

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, November 8, 2013

LMCD Office, 5341 Maywood Road (Suite 200), Mound, MN 55364

Present: Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Jay Green, LMCD Board; Fred Meyer, LMCD Board; Rob Roy, LMCD Board; Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Craig Dawson, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Eric Fieldseth, MCWD; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dr. Ray Newman, University of Minnesota (U of M); Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Joe Shneider, Coalition of Minnehaha Creek Waters; Marty Walsh, Carver County Parks.

Approval of Agenda

Morris recommended moving agenda item 5 ahead of agenda item 4. The agenda was approved as amended.

Minutes

The minutes from the 10/11/13 AIS Task Force Meeting were approved as amended, changing references in the Gary Montz discussion on pages one and two from "water" to "residual water".

Consider Consolidation of AIS Task Force/Advisory Committees on Lake Minnetonka or West Metro Lakes

Morris stated that the LMCD Board of Directors discussed this concept at its October 23rd Board meeting (with Task Force member John Barten in attendance). Overall, he believed that the Board was supportive of the concept of a super committee for AIS and encouraged further review by the Task Force. However, the Board would still need to have a committee (possibly this super committee) to address LMCD and Lake Minnetonka issues. He asked for further comments from LMCD Board members.

Green stated that the Board recognized that the LMCD, as well as other organizations that might participate in this larger committee, would most likely need their own policy committee.

Fieldseth questioned if the Board was supportive of the broader concept of a super committee or the committee concept as detailed on the one-page summary sheet.

Morris stated that he believed the Board was supportive of the broader concept, in which he elaborated. A question that he had was whether the MCWD would like to be part of such a larger committee.

Fieldseth stated that he believed the MCWD would be supportive of the broader concept of a larger committee. However, he believed there would be some concerns about concepts in the one-page outline (i.e., a paid facilitator). He believed that the MCWD could be of assistance in convening such a broader stakeholder committee that is less formalized.

Osgood stated that the one-page outline was prepared as a result of meeting that he, Nybeck, and Barten recently had (in follow-up to the October Task Force Meeting discussion). He recognized that the outline had not totally been flushed out. However, he believed that the role of the paid facilitator would be to:

1) coordinate and set the stage for meetings, 2) suggest and apply rules of conduct for meetings, 3) facilitate meetings from a neutral standpoint, and 4) work between meetings to resolve issues and keep the process moving forward.

There was a lengthy discussion of this topic. Highlights of this discussion included the following:

- Whether a consultant would need some level of AIS knowledge or primarily serve as a facilitator.
- Whether there is a different approach to consolidating the number of AIS advisory committees and developing a consistent message.
- How strategies and tactics could be done on a regional basis by a number of organizations (i.e., watercraft inspections). In addition, this committee could identify when there is not a consensus.
- Whether the recently adopted MCWD AIS Plan may address some of the strategic and tactical questions that may arise on a regional basis outside of the watershed.
- The various organizations that coordinated watercraft inspections in 2013 (including strategies and tactics implemented). There was discussion of how strategies and tactics might be improved on regional basis.
- It was noted that the outline would address invasive species in addition to watercraft inspections.
- Whether a regional approach for management of AIS made sense.
- Whether one issue could be checked into on a regional basis other than watercraft inspections (not duplicating the efforts of the MN DNR). For example, setting regional educational standards for cleaning of docks and water accessories.
- How this concept might be presented to the various organizations that might participate on a larger regional committee.
- A discussion of past stakeholder meetings coordinated by the MN DNR for AIS prevention and management efforts. A question was raised as to whether the MN DNR would support regional decontamination as an idea. It was noted that there is a statewide AIS plan (with a greater expenditures spent on prevention rather than management).
- How the larger committee could possibly provide best management practices for non MN DNR public access ramps.
- What the geography of a larger committee might include.
- The issues that MN DNR staff have because of existing state statutes and funding limitations. It was noted that a consistent message from a larger committee could have influence on the state legislature.
- The consensus was to further discuss this topic at the January AIS Task Force meeting. Barten, Dawson, Osgood, and Nybeck were to provide further details on the one-page outline, taking into consideration the following:
 1. Better identification of strategies and tactics on a regional basis;
 2. Better identification of the geographical boundaries for a regional committee;
 3. Identify a work product for this regional committee (a position statement); and
 4. Identify clear objectives, with benefits, to justify the idea of a paid, independent facilitator.

