

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

7:00 P.M., Wednesday, October 10, 2012
Wayzata City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

Babcock called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Doug Babcock, Tonka Bay; Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Kelsey Page, Greenwood; David Gross, Deephaven; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Steve Johnson, Mound; Fred Meyer, Woodland; Bill Olson, Victoria; and Sue Shuff, Minnetonka. Also present: Charlie LeFevere, LMCD Counsel; Greg Nybeck, Executive Director; Judd Harper, Administrative Technician; and Emily Herman, Administrative Assistant.

Members absent: Anne Hunt, Minnetrista; Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Andrew McDermott, Orono; Jeff Morris, Excelsior; and Mark Sylvester, Shorewood

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Baasen moved, Hughes seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS, Chair Babcock

There were no Chair announcements.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9/26/12 LMCD Regular Board Meeting

MOTION: Shuff moved, Page seconded to approve the minutes from the 9/26/12 Regular Board Meeting as submitted.

VOTE: Ayes (5), Abstained (4; Baasen, Gross, Johnson, and Meyer); motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Hughes moved, Johnson seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. Items so approved included: **6A**, Audit of vouchers (10/1/12 – 10/15/12); and **6B**, Draft letter to be forwarded to LMCD Member Cities regarding Board appointments for 2013.

Nybeck directed the Board to the draft letter to the member cities for 2013 Board appointments. He asked the Board to assist the LMCD in communicating to their respective city the importance of adhering to the recommended, staggered Board terms. He stated that this would alleviate the large amount of Board member terms expiring the same year.

Babcock reviewed the State of Minnesota enabling LMCD legislation, which calls for a member to serve a three-year term.

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

There were no public comments.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Hennepin County Environmental Services, Report on Promoting Behavior Change: AIS Prevention at North Arm Public Access

Babcock asked for background on this agenda item from Tony Brough, Hennepin County Environmental Services, welcoming him on behalf of the Board.

Brough thanked the Board for this opportunity. He presented the above Report, via a PowerPoint presentation, making the following comments:

- Introductions to the Board included a brief overview of himself, as well as why he initiated a project to promote watercraft operator behavioral changes relative to aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention.
- An overview of a United States Geological Survey (USGS) website, in which he reviewed a Zebra and Quagga Mussel sightings map.
- He reviewed various pathways that AIS can be transferred to other bodies of water, including those identified by the LMCD's AIS Task Force in 2009-2010. Additionally, he offered examples of various signage established throughout the years for the prevention of AIS.
- The project was initiated in April of 2010 when a grant application was submitted to the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Letters of support were received from the LMCD and City of Spring Park; however, the grant was not funded by the LCCMR. Later in 2010, a request for Save the Lake funds was requested for 2011. This grant request was later removed from consideration based on interest by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) to partner on a larger scale, which did not come to fruition. Moving forward to 2011, Hennepin County Environmental Education and Outreach staff proposed working together to complete a scaled back version of the project.
- He provided a detailed overview of how social marketing was taken into consideration throughout this process, as well as all the represented public agencies and private companies involved.
- He provided an aerial view of the North Arm public access design, including discussion of the signage and thermo plastic pavement markings utilized.
- He provided statistical behavioral change observations of watercraft operators that entered North Arm public access from 2011 to July of 2012. He believed that there was a noticeable, positive

response for those following the State of Minnesota's drain plug guidelines, as well as those that entered the public access weed/vegetation free.

- This project was just the tip of what science can accomplish with many of the potential AIS pathways; providing for agencies having the ability to create a systematic program that works for their area. He believed that agencies should allow the specialists to set the direction, specific to each area of need (avoiding the temptation to brand the project).
- He entertained questions and comments from the Board.

The Board asked a few questions and/or made comments, in which Brough responded to as follows:

- The project lights work the same as if an individual was at a stop light (on an adjustable program timer). He utilized the use of electricity vs. solar lights due to compatible costs and longer life span.
- He reiterated that the list of pathways offered within his presentation was provided by the LMCD's AIS Task Force. Babcock confirmed that list was offered by professionals serving at that time on the LMCD's AIS Task Force. This list of pathways, and the assigned risks, is currently being assessed by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, with some differences in the assigned risks for each pathway.
- He spoke as to how behavior relative to AIS prevention has changed for the positive over the recent years. Additionally, he confirmed that the watercraft inspectors were present a greater number of hours; providing for another educational component to the project.
- Based on feedback and his observations, there is a need for a specialized and systematic approach in the use of the tools offered to the public.
- He reviewed processes that he would have done differently; acknowledging that each public access has unique needs. If fiscally possible, he recommended the installation of lights that are built in to the foundation at a public access for better viewing underneath the watercraft (in particular at night).

Nybeck directed the Board to a Hennepin County two-page Report on this project, dated 09/12, within their packet. He stated that the Report will be downloaded on the LMCD website and a short paragraph on this project (offering Brough's contact information) will be offered in the LMCD's upcoming fall/winter newsletter.

Babcock thanked Brough for his presentation.

B. 2012 Lake Minnetonka Watercraft Inspection Program Report

Babcock asked Nybeck for an overview on this agenda item.

Nybeck directed the Board to an amended Summary Report, dated 10/10/12, within their handout folders. He highlighted the Report by making the following comments.

