

Lake Minnie Belle Messenger

LMBIA

Winter/Spring 2016

Winter/Spring 2016 Board Highlights

By Larry Rewerts

The winter season so far has been characterized by mild temperatures and below average snowfall. Having said that though, this is Minnesota and who knows what February and March have in store. The Lake Association Board of Directors has been hard at work applying for grants, analyzing AIS computer printouts and planning for the upcoming treatment of our lake. Permits need to be obtained, funding sources secured and notifications sent to all lakeshore residents are all a part of this process. Continued discussion is occurring with regards to the MB2 ditch project that was put on hold last year. The winter season is by far the busiest for the board of directors. Fortunately, we have strong leadership and a willingness on the part of all board members to assist with the tasks before us.

We will again be treating Lake Minnie Belle for curly leaf and eurasian milfoil this spring and summer. Approximately 25 acres will be treated with eurasian milfoil comprising the vast majority of the acreage. The exact amounts and areas of treatment will be determined early this spring at ice out. We have retained Clarke Companies again this year to assist us with lake analysis (pre and post treatment), permit application and the treatment process. Last years treatment effort was considered very successful. The cost for Clarke company service has been reduced from \$2,500 to \$1,500. This reduction in fees has occurred since Clarke has already compiled a base data from last year and will not need to complete the general surveys a 2nd time. The actual treatment costs will remain at \$350 per acre for both curly leaf and eurasian milfoil. Total costs will be in excess of \$10,000. Grants have been secured to cover some of the expense. We also have a milfoil fund that many lake residents contribute to when they pay their 2016 membership dues. Please consider a donation to the milfoil fund this year.

The timetable and treatment details are as follows. Shortly after ice out a Clarke boat will be on Minnie Belle evaluating curly leaf pondweed. Decisions will be made with regards to necessity and locations of treatment. Treatment will occur when the water 2 feet below the surface is 50 degrees or warmer. Aquathol K (endothol) will be used per EPA directions at a rate of 1.5 parts per million. Clarke will be responsible for posting notification signs and/or buoys in the treatment areas. Minnesota DNR treatment signs will be posted on those properties that are within 150 feet of all treatment areas. It will be the responsibility of the shoreline owner to remove the notification signs on their property. Signs can be removed from properties approximately 10 to 14 days after treatment for curly leaf and 21 days after treatment of milfoil. The procedure for milfoil treatment will be very similar during late June or early July. DMA-4 (Liquid 2,4-D) will be used per EPA directions at a rate of 2 parts per million. Last year we treated 3 acres of curly leaf and 19.2 acres of eurasian milfoil.

If you wish to opt out of the treatment on your lakeshore you must complete and return the form on page 4.

See you on the ice/water.

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Status of Northern Pike Slot Limit on Lake Minnie Belle

The January meeting of the Lake Minnie Belle Board of Directors was highlighted by a presentation made by Mr. Gene Jeseritz and Mr. Chris Foster of the DNR fisheries department located in Hutchinson. The information presented and question and answer period focused on the effectiveness of the northern pike slot limit that has been in place on our lake for approximately 12 years.

Mr. Jeseritz began the presentation by listing the DNR goals of the protected slot limit which were:

1. Provide opportunities to harvest small fish while at the same time improving densities of medium and large fish
2. Better fishing in terms of more medium and large northern pike being caught
3. Still a 3 fish limit, with one over 36" allowed and 24-36" fish being immediately returned to the lake
4. Hutch's specific goal: Double the historical average (1995-2001) number of northern pike/gillnet over 24 inches at Minnie Belle.

Bar graphs, charts, data base information was presented showing the numbers and size of northern pike in our lake over the last 30 years. Test net and gill net information was also available on the status of other species of fish present in Lake Minnie Belle (bluegill, walleye, black crappie, yellow perch, largemouth bass, yellow bullhead, carp).

After analysis of the test net and gill net data, Mr. Jeseritz and Mr. Foster both concluded that the established goals and desired results for northern pike had been successfully achieved without having an adverse effect on the numbers of other species of fish. Overall, there are still lots of northerns in the lake under 24 inches but there is an increase in the number of larger fish. Questions arose concerning the effect on walleyes. Bar graphs show the walleye population is well within the targeted range for a lake within our classification and has not be adversely affected by the introduction of a slot limit. Similar long term results are evident for other species as well (bluegill, largemouth bass, yellow bullhead). Numbers for black crappie and yellow perch have been consistently below the average dating back to 1957, with only a few years where numbers spiked upward.

A decision will be made in 2018 by the DNR to keep or drop the slot limit regulation. In advance of the decision, final ice our trap and summer gill and trap nettings will occur and be analyzed in 2017. Public input meetings will take place during the winter of 2017-18.

Many of the lakes in our region have an overabundance of "hammer handle" northern pike. The current proposal for the north central region (our region) being discussed to bring those numbers of small northerns down is a 10 fish bag limit with a 22-26" protected slot and 2 fish over 26". There would be similar regulations for spearing. If we choose to keep our existing slot limit, we would not be subject to these proposed changes. We have already accomplished the desired effect that this 10 northern pike limit is attempting to change in other lakes in our region. As the presentation concluded, it appears at this time, the Lake Minnie Belle Board of Directors supports maintaining the current slot regulations.

