

**LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

7:00 PM, Wednesday, July 26, 2006
Wayzata City Hall

Skramstad stated that there was not a quorum present when the meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. However, he believed that there would be a quorum shortly and there were some agenda items that could be discussed.

I-LIDS Project Update

Skramstad asked Eric Lindberg for an update on this project.

Mr. Eric Lindberg, representing Environmental Sentry Protection, updated the Board on the I-LIDS project:

Permission has been received from the MN DNR and the City of Minnetonka to install two units, one for boats coming and one for boats leaving, at the Grays Bay Public Access. At this public access, he anticipated that footings would be installed in the near future and that the wireless access point was being worked on.

Permission has been received from Hennepin County to install one unit at the Spring Park Public Access. A footing has already been installed and an I-LIDS unit would be up and operating capturing images on a PC soon, although the wireless access point had not been resolved at the adjacent Sheriff's Water Patrol Headquarters.

He reviewed upcoming goals. These included: 1) the capturing of launches at the Spring Park Public Access on July 24th, 2) the installation of two footings at the Grays Bay Public Access on July 31st (including testing the wireless access points at both public accesses), and 3) the automated storage of images to website by August 7th.

He entertained questions and comments from the Board.

The Board discussed the I-LIDS Project. Some of the discussion included: 1) Whether there was sufficient time to collect data in 2006, 2) When the public access statistics would be available, 3) What other lakes or waterbodies that Environmental Sentry Protection was working with, and 4) Whether there approved Grant Agreement needed to be modified. The consensus of the Board was to discuss the Grant Agreement when a quorum of the Board was present at this meeting.

2006 "Future of the Lake Day" Event Update

Skramstad asked Nybeck for an update on this project.

Nybeck made the following comments:

He provided background on the 2005 event coordinated by the LMCD and Cystal-Pierz Marine (CPM). The second annual event was planned for August 19th at the Excelsior Commons in conjunction with the K102/St. Judes Fishing Tournament. A permit has been secured from the City of Excelsior and a permit application would be submitted in the near future with the Sheriff's Water Patrol for this event. Similar to 2005, the 2006 event will invite youth from across the metro area, including the western suburbs, to participate in a variety of activities to educate, inform, and entertain attendees. Presenting partners for this event in 2006 will include the Lake Minnetonka

Charter Boat Association and the St. Judes Fishing Tournament. Michael Deering and Frank Pillsbury were in attendance to provide further details and to answer questions.

He provided an overview of the proposed 2006 event schedule. Activities were to include: booth set-up, event check-in and registration, charter boats depart, booths open/educational activities, musical entertainment, the St. Judes Tournament weigh-in, the St. Judes awards and ceremony, and event clean-up. He envisioned that this schedule would commence at 7:00 a.m. and continue through 6:00 p.m.

He provided an overview of the 2006 event budget. Similar to 2005, a 50/50 split was proposed between the LMCD and CPM. The St. Judes Fishing Tournament and the Lake Minnetonka Charter Boat Association will provide in-kind services. A proposed budget between \$5,800 and \$8,000 has tentatively been established. He reminded the Board that \$4,000 of funding was included in the recently adopted 2006 "Save the Lake" Budget.

He asked Deering and Pillsbury if they would like to provide further details.

Mr. Michael Deering, representing CPM, made the following comments:

He provided background on why this event was proposed to be coordinated with the K102/St. Judes Fishing Tournament in 2006. The thought process was that this would be conducive to have a joint event from multiple facets. Two of these facets included: 1) streamlining the necessary permitting process, and 2) allowing for better selling points from a publicity and marketing standpoint. He reviewed possible publicity opportunities for this event.

The proposed 2006 budget was relatively consistent with the 2005 budget. One distinction was that there was a proposal to have uniform tents and banners for those organizations that participate in educational booths and activities. This was being looked into and would be a button up type operation. Thus, that was why there was a range in the proposed budget.

There were a lot of options for potential partners and donors. The goal was to educate the youth to be good stewards of Lake Minnetonka. Efforts were being made to put together a gift bag for attendees that would be both fun and educational.

He hoped that this event could be continued as an annual event between the LMCD and CPM.

One goal he had was that this event could possibly financially sustain itself in the future.

He entertained questions and comments from the Board.

