



LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

AGENDA
LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Wayzata City Hall
600 Rice Street, Wayzata, MN 55391

WORK SESSION
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Work Session is to allow staff to seek input from the Board and for the Board to discuss matters in greater detail than generally available at the formal Board Session. The Board may give staff direction or express a preference, but does not formally vote on matters during Work Sessions. While all meetings of the Board are open to the public, Work Session discussions are generally limited to the Board, staff, and designated representatives. Work Sessions are not videotaped.

1. Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan Update

FORMAL BOARD AGENDA
7:00 p.m. to Adjournment

The purpose of the Formal Session is to allow the Board to conduct public hearings and to consider and take formal action on matters coming before the LMCD.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**, Chair Gregg Thomas
6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – (11/13/2019) LMCD Regular Board Meetings
7. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A) Audit of Vouchers (11/16/2019 – 11/30/2019) and (12/01/2019 – 12/15/2019)
 - B) November Financial Summary and Balance Sheet
 - C) Resolution Accepting Save the Lake Contributions (11/01/2019 – 12/03/2019)
 - D) 2019 Appointments for Legal Services, Auditor, Bank Depository, Official Newspaper

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Persons in attendance for subjects not on the agenda (**limited to 5 minutes**). *Audience members may provide information to the Board. Please direct all comments to the Board Chair. The Board generally will not engage in public discussion or act on items not on the agenda. The Board may ask for clarifications or direct staff to report back on items at future meetings.*

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. OLD BUSINESS

A) Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan Update

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. TREASURER REPORT

14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

15. STANDING LMCD COMMITTEE / WORKGROUP UPDATE

- Aquatic Invasive Species Taskforce
- Budget Workgroup
- Save the Lake Committee
- Strategic Plan Subcommittee

16. ADJOURNMENT

Future Items – Tentative

- Lake Use Vision and Policy Discussions
 - High Water Declaration Review- January 2020
 - Slow and No Wake Regulations- February 2020
 - Channel Navigation & Safety
 - Watercraft Density
 - Permanent Docks
 - Lake Sales and Services
- EAW Requirements and Policy



WORK SESSION ITEM 1

LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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DATE: December 11, 2019

TO: LMCD Board of Directors

FROM: Vickie Schleuning, *Vickie Schleuning* Executive Director

SUBJECT: Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan Update

WORK SESSION

The Board will have an opportunity to discuss the draft reports received to date from Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) and Blue Water Science (BWS) regarding Starry Stonewort Prevention and Harvesting Program Review. Part of the discussion will include review of input, including from the most recent November 12, 2019 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting. The draft notes summarizing the comments are attached. Further, the Summary of Agency & Public Comments (through 11/20/2019) are attached.

With the amount of preparation required to mobilize the harvesting operations, direction is required from the board to determine whether the harvesting program will continue to be suspended or resumed for 2020. Further, high level direction from the board is sought regarding lake management, AIS strategy, and the role of LMCD.

ATTACHMENTS

- EOR/BWS AIS Strategy Memo
- EOR/BWS Draft Harvesting Review
- EOR/BWS Draft Starry Stonewort Plan
- Summary of Agency and Public Comments Received (As of 11/20/2019)
- 11/21/2019 TAG Meeting Draft Notes

Subject | Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Review

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

Per the Scope of Services for the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and AIS Master Plan, EOR and BWS were to prepare an Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation report prior to completing Master Plan. A draft of this report was released for comment on October 11, 2019. Comments were received by the following entities/persons:

- ✓ Three Rivers Park District
- ✓ Lake Minnetonka Association
- ✓ Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- ✓ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- ✓ Tonka Bay Marina
- ✓ City of Greenwood
- ✓ City of Orono
- ✓ Private parties/lakeshore owners

The purpose of this memorandum is to:

- 1) Provide a summary of comments received pertaining to the Draft Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation report dated October 9th, 2019;
- 2) Provide recommendations for the LMCD mechanical harvesting program as one tool in an overarching integrated aquatic plant management approach.

General Issues/Concerns from Comments Received

The LMCD received a number of comments on the draft Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation report. All comments have been recorded and tracked so that they can be addressed in a clear and transparent manner. To facilitate this process, EOR/BWS organized the comments into the following categories:

Scientific Support:

Concerns surrounding the scientific support behind the report and the focus on organizational issues as opposed to the effectiveness of harvesting. Also comments were offered regarding the limited science on other topics that were of concern to stakeholders. These included use of herbicide, use of biocontrol tools such as weevils to control EWM, harvesting effects on fishery and nutrient removal associated with vegetation management tools.

Financial Evaluation:

Concerns about the limitations to the evaluation, with specific concerns regarding equipment expenditures and comparisons between different treatment options such as herbicide.

Compatibility/Congruity with the AIS Master Plan:

The draft Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation report did not provide context as to the roll mechanical harvesting plays in an overarching aquatic plan management plan.

Planning Process:

Some parties felt there was a lack of transparency/clarity, issues with goals and the allocation of responsibilities. Some positive comments have been received from the public on the process to date.

Lake Use & Navigation:

Public comments were received noting severity of weed related issues in 2019. Suggestions were made to include a summary of how harvesting or not harvesting affects navigation on the lake. Some comments related to navigability should be summarized. .

Solutions:

A number of solutions to the lake weed issue on Lake Minnetonka were offered. In terms of the LMCD harvesting program suggestions included ranged from stopping completely to continuing with some suggested beneficial modifications. Herbicide was offered as an alternative to harvesting.

Discussion Item: The LMCD is looking for feedback on the following proposed revisions to the pre-2019 LMCD Harvesting Program. This item is on the agenda for the November 21, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Mechanical Harvesting

The draft Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation report focused on an evaluation of the existing program (pre 2019). Input received through the process will be used to finalize the report. Following are potential changes to the program that will be discussed with the TAG and stakeholders.

Proposed Pilot Study:

Beginning in 2020, the LMCD should initiate a 1 to 3 year pilot program in which mechanical harvesting efforts will be contracted out to private contractors on a project-by-project basis. After running a pilot, the LMCD could consider selling harvesting equipment if the pilot program is successful. It is recommended the LMCD hire an aquatic plant/lake management specialist who will be responsible for clearly defining when and where mechanical harvesting is to take place based on results from an annual pre-treatment survey and continued communication with vested stakeholders.

Mechanical Harvesting Acreage:

The overall scope of the mechanical harvesting program is recommended to be reduced during this pilot program to be less than 100 acres. Mechanical harvesting should be considered as a secondary treatment option in areas not suitable/appropriate for herbicide use. One important objective of the harvesting is to collect fragmented, floating vegetation, which remains a persistent problem on Lake Minnetonka for recreational boaters, primary contact recreation (swimming/diving), and anglers alike. The aquatic plant/lake management specialist will also be responsible for collecting and maintaining spatial information on the LMCD website or via Social Pinpoint that clearly shows where mechanical harvesting efforts take place along with before and after pictures and data collection of the harvested areas.

Distance from Shoreline:

At this point in time, it is recommended that the LMCD harvesting program focus squarely on managing problematic, submergent aquatic plant growth in areas 150 feet or greater from the shoreline. Additionally, mechanical harvesting can be used to enhance navigational access in connecting channels and/or to collect floating, fragmented vegetation at public access locations to minimize the spread of invasive species like EWM. The LMCD will set up a contractor's short list and assign aquatic plant harvesting where it is needed. The most likely areas in which mechanical harvesting will be applied include:

- Areas that are not being targeted through herbicide treatments.
- Open water areas 150 feet or further from shore where dense native plant growth is impeding navigation and an immediate solution is required to provide recreational access to open water from riparian areas.
- Navigational channels from one bay to another.
- Areas where genetic composition of EWM/Hybrid EWM suggests resiliency to herbicides.
- Skimming of rafts of floating plant fragments in open water based on feedback received from Social Pinpoint or other social media.
- Removal of floating/nuisance aquatic plants and debris at public access points in an effort to help prevent the spread of AIS.

Herbicide Treatments:

During this pilot study (and potentially beyond) the LMCD will not conduct any of its own herbicide treatments. Homeowners wishing to treat aquatic plants within 150 feet of the shoreline should continue to work the LMA, private contractors, bay captains, or representatives from Lake Improvement Districts (e.g., [North Arm Bay Homeowners](#)) to secure the necessary permitting to conduct the treatment.

Prioritization of Harvesting Areas:

The prioritization of areas to target via mechanical harvesting will begin each year with a lake-wide pre-treatment, meander survey conducted between May 15th and June 15th annually. If CLP is a target for harvesting, earlier survey dates may be necessary. The meander survey could incorporate biomass-sampling techniques via the use of sonar units capable of recording aquatic plant biomass. Annual pre-treatment surveys estimates are required because aquatic plant growth can change from year to year. As aquatic plant growth changes from year to year and within a given year, the role of each management tool will also need to change accordingly.

Results from the pre-treatment survey will be made publicly available via the LMCD website, social media, and/or Social Pinpoint. Subsequently, a meeting will be held with the LMA, bay captains, DNR, and other vested stakeholders to determine where aquatic plant management is proposed, determine site priorities, and determine the appropriate control tool. This exercise will begin with a review of previously managed areas. Ultimately, all areas within the lake will be mapped and prioritized for management actions. The end goal of this exercise will be a bay-by-bay map showing all areas of the lake to be treated and the proposed method of control.

Evaluate Return on Investment:

Regardless of the treatment method used, having a quantifiable goal is therefore useful in determining if results from treatment efforts are worth the cost over broad temporal and spatial scales. As part of documenting progress towards established goals, EOR recommends graphing the total surface area of EWM, CLP, and native species present before and after treatments on a bay-by-

bay basis and engaging vested stakeholders in each bay in a goal-setting discussion. Graphing this type of information on an annual basis is useful in demonstrating the Return on Investment (ROI), this data is currently lacking in Lake Minnetonka, which is currently managed by multiple entities operating with disconnected agendas.

All harvesters will be outfitted with GPS so the LMCD can track their time on the water, where they are harvesting and the loads (total amount of aquatic vegetation) being hauled out of the lake. Based on an average harvesting rate of 20 hours/week for 15 weeks (300 total hours). In terms of the scale of the harvesting operation, mechanical harvesters operate at a rate of 3 hours/1 acre of harvest or cutting channels at about 2 mph. Using these estimates the contracting fee for the mechanical harvesting program is expected to be approximately \$60,000 based on an industry standard rate for contracted mechanical harvesting services of \$200/hour. The \$60,000 fee is significantly less than the average cost for mechanical harvesting from 2008-2018. This does not include transportation services to offload the aquatic vegetation or administrative personnel responsible for program oversight.

Subject 	Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan	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

Per the Scope of Services for the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation Management and AIS Master Plan, EOR and BWS were contracted to prepare a Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan as one of the first deliverables. A draft of this report was released for comment on October 11, 2019. Comments were received by the following entities/persons:

- ✓ Three Rivers Park District
- ✓ Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- ✓ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- ✓ Tonka Bay Marina
- ✓ City of Greenwood
- ✓ City of Orono
- ✓ Private parties/lakeshore owners

This purpose of this memorandum is to:

- 1) Provide a summary of comments received with regards to the draft Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan developed by BWS and EOR on October 11th, 2019.
- 2) Provide framework for discussion on starry stonewort prevention and early detection/rapid response methods.

General Issues/Concerns from Comments Received

The LMCD received a number of comments on the draft Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan. All comments have been recorded and tracked in a spreadsheet so they can be addressed in a clear and transparent manner. To facilitate this process, EOR/BWS organized the comments into the following categories:

Starry Stonewort Prevention:

It should be noted that there is potential for introduction of SSW from Wisconsin lakes or lakes with undiscovered populations of SSW. Watercraft inspections have not been capable of preventing the spread of other AIS species but are part of the recommended SSW prevention strategy and the plan also notes prevention has not been 100% effective.

Pre-emptive and Early Detection Options:

Copper sulfate treatments have not eradicated SSW in other lakes despite these being recommended in the plan. It needs to be determined who/which entity is responsible for what and who will fund SSW treatments.

Roles & Responsibilities:

More dialog is needed with partnering agencies and parties prior to determining who can fulfill roles related to technical assistance, management and funding. The LMCD should be focusing its limited dollars on long-term strategies that have the potential for greater general lake-wide benefit.

Lake Use Comments:

SSW was identified by the public to be the greatest threat to the enjoyment of Lake Minnetonka.

Discussion Item: The LMCD is looking for feedback on the following recommendations related to the Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan. This item is on the agenda for the November 21, 2019 Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Prevention Recommendation

A chart listing several prevention methods, the probability of a SSW prevention, and the probability of implementing the prevention method on Lake Minnetonka is shown in Table 1. **Error!**

Reference source not found..

At this time, based on available technology and economic considerations, **a feasible, 100% preventative solution** designed to prevent the introduction of SSW into Lake Minnetonka is not practical. From comments received, no clear solutions were offered that pertained to SSW prevention however, until a 100% preventative solution is identified, the LMCD should partner with the DNR to secure funding for bi-weekly surveys at priority boat accesses from May through October. The LMCD should also work with the DNR and lake representatives from the 14 SSW lakes to secure funding for additional watercraft inspections and copper sulfate treatments to reduce SSW biomass and prevent SSW transport by a boat trailer.

EOR recognizes the following deficiencies with the recommended approach:

- 1) Does not take into account that it is likely there are some lakes where SSW infestations have not yet been discovered and it is likely more will be infested however, this recommendation is based on information available at this time. Additionally, does not take into account SSW-infested lakes in Wisconsin or other nearby states.
- 2) Watercraft inspections have not been able to prevent the spread of other AIS, including EWM and zebra mussels. Data show the number of EWM, zebra mussel, and SSW infested lakes in Minnesota and Wisconsin continue to increase despite increasing boat inspections.

Currently, the sort of impacts SSW will have in terms of ecology and economics are speculative. What is known is that in Minnesota lakes in which SSW is found early such as Sylvia, Rice, Pleasant, and Grand Lakes, SSW has been successfully contained. As such, EOR and BWS have developed a rapid response action plan based on lessons learned from SSW rapid response efforts across the country. To protect Lake Minnetonka, EOR recommends that the LMCD focus on early detection and response strategies, which have the greatest opportunity for protecting Lake Minnetonka over the long run.

Table 1. Evaluated methods to prevent a SSW introduction into Lake Minnetonka. Methods 1, 2, and 3 would be the most practical and effective for implementing.

Method	Politically Acceptable	Technically Achievable	Economically Feasible	Probability of Preventing a SSW Introduction (points)	Probability of Implementation (points)	Total Score (points)
1. Bi-weekly surveys at priority boat accesses.	Yes	Yes	Yes	High (4)	High (4)	8
2. Extra boat inspections at priority Lake Minnetonka public accesses	Yes	Yes	Yes	Moderate (3)	High (4)	7
3. Conduct exit inspections on 100% of the boats on all Minnesota lakes that currently have SSW. Also, apply copper sulfate at public accesses at the 13 SSW lakes to reduce SSW biomass and prevent SSW transport by a boat trailer.	Unlikely – Who is responsible?	Yes	Yes	High (4)	Moderate (3)	7
4. Don't allow any boats to visit Minnetonka, use a boat club approach.	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	High (4)	Very Low (0)	4
5. I-LIDS: Motion detected video surveillance cameras at boat access are a potential option but rate as low priority.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Low (0)	High (4)	4
6. Inspect 100% of incoming boats.	No	No	No	Moderate (3)	Very Low (0)	3
7. Put all boats and trailers through a chemical bath before entering Lake Minnetonka.	Unknown	No	No	Moderate (3)	Very Low (0)	3
8. Develop a Preemptive Pilot Study* which incorporates the use of pre-emptive copper sulfate dosing at prioritized Lake Minnetonka public accesses every 2 to 4 weeks during the growing season. Treatments are prioritized on a launch-by-launch basis, but focus will be on t higher risk launches.	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Low (2)	Very Low (0)	2
9. Using e-DNA monitoring for detecting SSW (not available at this time): Currently (as of 2019) there are no kits for sampling and identifying the presence of SSW in a lake using e-DNA. However, future research efforts may result in a method for detecting a low infestation.	Yes	No	No	Very Low (0)	Low (1)	1

*note this is not an introduction prevention strategy. It assumes that SSW has already been introduced into Lake Minnetonka, but has not yet become fully established Initially, EOR and the LMCD recommended working with the DNR and MAISRC to develop a pilot program to attempt preemptive copper sulfate applications at priority public access points in Lake Minnetonka. Since meeting with the LMCD, EOR and BWS have determined that preemptive copper sulfate treatment at public accesses are not a viable solution for the following two reasons:

- 1) DNR is not likely to allow pre-emptive copper sulfate treatments due to potentially negative impacts to non-target species.
- 2) Copper sulfate treatments conducted on Minnesota lakes with SSW have not eradicated SSW. Therefore, if SSW was introduced to Lake Minnetonka, there is no guarantee that a preemptive copper sulfate treatment would achieve a 100% eradication rate.

Early Detection and Rapid Response Recommendation

Rapid response assessment:

After the first verified observation of starry stonewort in a Lake Minnetonka bay, contact Keegan Lund at the DNR. Work with Keegan Lund at the DNR to conduct a rapid response assessment effort within 2 to 3 days of the verified observation. Contractors, DNR, and others should conduct an initial search in the most probable locations to determine the distribution of starry stonewort. From 10 - 20 hours of surveying should be conducted for a thorough assessment. All SSW locations should be sited with GPS.

Rapid response action:

If SSW is found only within a public access area (or an area less than 20-acres) after the rapid response assessment then the rapid response action will be a containment attempt similar to those performed on other Minnesota lakes with a small infestation at the public access. LMCD staff and managers would coordinate in decisions as to what type of a rapid response action should go forward. DNR permits are necessary for treatments and meetings should be conducted prior to any eradication treatments.

Starry stonewort containment:

When the management objective is to contain SSW in a small area, aggressive treatments should be considered. Apply a copper sulfate product or a permitted algaecide product to a delineated area, wait 2 weeks and resurvey. If SSW is found, treat with algaecides again. Repeat up to 4 times during the SSW growing season from June- October.

Summary of steps for a rapid response action

1. Before the detection of an introduced species, a treatment action should be planned because the timing of rapid response to an initial observation is critical. Typically after the first detection for small areas (<20 acres), treatments can occur in 2-3 weeks.
2. After an early detection observation, meet with DNR AIS staff to discuss a protocol for actions and treatment.
3. Conduct the Rapid Response Assessment, beginning with priority accesses. If SSW is detected, move to a full search of the surrounding areas.
4. Evaluate the results of a rapid response assessment. Do results indicate conditions are suitable to contain the SSW in a small area? If a small area of SSW is identified within close proximity to a public landing, the public access in which SSW was found may be closed while treatment occurs. Boaters will be re-directed to other public accesses to minimize the ability for SSW to spread.
5. Delineate a treatment polygon based on the full search survey results. For new infestations, the treatment area has ranged from 0.6 acres up to around 20 acres.
6. Containment of SSW should be measured based on results of a rapid response assessment. With early detection, the objective is to contain SSW in a small area of infestation. Previous projects (Sylvia, Rice, Pleasant, Grand) have found aggressive multiple treatments have successfully contained SSW at the public access. Once the initial infestation has spread and is widespread (> 50 acres) treatments are reduced to just the areas with the heaviest growth. Multiple treatments over large areas are not warranted due to excessive costs and ecological damage.

- Estimated annual costs associated with the application and monitoring are up to \$20,000 for a containment treatment, dependent on the treatment dimensions and frequency of treatments.

Management Options

After reviewing SSW treatment results in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, the most cost effective treatment has been the use of **copper sulfate or an algaecide such as endothall**. Hand pulling can be considered for very limited infestations, but then a follow-up copper sulfate application should be considered. Other methods that have been attempted, but have been less effective include dredging, DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting), and drawdown. After a treatment, a post-treatment evaluation is necessary to determine the effectiveness of a containment treatment. This protocol is available from the DNR. Components will likely include a thorough search of the treatment area, and a post treatment survey of the treatment area and surrounding area. A flow chart showing a sequence of steps is shown in Figure 1.

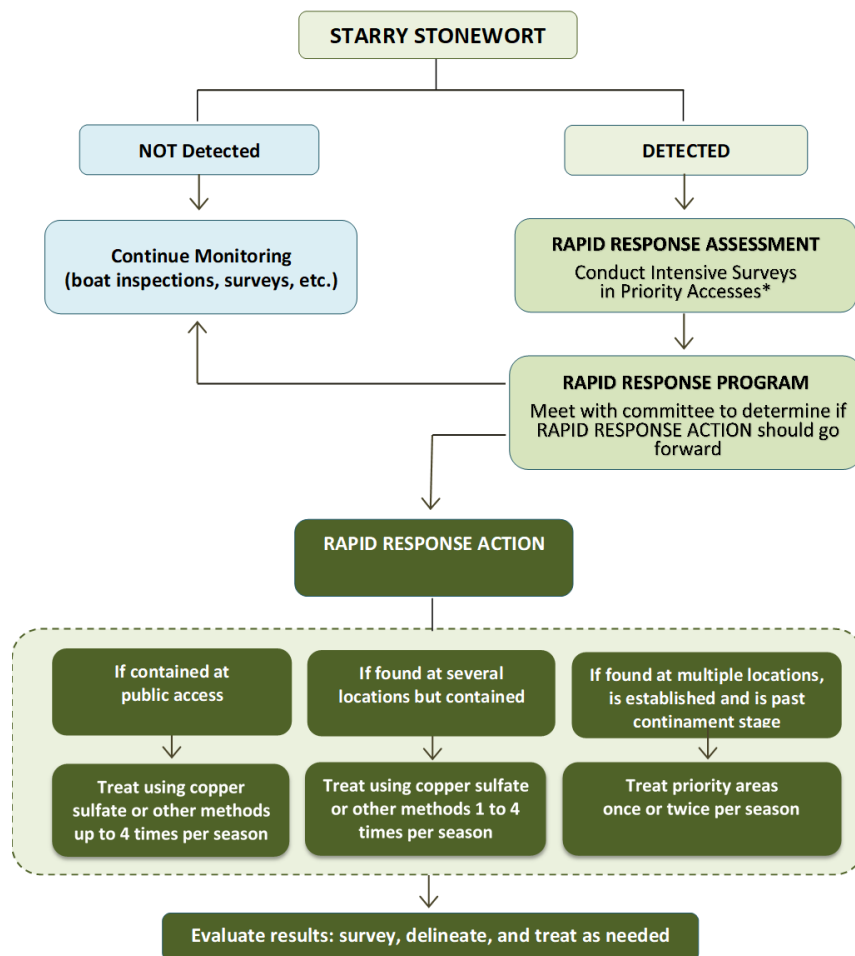


Figure 1. Starry Stonewort Rapid Response Plan Flow Chart.

