

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, February 17, 2012

LMCD Office, 23505 Smithtown Road (Suite 120), Shorewood, MN 55331

Present: Kelsey Page, LMCD Board; Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); Kelly Dooley, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD); Eric Evenson, MCWD; Jay Green, Anglers for Habitat; Gabriel Jabbour. Also in attendance: Chris Jewett, Tonka Bay resident; Brian Stenquist, MN DNR; Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes

The minutes from the 12/16/11 AIS Task Force Meeting were accepted as submitted.

Defining of Goals and Objectives for the LMCD's AIS Task Force

Page stated that Nybeck had prepared a memo that summarized the activities and projects of this Task Force since it was established. He believed that this memo was beneficial to provide a historical overview of this Task Force. He introduced Brian Stenquist from the MN DNR, who was in attendance to assist the Task Force in an exercise to redefine the goals and objectives moving forward.

Stenquist made the following comments:

- He was a strategic planner for the MN DNR and has background on facilitating these types of projects.
- He proposed a simplified exercise that would allow Task Force members an opportunity to get a lot of ideas (voices) on the table, which could be flushed out and re-arranged. This could be used as a starting point for the Task Force moving forward.
- He reviewed an outlined for this meeting to facilitate Task Force discussion on possible goals, objectives, strategies, and possible organizational focus (see attached). After providing this review, he asked each Task Force member to brainstorm on the following four questions:
 1. What is a reasonable Organizational Focus for the LMCD AIS Task Force?
 2. What are some possible Goals for the LMCD AIS Task Force?
 3. What are some possible Objectives for the LMCD AIS Task Force?
 4. What are some possible Strategies for the LMCD AIS Task Force?
- He asked each Task Force member to jot responses down on these four questions, with each Task Force member assigned to one of these questions to summarize the responses.

A summary of the responses were as follows:

Organizational Focus

- The consensus was that the focus should be on all AIS on Lake Minnetonka
- Some of the comments received included:
 - This should include all AIS
 - The Task Force should provide advice to the LMCD Board of Directors
 - The Task Force should coordinate all AIS activity (on Lake Minnetonka and within the State concept)
 - The Task Force should be a source of AIS information (in particular Lake Minnetonka)
 - The Task Force should provide leadership on AIS education
 - The Task Force needs to meet more frequently
 - The LMCD Board needs to be more engaged (providing the AIS Task Force Chair greater flexibility on representing the agency on AIS issues)

Goals

- Three goals were recommended by the Task Force
- These include:
 1. Prevent new introductions of AIS
 2. Manage existing AIS infestations
 3. Increase awareness of AIS (establish policy)
- The Task Force discussed whether there was a need to establish a plan (possibly a Lake Vegetation Management Plan) for management of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and all other AIS

Objectives

- Management of existing AIS:
 - EWM & zebra mussels
 - Biological, chemical, and mechanical
 - By techniques & species
- Prevention of new AIS:
 - Taking into consideration the various pathways and species
 - Taking into consideration in and out of Lake Minnetonka
- Education & research:
 - Focus on Lake Minnetonka
 - Take into consideration & actor

Strategies

- Watercraft inspections
- Wash stations
- Mechanical harvesting
- Bay captains
- Explore new technologies (weevils)
- Chemical treatments
- Community awareness

Stenquist summarized the Task Force discussion on this exercise as follows:

Organizational Focus: Take action on all AIS on Lake Minnetonka

<u>Goals</u>	<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Strategies</u>
1. <u>Prevent Spread</u>	Into Lake Minnetonka	Inspections
	Out of Lake Minnetonka	Wash stations
		Awareness information
2. <u>Manage infestations</u>	EWM	Question remains as to how much, where, & by whom
	Other AIS	Biological, chemical, & mechanical
3. <u>Education</u>	Lake Minnetonka residents	Question remains as to how much, where, by whom
	Lake Minnetonka visitors	Bay captains
4. <u>Research</u>	Weevil research	Information messages
		Experiments

The Task Force requested Nybeck to summarize the discussion at this meeting and prepare: 1) a draft Meeting Report, and 2) a first draft of a Plan to be refined at the next AIS Task Force Meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck
Executive Director