

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

7:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2015

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

Present: Dan Baasen, LMCD Board- Wayzata; Gregg Thomas, LMCD Board- Tonka Bay; Jay Soule; Lisa Whalen. Also present: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the February 19th, February 24th, and March 3rd Save the Lake Committee Meetings were approved as submitted.

2015 Lake Minnetonka Boat Safety Education

Baasen stated that Minnetonka Public Schools offers a course through their community education program for \$35. He hoped to attend one of their planned sessions to observe what they cover and how this can be done in four hours. The appeal at the recent banquet dinner was for youth boater safety education so there are funds available for this program.

A summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- How the LMCD and Minnetonka Public Schools may be able to partner on their program after 2015. One question will be how each course provides public education benefit to the youth on boater safety education and could be further leveraged. The consensus of the committee was for Baasen to attend and observe an upcoming Minnetonka Public Schools course and to report back.
- Public awareness is still an issue (it was noted that articles in the local newspapers and an ad in the Lakeshore Weekly News was successful in bringing this to the public's attention for the March 14th course).
- To date, 10 youth and five youth are registered for the June 20th course, with seven youth and five guardians registered for the June 22nd course. There was discussion of how to increase public awareness for these two courses. Some of the ideas discussed by the committee included:
1) through the local school districts, 2) an article and/or ad in the local newspapers, 3) municipal and other newsletters, and 4) requesting referrals from attendees of past courses.
- A review of expenses incurred to date (approximately \$3,300) and expenses anticipated for the upcoming two course (estimated at an additional \$2,700). The committee expressed an interest in determining how much funds have been dedicated to boater safety education.
- How the committee and LMCD Board members could be of assistance to Soule. In particular, attendance to assist in mentoring when needed. A question was raised as to whether Brian Roath could teach the June 20th course that falls on a Saturday.

2015 Save the Lake Banquet Dinner

Baasen stated that changes to the format of the banquet dinner were implemented in 2015. In particular, a fundraiser through an auction, which he believed was successful. He believed that further changes could be made for the auction in 2016 (should this activity continue). For the recently adopted 2016 LMCD

Budget, one of the options proposed by Nybeck, which was not approved, was to fund the added seasonal deputy for the Water Patrol through the levy to municipalities. Since this was not funded in 2016 through the levy, the LMCD may need to consider funding of this through the Save the Lake Fund. He believed that this question will be clearer for 2016 after the LMCD learns what happened in 2015.

The committee questioned the level of support from the LMCD Board to fund the added Water Patrol seasonal deputy in 2015, which was unanimous. It was noted that no recommendation was made on this project by this committee (a policy question for the LMCD Board to decide on). A question was raised as to the need for a public safety plan and the need to explore other funding sources. Additionally, there was feedback from some committee members that additionally funding for public safety was more appropriate with Hennepin County. A question was raised as to whether the committee should review and analysis how Save the Lake Funds are being appropriated by the LMCD. There was discussion of a possible action item for the LMCD Board to request support from each member city on approving a resolution, with an explanation memo, for added Water Patrol presence funded through Hennepin County.

Highlights of the committee discussion relating to the banquet dinner was as follows:

Program

- Concern was raised as to having a keynote speaker(s) at the same event where a live auction takes place. In particular, concern was raised as to attendees at the banquet dinner that left prior to the auction.
- Positive feedback on the special deputy video.
- There is a need for the keynote speaker to tailor their presentation to Lake Minnetonka.
- For future events, a decision need to be made on its primary purpose (speakers vs. live auction).

Live Auction

- Concern was raised relating to the auctioneer. In particular, they were unprepared and unwilling in some instances to take into consideration recommendations on some auction items (the sailboat rides).
- Consensus that there was not the appropriate audience in attendance; however, this is not uncommon for a first time auction.
- There is a need to get a volunteer emcee (with greater focus on the auction and less on LMCD projects). This emcee needs to pump more energy into the crowd (act as a cheerleader).
- Changes should be considered to the auctioneer.

Overall Costs

The level of success of the auction and Fund-A-Need was a net \$7,947.32 (including a \$5,000 contribution for one of the items auctioned).

Review of Draft 2015 LMCD Budget

Baasen asked Nybeck for background on this agenda item.

Nybeck stated that a 2015 Save the Lake Budget had not yet been approved. The draft in the packet reflects expenses already approved and he questioned whether the committee was comfortable forwarding the draft budget to the LMCD Board. This document is typically approved in January for the year of the budget.

The committee had a brief discussion of the various line items. The consensus was that there was a need to further review and reassess the proposed Administrative expenses (\$9,500) and to bring this agenda item back to the committee for further review.

Next Meeting

The next Save the Lake Committee Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th, at 7:30 a.m. in the LMCD office.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director