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

Minnetonka AIS/Lake Management Plan - Comments as of November 20, 2019

Compiled by EOR

					COMMENTS RELATED TO PROCESS						COMMENTS RELATED TO PROCESS					COMMENTS RELATED TO TECHINICAL CONTENT		
Source	Date	Comment	Commenter	Recreation	Watercraft Inspection	Chemical Treatment	Harvesting	Lack of Harvesting 2019	SSW	Funding	LMCD Role	Partner Roles	Data Collection/ Analysis	Stakeholder Engagement	Process	Harvesting Plan	SSW Plan	AIS Master Plan
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Phelps Bay does not treat with herbicide any more				X												
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Consider contacting lake service providers to collect information on vegetation and herbicide management. Lake Service Providers report to MNDNR. They have delineation reports and issue permits. Contact Adam at Premier Harvesting per Nicole Stone- LMCD				X							X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Questions about the timing of information presented on the map of historic harvesting locations. EOR clarified that the map presented information from 2010 through 2018 and was based upon the information provided from LMCD.					X						X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Consider contacting Dr. Neumann to collect his information about Eurasian Watermilfoil in Lake Minnetonka.																
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	People concerned that there will not be opportunity for debate/discussion.												X				
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Recommend publishing an article in the local papers on engagement and the social pinpoint site. Information in articles and social media should frame the feedback we are looking for and be educational to help readers identify invasive species we are concerned about.												X				
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Press releases should be scientific.												X				
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Create a list serve to let people know when new information is available for input.												X				
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	How will public-provided input be handled. Evaluate options for providing information using social pinpoint to target feedback. All information will be reviewed by the Administrator.												X				
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Pictures of AIS species of concern should be on Social Pinpoint											X	X	X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Political nature of the subject is going to consume a lot of time and energy over the course of the plan development process. There will be many policy discussions that need to be held as part of the plan development process.													X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Using existing information, existing programs and research to evaluate the different management options the LMCD should consider. Not science from Lake Minnetonka specifically.											X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	It would be good to present trends in aquatic vegetation densities and distributions and pairing it with vegetation management to see if there is cause and effect. How to articulate all of the factors that play a role in species representation (richness and diversity) to make the point that isolated management actions may not be a direct influence on these variations.				X	X						X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Will this Plan include a survey of aquatic vegetation? No, the consultants will use existing information to characterize past management activities and use social pinpoint to identify where nuisance vegetation is located on the lake. Meeting participant felt a vegetation survey would substantiate the information on social pinpoint (it would verify that what is being recorded is accurate).											X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	the time consuming part of this effort is not the science- it will be the politics.	Eric Evenson												X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Will the Plan address invasive animals? We will build a Master Plan that includes modules for the imminent species (as defined in the scope of services). The Starry Stonewort Protection Plan and Emergency Response Plan is an example of what these modules will look like. The template will be set up so that new species can be added as needed.											X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Need good lake-wide data- lots of gaps, need to prioritize data collection, sediment samples are needed where gaps exist											X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	climate change suitability analysis would be useful to have in MP- note Curly-leaf response to climate change	Eric Evenson										X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Meeting participant asked if we were conducting a bay-by-bay assessment. No, the consultants are conducting a risk assessment of species that are not in Lake Minnetonka or in all of the bays yet. This will give the LMCD an idea of what to really be worried about.											X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Again, meeting participants asked how the consultant will come to a conclusion (develop recommendations) without a trend line. Suitability analysis is going to give us a good indication. There are a lot of factors that play a role in the proliferation of aquatic vegetation including climate change, sediments in the bays.													X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Runoff affects weed growth- need to coordinate with MCWD and Cities to control fertilizer and other nutrients entering the lake													X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Need to understand effect of wastewater discharge points- excessive N will cause rapid growth of EWM											X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Large support for lake-wide LID model.											X					
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	adopt a shoreline. Break shoreline into manageable units. He thinks LMCD is being wasteful of a huge annual budget. Rod and Gregg Thomas debated this for some time.	Ron Kern							X	X							
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Participants questioned the motivation for getting the Plan done in the next 6 months. Vickie clarified that the timeline was established by the desire to develop a Starry Stonewort Emergency Response Plan.							X						X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	It was also noted that the Plan would not address all comments. During the plan development process gaps me be identified that preclude the ability to address all comments. Comments that cannot be addressed may be reflected as next steps in an on-going lake vegetation and AIS Management process. If priorities shift over the course of the project, this may also influence plan content. In the end the LMCD will have more information and will be better informed in making future decisions.													X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	It has always been LMCD's intent to leverage partnerships in conducting lake vegetation and AIS management. LMCD cannot do all the work and the outcome will be better if more people are involved.									X			X				
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	Will the harvesting review effort as part of this project be used to make decisions about 2020?					X								X			
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	No preconceived notions on harvesting. He is confident there will be holes identified in the program. The harvesters are already paid for, the capital is already spent, it does not make sense to say we have to keep using them because we already paid for them. That just means more money spent.	Gregg Thomas - LMCD				X			X								
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	no harvesting needed in channels- boat traffic takes care of that by chopping it up.	Michael Mason				X											
Public Meeting 1	6/19/2019	weeds are a big problem this year. In past years harvesting in August is too late. He made the analogy of a snow plow clearing your street a week after a blizzard; by that time you have dealt with it too long. Transient users of the lake need to pay.	Martin Sundquist	X			X	X										

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Social Pinpoint		The weeds along the north shore of Cooks Bay are the worst we've ever seen. Is there a way we can address this next year. It is not possible to get our jet skis out and very difficult to get the boat out. I believe there was a treatment on Carmens Bay that was effective. Could this be considered for Cooks Bay		X			X											
Social Pinpoint		The LMCD was informed years ago harvesting is a poor choice. Think about it. Plants you have pulled apart intentionally or not likely became multiple plants. Harvesters are similar. Broken pieces equal potential plants. The surface looks clean, until floaters, but there are now millions of pieces floating below. Unless your aquatic weed eater collects every piece you are contributing to the problem. Harvesting and shore cutting is a mistake. Benefits only shoreowners temporarily, Not The Lake.					X				X							
Social Pinpoint		lots of milfoil											X					
Social Pinpoint		milfoil way to much and to thick											X					
Social Pinpoint		The lake was weedy and didn't catch many fish.		X									X					
Social Pinpoint		Is there going to be harvesting? Black Lake is really bad. The kayaks can't move.		X			X	X					X					
Social Pinpoint		Will there be harvesting this year? The weeds are really bad in this area.		X			X	X					X					
Social Pinpoint		Weeds are so bad. Difficult to navigate.		X									X					
Social Pinpoint		I do not want any harvesting, not even private contracts, to be allowed.					X											
Social Pinpoint		A significant amount of vegetation, both long strands and cut pieces, floating into dock area several times past couple weeks.											X					
Social Pinpoint		Vegetation growth is thick this year.											X					
Social Pinpoint		We find the lake weeds an increasing problem in Smiths Bay. We have a mix of emersed weeds on the inside of our dock area near shore, submersed weeds all around our dock, and increasing amount of floating weeds, which I believe are submersed weeds cut by boat props in the shallow bay that float towards us and get caught up all around our dock. It's really becoming a mess...		X									X					
Social Pinpoint		Looks like they've harvested! What a difference! Thank you! We are able to enjoy the lake again!					X											
Social Pinpoint		I Like LMCD									X							
Social Pinpoint		Much more milfoil than I remember running parallel to enchanted island.											X					
Social Pinpoint		Vegetation thick in the west side of Phelps Bay. Also noted vegetation growing dense in other areas as well.											X					
Social Pinpoint		Significant amounts of primarily two weed types, assumed to be milfoil and curly pondweed											X					
Social Pinpoint		a lot of vegetation in the bay											X					
Social Pinpoint		As of last weekend, there is a large tree branch that hangs over the Coffee channel. When boats are going towards Crystal Bay they try to avoid hitting the tree branch and drive too close to the center of the channel. I am not sure if the homeowner on the channel is responsible for trimming this tree. This has been a problem before 4th of July. The branch needs to be trimmed and unsure if the LMCD can help. Thank you!		X							X		X					
Social Pinpoint		Dense algal growth. 6/6/2019											X					
Social Pinpoint		The weeds this year are worse than I've ever seen them! #1-It looks terrible! #2-It has ruined our recreational water sports for the summer. We can't get our jet skis through the weeds without getting them clogged up with weeds, having to jump out into the weedy water and pull them out from underneath.â™”i, Kayaking and paddle boarding are equally as difficult. Forget about swimming! The kids don't even want to tube or ski. Even the boat propeller gets all tangled up with weeds. It's a nightmare!		X									X					
Social Pinpoint		Channel off Lafayette Bay to West Point nearly impassable											X					
Social Pinpoint		Thick line of vegetation including milfoil											X					
Social Pinpoint		Thick vegetation along entire ridge across this entire bay making access to Upper Minnetonka Yacht Club and adjacent properties difficult.		X									X					
Social Pinpoint		Looks like a gator swamp											X					
Social Pinpoint		Vegetation growth is heavy- can you harvest											X					
Social Pinpoint		Eurasian Watermilfoil											X					
Social Pinpoint		Water is abnormal color and has no weeds. Is this due to chemical treatment.				X							X					
Social Pinpoint		So many weeds that my standup paddleboard rudder was getting caught		X									X					
Social Pinpoint		Worst year of weeds. We believe the decision not to harvest weeds in 2019 was a huge mistake and trust that you will consider and reverse that decision for the 2020 season.					X	X					X					
Social Pinpoint		We've spent a lot of money and time removing the lake weeds from our shore for swimming and to get our jet skis out without getting plugged up with weeds. Would like to see the bay being harvested and restored to a usable boating and swimming lake.		X			X											
Social Pinpoint		A lot of vegetation floating into shore this year.											X					
Social Pinpoint		Milfoil is bad in this area.											X					
Social Pinpoint		Football field sized weeds for 2 or 3 days. LMCD should harvest again.					X	X			X		X					
Social Pinpoint		Weeds are really bad this summer. Already removed five truckloads this past week. Not harvesting seems to have made things worse.					X	X					X					
Social Pinpoint		The weeds are usually bad in Cooks bat, but this is the worst year ever.											X					
Social Pinpoint		Harvesting this year? Vegetation is so bad that I can't get my boat out.		X			X	X					X					
Social Pinpoint		It is impossible to keep up with the floating weeds the boats produce. Lived here over 30 years and have never seen such a mess. In the past years harvesters would cut at least one time in the summer which would take care of the weeds growing above the surface in front of the docks.					X	X					X					
Social Pinpoint		Weeds should be harvested along southeastern side of Crane Island. It is a high usage area.		X			X											
Social Pinpoint		The LMCD did such a beautiful job in past years. My neighborhood and I are disappointed LMCD is not harvesting this year. I don't feel like I can even swim because it's dangerous with the weeds.					X	X			X							
Social Pinpoint		I am in favor of harvesting in Harrsions Bay					X											
Social Pinpoint		Milfoil											X					
Social Pinpoint		Milfoil yuck											X					

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Social Pinpoint		Lived here 22 years. This year was the worst build up and accumulation of floating weeds by far. I've always thought it was the water current along the point that kept weeds moving, but this summer I realized what a significant benefit LMCD harvesting provided. Please bring back the harvesters.					X	X			X							
Social Pinpoint		Weeds floating after private harvester went through.					X						X					
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Starry stonewort inspections should be all public & private boat launches	Eric Evenson		X				X									
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Need a list of all private accesses- these could be at some multiple dock permit areas	Eric Evenson		X													
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Who should take lead on AIS- MCWD makes sense but not interested, DNR is other option	Eric Evenson									X			X			
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Flowering Rush- harvesting spreads it, as evidenced in Detroit Lakes.	Eric Evenson				X											
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Need a way to have lake wide treatment of EWM	Eric Evenson			X	X											
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Need to identify where weeds are being treated and what species- plan for long term	Eric Evenson										X					
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	MCWD had a good plan for AIS- but no longer has interest in AIS	Eric Evenson									X			X			
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Federal CWA- does/should classify ZM as a pollutant. Since there are no native mussels left in the lake the ZM meets the definition as a toxic pollutant.	Eric Evenson										X					
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	<u>State Law MN Rule 6820 states that all harvested plants must be removed- need clarification directly from DNR on this. Eric thinks harvesting is illegal. https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/6280.0250/</u>	Eric Evenson										X					
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	<u>https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/6280.0350/</u>	Eric Evenson										X					
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Channels do not need harvesting- need a definition of channel	Eric Evenson				X											
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Residents are the biggest beneficiary of harvesting- most boaters just go to open water and not mess with weedy shorelines	Eric Evenson	X			X											
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	A great role for LMCD is to collect cut and senesced plants. They need a collector, not a harvester	Eric Evenson								X							
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Minnetonka needs a Lake Manager- LMCD not currently in position to manage the lake, however it could be an LMCD staff person with the right expertise, scientific background, etc.	Eric Evenson								X	X						
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Lake Minnetonka is an huge economic engine	Eric Evenson							X								
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	See Dick Osgood's paper on watershed activities.	Eric Evenson										X		X			
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Funding base	Eric Evenson							X								
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Legislation to ask for more money	Eric Evenson							X								
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Reorganize as a JPA under 103B, 14 cities as a JPA	Eric Evenson							X								
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Lakewide LID- 2 more now 2 more coming. Is it fair for owners to pay for all lake users?	Eric Evenson							X								
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Petition projects to WD- LMCD does not need to bond- if WD says no they can just go to legislature	Eric Evenson							X								
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Is AIS control worth it? If EWM is cut the beetle cannot do its work. Bluegills also eat the beetles.	Eric Evenson												X			
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	Should we try to control invasive natives?	Eric Evenson												X			
Meeting with LMA	6/14/2019	The West Pioneer History Museum in Maple Plain has an incredible history of Lake Minnetonka. Everyone should go there.	Eric Evenson											X				
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was discovered in Lake Minnetonka in the late-1980s. This was a call to action for the community and its first and most enduring effort was the harvesting program. At the time, there were no feasible alternatives	Gabriel Jabbour													X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Harvesting is more commonly employed around the nation for invasive plant nuisances other than EWM (such as hydrilla and water hyacinth). Harvesting for EWM control is more common in the Midwest states, but only in a small percentage of EWM-infested lakes, and mostly small-to-mid-sized lakes. In this context, Lake Minnetonka stands out, so guidance based on other harvesting programs is either lacking or not applicable. A logical remedy would be to use the decades of observations and experience of Lake Minnetonka's harvesting program to focus its future program. Unfortunately, very little useful information or program metrics have been collected. Specifically, we have little or no systematic, objective information or data regarding: • How EWM or other matting plants interfere with navigation, safety, etc. • What plant species contribute to navigation problems	Gabriel Jabbour				X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	* Missed Opportunity – The LMCD suspended the harvesting program in 2019, which presented an opportunity to systematically evaluate how nuisance vegetation in Lake Minnetonka, especially in historically harvested areas, interfered with navigation or posed other nuisances, so an objective evaluation could have been made. The LMCD did create an ‘express your concern’ tool on their website. However, this largely anecdotal and, as of this writing, had received only: • One idea/suggestion concerning a fallen tree branch • Three suspected AIS sightings – all regarding EWM in known EWM areas • About 25 ‘excessive plant growth’ notes • About 7 comments, and • One ‘Something I like’ – “I like LMCD” posted over the LMCD office location	Gabriel Jabbour				X	X			X					X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	The stated purpose of the EVALUATION includes defining aspects of a successful harvesting program, identifying the program's strengths and weaknesses, and recommend aspects of the program that should continue or be improved. As well, the EVALUATION will also identify short- and long-term quantifiable goals for the program. The EVALUATION falls far short in these regards. It is more of a program summary than an evaluation. Strengths, weaknesses and improvements are simple listings of harvesting in general rather than specific to the future needs in Lake Minnetonka. And the recommended goals are descriptive, vague and not quantifiable.	Gabriel Jabbour				X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	** Should the LMCD consider continuing a harvesting program with program costs projected to increase to \$358,000 per year (double current costs),	Gabriel Jabbour				X			X						X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	1. The LMCD's harvesting program has been in existence for three decades and this is the most substantial program evaluation to-date.	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		

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Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	2. This program evaluation presumes that the harvesting program will remain in place and be substantially unchanged in scope. This is ill-advised because a) other techniques, technologies and strategies that were not practical or feasible in the early-1990s (when the harvesting program was initiated) are now available and should be evaluated for comparison, b) other nuisance plant management activities are occurring on Lake Minnetonka, so a more comprehensive management plan (which is being developed and harvesting could be an element) ought to include coordination with the harvesting program and c) in light of 'a' and 'b' above, it is likely that the harvesting program may need modifications in scope or scale.	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	3. The existing program's goals are to a) ensure safe navigation, b) retard the spread of AIS to other lakes (from Lake Minnetonka), c) reduce the biomass in the lake and d) provide an alternative to other AIS management methods (page 3). There are serious shortcomings with respect to evaluating the program. They are: • Except for perhaps reducing biomass, the harvesting program has collected no data or provide no metrics to evaluate these goals. • There are confusing and conflicting references to whether the program focuses on milfoil, AIS-plants or nuisance native plants (or some combination). • Milfoil and other mat-forming plants are generally not unsafe for navigation, although they can and often are inconvenient. • Neither this program nor any other has evaluated whether or to what extent the harvesting program has reduced the spread of AIS (milfoil, AIS plants, AIS in general, ???) to other lakes. • If this program is providing alternatives, there is no evaluation of what alternatives are available, in what situations they are feasible, who they are available to, etc	Gabriel Jabbour	X			X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	4. If it is intended that this evaluation is to be an element of a larger lake vegetation plan, it should be included in an evaluation of alternatives and a description of coordination with other programs. Pending that, this evaluation is incomplete or premature	Gabriel Jabbour													X		X
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	5. I assume this evaluation is intended to support a future program to manage nuisance plants (the Vegetation and AIS Master Plan). A serious flaw in the existing program as well as in this evaluation is the lack of measurable program objectives	Gabriel Jabbour													X		X
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	6. Navigation appears to be the main program goal, yet no efforts have been made to objectively or systematically evaluate whether, when, where or how nuisance plants are problematic or whether or to what extent the harvesting program has mitigated those impacts. How well has the harvesting program met a real need?	Gabriel Jabbour	X												X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	7. The existing program has been operated by non-professionals. Given the size, significance and visibility of Lake Minnetonka as well as the complexity of managing nuisance plants for multiple objectives, the future program must include a professional lake manager with day-to-day responsibility for evaluating plant populations, coordinating with permitting agencies, directing operational activities and evaluating program efficacy. The LMCD has had advisory committees, but they have had no specific authorities or critical, consistent oversight. This position should be a critical element of the future management program.	Gabriel Jabbour								X					X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Purpose 1 – talks about aspects of a 'successful' harvesting program. It is more proper to refer to an 'effective' program and program efficacy ought to be keyed to clear goals and measurable objectives.	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Purpose 2 – identify strengths and weaknesses – as with the comment above, strengths and weaknesses ought to be keyed to clear goals and measurable objectives as opposed to generally.	Gabriel Jabbour													X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Purpose 3 – refers to recommendations for sustaining or improving the harvesting program. I understand the Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation, is to be an element of the more comprehensive Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan. As such, an evaluation of harvesting as a tool for the overall management of AIS (plants) could include the possibility of suspending harvesting should other techniques and strategies be found to more effective at achieving the lake's overall AIS management objectives.	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		X
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Stated program goals. Are to 'ensure safe navigation for lakeshore owners and the general public, reduce the amount of aquatic invasive species (AIS) available to spread by boaters and other means throughout the busy season, reduce biomass in the lake, and provide an alternative to other AIS management methods where they are not feasible or desired.' These goals are not evaluated.	Gabriel Jabbour	X		X	X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Section 3.3 Staffing. Nowhere in this section describes or refers to operational staff identifying EWM, curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) or nuisance native plants at or near matting conditions and thus in need of mitigation. In addition, nowhere is there reference to identifying protected plants or other AIS plants that could be spread by the harvesting.	Gabriel Jabbour				X				X					X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	The section describes staffing matters, such as equipment, training and safety. Numerous concerns have been raised – these are summarized in the appendix.	Gabriel Jabbour								X					X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Financial summary. This section provides and average cost of the harvesting program based on total acreages as provided in table 7 (\$514/acre). However, the total acreages include second cuts, thus these are double counted for a given season. For example, in 2010, 126 acres (33%) of the total 384 acres were second cuts – but the total acreage harvesting that year was 258 acres. On this basis, the average seasonal cost increases to \$765/acre.	Gabriel Jabbour				X			X						X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	The comparison between tables 7 and 8 estimates that continuing the LMCD's existing program with no changes will result in a doubling of the annual program budget. One would expect this would entail an explanation and justification, yet none are provided.	Gabriel Jabbour							X						X		

