

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, June 13, 2014

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

Present: Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Fred Meyer, LMCD Board; Tom Frahm, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Josh Leddy, 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); Dr. Ray Newman, University of Minnesota (U of M). Also in attendance: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Merideth Moore, City of Eden Prairie; Gabriel Jabbour.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

The minutes from the 5/9/14 AIS Task Force Meeting were approved as submitted.

Gabriel Jabbour, Update on Boat Design Standards and AIS

Morris asked for an update on this agenda item from Jabbour.

Jabbour stated that his efforts have taken a different approach in the management and prevention of AIS (affecting how boats are designed). He believed that risk management for the spread of AIS would be greatly improved if boat design standards were changed to allow for boats to be cleaned easier and minimize retaining ballast water. A summary of his comments were as follows:

- A review of a meeting he coordinated with the MN DNR AIS Advisory Committee last year at Tonka Bay Marina (including the challenges of adequately cleaning the various types of boats that were demonstrated at this meeting).
- Background on the National Marine Manufacturing Association (NMMA), which included that they are funded by a \$75 fee for each motor purchased. One of the challenges he has been addressing with the NMMA is how pontoon boats are currently designed and the extreme difficulty of adequately cleaning the interior of pontoons for AIS. In general, the NMMA is a marketing company that is more interested in selling boats.
- A second organization that establishes boat design standards is the American Boat and Yacht Club (ABYC). The ABYC is a non-profit organization that specializes more in the engineering of boats (relies more on voluntary compliance with the standards that they establish). Through an extensive effort with the ABYC President, the ABYC has agreed to prepare boat design standards for AIS.
- The ABYC has proposed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate a gathering of 250 people in the fall to discuss these standards. A key to this meeting will be to communicate the benefits of boats that self drain.
- An update on a filter, which is used for filtering of water in ballasts for ski and wakeboard boats, and its availability to the public as an option for AIS.

- A review of possible changes that could be made taking into consideration AIS. He expressed a concern about using water that is hotter than 100 degrees for decontamination purposes.
- An update on a project he was hosting with Dr. McCarthy (U of M AIS Research Center) and Gary Montz (MN DNR) on the testing of water for watercraft that are being stored via dry stacking.
- He entertained questions and comments from the Task Force.

The Task Force has a brief discussion of conversations he had with the conversations that Jabbour has had on this topic with some boat manufacturers. The Task Force thanked Jabbour for his efforts and encouraged him to continue this good work.

Discussion of 5/29/14 AIS Peace Officers Training Letter

Morris stated that the idea of offering peace officer training to the local police departments has recently been discussed and supported by this Task Force and the LMCD Board. In response to this, a letter has been prepared and sent out to the 14 LMCD member cities. He asked for an update on feedback to this letter from Nybeck.

Nybeck stated that the Deephaven police department has expressed interest and he has been put in contact with MN DNR Conservation Officer Adam Block for this. The offer to train local peace officers has been presented to the Shorewood and Wayzata City Councils, with a presentation planned in June for the Orono City Council. The training is planned at each police department and the goal is to have each officer trained by 2015.

A summary of the Task Force discussion was as follows:

- Further follow-up was needed (most likely directly with the police chiefs).
- Carver County deputies have taken this AIS training.
- Whether providing a financial incentive would assist on getting local peace officers trained (possibly Save the Lake).
- Possible funding available from Hennepin County (including investigating whether Hennepin County Sheriff's deputies could be trained).

LMCD, Overview of 2014 Mechanical Harvesting Program

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

Nybeck stated that the equipment was scheduled to be launched early next week. However, harvesting will be suspended indefinitely due to the lack of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). Staff will continue to evaluate EWM growth prior to making a decision on when to schedule harvesting.

Barten concurred that early season EWM growth was down so far in 2014.

Welling stated that the nutrient levels are most likely up because of the high amount of runoff in 2014. Overall, he believed that this will affect the EWM growth conditions.

Barten concurred that 2014 could be a heavy algae year.

AIS Task Force Member Reports

Liddy provided an update on whole bay or large scale herbicide treatments planned in 2014, which have been delayed. Treatments are planned for Gideon and Grays Bays the week of June 23rd. No treatments, or limited treatments, are planned for Carmans, Carsons, and St. Albans Bays. A treatment on North Arm Bay is pending (based on funding needs). Phelps Bay residents appear to want treatments to occur; however, there are communication and funding concerns that need to be addressed. A meeting is targeted for August or September to address these concerns with them.

Nybeck recommended that Liddy follow-up with Dick Osgood on whether the "High Water" conditions cause problems for a treatment on Grays Bay. A treatment was planned in 2011 on Grays Bay the last time a "High Water" was declared for Lake Minnetonka. He recalled a treatment did not occur in 2011 because of discharge rates through the Grays Bay Dam, which was problematic for exposure times.

Dawson stated that \$180,000 has been approved through grants in 2014 for watercraft inspections. The MCWD has been in contact with Carver and Hennepin Counties with regards to the \$10 million that will be available from the State of Minnesota. He provided a summary of the feedback from these conversations. The zequanox application coordinated with the U.S.G.S. is still planned for September. The carp assessment study with the U of M has been initiated on the Six Mile Creek sub-watershed.

Fieldseth provided an update on fieldwork recently conducted by Dr. McCarthy on Lake Minnetonka, as well as fieldwork planned by the U.S.G.S. for environmental DNA analysis. He reported on a recent meeting to discuss early and rapid response on Lake Minnetonka. Welling is currently working on a short version of the MN DNR's rapid and response plan, which will be discussed at the upcoming West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee.

Moore stated that she was an intern and was assisting on Eden Prairie's watercraft inspection program.

Welling provided the Task Force context on the bill that will provide funding to Minnesota counties for AIS. \$4.5 million will be offered in 2014 and \$10 million is planned annually starting in 2015. The funding, which will be made available through the Minnesota Department of Revenue, will be distributed to the counties based on a formula that takes into consideration the number of public accesses and the number of parking spaces.

Dawson stated that the Department of Environmental Services would be managing these funds for Hennepin County.

Welling stated that the language in the bill is rather limited and each county would need to have a plan approved. He provided further background the early rapid and response document that Fieldseth commented on.

Barten stated that over 100 Level 1 watercraft inspectors had been trained at two sessions coordinated by the TRPD (most of them were TRPD seasonal employees). He commented on the level of training conducted at these sessions and believed it was beneficial. He stated that two curlyleaf pondweed treatments (whole lake) were conducted Highland Lake and Lake Rebecca.

Newman stated that he was currently working on a plan for activities planned in 2014. One activity he was working with high school students on the frequency of zebra mussels attaching to EWM, coontail, and possibly other vegetation.

Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meetings

A West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, 7/11/14 (8:30 a.m. at the MCWD office). The next meeting for the LMCD AIS Task Force was scheduled for Friday, 8/8/14 (8:30 a.m. at the LMCD office).

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director