

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

7:00 P.M., April 11, 2018  
Wayzata City Hall

**WORK SESSION**

**6:07 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Jay Green, Mound; Gregg Thomas, Tonka Bay; Bill Cook, Greenwood; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Mike Molitor, Minnetrista; Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; and Sue Shuff, Minnetonka.

Also present: Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director; Troy Gilchrist, LMCD Legal Counsel.

**Members absent:** Jake Walesch, Deephaven; Deborah Zorn, Shorewood. Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Mark Kroll, Orono; Chris Rich, Woodland; and Andrew Punch, Excelsior.

1. Preliminary Discussion Proposed 2019 Budget.

Treasurer Cook provided a presentation regarding the proposed budget for 2019. He stated that the Budget Workgroup has been working on options over the past couple of months. The Budget Workgroup consists of Chair Green and Director Hughes. He presented the following information:

- 1) the fund balances and historical perspectives including the general fund, the aquatic invasive species fund, save the lake fund, and equipment replacement fund;
- 2) the levy history from 2008 to 2018 stating that Greenwood was anticipating a 2.5% increase in property values;
- 3) a comparison of the levy and budget from 2008 to 2018 indicating a nominal difference over the years; and
- 4) a draft budget spreadsheet with a highlight of budget accounts and projections. Program options and costs were discussed including up to an 8% levy increase if the AIS prevention watercraft inspection program was funded or harvesting production was increased to accommodate the increased nuisance vegetation the past couple of years. It was explained that the lack of grants is the primary reason for the loss of revenues over the years and levy amounts are minimal over the years. He explained that the distribution of the levy amounts is based on total taxable market value of the cities. No city may pay more than 20% of the levy amount, which applies to Minnetonka each year.

Feedback was requested from the Board members. Shuff felt that 8% would be tough to justify. Molitor stated around 4.35% was acceptable. He stated that he felt the Board should be considering the budget from a program standpoint and not the individual distribution of the levy for each city. It would be difficult since the distribution can vary over the years. Green stated that we were fortunate to receive the \$10,000 grant this year since the original assumption was the other agencies were eliminating funding completely and focusing efforts in other areas besides Lake Minnetonka. Cook stated the budget workgroup would bring back another version for review by the Board.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**7:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Members present:** Jay Green, Mound; Gregg Thomas, Tonka Bay; Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; Bill Cook, Greenwood; Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Mike Molitor, Minnetrista; Sue Shuff, Minnetonka; and Jake Walesch, Deephaven. Also present: Troy Gilchrist, LMCD Legal Counsel; and, Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director.

**Members absent:** Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Mark Kroll, Orono; Andrew Punch, Excelsior; Chris Rich, Woodland; and, Deborah Zorn, Shorewood.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Hughes moved, Shuff seconded to approve the agenda.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**5. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chair announcements.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** 03/28/18 LMCD Regular Board Meeting

**MOTION:** Thomas moved, Walesch seconded to approve the 03/28/18 LMCD Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented.

**VOTE:** Ayes (6), Abstained 3, Baasen, Hoelscher, Shuff. Motion carried.

**7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Thomas moved, Shuff seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Items so approved included: **7A**) Audit of Vouchers (04/01/2018 – 04/15/2018).

**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**

There were no public hearings.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A) Request for Save the Lake Funds – Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol**

Schleuning referred to the memo on page 16 of the agenda packet. She reported the requested funds are to ensure that the busiest and most critical times on the lake has Water Patrol coverage. The Sheriff's office is requesting funding from the LMCD up to a maximum amount of \$30,000 for services performed at the rate of \$70/hour. She reported in 2017, the Board approved \$30,000 from the LMCD Save the Lake funds for services at \$68/hour; in 2016 the approved amount was \$29,000 for services at \$68/hour; and in 2015 it was \$33,264 for services at \$63/hour.

Baasen stated the Save the Lake committee recently met and reviewed this item. Based on the 2017 contributions, they recommend a designation of \$25,000 to the Water Patrol for 2018. They are trying to balance their budget and not dip into reserve funds. In 2017, they raised just under \$30,000 and must also consider Libbs Lake and the LMCD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They appreciate the partnership with the Water Patrol and like having an officer present.

Schleuning commented some of the Save the Lake contributions are being used toward general LMCD protections activities to make up some of the shortfall due to grant reductions.

Green inquired what the Save the Lake fund balance was at the end of 2017. Cook responded it was \$164,133.

Thomas stated the Sheriff's request indicates they would provide personnel during peak boating times between 1:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. and the agreement indicates it will be between 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Schleuning clarified there is always flexibility beyond the minimum in order to handle emergencies.

Lieutenant Vnuk clarified the deputies work 10-hour days and 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. is the time that was agreed upon with the LMCD Board in the past.

Schleuning inquired if there were statistics on hours and types of incidents on the lake.