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Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Cost comparison. This assessment presumes that using a private contractor for harvesting operations will entail harvesting the same acreage as the LMCD’s historical program. This assumption should also be evaluated in the cost comparison. This also presumes that LMCD’s historical averages represent the totality of the navigation problems on Lake Minnetonka. Due to the limited harvesting season (mid-June through mid-August) it is likely there are nuisance areas where the large-sized harvesters cannot reach or there are areas where nuisances develop later in the season. Thus, this cost comparison is of limited value when expanding considerations to overall efficacy of nuisance control on Lake Minnetonka.	Gabriel Jabbour				X			X	X					X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	(Table 8) – The EVALUATION projects substantial program cost increases for the next 20 years, due largely to the need for equipment replacement. The projections assume no change in program operations. According to these projections, the average annual program cost will double to \$358,000 per year compared to current program costs (from table 7). On a per acre basis and adjusted for second cuts, the annual average projected costs will be over \$1,500/acre!	Gabriel Jabbour							X						X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	This section, Existing Program Evaluation, lists numerous program shortcomings, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The program is ‘reactionary’• “The LMCD does not have a clear plan ...”• The program does not us GPS – resulting in poor, imprecise operational data• The is no evaluation of post-harvesting efficacy• The is reference to areas where herbicides are prohibited, but neither the areas nor the prohibitions are detailed• It mentions that areas of frequent re-harvesting may be candidates for herbicide treatments, yet does not consider or evaluate herbicides This paints a damning portrait of a slipshod program. Worse yet, none of these shortcomings are proposed to be remedied in a meaningful, substantial manner in the EVAUATION. Instead, it is recommended the harvesting program be continued.	Gabriel Jabbour			X	X				X		X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Aspects of a successful harvesting program. This section lists 7 bullets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defining realistic goals – but no meaningful program goals are included in recommendations.• Efficacy of harvesting equipment – it is unclear what this means.• Seasonality, frequency and duration of harvesting – Now much of this is keyed to seasonal staffing availability. This is not evaluated nor are recommendations included.• Distribution and abundance of plant species being harvested – This knowledge would require systematic surveys using qualified experts. No recommendations included.• Funding and community support – Agreed, but not evaluated here.• Public relations – No comment.• Accurate data on harvesting timing and location. No comment. This section as well as follow-up sections are weak and mostly lacking on specifics.	Gabriel Jabbour				X			X			X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Second advantage. States that herbicides allow plants to decompose in place and lowers oxygen. With the baywide herbicide program, there is an abundance of data refuting this – early treatments involve small, pre-emergent plants (so there is little biomass to decompose) and oxygen conditions are unaffected.	Gabriel Jabbour			X										X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Third advantage – For the reasons stated as well as LMCD-cited studies, nutrient removal is insignificant. So, this is not an advantage.	Gabriel Jabbour				X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Sixth advantage – Refers to ‘perceived’ environmental neutrality of harvesting and ‘concerns’ of toxicity. However, evidence supporting or refuting either is lacking, so this is an irrelevant, misleading comparison.	Gabriel Jabbour				X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Disadvantage four – Refers to by-catch, but rationalizes that a small harvested area poses minimal concern. More critically, other advantages/disadvantages make comparisons to herbicides. If herbicides have perceived impacts, the small area would be similarly of minimal concern. I am aware of no evidence of non-target impacts using herbicides.	Gabriel Jabbour			X										X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Disadvantages 7 & 8 – I am not sure these are disadvantages, rather a cost of the overall program.	Gabriel Jabbour							X						X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Effectiveness of control (#2) – The baywide herbicide program has practically immediate efficacy, as treatments are done before the plants have grown, so they are not problematic to start with.	Gabriel Jabbour			X										X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Effectiveness of control (#5) – This is accurate. However, we do not know what percentage of the harvesting program involves channels. This is a significant shortcoming of the program	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Effects on non-target organisms or ecosystems (#5) – States the potential for effects with herbicides. However, as herbicides are registered with the EPA and permitted by the DNR, it should be noted that any ‘potential’ effects are deemed acceptable by regulatory agencies.	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Case Studies (Positive Outcomes) Olson et al. 1998 – This study evaluated the impact of harvesting on the growth rates of bluegill and largemouth based following mechanical weed harvesting and found a temporary increase in the growth rate of some age classes. However, it should be noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These increases were temporary.• The harvesting involved 20% of the lakes’ littoral area in an aggressive and unusual pattern not used in Lake Minnetonka (see photos from the paper). This case is of limited applicability to Lake Minnetonka.	Gabriel Jabbour				X						X			X		

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Source	Date	Comment	Commenter	Recreation	Watercraft Inspection	Chemical Treatment	Harvesting	Lack of Harvesting 2019	SSW	Funding	LMCD Role	Partner Roles	Data Collection/ Analysis	Stakeholder Engagement	Process	Harvesting Plan	SSW Plan	AIS Master Plan
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Phosphorus removal by plant harvesting on Lake Minnetonka (2004) – This study found that harvested (and removed) plants accounted for 2-4% of the total phosphorus inputs to Lake Minnetonka. The study found “in the short term, removal of phosphorus through plant harvesting is not a viable water quality improvement technique” and “the long-term effect of annual plant removal on a large scale on water column phosphorus concentrations has not been determined.” Here too, a comparison with the baywide herbicide program would be illustrative. As noted above, because the baywide herbicide program aims at pre-emergent plants, they would not have had a chance to take up phosphorus and therefore do not present a potential contribution to the lake water. The study notes that phosphorus ‘mining’ from the lake sediments is a theoretical possibility, but which has not been evaluated.	Gabriel Jabbour				X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Bartodzeil et al. (2017) – This study evaluated phosphorus removal contained in plants in a small (12-acres), shallow (max depth = 3.6-feet) lake containing no EWM or CLP. This case has minimal applicability to Lake Minnetonka.	Gabriel Jabbour										X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Lake Noquebay Rehabilitation District (2009) – This is a section of a management plan’s goals, but it contains no evaluation of outcomes.	Gabriel Jabbour										X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	EWM as a Fisheries Management Tool (1995) – The link is to an abstract of an article in the Journal, Fisheries. The gist of the article is that EWM can be beneficial to fisheries in some lakes lacking abundant or diverse native plants. The article refers to cases where EWM infestations could be beneficial to fisheries and has no reference to or evaluation of harvesting or any other EWM controls.	Gabriel Jabbour										X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Overall – the positive case studies provide poor support for possible positive outcomes as applicable to lake Minnetonka.	Gabriel Jabbour										X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Case Studies (Negative Outcomes) Three cases are listed. Overall, they provide documentation of possible negative impacts of harvesting. On balance, while credible, these cases and concerns do not tip the scale against harvesting in Lake Minnetonka Three cases are listed. Overall, they provide documentation of possible negative impacts of harvesting. On balance, while credible, these cases and concerns do not tip the scale against harvesting in Lake Minnetonka.	Gabriel Jabbour										X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Check the math – 346 of 5,850 acres is about 6% of the littoral area of Lake Minnetonka. The paragraph on this page also recommends identifying and protecting critical areas from harvesting. Areas with Flowering rush should also be included (see additional comments below).	Gabriel Jabbour				X						X			X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	The intro paragraphs recommend the harvesting program should continue and be evaluated as part of a comprehensive integrated management approach. This is self-contradictory. A future-oriented evaluation of an integrated plant management program should include, consider and evaluate all control elements first, then it can evaluate the aptness, efficacy and feasibility of individual elements next. For example, I can think of feasible and effective alternatives to controlling nuisance plants in 346 acres of Lake Minnetonka using contact herbicides, just as many lakeshore owners now do. At about \$150-200/acre per season, this is far cheaper (total cost: \$51,900 - 69,200 vs. \$173,430 – 2008-2018 average; or \$358,114 – projected 20-year average), has season-long control (vs. partial season), has minimal off target impacts (in the same way as possible negative impacts of harvesting), and involves no staff or capital equipment. This possibility has even been presented to LMCD staff by MN DNR staff.	Gabriel Jabbour				X			X						X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	On a more practical note, why would the LMCD consider retaining the harvesting program, including a planned purchase of a replacement harvester in 2020, when the projected annual costs will double (20-year projection from Table 8) but funding commitments to support this program do not appear to have been secured? This is especially noteworthy as the actual program costs have steadily fallen for the past 20 years or so. Goal 1 – Increase Transparency – I have no criticism of transparency, however this does not address the EVALUATION’s purpose and is not quantifiable. Goal 2 – Define and prioritize harvesting priorities – this makes sense. Let’s see them.	Gabriel Jabbour				X			X						X		

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Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Targeted areas for harvesting, comments keyed to each of the 7 bullets in the plan: • Areas where vegetation impeded navigation – ought to have a quantifiable metric to objectively determine. [Side note: there is confusion throughout regarding whether harvesting targets nuisance vegetation, EWM or ???] • Areas where herbicides are not effective. This requires additional evaluation into the underlying assumptions. There also may be alternatives other than herbicides (for example, hand-pulling or bottom barriers for which variances can be granted). • Areas where herbicides may be undesirable – again, re-check underlying assumptions. Herbicides are allowed and can be effective in swimming areas. Also, there may be other alternatives. • Areas with dense natives (plants) – Makes sense. Where are these areas? • Areas where there may be EWM hybridity and herbicide resistance – This would be more applicable to ‘selective’ as opposed to ‘contact’ herbicide. See previous comments on contact herbicides. • Areas where plants accumulate and can be collected – Makes sense, although there may be other feasible options. The final paragraph of the section on short-term goals recommends an individual with aquatic plant experience should supervise the harvesting operations. Further, it suggests that AIS detector training is sufficient to meet this qualification. I disagree. AIS detector training is not adequate training for this task.	Gabriel Jabbour			X	X										X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Native Plant Community Restoration is offered as the sole long-term goal. Again, this is descriptive and not quantifiable. While the sentiment is laudable, if it only applies to harvested areas (6% of the littoral area) its positive impact is ‘minimal’ in the same way as possible negative impacts of harvesting. To be meaningful, this goal should be applicable to the entire lake and weed management program (with quantifiable, measurable objectives).	Gabriel Jabbour														X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Flowering Rush Flowering rush (FR) has been in lake Minnetonka for a decade or so. It appears to be relatively slow spreading, but it is spreading nonetheless. There are two concerns with FR: 1) the possibility that mechanical harvesting can facility its spread and 2) an imprecise or incomplete knowledge of its locations. Regarding its spread, FR is a perennial plant that grows largely submersed until later in the season. While it reproduces by a number of mechanisms, dislodging and fragmentation of its rhizomes can occur due to mechanical actions, such as harvester cutter bars or paddlewheels. FR is practically impossible to identify in its submersed form, which exists at the time harvesting operations are occurring. It should be noted that other mechanical agitation (such as boat props) may also facilitate the spreading of FR. It is prudent to avoid known areas of FR in all cases. Precisely identifying areas where FR is growing requires intensive monitoring. As a recent example illustrates, a broad scale survey is likely to miss what a more intensive survey picks up. The two illustrations below provide a useful comparison. The first figure is a screen shot from LMCD’s website of FR occurrences around Big Island based on “all documented locations (FR locations are indicated with pink stars).” Compare this with a more detailed survey conducted on September 26, 2019. Here FR, indicated by green dots, is seen to be distributed in additional areas around Big Island. Future harvesting operations, to most effectively avoid FR areas, should conduct comprehensive, more intensive pre-season surveys to have the best knowledge of FR locations and avoid harvesting in these areas (plus a reasonable buffer). There is evidence that harvested areas have overlapped with known FR areas. FR maps , copied from 2009, 2012, 2015 & 2016 are shown below: Here is the LMCD harvesting map from 2018: By comparing these maps, there are areas of overlap between the harvesting and areas of known FR, especially in Browns, Crystal, Lafayette and Smith Bays and around Big Island (harvesting maps from several earlier years show similar overlap with FR). As noted in the 2018 harvesting map legend, areas with FR were not harvested. However, fragments	Gabriel Jabbour														X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Floating plant fragments are generated by the harvesting operations. To my knowledge, no systematic study has been done to accurately know how or how effectively various mitigation efforts have been. Such an assessment should be included in future harvesting operations, and if found to remain problematic, effective mitigations methods should be identified and implemented.	Gabriel Jabbour														X		

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Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Short Season The harvesting program has historically operated from mid-June through mid-August, sometimes with holiday breaks. However, EWM (and other mat-forming weeds) continue to grow and be problematic for navigation through September. Thus, harvesting operations miss about 40% of the boating season while navigation impediments are still occurring. In addition, due to the sequential nature of the harvesting operation, approximately half the seasonal treatment areas are unharvested until midsummer (about mid-July). In addition, curlyleaf pondweed (CLP), an identified nuisance within the harvesting program, often forms mats as early as late-April. So, it is possible that CLP matting and therefore navigational impediments occur for significant parts of the boating season prior to the initiation of harvesting.	Gabriel Jabbour													X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Large Scale Inefficiencies Due to the large size and complexity of Lake Minnetonka, logistics of harvesting are inefficient compared to other programs. For comparison, Lake Minnetonka’s harvesting program cuts and average of 346 acres per season, including about 1/3 as second cuts. Thus, total acreage treated is about 231-acres. This represents and intensity of 77 acres per harvester per season. For comparison, the Minneapolis Park Board harvests about 180-acres in 4 lakes (Bde Maka Ska, Cedar, Harriet and Isles) using 2 harvesters, representing an intensity of 90 acres per harvester per season. However, the Minneapolis program operates from late-May through August and performs second and third (sometimes) cuts per season (compared to LMCD’s 1.3 cuts per season), so they are achieving about 50- to 230% more control. Lake Minnetonka’s size and complexity, which obviously will not change, renders the harvesting program inefficient compared to other programs on smaller lakes.	Gabriel Jabbour									X				X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	New Invasive Plants and Spreading The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center lists 9 species of invasive plants not yet in most Minnesota waters in two categories: Species localized in MN but that have spread and caused high impacts nearby: • Brittle naiad • European common reed • Flowering rush (now in Lake Minnetonka) • Starry stonewort Species not yet in MN but arrival is likely imminent and impacts likely to be very high: • Hydrilla Species not likely to be in MN but have spread and caused impacts in inland waters of other cold- temperate regions (likelihood of establishment in MN uncertain): • Water chestnut • Yellow-floating heart • Cabomba • European frog-bit If/when any of these (or perhaps others not now on the radar) should be introduced and become established in Lake Minnetonka, there is a possibility for harvesting to facilitate or accelerate their spread. This ‘disadvantage’ should be recognized in the EVALUATION as well as in future harvesting operations.	Gabriel Jabbour													X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	Program Inflexibility The harvesting program has, and proposes to continue, with three harvesters operating on a truncated season over a large lake. This situation is not necessarily a critical limitation, assuming the harvesting needs are relative constant from year-to-year and these needs have been met over the years. However, neither has been objectively evaluated, so harvesting is done to the limits of the equipment within the prescribed season. Unless the program is evaluated and found to be a near-perfect match to the needs or if the needs change, the program will risk being inefficient, insufficient or not be well able to accommodate future needs.	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	1) Your title "AIS Master plan" is misleading. The average uninformed person would think the only problems we have confronting us are milfoil and possibly starry stonewort. Equally as disturbing is the total lack of addressing prevention in the master plan.	Gabriel Jabbour															X
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	2)The vast knowledge available to the LMCD from other agencies was not used, either to input, or in formulating this report. Having so-called committees such as TAG that met only once without any chance to assist the consultant in formulating their opinions.	Gabriel Jabbour											X		X		
Letter to LMCD (Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation)	10/18/2019	3) The issue of implementing the program and the qualification of the staff was to be addressed. There was not even an attempt to do so. As a matter of fact, that has a profound effect on the financial projection. Thus, making the financial projection greatly underestimated if the LMCD decides, as former Chair Green indicated, to run a professional program.	Gabriel Jabbour													X		

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Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA) feels the Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation lacks any useful information or meaningful guidance on how to implement a “professionally run” harvesting program.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The most glaring omissions of the evaluation include its failure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define how it fits within the “Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and AIS Master Plan,” - Provide measureable goals and objectives of the harvesting program, - Address the role that harvesting has on the spread of invasive plants, - Include an quantifiable assessment of the impact that almost 40 years of harvesting has had on navigation, - Define the parameters of where, how often, and when harvesting should be done, and - Explain why significantly less costly options are not recommended. 	Eric Evenson				X								X	X		X
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan is lacking in specifics and thoughtful analysis of the existing program and is absent of any useful recommendations on how to improve the program. As such, we are lead to the conclusion that this was simply a multi thousand dollar effort by the LMCD to justify an existing, poorly conceived, and badly operated harvesting program.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The planning process excluded any meaningful opportunities for experts in AIS and lake management, stakeholders, the LMA, or agency staff to deliberate recommendations or to share insights or concerns about the LMCD’s harvesting program. As a result, the LMCD has lost an opportunity to create a program with broad stakeholder and community support and which addresses concerns of lake residents and resource managers.	Eric Evenson				X							X	X	X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The LMA believes the Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation recommendations are not in the best interest of the Lake Minnetonka, its users, or its residents and should not be accepted until the enclosed concerns are adequately addressed.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to demonstrate how the harvesting plan fits within an overall AIS management strategy for Lake Minnetonka. As noted at the beginning of this process by stakeholders, aquatic plant specialists, and LMCD Board members, the overall AIS management plan should drive the harvesting plan. Without first knowing the LMCD goals and strategies to control the spread of AIS it is unclear if the harvesting program would complement or confound those goals. This is clearly the cart in front of the horse.	Eric Evenson				X							X		X		X
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to contain any guidance on where, why, and when the LMCD should harvest Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). Without this information the cost analysis, operations, and program effectiveness cannot be determined. It is unclear why the LMCD ignored the very basis of why this program was originally proposed. Neither does the plan evaluate where, or if harvesting has made a measurable positive impact on navigation on Lake Minnetonka.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to address the impact the LMCD’s harvesting program has on the spread of AIS and what steps are needed to prevent this from continuing. Early in this process, stakeholders and agencies expressed concern of the potential for the LMCD’s harvesting program to spread AIS such as starry stonewort and flowering rush. The plan does not have any recommendations for harvester training or operational changes needed to prevent the spread of AIS.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to identify lower cost and more effective options to harvesting. The plan states that harvesting is often higher than herbicides treatment. This has been confirmed by MnDNR and industry experts. The cost of treatment is half of the cost of harvesting and decreases over time. Additionally, MAISRC researchers and others have found that native plants are being restored in areas that have been treated.	Eric Evenson			X	X			X						X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to give any guidance on ways to reduce the amount of Eurasian water milfoil and other plant fragments that are left behind after harvesting. It is acknowledged by LMCD staff, professional harvesters, and others that it is not possible to pick up all of the fragmentation caused by harvesting. It is well documented that fragmentation is the primary way of EWM and other AIS are spread. There is also good evidence showing the harvesting program contributed to the spread of flowering rush in Lake Minnetonka and concern that harvesting has a high risk of spreading starry stonewort across Lake Minnetonka.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plans fails to provide any direction on how harvesting areas will be determined from one year to the next. It is unclear why the costs and procedures to evaluate program performance and to determine where EWM should be harvested from year to year are not included in this plan.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to provide an adequate discussion of personnel qualifications and cost, training, safety procedures, and equipment needs as requested by the LMCD Board in their 12/12/2018 resolution. The LMCD was provided an operations manual of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s (MPRB) harvesting program. Given that this is likely the only comprehensive harvesting plan available in the state, it is unclear why it was not referenced in the LMCD’s plan.	Eric Evenson				X					X				X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to include any recommendations on staffing needs. It is unclear if the LMCD feels the program is understaffed or overstaffed or if staff has adequate training. It is surprising the LMCD feels experience with watercraft and watercraft operator permits are “preferred” rather than “required” job qualifications. The plan indicates the harvesting supervisor and seasonal help have “lake service provider permits.” There is no evidence that harvesting staff have ever been permitted. While the aquatic plant specialists recommend harvesting be done later in the season when EWM is closer to the surface, the plan seems to support the practice of hiring seasonal help early in the season and ending the program in mid-summer. The LMCD has expressed interest in hiring AIS expertise. The plan gives the board an opportunity evaluate if the current staffing structure has the skills they need in AIS.	Eric Evenson				X				X					X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to provide an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the current LMCD harvesting program. Rather, the majority of the material provided is a summary of the existing harvesting program or citations of research with limited applicability for Lake Minnetonka.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan fails to justify the expenditure of \$690,000 for new harvesting equipment when much less expensive, science based options are available that provide better short term and long term results.	Eric Evenson				X			X						X		

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Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation references studies that show the effects of harvesting lasts somewhere between 3-6 weeks and have found later season harvesting may have more beneficial long-term effects. It is unclear why the program evaluation does not develop recommendations based on this research.	Eric Evenson				X						X			X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The financial analysis of the harvesting program is based an average of 346 acres harvested per year at a cost of \$512/acre. However, because the plan fails to address where or how much should be harvested, it is not possible to determine if it is cost effective to continue the program in house. Further, these costs assume the LMCD will continue to hire untrained, seasonal help. By first determining how many acres will be harvested and how often, the LMCD could more easily staff time and trucking and operational costs. A better understanding of the amount of acreage that will be harvested.	Eric Evenson				X			X						X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The cost comparison does not consider other options nor if it continues to make sense for harvesters to cut in the same areas as in the past or at all. As written, the plan is defining a problem to fit a solution.	Eric Evenson				X			X						X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	It is unclear why the plan does not recommend herbicide treatment. The cost of herbicide treatment is \$150-200 per acre – ½-2/3rd less than what the LMCD is currently spending. It would also reduce the amount of day-to-day management needed.	Eric Evenson			X	X			X						X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan referenced “boater safety” as a reason to continue harvesting. While EWM can hinder boating, it is unclear what safety issues are resolved by cutting. Concerns about harvesting spreading AIS, operator safety, and homeowner costs association with clean-up after harvesting were raised by several stakeholders. They should be added to this last and further discussed in this plan.	Eric Evenson	X			X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	Defining realistic goals So what are the goals? A thoughtful planning process should describe the goals, strategies, and costs for program implementation – this document does none of these.	Eric Evenson				X								X	X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	Efficacy of harvesting equipment The plan recognizes all of the equipment with the exception on one harvester needs to be replaced. It seems it is an ideal time for the LMCD to redefine program goals and determine if such a large public expenditure is warranted. Equipment is only as good as its operators. It is unclear why the LMCD does not list trained, professional operators as an aspect of a successful harvesting program.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	Seasonality, frequency and duration of harvesting Agreed, but the LMCD schedule of harvesting is related to when seasonal help are available rather than when harvesting makes the most sense.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	Distribution and abundance of plant species being harvested How often will this be done and at what cost	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	Funding and community support This should be done as part of the evaluation of the program. The LMCD has called stakeholders “bullies” and have been adversarial rather than working with those critical of the harvesting.	Eric Evenson				X							X		X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The following statements are misleading: “Harvesting takes the plant material out of the water so the plants do not decompose slowly in the water column as they do with herbicide treatment.” Herbicide treatment will kill plants, preventing regrowth. Cutting encourages regrowth, leaving as much (or more) plant material to “slowly decompose in the water column.” Arguably, treatments prevent plants from growing or returning the following year – so plant decomposition is moot. “Mechanical harvesting is perceived to be environmentally neutral by the public whereas concerns over the safety and long-term toxicology of herbicide applications remain despite widespread research and registration requirements that are enforced by regulatory agencies.” So an uninformed public is cited as an advantage to the harvesting program? There are also public who feel the relative risk and benefits associated with herbicide treatments outweigh perceived concerns. There are also public who view the harvesting program very negatively. It’s not clear why this statement is included in the plan.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The following should be added to the list of disadvantages of harvesting: - Potential to spread AIS. - Significantly higher cost as compared to herbicide treatment. - Fragmentation of EWM will continue to spread new plants in beaches and other into areas where homeowners are spending thousands of dollars to control plants though hand weeding or herbicide treatment.	Eric Evenson			X	X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan recommends that the LMCD continue its harvesting program. Yet, the plan does not specify in what form. Without an understanding of why, where and when harvesting should be done, it is not possible to determine if this should be done in-house, contracted, or if done at all.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from LMA	10/25/2019	The plan itself makes a better argument for a very limited harvesting program and makes a strong case that herbicide treatments have longer positive impacts and are more cost effective.	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD or District) supports the LMCD’s intention, as outlined in the agency’s May 24, 2019 press release, to cultivate a “holistic and scientific approach to effectively address the current and future health of Lake Minnetonka”, by developing “a dynamic and comprehensive plan.”	James Wisker													X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	The MCWD wishes to again express significant concerns with the lack of clarity regarding LMCD’s overarching goals with egards to its Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Master Plan (Plan), the process being used to develop the Plan, the role of the Technical Advisory Group TAG), and the lack of coordination with agencies such as CWD that the LMCD has now written into its draft documents.	James Wisker											X	X	X	X	X
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	During the only TAG meeting, kicking-off this process on July 15, 2019, the LMCD received universal feedback from the members of the advisory group regarding the ambiguity and inconsistencies surrounding the Plan goals and process. This eedback was subsequently echoed in writing, by multiple members of the TAG.	James Wisker											X		X	X	

