




# LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

5341 MAYWOOD ROAD, SUITE 200 • MOUND, MINNESOTA 55364 • TELEPHONE 952/745-0789 • FAX 952/745-9085

Gregory S. Nybeck, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 5, 2015

TO: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force Members  
FROM: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director   
SUBJECT: 11/13/15 AIS Task Force Meeting

The next AIS Task Force Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2015 (8:30 a.m. in the LMCD office). Chair Jay Green has established the following agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Review of minutes from the 5/8/15 and 9/11/15 AIS Task Force meetings
4. **MCWD and MN DNR**, update on recent discovery of new Zebra Mussels in Christmas Lake
5. **MN DNR**, update on rapid response efforts for the recent Starry Stonewort infestation in Lake Koronis
6. 2016 LMCD AIS Task Force meeting schedule:
  - Discussion of goals and objectives
  - Frequency of meetings
  - Consolidation with West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee
  - Other
7. Future LMCD and other organization watercraft inspections
8. Task Force member reports- limited to 30 minutes
9. Adjournment

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions relating to this meeting. I look forward to your attendance.

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, May 8, 2015

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

**Present:** Jay Green, LMCD Board; Gabriel Jabbour, LMCD Board; Fred Meyer, LMCD Board; Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Eric Fieldseth, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Tom Frahm, Lake Minnetonka Association; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Judd Harper, LMCD Administrative Technician.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 3/13/15 AIS Task Force Meeting were accepted as submitted.

**AIS Topics Discussed:**

A summary of topics discussed at this meeting includes:

- Overview of April 10th AIS West Metro AIS Workshop (coordinated at the TRPD office);
- MCWD update of their Initiative Foundation grant proposal;
- MN DNR update of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) monitoring on Lake Minnetonka by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- LMCD update on 2015 EWM Harvesting Program; and
- Various Task Force member reports on other AIS efforts.

**Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting**

The next meeting for the LMCD AIS Task Force was scheduled for Friday, 6/12/15 (8:30 a.m. at the LMCD office).

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Green  
Chair

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, September 11, 2015  
LMCD Office, 5341 Maywood Road (Suite 200), Mound, MN 55364

**Present:** Gabriel Jabbour, LMCD Board; Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; John Barten; Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District; Craig Dawson, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District; Tom Frahm, Lake Minnetonka Association; Keegan Lund, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Judd Harper, LMCD Administrative Technician.

Morris stated that he would coordinate the meeting due the absence of AIS Task Force Chair Jay Green.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 5/8/15 AIS Task Force Meeting were not completed and will be included in the packet for the next meeting.

**AIS Topics Discussed:**

A summary of topics discussed at this meeting includes:

- Update from the MN DNR on the recent Starry Stonewort infestation in Meeker and Stearns County lakes;
- Overview of August 27th MN DNR AIS Advisory Committee Meeting;
- Overview of July 10th West Metro AIS Coordinating Committee Meeting; and
- Various Task Force member reports on other AIS efforts.

**Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting**

The next meeting for the LMCD AIS Task Force was scheduled for Friday, 11/13/15 (8:30 a.m. at the LMCD office).

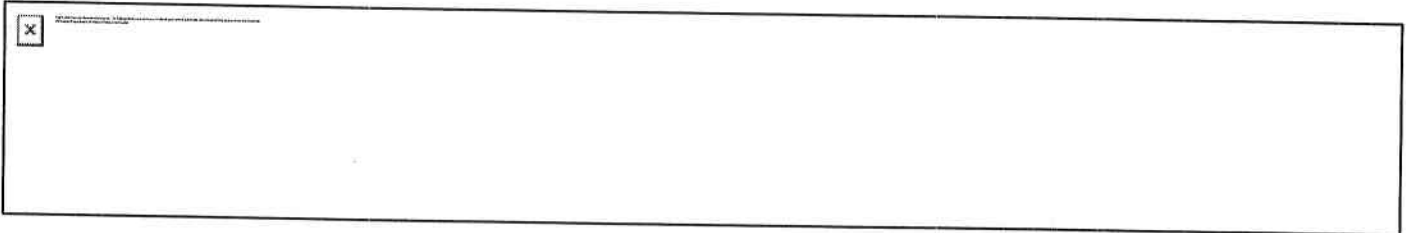
**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director

**From:** MN Department of Natural Resources [dnr.updates@updates.mndnr.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2015 10:43 AM  
**To:** gnybeck@lmcd.org  
**Subject:** Despite treatment, 16 zebra mussels confirmed in Christmas Lake



DNR NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
2015

Oct. 23,

## **Despite treatment, 16 zebra mussels confirmed in Christmas Lake**

*Agencies learning about management options*

Despite aggressive treatment, 16 zebra mussels have been confirmed across a wide area of Christmas Lake in Shorewood, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The spatial distribution and age of the mussels found indicate that a reproducing population is established and further treatment would not be effective. While the agencies involved in the treatment project are disappointed, they say the information gained from the effort was worthwhile and will be used for future treatments in other bodies of water.

