

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

7:00 P.M., September 13, 2017
Wayzata City Hall

WORK SESSION

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Jay Green, Mound; Gregg Thomas, Tonka Bay; Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; Chris Jewett, Deephaven; Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Mark Kroll, Orono; Mike Molitor, Minnetrista; Gregg Prest, Excelsior; and, Sue Shuff, Minnetonka. Also present: Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director; and Troy Gilchrist, LMCD Legal Counsel.

Members absent: Deborah Zorn, Shorewood; Bill Cook, Greenwood; Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; and, Fred Meyer, Woodland.

1. Review of 5th Street Ventures Sediment & Wetland Studies

Schleuning directed the Board to a PowerPoint presentation summarizing:

- Location of the multiple dock facility on Seton Channel
- License actions for 2016 and 2017 including approval for 13, plus additional 17, with five BSUs under review based on studies. 12 BSUs are already installed.
- A Wetland Study conducted in March 2017, a Sediment Study conducted in March and April 2017 indicating water depths, and unconsolidated and consolidated muck/sediment elevations.
- Staff verification of the results of the studies
- MN DNR & MCWD reviewed studies and stated general agreement existing rooted cattails would not be directly impacted by additional boats slips. Concerns were expressed about soft sediment in area re-suspended into water column by additional boat traffic, likely more phosphorus available to algae, possible water quality degradation by algae blooms. Further, likelihood of new slips being impacted by floating bogs, study photo. MN DNR Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Permit required to relocate floating bog sections.
- Approval of BSUs adjacent to bog/wetland contingent on results of lake sediment study and wetland delineation study. This includes BSUs # 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30. *LMCD Code Section 2.03 Subd. 3(a)(7). Further, the property must be managed and watercraft operated in a manner that prevents damage to wetland, removal of emergent vegetation, or dredging. *LMCD Code Section 2.03 Subd. 3a.(c), Section 2.03 Subd. 3(a)(7).

Kroll asked if the sediment was a problem. Schleuning stated that turbidity does negatively impact the ecology of the lake.

Molitor expressed concerns about the additional traffic and sediment in the area. Prest, Thomas, and Jewett stated they agree the BSU closest to the shore appears to be a problem, but the rest are within the requirements. Staff will further review the comments and respond to the applicant.

Jewett mentioned concerns about the installation of some of the canopies and stated it would be better for the neighborhood if uniformity was provided. Hoelscher thought it would be difficult to regulate colors, but felt

canopies should be installed safely. Schleuning stated the owner, in the audience, was aware of the canopy and was not planning to allow it again next year. It was not a professional installation.

2. AIS and Harvesting Customer Survey Discussion.

Schleuning provided an overview of a project plan for an AIS & Harvesting Customer Feedback Survey for 2017 including:

- Director Zorn was assisting on a stakeholder survey
- Survey date would be tentatively September/October and distributed through newsletters, website, social media, city officials, media, boat rentals, etc.; and open for three weeks
- Some goals include learn knowledge levels of customers about AIS programs, provide some education and tools regarding activities- diagrams, maps, etc., receive general feedback regarding customer satisfaction, learn what we do well, what we could do better, suggestions; learn information and perceptions about bay conditions; obtain contacts for bays/areas; learn views of budget and acceptable price points; obtain information that is actionable to assess activities; learn perceptions of and needs/value regarding LMCD's role in AIS; ascertain reception to private-public partnership options/coordination
- Customer segments include lakeshore owners, marinas, lake service providers, general public, cities/representatives, partners/agencies, businesses, residents

Director Molitor and others expressed concerns about having enough staff and review time for this survey. It is important to manage expectations and to be able to follow up appropriately, and make program decisions based on the results. Maybe the survey could be scaled back this year and more in depth next year.

Schleuning stated that this survey was not intended to be scientific but could be a precursor to our engagement efforts.

Shuff stated that the interpretation of the survey would be important to make sure the interpretation of the survey results adequately reflected the perceptions. Thomas stated it was important to move forward proactively with our initiatives and didn't want to unintentionally slow progress, but was concerned about workload given current staffing levels going from 4 to now 2.

Schleuning thanked everyone for their comments and will review the suggestions with Director Zorn. She acknowledged that workload and expectations are important.

3. LMCD Fall Newsletter Ideas

Schleuning stated that it would be beneficial for the organization to distribute a fall newsletter in October. A mailing list was obtained from Hennepin County and included approximately 4,600 properties. It could be coordinated with the survey and the fall Save the Lake Contribution drive. She asked if there were items that the Board specifically wanted included in the newsletter.

Green mentioned adding the strategic plan and introducing staff. Prest stated that information about the recodification would be helpful since it will make the codes and processes easier to understand and friendlier. Kroll mentioned the amendment to the noise regulations and the positive impact it has had on the Lake.

**Formal Board Agenda
7:00 p.m. to Adjournment**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Green called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Members present: Jay Green, Mound; Gregg Thomas, Tonka Bay; Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; Chris Jewett, Deephaven; Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Mark Kroll, Orono; Mike Molitor, Minnetrista; Gregg Prest, Excelsior; Sue Shuff, Minnetonka; and, Deborah Zorn, Shorewood. Also present: Vickie Schleunig, Executive Director; and Troy Gilchrist, LMCD Legal Counsel.