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Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	In response, the LMCD committed to providing clarity on these tems at a subsequent meeting of the TAG. However, leading up to the October 11, 2019 distribution of the Harvesting Evaluation and Starry Stonewort Plan, no additional meetings were held to provide the overarching clarity needed to effectively and eaningfully engage the LMCD's Technical Advisory Group. Moreover, the LMCD did not effectively communicate its intent to develop and release the Harvesting Evaluation or Starry Stonewort Plan prior to meeting again with the TAG.	James Wisker											X	X	X	X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	The LMCD has been encouraged by the TAG to take a strategic planning approach to successfully map its involvement in AIS, by: ☐ Clearly stating its vision and mission related to AIS ☐ Gathering and analyzing all available information ☐ Framing a range of strategic options ☐ Objectively evaluating those options with clearly established criteria ☐ Transparently confronting the tradeoffs associated with the available strategic choices ☐ Making a decision ☐ Measuring, evaluating, and adjusting in a mode of continuous improvement	James Wisker											X	X	X	X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	Both documents would be strengthened by the LMCD first clarifying its overarching strategic approach to AIS, clearly defining its objectives, and then using data and scientific method to evaluate options, before determining how individual elements might actually align within a "Master Plan".	James Wisker												X	X	X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	For example, the Harvesting Evaluation notes that, "mechanical harvesting should be evaluated as one component of a comprehensive, integrated aquatic plant management approach." However, the document does not clearly outline how the LMCD's evaluation of harvesting fits within such an integrated framework.	James Wisker				X									X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	More specifically, it is unclear how information was analyzed to support the resulting conclusions. Page 16 of 30 of the Harvesting Evaluation acknowledges that "the LMCD does not have a clear plan in place that clearly defines where and when harvesting should take place on a bay by bay basis", that, "previous harvesting efforts by the LMCD have not used GPS technology to map the path of harvesters", and that, "this has resulted in a lack of data showing acreage harvested in comparison with expended effort."	James Wisker				X						X			X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	The document also outlines a compilation of issues with current harvesting as identified by stakeholders and the LMCD, which the report does not address, and notes that the contracted consultant has not reviewed or verified the issues.	James Wisker				X									X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	Despite these statements the Harvesting Evaluation subsequently concludes that, "based on LMCD harvesting data, literature review, and financial analysis and comparison of the existing harvesting program, it is recommended harvesting continue on Lake Minnetonka." It is unclear how this conclusion was drawn, and no clear action plan is presented outlining how a forward facing harvesting program will address historic issues.	James Wisker				X									X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	MCWD has no preconceived position on whether the LMCD should continue harvesting. However, this evaluation appears incomplete and lacks a broader strategic context.	James Wisker				X									X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	While the District supports the overall intention of the LMCD in using a holistic and science based approach to developing a Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and AIS Master Plan, significant concerns have been repeatedly raised by the TAG regarding the ambiguity surrounding LMCD's overarching goals and the process it is running. These concerns have not been adequately addressed.	James Wisker												X			X
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	With that said it was a surprise, and of significant concern, to see that the LMCD has prescribed roles for the MCWD without meeting with the District or the TAG to discuss.	James Wisker									X		X		X		
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	The MCWD urges the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to take immediate steps to more directly address the feedback raised by the TAG, and to engage with the TAG to clarify its process moving forward. The District also requests that, due to the concerns raised in this letter, the LMCD remove reference to MCWD from the draft documents.	James Wisker											X		X		
Public surveyy to LMCD	10/12/2019	I am glad to hear that the LMCD plans to resume to harvesting in 2020. This year, when no harvesting was done, I saw the most cut weeds blown to shore, ever, and I have lived on the lake 30 years. By harvesting channels parallel to shore the LMCD will drastically reduce the AIS cut by boats, thereby improving boat navigation and reducing the biomas left to rot in the lake. I recommend that cutting be done twice during the season. I live on the lake at 4601 Island View. This is a busy boating area that spans from the outlet of Spring Park Bay to phelps bay. This area must be on the list to be harvested. It is heavily used by boats. I am retired, so if you need someone to report on vegetation growth in this area, I could be trained to do that.	Roger Stephanson	X			X	X								X		
Public surveyy to LMCD	10/23/2019	The draft Harvesting Program Evaluation includes very helpful comparisons of harvesting versus chemical controls and financial data for the harvester operations. The report states and its comparisons show that there is not a one size fits all solution for a lake as diverse as Lake Minnetonka.	Tom Fletcher			X	X									X		

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Public survey to LMCD	10/23/2019	The Final Harvesting Program Evaluation should include a discounted cash flow analysis and use this as the basis for its per acre costs throughout the report. In its introduction the harvesting report incorrectly compares LMCD operated harvester costs of \$514 per acre to \$787 per acre based on a quote from one contractor. This is based on a historical analysis of 10 years of data with the only equipment expenditure being in 2012 for the noninsured portion of the replacement cost of a harvester that flipped over on the lake. The projected financial analysis notes that major equipment investments will be required in 2020 and provides projected and estimated costs for 5, 10, and 20 year periods. It is not appropriate to simply add cash flows in a scenario such as this. A discounted cash flow or Net Present Value analysis should be used instead to compare in house and contracted harvesting costs. For example over 10 years, which is most likely the appropriate time period for this analysis, the 2020 discounted expense using a 3% annual rate of return shows a nominal 2% savings at \$2,606,579 (\$753 cost per acre on a net present value basis) for LMCD operated harvesters as compared to \$2,654,361 (\$767 per acre) for contracted harvesters assuming the same harvest volumes. Over 20 years the discounted expense using LMCD operated harvesters is \$5,190,124 or \$750 per acre as compared to \$5,575,088 or \$806 per acre for contracted harvesters. Having a financially accurate comparison is important because the contracted option will clearly have relatively lower costs if the harvested acres are reduced significantly and provides much greater flexibility for prioritizing future uses of LMCD funds.	Tom Fletcher				X			X						X		
Public survey to LMCD	10/23/2019	The draft Harvesting Program Evaluation includes a Long-Term Goal of Native Aquatic Plant Community Restoration on pages 26 and 27 including discussions strategies to achieve this goal. It is suggested that this section of the final report include information on the experience on St Albans Bay where the substitution of chemical treatments for harvesting since 2011 has resulted in significant native plant restoration without any of the interventions that are discussed in the report.	Tom Fletcher			X							X			X		
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) agrees that there is a need for developing these two draft plans. However, we are concerned with the lack of transparency and clarity throughout this process of the development of the draft plans. At the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on July 15, 2019, the LMCD received overwhelming feedback from the TAG members regarding the lack of planning and partner engagement. LMCD committed to clarify and improve communication, which was never completed prior to these draft plans going out for public review and comment.	Boe R. Carlson											X	X	X		
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	The ambiguity surrounding the goals and the lack of process makes it difficult for TRPD to provide meaningful comments. We are concerned the . TRPD is mentioned as a public partner to "collaborate ... to protect land and water for current and future generations" without our involvement ever having been discussed between our organizations. TRPD is committed to partner collaboration and the protection of our natural resources, but meaningful dialog must occur between partners to develop coordinated goals, effective processes, and to achieve success now and into the future.	Boe R. Carlson									X		X		X		
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	TRPD supports the overall intention of LMCD to use a science-based approach in developing a holistic Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and AIS Master Plan. However, TRPD leadership and staff have significant concerns regarding the direction and ambiguity surrounding LMCD's process, goals and strategies. The concerns raised by the TAG members have not been adequately addressed and TRPD is uncomfortable with the "Roles and Responsibilities" that LMCD has developed for TRPD without meeting to discuss further.	Boe R. Carlson									X			X	X		
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	TRPD urges LMCD to address the feedback raised by the TAG members and to better clarify its process moving forward. TRPD also requests that, due to the concerns raised in this letter, LMCD remove reference to TRPD from the draft documents until further dialog can occur.	Boe R. Carlson									X			X	X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	The Draft Harvesting Program Evaluation includes very helpful comparisons of harvesting versus chemical controls and financial data for the harvester operations. The report states and its comparisons show that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution for a lake as diverse as Lake Minnetonka.	Mayor Debra J. Kind			X	X									X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	The Final Harvesting Program Evaluation should include a discounted cash-flow analysis and use this as the basis for its peracre costs throughout the report. In its introduction, the harvesting report incorrectly compares LMCD operated harvester costs of \$514 per acre to \$787 per acre based on a quote from one contractor. This is based on a historical analysis of 10 years of data with the only equipment expenditure being in 2012 for the noninsured portion of the replacement cost of a harvester that flipped over on the lake. The projected financial analysis notes that major equipment investments will be required in 2020 and provides projected and estimated costs for 5-, 10-, and 20-year periods. It is not appropriate to simply add cash-flows in a scenario such as this. A discounted cash-flow or Net Present Value analysis should be used instead to compare in-house and contracted harvesting costs. For example, over 10 years (which is most likely the appropriate time period for this analysis), the 2020 discounted expense using a 3% annual rate of return shows a nominal 2% savings at \$2,606,579 (\$753 cost per acre on a net present value basis) for LMCD operated harvesters compared to \$2,654,361 (\$767 per acre) for contracted harvesters assuming the same harvest volumes. Over 20 years the discounted expense using LMCD operated harvesters is \$5,190,124 or \$750 per acre as compared to \$5,575,088 or \$806 per acre for contracted harvesters. Having a financially accurate comparison is important because the contracted option will clearly have relatively lower costs if the harvested acres are reduced significantly and provides much greater flexibility for prioritizing future uses of LMCD funds.'	Mayor Debra J. Kind				X			X						X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	The Draft Harvesting Program Evaluation includes a Long-Term Goal of Native Aquatic Plant Community Restoration on pages 26 and 27 and includes discussions and strategies to achieve this goal. Greenwood suggests that this section of the Final report include information on the experience on St. Alban's Bay where the substitution of chemical treatments for harvesting since 2011 has resulted in significant native plant restoration without any of the interventions that are discussed in the report.	Mayor Debra J. Kind				X									X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	If the LMCD elects to support milfoil and curly leaf pondweed control at its current level, it should not continue to make harvesting its exclusive strategy, since many portions of the lake are more suited to chemical controls.	Mayor Debra J. Kind			X	X									X		

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Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	The LMCD should be focusing its limited dollars on long-term strategies that have the potential for greater general lake-wide benefit. For example, page 5-10 of the Draft Starry Stonewort Report shows high probabilities of preventing starry stonewort introduction on Lake Minnetonka with a Preemptive Pilot Study and Bi-Weekly Surveys at priority boat accesses.	Mayor Debra J. Kind						X	X						X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	If the LMCD continues a mechanical harvesting program, it should be done in the most cost-effective, safe, and efficient manner possible. Evaluation of in-house vs contracted services should include all of the costs. And harvesting should only be done where necessary.	Mayor Debra J. Kind				X			X						X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	The LMCD should consider that operating its own harvesters with the associated supervision and staffing makes them into a substantial fixed cost each season with the tendency to operate them as much as possible regardless of whether they are the most effective option or best use of LMCD funds.	Mayor Debra J. Kind				X			X						X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	On page 13 of the Draft Harvester Program Evaluation it states that, “the cost for the LMCD to continue the existing weed harvesting program will incur substantial expenses in year 2020 due to the need to replace most of the existing harvesting equipment.” Therefore, the LMCD should make a decision regarding in-house vs contracting for harvesting before the start of the 2020 harvesting season.	Mayor Debra J. Kind				X			X						X		
Greenwood Letter to the LMCD	11/6/2019	The LMCD should support and fund scientific understanding of Lake Minnetonka and everything that happens on and in the lake – including any AIS prevention / management program.	Mayor Debra J. Kind										X			X		
Letter from Orono LMCD	10/23/2019	The City of Orono recently reviwed the "Aquatic Vegetation Harvesting Program Evaluation Report," and disagrees with the recommendation of continuing harvesting. The report lacks scope related to how effective the mechanical harvesting has been at limiting or eliminating AIS weeds. The City of Orono's understanding of the reasons for harvesting are to reduce/eliminate invasive weed species, however this study focused on the effectiveness of organizational operations and LMCD Harvesting Program expenditures. The report has shown nothing related to scientific data surrounding actual quantities of AIS weeds pre and post treatment and from year to year, or whether or not there has been expansion or contraction of the AIS issues in Lake Minnetonka. Your priorities are clearly organizational focused and not mission focused. Even your LMCD strategic plan 2019-2020 is organizational and image focused with little emphasis on mission. The City of Orono is requesting a continuation of the harvesting moratorium.	Mayor Dennis Walsh				X								X	X		
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	1. Identify LMCD’s current organizational goals pertaining to AIS management on Lake Minnetonka.	Keegan Lund												X	X		
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	2. Engage relevant stakeholders and identify their roles concerning AIS prevention and management.	Keegan Lund											X		X		
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	3. Review the existing AIS management plan that DNR helped draft with other LMCD AIS Task Force members in 2012 and identify the benefits and shortcomings of the previous plan, implementation problems and how it aligns with current AIS goals for stakeholders.	Keegan Lund										X			X		
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	4. Identify gaps in AIS prevention and management and resources currently available. Engage stakeholders in a more collaborative planning process to achieve agreed upon future goals.	Keegan Lund											X		X		
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	5. With clear and continued feedback from the Technical Advisory Group - plan, evaluate and refine your AIS Master Plan through an adaptive management framework.	Keegan Lund										X	X		X		
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	Strong relationships, clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, and excellent communication will be needed to produce an acceptable, long lasting and effective AIS Master Plan for Lake Minnetonka.	Keegan Lund											X	X			X
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	DNR would like to host a meeting to clarify the above concerns in relation to the creation of an AIS Master Plan. We would be happy to meet with the LMCD to provide a number of suggestions to support a coordinated and collaborative process and look forward to your response.	Keegan Lund											X				X
Letter from DNR to LMCD	11/13/2019	Concerning the Harvesting Evaluation and the Starry Stonewort Plan, we view these plans as complimentary to a broad set of lakewide AIS prevention and management goals. Therefore, we recommend pausing these supporting plans until the AIS Master Plan is developed. We feel there has also been limited transparency and coordination in the development of the aforementioned plans, causing potential weaknesses or gaps moving forward. DNR strongly suggests you engage stakeholders more effectively to share resources and responsibilities in both plan development and execution.	Keegan Lund											X	X	X		
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	No one wants Starry stonewort (SSW) or any other aquatic invasive species (AIS). Unfortunately, the experience in Minnesota and elsewhere has been, despite the collective best efforts, AIS continue to spread. Sadly, the most practical management questions boil down to not ‘if’ but ‘when’ will an introduction occur, then what (if anything) can or should be done to eradicate, contain or minimize its spread and impacts?	Gabriel Jabbour						X								X	
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	The PLAN is peppered with qualifying words and phrases, like ‘speculative,’ ‘uncertainty,’ ‘difficult to predict,’ ‘unknown,’ ‘experimental,’ ‘theoretically,’ – diminishing confidence in the assessment.	Gabriel Jabbour														X	
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	In the introduction, the PLAN states, “However, it is important to recognize that these practices are based on limited information and experience on how SSW might spread in Lake Minnetonka’s aquatic community.”	Gabriel Jabbour														X	

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Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	The two-prong prevention plan relies on: 1. Exit inspections on lakes with known SSW infestations 2. Incoming inspections on Lake Minnetonka Serious and significant shortcomings include: o The PLAN assumes knowledge of all SSW infested lakes – it is likely there are some lakes where infestations have not yet been discovered and it is likely more will be infested. o What about SSW-infested lakes in nearby Wisconsin? o The PLAN assumes inspections lower the risk of SSW (and other AIS) movement, yet we lack knowledge of how much lower is the risk (if any). Perhaps more troubling, data are presented in the PLAN showing Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussel and SSW infested lakes in MN and WI continue increasing despite increasing boat inspections. o The PLAN states a ‘likelihood’ of SSW being introduced into Lake Minnetonka and proposes an enhanced inspection schedule that still leaves many holes (in addition to the demonstrated lack of efficacy of boat inspections in the first place).	Gabriel Jabbour		X				X								X	
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	Pre-emptive and Early Detection Options This section starts out by stating there are numerous prevention strategies available, but “few are practical and implementable.” Thus, to enhance the prevention steps from the prevention strategy, the PLAN proposes pre-emptive copper sulfate treatments at public access sites (2-4 times per season) at the 13 known SSW lakes. Serious and significant shortcomings include: o The PLAN assumes knowledge of all SSW infested lakes – it is likely there are some lakes where infestations have not yet been discovered and it is likely more will be infested. o What about SSW-infested lakes in nearby Wisconsin? o 11 copper sulfate treatments over 3 years have not eradicated SSW in Lake Sylvia, so will the proposed pre-emptive treatments eradicate SSW in the public access areas of the known SSW lakes? o AND – who will be responsible for and fund these treatments? The PLAN offers two additional methods – chemical/mechanical decontamination for incoming (to Lake Minnetonka) and outgoing (from SSW lakes) – but does not endorse either. Finally, this section presents a table (table 5) of various prevention methods and ranks their respective probably of preventing a SSW introduction as high, moderate or low, but provides no method or rationale as to how these probabilities are determined.	Gabriel Jabbour						X	X							X	
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	Rapid Response This element describes a generic approach and offers few critical specifics relative to Lake Minnetonka.	Gabriel Jabbour														X	
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	A single table with not description, analysis or supporting documentation is presented. The PLAN lacks an implementation element.	Gabriel Jabbour														X	
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	Again, a table with a descriptive paragraph that includes the statement – “Funding a comprehensive incoming boat inspection program will be challenging.” It contains neither provisions for nor funding estimates, authorities, responsible parties, etc. for funding amounts and sources for proposed programs on SSW infested lakes, a major program element.	Gabriel Jabbour		X				X	X							X	
Letter to LMCD (Lake minnetonka Starry Stonewort Protection & Emergency Action Plan)	10/18/2019	This is not a plan that can be implement or will be effective.	Gabriel Jabbour														X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	Similarly, the Starry Stonewort Plan contains a number of apparent contradictions that create ambiguity surrounding the objectives, and how this Plan fits into the LMCD’s broader strategic approach to AIS.	James Wisker						X								X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	For example, the Starry Stonewort Plan identifies a primary goal of “preventing the introduction of SSW into Lake Minnetonka”, and identifies watercraft inspections as a significant strategy. However, the document then proceeds to outline that “inspection and prevention programs have not demonstrated a capacity to prevent the spread of AIS”, and that “watercraft inspections have to be effective to delay a potential new introduction.”	James Wisker		X				X								X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	In parallel, the Starry Stonewort Plan notes that preemptive copper sulfate dosing at select Lake Minnetonka accesses is not a prevention strategy. Then Table 5, with minimal evidence or analysis, concludes that preemptive copper sulfate dosing at select Lake Minnetonka accesses provides a high probability of preventing Starry Stonewort introduction. It is unclear what data was analyzed to support this conclusion.	James Wisker			X			X								X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	Again, understanding the broader strategic approach of the LMCD, and clarifying its goals, would help strengthen this document. Determining if the objective is prevention, delay, control, or public education, will drive what an effective strategic approach looks like and will guide tactical methods and resource allocation.	James Wisker						X								X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	Most concerning with the Starry Stonewort Plan is that, without discussing with the MCWD first, the LMCD has defined MCWD’s role with regards to technical assistance, management and funding.	James Wisker						X			X					X	
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	While the District supports the overall intention of the LMCD in using a holistic and science based approach to developing a Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and AIS Master Plan, significant concerns have been repeatedly raised by the TAG regarding the ambiguity surrounding LMCD’s overarching goals and the process it is running. These concerns have not been adequately addressed.	James Wisker											X	X			X
Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	With that said it was a surprise, and of significant concern, to see that the LMCD has prescribed roles for the MCWD without meeting with the District or the TAG to discuss.	James Wisker									X		X			X	