Although no zebra mussels were found in extensive dive searches of the lake as recently as last month, a lake service business reported finding one zebra mussel on a dock earlier this week. Divers with the DNR and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District found the invasive species on docks and boat lifts in an inspection that followed the initial report.

“These findings demonstrate the challenges of monitoring and treating zebra mussels,” said Keegan Lund, DNR invasive species specialist. “None of these newly discovered zebra mussels were found in the area of Christmas Lake that was treated earlier this year,” Lund noted, “but most of those we found were juveniles. That tells us reproduction has occurred and this population is established. Because zebra mussels are scattered across the lake and reproducing, current management options are not feasible.

“We’re working with the Christmas Lake Homeowner’s Association, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center to continue our assessment,” Lund said. “What we learn will inform future rapid response treatments and pilot projects. The DNR appreciates the valuable contributions all partners have made to this project.”

The first zebra mussel in the recent Christmas Lake discoveries was found on a dock by a lake service provider who was removing the equipment from the water. This find is a reminder that this time of year, when water-related equipment is being removed, is an especially important time to check docks, lifts and other equipment for zebra mussels. By law, docks and lifts must also dry for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water, whether they are coming from an

infested lake or not.

“There is a common misconception that zebra mussels ‘are everywhere’ and that their spread is inevitable. The reality is, zebra mussels have been confirmed in less than two percent of Minnesota lakes, and more Minnesotans than ever before know and follow invasive species laws,” Lund said. “People spread zebra mussels, and people can prevent the spread.”

For more information on aquatic invasive species prevention and how to report a suspected infestation, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic).

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This email was sent to [gnybeck@lmcd.org](mailto:gnybeck@lmcd.org) on behalf of: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - 500 Lafayette Road - Saint Paul, MN 55155 - 1-888-MINNDNR



**Greg Nybeck**

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**From:** Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)  
[splash=minnehahacreek.org@mail146.atl61.mcsv.net] on behalf of Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) [splash@minnehahacreek.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2015 3:33 PM  
**To:** =?utf-8?Q??=  
**Subject:** Zebra mussels found outside treatment zone in Christmas Lake

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

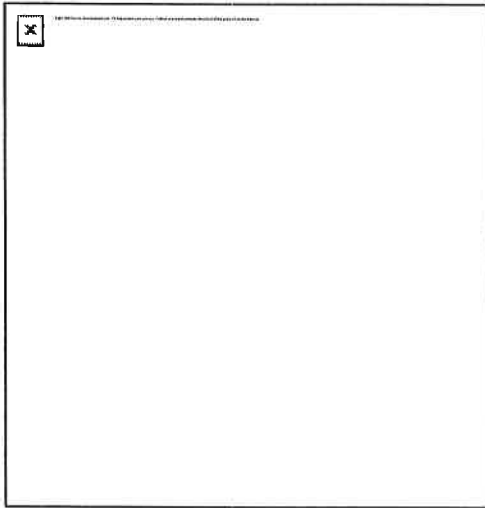


## **Cutting-edge response yielded many lessons**

Sixteen zebra mussels have been found across a wide area of Christmas Lake, concluding a one-year effort to get rid of the invasive mussels. Despite this unfortunate result, the first-of-its-kind response yielded a number of important discoveries and lessons that will help future attempts to control zebra mussels.

The rapid response at Christmas Lake, where zebra mussels were first discovered in August 2014, was a joint effort between the Minnesota DNR, MCWD, Minnesota AIS Research Center, City of Shorewood and Christmas Lake Homeowners Association.

"There is no playbook for how to respond to a new zebra mussel infestation -- we are writing the playbook as we go," said Eric Fieldseth, MCWD's AIS Program Manager. "While it is unfortunate the zebra mussels weren't contained, this effort was still an contribution to the field of zebra mussel management worldwide."



