

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
7:00 P.M., March 13, 2024  
Wayzata City Hall

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

**Members present:** Ann Hoelscher, Victoria; Deborah Zorn, Shorewood; Nicole Stone, Minnetonka; Rich Anderson, Orono; Mike Kirkwood, Minnetrista; Brian Malo, Greenwood; Matthew Thompson, Wayzata; Ben Brandt, Mound; Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Mark Kroll, Excelsior; Ryan Nellis, Tonka Bay; Denny Newell, Woodland; and Jake Walesch, Deephaven. Also present: Joe Langel, LMCD Legal Counsel; Thomas Tully, Manager of Code Enforcement; Maisyn Reardan, and Interim Executive Director Jim Brimeyer.

**Members absent:** Gabriel Jabbour, Spring Park.

**Persons in Audience:** Sheri Wallace, Curt Eich, Lynn Reiners, Robert Sandom, Pat Pelstring, Bart Halling, Mike Kloosterboer, Mike Kronen, John Smyth, Lt. Richard Rehman, Owen Sweeney.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Walesch moved; Kroll seconded to approve the agenda as submitted.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**5. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Hoelscher stated that ice out was called today at 5:53 p.m.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** 02/28/2024 LMCD Regular Board Meeting

Zorn noted a change to the spelling of her name.

**MOTION:** Zorn moved; Stone seconded to approve the 02/28/2024 LMCD Regular Board Meeting minutes with the noted correction.

**VOTE:** Ayes (11), Abstained (2), (Anderson and Walesch). Motion carried.

**7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Hoelscher stated that the LMCD received information on the wetland today for Item 7B requesting consideration of dredging and a different dock placement than was requested by applicant. She noted that she verified with staff that the information is not new and was considered by staff and therefore action can be

taken tonight.

**MOTION:** Kroll moved; Walesch seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Items approved included: **7A)** Audit of Vouchers (03/1/2024 – 03/15/2024); and **7B)** Findings of Fact for Variance – 2721 Tyrone Lane.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

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

A resident asked and received confirmation that the variance was just approved on the Consent Agenda. He noted that he and other residents were present with some information they felt could have provided access without the need for a variance.

Hoelscher commented that staff did review the information submitted today, confirming that information was included in the previous discussion and decision.

Mike Kroning, 5260 Meadville Street in Greenwood, stated that he supports the new placement of the white buoys marking a no wake zone on Excelsior Bay last year. He stated that the bay still experiences wake and noted the difference between water quality on a weekday and after the weekend. He asked if there was any way to increase the no wake zone further, even by ten yards, as that would continue to provide benefit. He commented on the changing depth of the lake, noting that the window for boating continues to shrink. He asked if there could be any consideration to declare low water.

Hoelscher stated that the LMCD does have a policy which allows the organization to declare low water at a certain depth. She stated that although they cannot declare low water right now, they do monitor the depth daily. She stated that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District posts water levels daily.

**9. PUBLIC HEARING**

No items scheduled.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A) AIS Communication – Jabbour**

Hoelscher stated that the AIS communication was provided in the packet and members can contact Jabbour with any questions.

**B) Harrison Bay Association – Carp Management Strategy**

Bart Halling, 5513 Sherwood Drive in Mound, thanked the Board for the partnership in their initiative which began almost two years ago in attempting to improve the lake and water quality. He highlighted some of the

different initiatives they have implemented, noting that tonight he would focus on carp. He stated that they have a great opportunity to partner with the U of M and Carp Solutions, reviewing the goals. He noted that by reducing the number of carp they can increase the native plant life in the bay and improve water quality. He reviewed the information they have learned thus far through the different studies they have completed and the options they have looked into to manage the carp populations. He stated that one option would be to partner with a local bowfishing group to host bowfishing tournaments. He referenced the LMCD limitation on when carp can be harvested and presented draft language to be considered to amend the bowfishing ordinance to allow the bowfishing community to come in and test whether that could be a successful way to harvest carp. He noted that this option for carp management would also have no cost and provided additional reasoning on why this option would provide benefit.