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Letter from MCWD	10/25/2019	The MCWD urges the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to take immediate steps to more directly address the feedback raised by the TAG, and to engage with the TAG to clarify its process moving forward. The District also requests that, due to the concerns raised in this letter, the LMCD remove reference to MCWD from the draft documents.	James Wisker									X		X	X		X	
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) agrees that there is a need for developing these two draft plans. However, we are concerned with the lack of transparency and clarity throughout this process of the development of the draft plans. At the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on July 15, 2019, the LMCD received overwhelming feedback from the TAG members regarding the lack of planning and partner engagement. LMCD committed to clarify and improve communication, which was never completed prior to these draft plans going out for public review and comment.	Boe R. Carlson									X		X	X		X	
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	The ambiguity surrounding the goals and the lack of process makes it difficult for TRPD to provide meaningful comments. We are concerned the. TRPD is mentioned as a public partner to "collaborate ... to protect land and water for current and future generations" without our involvement ever having been discussed between our organizations. TRPD is committed to partner collaboration and the protection of our natural resources, but meaningful dialog must occur between partners to develop coordinated goals, effective processes, and to achieve success now and into the future.	Boe R. Carlson									X		X			X	
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	TRPD supports the overall intention of LMCD to use a science-based approach in developing a holistic Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and AIS Master Plan. However, TRPD leadership and staff have significant concerns regarding the direction and ambiguity surrounding LMCD's process, goals and strategies. The concerns raised by the TAG members have not been adequately addressed and TRPD is uncomfortable with the "Roles and Responsibilities" that LMCD has developed for TRPD without meeting to discuss further.	Boe R. Carlson									X		X			X	
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	TRPD urges LMCD to address the feedback raised by the TAG members and to better clarify its process moving forward. TRPD also requests that, due to the concerns raised in this letter, LMCD remove reference to TRPD from the draft documents until further dialog can occur.	Boe R. Carlson									X		X			X	
TRPD response to LMCD	11/6/2019	We would be happy to reengage with LMCD in the near term to discuss future opportunities and develop a more holistic approach to this process. Staff have reviewed the draft plans and have specific comments on both and believe it would be better served to reengage the TAG to discuss these concerns and opportunities in more depth.	Boe R. Carlson											X			X	
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey		Q5 The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) has historically harvested (cut and removed) aquatic vegetation for navigation and safety. How would you rate the past harvesting?					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/23/2019	2019 is a disaster. Horrible decision to not harvest this year!					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/16/2019	2019 has been the worst					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/31/2019	This year Phelps Bay was not harvested and difficult near our home on Tuxedo,					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/6/2019	2019 no harvesting. Prior years very good.					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/5/2019	Detrimental to the fishery					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Seems like they harvest to much					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	A joke. Very poor job. Ineffective because of the way they carried the weed to a truck. A lake barge would have been more effective incurring the weeds.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Waste of time					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Making the weeds worse year after year!!!!					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Ineffective at best, detrimental by creating more plants at worst					X						X					

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Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/3/2019	Don't need to cut or spray. Horrible for the eco system				X	X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/3/2019	Haven't seen them in Black Lake this year					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey		Q6 How could the harvesting be improved?					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/26/2019	Use more effective harvesting machines. Current effort leaves & distributes 30%-40% (?) of wat they harvest					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/26/2019	do not do it!!!					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/2/2019	Root removal, cutting is making it spread!					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/12/2019	end it					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/5/2019	Less frequent					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/5/2019	Minimal benefits, spreads floaters)					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Utilize herbicides				X	X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Harvesters are terrible tat picking up what they cut. Instead the vast majority of what they cut washes up on homeowners shorelines for them to deal with.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Don't use the weed harvesters.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	More bays					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Dont do it at all . Just spreads the weeds that float to shore.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	You could stop ruining the lake by over harvesting					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Remove and not just cut milfoil.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Use a barge we're the weeds are cut to take large volumes from the lake vs driving small amounts of weeds to the truck					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Stop the harvesting. You are killing fish and their habitat.					X						X					

Minnetonka AIS/Lake Management Plan - Comments as of November 20, 2019

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Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Quit					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Find a better method!! Stop DESTROYING our fisherys!!!					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	combine with chemical treatments				X	X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	After watching hundreds of juvenile fish go up the ramp in the harvester and no one sort them out and put them back there should not be any more harvesting!					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	By being combined with a herbicide or something similar to eradicate the invasive plants				X	X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/3/2019	Less.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/3/2019	Pull weeds at the root					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/3/2019	Better clean up					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/3/2019	Keep channels open but I believe cutting machine spread invasive species and send uncollected weeds to shoreline.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/16/2019	Pick up the plants you harvest					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/14/2019	Only harvest in channels if necessary it spreads the weeds and makes shorelines a mess					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/11/2019	Use all means available to manage beyond just mechanical harvesting					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/11/2019	use machines that actually PULL weeds from the bottom					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey		Q7 Are you aware that the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) has suspended the aquatic vegetation harvesting program for 2019?					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	It seems this organization has ruined the biodiversity of the lake by over harvest of aquatic vegetation					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Good					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/3/2019	Yes. But have still seen harvesters					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey		Q8 What type of lake vegetation control method would you prefer?				X	X						X					

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Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/16/2019	Harvesting with follow-up.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/2/2019	Prohibition of motorized boats would decrease further risk of destroying this ecosystem.		X			X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/5/2019	Diving/vacuum					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Magic					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Combo of chemical and mechanical				X	X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Get smarter					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/16/2019	Use of harvesters with herbicide treatments				X	X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/11/2019	Harvesting, biological, and lake depth manipulation (dam)					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/11/2019	mechanical, but by pulling roots from bottom					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	10/12/2019	Just to give a thank you to all those of you who not only recognize the extraordinary gift of our beautiful Lake Minnetonka but work to preserve it.											X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/26/2019	We really need a plan that works for AIS! Harvesting isn't the answer. It actually spreads it more.					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/23/2019	As noted above, the decision to not harvest this year was a big mistake, not only because of unsightly above surface emergent weeds in places where they've never been before, but also because of the time and expense associated with cleaning up floating weeds chopped up by boat traffic on our shoreline.					X	X					X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	9/2/2019	Please consider how good it would be for the ecosystem of Lake Minnetonka if we prohibited use of gas powered motorboats. Not only would it slow the spread of invasive species, it would also slow the pollution going into the lake. With less boats on the lake we can give the ecosystem a fighting chance to return to its natural balance. Thank you..		X									X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/5/2019	I am concerned with the private/service use of chemicals.				X							X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	I live in st alban's bay and the water has gone from an "A" to "C" this summer. Rumor is your are doing zebra mussel management testing. Is this true?											X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	The weeds on the lake are getting out of control. They get stuck in motors. I support safe chemicals to eliminate the weeds.		X		X							X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Too many wasted labor hours with 2 or more workers sitting at landings during non peak hours (call in help if needed). Wastfull spending on oververeach programs against homeowners. Don't for who pays the bills!					X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Wake board boat ballast tanks & Ducks and geese. Do not ruin this lake with poison sprays. Your harvesters do enough damage.		X		X	X						X					

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Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Thanks for doing this important work											X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	All the poisoning and cutting has not done anything the lake is still full of weeds they are just different kinds of weed species Quit poisoning and cutting it is a waste of money The huge pleasure boats cut up tons of weeds when they are cruzin close to shore through the weed beds then they float which ever way the wind blows spreading weeds randomly based on the wind Ducks geese and other birds than eat weeds spread them naturally So many factors that can not be controlled				X	X						X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Allowing marinas to have unlimited boats in dry dock storage is a bad idea. Don't let Gabe bring you down!		X									X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	DNR has been TERRIBLE for Minnesota lakes!!! Blaming boaters for years!!! Chemicals, fertilizers and birds transporting from lake to lake make WAY more sense!!!!!!!!!! PLEASE FIND A BETTER WAY!!!!				X							X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	8/4/2019	Lake Minnetonka has always had weeds in it. Before it was dammed it had wild rice. The massive dumping of chemicals into a natural water supply is shameful and in the long run will have more negative effects than invasive species.				X							X					
Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey	7/11/2019	I've always wondered why there's so much emphasis on boat inspections at launches when water inside the water pump impeller and fairings can house aquatic invasive species. There's no quick way to inspect those elements at a launch so I don't see how those inspections can be completely effective.			X								X					
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	TAG Structure TAG's active members should be identified and have the authority to represent their organization.	Gabriel Jabbour									X		X				
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Jabbour noted that the data was incomplete, as many boaters – especially fisherman – avoided inspections.	Gabriel Jabbour										X					
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Data should be characterized to identify what types of lake users are typically represented by the MN DNR watercraft inspection data.	Bill Cook										X					
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Lakes with a constant inspector presence can still become infested with SSW	Keegan Lund						X									
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	In the early 2000s LMCD analyzed the different pathways of AIS transportation	Tony Brough										X					
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Starry Stonewort Plan should clarify whether all possible pathways of SSW transport are being considered, or primarily the pathway of boats entering via public launches.	Tony Brough						X									
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Plan should look at more kinds of AIS than just SSW.	Tom Frahm						X									X
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Periodic early detection surveys for SSW would still be needed.	Eric Evenson						X									
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Agencies pool money and invite private contributions to the fund to raise money for research on algaecides for SSW	Tony Brough						X	X								
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Include an analysis of the risks and potential impact of a SSW infestation in Lake Minnetonka, and compare those findings with LMCD goals for the Lake.	James Wisker						X								X	
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Once the table of roles and responsibilities was filled out, the LMCD could review where any gaps lay and what future roles an organization might take to address said gaps.	James Wisker								X							
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	LMCD should define the purpose for the program prior to review.	Eric Evenson								X					X		
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	If the LMCD hires harvesting operators, the LMCD should raise its standards for employee training.	Gabriel Jabbour				X									X		
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Training standards for maintenance personnel should be included	Eric Evenson				X									X		
Lake Mtka Veg AIS Master Plan TAG 1 mtg minutes	7/15/2019	Funding opportunities should be identified	Eric Evenson							X						X		
LMCD-Harvesting Program Review (LMCD)	11/18/2019	1. I was surprised to find out that we need to replace two harvesters, one transport barge, one trailer and the shore conveyor. Total amount about \$676K. I believe these replacement dates are based on the manufacture's desire to sell new equipment. I doubt our equipment needs to be replaced based on the small amount of maintenance required to get them running each year. But with these replacement dates provided in an independent report, this probably is the death knell of the harvesting program. Since we have about \$120K in our equipment replacement fund, we need to fund \$556K to replace and about \$50K per year for replacement. Report strongly suggests that when all costs are included, contracting harvesting is the way to go.	Bill Cook				X			X						X		
LMCD-Harvesting Program Review (LMCD)	11/19/2019	2. There is little in the report to help the Board decide on future program direction.	Bill Cook													X		
LMCD-Harvesting Program Review (LMCD)	11/20/2019	1. Is harvesting more effective at short term milfoil management than just letting boats traffic through and cut up the weeds? The LMCD harvesting program complaints suggest that harvesting cuts and fragments lots of weeds and then transports those weeds to remote unloading sites. this narrative suggests that harvesting is not as effective as the do nothing alternative	Bill Cook				X									X		
LMCD-Harvesting Program Review (LMCD)	11/21/2019	2. Harvesting removes some nutrients from the lake system, however the report dismisses this number without any calculations or science.	Bill Cook				X									X		
LMCD-Harvesting Program Review (LMCD)	11/22/2019	3. The anecedotal reports from the lake suggest that milfoil has reached equilibrium in a number of bays.	Bill Cook													X		

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LMCD-Harvesting Program Review (LMCD)	11/23/2019	4. Have the chemical treatments affected the milfoil in down current bays?	Bill Cook			X										X		
LMCD-Harvesting Program Review (LMCD)	11/24/2019	5. A successful program should include the committment of resources to provide about a level of 1/2 time manager/lake scientist role to manage the lake program and provide future direction	Bill Cook													X		
Meeting with Gabe Jabbour	6/4/2019	LMCD is not qualified for harvesting	Gabriel Jabbour								X							
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	5/11/2019	Waste of time and money, should leverage partnerships to get endorsements from locals	Gabriel Jabbour							X		X						
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	5/12/2019	Private contributions are key	Gabriel Jabbour							X								
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/8/2019	Others have said that LMCD needs its own AIS expert	Bill Cook								X							
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/8/2019	Concern is that LMCD lacks crucial information. The LMCD has developed an AIS management plan before, with the assistance of staff from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the USGS, among other organizations. Suggest LMCD seek the assistance of these organizations in developing the RFP and Master Plan	Gabriel Jabbour								X	X			X			
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/8/2019	Lund stated that he believed the MnDNR and the MCWD and other agencies lack the capacity to manage an AIS master plan for Lake Minnetonka. He underscored that the LMCD should hire a permanent staff person to fill this role.	Keegan Lund								X	X			X			
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/8/2019	Lund said that he was concerned that the consultant the LMCD hires will lack crucial background on Lake Minnetonka. He added that he was worried the LMCD would spend on an unneccessary plan.	Keegan Lund												X			
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/8/2019	Frahm noted that the exoerts for management of AIS and prevention of AIS introduction may well be mutually exclusive He said that prevention efforts without total control of private and public lake acess would likely not succeed.	Tom Frahm												X			
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/8/2019	Lund stated that the LMCD needs to secure permanent capacity to coordinate AIS maangement efforts around the lake. He said that the LMCD should look at how other organizations fill this capacity. Lund added that it may not have to be a full-time position, but a long-term permanent position is necessary.	Keegan Lund							X								
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/8/2019	Jabbour stated that LMCD is short-staffed, and needs long-term capacity to coordinate implementation of an AIS master plan.	Keegan Lund							X								
LMCD AIS Task Force Meeting	2/9/2019	Evenson stated that the LMA has submitted applications to Hennepin County for a grant to fund starry stonewort inspections at boat ramps on Lake Minnetonka. He added that even if the grant is not awarded, the LMA board has already pledged to fund the inspections in full.	Eric Evenson						X	X								

November 21, 2019 TAG Meeting Notes - JRN

Name	Org	Comment
Gregg Thomas	LMCD	Opening remarks thanking participation and noting we are in a process
Bill Cook	LMCD	LMCD committed to coordinate and sponsor an annual AIS coordination
Bill Cook	LMCD	LMCD members committed to conduct annual vegetation survey, outside
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	Is this a Master Plan? Allocation of resources is a priority. Watch out for "last year" effect, don't just do it because it was done previously
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	\$60K in AIS management for Minnetonka does not go far, need
Keegan Lund	DNR	Context for AIS management is needed, need to set broader goals
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	Should focus on cutting major thoroughfares, not just mowing of lake
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	The grant has gone away. Need LMCD Board policy on AIS
Eric Evenson	LMA	Need context for AIS strategy
Rich Anderson	LMCD Board	Floating mats are not a problem, need a market driven process. If weeds were a problem, people would pay and private businesses would do the
James Wisker	MCWD	Is harvesting part of the Master Plan? New data is needed
Steve McComas	BWS	An AIS strategy is needed at this point.
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	The 150' recommendation for harvesting should be from stationary
Bill Cook	LMCD	LMCD is considering extending the harvesting program as they are doing
Eric Evenson	LMA	Some need for harvesting may be needed, LMCD should get quotes ASAP
Eric Evenson	LMA	If the new harvesting program is a Pilot- success needs to be defined
Keegan Lund	DNR	Suggested we stop the harvesting discussion because harvesting is just one part of the AIS strategy that is not currently defined
Bill Cook	LMCD	Likes the discussion that refers to the harvesting program as a transition from the old program to a new coordinated management approach
Keegan Lund	DNR	Why not just use diquat to control weeds instead of harvesting? He likes
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	The 2012 LMCD veg management plan was adopted but never
Bill Cook	LMCD	AIS Strategy- LMCD has limited resources, cannot duplicate past effort, an annual conference is needed to review new data/activities
Rich Anderson	LMCD	2012 plan related to EWM and CLP- other entities should do this work
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	Should LMCD be involved? Noted that conflict is part of this process.
James Wisker	MCWD	If goal is managing AIS weeds, then that needs to be clear
Denny Newell	Pending LMCD Rep	Lots going on, is there any coordination?
Dennis Klohs	LMCD	Who is willing to lead? LMCD is trying to lead! Is there anyone else
Eric Evenson	LMA	LMA is willing to lead AIS effort. (no response from group)
Keegan Lund	DNR	Who is best to lead the AIS coordination effort?
Denny Newell	Pending LMCD Rep	Fine with having LMCD Lead, DNR & MCWD also ok with that approach
Brian Vlach	TRPD	From the LMCD RFP it was not clear what LMCD was trying to do
Tom Frahm	LMA	We do not just need coordination, we need to do something. What we are doing now is not effective, AIS keeps getting into the lake
Keegan Lund	DNR	LMA is doing EWM herbicide management & Starry Stonewort / AIS
Keegan Lund	DNR	Need to have meeting so everyone knows what is being done.
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	We need a Lake Manager, not an administrator- someone with the science background. A board resolution is needed to hire the right
Denny Newell	Pending LMCD Rep	It would be best to coordinate efforts
Rich Anderson	LMCD	Does not agree the LMCD should support biologists, LMA could do it
Ann Hoelscher	LMCD	LMCD can coordinate efforts, LMCD needs to own this role
Bill Cook	LMCD	LMCD will take over this role
James Wisker	MCWD	Need an LMCD Board resolution to assume this role
Angie Smith	TRPD	A collective goal must be established
Eric Evenson	LMA	He is fine having LMCD lead this AIS Coordination effort- LMCD has not been inclusive to date. Let's get this done.

Bill Cook	LMCD	LMCD focus has previously been on harvesting, need a change
Keegan Lund	DNR	A new AIS Coordinator role for LMCD must be clearly acknowledged
Bill Cook	LMCD	The LMCD Board will have a motion to start the coordination focus & hire
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	Hennepin County has our money for lake management- we need access
Eric Evenson	LMA	LMCD should ask Hennepin County for \$100K- there is a two month
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	Need to get going now to get the money, should not rely on grants, we
Denny Newell	Pending LMCD Rep	Can we get \$ from our partners- no volunteers...
James Wisker	MCWD	Coordinate the effort, we need a plan of attack
Angie Smith	TRPD	What is the LMCD Mission. A lot going on at TRPD- they could help if
Vickie Schleuning	LMCD	Stated mission of LMCD- need to focus on information gathering and
Keegan Lund	DNR	Suggested next steps for AIS Strategy is for LMCD to coordinate roles,
James Wisker	MCWD	A strategic focus is needed from LMCD, requested offline meeting with
Angie Smith	TRPD	Other details can come later such as harvesting, starry, etc. Happy to meet offline to discuss TRPD cooperative efforts
Brian Vlach	TRPD	Has been confused about his role on TAG, at a minimum he will meet with partners. Some activities TRPD is currently doing are not in
Angie Smith	TRPD	TRPD applauds efforts so far
Eric Evenson	LMA	Timeline to decide on harvesting is coming soon, an adaptive
Eric Evenson	LMA	This is what needs to be done... 1-wrap us this project this year...2- get
Gabriel Jabbour	Tonka Bay Marina	It is not Hennepin County's money it is our money to get back from them.
Vickie Schleuning	LMCD	Committed to following up on accessing the available funding
Tom Frahm	LMA	We need a Total Lake Management Plan. This is not what we are doing now. Do not say "ultimately" we will do this or that. We need to protect
Ann Hoelscher	LMCD	Gaps in the AIS strategy are very important. These need to be identified
Rich Anderson	LMCD	Suggested another meeting get put on the calendar.
Keegan Lund	DNR	LMCD must identify roles from AIS task force & TAG input. He needs to know how is time will be used and needs a timeline for meetings
Rich Anderson	LMCD	Must move now
Gregg Thomas	LMCD	Agree need to move soon but also need to do it right. While many board members represented, we will discuss with full board for approval.
Bill Cook	LMCD	Need to pause harvesting program
Vickie Schleuning	LMCD	Suggested January 16 for next TAG meeting

Preserving and Enhancing the Lake Minnetonka Experience since 1967

Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan Update Harvesting Program Review

LMCD Board Meeting Work Session

December 11, 2019

Presented by: LMCD Board Director Bill Cook

**EOR Inc. &
Blue Water Science**



Review Basis of Harvesting

- Effectiveness
- Efficiencies
- Economies
- Recommendations

Status and Findings

- LMCD did not harvest in 2019
- LMCD conducted Lake Vegetation Survey to fill voids from other permit applications
- Lake equilibrium with Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) is moving target
 - Herbicide treatments seem effective and appear to reduce EWM and CLP on annual basis
 - Weather patterns may have significant impacts on abundance of CLP and other vegetation in Lake Minnetonka.
- Flowering Rush
 - Moves slowly
 - Intermixed with native species
 - Not rapidly spreading in the lake as feared
- Zebra Mussels
 - Water clarity changes
- Additional LIDs being considered

Community Engagement & Feedback

- Outlined Community Engagement Plan at Beginning of Process
 - Significant Time Spent on Communications and Engagement
- Updates
 - Website
 - Social Media
 - Media Releases and Interviews
 - Direct Contact- presentations, phone, emails, walk-ins, and at lake
 - Emails- cities, licensees, lake service providers, bay captains, residents and other sign ups, etc.
- Feedback
 - Interactive Webpage- Everyone
 - Survey- Everyone
 - Technical Advisory Group
 - Cities