Although no zebra mussels were found in extensive searches as recently as last month, the invasive mussels were found earlier this week. They were attached a dock at the southwest corner of the lake, about two-thirds of a mile away from the public access where the first mussels were discovered. Divers with the DNR and MCWD followed up with the report and found more zebra mussels on other docks and boat lifts in the lake.

We learned many important lessons that will help future responses:

- The treatments appeared successful. The project marked the first open water commercial use of the product Zequanox, the first use of potash to kill zebra mussels under the ice, and the first use of a continuous concentration of copper to control the mussels. No evidence of zebra mussels has been found within the treatment area.
- It is important to define and a treat a larger area than may seem necessary, as there may be no second chance
- Potash did not disperse well when applied under the ice, which was attempted for the first time in this effort
- Continuous early-detection monitoring is key to have a chance to thwart new infestations
- We need to develop better tools for quickly detecting zebra mussels in a lake
- Quality partnerships between agencies is key. Trust and good working relationships were critical to a fast response

Given how widely the mussels are dispersed, it will be no longer feasible to try to treat the infestation. However, new research from the District's close monitoring of zebra mussels in Lake Minnetonka suggests that the mussels may not fare well in Christmas Lake.

The research shows that the water quality in a lake can have a major effect on zebra

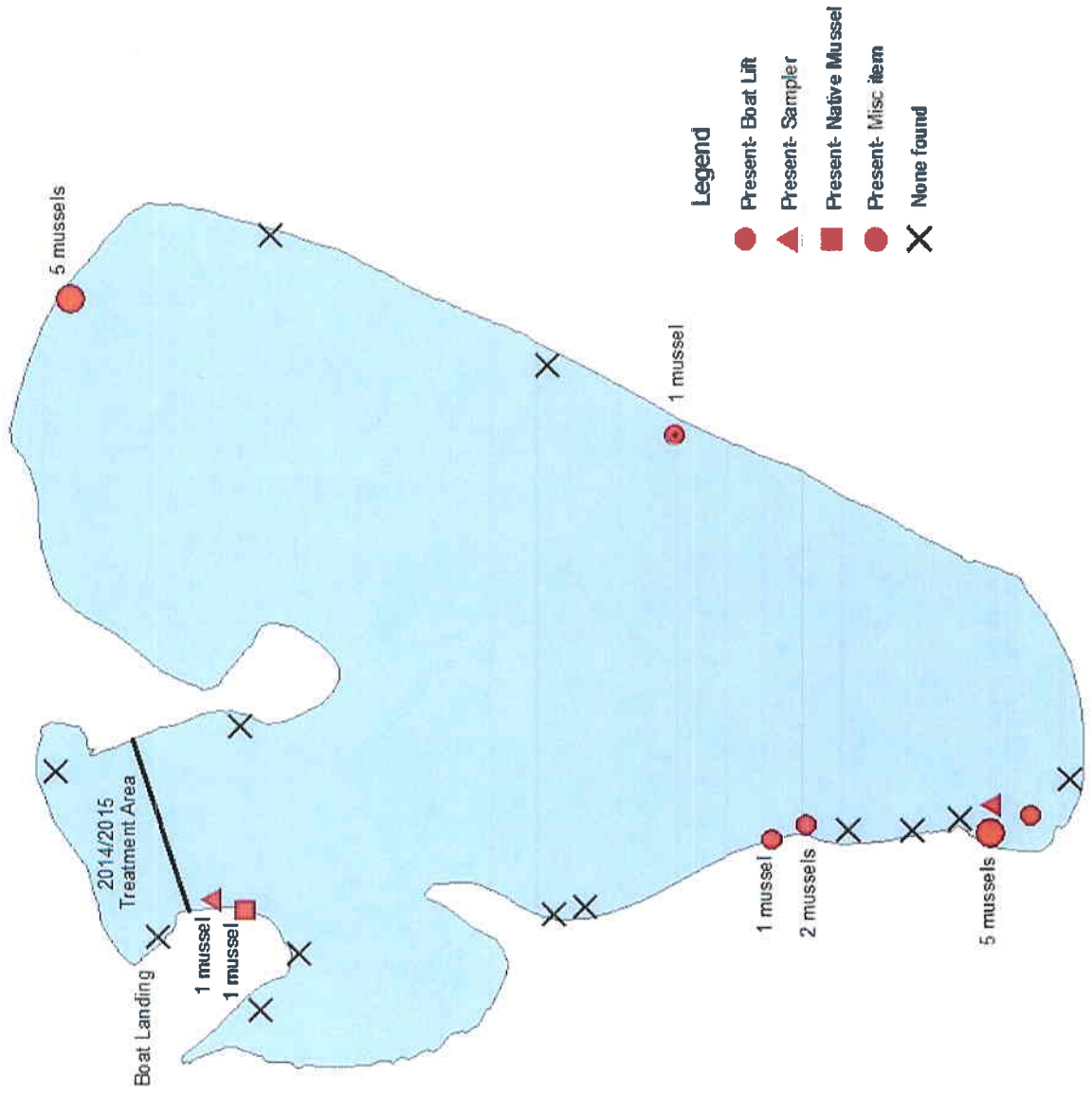
mussel population. Christmas Lake is among the healthiest lakes in the metro area and has low amounts of the types of algae that zebra mussels eat. This suggests that zebra mussel populations should remain relatively low in the lake and have a minimal impact on water quality.

