more often (provided there is a commitment of the committee to do so).
- Roy stated that he believed the Board would not be aware of H.F. No. 1442 and it would be appropriate for discussion at the next meeting.
- Brough questioned whether there is 100% consensus on this draft legislation. In fact, there could be less consensus on more controversial issues. However, that does not mean the set-up of this Task Force is broken. He stated that he enjoyed the discussion at this meeting today and preferred continuing the current make-up of this committee. Sometimes the direction of the committee may not go the way one would like (citing infra-structure recommendations he made at public accesses a few years ago) but that does not mean the committee is broken.
- Morris stated that he was not troubled that there is not always 100% consensus and he believed that the LMCD Board needs guidance from this committee.

- Woodruff stated that he believed it was up to this committee on what it recommends back to the LMCD Board. He believed it was up to this committee to define its value to the LMCD Board and the Lake Minnetonka residents. He concurred with Brough on the value of sharing of ideas amongst members of the Task Force. One thing currently missing by the LMCD is the discussion with the legislators for ideas relating to Lake Minnetonka (policy, advocacy, and operational role).
- Green stated that he brought to the Board's attention that the LMCD was not part of the Minnesota Sea Grant's Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers (SAH) Campaign. This was referred back to this committee rather than taking action at the Board meeting. This concerned him because becoming a member of this SAH Campaign is straight-forward (with no costs). There was unanimous consensus of the Task Force that a recommendation be made at the next Board meeting that the LMCD sign-up for this membership.
- Welling stated that he has observed value in the discussion in the management of AIS (both Lake Minnetonka and other bodies of water in the area). He recognized that a number of members would like to talk about prevention; however, one unanswered question is how to scope this.
- Jabbour stated that he would like the LMCD Board to advocate for legislation that would make the MN DNR more effective than they are currently. Perhaps a representative could come forward before the LMCD and this committee before a legislation session.
- Osgood recommended that this Task Force initiate work on a Work Plan and Agenda for 2014.

The consensus of the Task Force was to:

1. Recommend that the LMCD become a member of the SAH Campaign at the next LMCD Board meeting.
2. Have a discussion of H.F. No. 1442 at the next LMCD Board Meeting.
3. Initiate a 2014 Work Plan and Agenda at the June AIS Task Force meetings (based on topics raised by Task Force members).
4. Task Force members to have greater input on the agenda for future AIS Task Force meetings.

**Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting**

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 5/10/13.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director