Interactive Mapping & Survey

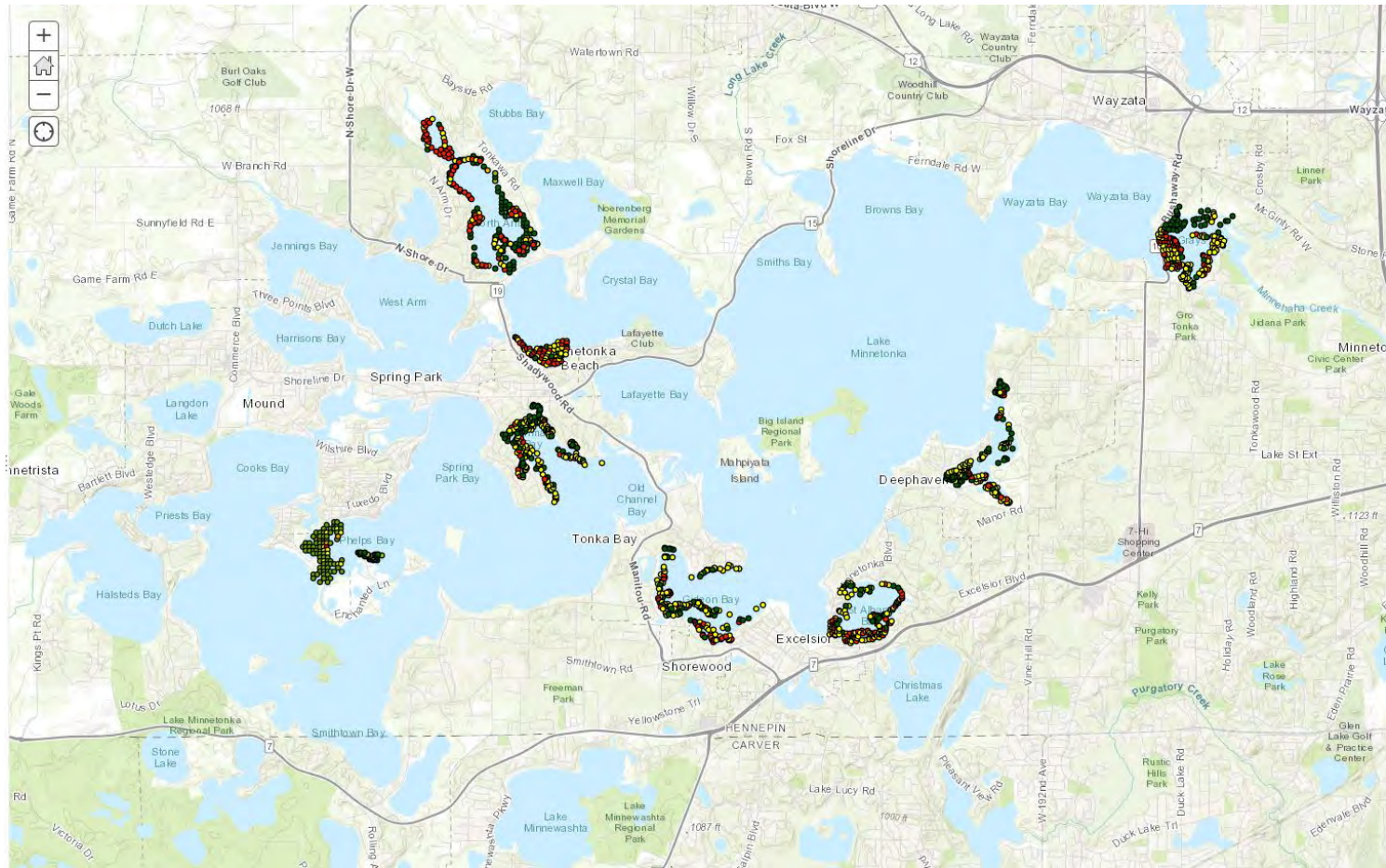
- Feedback Summarized in Public Comments Document
- Only Highlights of reported problematic vegetation next slides



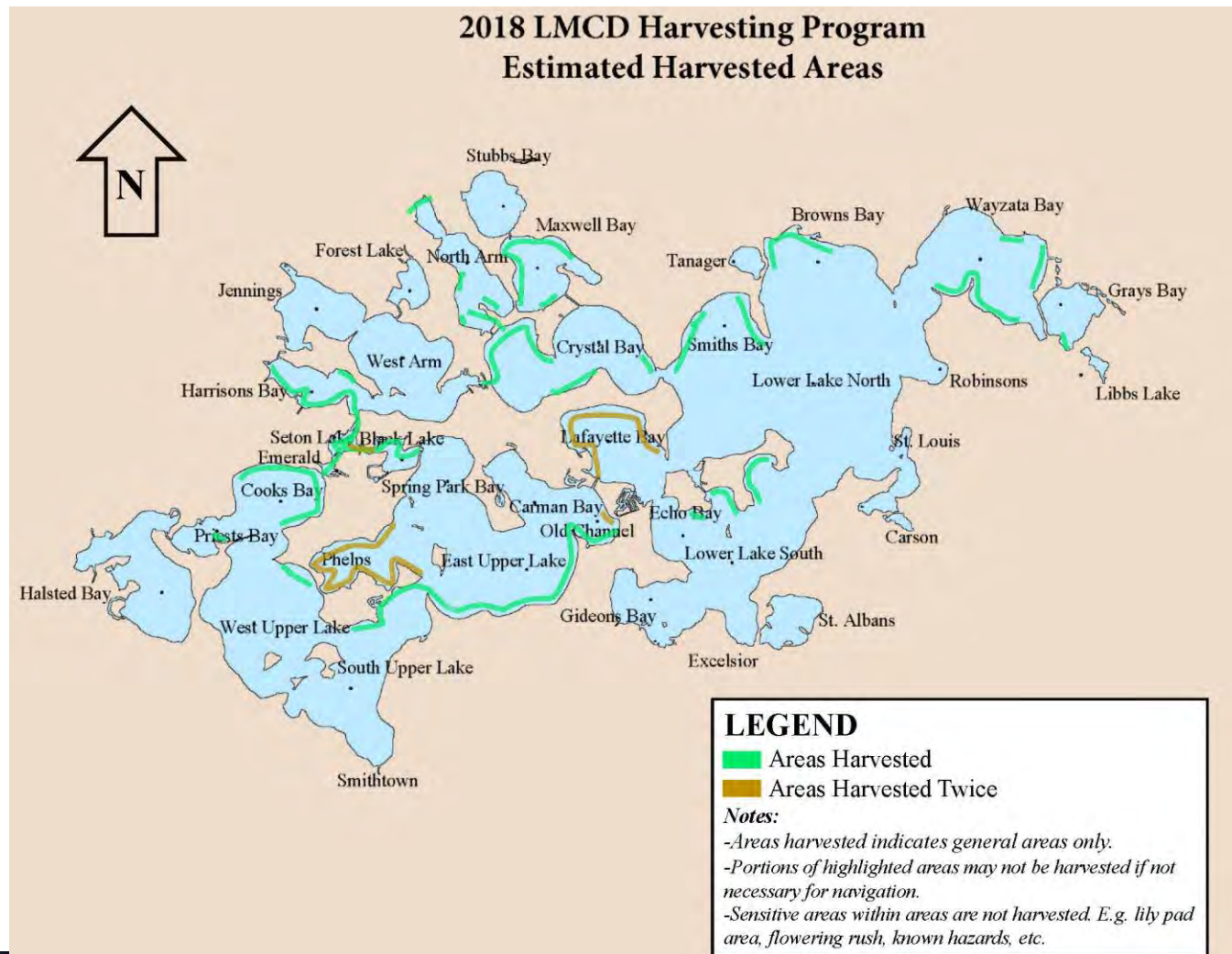
Effectiveness of Harvesting Program

- Effectiveness
 - Less than 6% of the littoral zone
 - Little effect on native species
 - With early harvesting regrowth will occur
 - LMCD constrained to summer harvesting season to match staff availability which limits capacity to address CLP and allows aquatic plants to reach nuisance conditions before management enacted
 - LMCD harvesting operations and boat traffic comparison
 - Weed Cutting and Floating material production
 - Boat propellers cut weeds on each pass and generate continual floating materials
 - Harvesters bulk cut weeds and in some cases generate concentrated floating materials, also pick up floating materials
 - Weed Transportation
 - Harvesters potentially transfer weeds to areas between cutting and hauling
 - Boat traffic transfers weeds at higher concentrations with lake currents, wind and boat hitchhikers
 - Boat propeller cutting of weeds and spread calculated to be greater than LMCD Harvesting operations

Bays with Herbicide Treatment



Harvested Areas 2018



Efficiencies of Harvesting Program

- Operations
 - Limited staffing depends primarily on field staff and needs to further emphasize strategic management and communications elements
 - Supervision of field staff needs to be improved
 - Field surveys of pre and post operation harvesting needs to be made
 - Locations need to be identified based on scientific knowledge of the areas, in addition to observational and customer feedback

Economies of Harvesting

- Equipment does not have to be replaced in 2020
 - Equipment operates well with routine maintenance, review mechanical and technical advancements
 - Shown as needing replacement for simplification of an economic analysis
 - Equipment needs safety upgrades that are routine or suggested if only feasible
- Additional Program Elements would cost the LMCD about \$50,000 per year
 - Without consideration of additional harvesting
 - Lake Management Professional (LMP)
 - Additional Training for Harvester operators
 - Safety
 - Mechanical Operations
 - Effective Harvesting Techniques
 - Additional Management and Field Supervision Time
 - Continued and Additional Floating Weed Collection
 - Other value-added services- trash and site cleanup, solar lights, complaints, hazards, and other intellectual lake knowledge
- Budget Impact
 - 10% increase in Municipal Dues on top of cost of living and cost of doing business increases

Recommendations

- Initiate 3-year Pilot Study
 - LMCD does not operate any harvesters
 - Harvesting will be contracted as follows:
 - Scope based on communications with Fisheries, Bay Captains and residents
 - Floating weed removal required for any harvesting operation
 - Harvesting only occur in navigation areas and greater than 150 feet from the shore
 - LMCD to hire a Lake Manager/Lake Scientist (Lake Management Professional)
 - Conduct annual pre-treatment and post treatment vegetation surveys
 - “No cut” areas should be mapped
 - Annual vegetation surveys should be made and updated
 - Annual updates to LMCD Board

Starry Stonewort Protection Plan

- No effective preventive program in Minnesota
- No approvals available through MN DNR Staff for pilots
- Need a new approach
 - Coordinated approach with MN DNR, LMA
 - Stay tuned
- Should have an early detection system in place
- Should have a rapid response ready to go

Questions & Board Direction

- Questions?
- Board Direction
 - 2020 Harvesting Program
 - AIS Strategy Input and Lake Management Professional
 - At formal meeting, requesting motion to approve the recommendations of EOR/Blue Water Science report as identified in the Recommendation Slide in this presentation.

Preserving and Enhancing the Lake Minnetonka Experience since 1967

Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan Update Vegetation Summary

LMCD Board Meeting Work Session

December 11, 2019

Presented by: LMCD Board Director Bill Cook

**EOR Inc. &
Blue Water Science**



Vegetation Summary

- Highlight of comments or observations regarding vegetation this summer
- Overall lighter vegetation levels this year
 - High water, cool spring, etc.
- Some different vegetation issues

Vegetation Survey- September 2019

- Appears 1st Time Lake Minnetonka Data For All Bays



1- light



2- medium



3- dense

Black Lake

“Is there going to be harvesting? Black Lake is really bad. The kayaks can't move.” 08/2019

“Vegetation growth is heavy- can you harvest” 07/2019

“Vegetation growth is thick this year.” 07/2019



Browns

- “A lot of vegetation floating into shore this year.” 08/2019

Carman

- “Milfoil is bad in this area.”
08/2019

Cooks

- “The weeds this year are worse than I've ever seen them! #1-It looks terrible! #2-It has ruined our recreational water sports for the summer. We can't get our jet skis through the weeds ...Kayaking and paddle boarding are equally as difficult. Forget about swimming! The kids don't even want to tube or ski. Even the boat propeller gets all tangled up with weeds. It's a nightmare!” 07/2019
- “The weeds along the north shore of Cooks Bay are the worst we've ever seen. Is there a way we can address this next year. It is not possible to get our jet skis out and very difficult to get the boat out.” 09/2019



Cooks



East Upper Lake

Gideon

- Football field sized weeds for 2 or 3 days. LMCD should harvest again.
08/2019

- “So many weeds that my standup paddleboard rudder was getting caught.”
08/2019

- “The LMCD did such a beautiful job in past years. My neighborhood and I are disappointed LMCD is not harvesting this year. I don't feel like I can even swim because it's dangerous with the weeds. 08/2019”
- “I am in favor of harvesting in Harrisons Bay.” 08/2019
- “Weeds are so bad. Difficult to navigate.” 08/2019
- “Looks like a gator swamp.” 08/2019

Phelps



Phelps



St. Albans



Seton Lake



Smith 07/04/2019



Smiths 07/04/2019



Smiths 07/12/2019, 08/05/2019



Smiths 08/05/2019



“We find the lake weeds an increasing problem in Smiths Bay. We have a mix of emersed weeds on the inside of our dock area near shore, submersed weeds all around our dock, and increasing amount of floating weeds, which I believe are submersed weeds cut by boat props in the shallow bay that float towards us and get caught up all around our dock. It's really becoming a mess...” 07/2019

“A significant amount of vegetation, both long strands and cut pieces, floating into dock area several times past couple weeks.” 07/2019

South Upper Lake

- “Thick vegetation along entire ridge across this entire bay making access to Upper Minnetonka Yacht Club and adjacent properties difficult.” 08/2019

West Upper Lake

- Much more milfoil than I remember running parallel to enchanted island. 08/2019
- Thick line of vegetation including milfoil. 08/2019

Wayzata 09/27/2019



Questions & Board Direction

- Questions?

ITEM 6

LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7:00 P.M., November 13, 2019
Wayzata City Hall

WORK SESSION

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Rich Anderson, Orono; Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Ben Brandt, Mound; Bill Cook, Greenwood; Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Mike Molitor, Minnetrista; Gregg Thomas, Tonka Bay; and, Jake Walesch, Deephaven. Also present: Troy Gilchrist, LMCD Legal Counsel; Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director, and Matthew Cook, Environmental Administrative Technician;

Members Absent:

Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Nicole Stone, Minnetonka; Deborah Zorn, Shorewood; City of Excelsior Representative (Seat Vacant); and City of Woodland (Seat Vacant).

Persons in Audience:

Shane Magnuson, HCSO Water Patrol; Rob Schatzle, Caribbean Marina; Dave Hemink, Caribbean Marina; Ben Mitlyng, variance applicant; Denny Newell; Eric Evenson, LMA; and Matt Johnson.

1. Deicing Operations Overview

Schleuning presented information regarding the licensing process and requirements for licensed deicing facilities for the Board to review. She explained that staff would like to receive Board feedback on standards and policies pertaining to deicing licensing.

Schleuning said that the purpose of regulating and licensing deicing facilities was to minimize hazards to humans and animals by providing standards for property owners to follow as they protect their investments from ice damage via deicing.

Schleuning briefly reviewed the basic process of annual license renewal and license application review criteria. She noted that licensees are required to maintain liability insurance and install safety equipment – fencing, signage, lighting, etc. – around the deicing operation.

M. Cook reviewed photographs from inspections of licensed deicing facilities, comparing the status of safety equipment on sites that were not operational, sites that met requirements fully, sites that had minor issues, and sites that needed immediate attention.

Schleuning stated that staff would like to identify areas where the Board is comfortable with current Code requirements and policies and areas where the Board would like to develop a Code amendment or alter policies. She highlighted the following items:

- The current standards for monitoring require someone to be constantly present on site
- The current standards for violation review require sites with any violations to be reviewed by the

Board for renewal. Staff would like to explore if graduated enforcement standards could be developed.

- Currently, licensed deicing sites are inspected a minimum of one (unscheduled) time per season. Staff would like to explore whether deicing activity warrants additional minimum inspection rates per season.

Thomas suggested that between one and three Board members get together as a workgroup to review the deicing standards. He noted that while requiring someone to be constantly physically present at a deicing site seems excessive, remote video monitoring is increasingly common and could be adequately effective.

Anderson stated that floating silt curtains deployed around licensed deicing facilities are very effective at containing the area of open water and weak ice. He added that the signs most licensees purchase are not actually reflectorized. Anderson said that he was excited to work with LMCD staff and the Board to review deicing regulations.

Molitor noted that many other pressing items have been listed as “future items” on the LMCD Board meeting agendas for some time. He said that the Board should prioritize those items before spending time on them.

Anderson and B. Cook volunteered to review deicing regulations.

Hughes requested to ride along on a deicing inspection.

2. Winter Rules Feedback

Schleuning stated that the Winter Rules are in the process of being updated to include information regarding safety information for ice house installation and use, when temporary structure permits are required, address nuisances, and more. The public has also requested some additional information be provided in the handout.

Hoelscher suggested adding more information regarding deicing.

Walesch suggested adding more information about pressure ridges and the risk they pose to persons driving snowmobiles and other vehicles on the ice.

Referring to the “future items” entry title “permanent docks” on the agenda, Walesch asked what discussion of that item would center around.

Schleuning stated that staff would review the types of permanent dock applications the LMCD receives, how the LMCD currently processes those applications, and how certain outcomes driven by potential trends could affect the lake.

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Members present: Gregg Thomas, Tonka Bay; Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; Rich Anderson, Orono; Bill Cook, Greenwood; Dan Baasen, Wayzata; Ben Brandt, Mound; Gary Hughes, Spring Park; Mike Molitor, Minnetrista; and Jake Walesch, Deephaven. Also present: Troy Gilchrist, LMCD Legal Counsel; Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director; and, Matt Cook, Environmental Administrative Technician.

Members absent: Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Chris Rich, Woodland; Nicole Stone, Minnetonka; and, Deborah Zorn, Shorewood

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Baasen moved, Hughes seconded to approve the agenda as submitted.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Oath of Office to Rich Anderson (City of Orono)

Gilchrist administered the Oath of Office to Rich Anderson.

Anderson provided background information on himself and his experience on the lake, noting that he has been a marina owner since 1976 and currently owns two marinas. He stated that he has volunteered to go with Matt Cook to inspect de-icing sites as he is very passionate about that topic.

B. Executive Director Performance Appraisal

Chair Thomas stated that there was a late start last year and the attempt would be to finish that on time this year. He stated that Board members will receive an electronic form to complete and Hoelscher will compile the results which will be shared with the Board in a closed session. He asked all members of the Board to take a few minutes to complete the evaluation.

C. Board Self-Evaluation

Chair Thomas commented that the first Board self-evaluation was completed the previous year and that process will occur again this year.

D. Other

Molitor stated that his term expires at the end of January and he will not be seeking reappointment. He stated that Minnetrista has begun the process to find a replacement and hopes to have a new member appointed by the end of January.

Chair Thomas thanked Molitor for his contributions to the Board.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- 10/23/2019 LMCD Regular Board Meeting

MOTION: Walesch moved, Thomas seconded to approve the 10/23/2019 LMCD Regular Board Meeting minutes as submitted.

VOTE: Ayes (6), Abstained (3), (Baasen, Cook, and Anderson). Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Thomas noted an error in the agreement with Mark Hodges that specified the LMCD meets once per month when the group actually meets twice per month.

Gilchrist noted that staff will make that correction.

Walesch removed Item 7D "Caribbean Marina and Restaurant (Tonka Bay Holdings, LLC), new multiple dock license for a reconfiguration of a nonconforming multiple dock facility; located on Lower Lake South; 135 Lakeview Avenue, 100 and 110 Sunrise Avenue, Tonka Bay from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Cook moved, Baasen, seconded to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. Items so approved included: **7A)** Audit of Vouchers (11/01/2019 – 11/15/2019); **7B)** October Financial Summary and Balance Sheet; **7C)** Resolution Accepting Save the Lake Contributions (09/25/2019 – 10/31/2019); **7D)** Caribbean Marina and Restaurant (Tonka Bay Holdings, LLC), new multiple dock license for a reconfiguration of a nonconforming multiple dock facility; located on Lower Lake South; 135 Lakeview Avenue, 100 and 110 Sunrise Avenue, Tonka Bay; **7E)** Variance for adjusted dock use area (length and side setbacks) for 870 Windjammer Lane, Orono; **7F)** LMCD Board Meetings Contracts Agreements: City of Wayzata, agreements for use of Community Room and Video Production Studio; Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission, agreement for Video on Demand; Mark Hodges, Producer Agreement; and Timesaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc., meeting minutes.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Thomas noted that Item 7D will be considered under Old Business.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS- Persons in attendance, subjects not on the agenda (limited to 5 minutes)

Rich Anderson addressed the Board as a member of the public. He stated that he had an issue with the clarification on why an EAW was not needed for the Caribbean Marina. He noted that he chose to seek additional input from a lawyer on the topic as it was stated that an EAW was not required because this was not an expansion. He referenced prior projects that were completed that required an EAW that did not expand. He stated that the input from the lawyer stated that an EAW would be needed for an expansion or construction. He stated that at the first meeting on this topic, Zorn asked who would be in charge of checking into the environmental impacts from pulling the poles. He noted that Matt Cook replied that staff would check with the DNR. He stated that when an EAW is completed, which he believes should have been done, multiple agencies are provided the ability to review and comment. He stated that about six other marinas have had to complete an EAW. He noted that there are dates specified when poles cannot be driven. He referenced the Site Plan provided for the Caribbean Marina noting that is not the same plan discussed at the October 23rd meeting. He stated that the Board has not seen a full-scale surveyor map of the site. He believed that an EAW should be completed. He stated that the LMCD did not provide other agencies a chance to speak to this plan.

Dave Hemink 4834 Timber Ridge Circle in Minnetonka, and Rob Schatzle, 4688 West Arm Road in Spring Park, spoke in representation of the ownership group for the Caribbean Marina and Restaurant. Dave stated that it is a bit confusing as to why the item was pulled from the Consent Agenda. He stated that it was clear that there were no issues with the non-requirement for an EAW. He stated that there is a reason marinas are considered static businesses. He stated that it is concerning that nothing has been materially presented that would warrant this item being pulled. He stated that they have spent a lot of time on this matter and have met all the requirements. He appreciated that Zorn raised a concern, but nothing was substantiated and asked that the Board move this along. He stated that he would also like to have a discussion about a conflict of interest with Anderson and would request that Anderson recuse himself from the discussion.

Chair Thomas clarified that any member of the Board can request an item to be pulled from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

A) Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Update

Lieutenant Magnuson stated that the LMCD provides funding for Water Patrol and therefore he is present tonight to provide an update on what the LMCD received in return for that contribution. He stated that the Water Patrol spends the majority of its time on Lake Minnetonka and reviewed the number of Water Patrol and volunteers that provide assistance on the lake. He provided a summary of the number and type of stops and citations issued this year. He stated that the highest issues citation remains to be PFDs. He advised that four boats remain on the lake during the year with about 500 hours on each boat. He stated that the verbal warnings issued were much higher this year while the number of citations remained consistent. He reported that there were no deaths on the lake this

year and there was only one large incident involving fire. He stated that ice water training began today for the Deputies. He provided statistics on the Deputy that was funded by the LMCD, noting that person spent 627 hours on the lake. He thanked the Board, marinas and charter boats that help Hennepin County keep the lake safe.

Hughes stated that in the past his five-year-old grandson received a coupon for ice cream for wearing his life jacket.

Magnuson confirmed that was continued this year and is funded by the State, similar to coupons given to children riding their bikes with helmets.

Anderson stated that this spring the Water Patrol gathered the marina owners to discuss private/public relationships that could be developed and believed that was a good opportunity. He reviewed some of the benefits that arose from those relationships/partnership. He expressed appreciation to the members of the Hennepin County and Water Patrol team.

Schleuning asked for additional information regarding Special Deputies and the educational impacts.

Magnuson explained that the Special Deputies are volunteers from the community that receive training and then receive additional onsite training with the Water Patrol. He stated that there is some authority to write citations and ordinance violations. He noted that a tremendous amount of help is received from these volunteers. He provided additional explanation on the different elements of assistance that is provided which allows the Deputies to get back on the water where they can be most effective. He noted that the majority of the dive team is currently composed of volunteers.

