

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, May 9, 2014

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; Tom Frahm, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Josh Leddy, LMA; Dick Osgood, LMA; Craig Dawson, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (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 4/11/14 AIS Task Force Meeting were approved as submitted.

Update on West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee

Morris asked for an update on this agenda item.

Nybeck stated that he and Barten had prepared summary memo, dated 5/1/14, summarizing what has been accomplished by the committee and recommendations for the near future. He asked Barten to provide further background on this topic.

Barten stated that the most recent committee meeting was on April 18th, in which attendance was sparse. A sub-committee was scheduled to meet prior to this to discuss communication opportunities in the west metro area, in which they had not met. The consensus of those in attendance on April 18th was that now is not a good time for this committee to take off. He believed that the concept of coordinating AIS on a regional basis was sound; however, the pooling of funds for projects on a regional basis (i.e., watercraft inspections) was a tough political sell at this time. An additional topic was whether consensus could be accomplished for watercraft inspections on a regional basis (i.e., 100% inspections and decontamination stations), which could not be accomplished at these meetings. Looking ahead, he and Nybeck believed that there would be benefit for this committee to continue to meet periodically (in conjunction with the meeting schedule for the LMCD AIS Task Force). Should there not be adequate attendance at these West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee meetings, the recommendation would be to abandon this committee for the foreseeable future.

The proposed meeting schedule for the balance of 2014 was:

LMCD AIS Task Force (*)	West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee (**)
Friday, June 13th	Friday, July 11th
Friday, August 8th	Friday, October 10th
Friday, September 12th	
Friday, November 14th	
Friday, December 12th	
(*) Meetings are proposed at 8:30 a.m. (LMCD office)	(**) Meetings are proposed at 8:30 a.m. (Location to be determined)

Review of Becker County AIS Educational Brochure

Morris asked for background on this agenda item from Green.

Green stated that he was trying to replicate this brochure for Lake Minnetonka. This has been harder than he anticipated because the contents he would like to include for Lake Minnetonka do not exist. Representatives from Becker County have offered to use this 16 page brochure (10,000 copies were printed for the Becker County area at 24 cents per brochure). He asked for feedback from the Task Force on the contents of this brochure.

A summary of the Task Force discussion was as follows:

- The level of text and whether it was too much (whether the public would read it).
- What information has been left out of the brochure (i.e., logo changes and possible content changes).
- The idea of getting feedback from the public on the brochure (i.e., a survey monkey or tear card).
- What funding source(s) is available for the printing of such a brochure for Lake Minnetonka.
- The idea of sending this type of brochure with a fishing or watercraft license.
- Possible local distribution opportunities (i.e., LMCD member cities, local licensing centers on a voluntary basis, commercial marinas, and local bait shops).
- Whether this brochure, as modified, would satisfy the request from the Mound city council on the distribution of a brochure to the public. The MN DNR "Help Protect Minnesota Waters" brochure was discussed as an alternative.

LMA, Update on 2014 Whole Bay or Large Scale Herbicide Treatments

Morris asked for an update on what is planned for 2014.

Leddy stated that grants have been secured from the MN DNR for treatment projects in 2014. A final decision has not been made with regards to Phelps Bay because of funding concerns, which he expounded on. He reported that a number of residents are burned out on the fundraising component of this project and he would be interested in an update on the lake improvement district (LID) effort on St. Albans Bay. He reported that the remaining bays have the funding necessary to proceed in 2014 and are pending a pre-inventory, which has been pushed back due to the high lake levels.

Roy provided an update on the LID project in St. Albans Bay. One of the challenges for some residents is the idea of contributing voluntarily vs. contributing a tax through an established LID. He believed that there is a need for further education on this. He reported that over 50% of the signatures have been received, which meets the MN DNR guidelines. However, this falls short of the guidelines established by the City of Greenwood. He provided further background on the properties included on the proposed LID on St. Albans Bay. It appears that the earliest the LID could become effective for taxing purposes would be 2016. He stated that the homeowners would have the ability to dissolve the LID in the future.

Leddy stated that treatments are planned in seven of the eight bays identified as suitable for whole bay or large scale treatments.

Morris asked what herbicides are planned for 2014.

Leddy stated that the type of herbicides used will take into consideration funds available for treatments. Herbicides being considered include tricopyr and 2-4D.

Update on Peace Officer Training for AIS

Morris stated that he believed there was interest by the LMCD Board in offering peace officer for AIS at the local level. He asked for Task Force feedback and discussion on this topic.

A summary of the Task Force discussion was as follows:

- The level of other training already being conducted by the local police departments.
- The idea of bringing this AIS training, which would be provided by the MN DNR, to the local police departments (in-house).
- The level of enforcement that might be done at the local level should local police departments decide to train their officers on AIS (another tool in the toolbox).
- An update on the training offered by a MN DNR Conservation Officer (Adam Block). The primary feedback the MN DNR needs is interest at the local level.
- A discussion of civil prosecutions vs. criminal (including potential prosecution costs).
- There was a suggestion that perhaps the LMCD could coordinate this effort with its member cities (through the city councils).
- A discussion of citations issued statewide by the MN DNR in 2013.
- The consensus was that the Task Force supported this effort at the local level. The following action items were established:
 1. Provide the LMCD Board an update at the May 14th meeting, with a recommendation that a letter be sent out to the member cities (mayors, city administrators, and police chiefs).
 2. Woodruff stated that he would assist in the preparation of this draft letter.

AIS Task Force Member Reports

Dawson stated that the requests for funding from the MCWD for 2014 watercraft inspections have recently been approved. He anticipated the cost-share agreements being finalized in the near future. He provided a brief update on the recent departure of former District Administrator Eric Evenson.

Frahm stated that the LMA had recently hired a new Executive Director. She started on May 1st and that he and Leddy would continue to represent the LMA on this Task Force. He provided a background on her experience (primarily non-profit and fundraising). A number of members encouraged her attendance at a future Task Force meeting.

Barten stated that the TRPD was in the process of training over 100 Level 1 watercraft inspectors. He reported that some of these inspectors will be working for the LMCD in 2014. Additionally, recent training has been offered for local lake service providers.

Nybeck stated that training the trainer, as offered by the MN DNR and utilized by the TRPD, needs to be taken considered at the local level in the future.

Barten provided a brief update on legislation recently passed to allocate \$10 million statewide for AIS management at the county level.

Green stated that he provided the MN DNR AIS Advisory Committee on the commercial hauling of waste, which was discussed at the April meeting. He reported that one of the canine dogs used for zebra mussel detection had recently been replaced and that 36 roadside checks are planned in 2014 (compared to 18 in 2013).

Fieldseth stated that that the MCWD was initiating the process to prepare a document for AIS Rapid Response. There appears to be interest in preparing such a document and he was at the early stages of scheduling a meeting for such. Additionally, he provided a brief overview of partnership planned with Freshwater Scientific and the Army Corps of Engineers in 2014.

Woodruff stated that a Shorewood resident has requested a terrestrial a chemical treatment policy or plan for the use triclopyr. He indicated that he would keep the Task Force up to date on this.

Welling stated that the plants are growing slowly so far in 2014 (most likely due to the cool spring). The stakeholder meeting scheduled for April 16th in Brainerd was cancelled due to the weather. This meeting will be rescheduled with a date to be determined.

Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 6/13/14, at the LMCD office.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director