

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, May 10, 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); Keegan Lund, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Craig Dawson, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Eric Fieldseth, MCWD; Gabriel Jabbour, Tonka Bay Marina; Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

The minutes from the 4/12/13 AIS Task Force Meeting were not finalized and will be reviewed at the June meeting.

Task Force Member Reports

Morris stated that Tony Brough was unable to attend the meeting; however, Brough recently forwarded an aerial photo of the North Arm public access in 2012 (illustrating the social marketing project). Questions or comments should be forwarded to Brough.

Lund stated that he had recently been visiting a number of water bodies to assess Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) growth. He reported diminished CLP growth at this time (most likely due to the prolonged winter).

Barten stated that the TRPD was gearing up for its 2013 watercraft inspections, in particular for this weekend. The thought process is that the metro lakes will get more traffic for opening fishing (due to a number of the northern lakes still having ice).

Fieldseth provided an update on zequanox trials planned for this fall with the U.S.G.S. Funding has been requested from the L.C.C.M.R. for open water trials on Robinsons Bay. This will involve the placing of substrates in estimated seven feet of water (along the rocky shoreline) and there will be a need to place buoys in the area to inform the public of submerged hazards. The zequanox treatment is planned for mid September and he asked for feedback from the Task Force.

Nybeck stated that the project would need to be coordinated with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol and the LMCD Board. He offered to assist Fieldseth in this.

Jabbour recommend that there is a need to create a map on the location of the substrates, which should be communicated to the residents in the area.

Woodruff stated that there are No Fishing or Boating (orange) signs, from April 1st through June 30th, along Enchanted Lane in Shorewood. He understood that these signs were experimental, in which the experiment was no longer taking place. He questioned whether these signs could be pulled.

Green stated that he believed this area was a marked MN DNR spawning area.

Welling stated that Mike Netherland from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has made a lot of progress on a Report for five years (over the three bays) and two additional bays (for two years). He reported that he was working with Netherland on this and will keep the Task Force up to date on this Report.

Update from 2013-2015 MN DNR AIS Advisory Committee Members

Morris asked for an update from Barten, Green, and Jabbour.

A summary of the comments were as follows:

- The two bills that were discussed at the April Task Force meeting have died in the current legislative session. However, the Senate has recently approved a L.C.C.M.R. bill that has some funding state-wide (mostly for Asian Carp).
- The committee recently sent a letter to the MN DNR requesting a stable funding source, which was copied to the legislature. There was additional funding including in the Governor's omnibus bill; however, this funding source could go away in the future (not a long-term funding source). There was a discussion of the current funding sources for the MN DNR.
- A legislative sub-committee has been established to better work with the legislators, the MN DNR, and the various stakeholders. Hopefully, this will result in a unified, permanent funding recommendation for the MN DNR in the future.
- There has been discussion on Lake Winnibigosh and the recent zebra mussel infestation (in particular the smaller lakes in the immediate area).
- A recommendation has been made for the League of Minnesota Cities and County attorneys to review the current MN DNR Local Governmental Unit (LGU) Delegation Agreement. The thought process is that this review should make it easier for LGUs to approve this Agreement in the future.
- A Midwest Governors Association Conference is scheduled for mid June to discuss AIS, which will be chaired by Governor Dayton.

Initiate Discussion of a 2014 Work Plan and Agenda

Morris stated that this agenda item was scheduled based on the discussion at the May AIS Task Force meeting. He encouraged a discussion of the proposed topics that have been received for possible inclusion on the 2014 Work Plan and Agenda.

The following topics were discussed by the Task Forces:

- Topic 1- Consider consolidation of AIS Task Force/Advisory Committees focusing on Lake Minnetonka or west metro lakes.
- Topic 2- Review of LMCD's role in AIS prevention and management, including role of the Task Force in guiding the LMCD.
- Topic 3- Develop recommendations regarding the best strategies to manage existing AIS infestations on Lake Minnetonka (a coordinated approach amongst stakeholder agencies would increase the likelihood of success and minimize interagency conflicts).

AIS TASK FORCE MEETING, 5/10/13, PAGE 3

- Topic 4- Review of prospective new AIS risks and preparations for those being introduced.
- Topic 5- Better coordination of the 2014 watercraft inspection program in the Lake Minnetonka area (coordination of MCWD activities with on-going programs would ensure highest risk reduction).
- Topic 6- Develop a list of LMCD legislative policies (similar to what the League of Minnesota Cities does year) to focus the discussion with the legislature.
- Topic 7- Recommendation(s) and justification(s) to the LMCD Board for 2014 AIS treatment budget.

The Task Force had a lengthy discussion of these seven proposed topics. The consensus of the Task Force was as follows:

- To discuss Topic 4 at the June AIS Task Force Meeting (with Osgood and Keegan Lund to provide a one to two page summary sheet for discussion).
- To discuss Topic 1 at the June AIS Task Force Meeting (with Barten and Nybeck to provide a one to two page summary sheet for discussion).

Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 6/14/13.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director