

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SAVE THE LAKE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

8:30 a.m., Thursday, October 25, 2012

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

**Present:** Chair Bill Olson, LMCD Board- Victoria; Dan Baasen, LMCD Board- Wayzata; Jay Soule, and Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director. Also present: Lt. Art Saunders, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol (Water Patrol); Deputy Adam Hermke, Water Patrol; Kim Elverum, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Keith Kask, Minnetonka Power Squadron (Power Squadron).

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes from the 8/14/12 Save the Lake Committee Meeting**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Brainstorming of Ideas for Public Safety Education Curriculum**

Olson stated that the LMCD and Save the Lake were re-branded within the last couple of years. As a result of this, one of the goals is that the LMCD and Save the Lake are committed to providing education and training programs that encourage preservation and protection of Lake Minnetonka, which includes boating safety. He envisioned that Save the Lake could create an educational and training program, through various partners, to improve boating safety on Lake Minnetonka.

Nybeck stated that representatives from the Water Patrol, MN DNR, and Power Squadron were in attendance to provide background on educational and training boating safety programs they are involved in, as well as commenting on a possible Save the Lake educational and training program.

Kask stated that the mission of the Power Squadron is to preserve the safety and beauty of boating on Lake Minnetonka. Thus, the Power Squadron offers safe boating courses to the general public. One comprehensive course that is offered takes six or seven weeks; however, participation has been declining in recent years. One of the incentives to take this course is a reduction on their insurance rates. One of the drawbacks for this course is the amount of time it takes. He stated that he would support a more focused course, such as part of one day, which would be geared more towards inland lakes and Lake Minnetonka (with hands-on training).

Elverum provided background on courses that have been established by the MN DNR for boating safety, in particular for the youth. These courses include: 1) a Boating Safety Course, in which those individuals that take the course and pass the test are provided a watercraft operators permit for ages 12 through 17, and 2) a new on-line course (Boaters Education Minnesota). He provided a great deal of background information on both courses. He also commented on a training session that was coordinated a number of years ago regarding public safety at Minnetonka City Hall, which was well attended and had more hands-on experience (such as backing a trailer up).

Saunders and Hermke provided examples of boating safety issues the Water Patrol has observed on Lake Minnetonka. In particular, safety checks (such a personal flotation devices and fire extinguishers) and speed infractions.

A summary of the committee discussion was as follows:

- A number of LMCD ordinances are more restrictive than State law to operate a watercraft on Lake Minnetonka. Some examples include: 1) an observer requirement when towing an individual, 2) a towing prohibition in marked channel areas, and 3) speed restrictions (daytime, nighttime, and established Quiet Water Areas).
- There is a need to identify an incentive for the public to participate in a training or education course geared specifically for Lake Minnetonka. Two ideas include: 1) training for the MN DNR youth operators permit (excluding the test), and 2) a Lake Minnetonka Captains Certified sticker.
- Mandatory boat operator permitting, for both public safety and aquatic invasive species needs, was briefly discussed.
- Possible locations for a training course on Lake Minnetonka, which could include classroom and hands-on training on the water.
- The consensus of the committee was that the discussion at this meeting was beneficial; however, preliminary. Further work is needed to identify whether a course geared specifically is feasible, as well as a need to further refine the details.

### **Announcement of Availability of Funds for 2013**

The consensus of the committee was that Save the Lake Funds should not be made available for 2013 (other than possibly on-going LMCD projects, such as solar-lights and possibly expenses related to public safety education curriculum). Chair Olson is to provide an update on this at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Regular LMCD Board of Directors Meeting.

### **Review of Proposed New Format for 2012 Fall/Winter Solicitation Letter**

Nybeck stated that the LMCD staff had prepared a draft solicitation letter, with proposed return envelope, for feedback by the committee. The letter and solicitation letter were prepared keeping the committee direction in mind, which was to ensure that Save the Lake could be distinguished from other organizations that are also fundraising.

The feedback from the committee was as follows:

- The content of the solicitation letter should focus on solar-lights and the remotely underwater operated vehicle (ROV), with a message that Save the Lake needs financial assistance. Also, the letter should be changed to more of an executive-type level. Chair Olson was to work with LMCD staff on this.
- No changes were recommended to the solicitation envelope.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director