The Board discussed potential organizations that might participate in the educational booths and activities. There was discussion on how to get the word out to the public, including distribution of posters and circulation of press releases electronically.

Mr. Frank Pillsbury, representing the K102/St. Judes Fishing Tournament, stated that proceeds benefit the St. Judes Childrens Research Hospital. He believed that the children would benefit from interaction with touring pros from this fishing tournament. He addressed musical entertainment identified in the proposed event schedule. He stated that K102 had a number of contacts with the hopes of securing a musical acoustical to benefits St. Judes Hospital.

CALL TO ORDER

Skramstad called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Tom Skramstad, Shorewood; Katy Van Hercke, Minnetonka; Tom Seuntjens, Minnetonka Beach; Gene Altstatt, Greenwood; Leigh Harrod, Excelsior; Steve Johnson, Mound; Andrew McDermott, Orono; Pete Nelson, Victoria; Tom Scanlon; Spring Park. Also present: Charles LeFevere, LMCD Counsel; Greg Nybeck, Executive Director; Judd Harper, Administrative Technician.

Members absent: Doug Babcock, Tonka Bay; John Berns, Wayzata; David Gross, Deephaven; Paul Knudsen, Minnetrista; Herb Suerth, Woodland. Also absent: Emily Herman, Administrative Assistant.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS, Chair Skramstad

There were no Chair announcements.

READING OF MINUTES- 06/28/06 LMCD Regular Board Meeting

MOTION: Seuntjens moved, McDermott seconded to approve the minutes from the 6/28/06 LMCD Regular Board Meeting as submitted.

VOTE: Ayes (7), Abstained (1, Scanlon); motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - Persons in attendance, subjects not on agenda (5 min.)

Skramstad stated that he would like the Board to discuss whether to make changes to the approved I-LIDS Grant Agreement for Environmental Sentry Protection because some of the dates had already passed by.

MOTION: Seuntjens moved, Nelson seconded to modify Section 2.1.3 in the approved Grant Agreement that \$1,000 would be available if the I-LIDS project was up and operational by August 15th rather July 1st.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA- Consent agenda items identified with a (*) will be approved in one motion unless a Board member requests discussion of any item, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda.

Van Hercke moved, Seuntjens seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. Item so approved included: **3A**, Audit of vouchers (7/1/06 - 7/15/06) and (7/16/06 - 7/31/06); **3B**, June financial summary and balance sheet; and **4A**, Staff recommends Board approval to refund variance application deposits for recently approved variance applications as outlined in 7/20/06 staff memo.

1. LAKE USE & RECREATION

- A.** Staff update on 2006 Lake Minnetonka Shoreline Inventory Project.

Skramstad asked for an update on this project from Harper.

Harper made the following comments:

He provided the Board some background on this project. This included: 1) this is Management Plan project that is to be conducted every two years, 2) the three primary objectives for this project, and 3) the new direction by the Board for the 2006 project to perform other LMCD Code enforcement tasks when conducting this project.

This project commenced on June 27th on Halsteads Bay and 14 bays have been inventoried, including multiple dock inspections, during the seven working days. These numbers have been entered into a spreadsheet and correspondence has been sent out for the multiple dock inspections conducted.

Documentation has been conducted on possible LMCD Code violations for the number of restricted watercraft stored at a site. Pictures have been taken, visible watercraft registration numbers have been documented, and GPS waypoints have been collected. No correspondence had been sent out due to the lack of access to watercraft registration information from the MN DNR. Efforts are being made to resolve this, possibly through the Sheriff's Water Patrol.

Documentation has been conducted on docks with platforms that exceed size restrictions. Pictures have been taken and GPS waypoints have been collected. The data was currently being collected for informational purposes.

He entertained questions and comments from the Board.

The Board discussed the thought process in 2006 to include the collection of LMCD Code information to document possible violations and to establish data, if needed, to discuss ordinance changes in the future. There was a general consensus that Board members should participate in this project and help staff on this project if at all possible.

C. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

2. EWM/EXOTICS TASK FORCE

A. 2006 EWM Harvesting Program Mid-Season Report

Skramstad asked for an update from Nybeck on this agenda item.

