

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SAVE THE LAKE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

8:00 a.m., Monday, August 26, 2013

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

**Present:** Dan Baasen, LMCD Board- Wayzata; Gary Hughes, LMCD Board- Spring Park; Chris Jewett; Jay Soule; Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director. Also in attendance: Kara Owens, Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Lt. Art Saunders, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol (Water Patrol).

**Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes from the 8/5/13 Save the Lake Committee Meeting**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Lake Minnetonka Boater Safety Education Program**

Baasen complimented the efforts of the sub-committee on the program to date. He believed that there was further need to refine budget details for the 2013 pilot program and that he would be providing the LMCD Board an update on August 28th.

Nybeck stated that the committee previously requested that a MN DNR representative be in attendance at this meeting. Thus, Kara Owens was in attendance for the MN DNR. Lt. Saunders is also in attendance because the Water Patrol is a significant partner in this program. With the draft PowerPoint prepared by Hughes for discussion at this meeting, he encouraged feedback from both of them on it.

Baasen concurred that this was a coordinated effort with the MN DNR and the Water Patrol and that input from both agencies was crucial.

Soule stated that the classroom course for the participants to receive their youth operators permit will use the Kalkomey course utilized by the MN DNR as the slide deck for the presentations (with the participants following along on a tablet). The goal is that this format should allow for questions to be asked as the course goes along. In addition to this course, the participants will learn about additional rules on Lake Minnetonka that are more restrictive than the State of Minnesota's. The desired outcome is for the participants to secure their youth operators permit, to participate in educational breakout sessions, and to be better educated on Lake Minnetonka rules. The draft PowerPoint to be reviewed during this agenda item summarizes rules that are unique to Lake Minnetonka.

Hughes stated that work on the draft PowerPoint has been prepared in three categories (Times for Activities, Distances Between Activities, and Safety and Special Rules). Within these categories, rules unique to Lake Minnetonka identified in the draft PowerPoint were highlighted by Hughes, in which he provided greater details of. He asked for feedback to further refine the draft PowerPoint.

A summary of the discussion was as follows:

- The MN DNR in recent years has changed the term "personal flotation devices" to "life jackets" (based on a change by the U.S. Coast Guard).
- A common issue observed by the Water Patrol is expired "watercraft registrations" rather than "licenses". Perhaps this topic, as well as other Water Patrol concerns, could be covered by the Water Patrol speaker during the lunch time slot.
- The rules for water skiing and other towing devices should be changed to "water sports" since there are a wide range of towing activities that occur on Lake Minnetonka.
- There is a great deal of confusion by all operators (youth and adults) relating to buoys. Emphasis should focus on reviewing the buoys systems on Lake Minnetonka, in particular danger and point buoys, with aerial maps depicting the buoy layout in Black Lake and Lower Lake North (near the Arcola Bridge).
- How much time has been allocated for Lake Minnetonka rules (currently 60 minutes), including whether a test or quiz is being considered. There was a brief discussion on whether additional time was needed for Lake Minnetonka and/or a need to further reduce the length of the PowerPoint.
- There was a discussion of taking the youth operator's permit aspect of this program through the booklet in advance of the classroom setting vs. taking the course on-line at the classroom (including whether answers to questions on the on-line course might be provided at the classroom setting). The goal of the classroom setting is to provide the participants an experience by learning the materials from the State of Minnesota and Lake Minnetonka, as well as securing the youth operators permit, so that the information can be applied.
- Pre-registration requirements, including the possibility of participants reading the MN DNR Boat Guide prior to the classroom setting.
- A recommendation was made to downplay that state law does not require a life jacket during water skiing or towing other devices. Although that state law only requires the life jacket to be in the boat, the MN DNR recommends that a life jacket be worn. This message should be clarified in the Lake Minnetonka PowerPoint.
- A review of a proposed budget for the pilot program for on-line registration with Kalkomey, technology needs, lunch, breakout session needs, and miscellaneous. A recommendation was made for Save the Lake to cover the expenses (no charge to the participants) to provide an incentive to attend (recognizing an eight hour training session is a large time commitment).
- Action items from this discussion included:
  - 1) Continue with the Kalkomey on-line course;
  - 2) Further refine the draft PowerPoint for Lake Minnetonka rules (based on feedback);
  - 3) To coordinate a pre-pilot course (rehearsal) at the Water Patrol office to check if there are any issues associated with taking the on-line course with Kalkomey;
  - 4) A recommendation needs to be made to the LMCD Board that the costs of the 2013 pilot program should be paid by Save the Lake (no costs to the participants);
  - 5) Staff was directed to secure aerial depiction of the buoy layouts at Black Lake and Lower Lake North (near the Arcola Bridge);
  - 6) Targeting November 16th or 23rd as possible dates for the 2013 pilot program training session; and
  - 7) Recruitment of participants for the 2013 pilot program would be ideally done through LMCD Board members.

**Discussion of Soliciting Proposals for 2014**

The committee briefly discussed this (with the consensus that this should occur yet this fall). The committee directed Nybeck to prepare the materials for review and committee discussion at the next meeting.

**Discussion of Fall/Winter Solicitation Letter**

Baasen stated that a fall/winter solicitation letter was scheduled to be mailed in the near future (most likely in October). He hoped to gather feedback from committee members on contents for this letter (other than the Boater Safety Education and Solar-Light programs).

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director