Lieutenant Vnuk responded the busiest time on the lake is Thursdays through Sundays between 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and scheduling a deputy during this time will hit the peak daytime and nighttime hours with the most issues. In the past four years, the number of incidents has dropped, and this is directly related to having the LMCD deputy. He thanked them for the partnership and stated he hopes it will continue.

Molitor commented they need this partnership and enforcement on the lake. He understands the value and sees it is important, but it is ridiculous they have to fund this amount of money since Hennepin County collects this amount from them in taxes.

Walesch stated this is important to have on the lake and he supports trying to find a way to fund it at previous levels.

Green agreed with Walesch and Molitor and noted the value of having the deputy on the water is well worth the cost. Schleuning stated that cities often fund public safety programs.

**MOTION:** Baasen moved, Thomas seconded to approve the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office funding request in the amount \$25,000 from LMCD Save the Lake funds to provide dedicated patrol services to Lake Minnetonka during peak boating times and authorize staff to enter into an agreement for these law enforcement and boater safety services.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**B) Resolution 172 Supporting County Funding for Additional Sheriff's Deputies on Lake Minnetonka**

Schleuning read the proposed resolution to encourage Hennepin County to provide funding for additional water patrol deputies for Lake Minnetonka.

**MOTION:** Molitor moved, Hoelscher seconded to adopt Resolution No. 172 Supporting additional Hennepin County funding for additional Water Patrol Sheriff's Deputies on Lake Minnetonka.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**C) Request for Save the Lake Funds – Libbs Lake Association**

Schleuning referred to page 26 of the agenda packet. She requested the Board consider a funding request from Libbs Lake Association in the amount of \$5,000 to assist with their Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management. In 2017, the Board provided supplementary funding for Libbs Lake Association AIS management in the amount of \$2,500.

Shuff reported Libbs Lake is a self-contained, stagnant body of water in the City of Minnetonka and is connected by a channel to Grays Bay. There is a popular public beach, paddle boarding, and non-motorized crafts on the lake

and it has 80 riparian owners. They are proposing to do both a treatment and harvesting. She noted the channel is not large enough for the LMCD harvesting machinery, and the weeds will probably have to be pulled by hand. She highlighted the following proposed costs: \$2,030 for DNR permits; \$4,788 for two treatments; \$9,225 to \$10,000 for water front restoration. The total proposed project cost is \$19,143 to \$21,700. The association receives a grant from the City of Minnetonka and in 2017, Save the Lake fund contributed \$2,500.

Green inquired if they have ever discussed forming a LID (Lake Improvement District).

Shuff responded they have discussed this and concluded it was not a viable option. It is a small area and there are not enough riparian owners to make it work.

Walesch inquired how often the LMCD has funded bay projects around the lake.

Green explained this area is different because it is not accessible by the harvesters. The City of Minnetonka is also the largest benefactor with the levy but has the smallest shoreline.

Shuff noted this has been done for two years, but there were allocations beyond that in the past from either the LMCD or Save the Lake budget.

Baasen stated prior to the last few years, this request came out of the AIS budget. Other than the project performed in conjunction with the DNR where they funded herbicide treatments from 2008-2012, they have not generally provided funds toward herbicide treatment. The proposed request does not request funding of herbicide treatments, but they are requesting \$5,000. The Save the Lake committee recommends they fund this request at \$2,500. He inquired why the funds come from Save the Lake when they have an AIS budget.

Green stated last year they added a stipulation that the funds were to be used specifically for harvesting. He recalled that Save the Lake originally denied this request in a previous year and it was paid for through AIS reserves.

Molitor commented this is the one time of year that this type of request is granted. It is not an ongoing request throughout the year.

Walesch stated it makes sense they would fund this request since this area is not accessible by the harvesters.

Hoelscher agreed they should provide funding. However, if the reason they need to do this is because the area is not accessible by the harvesters, the money should come out of the AIS budget. She suggested Save the Lake fund the herbicide treatments since they are effective in the area and the AIS budget fund the harvesting treatment.

Baasen stated as a subcommittee, Save the Lake has typically tried to keep the same rules and objectives as the LMCD. If the LMCD chooses not to participate in herbicide treatments, then Save the Lake would not consider it either.

Thomas clarified the Save the Lake recommendation for \$2,500 is for mechanical harvesting.

Molitor inquired if they would apply more money towards the Water Patrol if this request was funded through the AIS budget.

Baasen stated that was not the intent or recommendation.

**MOTION:** Molitor moved, Thomas seconded to approve the funding request in the amount of \$2,500 from LMCD AIS funds to provide mechanical types of AIS management activities for Lake Minnetonka.

Baasen noted the request was for \$5,000, but they are responding with \$2,500.

Hoelscher inquired if they would consider contributing \$2,500 from AIS as well as an amount from Save the Lake funds.

Baasen stated he would not support this.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

Baasen commented they still feel they are operating under one budget. They are trying to keep the levy under 12 percent and did not want to set a precedent of providing the full amount.

Molitor noted it would not set a good precedent if they increased the funding to Libbs Lake but did not fund the Water Patrol for the full amount.

