

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

5:30 P.M., Wednesday, April 22, 2015  
Wayzata City Hall

**CALL TO ORDER**

Green called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members present:** Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Jay Green, Mound; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Gregg Thomas, Tonka Bay; Jennifer Caron, Excelsior; Gabriel Jabbour, Orono; Fred Meyer, Woodland; Rob Roy, Greenwood; and Sue Shuff, Minnetonka. Also present: Greg Nybeck, Executive Director.

**Members absent:** Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; Chris Jewett, Deephaven; Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Dave Lang, Minnetrista; and Deborah Zorn, Shorewood.

Green stated that this special Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) meeting has been scheduled to discuss the draft 2016 LMCD Budget. He asked Nybeck to provide an overview of the materials provided to the Board (including information e-mailed earlier this day).

Nybeck provided an overview of the options he offered for Board discussion via an amended staff memo, dated 4/14/15. A summary of his comments were as follows:

- Option 1:
  1. Most basic of the three options (similar to the activities planned in the adopted 2015 LMCD Budget).
  2. A slight decrease of 3.1% in the overall levy to the LMCD member cities (reduction of \$10,625).
  3. Personnel Services in 2016 would remain relatively flat when compared to 2015. One contributing factor is that the compensation adjustment for the Executive Director position has not been decided on by the Board for 2015, which would be the baseline salary figure for 2016. Salary and hourly adjustments are included at approximately 2.5% in the "Contingency" line item.
  4. \$4,500 for the Proactive Residential Code Enforcement Program in 2016 (similar to 2015). He reminded that these expenses, plus expenses incurred for prosecution situations, are generally offset by court fine revenue for prosecution matters associated with this program.
  5. \$35,000 for Equipment Replacement in 2016 (consistent with 2015). These funds are set aside to replace depreciated EWM Harvesting equipment.
  6. \$95,000 for the 2016 EWM Harvesting Program (consistent with 2015). A \$30,000 grant from the Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources (MN DNR) is budgeted for in 2016.
  7. \$40,000 has been proposed for unspecified aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention programs in 2016 (most likely watercraft inspectors). Two grants for this program are budgeted for in 2016 (\$20,000 from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and \$4,000 from the MN DNR).
  8. Actual expenditures for 2015 are proposed to be slightly higher than what was budgeted for (due to the Board desire for a contracted facilitator to update the LMCD's Strategic Plan).
- Option 2:
  1. A slight increase of 3.0% in the overall levy to the LMCD member cities (an increase of \$10,375).

2. Proposed differences from Option 1 include:
  - a) A \$35,000 line-item for added law enforcement, during peak days and times, by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Water Patrol.
  - b) An additional \$2,000 is proposed to the "Contingency" line item (overtime could be considered for unique situations by hourly employees).
  - c) The funding for unspecified AIS prevention programs (watercraft inspections) has been deleted. This would assume that another organization could take over the project management for this effort (would result in a net reduction of \$16,000 in expenses).
- Option 3:
  1. An increase of 7.7% to the overall levy to the LMCD member cities (an increase of \$26,375).
  2. The primary difference in this option, when compared to Option 2, is that funding for unspecified AIS prevention programs (watercraft inspectors) has been added back in to the budget.
- These three options have been provided for Board discussion, in which he envisioned the draft 2016 LMCD Budget will be another option.

A summary of the Board discussion was as follows:

- Equipment Replacement Fund (Depreciation):
  1. The initial EWM Harvesting Program equipment was purchased in 1989 (donated funds).
  2. The budget for depreciated equipment has varied over the years (some years no funds were budgeted).
  3. It was noted that staff was currently working on a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
  4. A question was raised as to the proper level of funding for depreciated equipment.
  5. The consensus was to take this discussion up further after completion of the CIP.
- Role for Watercraft Inspections:
  1. The initial goal of the program was to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels into the Lake.
  2. In recent years, some Board members have questioned the current role of LMCD for inspections.
  3. A discussion of who could assume project, should the LMCD back off from this, and the various funding partners (including the reliability of the partnerships).
  4. The consensus was for the LMCD to continue to take a leadership role on partial funding and managing watercraft inspections on Lake Minnetonka (selected public accesses).
- Funding for Added HCSO Water Patrol Presence:
  1. A question was raised as to how the member cities could react if this project were funded by them and contracted with the HCSO.
  2. A question was raised as to the appropriateness of funding this with levied funds vs. alternative funding sources.
  3. The general consensus was that this should be considered with Save the Lake Funds in 2016 (currently being funded in 2015 through the Save the Lake Fund).
- Three Possible Programs/Activities Where Reductions Could be Considered:
  1. Reductions to the annual budget for the EWM Harvesting Program (taking into consideration that up to eight bays have whole bay or large scale herbicide treatments coordinated by the Lake Minnetonka Association).
  2. Elimination or "mothballing" one of the three EWM harvesters.
  3. Reduction in frequency or consider eliminating the Shoreline Inventory Program (currently conducted every two years in conjunction with the Proactive Residential Code Enforcement Program).
  4. There was no Board consensus on this.

At this time, no action was taken on forwarding a version of the draft 2016 LMCD Budget to member cities. Further consideration and discussion was planned for a Special LMCD Board Meeting on May 13th (5:30 p.m. at Wayzata City Hall). The Board directed staff to prepare an updated option(s) for consideration at this meeting (based on the Board discussion and direction at this meeting).

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

---

Jay Green, Vice Chair

---

Gregg Thomas, Secretary