

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, November 14, 2014

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

Present: Jay Green, LMCD Board; Gregg Thomas, LMCD Board; Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services (Hennepin County); Josh Leddy, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Craig Dawson, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Eric Fieldseth, MCWD; Adam Doll, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Chip Welling, MN DNR; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Gabriel Jabbour; Charlie Sawdey, Carver County Watershed Management Organization (Carver County WMO); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

The minutes from the 9/12/14 AIS Task Force Meeting were approved as submitted.

Gabriel Jabbour, Update on Boat Design Standards and AIS

Green asked for an update on his efforts.

Jabbour provided the following comments:

- An update on previous communications with the National Marine Manufacturing Association (NMMA) and the American Boat and Yacht Club (ABYC) on boat manufacturing. Based on these communications, the ABYC concluded that this topic was of interest and a gathering was planned on September 9th to further discuss this. However, this was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict due to an international boat show in Finland.
- A current update on this gathering includes:
 1. A breakdown on the list of stakeholders proposed by the ABYC for a The Summit on Invasive Species.
 2. An AIS Summit is planned in Las Vegas on January 27th and 28th to discuss design and construction of boats in consideration of AIS. He hoped that standards would be written for standards on how boats should be constructed.
 3. Goals include:
 - a) Improve boater experience and satisfaction;
 - b) Reduce the spread of AIS;
 - c) Improve the relationship between Recreational Boating Industry and AIS Community;
 - d) Prevent unnecessary and restrictive legislation; and
 - e) Learn what happens to your product in the field and make a better product.
 4. Partnerships include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NMMA, MN DNR, and Tonka Bay Marina.
- An update on how the NMMA is funded (\$75 for each motor produced for a boat).
- He entertained questions and comments from the Task Force.

Green questioned whether there were any new trends found on Lake Minnetonka boats.

Jabbour stated that there are profound differences from bay to bay (i.e., Carsons and Crystal boats were packed with zebra mussels). Additionally, he commented on: 1) some of the challenges that are being addressed inside of motors, and 2) a project that was planned by the U of M and MN DNR to assess motors for watercraft being stored on racks.

Green thanked Jabbour for the update.

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

Green stated that a letter was previously sent out in May asked the Lake Minnetonka communities to get their police departments trained for AIS enforcement. After further review, it was clarified that training was needed to write citations for civil citations, not criminal citations. The purpose of the draft letter before the Task Force is to clarify this to the Lake Minnetonka communities.

Woodruff stated that the misunderstanding on the difference between civil and criminal citations was brought to his attention by Jabbour. He provided an update on conversations he had with Charlie LeFevre (LMCD civil attorney) and Steve Tallen (LMCD prosecuting attorney) relating to this matter. The intent of the follow-up letter was to clarify the prior letter, to ask the communities to get their officers trained, and to offer assistance (where needed).

A summary of the Task Force discussion was as follows:

- Whether feedback from the Lake Minnetonka communities had been received on having police officers trained.
- The advantages and disadvantages of civil citations. There was discussion on the possibility of the MN DNR providing a one-page summary sheet on this that could be shared with the Lake Minnetonka communities.

Update on October 10th West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee Meeting

Green asked Barten for an update on this meeting

Barten stated that the meeting was fairly well attended. Topic discussed at this meeting included: 1) an update by the MCWD on their work on Christmas Lake, 2) a review of 2014 watercraft inspection programs (including issues with contract inspectors and some issues with no show inspectors or not an adequate number of inspectors), and 3) restricting public accesses and the concept of centralized watercraft inspections.

A summary of the discussion was as follows:

- The idea of a shared pool of resources for regional watercraft inspections (managed by one organization). It was noted that this is a huge challenge because of supervisory needs.
- Other possible sources of labor for inspectors (i.e., some Hennepin County employees that are seeking additional work or Retirees to the Rescue).
- Preliminary research on legal implications researched by Marty Walsh from Carver County.
- A discussion of options to be presented to the Carver County Board for centralized watercraft inspections as part of their AIS Plan.
- A discussion of the gate at Christmas Lake and how it can be closed when the park is closed.