- The program was coordinated by the LMCD with a primary goal to inspect incoming and outgoing

watercraft and trailers for the purpose of educating the watercraft operators. Partners included the MCWD, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), and Three Rivers Park District (TRPD).

- He reviewed the methodology established for the program, which included: 1) nine of the 11 public accesses that were covered, 2) two public accesses not covered (Phelps and Echo Bays), and 3) watercraft inspection components (MN DNR, LMCD, and TRPD) as follows:

MN DNR:

- Provided Level 1 and 2 inspections (at no cost to the Lake Minnetonka community). He provided an overview of their duties, as well as added authorities for Level 2 inspectors.
- Accesses covered included Grays, Maxwell, North Arm, and Spring Park Bays during peak times (Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. A great deal of time was also covered by Level 1 and 2 inspectors during non-peak times at other public accesses.
- Level 1 and 2 inspectors provided 3,949 and 3,169.50 hours of inspections, respectively. Additionally, there were 492.75 and 343.75 hours of travel time, respectively. He cautioned the Board that these hours are for staffing hours and do not reflect actual public access coverage hours.

LMCD:

- Contracted with Volt Workforce Solutions (Volt) for the same days and hours noted above.
- Public accesses covered included Carsons, Halsted, Cooks, and Wayzata Bays, as well as limited coverage for the MN DNR at North Arm and Spring Park Bays (county owned).
- The contract provided for 2,420 inspection hours (including inspections, supervision, and training, which he reviewed). Based on the Board's decision to extend the contract two weeks past Labor Day weekend (with budgeted funds), the LMCD was invoiced 2,464 hours. Additionally, Volt provided an additional 36 inspection hours (outside of the contract) for the Ron Shara crappie tournament in early May.
- The LMCD agreed to a Joint Powers Agreement with the MN DNR in 2012, which authorized for the training and classification of all inspectors (13) as Level 1. In 2010 and 2011, the inspectors were classified as "volunteers" with the MN DNR.

TRPD:

- Continued assistance to the LMCD, on an in-kind basis, at the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park for gate attendance inspections from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on: 1) weekends in May prior to Memorial Day weekend and 2) seven days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- He estimated the in-kind service at 1,000 hours, acknowledged that the partnership has worked well, and he hoped it could continue in the future.
- He reviewed the following funding sources for the 2012 program: 1) LMCD- \$30,000; 2) MCWD- a \$7,500 grant; 3) MN DNR- a \$7,750 grant; and 4) TRPD- in-kind contribution.
- Summary points included:
 - The LMCD's support in the training of lake service providers by the MN DNR and Minnesota Waters (held at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Tonka Bay Marina).

- An LMCD providers database, created in 2010, greatly assisted in the communication and number of providers that were trained.
- The submittal of two joint press releases (LMCD, MCWD, and MN DNR) urging residents to utilize certified lake service providers.
- The LMCD introduced the arrangement made with Volt to other public sector organizations, in which new Volt clients were established with Carver County; the cities of Chanhassen and Eden Prairie; Lake Pulaski Improvement District; Minneapolis Park Board, and the MCWD.
- The recommendation to continue incoming and outgoing inspections in 2013.
- The recommendation for the Board to consider, at a future agenda item, the role of the LMCD in the continuation of funding the inspections. He provided detailed options as to whether the LMCD or another public agency should either maintain or take the lead, respectively.
- He entertained questions and comments from the Board.

The Board asked a few questions, in which Nybeck provided:

- An overview of the total inspection hours as they relate to each agency (totaling 10,583 hours). He stated that: 1) the MN DNR hours were higher than past years because of greater coverage on Mondays through Thursdays and 2) the actual time for public access coverage was much less than the hours reported (i.e., decontamination stations had at least two, and sometimes three inspectors, at one time).
- The MN DNR is seeking appointment to a statewide AIS committee. This committee would be similar to the one former Chair Lisa Whalen served on. He suggested the LMCD seek an appointment to this committee, which could either be himself or a Board member. This matter was discussed further under the "Executive Director Report".

10. Update from standing LMCD Committees:

Babcock asked for an update from the Chair, or designated representative, of each committee (Save the Lake, AIS Task Force, Finance, Personnel, Public Safety, and Ordinance Review).

Page stated that the AIS Subcommittee will be presenting a Comprehensive Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly-Leaf Pondweed Management Plan to the AIS Task Force on October 12th (8:30 a.m. in the LMCD office) He believed that this Plan would be presented to the LMCD Board on October 24th.

Johnson stated that the Public Safety Committee will need to meet in the near future to consider revisions to the draft bow fishing ordinance.

Babcock stated that the Personnel Committee met on October 8th, in which the committee reviewed job descriptions and other miscellaneous items.

Olson stated that a Save the Lake Committee meeting is scheduled for October 25th (8:30 a.m. in the LMCD office). Agenda items will include reviewing the re-formatting of the Save the Lake solicitation letter

(scheduled to go out by November 1st), as well as to provide discussion on the funding of the public safety training curriculum.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Board continued their discussion regarding the appointment of an LMCD representative to the MN DNR AIS Committee. Nybeck confirmed the nominating deadline is Friday, October 19th and believed that the commitment would provide for an estimated six meetings a year (each meeting would be the better part of a weekday). The consensus of the Board was to direct Nybeck to seek appointment to this committee, with the Board expressing an interest in appointing a substitute representative at a future date.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Doug Babcock, Chair

Kelsey Page, Treasurer