

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

8:30 a.m., Friday, September 13, 2013

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

**Present:** Jeff Morris, LMCD Board; Chip Welling, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR); Dick Osgood, Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA); John Barten, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Gabriel Jabbour, Tonka Bay Marina; Dick Woodruff. Also in attendance: Dr. Ray Newman, University of Minnesota (U of M); Greg Nybeck, LMCD Executive Director; Mike Wilkinson, Lakeshore Weekly News.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 7/12/13 AIS Task Force Meeting were approved as amended, with one change. In the fifth paragraph on page two, the target concentration on St. Albans Bay was changed from "35 parts per million" to ".035 parts per million". The minutes from the 8/9/13 AIS Task Force Meeting were approved as submitted.

**Task Force Member Reports**

Barten stated that the TRPD has been involved on three successful curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) treatments on Highland Lake, Lake Rebecca, and Lake Sarah. He provided an overview of the TRPD's monitoring role on these CLP treatments and stated that he would keep the Task Force up to speed on the outcomes. Overall, the TRPD has not observed significant Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and has received few public complaints on lakes that they share in the management of. He commented on EWM concerns raised by Bryant Lake residents in 2013, in which he did not see any problematic EWM growth that is inhibiting recreational activities.

Osgood stated that he was working the Bryant Lake Association. A point intercept has been conducted on Bryant Lake in 2013, in which the percent of occurrence of EWM was 20% and sparse. He believed that percentage of EWM frequency has changed on Bryant Lake (noting that percent of occurrence of EWM was 70 to 80 percent in recent years).

Barten stated that an alum treatment was planned yet in 2013 on Bryant Lake and he provided further details on why this was occurring. September 12th was the kick-off meeting for the advisory committee for the Minnesota AIS Research Center, in which there was some interesting discussion (in particular how to establish a long-term funding source).

Jabbour commented on a number of topics he has been working on. These include:

- The concept of creating a mandatory boat operators permit for AIS. This concept would create a sense of responsibility of what to do and what not to do (rather than relying primarily watercraft inspectors).
- A summary of a recent conference call he participated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), which is the ultimate authority on boat building standards; and the National Marine Manufacturing Association (NMMA, which is primarily

interested in promoting and selling boats. He commented on current decontamination efforts and how the construction of watercraft in the future could be improved for this effort.

- He summarized a recent agenda item with the Excelsior City Council to create a lake improvement district (LID) for St. Albans Bay. A similar agenda item was previously coordinated with the Greenwood City Council since about 80% of the shoreline is contained in Greenwood. He believed that both municipalities had interest in the possible creation of a LID for funding of AIS on St. Albans Bay.

Woodruff provided an update on two items. First, he stated that he had observed brown and curled up lily pads that exist on Phelps Bay between Enchanted and Shady Island. He questioned whether there was a known cause for this. Second, a presentation was recently made to the Shorewood City Council for a MN COLA Lessard Sams grant application for the distribution of power washers around the State of Minnesota. The Shorewood City Council approved a motion to write a letter of support, in which he abstained his vote because he was not clear on the details of the proposed project. He questioned whether any other organizations were involved supporting the request from MN COLA.

Discussion by the Task Force included the following:

- A small three-acre area was treated near the area in 2013 on Phelps Bay (similar to treatments in other years). Morris noted observing brown and curled up lily pads elsewhere on Lake Minnetonka.
- A request was also made by MN COLA of the MN DNR AIS Committee and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) to support the grant application. Neither organization supported the MN COLA grant application, with the MN DNR Commissioner testifying against it.

Dr. Newman provided an update on the three candidates, including qualifications and skills, which are currently being interviewed for the Zebra Mussel Coordinator position with the Minnesota AIS Research Center. He concurred with other comments from Task Force members that EWM was not a substantial problem in 2013. He questioned whether the fluctuating lake levels, within the same season, in recent years had an impact on weevil populations.

Osgood stated that on Phelps Bay, a small herbicide treatment occurred in July, with the balance of the treatments occurring in June. No treatment of EWM occurred on Grays Bay in 2013. He provided an anecdotal update on the EWM on these bays, noting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) conducted the field analysis in 2013, in which an objective analysis of this fieldwork by the Army Corps is pending. He is currently working with the MN DNR on updating the initial Lake Vegetation Management Plan for Carmans, Grays, and Phelps Bays.

Woodruff stated that the LMCD to date has not harvested in bays where whole bay or large scale herbicide treatment have occurred. One of the objectives of the harvesting is to provide the public access to open water. Some of the areas on bays where treatments have occurred cannot be treated with herbicides because of their proximity to lily pads. He questioned whether the no harvesting policy could be reconsidered.

Nybeck stated that the no harvesting policy could be reconsidered for 2014. In these areas where whole bay or large scale treatments have occurred, the LMCD has also had a no off-loading policy in these bays. This policy would need to be re-evaluated on North Arm Bay should a whole bay or large scale herbicide treatment were to occur in the future.