- A topic is planned for the January meeting on possible changes for Lake Minnetonka watercraft inspections in 2015 (in response to concerns raised from some stakeholders on watercraft that arrived within their jurisdiction with zebra mussels attached from Lake Minnetonka).
- Some of the issues that arose in 2015 relating to contract inspectors and inconsistencies of inspection protocols.
- The next meeting is scheduled for January 9th (8:30 a.m. at the MCWD office)

AIS Task Force Member Reports

Fieldseth stated that the MN DNR has worked with the Department of Agriculture on securing a special label for the use of a copper product on Christmas Lake. To date, the product has been successful in maintaining 1 part per million of this copper product within the treatment area (the final treatment was on November 10th). The barriers for the treatment area are going to be left in and the MCWD is working with the City of Shorewood on how to address the potential safety issues associated with this. A goal is to conduct a potash treatment through the ice (noting that the application with the Environmental Protection Agency is pending).

Barten provided an update on TRPD efforts relating to zebra mussels at Lake Independence. The efforts have not been as successful because of difficulties of maintaining copper residuals for an extended period of time. Because of this, the mortality rate within the treatment area was five to 10 percent, with a mortality rate of approximately 60 percent within the lake after the last treatment. The TRPD is researching also researching a potash treatment, although the barriers will most likely not remain throughout the winter.

Woodruff asked what was planned for Christmas Lake and Lake Independence next spring.

Fieldseth and Barten both stated that further monitoring was planned for both lakes after ice-out.

Leddy provided an update on whole bay or large scale herbicide treatment projects on Lake Minnetonka. The LMA recently had a meeting with bay captains and other interested parties (including a new bay captain for Lafayette Bay). Each bay captain has been provided a set of guidelines for herbicide treatments to occur (i.e., adequate funding). A website has been established to allow the public to view past treatments for bays within the program. Everything appears to be a go for 2015.

Nybeck stated that the Task Force prepared a few years ago a Comprehensive Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Plan for Lake Minnetonka, which was adopted by the LMCD Board. In this plan, it identifies eight bays that are suitable for whole bay or large scale herbicide treatments. If a request were made to permit a whole bay or large scale treatment outside of these eight bays, he asked how the MN DNR would review such a request.

Welling stated that MN DNR would review such a request based on its merits.

The Task Force briefly discussed the plan, primarily how suitable bays were evaluated, and the consensus was that it should be circulated and possibly reviewed at an upcoming AIS Task Force meeting.

Green stated that a resident on Grays Bay had expressed concern that there was no harvesting in 2014. Since there was no herbicide treatment conducted in 2014, he recommended that this should be better coordinated in the future between the LMA and LMCD.

Sawdey provided an update on monitoring efforts on Lake Waconia after the recent discovery of zebra mussels. Weekly and shore surveys have been conducted to better identify the extent of the infestation. No additional zebra mussels have been discovered since he had recently monitored the lake with Keegan Lund from the MN DNR. He provided an update on four options that have been presented to the Carver County Board for 2015 (including possible funding options). New signage will be researched for 2015.

Doll circulated a sheet that summarized draft watercraft inspection data for 2014, primarily Lake Minnetonka, which he expounded on.

Welling stated that there was an Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference coordinated in Duluth on October 20th through 22nd, in which over 600 participants attended. He attended and there was a lot of discussion on controlling zebra mussels. He reminded the Task Force of the U of M AIS Research and Management Showcase planned for November 20th. He stated that an employee for the MN DNR has been hired to assist the counties in the preparation of their AIS plans.

Brough provided an update on the Hennepin County AIS Plan. It is scheduled to be approved at the next Hennepin County Commissioners meeting and a resolution will be forwarded to the MN DNR. \$100,000 will be made available to the public, in which he reviewed the process to solicit applications through January 9th. He reviewed the process in which Hennepin County will review these applications.

Nybeck stated that the 2014 Final EWM Harvesting Program Report was included in the packet for informational purposes.

Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting

The next meeting for the LMCD AIS Task Force was scheduled for Friday, 12/12/14 (8:30 a.m. at the LMCD office).

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director