

LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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LMCD NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Launches the Development of A Lake-Wide Vegetation & AIS Master Plan

LMCD selects the team of Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. and Blue Water Science to guide the process and development of a master plan.

Mound, Minn. – The development of the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & Master Plan (Plan) launches with a **public meeting scheduled for June 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm** at the Centennial Building, 5341 Maywood Road, Mound. With the changing landscape of Aquatic Invasive Species (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. An important aspect of the process is stakeholder participation and LMCD meetings are open to the public.

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) Board approved seeking a specialist to assist in developing a lake-wide plan. With the infestation of starry stonewort in a nearby lake, the uncertainty of hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil, and other threats, a plan to protect Lake Minnetonka is more important than ever.

The LMCD has selected the team of Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) and Blue Water Science (BWS) to assist in the development of this Plan. Both EOR and BWS have long-standing familiarity with Lake Minnetonka in conjunction with a team of specialists with more than 35 years expertise in lake management and AIS. "Our staff have decades of experience in watershed planning, lake management, and engaging stakeholders and Lead Scientist Steve McComas' knowledge of AIS and lake ecology will facilitate the scientific rigor and ecological viability of the Plan," stated Project Manager Jason Naber of EOR.

"We are excited to begin a partnership with an interdisciplinary team of this caliber to develop a dynamic and comprehensive plan to protect such a great natural, recreational, and economic resource," according to LMCD Executive Director Vickie Schleuning. LMCD wants to promote a collaborative environment to create a plan to preserve the lake for future generations.

The Plan is expected to be completed in 2019. For more information and updates, visit the LMCD's website at www.lmcd.org or call 952-745-0789.

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