

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, April 11, 2014

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

**Present:** Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Jay Green, LMCD Board; Tom Frahm, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Josh Leddy, LMA; Jill Bjorklund, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Craig Dawson, MCWD; Eric Fieldseth, MCWD; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 3/14/14 AIS Task Force Meetings were approved as submitted.

**AIS Task Force Member Reports**

Welling provided an update on two topics. First, he provided an update on 2014 aquatic plant management (APM) program activities. To date, 90 applications have been received for the central region (with a number of permits already being issued). This compares to 80 APM permits issued for all of 2013. He stated that there will be a number of grant applications received for permits issued. Second, a meeting was recently conducted with a small number of stakeholders (primarily recently permitted baywide projects). He believed that the meeting was beneficial and a second meeting will be coordinated in Brainerd. He provided a brief overview of changes proposed by stakeholders, noting that some changes could be made where appropriate.

Woodruff suggested that viewing of these types of meetings live (i.e., a webinar) could improve participation.

Welling stated that he would check into this.

Barten stated that 60 to 70 seasonal employees are scheduled to be trained for watercraft inspections at TRPD launches in 2014. A TRPD supervisor will conduct this training, in which these supervisors will be certified by the MN DNR. In 2014, the MN DNR grant will be reduced to \$4,000 (primarily because of increased demand for these grant funds). The TRPD is currently trying to address how to address this. In 2014, the City of Maple Grove and the Fish Lake Homeowners Association have provided additional funding to increase watercraft inspections on Fish lake. The City of Plymouth is also considering this for Medicine Lake in 2014.

Woodruff questioned whether the TRPD would be open to provide watercraft inspectors, with the appropriate funding, to the City of Shorewood for Christmas Lake.

Barten stated that the TRPD has typically approved projects (i.e., water quality monitoring) for lakes where the agency has property. He believed that the same would be true for watercraft inspections.

Green provided an update on three topics. First, further work needs to be done on the draft AIS educational brochure discussed in March. Second, he provided a brief update on discussions he had with the MCWD and MN DNR on a self certification program. Third, an article is planned for the upcoming LMCD newsletter on AIS do's and don'ts for the 2014 boating season.

Nybeck provided a brief update on the 2014 Watercraft Inspection and Eurasian Watermilfoil Harvesting Programs. He suggested that it would be beneficial, possibly a MCWD employee, to be certified similar to the TRPD so that additional training sessions are available for the 2014 season.

Woodruff stated that he had a chance to follow-up with regards to what happens to yard waste, which could include EWM and zebra mussels, after it is picked up by commercial haulers. He provided the following information:

- Phone calls have been made to seven commercial haulers, in which he has talked four. There was mixed feedback on the risk for EWM and zebra mussels; however, they are all aware of the risk for emerald ash borer included in yard waste.
- For yard waste with tree branches, they generally treat this as though it has emerald ash borer and it is disposed at locations where this is allowed.
- For yard waste with EWM and zebra mussels, they will not take this (based on the weight of the bag). A question remains as to whether this is happening.
- The understanding of the risks involved in hauling yard waste with EWM and zebra mussels varies. None of the commercial haulers have had the necessary training.
- The locations where this yard waste is taken to include: 1) a St. Bonifacius mulch store, 2) Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and 3) an unspecified Hennepin County site. As part of the discussion, it was clarified that this goes to a large University of Minnesota (U of M) site in Dakota County. The site in Hennepin County is serving as a transfer site.
- There is a state statute regarding the transfer of AIS. In particular, the self-permitting form that allows for the cleaning of docks and other equipment off-site. This does not apply to commercial haulers and there is a question of whether there is a problem with state statute.
- He believed that the commercial haulers he talked to were receptive and willing to pass along educational materials to their employees. He questioned what might be available to send out to them.

Welling stated that he could check into this.

Dawson stated that the MCWD Board last night took action on a number of cost-sharing grant applications for 2014. These actions will be on the consent agenda in two weeks at the MCWD Board meeting. All totaled, \$190,000 has been dedicated towards watercraft inspections in 2014. Implementation on parts of the MCWD AIS Plan are scheduled in 2014, in which Fieldseth will provide further background on. Bjorklund has been hired as a seasonal employee to assist on this.

