

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, August 9, 2013

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

Present: Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Jay Green, LMCD Board and Anglers for Habitat; Rob Roy, LMCD Board; Keegan Lund, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Craig Dawson, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Eric Fieldseth, MCWD; Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services; Gabriel Jabbour, Tonka Bay Marina; Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Dr. Ray Newman, University of Minnesota (U of M); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

Approval of Agenda

Morris proposed amending the agenda to reschedule the consolidation of the AIS Task Force/Advisory Committees focusing on Lake Minnetonka or west metro lakes agenda item to the September meeting (since Task Force member John Barten was not able to attend this meeting). The agenda was approved as amended.

Minutes

Morris stated that the minutes from the 7/12/13 AIS Task Force Meeting were not finalized and will be prepared for the September meeting.

Task Force Member Reports

Jabbour commented on the following:

- He circulated a letter from Dr. Newman that provided a short update of weevil research. A few Task Force members asked for an overview of the information, in which Dr. Newman commented on.
- He expressed his disappointment in the LMCD recently cancelling a Board of Directors meeting, in which he believed there were adequate topics for the Board to discuss.
- He asked the LMCD to re-consider the Comprehensive Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Plan approved by the Board last spring. Changes were proposed by Chair Babcock, and ultimately approved by the LMCD Board, and he requested approval of the plan proposed by the Task Force.
- The LMCD's harvesting program recently cut a telephone line running from a location in the City of Tonka Bay to Big Island. Century Link recently spliced it and it will cost \$250,000 to replace it, which he believed was the LMCD's responsibility.
- He expressed frustration on: 1) the inability to coordinate a meeting between the LMCD and the commercial marina owners, and 2) that the LMCD's harvesting program was recently ticketed for the transporting of vegetation (noting the employees are not trained as lake service providers).

Roy stated that the City of Greenwood is currently researching a lake improvement district (LID) to assist in the funding of future whole bay or large scale herbicide treatments. He believed that

exploring the LID concept was worthwhile; however, he was unclear on whether it would be established.

Osgood stated that a request was made at the last meeting with regards to a balance sheet for the 2013 herbicide treatment projects. He circulated a balance sheet, dated 8/8/13, and stated that he would take questions at this time or in the future.

Woodruff asked where the contributions from the lakeshore residents was delineated in the balance sheet.

Osgood stated that the contributions from the residents was included in the line-item for the account balance, dated 8/8/13. This does not include anticipated income from MN DNR grants and some cities.

Woodruff stated that he asked this question because he is frequently asked what percentage residents contribute to the overall contributions received for this project.

Osgood stated that he could provide Woodruff this information.

Jabbour asked for clarification on how the level of MN DNR grants vary by bay.

Osgood stated that MN DNR grants vary by bay because the LMA is reimbursed \$100 per acre treated. The LMA has recently received permits on Gideons and Phelps Bays, in which treatments may occur in 2013. He provided further background on the EWM and CLP treatments that have occurred in 2013, excluding Grays Bay.

Dawson stated that the MCWD's draft AIS Management Plan has recently been adopted as an amendment to their Comprehensive Plan. He reported that the United States Geological Services was having some administrative and grant funding issues, in which he questioned whether the Zequanox research planned for this fall will occur. If this happens, treatments would occur next spring and he will keep the Task Force up to speed on this.

Green stated that he was recently fishing on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes, which was recently announced as infested with zebra mussels. A non MN DNR inspector communicated the idea of using bleach or vinegar, which he found interesting, and he observed a number of accesses that were not staffed by inspectors.

Morris stated that he was also recently up north and observed a number of public accesses that were not staffed by inspectors.

Fieldseth stated that hand removal of flowering rush, primarily on Crystal Bay, is planned to start the week of August 19th. He provided greater details of the 2013 project.

Newman stated that he had been participating in these meetings since the early 1990's; however, not as frequently in recent years due to his teaching schedules. He provided a brief update on the AIS Center, which will be managed by Dr Peter Sorenson. In particular, start-up and on-going funding; the

recruitment of a zebra mussel coordinator; and carp research. He provided an update on weevil research he was involved on, including survey work on Lake Minnetonka and other bodies of water.

The Task Force discussed weevil research on Lake Minnetonka. In particular, there are weevils already in Lake Minnetonka, weevils used in Minnesota for control of EWM must be native to the state, the difficulty of breeding weevils rather than bring them in from out of state, the effects of harvesting and herbicide treatments on weevils, and the effectiveness of weevils on small lakes vs. large lakes (such as Lake Minnetonka).

Morris stated that he had observed that water clarity was down in 2013 compared to 2012, although it is still very clear. He asked Fieldseth to research whether the water quality sampling conducted by the MCWD in 2013 supported this.

Fieldseth stated that he would check into this.

Review of Prospective New AIS Risks and Preparations for Those Being Introduced

Morris asked Osgood for background on this agenda item.

Osgood stated that the first two drafts of this document were discussed at the June and July Task Force Meetings. The primary difference in this version is the table on page four from the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council from 2009. Otherwise, the text has remained relatively the same.

Morris asked Dawson how the Task Force and LMCD could champion efforts, in particular for rapid response for different AIS, and partner with the MCWD.

Dawson stated that the MCWD plan adopted does not supersede other local efforts. In fact, it encourages local efforts and coordination with other organizations. With regards to rapid response, the plan identified that it is essential and needs to be done. For Lake Minnetonka, he did envision that the MCWD would most likely support the efforts of the Task Force and the LMCD.

The Task Force had a lengthy discussion of this topic and how it might be presented to the LMCD Board. Some of the highlights of this discussion included the following:

- Whether rapid response should be done (including its effectiveness for plants and animals).
- The various public and private stakeholders (including how to better engage and define the private sector on AIS issues for Lake Minnetonka).
- There is a need to have discussion with the LMCD Board and other stakeholders, including continued education, through a series of work sessions. The Task Force discussed how to prepare and format these work session (one possibility is to use the MN DNR lake service provider training template).
- On-going training for the LMCD Board and staff on AIS was discussed (including how this could assist the Board in making better decisions and educating the city council that appointed them to the Board).
- Training should be done at the high level, although a few proposed changes were discussed. One idea was for the MCWD to take the lead on identifying and scheduling a meeting with staff members for the various stakeholders that manage public accesses on Lake Minnetonka (to identify possible infrastructure changes to reduce AIS threats).

Morris stated that he would schedule an agenda item at the August 28th LMCD Board Meeting to provide an update on this topic. A recommendation will be propose a series of work sessions, including the Board and other stakeholders, on AIS education. He believed that greater structure of how this could work needed to be better defined prior to August 28th and he encouraged feedback from the Task Force on this.

Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 9/13/13.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director