



LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Lake Minnetonka Conservation District passes stricter ordinance regarding marine toilets on Lake Minnetonka

Ordinance aims to reduce risk of illnesses

MOUND, Minn. – In response to this year’s July Fourth outbreak, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) recently adopted an ordinance to reinforce and clarify existing regulations banning sewage discharge in Lake Minnetonka. The new ordinance eliminates the possibility of wastewater entering the lake from boats by expanding the definition of sewage to specifically include mobile sources and requiring marine toilet pumps to be removed from watercrafts and discharge valves (“Y valves”) to be locked.

“We have been researching options to reduce the risk of outbreaks, and this was one suggestion brought to us for consideration,” said LMCD Board Chair Gregg Thomas. “Some boats have the capability of accidentally or intentionally pumping raw sewage into Lake Minnetonka and that is not in the best interest of public health.”

The ordinance change, which was a collaborative effort with marina owner Gabriel Jabbour, Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Water Patrol unit and other lake service providers, will be monitored and enforced on the lake. Any person launching a watercraft equipped with a marine toilet that is not following the ordinance is subject to a petty misdemeanor. Also, businesses who provide launching, sewage-pumping or recovery services are required to report to the LMCD if they become aware of a watercraft being operated on the lake that is not in compliance.

“While the discharge of sewage in the lake was already prohibited by LMCD and state and federal regulations, this new ordinance makes it clearer and takes an additional step to protect the lake and all those who enjoy it,” said Lt. Shane Magnuson of the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Water Patrol unit.

For more information, visit lmcd.org.

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