Members absent: Bill Cook, Greenwood; Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; and, Fred Meyer, Woodland.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Baasen moved, Jewett seconded to approve the agenda.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Green announced Governor Dayton created August 30, 2017 as Gabriel Jabbour Day, recognizing the former LMCD Board member's work with Big Island, the veterans, and conservation.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- 8/23/17 LMCD Regular Board Meeting

MOTION: Thomas moved, Kroll seconded to approve the 8/23/17 LMCD Regular Board Meeting minutes.

VOTE: Ayes (9), Abstained (2, Jewett and Prest); motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Jewett moved, Shuff seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Items so approved included: **7A)** Audit of Vouchers (09/01/2017-09/15/2017); **7B)** August Financial Summary and Balance Sheet; and, **7C)** Resolution accepting Save the Lake Contributions (08/12/2017-09/06/2017).

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Persons in attendance, subjects not on the agenda (limited to 5 minutes)

There were no public comments.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

A) Solar Lights Program Volunteer Agreement with Lake Minnetonka Power Squadron

Schleuning directed the Board to the memo dated September 13, 2017 in the meeting packet. She reported volunteers are very important to the LMCD. Solar lights are very important and aid in navigation and safety. For several years, Al & Alma's and Paradise Cruises have assisted with the installation and removal of the solar lights each boating season. This year the Minnetonka Power Squadrons have helped to maintain them and they have prepared an agreement to clarify their role and any liabilities as part of their participation in the Solar Lights Program. This agreement is included on page 68 in the meeting packet and has been reviewed by LMCD legal counsel.

MOTION: Kroll moved, Prest seconded to approve the Solar Light Program Volunteer Agreement with the Minnetonka Power Squadron to support navigation and safety services for Lake Minnetonka.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Jewett requested an update on the condition of the solar lights.

Schleuning responded only about six have been broken this season and they may have to replace some due to age.

Baasen advised there are less than a dozen solar lights in their inventory.

Zorn inquired what the distinction is between the light and the actual buoy, and who assesses if they need replacement.

Baasen stated the lighted buoys are channel markers with a red and green light, and point buoys are not lit. There are about 206 channel buoys and another couple hundred of safety buoys that are not lit. The buoy is the part that sticks up and floats, and the light is installed on top of it.

Jewett stated the buoys are maintained by the County and the lights are maintained by the LMCD. They have discussed with the County that some of the buoys need to be upgraded. Green stated there is a distinct difference between the new and old buoys and they have been trying to get the County replace more of the old ones because they do not reflect anymore and are in bad shape.

Schleuning suggested they let either her or the County know of specific buoys that need replacement.

Green stated sometimes the buoys get moved and he has been with the water patrol when they have been moved back into place.

11. UPDATE FROM STANDING LMCD COMMITTEES

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee/Taskforce: Green reported he will schedule a meeting in October with the AIS Committee and stakeholders to debrief the summer. The Wright County Program regarding mandatory inspections on three lakes is being discussed. The DNR has made suggestions to the County and there will be another public hearing at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, September 19.

Budget Workgroup: Jewett stated there has not been a recent meeting, and they hope to have one in the next few weeks. There are a few cash swings in the next few months. While they had no cash come through in July, some did come through in August and they feel confident they will be close to budget administratively and with AIS.

Green stated they received two checks for DUI's totaling a little over \$10,000. The amount they receive is the amount negotiated in the plea.

Recodification Workgroup: Gilchrist reported he has been working on the administrative provisions in the code and plans to have a working draft completed by the end of the year.

Save the Lake Committee: Baasen reported the Save the Lake Committee met on September 12 and had good member attendance. They discussed the fall solicitation letter and would like to have it at the next LMCD meeting for review so it can be sent out by November 1. They have received \$15,000 in donations, their goal is \$40,000, and this is typically the biggest period of receipts. They are currently under budget and do not plan to solicit grant requests. A lot of Cities have strong objections to giving money to the Sheriff out of levied funds. Upcoming Save the Lake meetings are scheduled for October 10 and November 7. The boater safety class was full and they are hoping to hold another class by the end of the year or in early 2018.

Baasen reported they determined they are in their 50th year and suggested they consider having a celebration sometime before the end of the fiscal year in June 2018. They may provide a product to sell like a life preserver with the LMCD logo or a t-shirt.

Baasen reported they had a booth at the James J. Hill Days in Wayzata and there was a lot of interest and discussion around dock structure, wake boats and about Save the Lake.

Strategic Plan Subcommittee: Zorn reported they will have draft of the dashboard for review at the next meeting and the published document will be available at the first meeting in November.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Schleunig reported a significant amount of home sales and potential developments. People are being proactive and asking good questions. Matthew Cook will begin as a new employee with the LMCD on September 23. He currently works for the Watershed District, helping with the Comprehensive Plan, worked with permitting, worked

with the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, and has a good educational background. She thanked Board members and others who helped out with the hiring process.

13. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

14. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

James Jay Green, Chair

Ann Hoelscher, Secretary