

18338 Minnetonka Blvd.
Deephaven, MN 55391
(952) 745-0789

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER

Gregory S. Nybeck

April 4, 2006

- **Spring LMCD Newsletter:** The LMCD is near completion of its first newsletter to improve the public's knowledge of the LMCD's role in managing the surface use area of Lake Minnetonka. It will cover topics of general interest to those around Lake Minnetonka. Topics planned in the upcoming newsletter include: 1) a message from Chair Tom Skramstad, 2) a summary of LMCD dock and boat storage rules, 3) an announcement of the 2006 Lake Minnetonka Milfoil Demonstration Project, 4) an update of LMCD Invasive Species programs, 5) an update of the Lake Minnetonka Boat Density Committee, 6) an announcement of the 2006 "Future of the Lake Day" event, 7) an update of upcoming meetings and events, and 8) an announcement of repairs planned this spring at the North Arm and Spring Park public accesses. This newsletter will be sent out by mid April and will be available on the LMCD's website. The goal is to send this newsletter out twice a year. Your questions and comments of the upcoming newsletter are welcomed and encouraged.
- **Lake Minnetonka Invasive Species Programs:** The 2006 Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Harvesting Program is scheduled to commence on or around June 7th and continue until around August 16th. Consistent with past years, harvesting priorities will be based upon impediment to public boat navigation to open water. The Lower Lake North option will be implemented in bays that dictate the need for harvesting done at least once, with high growth areas being harvested twice, time permitting. Further details of the Lower Lake North option, including bays already harvested and bays to be harvested, will be located on the LMCD's website during the season. Please feel free to contact the LMCD office if you have questions or comments relating to this program.

A Milfoil Demonstration Project on Lake Minnetonka is planned in 2006. This project has been designed as a public/private partnership between the LMCD and the Lake Minnetonka Association (LMA). Coordinated herbicide treatments are planned in three selected areas on Carmans, Grays, and Phelps Bay by the LMCD and the LMA. The LMCD will coordinate the herbicide treatment in the "Public Treatment Areas" in these bays and the LMA will coordinate the herbicide treatment of the "Private Treatment Areas" with the homeowners that abut the "Public Treatment Areas" within 150 feet from shore. This project has been designed to determine the effectiveness of using herbicide treatments as an adjunct to the LMCD's EWM Harvesting Program. Please feel free to contact the LMCD office if you have questions or comments relating to this project.

The LMCD is concerned about the introduction of other invasive species into Lake Minnetonka, with an emphasis on zebra mussels. Since 2002, the LMCD has worked with the MN DNR Watercraft Inspection Program to inspect boats prior to launching at selected public accesses. This program was stepped up even further in 2004 when inspections were further defined to high volume public accesses during peak boating periods. The program has been a success and is reflected in the number of inspection hours conducted, which have increased from 508 in 2002 to 2,041.5 in 2005. A similar program is planned for the 2006 boating season and the LMCD remains committed to a more comprehensive public access inspection program in the future. Please feel free to contact the LMCD office if you have questions or comments relating to this program.

- **2006 Lake Minnetonka Solar-Light Buoy Project:** For the fourth consecutive boating season, solar lights purchased with "Save the Lake" Funds were installed on top of existing red and green navigational buoys in 2005. Eight areas of Lake Minnetonka were chosen for this project in 2005. These included: 1) the two channels east of

the Arcola Bridge on Lafayette Bay, 2) the channel on the southeast side of Spray Island on the Upper Lake, 3) both end of Narrows and Arcola Bridge channels, 4) the channel near Cedar Point East on Wayzata Bay, 5) the channel on northeast end of Cooks Bay at the Emerald Lake Bridge, 6) the channel on the west side of Wawatasso Island on the Upper Lake, 7) the channel buoys, in Crystal Bay only, leading into Maxwell Bay, and 8) the channel buoys, in Crystal Bay only, leading into Coffee Cove channel. Feedback from this project in 2005 was encouraging and continuation of this project in 2006 is planned, with the possibility of expanding it to other areas of Lake Minnetonka.

- **2006 Lake Minnetonka Shoreline Inventory:** The LMCD is preparing to conduct an inventory for watercraft storage on Lake Minnetonka in 2006 beginning in June. This Management Plan project, which is to be completed every two years, was last conducted during the 2004 boating season. A Report that summarizes the key details of this project will be available sometime this fall.
- **2007 LMCD Budget:** The LMCD has initiated the process for the 2007 LMCD Budget. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.635, the Board must on or before July 1 of each year prepare and submit a detailed budget of the District's needs, for the next calendar year, to the governing body of each municipality in the District with a statement of the proportion of the budget to be provided by each municipality. The first review of the draft 2007 LMCD Budget is planned for the May 10, 2006 Regular Board Meeting. A meeting will be scheduled in late May or early June in the LMCD office to review the draft 2007 LMCD Budget with interested city officials. For those city officials unable to attend this meeting that would like to comment on the draft 2007 LMCD budget, comments will be received by the LMCD until Friday, June 23, 2006. Further review by the LMCD Board of the draft 2007 LMCD Budget is scheduled for the June 14, 2006 and June 28, 2006 Regular Meetings. A copy of the approved 2007 LMCD Budget will be forwarded to the 14 member cities by Friday, June 30, 2006.
- **2006 LMCD Board Officer & Board Appointments:** Discussions and elections for 2006 Board Officers took place this past winter. LMCD Board Officers elected for 2006 include: Tom Skramstad- Chair, Katy Van Hercke- Vice Chair, Paul Knudsen- Treasurer, and Tom Seuntjens- Secretary. LMCD member cities Excelsior, Minnetrista, Orono, Shorewood, Tonka Bay, and Woodland were notified last fall that their representative on the LMCD Board of Directors would expire at the end of January. Five of these six cities reappointed their 2005 Board member for 2006. Leigh Harrod was appointed as the new Board member representing the City of Excelsior.
- **"Save the Lake" Recognition Banquet Dinner:** The 39th anniversary "Save the Lake" Recognition Banquet Dinner took place on February 2nd at the Bayview Event Center in Excelsior. The keynote speaker for this Banquet Dinner was Jay Rendall, with a program titled "State Responses to Aquatic Invasive Species in Minnesota". The program also recognized retired LMCD Board members Michael Maloney and Jose Valdesuso.
- **On-going Licenses/Permits:** The LMCD has generally completed processing all new and renewal multiple dock license and district mooring area applications for the 2006 season. The LMCD anticipates completing the processing of renewal applications for charter boats on Lake Minnetonka in the next 30 days, including related intoxicating liquor, wine, and non-intoxicating malt liquor license applications for these boats. A number of special event permit applications have been received and will be processed in the near future. A copy of these permits will be forwarded to those member cities that are affected by the activities outlined above that are regulated by the LMCD.
- **Web Page:** The LMCD's WebPage address is: <http://www.lmcd.org>.