

Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association Annual Meeting
President's Report: October 1, 2017

Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association Annual Meeting

This meeting is intended to

- Inform stakeholders including
 - Lake shore residents and owners
 - Lake users
 - Watershed neighbors
- Invite your involvement
- Secure your input

LMPA Annual Meeting - Agenda

- About the LMPA
- 2017 in Review
- 2018 Focus Items
- Questions and Answers

Our Founding Principles

We want a cohesive group that is representative of the whole lake community.

Our Mission:

To organize and focus the efforts of our residents to develop an ongoing, long term community spirit, with planning and action to keep Lake Minnewashta beautiful and to preserve its water quality.

Our Objectives

1. Lake Stewardship
2. Communication
3. Social connections within the community
4. Education
5. Legislative contacts
6. Securing Financial Resources

Our Objectives

- **Lake Stewardship**
 - A commitment to the entire lake ecosystem
 - Including water quality monitoring and aquatic invasive species control
 - Using the best practices developed by the experts
- **Communication**
 - Among residents, associations from other lakes, nonprofit and government entities
 - Website to allow easy access to important information of common interest
 - Newsletter and emails to inform and educate

Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association Annual Meeting
President's Report: October 1, 2017

- **Social connections within the community**
 - Organize and integrate events
 - Events like National Night Out, boat parades, clean up days, garage sales, fireworks, etc.
- **Education**
 - For residents and surrounding neighbors within the watershed
 - Including lake quality preservation, best practices, lawn maintenance, shoreline erosion, safety, etc
 - Including uncovering & maintaining the history of the lake
- **Legislative contacts**
 - Representing our interests to our government representatives at all levels
 - Leveraging our association with that from other lakes.
- **Securing Financial Resources**
 - From residents, watershed neighbors, lake users, the city, county, state and federal agencies,
 - To be used in a fashion where the benefits outweigh the costs.

2017 in Review

Zebra Mussel infestation discovered in June and again in September 2017

- Found during monthly MCWD shoreline monitoring
- No subsequent mussels found in June -> No response developed
- Four juvenile mussels found in September. Response Plan options being considered
 - Do nothing and wait until spring
 - Close Launch Access 1 temporarily and
 - Treat 1 acre with Copper Sulfate at no cost to LMPA
 - Treat 29 acres (as in 2016) at cost to LMPA of \$20-\$25K
 - Decision on which option to pursue expected soon
- Residents should inspect for signs of mussels as you remove lifts/docks/boats

2017 Highlights

- Carver County and the Watershed District continue to support AIS prevention
- Lake resident monitors have been deployed to improve alert of a Zebra Mussel infestation...none have been observed
- Some state and local money is available for projects that will improve water quality
- Aquatic invasive weed levels are stable
- Good communication among our neighbors

Concerns

- The threat of new and more devastating invasive species continues
 - Zebra & Quagga mussels, **Starry Stonewort**, Asian carp
- We have holes in our AIS prevention system ...e.g. private boat launches
- ***Outside Funding for AIS inspections and rapid response from MCWD is decreasing***
- Lake Quality Rating has degraded to a B
- ***LMPA Donor numbers are lower than 2016 (67 vs 78 vs 62 average)***
- ***We are one careless or uneducated lake user away from changing our lake quality forever***

2017 in Review

Carver County continued AIS inspections at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park boat launch

- 100% watercraft inspection at LM Regional Park
- Fishing Opener through October (5AM to 8PM)
- Managed by Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO)
- Carver County and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) shared the cost;
LMPA has committed \$2500 for 2017

Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association Annual Meeting
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- MCWD provided monthly in-water inspections for Zebra Mussels at the boat launch

LMPA Efforts on AIS Monitoring

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and LMPA have partnered to monitor Lake Minnewashta for early detection of zebra mussels.
- The monitoring devices are four plastic shelves attached to a rope that hang from a resident's dock. Residents check & report to the MCWD. **None found in 2017**
- We plan to contain and treat the area quickly if zebra mussels are found.

Invasive Weed Treatments Performed

- Scot Lacek and Pete Plucinak continued their diligent permit/grant and execution management
- In 2017 we treated early growing Curly Leaf Pondweed in addition to Eurasian Milfoil
- Low dosage weed treatment strategy enacted for the last years appears to be reducing the levels of milfoil ☺Much smaller EWM treatment performed
- Weed levels were very acceptable as a result

Improving Lake Water Quality

- Improving water quality requires extra work and everyone plays a role. You can:
- Reduce Runoff
 - Storm drains provide a direct, untreated route to the lake.
 - You must prevent pet waste, leaves, home/auto chemicals, and house gutters runoff from entering storm drains.
 - Five bags of leaves create 100 pounds of algae
- City of Chanhassen working to increase frequency and effectiveness of street sweeping
- Plant a shoreline buffer strip
 - Reduces runoff and Canadian geese "contamination"
 - Grant money is available from the Watershed District

Minnesota Statewide Clean Water Legacy funds flowing for Natural Resource improvement

- Carver County continued to receive funding in 2017
- Helped fund watercraft inspection program at Lake Minnewashta and other lakes