Woodruff stated that some members of the believe the LMCD should outsource harvesting rather than being in the business of coordinating harvesting. He believed that the LMCD should consider answering the question of outsourcing harvesting by sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this.

Morris stated that he believed that the Board was still awaiting a report from a few Board members that would like the LMCD to consider outsource its harvesting efforts.

Jabbour stated that it might make sense for the LMCD to send out a RFP to evaluate the costs associated with outsourcing harvesting efforts (noting that this was how he program was handled for its first few years).

Welling stated that Dr. Mike Netherland and Mike Jones from the Army Corps were on Lake Minnetonka sampling in late August. Some preliminary information has been received from June sampling, pointing out that EWM frequencies were low (analyzing it from a historical perspective, in particular on Grays Bay). He provided an brief update on 2013 CLP treatments statewide, as well as an update of purple loosestrife observations in 2013.

### **Consider Consolidation of AIS Task Force/Advisory Committees on Lake Minnetonka or West Metro Lakes**

Morris asked Barten for background on this agenda item.

Barten stated that he participates on a number of advisory committees relating to AIS. One observation he has made is that there is an apparent lack of coordination amongst these committees (citing the recent MN COLA grant application as an example). He believed that there is a need for AIS proposals to be vetted by the various committees to solicit support, resulting in a greater probability of funding. The better mechanism for AIS management and prevention is a uniform message to be communicated to the decision makers (what is going to be done and how it will be accomplished). For example, the MCWD the past few years has been awarding funding for implementation of projects in their plan (primarily watercraft inspections). They have recently submitted a grant application for additional \$2 million of funding and have not consulted with the implementing organizations on whether they have the capacity to expand AIS efforts. He believed there is a need for an overall AIS coordinating body to improve local and regional AIS control efforts (most current committees have the same goals but are taking different approaches to achieve them). He proposed this Task Force as the possible committee (with expanded membership). He stated that effective actions take place when uniformity of thoughts and directions occur.

The Task Force had a lengthy discussion on the concept of creating an overall AIS coordinating body. Highlights of this discussion included the following:

- How this could work just at the local level (noting that there are AIS advisory committees statewide). It was noted that a great deal of projects with statewide implications were initiated at the west metro level.
- How this might assist in affecting public policy and long-term funding from the State of Minnesota (i.e., individual projects and the Minnesota AIS Research Center).
- Consensus that there was a need for consistency in communicating uniform messages. However, the question was raised as to how to achieve this.
- The creation of this type of committee is a monumental effort. A question was raised as to how this Task Force, or a modified committee, could get their arms around this and be effective in a timely manner. An additional question was raised as to whether staffing was needed for this.

- If there is consensus on the need for such a regional body, there are other public sector agencies that could coordinate this (i.e. the MCWD because similar interests are also outside of Lake Minnetonka).
- A brief discussion of current and past AIS advisory committees (i.e., Minnesota Waters and North American Lake Management Society).
- The feasibility of forming an umbrella organization, such as the Association of Metro Cities or the MN DNR AIS Committee, which could provide coordinated technical and strategic direction, coordinated lobbying efforts, and overall professional coordination. By creating such an organization, this could allow each organization to decide on whether they would like to continue facilitating their own advisory committee (i.e., this Task Force for Lake Minnetonka). An alternative approach is to create a similar umbrella body, specifically for Lake Minnetonka, where the LMCD, MCWD, and TRPD would agree that this body is the advisory committee for all three organizations.
- A discussion of how watercraft inspections could be done on a regional basis (yet make sense for the users). A brief discussion took place on the effectiveness of the 2013 MCWD Proof of Inspection Pilot Program.
- An alternative approach for this Task Force and the LMCD to consider, rather than consolidation, is to partner and support on one AIS effort that a number of organizations can agree on.
- It was noted that this topic was a result on the need to create a work plan for LMCD AIS efforts. Objectives that need further discussion include: 1) whether objectives can be mutually exclusive, 2) are these tasks too large for one committee, and 3) are some of the objectives beyond the scope of a local group.
- The consensus of the Task Force was to coordinate further discussion of this topic at the October AIS Task Force Meeting. To facilitate this discussion, the Task Force directed: 1) staff to invite other representatives from other west metro lakes to participate in the discussion, and 2) for Barten to create a short document to better coordinate the discussion for this meeting.

#### **Chair Update on AIS Work Session with LMCD Board of Directors**

The idea of a workshop was well received by Board, possibly as soon as late October. He stated that he and Green would be working through the Task Force on how this education workshop is coordinated.

#### **Schedule Next AIS Task Force Meeting**

The next Task Force Meeting was scheduled for Friday, 10/11/13, at the new LMCD office (5341 Maywood Road, Mound, MN 55364).

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Nybeck  
Executive Director