Nybeck made the following comments:

The harvesting equipment, including the high-speed transport barge, was launched at the Spring Park public access on June 8th. Training took place on June 7th and 8th, with harvesting initiated on June 9th on Carmans/Old Channel Bays and there have been 22 working days to date.

Acres harvested are being tabulated through a handheld GPS and will be documented in the 2006 EWM Final Harvesting Report.

Harvester loads to date were 121.00 or an average of 5.50 per day. This compared to 175.50 harvester loads or a daily average of 7.63 for the first 23 working days in 2005.

He attributed this 28 percent reduction in truck loads to: 1) higher lake levels and cooler

weather in May, and 2) the three sites associated with the 2006 Milfoil Demonstration Project have had historically heavy milfoil growth.

Truck loads to date were 69.00 or an average of 3.14 per day. This compared to 89.00 truck loads or a daily average 3.87 for the first 23 working days in 2005. He also attributed this 19 percent reduction to the weather and the 2006 Milfoil Demonstration Project.

The Lower Lake North Option was planned to be implemented in 2006. However, due to the lack of milfoil growth, the LMCD deviated from this schedule and implemented a schedule that was closer to the Lower Lake South Option.

He entertained questions or comments from the Board.

B. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

3. FINANCIAL

C. Mid-year update on LMCD finances.

Skramstad asked Nybeck for an update on this agenda item.

Nybeck made the following comments:

For the Administration Budget, revenues received through June were \$206,672, compared to planned revenue of \$223,455. This was a deficit of \$16,783 and he attributed this to levy payments from one of the member cities, which was being resolved, and a shortage in court fines.

For the Administration Budget, expenditures incurred through June were \$176,538, compared to planned expenditures of \$175,223. He believed that this was slightly deceiving because legal expenses paid this past January were moved by the auditor to the 2005 LMCD budget because they were incurred in 2005 rather than 2006.

For the Exotics Management Budget, overall revenue to be received in 2006 was \$126,000, with \$84,000 from the member cities, \$40,000 from the MN DNR, and \$2,000 in Interest Income. Planned revenue to received through June was \$34,300, with actual revenue received through June of \$41,631. He pointed out that there would be some supplemental funding through "Save the Lake" for the 2006 LMCD/MN DNR Public Access Inspection Program.

Overall expenses to be incurred in the Exotics Management Budget were \$144,620, which further breaks down to \$107,000 for the 2006 EWM Harvesting Program and \$37,620 for the 2006 Public Access Inspection Program. In general, expenses incurred are consistent with planned expenditures to date. He believed that it was too early to provide a meaningful analysis of expenses incurred to date for these programs.

Skramstad made the following comment, "We have an obligation as the Board of Directors to make sure the organization is running financially in a sound way, so we do a rigorous analysis at the end of the year and a mid-year analysis to make sure the Directors are aware of the goals and the ability to ask questions."

D. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

4. **WATER STRUCTURES**

B. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

5. **ADMINISTRATION**

A. Discussion of 7/20/06 LMCD/MCWD Joint Workshop/Planning Session.

Skramstad asked Nybeck to recap this meeting with the MCWD.

Nybeck stated that this meeting was well attended by the Board from each agency. There were three primary discussion items at this meeting. First, the MCWD prepared an educational powerpoint presentation discussing littoral zones and their importance on a lake. Second, there was discussion of LMCD invasive species programs and how the MCWD might be able to assist, although there was little discussion on their assistance from a funding standpoint. Third, there was discussion on lake level readings and how they relate to "High Water Emergencies" on Lake Minnetonka. One positive element that was brought up in this discussion was that the MCWD was making improvements to how they take lake level readings on Lake Minnetonka. He stated that he did not prepare a Report for this meeting with the MCWD. If needed, he stated that he would.

The consensus of the Board was for Nybeck to prepare Report summarizing the July 20th meeting with the MCWD.

Nelson stated that he believed there were two additional topics discussed at the meeting. First, the MCWD updates their 509 comprehensive plan every 10 years. This plan will be reviewed in the near future and has historically made little to no reference to invasive species. He believed that this should be carefully reviewed and that official comments should be made within the time allotment asking for their assistance on invasive species. Second, the MCWD has planned Lake Improvement zones on Lake Minnetonka. He recommended that Board members should bring this back to their respective city and encourage them to petition the MCWD if they have a desire for a project to take place within their municipality.