Hoelscher stated that she thought that this was going to be an update on what occurred last year under the special permit. She stated that she would like to keep this item brief and the Board can discuss whether an action item should come forward on a future agenda.

Halling stated that they completed a poll last year with over 195 responses on the bay related to bowfishing. He reviewed the results noting extremely high support for bowfishing and the proposed ordinance changes.

Hoelscher thanked the resident for the presentation and noted that the Board will discuss whether this should be on a future agenda. She stated that she would reach out to the resident to ensure that he could be involved.

## 11. OLD BUSINESS

### A) 2024 LMCIT Coverage and Liability Form

Brimeyer stated that formal Board approval is needed to solidify that the LMCD does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability.

**MOTION:** Zorn moved; Stone seconded to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## 13. NEW BUSINESS

### A) Dr. Fursman Board Survey

Brimeyer stated that the results were presented to the Board in the packet and discussed in the Officer's workgroup the previous week. He highlighted things the Board identified that were done well and items that require additional attention. He believed that there was positive input received and did not believe an additional planning session would be needed.

Hoelscher thanked everyone that participated in the survey.

**B) Appoint Budget Workgroup**

Hoelscher stated that a Budget Workgroup must be established as they near the budget preparation process. She recognized that Stone and Anderson would be a part of that and welcomed other members that may be interested in reaching out to staff. She noted that it appears the workgroup would start on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**C) Proposed Budget Calendar**

Hoelscher noted the proposed budget calendar which was included in the Board packet.

**13. TREASURER REPORT**

- A) February Balance Sheet
- B) February General and STL Income Expense Reports

Stone had no additional comments.

**14. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

**A) Low Water Update**

Brimeyer stated that water levels continue to be monitored and if the levels drop, they will bring that back to the Board to determine if there should be a low water declaration. He wondered if there would be a quorum present for the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as that week aligns with spring break.

Hoelscher confirmed that there would be a quorum present. She stated that if there is not a robust agenda, that meeting could be canceled.

Brimeyer provided a brief update on items not included in his report. First, he mentioned a meeting he had with the Westonka Historical Society about the Minnehaha Steamboat and potentially launching it at a new location, Minnetonka Regional Park. He also mentioned that Three Rivers Park District has set up a meeting with LMCD staff, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Minnesota DNR, and Westonka Historical Society to discuss the new launch site and promised to keep the Board updated on the outcome. Second, with the news of the ice out being declared Brimeyer mentioned he contacted Tony Brough at Hennepin County about the schedule for putting in buoys and was told the County puts them in 24 days after ice out. In addition, he also answered Mr. Koning's inquiry about buoy placement by stating that he can direct his inquiry to the Hennepin County Water Patrol who decides where the buoys go on the lake. Third, he provided additional information on the work Anderson and Tully have been doing related to solar lights.

Anderson stated that he has been boisterous about the issue of solar lights and provided details on the concept as well as where he believes funding could come from within the budget. He stated that he would like

to get this approved tonight so they can begin to work on this. He provided a short demonstration of an aluminum fitting of his design that would accelerate the process of attaching solar lights to the buoys.

Stone asked the cost of the brackets.

Anderson replied that one hundred brackets would roughly cost a couple thousand dollars.

Hoelscher stated that she likes the idea and asked who would install the solar lights.

Anderson replied that perhaps Newell could assist with placing the lights on the brackets once received and stated that he and Tully would work to install the lights or coordinate installation.

**MOTION:** Hoelscher moved; Stone seconded to approve the purchase of the solar light apparatus in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**B)** Submersible Pump/Stray Voltage/Electrocution Risks Presentation Lethart – 03/27/2024

Noted.

**C)** MCWD Update – Wisker – 03/27/2024

Noted.

**D)** Recognition

Hoelscher recognized Walesch for his service to the LMCD Board from 2018 through today. She noted that this will be his last meeting, although he will continue to work with the Board on certain items. The Board echoed the appreciation to Walesch for his service.

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Kroll moved; Walesch seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

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Ann Hoelscher, Chair

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Michael Kirkwood, Secretary