

Subject	AIS Strategy	Date	11/15/2019
To / Contact info	Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director; Bill Cook, Board Director		
Cc / Contact info			
From / Contact info	Jason Naber, Camilla Correll, Steve McComas, Joe Pallardy		
Regarding	11/21/19 TAG Meeting Discussion Topic		

Background

The LMCD and its project consultants have been documenting comments received throughout the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation Management and AIS Master Plan (Plan) development process. Not only have these comments served to inform the content of the Plan, they have served to shape the plan development process by highlighting local and regional AIS management needs that are currently undocumented. Comments were received in a variety of formats including:

- Project Kickoff (Public) Meeting
- Comments posted on Social Pinpoint
- Survey results
- Technical Advisory Group Meeting
- AIS Task Force Meetings
- Board Workshop
- Input from LMA Executive Director
- Meetings held with residents/businesses
- Comments provided during draft document review (e.g. LMA, MNDNR, Tonka Bay Marina, MCWD, City of Orono, City of Greenwood, and others)

All comments have been recorded in a searchable database to facilitate sorting and organizing by type and source. While most of the comments inform plan content or are specific to draft sections of the plan, there are a number of process-related comments that need to be addressed with other entities involved in AIS management at the local and regional scale. One of the process-related concerns expressed by the Technical Advisory Group and member communities is that the LMCD has not articulated their goal for the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation Management and AIS Master Plan. Embedded in this goal setting exercise is the definition of the LMCD's role in AIS management. As part of the development of the master plan, the LMCD seeks to identify areas of need with regard to lake vegetation and AIS management, determine the role that the LMCD can fill in meeting that need, and assess the resources required to fill that need.

The purpose of this memorandum is to propose a framework for a vegetation and AIS strategy that will help identify gaps (in more cost-effective management) and facilitate future discussions with entities involved in vegetation and AIS management on or affecting Lake Minnetonka.

AIS Strategy

As is common in AIS Management, the AIS strategy for Lake Minnetonka should focus its efforts on:

1. **Prevention** - Work collaboratively to implement procedures and practices to prevent new introductions or dispersal of aquatic invasive species within the District.
2. **Containment** - Develop and implement management strategies to limit the spread of established invasive species to and from the lake. Work to detect new invasive species infestations and support the infrastructure necessary to rapidly eradicate, or suppress, and contain high priority infestations.
3. **Control/Management** - Abate (reduce impacts), and where possible, eliminate harmful ecological, economic, social, recreational, and public health impacts resulting from the infestation of aquatic invasive species in Lake Minnetonka.
4. **Leadership and Coordination** - Collaborate with local, intrastate, interstate, and international partners to help coordinate invasive species related efforts.

Discussion Item: The LMCD is looking for feedback on this AIS strategy. This item is on the agenda for the November 21, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

LMCD's Role in AIS Management

The LMCD's vision for AIS management on Lake Minnetonka is to best utilize the strengths and skills of all parties currently participating in AIS management activities. The LMCD recognizes there are many entities involved in the prevention, containment and control/management of AIS on Lake Minnetonka. Given the size, the amount of traffic, and the pace at which new species are being introduced to Minnesota's waterbodies, it is imperative that everyone who potentially plays a role in the prevention, containment and control of AIS continue to play a role in AIS management. As roles of various agencies may change over time, it is important to understand what, if any, impact it will have on Lake Minnetonka.

Given the AIS strategy framework presented above, the LMCD is assessing its role in vegetation and AIS management as described in the following table. Gaps in the table identify those areas and potential management roles that could or need to be filled if not performed by other agencies.

AIS Strategy	Past or Current LMCD Roles & Potential Roles
Prevention & Early Detection	
Conduct monthly targeted searches (May-Oct)	Complaint basis
Watercraft Inspections	Provide funding for inspections
CD3 Cleaning Stations/Public Launch Tools	
Press release if AIS are found	Provide on website, eblast, social media, etc.
Rapid Response Assessment/Action (Containment)	
Conduct an initial exploratory search after the first report of an AIS observation	
Organize and train lake searchers for a full search effort & conduct expanded targeted search	
Meet to determine treatment options	Attend meetings
Close public access, if necessary	
Set-up containment area & treat	
Evaluate treatment & Report findings	
Control/Management	
Mechanical AIS control (Harvesting/hand pulling)	Manage Lake Aquatic Plant Mechanical Harvesting Program
Chemical AIS control (pesticides)	
Biological AIS control	
AIS Permits (Issuing?)	
Leadership & Coordination	
Plan Development	Develop Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Plan
Overall AIS Management Plan Coordination	Potential
Training (e.g. Early Detection)	Participated Starry Trek, staff, public
AIS Monitoring/surveys/Research	Vegetation delineation, harvesting program, support research
Enforcement	As needed
Funding Resource	Potential funding source for AIS Projects