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# Lake Minnetonka Update

May 29, 2020

LMCD

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Hello Lake Enthusiasts:

The following items are a few highlights of ongoing projects and Lake Minnetonka related current events and activities. The lake is busier than ever with people trying to find ways to recreate safely and plan improvement projects. Please let us know if you have questions.

## LAKE SAFETY

- **2020 Summer Rules Brochure.** New and updated information is provided in the 2020 Summer Rules brochure based on feedback and health and safety situations. Some new information includes Own Your Wake for Everyone's Sake, top ten summer violations, fire prevention, new marine toilet regulations, safety tips for nonmotorized boaters to be more visible to other watercraft operators, and AIS Detector opportunities. It is available on the website and as a hard copy. The website link is [HERE](#).
- **Wastewater Discharge & Marine Toilets Handout.** A handout describing new marine toilet requirements on Lake Minnetonka is available [HERE](#). Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines in 2020, pumps should be removed if they can be removed safely. However, enforcement of all watercraft will begin in 2021. It has and continues to be illegal to discharge waste into the lake.
- **Boater Safety Class Cancelled for 2020.** Due to Governor Walz' executive orders and the recommendations of health officials regarding COVID-19, the boater safety class will not be offered this summer. However, the LMCD will continue to promote safe boating and lake use through online means. Watch for more public education materials throughout the coming months.
- **Solar Lights.** Staff cleaned, repaired, and replaced solar lights as needed and they were initially installed on many channel navigation buoys with the help of volunteers from Al & Alma's and Paradise Charter Cruises. If anyone notices the solar lights not working, please contact our office.
- **Spring Save the Lake Fundraiser.** The spring Save the Lake fundraiser is underway. The flyer is available [HERE](#). The Lake is busier than ever this spring as people are looking for ways to safely recreate given the COVID-19 guidance. We want to continue to keep up with the demand for patrol and emergency services, lake safety education, solar lights, and lake preservation initiatives.

## VEGETATION & AIS PREVENTION

- **Hybrid Watermilfoil in Minnesota - Webinar.** The University of Minnesota’s Invasive Species Research Center hosted a webinar on May 22nd. Researchers Dr. Ray Newman and Dr. Ryan Thum discussed the distribution, genetics, and potential challenges of hybrid watermilfoil in Minnesota. Lake Minnetonka had at least seven hybrid genotypes. If you missed the webinar but are interested in the discussion, a recording will be available online. A link to their research page is [HERE](#).

MAISRC also extended registration for the new online **AIS Management 101** course. It is approximately 6-8 hours, \$50, and at your own pace as long as you complete it by June 30, 2020. For you fellow AIS Detectors, it satisfies some of the continued education requirements. More information is available [HERE](#).

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- **Litigation Outcome.** This is an update regarding the status of litigation brought by new property owners against the LMCD and City of Minnetonka Beach. On May 14, 2020, the Hennepin County Court ruled in favor of the LMCD Defendants and the City. The Plaintiffs have until July 13, 2020 to appeal the court’s decision to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Basically, the judge upheld the riparian rights of a City at a “fire lane”. (City of Minnetonka Beach in this case). The courts previously ruled in favor of the LMCD when the same Plaintiffs brought litigation against the LMCD when they proposed a change to an adjacent property owner’s variance without their co-application or consent.
- **Road Projects Around Lake Minnetonka.** Several road and/or bridge projects are planned around the Lake. In particular, you may be interested in these three: Shoreline Drive (County Road 15) and Shadywood Road (County Road 19) intersection improvements in Orono, Narrows Bridge (County Road 19) rehabilitation in Orono and Tonka Bay, and County Road 15 road and drainage improvements in Minnetrista. You can sign up for updates through Hennepin County Transportation and see more information at these links: [www.hennepin.us/15and19](http://www.hennepin.us/15and19), [www.hennepin.us/narrowsbridge](http://www.hennepin.us/narrowsbridge), and [www.hennepin.us/countyroad15](http://www.hennepin.us/countyroad15).

Please let me know if you would like any hard copies of the handouts. We would appreciate your help in spreading the word about lake health and safety. Be safe and well,

### ***Vickie Schleuning***

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