



Lake Minnetonka Update

February 14, 2020

LMCD

Hello,

With the new year well underway, we would like to share a few highlights of current topics and inquiries regarding Lake Minnetonka. A PDF version of this email is also available on the LMCD website. Thank you for your cooperation and support in preserving and enhancing the Lake Minnetonka experience. If you have questions, please contact LMCD Executive Director Vickie Schleuning or your city's appointed Board Director.

SEEKING FEEDBACK

The LMCD is seeking feedback regarding the following lake safety and protection standards and regulations.

- **High Water and Wake Regulations.** The LMCD is seeking input regarding high water and wake regulations. These items are being reviewed in relation to lake safety and shoreline preservation efforts. On a related note, the National Weather Service (NWS) for the Twin Cities area stated on February 13th that the spring flood potential is elevated and that the severity of the flooding will be determined by the snowpack, temperatures and precipitation over the next six weeks.
- **Deicing Operations.** Under current deicing regulations, only commercial establishments are eligible for new deicing licenses. The LMCD received a request to expand eligibility to include residential properties and is seeking feedback regarding concerns and experiences related to this matter.
- **Permanent Docks.** With the increase in permanent dock installations and requests, some concerns have been reported regarding dock size, maintenance, and the potential impact on winter recreation. Under current regulations, a new residential permanent dock is not eligible for a deicing license. The LMCD is seeking feedback regarding concerns and experiences related to this matter.

VEGETATION & AIS STRATEGY

- **AIS Grants & Intended Projects.**

In the past few weeks, several grants were submitted for AIS projects. A summary is provided below. We anticipate hearing about the status in late February or March.

MN DNR Grants

These grants were limited to Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and flowering rush management. The LMCD applied for invasive aquatic plant management permits through the MN DNR in these bays as part of the submission for the grant request.

- **Vegetation Management in Black, Seton, & Emerald Bays.** At a LMCD board meeting, the board requested these bays be reviewed for opportunities to manage vegetation and AIS based on many concerns received last summer.
- **Flowering Rush Review and Control.** In the past few years, concerns have been voiced about the perceived rapid spread of flowering rush, specifically in Smiths Bay and Crystal Bay. As we learned through the vegetation delineation as part of the vegetation and AIS master planning process, a significant amount of similar-looking native vegetation was intermixed with the flowering rush. However, it will still be beneficial to further control the spread of flowering rush in these areas. Other projects around Big Island may be underway as well through Tonka Bay Marina.
- **2019 USGS Zebra Mussel Veliger Research Project.** No official results have been released yet, but first impressions of the data indicate that the treatment had a substantial effect on reducing the abundance of zebra mussels in the bay (St. Albans) compared to the control bay (Robinsons). Funding for Year 2 of the research project is likely with additional sampling regarding treatment-related impacts. The LMCD will work with them regarding temporary structures, buoys and communications again this year. The project will likely include St. Albans and Robinson Bays. More information will be provided when available.

LAKE SAFETY

- **Lead-free for Loons.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is planning to launch a new program focused on encouraging anglers to voluntarily switch to lead-free fishing tackle as a way to help save the common loon. Lead poisoning is a serious concern involving deaths of loons in Minnesota and other states. Because Lake Minnetonka is a busy lake, toxic items accumulate over time. Birds can inadvertently swallow the lead sinker instead of stones, which can cause lead poisoning. Lead poisoning negatively impacts the nervous and reproductive systems of mammals and birds and can cause death. For more information, visit the MPCA website at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/nontoxic-tackle-lets-get-lead-out> or an article by MPR is available at <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2020/02/10/effort-aims-to-persuade-minn-anglers-to-go-leadfree-for-loons>.
- **Ice Warning – Recreation and Project Impacts.** Ice depths are reported at zero to 17 inches and vary widely across the lake. Warnings have been posted on the LMCD website and social media to use extreme caution. A few vehicles have broken through the ice, but overall people are taking extra precautions or staying off the ice.

Due to the ice depths, some dock construction projects may not occur this winter season or will be phased. Staff will be working with the property owners regarding options and plans.

APPLICATIONS/DOCK INQUIRIES

The following are recent or current projects.

- **City of Excelsior.** At the February 12, 2020 LMCD Board meeting, a public hearing was held to consider applications for a multiple dock facility and special density license. The applicant proposed to maintain 150 boat storage units (BSUs) on the site (no increase), and to change the classification of one BSU from Transient to Overnight Storage for the purpose of storing a charter boat. The application is pending board approval.
- **Boulder Bridge Farms.** At the February 12, 2020 LMCD Board meeting, a public hearing was held to consider applications for a reconfiguration of a multiple dock facility and variances for length. No increase in boat storage units was proposed. All proposed reconfiguration would be occurring within the lagoon portion of the site. The application is pending board approval.
- **Wayzata Yacht Club.** Wayzata Yacht Club has submitted an application for the reconfiguration of a few boat slips. The application is in the review process.
- **Shorewood Yacht Club.** Shorewood Yacht Club has submitted an application for an expansion and reconfiguration of their multiple dock license. No increase in boat storage is proposed. The application is in the review process.
- **Permanent Dock Permits.**
Staff continue to work with applicants, residents, dock installers, and staff as appropriate to finalize layouts for the following permanent docks:
 - Permanent Dock: 5555 Three Points Blvd, Mound.
 - Permanent Dock: 5485 Timber Lane, Shorewood.
- **Repair of Walkway/Bridge, 35 Fairhope.** The repair of a walkway/bridge structure has received all necessary permits and the contractor is in the process of repairing the walkway within the footprint of the existing structure.

Please contact the LMCD office if you have any questions.