

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
7:00 P.M., April 10, 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. NEW BOARD MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE**

The Oath of Office was administered to Jim Van Bergen of Deephaven.

Van Bergren introduced himself.

**4. 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; Gabriel Jabbour, Spring Park; Dennis Klohs, Minnetonka Beach; Mark Kroll, Excelsior; Denny Newell, Woodland; and Jim Van Bergen, Deephaven. Also present: Joe Langel, LMCD Legal Counsel; Thomas Tully, Manager of Code Enforcement; Maisyn Reardan, Office, and Finance Manager; Raina Gabler, Executive Assistant Code Enforcement and Operations; and Interim Executive Director Jim Brimeyer.

**Members absent:** Ryan Nellis, Tonka Bay.

**Persons in Audience:** Sgt. Rick Waldon, Sgt. Troy Kostohryz.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**6. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chair announcements.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- 03/27/2024 LMCD Regular Board Meeting**

**MOTION:** Stone moved, Klohs seconded to approve the 03/27/2024 LMCD Regular Board Meeting minutes as submitted.

**VOTE:** Ayes (10), Abstained (3), (Hoelscher, Zorn, VanBergen). Motion carried.

**8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Zorn moved; Stone seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Items approved included: **7A)** Audit of Vouchers (04/01/2024 – 04/15/2024); **7B)** Resolution #263 Accepting Save the Lake Contributions (03/22/2024 – 04/10/2024).

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

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

Gabriel Jabbour, 985 Tonkawood Road, commented that he is speaking as a citizen to express his gratitude and thanks to Sgt. Rick Waldon as this is perhaps the last week, he will be with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit. He shared some stories and thanked him for his service to the Lake Minnetonka community.

Hoelscher also thanked Waldon for his service to the lake community.

**10. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**11. PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no public hearings.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**13. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**14. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Water Patrol Request for Funds**

Tully presented the annual funding request from Water Patrol. He stated that over the past few years the LMCD has requested additional coverage on Lake Minnetonka during the boating season, raising additional funds through Save the Lake to fund the expense. He presented the funding request which would provide two dedicated Water Patrol Officers on the lake.

**MOTION:** Jabbour moved, Anderson seconded to approve the funding request for the Water Patrol in the amount of \$90,000.

Further discussion: Kirkwood asked about the status of fundraising and what would happen if the full amount required were not to be raised.

Stone commented that there are available funds in the Save the Lake fund for this use.

Newell asked if there was a carryover reserve balance for Save the Lake as well.

Stone provided the full balance for Save the Lake.

Brimeyer commented that going forward staff will add those Save the Lake balances on the balance sheet.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**B) 2024 Summer Safety Brochure**

Hoelscher stated that the brochure was provided to the Board, and she has received some great feedback, including a suggestion to include information on the new buoys.

Brandt provided another suggestion related to the QR code.

Jabbour thanked Water Patrol and 3M along with the others that assisted with the new buoys.

Thompson suggested an additional change to automatic shutoff devices, noting that applies to all watercrafts.

Hoelscher noted that there will be a meeting with Goff later this week and those suggestions will be provided for incorporation.

Jabbour noted that when in doubt there could simply be a reference to the law as that would provide the most up to date information.

Hoelscher stated that the Save the Lake mailing was sent out and the Board will discuss Save the Lake at a future workshop.

**15. TREASURER REPORT**

Stone stated that the budget group met last week and will meet again the next week in order to provide an update to the Board at its next meeting. She stated that they are working on the draft 2025 budget.

**16. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Brimeyer stated that the rental watercraft letter was mailed one week ago Monday, and the Sheriff will send a letter to follow up. He stated that there has been discussion of updating the LMCD signs at launches and

noted that the County is also considering updating its launch signs. He noted that the County will not be updating its signs until next boating season, therefore staff is researching whether to do a minimal update this year and then coordinate with the County for a more comprehensive replacement next season.

Newell referenced signs used by another county that could be used as a model and noted that county also provides some basic tools for boaters to use.

Brimeyer commented that would be a decision of the County.

Jabbour noted that two of the most heavily used launches are owned by the DNR.

Brimeyer noted that because this was a light agenda, it was suggested that staff and the Board go through the website to answer any questions and assist with navigation issues that may be occurring.

Staff assisted with navigational issues some of the Board members were experiencing.

Jabbour commented on perhaps making important information more front and center where it would be easier to find.

Kirkwood commented on past information, that while may need to be retained, would not seem to be relevant for the website and could be stored in another area.

Reardan commented that Staff is working to create a document library.

Hoelscher stated that perhaps some members from the Board would like to assist staff with the website update. She stated that if the search function were working properly that would seem to solve many of the issues.

Zorn provided additional context to an issue she discovered with archives.

Jabbour commented that they should find a city website that they like and reach out to find out which company they used to design their website. He stated that the LMCD is a government agency, and its website should not be created in the same method that a company selling something would be designed.

Brimeyer agreed that he could reach out to city managers around the lake to gather information.

Hoelscher stated that the website was majorly updated about five years ago and perhaps a starting point would be to start with that vendor that was used.

Jabbour complimented Kirkwood, who did a great job in the absence of Hoelscher. He stated that the LMCD has come a long way in the last year but cautioned the group not to fall back into old habits. He stated that opinions of the Board should not be decided prior to the public hearing being completed. He also urged legal counsel to stop comments when they reach a point they should not, in order to protect the organization. He

stressed the importance of following the process. He recognized that this is a group of 14 people with 14 opinions, but there is only one book of ordinances and therefore opinions are irrelevant as the ruling should be made according to the related ordinance. He stated that the League of Minnesota Cities provides free training sessions that interested members should participate in.

Anderson suggested that if a Board member knows someone that contributed to Save the Lake, they reach out to express thanks. He noted that a personal thank you goes a long way.

Hoelscher stated that a thank you letter is also mailed out, signed by herself and Brimeyer. She stated that she does also include a personal note if she knows the person and agreed that would be great if others wanted to do the same.

## 17. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Jabbour moved, Newell seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

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Ann Hoelscher, Chair

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Michael Kirkwood, Secretary