Due to space constraints, I apologize for not providing the charts and graphs that were used in the presentation. Each of the Board of Directors has received copies of this data. Please contact them if you wish to review the findings. The information will also be made available on our website sometime this spring. A representative from the DNR fisheries will also be in attendance at our annual meeting in July.



2016 Lake Minnie Belle Membership Form

Please complete and return with your check payable to
LMBIA (Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association)
PO Box 34
Litchfield, MN 55355

Last Name _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Lake Address _____, Litchfield, MN 55355

Permanent Mailing Address _____

City _____, State _____ ZIP _____

Primary Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

E-mail addresses are only used for specific notifications to lake residents and are not given out to any outside sources.

*If you are a first time member or member who purchased additional lot(s); who were the previous owners of your new lake property? _____

Lake Minnie Belle dues (\$1 of your Membership dues will go into the Milfoil fund) \$25.00

Would you like to make a contribution to the LMBIA Milfoil fund? \$_____

Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

HAVE YOUR DUES PAID BY APRIL 20, 2016
AND YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARLY BIRD DRAWING!
WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY 1-\$50 CASH AWARD!

Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association
P.O. Box 34
Litchfield, MN. 55355

February 18, 2016

Dear Lake Property Owners:

The Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association has contracted to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil in Lake Minnie Belle in 2016.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources may grant to the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association a waiver of the requirements that the association obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This letter is one form that the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association is using to notify property owners. A second form of notification appeared on the front page of the Winter/Spring 2016 LMBIA Newsletter that you received in the mail.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2016:

1. The proposed date for treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed will be when the water 2 feet below the surface reaches 50 degrees or warmer. The treatment will be performed using Aquathol K (endothol) per the directions, restrictions and precautions on the EPA registered label, at a rate of 1.5 parts per million.
2. The proposed date for treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil will be in late June or early July. The treatment will be performed using DMA-4(Liquid 2,4-D) per the directions, restrictions and precautions on the EPA registered label at a rate of 2 parts per million.
3. If you desire that the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed or Eurasian Water Milfoil **not** occur adjacent to your property please notify the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Board of Directors immediately at the following address:

Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association
P.O. Box 34
Litchfield, MN. 55355

Sincerely,

Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Board of Directors

I have read the annual letter sent on or before April 1st of this year and reviewed this document. I request that no herbicide treatment occur adjacent to our shoreline property.

Signed _____ Date _____

All requested information must be entered for verification purposes.

Year: _____ Pin Number(s) _____

Property Owners Name _____

Lake Property Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number(s) Home _____ Cell _____

Mailing Address (If different from Lake Property Address)

Updates and Random Thoughts

Membership

The 2016 membership form is included in this newsletter. Dues will remain at \$25 for this year. Please consider an extra donation to the milfoil fund. All donations to LMBIA are tax deductible. As a dues paying member you also qualify for the Lake Minnie Belle Directory which is published in late spring. This directory includes all properties on the lake. Thank you for including your phone number in the newsletter. Your number will only be used for lake association business and is not made available to any outside sources.

Individual Lakeshore Treatment

If you are considering treating a part of your lakeshore for vegetative growth you must receive a DNR permit. Clarke Companies and Midwest Aquacare have been used in the past. These companies will assist you with the permitting and treatment.

LMBIA Annual Meeting Date

The 2016 annual meeting will take place on July 16th at Beckville Church picnic grounds on the south side of the lake. Coffee, juice and rolls will be served at 9:30 a.m. Meeting begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m. with door prizes.

MB2 Update

Progress on the project was delayed last year due to an issue with grant funding. Bids are currently being advertised for the project. New funding resources are being explored. Our goal is to complete MB2 in 2016.

Check Us Out

LMBIA website is <https://sites.google.com/site/lmbiaorg/>

LMBIA facebook www.facebook.com/lmbia

DNR website is www.dnr.state.mn.us

2016 Angling Seasons

Walleye and Northern Pike – Opens 5/14/16.
Largemouth Bass –
Opens 5/28/16.

Vacancies on Lake Minnie Belle Board

Consider being a board member. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month excluding December and last 1 hour. If you are interested contact any current board member.

A special thank you to Mark & Ann Schmidtbauer's Creative Graphics for publishing the LMBIA Messenger. This service is done at no cost to our organization. Thanks a lot.



**Lake Minnie Belle
Improvement Association**
PO BOX 34
Litchfield, MN 55355

LAKE MINNIE BELLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Robert Hantge Director 1210 Lewis Ave SW Hutchinson, MN. 55350 320-583-1396	Stan Kittelson Water Quality 61898 193 rd . St. Litchfield, MN. 55355 320-693-7351	Linda Larson Director 19640 612 th Ave Litchfield, MN. 55355 320-221-3061
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Please contact any Board Member listed above. They can take your concerns to our Board Meeting. Board meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Bonfire Bar & Grill. An annual general meeting is held the 3rd Saturday in July at the Beckville Church picnic grounds on the southwest shore of Lake Minnie Belle. Coffee and rolls at 9:30 a.m. with meeting at 10 a.m.