



# LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

5341 MAYWOOD ROAD, SUITE 200 • MOUND, MINNESOTA 55364 • TELEPHONE 952/745-0789 • FAX 952/745-9085

January 10, 2019

## LMCD NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Vickie Schleuning, LMCD Executive Director  
952-745-0789, [vschleuning@lmcd.org](mailto:vschleuning@lmcd.org)

### LMCD Takes New Steps to Address AIS

*The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) is taking new steps to identify, prevent, and manage Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threats on Lake Minnetonka.*

On December 12, 2018, the LMCD Board agreed to proceed with a master plan to identify, prevent, and manage AIS on Lake Minnetonka. At the January 9, 2019 Board meeting, the LMCD Board unanimously passed a motion authorizing a Request for Proposal to contract with an AIS specialist to:

- Develop an AIS monitoring and response program
- Initiate a vegetation identification and mapping of each bay
- Review the operation of the harvesting program, and,
- Initiate a program cost analysis to determine the costs and funding sources.

Pending the program analysis outlined above, mechanical harvesting of Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed will likely be temporarily suspended in 2019.

According to the Executive Director Vickie Schleuning, "The recent identification of starry stonewort in Medicine Lake underscores the importance of a master plan to address AIS with both a holistic and data-driven approach." Oftentimes, AIS are not effectively eradicated, instead becoming nuisances and hazards that require expensive management to control. The costs of AIS management are significant due to the size of Lake Minnetonka, more than 14,000 acres. Since Lake Minnetonka is one of the busiest lakes in the state, the risk of spread of AIS to other lakes also increases.

This is an exciting and promising step forward to manage the ever-increasing threats to the enjoyment and recreational use of this great natural resource. The LMCD Board and staff look forward to working with the public and Lake stakeholders to continue to preserve and enhance the "Lake Minnetonka experience."

For more information, please visit the LMCD's website, [www.lmcd.org](http://www.lmcd.org), or call the LMCD at 952-745-0789.

###