Task Force Member Reports

Newman stated that an offer has been made, and accepted, to Dr. Michael McCartney as the Zebra Mussel Coordinator for the Minnesota AIS Research Center. He provided further background on his credentials and believed that his start date was December 2nd.

Osgood stated that he had recently attended a North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) Symposium. One of the topics discussed related to early detection of quagga mussels west of the 100th meridian. The discussion focused on the early detection methods that can be used (in particular the large number of federal reservoirs where containment, rather than eradication, is a primary goal for the infrastructure). He stated that he would be participating in a conference call, this date, with Dr. Mike Netherland to discuss hybrid milfoil that was identified on Grays and Phelps Bay by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2013 as a result of the survey work they conducted. He provided further background on what hybrid milfoil is and he stated that he would keep the Task Force up to date once he knew more.

Green commented on the following:

- An overview of an Asian carp article he had recently reviewed relating to their reproduction in a watershed in the State of Michigan (including understood spawning requirements).
- An update on the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force that Gabriel Jabbour attended in Washington D.C. Jabbour testified with regards to the "green boat" design, which he believed that Jabbour will remain active in pushing this effort forward with the boating industry. Currently, AlumaCraft is looking at redesigning some of their livewells so that they drain better.
- The current state statute has an AIS message of "Clean, Drain, and Dispose" while the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers (SAH) message is "Clean, Drain, and Dry". There was a discussion to change the language in the state statute so that it is the same as the SAH message (primarily so that there is a consistent message).
- The MN DNR, through its legislative agenda, is proposing mandatory boater permitting legislation. This legislation will have an AIS component as part of the proposal.
- The MN DNR has an interest in shielding Lake Minnetonka from getting new invasive species introduced. He noted that Lake Minnetonka historically tends to get new invasive introduced nearly first (primarily due to high use by the public).

Dawson stated that the MCWD currently has an economic study being conducted with the U of M Applied Economics Department. He envisioned that this study would take into consideration cost/benefits and relative risks for prevention. The MCWD is nearing completion of a contract with the MN AIS Research Center for carp management study in the Six Mile sub-watershed.

Welling stated that he would be engaging stakeholders to discuss management efforts this winter. This process was last done in 2011 and a number of changes were made by the MN DNR as a result of these meetings. Conservation Minnesota is planning a meeting for next May in Brainerd, which is believed some focus would be on AIS. The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference is being planned for October, 2014 in Duluth.

Woodruff questioned whether the MCWD had observed the efficacy of watercraft inspections conducted at Christmas Lake in 2013.

Dawson stated that the MCWD had not made observations due to a contract they had with the City of Shorewood to coordinate the watercraft inspections in 2013.

Brasch questioned when the statistics would be available from the MN DNR for the watercraft inspections conducted in 2013 by the TRPD (noting that this information was needed to prepare a summary report). He stated that he would follow-up with Adam Doll on this. In 2013, the MCWD provided partial grant

funding for rotational watercraft inspectors for bodies of water in Carver County. He questioned whether this will be offered in 2014?

Dawson stated that these funds are included in the adopted 2014 MCWD Budget, with an interest in possibly expanding this effort.

Meyer stated that he would have an interest in coordinating the various watercraft inspection reports together.

2013 LMCD EWM Harvesting Program Final Report

Nybeck stated that this agenda item was provided as informational; however, he would welcome questions or comments.

Woodruff asked for clarification in the reduction in EWM harvested in 2013.

Nybeck stated that he believed the lack of EWM growth, in particular during the early part of the summer, and the reduced number of bays to be harvested because of the whole bay (or large scale) treatments coordinated by the LMA contributed to this.

Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 12/13/13, at the LMCD office. The primary discussion at this meeting will be possible 2014 AIS prevention efforts for Lake Minnetonka

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director