### 13. TREASURER REPORT

Cook noted budget information was provided in the work session prior to the Board meeting.

### 14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

#### A) 2017 Budget and Activities Summary

Schleuning reported they had a successful year with several projects underway. There are predictions that the ice will not be off the lake until May this year.

Green inquired about the water levels on the lake.

Schleuning responded she was unsure but would follow up with more information. She also reported they had a fish kill by Grays Bay dam, which is common.

She reported they purchased some IT/IS items in November and December with assistance of board members. To stay in-line with the authorized budget, much of the installation was handled internally over three weekends. The results of the updates have been amazing, and they are currently working on the options to improve the

internet service. She also reported on the recodification process. Most of it took place in 2017 and under the original quote.

Schleuning then referred to the website and pointed out where information was posted under Common Topics and Resources. Such topics include blue-green algae, carbon monoxide alarms, electric shock drowning, hydraulic water jets, and public swimming beach closures. She also directed the Board to Resources and Contacts and highlighted some of the items included on the page and demonstrated how the search function can be used. She highlighted the page "Taking a Cruise" on the LMCD website and explained how it promotes the businesses that abide by the code, provides a link to their website, shows what they are licensed for and their ports of call. The intent is to provide the public with common information in an easy manner, promote licensed businesses, and funnel people to the website to increase staff efficiencies.

Baasen inquired if this would be helpful to do with fishing guides. They could provide a list of people for hire.

Green stated guides are not licensed and if they did this, there would probably be a lot of people listed.

Schleuning stated they chose topics that do not change a lot, so the link will be good for a while. The goal is to expand the information over time though.

Hughes inquired if these pages are under construction or held back until they are published.

Schleuning responded they are shown as under construction since they needed a way to get them out for review by the various agencies, cities, and stakeholders. She requested comments and feedback from the Board.

## **B) Map Request Status**

Schleuning reported they discussed map options at a previous Board meeting. There are three different maps available they could use different layers from. They want to keep it manageable and she requested what would be should be included on the map.

The Board suggested they include fuel docks, public beaches, public restrooms, fishing piers, transient docks, restaurants, and quiet water areas. The Board agreed a map would be helpful.

Green inquired about the size of the map. He noted he has a couple of large, fold-out maps from different counties that also includes AIS information and sponsors. These are provided at bait shops for free and used to provide more information on AIS.

Schleuning responded they were thinking it would be 11 inches by 17 inches in size. They discussed the size at the Save the Lake meeting and someone was going to follow up with the cost of laminating it as well.

Thomas referred to the meeting on April 20 with private harvesters and LMA to discuss coordinating harvesters. He stated this is a terrific, proactive approach to the issue and shows true leadership of the LMCD.

Schleuning stated she has learned a lot about AIS and herbicide treatments have come a long way from the original use.

## 15. STANDING LMCD COMMITTEE/WORKGROUP UPDATE

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee/Taskforce: Green reported the task force has not met recently. The Board expressed support for the AIS study being done by the University of Minnesota and Schleuning sent out a letter expressing this support. Schleuning stated she will follow up on this item. Green noted the late ice and snow cover may help to keep the weeds down this summer.

Budget Workgroup: Cook reported they met and are in the process of developing a 2019 budget that will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Molitor inquired if the Board plans to consider fees changes for licenses and permits. Schleuning stated it will be on a future agenda in the second quarter. They have compiled a list of items to discuss and the attorney has indicated what their approach should be.

Communications Workgroup: Thomas reported they will meet on Tuesday, April 17 at 8:30 a.m.

Recodification Workgroup: Gilchrist reported staff continues to review the draft code. When they are finished, he will make the changes and reach out to partners to feedback. Schleuning noted it is a big project and they are doing well with the timing from the original 2-year timeframe.

Save the Lake Committee: Baasen reported they recently met and will meet again on May 8. They discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary topic and other events going on in the area. He reported there is not a special event planned for the LMCD 50th Anniversary. Instead, they are requesting Board members attend their City events and promote the LMCD. They plan to have throwable life preserver with the LMCD logo and will give this to people who contribute \$250. It will also be for sale for \$45. They also discussed having a canvas bag with the LMCD logo on it and a floating key ring. They will have an LMCD banner made and are waiting to see how the map option previously discussed develops. The map option could be sponsored by local businesses. They hope to be ready with these items by the end of May, with events beginning in June.

Molitor commented he will be at the booth for Minnetrista Days on Saturday, May 19 and it would be helpful to have these items for that event.

Baasen requested Board members provide Schleuning with the dates of the events they will be promoting the LMCD at to avoid conflict.

He reported the Boater Safety Class will take place on Monday, June 18 in the Community Room at Westonka, and requested help from the Board.

Baasen thanked the Board for their support of the committee as they try to raise awareness of what the LMCD does



and to raise more money.

Strategic Plan Subcommittee: Schleuning reported they will provide a quarterly update in a couple of weeks.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

---

James Jay Green, Chair

---

Ann Hoelscher, Secretary