Fieldseth stated early detection monitoring is planned in 2014 to get a better idea of what AIS is in the field. The idea is to start with lakes that have public accesses. The protocol is currently being fine-tuned and is being modeled similar to what the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has utilized. Additionally, the MCWD is looking into an incentive rewards based program to reward the public for doing the right thing.

Dawson stated that the MCWD has recently finalized an agreement with the U of M AIS Research Center to conduct a carp management assessment in the Six Mile Creek sub-watershed. The primary purpose for this project is the impact that carp have on Halstead Bay water quality.

Leddy stated that herbicide treatment projects planned in 2014 are coming along. The bays that may have some funding issues include North Arm and Phelps (east and west).

**Update from 2013-2015 MN DNR AIS Committee Members**

Morris asked for background on this agenda item from Green and Barten.

Green stated that there was discussion at the most recent meeting of what is planned for the upcoming year. Additionally, there was discussion of funding proposals before the legislature, noting that a number of similar bills from 2013 are being considered. He provided greater details on this.

Barten stated that a letter of support has been sent to the legislature for funding of the U of M AIS Research Center.

Green stated that there was discussion of the MN DNR volunteer program for public accesses, noting that volunteers have the authority for educational purposes (not watercraft inspections).

Barten stated that it appears as though a number of volunteers outside the metro area are acting as Level 1 watercraft inspectors (not volunteers for educational purposes). At some point, this will become an issue for the MN DNR to deal with.

The committee had a lengthy discussion on this topic. A summary of the discussion was as follows:

- Whether a municipality could issue an administrative citation.
- The idea of training local peace officers to issue AIS citations. It was noted that this was being done by TRPD officers and Carver County deputies( after they receive the proper training from the MN DNR).
- The idea of watercraft inspectors documenting potential AIS violations (i.e., photos, license plate numbers, etc.).
- The process currently communicated by inspectors when an AIS violation is observed for incoming watercraft (including recommending that the watercraft is not launched).
- A question relating to the number of citations issued by the MN DNR in recent years.
- A discussion took place on whether to gauge interest from the local police departments on AIS training (i.e., possibly the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department).

**Highlights of March 19th MCWD AIS Symposium**

Morris asked for background on this agenda item from Dawson.

Dawson stated that around 100 people were in attendance and engaged in the discussion. Emphasis was placed on: 1) what private businesses are currently doing relative to AIS, and 2) efforts being coordinated in the State of Colorado. He clarified that waters in the State of Colorado are privately owned and there approximately 10 percent of the boaters in Colorado (when compared to the State of Minnesota).

Barten stated that one piece of information he took away from this was from Mike Hoff from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In particular, there are a billion aquatic organisms sold in the United States

annually, most of which are non-natives. For these organisms, there is very little regulations for them. With regards to comparing Minnesota to Colorado and other western states, he believed that this was not appropriate (apples to oranges).

Woodruff concurred that the lakes in Colorado are entirely different than Minnesota.

Green stated that a presentation was made by Larry Meddock from the Watersports Industry Association regarding a filter used for ballast type boats to filter out the veligers. This has received a great deal of attention nationwide and is being considered for design standards set by the American Boat and Yacht Council.

Leddy stated that St. Boni Motorsports is selling these type of filters locally.

Dawson stated that he believed the symposium was beneficial and could be coordinated again in a couple of years.

**Update of March 21st West Metro AIS Committee Meeting**

Morris asked for background on this agenda item from Barten.

Barten stated that a sub-committee was established to provide the committee an update on existing AIS educational materials (standardized messaging for the west metro area). He believed that there has been some level agreement on duplication of the committee and this Task Force, in which some committee members expressed an interest in attending this Task Force meeting to observe how this committee works. Since none of these committee members were in attendance at this meeting, this might be an indication that members are getting overloaded on AIS committees. The next West Metro AIS Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 18th.

Woodruff questioned how a legislative policy activity could be best coordinated amongst the various organizations.

Barten and Green believed that this could be best coordinated by the MN DNR AIS Advisory Committee.

Woodruff stated that he believed it would be beneficial to better understand what is being considered by the MN DNR AIS Advisory Committee.

**Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting**

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 5/9/14, at the LMCD office.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director