Chair Thomas thanked Magnuson and his team for the tremendous amount of help that is provided on the lake.

Magnuson commented that the goal is to have everyone safe on the lake.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A)** Caribbean Marina and Restaurant (Tonka Bay Holdings, LLC), new multiple dock license for a reconfiguration of a nonconforming multiple dock facility; located on Lower Lake South; 135 Lakeview Avenue, 100 and 110 Sunrise Avenue, Tonka Bay

Gilchrist advised that Anderson not vote on this matter.

Baasen referenced the receipt of the information received from a lawyer and asked if that would alter the opinion of legal counsel.

Gilchrist stated that does not change his opinion.

Chair Thomas noted that the comment was made that the Site Plan included tonight is not the same Site Plan reviewed at the last meeting.

Matt Cook stated that the memorandum references the Site Plan dated October 21st and that does not have any changes other than the labeling shown in the November 8th Site Plan. He noted that the labels regarding docks on

the northern most area were corrected as 104 had previously been located in the navigation channel. He stated that he is not aware of any structural differences.

Dave Hemink, applicant, confirmed that the correction to the labeling is the only change that was made.

Walesch thanked the applicant for bearing with the Board throughout this process. He thanked Anderson for taking his time to provide input, noting that he does this because he cares. He stated that in speaking with staff there is a coherent policy as to when a requirement for an EAW is applied. He noted that perhaps the EAW policy should be discussed in the future at a worksession setting. He stated that he does not feel it would be fair to the applicant to be subjected to a retroactive policy change. He stated that he trusts that this follows the policy and the necessary information has been provided.

Anderson asked if the Board voted on attachment one at the previous meeting.

Schleunig advised that is not the plan that was voted on. Another plan was provided at the meeting and voted upon similar to the one in tonight's packet.

Anderson noted that would explain why he saw inconsistencies.

MOTION: B. Cook moved, Baasen seconded to approve the Caribbean Marina and Restaurant (Tonka Bay Holdings, LLC) new multiple dock license for a reconfiguration of a nonconforming multiple dock facility; located on Lower Lake South, 135 Lakeview Avenue, 100 and 110 Sunrise Avenue, Tonka Bay.

VOTE: Ayes (8), Abstained (1), (Anderson). Motion carried.

B) Communications Initiative and Activities Update

Schleunig stated that much of the communication brochures and handouts have been updated along with ongoing updates to the website. She summarized some of the updates that have taken place and are currently occurring.

Hoelscher stated that part of this will be to develop a process to respond to items. She noted that a draft plan was included that can be updated as the needs and issues change. She noted that this will be a tool used to guide the organization related to communications. She welcomed additional suggestions for fact sheets. She noted that there are also mockups for business cards that could be distributed to people and direct them back to the website. She asked that the Board begin using the website. She stated that the more the Board uses the website, the more input that can be given to the updating process to make the site more user friendly. She encouraged the Board speak with their cities, share the materials, and meet with local officials to further establish those relationships.

Molitor stated that in reviewing the draft plan, one of the major reasons for this project was in response to legislation that passed earlier this year and noted that he does not see much about that legislative process. He encouraged the Board to keep that focal point in mind as this continues to move forward.

Chair Thomas thanked Hoelscher for her efforts on this matter.

Walesch asked about the process for finalizing the information sheet.

Hoelscher stated that they have been reviewing the information with the consultants, noting that the document has gone through several drafts. She noted that any additional input can be provided to staff and shared with the consultant. She noted that multiple fact sheets could be completed as well.

Walesch stated that a lot of the information is good, and most items are specific. He commented that perhaps additional specifics could be added to some of the items.

C) Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and AIS Master Plan Update

Schleunig stated that EOR has been recording all the comments for the harvesting program evaluation and starry stonewort plan. She provided an update on the upcoming timeline and meetings to review those comments. She noted that she will distribute copies to the Board once completed.

Anderson stated that he has involved in some of the letters that have been sent. He stated that he is blown away as to why there cannot be some cohesiveness. He stated that there does not seem to be any mention of chemical treatment compared to harvesting. He stated that it does not seem like there is much progress being made with partnering with the agencies the LMCD would need to partner with. He stated that chemical treatment was done in his bay and it worked very well.

Chair Thomas stated that now that Anderson is on the Board, he looks forward to having additional input on the topic. He stated that he is not passionate about harvesting or chemical treatment but is passionate about making the lake the best it can be.

Baasen noted that he met with a number of people one year ago in Shorewood and they asked the LMCD to determine how this could be done better. He stated that a master plan was developed to provide additional guidance and input on harvesting. He stated that he would ask that the stakeholders and other groups allow the LMCD to develop the master plan which will provide further guidance.

Anderson stated that he simply commented on harvesting because that is the only element that he is knowledgeable about. He stated that in his opinion the LMCD is spending a lot of money to obtain this input but when reviewing the letters received from those partners it does not appear it is going in the right direction.

Walesch stated that the organization did go out and ask for comments and that is what was received, which is part of the process. He believed that the comments were well thought out and will help the process. He confirmed that the moratorium was enacted to allow this study, the delineation was completed, and findings were provided. He stated that he did not find the report very helpful. He stated that sometimes a document needs to be produced in order to gather input and advised that the LMCD is serious about the comments received and about addressing those comments. He recognized that there has been some frustration with the process but noted that the collaboration can begin more in depth. He stated that once the report is completed the Board can have a more in-depth policy discussion on how to move forward with harvesting.

Cook believed that after the meeting on Thursday the harvesting report could be finalized within a month or so and the policy discussion will follow and will be a public discussion.

Hoelscher stated that the word “we” is being used a lot. She stated that this plan is the expert’s draft plan that the Board has done nothing with. She stated that they are still in the feedback and drafting the plan stage.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A) 2020 Employee Wage Adjustments

Chair Thomas stated that he spoke with Schleuning and this is an opportunity to provide an annual base adjustment for the three employees that work for Schleuning of 2.75 percent for 2020, effective January 1st. He stated that was based on a review of the cities served which ranged from 2.5 to 3 percent.

MOTION: Hughes moved, Cook seconded to approve the annual base wage adjustments for employees in 2020 at a rate of 2.75 percent.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

13. TREASURER REPORT

Cook had nothing further to report.

14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Schleunig had nothing further to report.

15. STANDING LMCD COMMITTEE/WORKGROUP

Aquatic Invasive Species Taskforce: No additional report.

Budget Workgroup: No report.

Save the Lake Committee: Baasen reported that the group was supposed to meet yesterday but lacked a quorum. He noted that they are in the process of drafting the fall solicitation letter with the intent of sending the letter prior to Thanksgiving. He confirmed that donations made to Save the Lake can be earmarked for certain activities such as Water Patrol.

Strategic Plan Subcommittee: No report.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Gregg Thomas, Chair

Ann Hoelscher, Secretary

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Check Detail
November 16 - 30, 2019

ITEM 7A

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Class	Paid Amount
11/29/2019	EFT19-143	ADP		Alerus Checking		
			Salaries - Admin	4020M10 · Salaries-002 - Admin	Admin.	-8,410.57
			P. E.R.A.	2020 · Payroll Liabilities -	Admin.	1,174.90
			ER PERA	4022M10 · ER PERA - Admin	Admin.	-629.42
			ER/FICA Medicare - Admin	4021M10 · ER Share of Admin FICA/Medi...	Admin.	-642.02
			Long Term Disability	2020-LT · Payroll Liabilities - UNUM	Admin.	42.13
TOTAL						-8,464.98
11/29/2019	EFT19-144	ADP Service Fee		Alerus Checking		
			Payroll 11/16/19 - 11/30/19	4180M10 · Professional Services - Admin.	Admin.	-76.70
TOTAL						-76.70
11/29/2019	EFT19-145	Frontier Communications		Alerus Checking		
			Phone and Internet 11/4/19 - 12/...	4060M10 · Telephone - Admin.	Admin.	-197.17
TOTAL						-197.17
11/29/2019	EFT19-146	SelectAccount Group Service Center		Alerus Checking		
			HSA Employer Contribution for D...	4380M10 · Employee Benefits - Admin.	Admin.	-112.50
			HSA Employer Contribution for D...	4380M10 · Employee Benefits - Admin.	Admin.	-112.50
			HSA Employer Contribution for D...	4380M10 · Employee Benefits - Admin.	Admin.	-112.50
TOTAL						-337.50
11/26/2019	EFT19-147	P.E.R.A		Alerus Checking		
			Payroll 11/16/19 - 11/20/19	2020 · Payroll Liabilities -	Admin.	-1,174.90
TOTAL						-1,174.90
11/26/2019	EFT19-148	Health Partners		Alerus Checking		
			Dental Insurance, December 2019	4380M10 · Employee Benefits - Admin.	Admin.	-167.64
TOTAL						-167.64

11:09 PM
1/19/19

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Check Detail
November 16 - 30, 2019

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Class	Paid Amount
11/26/2019	EFT19-149	SW/WC Service Cooperatives		Alerus Checking		
			Health Insurance, December 2019	4380M10 · Employee Benefits - Admin.	Admin.	-2,091.00
TOTAL						-2,091.00
11/26/2019	EFT19-150	Unum Life Insurance		Alerus Checking		
			Long Term Disability	2020-LT · Payroll Liabilities - UNUM	Admin.	-136.60
TOTAL						-136.60
11/26/2019	EFT19-151	US Bank		Alerus Checking		
			Meeting Supplies	4230M10 · Meeting Exp. - Admin.	Admin.	-4.38
			Fortinet - Micro Trend Anti Virus ...	4530M10 · Comp. Sftwr & Hdwr - Admin.	Admin.	-419.35
			GNS Guardian Network 2 years	4530M10 · Comp. Sftwr & Hdwr - Admin.	Admin.	-280.98
			Amazon - Rite in the Rain paper	4220M10 · Office Supplies -Admin.	Admin.	-263.04
TOTAL						-967.75
11/28/2019	21708	City of Mound		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	December, 2019		Rent, December 2019	4320M10 · Office Rent - Admin.	Admin.	-1,609.71
TOTAL						-1,609.71
11/28/2019	21709	City of Wayzata		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	2018 Contract		2018 Agreement for Meeting Room	4230M10 · Meeting Exp. - Admin.	Admin.	-3,386.00
TOTAL						-3,386.00
11/28/2019	21710	Innovative Office Solutions LLC		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	Inv.#IN2745131		Office Supplies	4220M10 · Office Supplies -Admin.	Admin.	-42.43
TOTAL						-42.43
11/28/2019	21711	Kennedy & Graven		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	October, 2019		Legal Fees October 2019	4620M10 · Legal Fees - Admin.	Admin.	-3,780.05
TOTAL						-3,780.05

11:09 PM
1/19/19

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Check Detail
November 16 - 30, 2019

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Class	Paid Amount
11/28/2019	21712	LMCC		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	Inv.#1319		VOD Services for Meeting 11/13/...	4182M10 · Media (Cable/Internet) - Admin.	Admin.	-100.00
TOTAL						-100.00
11/28/2019	21713	Minnesota Trophies		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	40986		Name Plate for new member Ric...	4230M10 · Meeting Exp. - Admin.	Admin.	-14.00
			Update Board of Directors and E...	4230M10 · Meeting Exp. - Admin.	Admin.	-165.95
TOTAL						-179.95
11/28/2019	21714	Southwest News Media		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	Inv.#378052		Legal Notice Ben Mitlyng	4110M10 · Public Info./Legal - Admin.	Admin.	-34.65
TOTAL						-34.65
11/28/2019	21715	City of Wayzata		Alerus Checking		
11/28/2019	2019 Contract		2019 Agreement for Meeting Room	4230M10 · Meeting Exp. - Admin.	Admin.	-3,471.00
TOTAL						-3,471.00

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Check Detail
December 1 - 15, 2019

ITEM 7A

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Class	Paid Amount
12/13/2019	EFT19-152	ADP		Alerus Checking		
			Salaries - Admin	4020M10 · Salaries-002 - Admin	Admin.	-8,323.49
			P.E.R.A.	2020 · Payroll Liabilities -	Admin.	1,162.70
			ER PERA	4022M10 · ER PERA - Admin	Admin.	-622.88
			ER/FICA Medicare - Admin	4021M10 · ER Share of Admin FICA/Medi...	Admin.	-635.35
			Long Term Disability	2020-LT · Payroll Liabilities - UNUM	Admin.	42.13
TOTAL						-8,376.89
12/13/2019	EFT19-153	ADP Service Fee		Alerus Checking		
			Payroll 12/1/19 - 12/15/19	4180M10 · Professional Services - Admin.	Admin.	-76.70
TOTAL						-76.70
12/12/2019	EFT19-154	P.E.R.A		Alerus Checking		
			Payroll 12/1/19 - 12/15/19	2020 · Payroll Liabilities -	Admin.	-1,162.70
TOTAL						-1,162.70
12/12/2019	21716	AIS Advanced Imaging Solutions		Alerus Checking		
12/12/2019	Inv.#400905089		Copier Contract 11/20/19 - 12/20...	4140M10 · Equipment R&M - Admin.	Admin.	-1,063.99
TOTAL						-1,063.99
12/12/2019	21717	American Mailing Machines		Alerus Checking		
12/12/2019	Inv.#IN95340		Ribbons for Postage Meter	4080M10 · Postage - Admin.	Admin.	-79.32
TOTAL						-79.32
12/12/2019	21718	Mark Hodges Media Productions		Alerus Checking		
12/12/2019	Inv.#20191113		Meeting 11/13/19	4182M10 · Media (Cable/Internet) - Admin.	Admin.	-80.00
TOTAL						-80.00
12/12/2019	21719	NCPERS Group Life Insurance		Alerus Checking		
12/12/2019	923600		Life Insurance, December 2019	4380M10 · Employee Benefits - Admin.	Admin.	-48.00
TOTAL						-48.00

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Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Check Detail
 December 1 - 15, 2019

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Account	Class	Paid Amount
12/12/2019	21720	Tallen & Baertschi		Alerus Checking		
12/12/2019	November 2019		November prosecution costs	4640M10 · Prosecution Fees - Admin.	Admin.	-2,623.54
TOTAL						-2,623.54
12/12/2019	21721	TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.		Alerus Checking		
12/12/2019	Inv.#M25262		Board Meeting Minutes 11/13/19	4230M10 · Meeting Exp. - Admin.	Admin.	-180.00
TOTAL						-180.00
12/12/2019	21722	Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc.		Alerus Checking		
12/12/2019	Inv.#01449-00...		EOR Lake Minnetonka AIS Mast...	4181M30 · Prof. Services - AIS Prevention	AIS	-30,959.50
TOTAL						-30,959.50

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12/06/19

Accrual Basis

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
ADM Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (amended 05/22/2019)
January through November 2019

	Jan - Nov 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Grants & Other Income				
3080M10 · Interest - Admin.	8,073	500	7,573	1,615%
3300M10 · Other Income - Admin.	900	0	900	100%
3340M10 · Public Agency Grants - Adm	0	1,000	-1,000	0%
Total Grants & Other Income	8,973	1,500	7,473	598%
Licenses/Permits				
3110M10 · Multiple/Perm. Dock Lic -Admin.	84,880	83,000	1,880	102%
3120M10 · DMA license - Admin.	3,350	3,600	-250	93%
3130M10 · Deicing License - Admin.	6,042	6,000	42	101%
3170M10 · Variances - Admin.	1,000	1,000	0	100%
3200M10 · Special Density - Admin.	0	500	-500	0%
3220M10 · Special Events - Admin.	0	0	0	0%
3240M10 · Charter Boats - Admin.	3,000	3,400	-400	88%
3280M10 · Liquor/Beer/Wine License-Admin.	18,550	17,500	1,050	106%
Total Licenses/Permits	116,822	115,000	1,822	102%
3020M10 · Municipal Dues - Admin.	238,695	280,000	-41,305	85%
3260M10 · Court Fines - Admin.	35,240	50,000	-14,760	70%
3400M10 · Transfers In - Admin.	0	25,000	-25,000	0%
Total Income	399,731	471,500	-71,769	85%
Gross Profit	399,731	471,500	-71,769	85%
Expense				
Legal				
4110M10 · Public Info./Legal - Admin.	575	1,000	-425	57%
4620M10 · Legal Fees - Admin.	35,485	40,500	-5,015	88%
4640M10 · Prosecution Fees - Admin.	24,941	38,000	-13,059	66%
4650M10 · Room & Board - Admin.	0	500	-500	0%
4670M10 · Recodification	4,992	5,000	-8	100%
Total Legal	65,992	85,000	-19,008	78%
Office & Supplies				
4060M10 · Telephone - Admin.	2,116	4,000	-1,884	53%
4070M10 · Web Page / Internet - Admin.	160	1,750	-1,590	9%
4080M10 · Postage - Admin.	1,395	6,500	-5,105	21%
4100M10 · Printing - Admin.	0	8,200	-8,200	0%
4220M10 · Office Supplies -Admin.	2,308	4,500	-2,192	51%
4230M10 · Meeting Exp. - Admin.	11,486	7,000	4,486	164%
4320M10 · Office Rent - Admin.	18,963	19,200	-237	99%
4340M10 · Insurance - Admin.	4,589	4,000	589	115%
4360M10 · Subs/Memberships - Admin.	1,954	2,500	-546	78%
4400M10 · Mileage/Exp's - Admin.	257	1,500	-1,243	17%
4410M10 · Training/Prof. Devel. - ADM	0	1,000	-1,000	0%
4520M10 · Furniture & Equip - Admin.	0	1,550	-1,550	0%
4530M10 · Comp. Sftwr & Hdwr - Admin.	1,985	5,000	-3,015	40%
Total Office & Supplies	45,213	66,700	-21,487	68%
Personnel Expenses				
4020M10 · Salaries-002 - Admin	183,380	195,500	-12,120	94%
4021M10 · ER Share of Admin FICA/Medicare	13,907	16,000	-2,093	87%
4022M10 · ER PERA - Admin	13,634	15,000	-1,366	91%
4380M10 · Employee Benefits - Admin.	22,030	22,000	30	100%
Total Personnel Expenses	232,951	248,500	-15,549	94%

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
ADM Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (amended 05/22/2019)
January through November 2019

	Jan - Nov 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Professional Services- ADM				
4040M10 · Auditing - Admin.	9,400	9,500	-100	99%
4180M10 · Professional Services - Admin.	16,093	40,500	-24,407	40%
4181M10 · Professional Comp. Serv.-Admin.	1,003	1,000	3	100%
4182M10 · Media (Cable/Internet) - Admin.	3,330	4,000	-670	83%
Total Professional Services- ADM	29,825	55,000	-25,175	54%
3900M10 · Transfer Out (General Fund)	0	6,200	-6,200	0%
4140M10 · Equipment R&M - Admin.	5,574	1,500	4,074	372%
4660M10 · Proactive Code Enforcement Prog	0	0	0	0%
4980M10 · Contingency - Admin.	434	14,800	-14,366	3%
4990M10 · Equip Rpl- Transfer Out - Admin	0	5,000	-5,000	0%
Total Expense	379,990	482,700	-102,710	79%
Net Ordinary Income	19,741	-11,200	30,941	-176%
Net Income	19,741	-11,200	30,941	-176%

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
AIS Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (amended 04/24/2019)
January through November 2019

	Jan - Nov 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
3020M30 · Municipal Dues - AIS	67,645.00	80,000.00	-12,355.00	84.6%
3080M30 · Interest - AIS	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
3300M30 · Public Agencies/Other Income	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
3400M30 · Transfers In - AIS	0.00	30,000.00	-30,000.00	0.0%
Total Income	67,645.00	130,200.00	-62,555.00	52.0%
Gross Profit	67,645.00	130,200.00	-62,555.00	52.0%
Expense				
AIS Prevention Program				
4151M30 · Equip. Supplies -AIS Prevention	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4152M30 · Equip. Supplies- Master Plan	1,978.39	25,240.00	-23,261.61	7.8%
4181M30 · Prof. Services - AIS Prevention	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
4182M30 · Prof. Services- Master Plan	52,868.04	74,760.00	-21,891.96	70.7%
4383M30 · ER Share AIS Prevent. Fica-Med	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4981M30 · Contingency - AIS Prevention	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total AIS Prevention Program	55,304.49	120,000.00	-64,695.51	46.1%
EWM Harvesting Program				
Equipment & Repair				
4150M30 · Equip. Supplies & Maint. - EWM	2,868.39	4,065.00	-1,196.61	70.6%
4160M30 · Fuel - Harvester/Wk Boats-EWM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4170M30 · Fuel/Supply - Van - EWM	39.53	0.00	39.53	100.0%
4720M30 · Contract Mechanic Fees - EWM	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
4721M30 · Specialty Mechanic - EWM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Equipment & Repair	2,907.92	7,065.00	-4,157.08	41.2%
Office & Supplies- EWM				
4060M30 · Telephone - EWM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4090M30 · DMV - EWM	0.00	35.00	-35.00	0.0%
4100M30 · Printing/Advertising - EWM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4130M30 · Uniforms - EWM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4350M30 · Ins./Equip. - EWM	579.25	400.00	179.25	144.8%
Total Office & Supplies- EWM	579.25	435.00	144.25	133.2%
Personnel Services- EWM				
4020M30 · Salaries - EWM	1,509.48	1,500.00	9.48	100.6%
4021M30 · ER Share of EWM FICA/Medicare	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4340M30 · Insurance W/C - EWM	953.00	1,000.00	-47.00	95.3%
Total Personnel Services- EWM	2,462.48	2,500.00	-37.52	98.5%
4740M30 · Truck Service - EWM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4980M30 · Contingency - EWM	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.0%
Total EWM Harvesting Program	5,949.65	10,200.00	-4,250.35	58.3%
Total Expense	61,254.14	130,200.00	-68,945.86	47.0%
Net Ordinary Income	6,390.86	0.00	6,390.86	100.0%
Net Income	6,390.86	0.00	6,390.86	100.0%

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Save the Lake Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through November 2019

	Jan - Nov 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Contributions				
3001M20 · Donations (General) - S/L	20,150	39,500	-19,350	51%
3002M20 · Donations (Photograph) - S/L	0	0	0	0%
3004M20 · Donations (Solar Light) - S/L	992	500	492	198%
Total Contributions	21,141	40,000	-18,859	53%
3080M20 · Interest - S/L	0	500	-500	0%
Total Income	21,141	40,500	-19,359	52%
Gross Profit	21,141	40,500	-19,359	52%
Expense				
Office & Supplies- STL				
4080M20 · Postage - S/L	20	1,000	-980	2%
4100M20 · Printing - S/L	2,321	1,000	1,321	232%
4220M20 · Office Supplies - S/L	0	300	-300	0%
Total Office & Supplies- STL	2,341	2,300	41	102%
Projects & Activities- STL				
4110M20 · Environmental- S/L	0	2,000	-2,000	0%
4111M20 · Public Service/Education - S/L	2,475	2,000	475	124%
4160M20 · Public Safety - S/L	4,216	36,000	-31,784	12%
Total Projects & Activities- STL	6,691	40,000	-33,309	17%
4980M20 · Contingency - S/L	0	0	0	0%
Total Expense	9,031	42,300	-33,269	21%
Net Ordinary Income	12,110	-1,800	13,910	-673%
Net Income	12,110	-1,800	13,910	-673%

ITEM 7C



RESOLUTION NO. 196

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTION(S) TO THE LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT (LMCD)

WHEREAS, the LMCD is a regional government agency established by Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.605, Subd. 1;

WHEREAS, contributions to the LMCD "Save the Lake" fund are generally tax deductible to individuals under the IRS Code 26 USC Section 170 (b)(1)(a) because contributions to any political subdivision of any state for exclusively public purposes are deductible;

WHEREAS, municipalities are generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its stakeholders, and is specifically authorized to accept gifts;

WHEREAS, LMCD wishes to follow similar requirements as established for municipalities for accepting donations;

WHEREAS, the attached listed person(s) and entity(ies) have offered to contribute the cash amount(s) set forth with any terms or conditions as outlined in Attachment I to the LMCD;

WHEREAS, such contribution(s) have been contributed to the LMCD for the benefit of the public, as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, the LMCD Board of Directors finds that it is appropriate to accept the contribution(s) offered.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LMCD BOARD, STATE OF MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The contribution(s) described with Attachment I is/are accepted and shall be used to establish and/or operate services either alone or in cooperation with others, as allowed by law.

