

# LAKE MINNIE BELLE MESSENGER

A Newsletter from the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association

Fall 2017

## The “Sun Sets” for Summer 2017 on Lake Minnie Belle

Marilyn Buboltz, Editor

Most of the boats, lifts and docks are out of the water and stored for the winter. We hope everyone had a fabulous summer and enjoyed spending time with family and friends on beautiful Lake Minnie Belle!

Now it's time to turn the corner and enjoy the next season that brings great opportunities to continue to enjoy “Life at the Lake”.

It was a busy summer for Board Members and volunteers who put many hours into the monitoring and management of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and work toward completion of lake projects. There has also been increased efforts to increase LMBIA membership which has been very successful with a great turn out for the Annual Meeting at Beckville Picnic Grounds. Thank you to B & B Sports for providing the pork chops for a delicious dinner. If you are not a current LMBIA member please consider joining.

I hope you will find the articles in this newsletter informative and bring you current status of the lake quality and efforts to maintain that quality. Thank you to the Board Members who contributed articles to the newsletter to keep you informed.

## 2017 Annual Meeting Summary

By Laurie Boll, Secretary

Saturday, July 15, @ 11:00 AM

President Tom Hess welcomed about 115 people to the meeting and pork chop dinner. Introduction of current board members. Laurie Boll read the secretary's minutes from July 16, 2016 annual meeting. Todd Kuechle gave the treasurer's report. Todd reported that there was an increase of membership from 154 in 2016 to presently 220. Advertising for the LBMIA directory has increased and the AIS fund is at \$15,000. Todd and Tom thanked Mark and Ann Schmidtbauer from Creative Graphics for the great job on the LMBIA Directory.

**AIS Treatment:** Clark Company was hired for the AIS treatment. The first survey was estimated at 4.1 acres to be treated for curly leaf. Permit was submitted to DNR to treat 2 acres in the mouth of the lagoon and 2.1 acres by the siren. Only the lagoon was approved and completed. Native white pond weed was found by the DNR.

*Continued on page 2*



Clark Company recommended 14.4 acres of Eurasian Milfoil to be treated. Only 9.4 acres was approved by the DNR. The reason was to see if the Native plants will choke out the Eurasian Milfoil. Treatment took place on July 11th.

**Zebra Mussels:** Lake Stella and Lake Washington have zebra mussels. In the early stages of the zebra mussel it is call the Veliger which is like sandpaper.

**MB2 Project:** MB2 Project was completed in November 2016. Tom explained where the monies for this project came from. The Meeker SWCD helped with this project.

**MBO Project:** Steve Stepien explained the MBO project which is the cleaning out of the cattails at the outlet. Vegetation was cleaned out last fall and will be cleaned out again this summer due to high water levels. This needs to be done because it causes back flow into the lake.

**Boat Inspections:** Steve Stepien explained that Meeker County Lakes public accesses are conducting boat inspections. Training of AIS was completed earlier this year. He emphasized that educating the public to have both clean boats leaving and coming into the lake. Paid volunteers were searching for weeds and zebra mussels and some were found and boats were turned away. There is a plan in the future to have a centralized station to have your boat cleaned before your boat can enter the lake. The main concern is Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort. Steve stated that we have hired divers to inspect in September when the water is warmer.

**Recognition of Board Member, Shirly Kronbeck:** Tom thanked Shirley for her many years as treasurer on the board.

**Gift Certificate Door Prizes:** Drawing for door prizes was completed. Tom thanked Burgarts for the use of the Bonfire for the monthly LMBIA board meetings. He also thanked Jeremy Crosby

from B&B Sports of Hutchinson for the donation of the pork chops for today's dinner. The potato salad, beans, and cookies were provided by the LMBIA.

**Election of Board Members:** There were 4 open board positions. After the vote the re-elected board members included Robert Hantge, Linda Larson and Cliff Willhite and newly elected board member Kristi Ties.

**Guest Speaker:** Gene Jeseritz DNR Department of Fisheries provided information regarding the Lake Minnie Belle's new proposed northern pike limit in 2018 and the fishing pier.

The meeting was adjourned and a delicious pork chop dinner was enjoyed by all.



## Special Thanks!!

Thanks to Dan Fitterer for his many years of service on the LMBIA Board. His time and dedication is greatly appreciated.

## 2017 Elected Board Members



### Robert Hantge

This is the 3rd term for Robert on the LMBIA board. He and his wife Christie, and son Jack, have been seasonal residents on the lake for 10 years. He initially wanted to be on the board to get acquainted with more people on the lake and become more involved. His primary responsibilities are finance. Monitoring our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and tracking volunteer hours.