The LMPA delivered on a broad education and awareness outreach in 2017

- Quarterly LMPA Newsletters and email blasts
- Annual newsletter and Meeting
- Website and Facebook campaigns
- Next Door website implemented in 2016
- If you are not receiving the information, please ask

The LMPA Continues its support of the Coalition of Minnehaha Creek Waters (CMCW) and the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA)

- The Coalitions' purpose
 - Support and conduct non-partisan research, education, and informational activities to increase public awareness and support for the health and usage of the area waters
 - Share best practices (e.g. Lake management plans)
 - Collaborate for a louder voice to policy makers

Improved communication within the LMPA

- Continuing the use of Neighborhood Captains
- Surrounding area broken into neighborhoods
- Identified leaders to serve as Captains to enhance communication with moderate success
- New captains needed in some areas!
- Continued the use of Constant Contact, Facebook, Next Door and our LMPA website to flow information

Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association Annual Meeting
President's Report: October 1, 2017

2017 LMPA Income and Spending (*)

LMPA Income

LMPA Member donations	
○ 67 Households donated	\$14,550
Grants	
○ MN DNR Invasive Weed Treatment	\$0
	<u>\$14,550</u>

LMPA Expenditures

Weed treatment	\$10,826
AIS Inspection contribution to Carver County	\$ 2,500
Postage/office/newsletter/picnic	\$ 428
MN Coalition of Lakes Association dues	\$ 150
	<u>\$13,986</u>

Financial Reserve – Started in 2015

- Christmas Lake infested with Zebra Mussels in 2014 and their HOA spent over \$25k on unreimbursed containment/treatment expenses
- The LMPA Board authorized the funding of a \$25K Reserve for emergency use of this nature in 2015
- Thankfully, our reserve was available for the Zebra Mussel Rapid Response in 2016.
- Reserve was partially spent in 2016 and currently stands at \$23,569 (-1,431)
- ***New discovery of Zebra Mussels in September may require spending down part of the reserve***

(*As of 9/13/17)

The Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association: 2018 Focus Items

Our focus for 2018 will be on

- Our Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan
- Aggressive weed treatment
- Enhanced focus on water quality/clarity
- Lake Stewardship Education and awareness
- Enhanced LMPA Membership benefits and involvement

Invasive Weed Treatment

- Our low dosage weed treatment plan seems to be working by reducing the acreage of the lake needing treatment each year
- We will continue to address the Curly Leaf Pondweed growth separately and earlier
- Contributions will dictate whether we can do it
- ***DNR grant money is no longer available***
- We will always schedule treatment of frequently-used common areas ASAP in the spring

Zebra Mussel/AIS Prevention Plans

- Secure resources for watercraft inspection beyond
- Help drive action from the Watershed, County & State
- Tighten monitoring and controls with help from residents
- ***MCWD reducing their funding for AIS inspections and response -> LMPA will have to contribute more***

Public Awareness

- Deploy a broad education and awareness campaign for Invasive Species in the community again
- Lake residents and current lake users
- Leverage what the MCWD and County provide

Water quality/clarity Improvement

- Continued push on improving our Lake Quality Rating from B to A
- Fall Leaf disposal strategy with the City of Chanhassen
- Increased effort on shoreline landscaping and buffering
- Runoff reduction
- Carp population reduction
- ***LMPA resident and board member Kevin Zahler trained as a Master Water Steward***
- Focus Items

Grow the Collective Voice of Lake Association Coalitions Around the state

- Continue the further growth of the CMCW and MNCOLA
- Identify common issues that are of most importance to lake users and residents

Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association Annual Meeting
President's Report: October 1, 2017

- Share best practices (e.g. Lake management plans)
- Leverage Statewide via MNCOLA
- Collaborate for a louder voice to policy makers

2017 Summary

- The LMPA board is proud of the progress made in the past 12 months
- We're making great connections within the region's lake associations, technical and political arenas
- We're well staged to take on the future challenges
- We need your help to further broaden the support of the Lake Minnewashta Watershed Residents

What we'd like from you

Do your part to help us meet our mission to keep Lake Minnewashta beautiful, preserve its water quality and prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

- Use a Permitted Lake Service Provider when working on your shore
- Don't move a mussel from infested lakes via watercraft, toys or lifts
- Clean Drain and Dry your boat before and after launching
- Plant a shoreline buffer strip and use available grant money to help
- Keep debris out of the storm drains, especially leaves
- Do your part to help us meet our mission to keep Lake Minnewashta beautiful and to preserve its water quality
- Register your email address by sending a note to info@lakeminnewashta.org
- Volunteer for a committee, neighborhood captain or the board
- Make a tax-deductible donation tonight
- If you use Amazon, sign up for the Smile program – they donate to the LMPA

Acknowledgements

- Our hosts: Camp Tanadoona
- Our event planner: Helen Gunther
- Our neighborhood captains
- Our board of directors

LMPA Board of Directors

Steve Gunther - president	Scot Lacek - vice president
Jim Ginther - treasurer	Katie Jackson - secretary (new)
Kevin Zahler - Master Water Steward	Helen Gunther - annual meeting
Pete Plucinak - weed treatment	Adam Dirlam - CMCW Rep (new)
Rick Berland - organic runoff reduction	