2. The executive director is hereby directed to issue receipt(s) acknowledging the LMCD's receipt of the contributor's contribution(s).

Adopted by the Board this 11th day of December, 2019.

Gregg Thomas, Chair

ATTEST:

Ann Hoelscher, Secretary

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Transaction Detail By Account
November 1 through December 2, 2019

Resolution #196 Attachment 1 - Save the Lake Contributions

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10/24/2019	Benevity	Benevity Fund Donation	STL Donation (Punch 15.00)	14.28
11/06/2019	19620	Thomas W. Krenn	STL Donation (General)	50.00
12/02/2019	4973	Lawrence Whalen	STL Donation (General)	50.00
12/02/2019	1307	Roger & Carol Rovick	STL Donation (General)	100.00
12/02/2019	12117	David Chalupnik	STL Donation (General)	150.00
12/02/2019	5719	Roger Wothe	STL Donation (General)	100.00
12/02/2019	1016	James T. Brass	STL Donation (General)	25.00
12/02/2019	9004650	Susan and Michael Burnett	STL Donation (General)	50.00
			Total	<u>539.28</u>

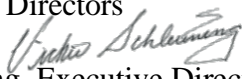


LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

DATE: December 11, 2019

TO: LMCD Board of Directors

FROM: Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: 2020 Appointments for Legal Services, Auditor, Bank Depository, and Official Newspaper

ACTION

Board approval of one-year appointments and designations for 2020 for Kennedy & Graven Chartered as the Civil Attorney; Tallen & Baertschi as the Prosecuting Attorney; Abdo, Eick, and Meyers for Audit Services; Alerus Bank as the bank depository; and designating the Lakeshore Weekly News as the LMCD's official newspaper for legal notices.

BACKGROUND

Certain services are provided for the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) by appointment with or without contracts. Most of these contracts or appointments are conducted annually. In certain cases, such as designating the official newspaper for legal publications, an annual designation is required by state law. The appointments for legal services, auditor, the official newspaper, and bank depository are included in this action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Please note that if the board would like to consider multiple year appointments, this item needs to be removed from the consent agenda. Furthermore, an agreement or contract would be recommended.

Legal Services

Staff has received proposals for legal services for 2020. Based on the attached proposals, staff recommends approval of the following appointments:

- Kennedy & Graven Chartered as the LMCD Civil Attorney. The \$2 increase, 1%, proposed for 2020 is \$175 per hour for attorney. The current paralegal and clerk rate would also increase by \$2, 1%, from \$133 to \$135, and from \$128 to \$130, 1% respectively.
- Tallen & Baertschi as the LMCD Prosecuting Attorney. This proposal includes a multi-year option for the Board to consider.
 - 1) The first option includes a one-year agreement, proposing a rate increase of 2.5% for both attorney and legal assistant time. Current rates are \$139.50 for attorney time and \$78.50 for legal assistant. Under the terms of the one-year agreement, the new rate would be \$143 per hour, and \$80.50 per hour for

legal assistant.

- 2) An alternate option for the board to consider would be a four-year agreement. Under the terms of the four-year agreement, there would be no increase for calendar year 2020, a 1% increase for 2021, a 2% increase for 2022, and a 1% increase for 2023. The hourly rates for attorney and legal assistant time would then be \$139.50 and \$78.50 in 2020; \$141 and \$79.30 in 2021; \$143.80 and \$80.90 in 2022; and \$145.25 and \$81.70 in 2023.

Auditor

A proposal for services in 2020 was submitted by the Abdo, Eick, and Meyers to provide the financial audit services for the LMCD. The company has been the appointed auditing firm for a few years. Their knowledge of our accounting and financial systems is beneficial as we continue to review systems and processes. Therefore, staff recommends the following.

- Abdo, Eick, and Meyers, LLP to conduct the 2020 LMCD Audit. The proposed rate is \$10,700, an increase of \$300 (2.88%), which includes additional costs for GASB 75 implementation.

Bank Depository

Alerus Bank acquired Beacon Bank in 2016. Alerus meets the requirements for LMCD policies and business needs. Staff recommends:

- Alerus Bank.

Official Newspaper

Board approval is necessary to designate the official newspaper for 2020 where LMCD will publish its legal notices. Staff recommends the following:

- Lakeshore Weekly News.

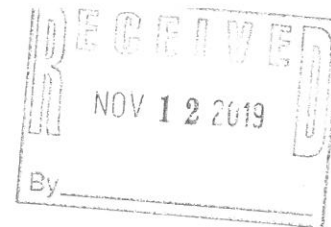
ATTACHMENTS

- Kennedy & Graven- quote
- Tallen & Baertschi- quote
- Abdo Eick & Meyers LLP- letter



Offices in
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501 W. Germain Street, Suite 304

St. Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 240-8200

November 8, 2019

Vickie Schleuning
Executive Director
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
5341 Maywood Road, Suite 200
Mound, MN 55364

Re: Rates for Legal Services

Dear Vickie:

I understand the appointment of legal representatives will be on the Board's agenda at its upcoming meeting in December and so I wanted to send you information on the rates proposed to go into effect starting January 1, 2020.

The currently civil hourly rate is \$173, which went into effect in 2019 and was the first increase in four years. Starting January 1, 2020, I propose the rate be increased by \$2 to \$175 an hour. This rate constitutes an approximately 1% increase over the current rate. The current paralegal and clerk rate would also increase by \$2 from \$133 to \$135, and from \$128 to \$130, respectively.

I look forward to continuing to represent the LMCD. Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Troy J. Gilchrist

TJG:ktb

TALLEN and BAERTSCHI
Attorneys at Law

STEVEN M. TALLEN
steve@tablawmn.com

Paralegal: Marijo Witte
mwitte@tablawmn.com

920 2nd Avenue South
Suite 1540
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-2224
612-349-3900

PAUL D. BAERTSCHI
paul@tablawmn.com

November 12, 2019

Ms. Vickie Schleuning
Executive Director
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
5341 Maywood Road
Mound, MN 55364

Re: Calendar Year 2020 (and beyond?)

Dear Ms. Schleuning:

You and I have spoken briefly about my proposal for prosecution rates for the next calendar year. I indicated that I am going to be making a proposal with two options for the Board to consider. The first option will be a one-year extension of our agreement, and the second will be a four-year extension of the agreement.

On the one-year agreement, I propose a rate increase of approximately 2.5% for both attorney and legal assistant time. Those rates are currently \$139.50 for attorney time and \$78.50 for legal assistant time. A 2.5% increase would bring those numbers to \$143 per hour for attorney time and \$80.50 per hour for legal assistant time. I would propose to leave all other conditions unchanged.

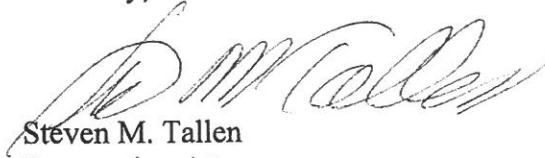
If the Board would prefer, I am proposing a four-year agreement. Under the terms of the four-year agreement, there would be no increase for calendar year 2020. There would be a 1% increase for calendar year 2021, a 2% increase for calendar year 2022 and a 1% increase for calendar year 2023. Those numbers would then be \$139.50 and \$78.50 in 2020; \$141 and \$79.30 in 2021; \$143.80 and \$80.90 in 2022; and \$145.25 and \$81.70 in 2023.

I believe a four-year agreement would be beneficial both to the Conservation District in terms of money saved, and to my firm in terms of the security of a guaranteed continued arrangement.

Whichever way the Board would like to go, I would of course be happy to continue functioning as the prosecuting attorney for the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District as I have for the last 33 years. Paul and I are very proud of the job we do on behalf of the Board and the residents and citizens who enjoy this beautiful resource. Traditionally I have appeared before the Board in late December or early January to give a short report of the year's activities and to answer any questions the Board might have regarding my proposal. Would you please let

me know if the Board would like me to appear, and when. I also want to thank you for the support you have shown me. I enjoy working with you and I believe we share a common enthusiasm for this Lake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. M. Tallen", written in a cursive style.

Steven M. Tallen
Prosecuting Attorney
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

SMT/mw

October 16, 2019

Board of Directors
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
Mound, Minnesota

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (the District) for the year ended December 31, 2019. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the District's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the District's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by U.S generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis
- 2) Schedule of Net OPEB Liability, Employer Contributions, and Investment Returns

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the District's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

The following other information accompanying the financial statements will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements, and our auditor's report will not provide an opinion or any assurance on that other information.

- 1) Introductory Section

Audit Objective

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the District's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the District Board of the District. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or may withdraw from this engagement.

Audit Procedures - General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements, or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Audit Procedures - Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards.

Audit Procedures - Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

Other Services

We will also prepare a general ledger trial balance for use during the audit. Our preparation of the trial balance will be limited to formatting information in the general ledger into a working trial balance. As part of the audit, we will assist with preparation of your financial statements of the District in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. We will also use the financial statements to complete the Office of the State Auditors' Reporting Forms. We will also enter the current year capital asset transactions into our software based on information you provide.

Management Responsibilities

You are responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

You are also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws and regulations.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information. With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for financial statement preparation services and any other nonattest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to any Regulator or its designee. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to any Regulator or its designee. The Regulator or its designee may intend or decide to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

We expect to begin our audit in February 2020 and to issue our reports no later than March 31, 2020. Steven R. McDonald, CPA is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.

Our fee for these services will be as follows:

Audit	\$ 9,700
GASB 75 Implementation	<u>1,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 10,700</u>

You may also be billed for travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as report production, typing, postage, etc if not included in the fee listed above. The fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the engagement. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee before we incur the additional costs. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. Amounts not paid within 30 days from the invoice date will be subject to a late payment charge of .66 percent per month (8 percent per year). If for any reason the account is turned over to collections, additional fees will be added to cover collections cost. In accordance with our Firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

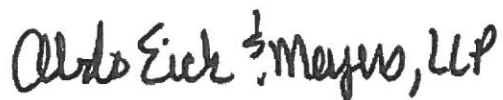
Except in the event of your failure to make a payment when due, in the event of a dispute related in any way to our services, our Firm and you agree to discuss the dispute and, if necessary, to promptly mediate in a good faith effort to resolve. We will agree on a mediator, but if we cannot, either of us may apply to a court having personal jurisdiction over the parties for appointment of a mediator. We will share the mediator's fees and expenses equally, but otherwise will bear our own attorneys' fees and mediation cost. Participation in such mediation shall be a condition to either of us initiating litigation. In order to allow time for the mediation, any applicable statute of limitations shall be tolled for a period not to exceed 120 days from the date either of us first requests in writing to mediate the dispute. The mediation shall be confidential in all respects, as allowed or required by law, except our final settlement positions at mediation shall be admissible in litigation solely to determine the prevailing party's identify for purposes of the award of attorneys' fees. In the event you fail to make a payment for services or to reimburse for costs advanced by the Firm on your behalf, the Firm reserves the right to take all legally permissible action, including commencement of litigation in lieu of mediation, and shall have the right to collect its costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred in any such collection or litigation activities.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. As emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

We have the right to withdraw from this engagement, at our discretion, if you do not provide us with any information we request in a timely manner; refuse to cooperate with our reasonable requests or misrepresent any facts; we have reason to believe you may have engaged, or may be planning to engage, in conduct that is unethical and/or unlawful; you engage in conduct directed toward or affecting firm personnel that is disrespectful, inappropriate, and/or potentially unlawful; or we determine that continuing the engagement is not in the best interests of the firm or threatens legal or reputational harm to the firm. In the event of withdrawal under any of these circumstances, such withdrawal will release us from any obligation to complete your report and will constitute completion of our engagement.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the District and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please electronically sign this letter

Sincerely,



ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP
Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the **Lake Minnetonka Conservation District**.

By:

Title:



LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

TO: LMCD Board of Directors
FROM: Vickie Schleuning, *Vickie Schleuning* Executive Director
DATE: December 11, 2019
SUBJECT: Executive Director Update

The following items are highlights of ongoing LMCD projects and Lake-related current events and activities.

- **LMCD December 11, 2019 Update**
An update of current activities is provided on the website and was emailed to cities, licensees, lake service providers, bay captains, and other parties. [LINK](#)
- **Spiny Waterflea Webinar**
On Thursday, December 19 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm, the AIS Detectors Program at the University of Minnesota will be hosting a webinar. Dr. Jake Walsh will present his research on the economic and ecological damages inflicted upon Lake Mendota in Madison, Wisconsin by Spiny Waterflea. The event is free to attend but participants must register at the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-ecological-and-economic-impacts-by-spiny-waterflea-in-a-wi-lake-tickets-80495431001>
- **Draft 2020 Meetings Calendar**
- **Website Updates**
Events and amenities are available under Around the Lake tab. [LINK](#)
- **Upcoming Lake Events**
Several events are planned over the next couple of weeks through special event permits coordinated through water patrol.

Please let me know if you have questions.



Lake Minnetonka Conservation District 2020 Public Meeting Calendar

DRAFT

January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

LMCD Regular Board Meetings

Wayzata City Hall, 600 Rice Street
2nd and 4th Wednesday of Each Month *
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Work Session- not televised)
7:00 p.m. - Adjourn (Formal Agenda- televised)
*No Meeting Scheduled for 4th Wednesday in Nov / Dec
Televised on LMCC: <http://www.lmcc-tv.org/lmcd.html>

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

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			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force

LMCD Office, 5341 Maywood Road
Suite 200, Mound
2nd Friday of February & quarterly thereafter as needed
8:30 a.m.

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Save the Lake Committee

City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd
Burwell Room, Minnetonka
Typically 2nd Tuesday every other month
5:00 p.m.

July

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

LMCD Observed Holidays

Office Closed

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*November 11th is VETERAN'S DAY, LMCD CLOSED
To re-schedule, Wayzata room available dates:
Thursday, 12th Friday, 13th
Thursday, 19th Friday, 20th



LMCD Update December 11, 2019

Hello,

As the year ends, we would like to update you about some highlights of current topics and inquiries regarding Lake Minnetonka. A PDF version of this email is also available on the LMCD Website at this [LINK](#). 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. Have a wonderful holiday season.

GENERAL INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

- **Holiday Hours.** The LMCD office will be closed December 24 and 25, 2019 in observance of Christmas and January 1, 2020 for New Years.
- **SAVE the LAKE Fall 2019.** The Save the Lake Fall 2019 contribution drive has begun. For more than 50 years, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) has been taking actions to preserve Lake Minnetonka and enhance the experience of those that enjoy the lake. Your tax-deductible contribution to LMCD SAVE the LAKE will help ensure Lake Minnetonka continues to be a treasure for all in the future. Visit the "Save the Lake" [Webpage](#) or view the [Flyer](#) to learn more or to pay through PayPal link. On behalf of the LMCD, we thank you for your support.

VEGETATION & AIS STRATEGY

- **AIS & Vegetation Master Plan.**
The board will consider the status of the harvesting program and general AIS strategy direction at the December 11, 2019 Board Meeting.
- A second meeting of the AIS and Vegetation Master Plan Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was held on November 21, 2019 to review feedback on the draft Starry Stonewort Plan and draft Harvesting Program Evaluation. The majority of time was spent discussing agency strategies and roles. Individual meetings with each of the involved agencies will help guide a third meeting of the TAG in January.

In addition to the TAG and city comments, more than 100 public comments were received from the general public. All comments received regarding the AIS &

Vegetation Master Plan through 11/20/2019 are now available on the LCMD website or via this [LINK](#).

LAKE SAFETY

- **Ice Safety.** It's Ice Tweener Time—the days-to-weeks transition period between open water and solid freeze. Be extra cautious of unsafe conditions around Lake Minnetonka. While cold temperatures are predicted for the coming days, be aware there are still many areas of open water and thin ice. On Friday, December 6, Hennepin County Water Patrol Officers reported ice cracking under their feet during ice rescue training. The MN DNR's recommendations for ice depths for various ice activities and how to check ice conditions can be found via this [LINK](#).
- **New Marine Toilets Ordinance.** In October, the LMCD passed a new ordinance regarding marine toilets. The new ordinance clarifies and reinforces existing regulations that prohibit the discharge of sewage into the lake and require the discharge valves ("Y valves") to be locked. In addition, the marine toilet macerator/grinder pumps must be removed from watercraft to prevent the accidental or intentional discharge of sewage into Lake Minnetonka. Marina owners and lake service providers were instrumental in developing the ordinance and will be monitoring and reporting any violations.

A media release distributed on November 25, 2019 includes a summary of the new regulation and is linked below. News articles regarding the change are also linked below. Please contact the LMCD office if you have any questions.

- [LMCD Media Release - November 25, 2019](#)
- <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/11/26/after-outbreak-minnetonka-boaters-face-tighter-sewage-rules>
- <https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/after-july-4th-sickness-outbreak-tighter-rules-for-boat-toilets-on-lake-minnetonka>
- https://www.swnewsmedia.com/lakeshore_weekly/news/local/lmcd-adopts-new-ordinance-in-hopes-of-preventing-future-illness/article_8e9a672a-2a97-5250-8f34-f3886e46e959.html
- <https://kstp.com/news/lake-minnetonka-conservation-district-announces-new-regulations-for-toilets-on-boats/5563169/>
- <http://www.startribune.com/lake-minnetonka-gets-stricter-rules-against-sewage-discharge-from-boat-toilets/565624072/>
- **Mass Gatherings Update.** Several agencies, including Hennepin County Environmental Health, will be collaborating to review options to reduce the risk of illnesses and nuisances at mass gatherings, such as those that occur over July 4th holiday. While the LMCD has compiled public comments received as a result of this summer's July 4th outbreak, additional public input will be sought during the process. More information will be available in the future.

- **Learn About Events and Amenities on the Lake.** If you are a first-time visitor, planning a social event, or want to learn more about Lake Minnetonka, information is available on the LMCD website. Maps, a calendar of events, and information about lake amenities such as public accesses, toilet facilities, fuel, marinas, and more can be found under Around the Lake Tab on the homepage or at this [LINK](#). We will continue to update the website to provide convenient access to helpful information. Please let us know any suggestions.
- **Winter Sign Installation.** Winter rules signs are now posted at public winter launches. A volunteer and staff also picked up trash and litter at several of the launches. We strongly encourage people to help keep our lake clean and safe by picking up any observed litter, even on land. It can eventually end up polluting our lakes and streams.
- **Deicing Activity.** Deicing operations (bubblers) will occur for certain marinas and properties on Lake Minnetonka for Winter 2019-2020 to help prevent ice damage to properties. Deicing operations may exist on the following bays at this time: Browns, Cooks, Crystal, Excelsior, Forest Lake, Gideons, Grays, Lafayette, Lower Lake South, Maxwell, Smiths, South Upper Lake, St. Albans, Wayzata, and West Arm. Remember that ice is never completely safe and use caution near deicing operations or where you see danger or thin ice signs.
- **Sheriff's Water Patrol Update.** The LMCD Summer Deputy Grant funded through Save the Lake contributions resulted in 200 hours of patrol and emergency response during the busiest times this summer. The total number of patrol hours was 620 including In kind hours. There was a strong focus on education within the 469 actions by Hennepin County Water Patrol. Of those actions, there were 63 citations, 2 written warnings, and 395 verbal warnings. Of the 63 citations, 9 were Boating Under Influence (BUI) arrests, 23 were PFD violations, 7 no or slow wake violations, 3 registration, 3 navigation lights, 1 careless operation, and 17 other types. Summer 2019 enforcement actions were up 39 percent from Summer 2018. There were no deaths on Lake Minnetonka this summer and only one large incident involving a boat fire. We appreciate the collaboration of everyone in helping promote safety and quality of life for all those who want to enjoy the lake.

APPLICATIONS (July 1- October 31, 2019)

- **Caribbean Marina and Restaurant.** In November, a reconfiguration of the multiple dock facility was approved by the Board in November. While the perimeter of the facility remains the same, the approved plan provides for wider walkways, improved internal navigation, and more consistent boat storage units. The number of boat slips will decrease from 147 to 116. Transient slips are not intended at this time.
- **870 Windjammer Lane.** In November, the LMCD Board approved two variances for 870 Windjammer Lane for dock length and side setback.
- **5345 Cedar Point Road.** In June, the LMCD Board approved two variances at 5435 Cedar Point Road for dock length and side setback.
- **City of Excelsior.** In October, the LMCD Board approved an expansion of a deicing area for the City of Excelsior for winter storage of an additional charter boat.