



# LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**DATE:** July 1, 2019

**TO:** Member Cities

**FROM:** LMCD Board of Directors  
Dan Baasen (Wayzata), Ben Brandt (Mound), Bill Cook (Greenwood), Ann Hoelscher (Victoria), Gary Hughes (Spring Park), Jake Walesch (Woodland), Dennis Klohs (Minnetonka Beach), Mark Kroll (Orono), Chris Rich (Greenwood), Mike Molitor (Minnetrista), Nicole Stone (Minnetonka), Gregg Thomas (Tonka Bay), Deborah Zorn (Shorewood)

  
Vickie Schleuning, LMCD Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** LMCD 2019 Mid-Summer Highlights

The following includes highlights of current topics and inquiries regarding Lake Minnetonka this summer. You may receive questions about certain topics as well. We appreciate the cooperation and support we have received from all our partners. If you have questions, please contact the LMCD Executive Director Vickie Schleuning or your city's representative.

## 1. Lake-Wide Vegetation & AIS Master Plan

The LMCD is taking new steps to identify, prevent and manage Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threats on Lake Minnetonka. The development of the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & Master Plan (Plan) launched with the first public meeting on June 18, 2019. The development of the plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year providing a living document to evolve over time. With the changing landscape of AIS and Ecology of Lake Minnetonka, having a holistic and scientific approach to effectively address the current and future health of Lake Minnetonka is critical. Various levels and types of participation is planned since an important aspect of the process is stakeholder engagement and input. The webpage has been created for the project, along with a web-mapping public feedback tool to report vegetation sightings, and a map indicating known vegetation delineations will be developed over the year. They can be found at the following links:

- Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan Webpage- <https://lmcd.org/aquatic-invasive-species/new-ais-initiatives/>
- Web-mapping Public Feedback Tool- [See Something, Send Something](#)
- Give Us Your Suggestions- [Take the Survey](#)
- Online Vegetation Map- [Watch It Grow Throughout the Months](#)- (Still Under Construction)

The team of Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) and Blue Water Science (BWS) has been chosen to assist in the development of this Plan.

LMCD also participated with other agencies in an AIS Roundtable hosted by Representative Dean Phillips, who has taken an interest in AIS issues. The discussion was good and the Plan may be useful

in answering some of the questions that were raised and that are needed to move in a positive direction.

## **2. Harvesting Program Suspended for 2019**

The harvesting program is suspended this year to undertake the development of the Lake-Wide Vegetation & AIS Master Plan. As part of the Plan, the harvesting program and alternatives will be reviewed. It is important for the public to submit information about problematic vegetation so it can be considered as part of the review. If you have navigation problems, please contact the LMCD office or use the mapping feedback tool referenced above.

## **3. Recodification Update**

The draft of the recodified LMCD code of ordinances is ready for review. The LMCD has been working with a Work Group to recodify its code of ordinances to make it easier to use for stakeholders and the general public. We are inviting you to review the draft and offer your comments. Please submit comments by July 31, 2019. The following are some notes to keep in mind as you review the draft Code:

- This recodification is not intended to change any of the substantive regulations within the Code. If you believe any of the substantive regulations were changed, please point them out in your comments.
- The draft Code is reorganized with three main users in mind: commercial; municipal; and residential. The resulting Code is longer, but will hopefully be easier to navigate as a user can focus on their particular category to identify the applicable uses and regulations. An effort was also made to bring together the general regulations applicable to all users and to establish uniform administrative procedures.
- Any comments you may have regarding the draft Code are welcome, but comments proposing substantive changes to the regulations will not be addressed as part of this recodification. Instead, substantive change proposed in the submitted comments and those identified during the recodification process will be submitted to the LMCD Board separately for consideration after the revised Code is adopted.

We invite you to review the draft code and make comments using the following links.

- <https://lmcd.org/rules-regulations/>
- [View Draft Code](#)
- [Submit Comments Form](#)

## **4. Legislative Update**

The legislation proposed in SF2314 omnibus bill passed and has been signed by the Governor. It goes into effect August 1, 2019. Original bills were SF1691 and HF1729. The LMCD legal counsel will review the short-term implications of the bill. More information will be provided in the future.

## **5. 2020 Budget**

The 2020 LMCD budget was approved in June. It reflects the same numbers as the preliminary budget provided to the cities in May. The LMCD Board performed a detailed analysis of our budget, resulting in projected expenses and revenues for 2010. The budget reflects an increase of 1.1% overall, with a city levy increase of 2.4%. The city levy amount is less than the maximum level

allowed by state law. Each city's percentage of level increase varies in relation to taxable market values. The adopted 2020 budget can be found at [www.lmcd.org](http://www.lmcd.org) or directly [HERE](#).

## 6. High Water Declaration

High Water Declaration was in effect from May 31, 2019 until June 12, 2019. Since then, water levels had decreased to 929.55 feet on June 28, 2019, which has increased to 929.63 feet on July 1, 2019 due to the recent rainfall. It is still closer to the Ordinary High Water level of 929.4 feet. At this time, if we experience more typical weather patterns, another high water declaration is not anticipated. The board will be reviewing slow and no wake areas in the future to determine if current regulations are effective to address wakes from increases in wakeboard and large boats.

LMCD staff monitors lake water level readings taken by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). When the lake level reaches certain thresholds above 930.0 feet, High Water Declaration may be issued by the LMCD depending on the circumstances. Requirements and safety tips about high water was provided through the website, handouts, social media, signage, direct contact, media, etc.

## 7. Zebra Mussel Control Research Project – Lake Minnetonka, St. Albans Bay & Robinson Bay

A research project to evaluate the use of low-dose EarthTec QZ (copper) treatments to manage zebra mussel populations will take place in St. Albans Bay and Robinson Bay on Lake Minnetonka. The project is anticipated to start in early May with the positioning of five buoys and commence in late July. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) in partnership with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) will lead the project and coordinate all phases. A link to an informational sheet is available on the homepage of the LMCD website at <https://lmcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Zebra-Mussel-Project-2019-Public-Info-04122019.pdf>.

## 8. Lake Minnetonka Information Resources

The information has been developed to help answer questions that have been received from new lakeshore owners or those owners planning improvement projects. Other public education materials will provide information about lake safety and protection to visitors and others using the lake.

- **FAQs & Resources Webpage.** In addition to information about common lake questions, a new, keyword-searchable resource for lake-related topics was created to provide guidance on the appropriate agency or resource for a particular item such as aquatic invasive species, dredging, electro-shock drowning, and more. [View FAQs & Resources](#)
- **Residential Docks, Structures & Watercraft.** Information about dock use areas and watercraft storage is provided in this handout. [View Brochure](#)
- **Summer Rules Brochure.** The brochure is updated and provides information about enjoying the lake in a safe and responsible manner. [View Brochure](#)
- **Around the Lake webpage** [View Around the Lake](#)
- **Boater's Safety Education Program.** A program was held on June 10, 2019 and was attended by both youth and adults with positive comments. Jay Soule led the class, Mound Fire Department discussed fire safety and participants put out a fire, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources brought the zebra sniffing dog and discussed AIS, and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office talked about most common violations on the lake. LMCD board members and staff provided assistance to the participants.