The Board discussed the best process to review the MCWD's 509 plan. The consensus of the Board was to schedule this as an agenda item for the August 9th Board meeting.

B. New LMCD Board Member Orientation.

The Board discussed whether to conduct a new LMCD Board member orientation at this meeting, possibly through a Workshop/Planning Session after this meeting was adjourned. The consensus of the Board was for Nybeck to coordinate a date and time for interested Board members to conduct this orientation session with LeFevere sometime in the near future in the LMCD office.

C. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

6. SAVE THE LAKE

The Board discussed the need to implement Phase 2 of the 2006 "Save the Lake" solicitation campaign. The consensus of the Board was for Nelson to work with the LMCD office on these efforts.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Nybeck updated the Board on the following:

There were a series of newspaper articles included in the packet and handout folders for informational purposes.

The lake level reading as of today was 929.00', with a discharge of 20 c.f.s.

A letter was included from the MN DNR that provided a State of Minnesota interpretation of storage boxes in response to the recent request from the City of Mound. LMCD Code continues to prohibit storage boxes unless the Board amends the current ordinance. He stated that he would schedule this as an agenda for the August 9th Board meeting.

Public hearings have been scheduled for the August 9th Board for the redevelopment of the Sweatt property in Wayzata and Minnetonka. These were complex applications and were taking quite a bit of his staff time in preparation for these public hearings.

8. OLD BUSINESS

National Marina Day

Skramstad stated that the 2006 National Marina Day was scheduled for August 12th. He was unaware of the local activities planned for this day and he asked staff to check further into this and to get back to the Board on these activities.

River Night 2006

Skramstad stated that he attended this event in 2005, which he believed was beneficial. He was unable to attend this event in 2006; however, Nelson and his wife have expressed an interest in attending on behalf of the LMCD. In 2005, Skramstad stated that the LMCD paid for his ticket and he believed that this expenditure should also be approved by the Board for 2006, which was \$125.

MOTION: Seuntjens moved, Van Hercke seconded to approve a \$250 expenditure for Board member Nelson and his wife to attend the 2006 River Night event.

VOTE: Ayes (7), Abstained (1, Nelson); motion carried.

Commercial Marina Meeting

McDermott asked whether another work session had been scheduled with the commercial marina owners.

Skramstad stated that a meeting would be scheduled, although a date had not been finalized.

Harrod arrived at 8:28 p.m.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Update on Recent MN DNR

Nelson updated the Board on a recent MN DNR meeting with Commissioner Gene Merriam and MN DNR staff. The purpose of this meeting was to follow-up with Commissioner Merriam on the 2006 Milfoil Demonstration Project and to take the discussion of invasive species to another level, with an emphasis on zebra mussels. Discussion that took place at this meeting included the need for increased enforcement, increased education, and isolation. The MN DNR stated that if further discussion were to take place regarding isolation, possibly consolidating public accesses and charging user fees, they wanted these concepts further refined. He stated that he hoped to have a draft of materials with these details in the next couple of weeks.

Update on Recent LMA Newsletter

Skramstad stated that the most recent version of the LMA newsletter had recently been published. He was encouraged by their cooperative spirit.

Upcoming Minnesota Waters Conference

Skramstad stated that a conference was being coordinated in the near future that either Nybeck or a Board member might want to attend.

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Skramstad stated that there would be a new reporter for the West Metro Section that was published each Wednesday. He indicated that he had the contact information for the new reporter and that he would be establishing a working relationship with them.

Fall LMCD Newsletter

Skramstad stated that there was discussion this past spring about a possible second LMCD newsletter in 2006, although these expenses were not included in the adopted budget. He asked how the Board might want to proceed this fall.

The Board discussed this and the consensus was to consider a short LMCD newsletter yet this fall, with a discussion of possible topics to be planned for the August 9th Board meeting.

Recent City of Shorewood Lake Tour

Skramstad stated that he had recently taken interested Shorewood City Council and Planning Commission members on an inspection tour within the City of Shorewood. He believed that it was both educational and informative.

Van Hercke stated that she conducted a similar inspection tour with Minnetonka city officials.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Tom Skramstad, Chair

Tom Seuntjens, Secretary