

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, January 17, 2014

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

Present: Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Jay Green, LMCD Board; Rob Roy, LMCD Board; Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services (Hennepin County); Eric Fieldseth, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Adam Doll, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dr. Ray Newman, University of Minnesota (U of M); Dick Osgood; Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Joe Shneider, Coalition of Minnehaha Creek Waters; Marty Walsh, Carver County Parks; Sam Pertz, Carver County Parks.

Approval of Agenda

Morris stated that the draft minutes from the December 13th AIS Task Force Meeting were not finalized and should be removed from the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

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

Morris asked for background on this agenda item from Barten.

Barten stated that there seems to not be consensus on what this consolidated committee could do. The current proposal is to have one topic or issue that could be discussed within the broader context. This would allow to see if it makes sense to discuss or coordinate this topic or issue, on a larger scale, as how a coordinated consolidated committee could work. The intent of a larger, consolidated committee would be to have an improve regional effectiveness. He provided an overview of a one-page outline that he had prepared for the possible role of watercraft inspections in the west metro (in consultation with Craig Dawson, Nybeck, and Osgood).

A summary of the discussion was as follows:

- Support of the communication and discussion at the broader context at this time. However, presuming commitments for the various organizations is not a viable assumption at this time.
- Some topics are much easier to do (i.e., improved signage at public accesses using the Hennepin County model). However, it might be more difficult for Carver County to work on changing expectations at the various lakes they are involved with (i.e., the number of days and hours covered by watercraft inspectors).
- Each organization has its own budget and criteria for when inspectors are at the public launches. A question was raised as to whether these inspections could be improved on a regional basis.
- This larger committee should be working towards a framework that all organizations can agree to (although this may take some time).
- The geography of such a larger committee and whether there was full representation at this meeting. Organizations that were not in attendance at this meeting that might have interest in this

include the City of Chanhassen, City of Eden Prairie, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Nine Mile Creek, and Riley Purgatory Creek Watershed District.

- The Task Force discussed a larger West Metro AIS Committee Meeting and how to encourage these organizations to attend a meeting to discuss this topic with them. Watercraft inspections is a first sample topic and there could be other topics for the coordinating committee to discuss.
- The need for coordinated, identification of watercraft inspectors so that the public understands that the person is a watercraft inspector (this could possibly be done through this coordinating committee). Alternative discussion was a badge or certification from the MN DNR for Level 1 inspectors (or a Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers banner).
- The consensus was to schedule a first West Metro AIS Committee Meeting. The tentative meeting date was established for Thursday, January 30th (targeting 1:30 p.m. at the MCWD office). Nybeck was directed to work with Barten and the MCWD on coordinating details for this kick-off and organizational meeting.

Discuss 2014 Watercraft Inspection Options for Lake Minnetonka

Morris asked for background on this agenda item from Nybeck.

Nybeck stated that there are grant deadlines for the MN DNR and MCWD for 2014 watercraft inspections in the near future. He reviewed the 2013 Watercraft Inspection Program on Lake Minnetonka (duration, inspection days, coverage times, public accesses covered and not covered, the type of watercraft inspectors, and partners). For 2014, he believed that there are at least three options to consider. First, the 2013 program could continue (contracting with Volt Workforce Solutions (Volt) or another temporary agency). Second, the 2013 program could continue in 2014 with added supervision and the inspectors being seasonal employees of the LMCD. Third, the LMCD could allow another partner or stakeholders to assume the project management (with the LMCD possibly providing this organization grant funding). Preliminary draft budgets have been prepared for Options 1 and 2. He stated that added funds have been included in both options for additional supervision, which was a problem in 2013, and the purchase of tablets and accessories for the MN DNR survey requirement.

A summary of the Task Force discussion was as follows:

- What the appropriate hourly rate is for budgeting purposes in Option 1 with Volt or another temporary agency.
- How the efficacy on the supervision of watercraft might improve should a decision be made to hire these inspectors in house.
- The consensus of the Task Force was that there is a need to purchase tablets in 2014 (there was a question on the data collected in 2013 through written surveys by the LMCD). There was an overview provided by Doll on tablets purchased, with accessories, by the MN DNR in 2013.
- The level of staffing needs was discussed (based on the proposed total number of watercraft inspection hours).
- A question was raised as to contracting out with a temporary agency (Volt or another) and the LMCD hiring a supervisor for 2014.
- No recommendation was made by the Task Force on which option to proceed with.

Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 2/14/14, at the LMCD office.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director