

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT (LMCD)  
SAVE THE LAKE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

7:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 15, 2014

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

**Present:** Dan Baasen, LMCD Board- Wayzata; Jay Green, LMCD Board- Mound; Chris Jewett; Tom Skramstad; Jay Soule; Lisa Whalen; Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Lt. Art Saunders, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol (Water Patrol).

**Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes from the 6/2/14 Save the Lake Committee Meeting**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Review of June 23rd Lake Minnetonka Boater Education Safety Training Course**

Baasen stated that the second course for 2014 was conducted at the Mound Westonka ESC training room. He believed that the course was highly successful and a number of the participants were surprised when the day was done that Save the Lake reimbursed them for the expenses associated with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) on-line test. He believed that the education of the participants, in addition to mentoring the participants taking the test for their youth operator permit, was accomplished. He complimented the efforts of Soule in training the participants and believed that a focus was needed to identify and train a second person(s) for future courses.

Soule stated that he believed the course went well (in particular this was the first course where there was not major issues with the internet). The class size was larger for this course (22 youth and eight guardians) and he believed that this also went well.

There was a lengthy discussion by the committee. A summary of the discussion was as follows:

- A review of expenses incurred for the two courses coordinated, approximately \$2,500 (noting that Save the Lake budgeted \$5,000 for this project in 2014).
- Positive feedback on the Mound Westonka ESC training room; however, the consensus was to target bringing this back to the Water Patrol training room. There was discussion on apparent progress being made on the WiFi issues (noting that there has been a commitment by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) to have this resolved for the course planned in the fall).
- A discussion of guardian participation and how this assists the youth that they are in attendance with.
- Mentoring offered by committee members and non-committee members (LMCD Board and volunteers). A goal of at least one mentor for each 10 participants was established for future courses.
- Possible training candidates for future courses (including a volunteer from the Minnetonka Power Squadron, Holly Evans, and Gigi Jabbour).
- The layout of the June course and possible improvements for future courses.
- Targeting mid September to early October for the third course offered in 2014.

Action Items for the August Save the Lake Committee meeting:

1. Soule was to confirm a date in September or October for the third course.
2. Baasen stated that he would contact Keith Kask from the Minnetonka Power Squadron to investigate whether they could assist in identifying a volunteer to assist in the training role for future courses.

**Continued Discussion of 2015 Save the Lake Recognition Banquet Dinner**

Baasen stated that he and Whalen had not met to discuss possible changes to the 2015 Save the Lake Recognition Banquet Dinner. Thus, they were not prepared to make recommendations on possible changes. He stated that they would meet in the near future and formulate recommendations for the August committee meeting.

Soule offered to participate in the Baasen and Whalen meeting.

**Preliminary Discussion of Utilizing Save the Lake Funds for Water Patrol Funding on Lake Minnetonka**

Baasen stated that the LMCD's Executive Committee had recently met on July 2nd to discuss Water Patrol staffing levels on Lake Minnetonka. In addition to Lt. Saunders, Sheriff Rich Stanek and Major Darrell Huggett were in attendance at this meeting. The letter included in this packet, dated 7/2/14 from Sheriff Stanek, summarized additional expenses incurred by the HCSO in 2014 due to severe flooding in Hennepin County. He asked for feedback from the committee on the use of 2014 Save the Lake Funds for this request.

There was a lengthy discussion by the committee on this topic (in coordination with Lt. Saunders). A summary of the discussion was as follows:

- The efforts made by the HCSO in 2014 for added presence on Lake Minnetonka and how this has been accomplished (including added costs).
- Funding received annually by the HCSO from the MN DNR and how this funds a seasonal deputy during the summer months, which has generally been assigned specifically for Lake Minnetonka
- Staffing levels of Water Patrol (including special deputies) and how this changed over the years. A discussion of Water Patrol staff is assigned and some of the challenges associated with coverage on Lake Minnetonka.
- A discussion of efforts made by the LMCD in the early 2000's (in coordination with the 14 communities and the commercial businesses) to added two additional deputies during the summer months specifically for Lake Minnetonka. It appears that this changed around 2008 and 2009 when these two seasonal deputies were combined into one full-time deputy for 12 months.
- Response times on Lake Minnetonka vs. response times on land.
- The need to establish a long-term plan for public safety on Lake Minnetonka (in coordination with the LMCD's Public Safety Committee).
- Potential funding of the HCSO request for 2014, including whether this would have been partially funded earlier in the year if a request for Save the Lake Funds in 2014 had been submitted.
- The consensus of the committee was to: 1) consider partial funding for the HCSO in 2014 from Save the Lake (the amount to be determined), 2) investigate matching funds from the private sector, 3) have staff research whether there might be some unspent funds in the 2014 LMCD Administrative Budget, and 4) to discuss this further at the August committee meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next Save the Lake Committee Meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th (7:30 a.m. in the LMCD office).

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director