

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

7:30 a.m., Thursday, February 19, 2015

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

**Present:** Dan Baasen, LMCD Board- Wayzata; Gary Hughes, LMCD Board- Spring Park; Gregg Thomas, LMCD Board- Tonka Bay; Jay Soule; Lisa Whalen. Also present: Chris Vogt, Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC); Lt. Kent Vnuk, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol (Water Patrol); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Emily Herman, LMCD Administrative Assistant.

**Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes**

The draft minutes from the January 13th Save the Lake Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

**Viewing of LMCC Video for Special Deputies**

Baasen stated that Vogt was in attendance to provide an initial viewing of a video prepared by the LMCC to recognize Water Patrol special deputies (in particular John Feyder who will be recognized on March 19th). He asked Vogt to provide additional background on this.

Vogt stated that the total run time of the video was six minutes. Focus points, based on prior discussion by this committee, included: 1) recognizing special deputy John Feyder, 2) spotlighting the special deputies that work on Lake Minnetonka, and 3) an emphasis on the partnership between the LMCD and the Water. He believed that all of these points have been achieved, commenting that he was pleased with the outcome.

After viewing of the video, a summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- A lot will be accomplished with the playing of this video at the upcoming Save the Lake Banquet. In particular, recognizing special deputy John Feyder and emphasizing the partnership between the LMCD and the Water Patrol.
- The consensus was that the length of the video was right on target.
- A second version of the video will be prepared for recruitment purposes by downloading on the LMCD and Water Patrol websites (as well as possible playing by the LMCC).

**HCSO, 2015 Grant Proposal for Partial Funding of Added Law Enforcement Assigned to Lake Minnetonka**

Baasen stated that the grant proposal was briefly discussed at the annual HCSO and LMCD meeting on February 4th. This proposal was previously tabled to allow for this discussion to occur, in which the proposal has been brought back to the committee for review and consideration. He stated that Lt. Vnuk was in attendance to provide an overview of coverage on Lake Minnetonka, including providing further background of the proposal.

A summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- One option to secure added Water Patrol coverage would be to contract with the HCSO. Should the LMCD contract with the HCSO for added law enforcement, it should be for services up and above a set level.
- Six deputies cover Lake Minnetonka and the 103 other water bodies in Hennepin County. Lt. Vnuk provided a breakdown of staffing and how deputy coverage varies from day, to mid-day, and night shifts (including how this is supplemented annually with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources). He provided a summary of active coverage vs. waiting for an emergency response to occur. This deputy coverage is supplemented with special deputy coverage (in particular on the weekends). Power and authorities of special deputies, which includes citizens arrests, was discussed by Lt. Vnuk and the committee.
- Vnuk provided an update the deputy added in 2014, which was paid by the HCSO, due to the extraordinary circumstances (high water).
- Specifics of the 2015 Save the Lake proposal from the HCSO. In particular:
  1. How the LMCD could sell it should the agency want to fund this.
  2. Future funding of added permanent Water Patrol deputies (i.e., the Hennepin County Board).
  3. The difference between funding this type of a proposal vs. a capital investment (in particular whether this is more than a one-year funding commitment).
  4. What has changed since 2002 to the two added LMCD seasonal deputies. In particular, these two seasonal deputies were combined into the current sixth deputy position around 2009.
- A discussion of responding to an emergency vs. enforcement coverage (presence).
- A discussion of a law enforcement plan (including what the proper levels are and who would be responsible for what). In particular, when is the Water Patrol adequately staffed (including what is tangible and what level of coverage would the LMCD desire). One of the major goals needs to be improved response time.
- How additional deputies, in addition to what is funded annually by the Water Patrol, would be staffed by the HCSO. There was discussion of whether the current proposal could be scaled back (including what this might look like).
- After a lengthy discussion, the consensus of the committee was to make no recommendation on the HCSO proposal. The consensus was that this was a policy question for the LMCD Board to decide on. There was limited discussion of the HCSO considering to amend the proposal (possibly by the LMCD making a decision on how much funding it wants to commit to this project).

### **Preparations for March 14th Lake Minnetonka Boater Safety Education Course**

Baasen stated that preparations are on-going for this course and he asked for committee discussion on this.

A summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- The number of participants registered to date (five youth and three adults). There was a discussion on the minimum number of participants for this project to be a success.
- Alternatives to bring greater attention to this project and increase participation. Some of these included, which Herman provided some updates of:
  1. The local press and Minneapolis Star Tribune (including an ad in the Lakeshore Weekly News);
  2. The local television stations;

3. The upcoming Lake Minnetonka Association newsletter;
  4. The Lake Minnetonka Navigator;
  5. Newsletters and websites through the LMCD member cities; and
  6. Communications with the local school districts, including feedback from the Minnetonka Public Schools course offered by community education.
- Action items included:
    1. Placing an ad in the Lakeshore Weekly news for the March 14th course;
    2. The committee finalized dates for the two June courses June 20th and 22nd; and
    3. Follow-up on t-shirts for participants that attend these courses.

### **March 19th Save the Lake Banquet Dinner**

Baasen stated that preparations are on-going and he asked for committee discussion on this.

A summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- Conversations that Baasen had with a Fladeboe Auction representative, which provided this service to a Freshwater Foundation auction. The fee for this service would be \$2,000 to the LMCD, which could be billable after the banquet. There was a discussion of what would need to be prepared to have a successful auction (including funds that could be raised through auction items and an overall appeal).
- The committee had a discussion of possible auction items (big ticket vs. smaller ticket items).
- A discussion of the proposed invitation (including a discussion of the program and the presenters):
  - 1) MN DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr (keynote), and 2) Sheriff Rich Stanek (featured).
- Action items included:
  1. Finalizing and sending out the invitation (with Herman to work with Soule on limited changes); and
  2. Scheduling a follow-up meeting with Fladeboe Auctions

### **Next Meeting**

The next Save the Lake Committee Meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 3rd, at 9:00 a.m. in the LMCD office.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director