### Linda Larson

This is Linda's second term on the board. She and her husband Brian have been living on Lake Minnie Belle full time since 2009. Linda is in charge of the HWY 22 ditch pick up and other lake projects.



### Kristi Ties

Kristi is a newly elected board member. She and her husband Mark have been seasonal residents on lake Minnie Belle for 18 years. They enjoy the lake and her interest to be on the board is to be involved in keeping the lake beautiful. Her initial responsibility on the board will be the LMBIA website.

### Cliff Willhite



This is Cliff's second term on the Board. Cliff and his wife Deb have been seasonal residents on Lake Minnie Belle for 5 years and enjoy having family and grandchildren visit to enjoy the lake. His interest to be on the Board is to maintain the quality of the lake. His primary responsibility on the board is monitoring of AIS.

## Ditch Clean Up Volunteers

Thank you to Linda Larson, Laurie Boll, Stan Kittelson, Mary and Larry Rewerts for their time in assisting with the Hwy 22 ditch clean up this fall. This has been a project for LMBIA since 1990.

## Good Lake Stewardship

It is that time of the year when everyone is completing the final yard and lake shore clean up. Please be thoughtful about what you do with the debris as it does impact the lake. Transport your weeds and leaves to the Litchfield Compost Site.

Remember that ashes that enter the lake produce phosphorous that stimulates an overgrowth of algae and aquatic plants so never discard ashes into the lake water.

Let's all do everything we can to keep our lake beautiful!!



# Fall AIS Report

By Steve Stepien

We have finished the 2017 boating season and the DNR boat landing inspection program. There were over 2000 boats inspected on our lake this summer. We had inspections on 61 days including Labor Day and the 4th of July. Minnie Belle was the most utilized lake in the county and accounted for 30% of all boat inspections on 7 different lake landings. The table shown to the right includes data through September 5th but we extended the inspections on our lake through the end of the month. The county covered all of the costs except for \$2452.00 which we paid and the 366 hours of

Lake - thr Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	# of Boats inspected	# of man days worked	Boats / Day
MinnieBelle	1926	56.0	34.4
Stella	1595	59.0	27.0
Francis	900	40.5	22.2
Washington	776	40.5	19.2
Ripley West	733	39.0	18.8
Manuella	681	40.5	16.8
Ripley East	231	28.0	8.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6842</b>	<b>303.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>
Ref- DNR insp			
Wolf	1	1	1.0
Jennie	82	6	13.7

volunteer time we provided. There were a few boats that were refused entrance and they were referred to a decontamination site. The Hutchinson DNR provided a decontamination station in mid July to help us out and were located at either lake Stella or Washington on almost every weekend until October 1st. We are hoping to conduct boat inspections again next year provided the grant money is available.

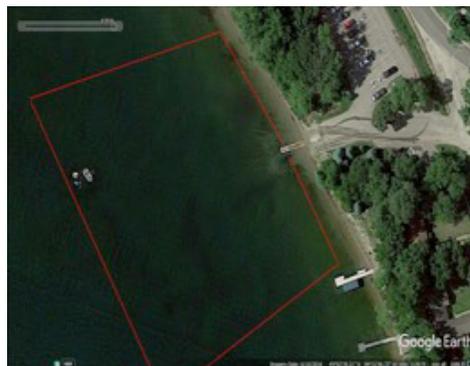
We completed inspecting the 16 Zebra Mussel traps deployed around the lake this spring. We are happy to report that no mussels were detected in our lake. I would like to thank the property owners and all of you who were involved in this effort and hope you will extend your help again next year.

We also completed a 2 acre inspection of the lake bottom around the DNR landing looking for Starry Stonewort. Divers were down looking for this macro algae in early September and found none! I have included an article in the newsletter about Starry Stonewort that is invading Lake Koronis. This is the second year in a row that they have spent over \$400,000.00 trying to combat this menace. We truly believe that spending a few thousand dollars a year for early detection will save hundreds of thousands in treatment later.

Our risk assessment of AIS for lake Minnie Belle was updated using the data collected by inspectors at the boat landing and new findings from the Minnesota AIS Research Center. We are addressing the new or modified risks that were identified. There will be an update in the Spring newsletter explaining the efforts. We have also updated our action plans for dealing with any AIS threat that may come our way.