The District will continue to closely monitor Christmas Lake to determine the effects of the zebra mussels, and the partners involved are working to publish the results and discoveries of the response for help with future efforts.



# Christmas Lake Zebra Mussel Assessment 10/19/15 and 10/20/15

MCWD - Eric Fieldseth, Jill Sweet  
MNDNR - Keegan Lund, Kylie Bloodsworth





## Aquatic Invasive Species

## Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

### What is starry stonewort?

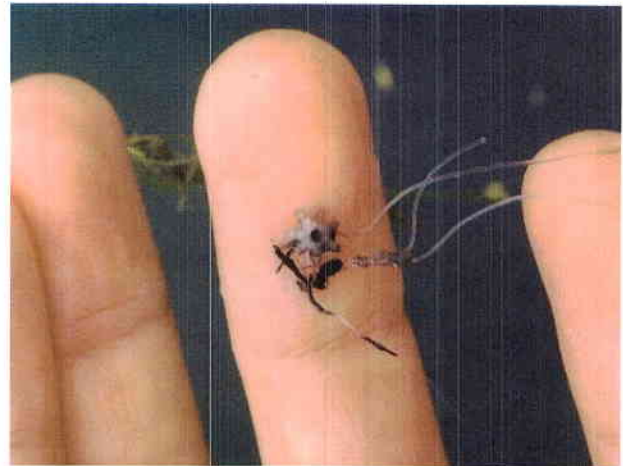
Starry stonewort is a grass-like form of algae that are not native to North America. The plant was first confirmed in Minnesota in Lake Koronis in late August of 2015. Plant fragments were probably brought into the state on a trailered watercraft from infested waters in another state.



Starry stonewort pulled from Minnesota's Lake Koronis, August 2015

### How to identify starry stonewort

Starry stonewort is similar in appearance to native grass-like algae such as other stoneworts and musk-grass. Native stoneworts and musk-grass are both commonly found in Minnesota waters. Starry stonewort can be distinguished from other grass-like algae by the presence of star-shaped bulbils.



A starry stonewort bulbil or star-like structure produced by the plant. Bulbils are likely how the plant reproduces.

### Why is starry stonewort a problem?

Starry stonewort can interfere with recreational and other uses of lakes where it can produce dense mats at the water's surface. These mats are similar to, but can be more extensive than, those produced by native vegetation. Dense starry stonewort mats may displace native aquatic plants.

Like all plants, starry stonewort may grow differently in different lakes, depending on many factors. At this time, we cannot predict how it might grow in any one Minnesota lake.

### How does it spread?

Starry stonewort is believed to be spread from one body of water to another by the unintentional transfer of bulbils, the star-like structures produced by the plant. These fragments are most likely attached to trailered boats, personal watercraft, docks, boat lifts, anchors or any other water-related equipment that was not properly cleaned.



### **What can people do to prevent its spread?**

The most important action you can take to limit the spread of starry stonewort and other non-native aquatic plants is to remove all vegetation and animals from your watercraft and any water-related equipment before you move it from one body of water to another. Make sure you drain all water from your watercraft and bait bucket and dispose of any unwanted bait in the trash.

### **What can be done to reduce starry stonewort?**

The potential to manage the plant is not well documented. It appears that treatment with herbicides can suppress starry stonewort. Some states use hand pulling, which may be a way to reduce biomass in small areas. Mechanical removal can also be effective. In the case of a newly discovered population of starry stonewort that has a limited distribution in the lake, mechanical harvesting is not recommended because it might create fragments that would speed the spread of the invasive plant within the lake.