Divers inspecting for Starry Stonewort and location



Lake Minnie Belle Starry Trek

# Water Monitoring

By Stan Kittelson

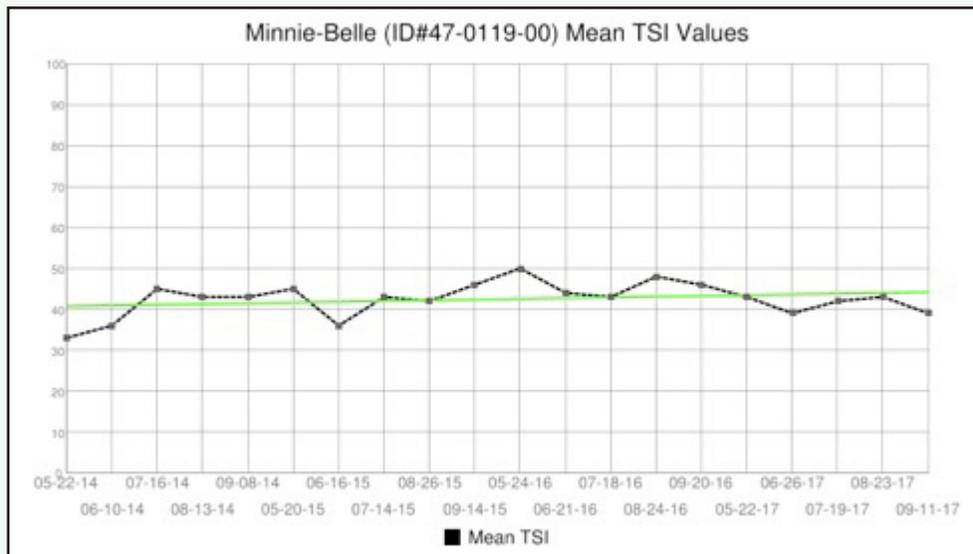
The Water Monitoring/Testing for 2017 is complete, and RMB laboratories has sent us the results. We tested for Chlorophyll-a, Phosphorous, and for water clarity. An algorithm is applied to each water sample to allow us to add the samples together and get a number representing water quality. (TSI). The Trophic State Index is a number representing the quality of a lake. MinnieBelle had a TSI of 41.2 this year which is quite good.

As you can see from the chart below, MinnieBelle, at present, is not trending in a decline or an improving trend.

The water clarity averaged 15.1 ft. for 2017. For water quality, we still have a jewel of a lake. However, to borrow from Wall Street - past performance is no guarantee of future trends. We are still the stewards of Lake MinnieBelle's future water quality.

## Trend Analysis Report

No significant trend exists.



Mann-Kendall Statistic for Trend Significance

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. We greatly appreciate your generosity!

*You may leave the Lake,  
but once you've been,  
it'll never leave you..."*

Anonymous

## New Website Coming Soon!

Our newest board member, Kristi Ties, is working to build a new website that is not only more user friendly but larger and easier to navigate. We are hoping to provide regular updates on activities going on around the lake. We would like to keep you updated on rainfall amounts, lake levels, and water quality reports. There will also be links to other lake associations in Meeker county, the AIS task force, and other agencies we work with. The goal is to have it up and running by the next newsletter.

**[lakeminniebelle.org](http://lakeminniebelle.org)** – Watch for it!

## LMBIA Membership

After considerable deliberation the LMBIA Board of Directors approved an increase to the annual LMBIA membership dues. The deciding factor was based on our threat of infestation from Zebra Mussels (ZM) and Starry Stonewort (SSW). The expert opinions from our advisers is NOT if we get them BUT WHEN. In order to contain and control the spread once they are found in our lake, the association needs to build a cash reserve. All AIS money has been and will continue to be kept in an emergency account to deal with that contingency.

In addition to that threat we are planning, and have already started, a two phase effort to rebuild the outlet to the lake and re-establish a wetland to contain the surge from rain events. These efforts will provide better drainage from the lake and provide a holding pond to prevent the watershed runoff from back-flowing into the lake.

Cost of phase one will be \$32,400 and phase two is estimated to be about \$45,000. Grants applications have been submitted but will only cover a portion of those costs. The estimated cost of containing and controlling ZM and/or SSW is over \$40,000 the first year. It will take at least a full year or two before additional aid from state or county agencies can be approved.

Due to upcoming expenses for projects and AIS, the Board felt a need to raise the dues to \$100

beginning in 2018. \$50 will be allocated for lake improvement projects and \$50 will be set aside for AIS specifically. Anything more you can donate will be accepted and appreciated.

Watch for a separate mailing in late November for Membership Dues with additional details on expected costs for both AIS and lake improvement projects. Remember that your membership and AIS donations are tax deductible.

The Board of Directors would like to thank you for understanding the need for this change.

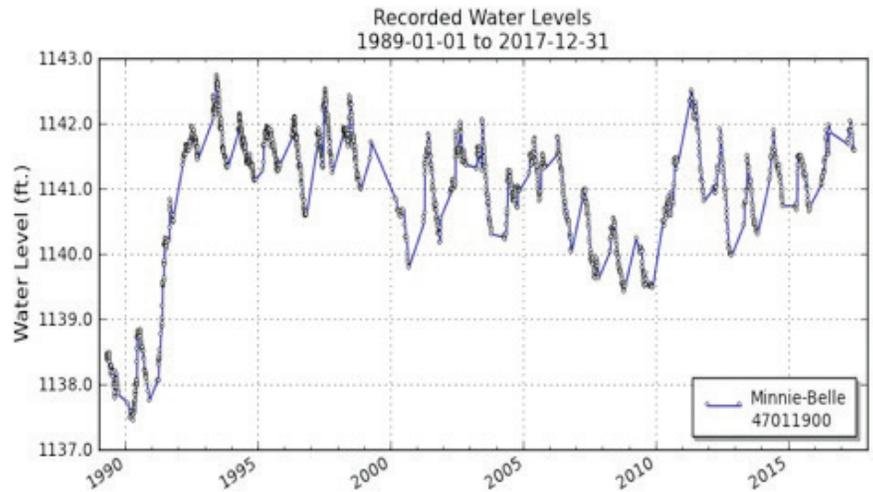
## 2017 LMBIA Directory

We are aware that this years directory has some errors. There are a number of property owners that don't match the lot numbers and some that are missing. If you noticed a discrepancy in your lot number or address please contact Steve Stepien ASAP or by January 1st, 2018 so we can correct our database.

Email to [stevestepien@yahoo.com](mailto:stevestepien@yahoo.com) or phone/text to 612-669-8211.

## Lake Water Levels:

You may have noticed that the lake was a little higher again this year. Our rainfall amounts were back to normal and the lakes natural springs were very active last fall and again early this spring. We do track the lake levels and thanks to Rick and Camilla Devries, who report the lake level to the DNR, we have current and historical data to share. Last fall and again earlier this year we were 2 feet higher than we were in the fall of 2013.



## Minnesota Lake Associations give millions in money and volunteer hours

By John Reinan, Star Tribune - October 02, 2017

Minnesota's private lake associations contribute more than \$6.2 million and 1.2 million volunteer hours each year to preserving the quality of the state's signature natural resource, according to a study released Monday.

Concordia College in Moorhead conducted the study over the summer on behalf of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. The authors said they believe it's the first study to measure the preservation efforts of the more than 500 private lake associations in the state.

Lake association members "are there at the lake, every day, all year long," said co-author Michelle Marko, a Concordia biology professor and co-director of the college's environmental studies program. "They have a lot of knowledge and they're providing a great resource, both in their financial co" There are over 12,000 lakes in Minnesota. Managing them is a very complex task," Marko said. "We have many agencies working on that — local governments as well as state organizations and even federal. To manage

each of those 12,000 lakes is a lot of work and no one person or organization can be everywhere at one time."

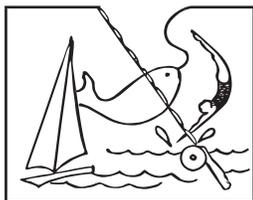
The study was based on a survey of members from 186 lake associations, along with interviews and field visits.

The most common concerns cited by members were aquatic invasive species, overall water control and runoff policy.

Respondents also expressed a desire to work more closely with the state Department of Natural Resources and expressed concern over the aging population of lake property owners.

The report concludes that "Minnesota's lake associations play a crucial role in protecting and managing Minnesota's lakes." Recommendation for more communication and collaboration between policymakers and lake associations.

**Please note:** LMBIA board and other lake members have volunteered over 1280 hours this year. If you would like to be more involved with lake projects please do not hesitate to contact any board member. Your time would be greatly appreciated!



LAKE MINNIE BELLE  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
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### Check Us Out!

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

LMBIA on facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/lmbia](http://www.facebook.com/lmbia)

DNR website:  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

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## LAKE MINNIE BELLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December), at the Bonfire Bar & Grill at 7:30 PM.

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