



Lake Minnie Belle Messenger

Fall/Winter 2015 Board Highlights

By: Larry Rewerts

Fall is here. This year we are experiencing mild and dry conditions so far. This has helped the lake residents with their annual chores of taking out docks and boat lifts, raking leaves and cleaning up the shoreline weeds that have drifted in as a result of the windy conditions. Only 6 months and we can put everything back in the water again.

Clarke Companies has completed the inspections and treatment of curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil for 2015. The contract with Clarke called for inspection and mapping of the lake last spring for Aquatic Invasive Species, completion of DNR application forms, spring/summer treatment of curly leaf and Eurasian milfoil and fall inspection of effec-

tiveness of treatment. The LMBIA Board was very satisfied with the information and effort provided by Clarke Companies.

I want to provide more specific details with regards to the 2015 efforts to control AIS. First of all we are limited in terms of the total acreage that can be treated. The DNR has established a maximum amount our lake can be permitted to treat (15% of the littoral acreage). This amounts to roughly 26 acres for any type of AIS treatment for the year. This also includes the treatment applications submitted by private landowners who pay to have a portion of their lakeshore treated. In short, there are more acres of curly leaf and Eurasian milfoil than we can treat. Clarke companies provided us with computer generated maps showing the location of infestation areas of curly leaf and Eurasian milfoil. The Board along with Clarke Companies then had to prioritize which parts of the lake would be treated. There is evidence of invasives on all sides of the lake. Lake residents were notified in the spring of our intent to treat and were given an opportunity to refuse treatment on their

property. 3 acres of curly leaf were treated in the spring and 19.2 acres of Eurasian milfoil were treated in the summer. Clarke Companies completed surveys of the lake after the treatments were completed and reported success in the targeted areas.

The treatment costs are as follows: Base Contract with Clarke Companies was \$2,500, treatment of 3 acres of curly leaf (@\$350/acre) was \$1050, treatment of 19.2 acres of Eurasian milfoil (@\$350/acre) was \$6,720. The total cost for AIS treatment for 2015 was \$10,270.

LMBIA did receive grant money from Meeker County Area Lakes (\$800) and \$4,000 from the Meeker County AIS treatment fund. The remaining expenses of \$5,470 came from our lake association's account (lake association dues and special LMBIA milfoil fund donations from our Membership Form). Treatment is not cheap. Plans are being made for 2016 treatment. Please join LMBIA in 2016.

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2015 LMBIA Annual Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting was held on Saturday July 15th, 2015 at the Beckville Picnic Grounds on the south side of Lake Minnie Belle. At 9:30 a.m. approximately 60 people enjoyed homemade rolls, coffee, milk and ice tea. The meeting began promptly at 10 a.m. with introductions of board members and acceptance of secretaries and treasures reports.

Roger Jergens gave an update on the MB2 ditch project. At the present time this project is temporarily put on hold due to funding issues. Tom Hess announced and thanked the family of Justin Burgart for donating a banner to LMBIA in memory of their son. The banner reads: LOVE the Lake... JOIN Minnie Belle Improvement Association. Check us out on Facebook @LMBIA. Cliff Willhite made a presentation on the history of invasive species in our lake and treatment efforts that have taken place. Tom Hess provided information on AIS funding. Randy Buboltz shared information on the Lake Directory and the LMBIA website. The database has all the owners and members listed and is not used for public benefit or sold to anyone. Randy stated that there are 343 properties on the 1st and 2nd tier around the lake. Updates occur throughout the year. New owners on the lake receive a "Members Welcome Packet" and their information is provided to Randy for inclusion in the latest database. Retiring board member Roger Jergens was recognized for his years of service to LMBIA.

Tom Hess, Stan Kittelson and Laurie Boll were on the ballot and agreed to serve a 3 year term. Other nominations were requested and Tim Plehal volunteered to fill the final board vacancy. At this point nominations ceased and a motion was made and approved to have a unanimous ballot vote. The nominees were approved to served on the Lake Minnie Belle Board of Directors.

5 gift certificates prizes were given away. Tom Hess thanked the Burgart family for use of the Bonfire for our monthly meetings. At 11 a.m. a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Legislature repeals AIS training, trailer decal: adds affirmation to some licenses.

The Minnesota Legislature, during the special session repealed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal program which was due to launch this year. In its place, the Legislature added an AIS affirmation provision to some licenses. The affirmation will be added to new watercraft and nonresident fishing licenses beginning in 2016.

Starting in 2016, all newly issued watercraft licenses will have an AIS affirmation section. All nonresident fishing licenses will also include the AIS affirmation section beginning in March 2016. License applicants after these dates will receive a summary of AIS laws and will be required to affirm that they have read and understand the summary in order to receive their license. No fees are associated with the affirmation.

The repealed law applied to anyone trailering a boat or water-related equipment, such as docks and lifts, in Minnesota. It would have required these individuals to take aquatic invasive species training and display a decal on their trailer starting July 15, 2015.

Some Random Thoughts

Zebra Mussels

Zebra Mussels are being discovered in more Minnesota lakes. Most recently, Lake Manuella and Stella have reported finding zebra mussels. By now almost all boats and docks have been removed from Lake Minnie Belle. It is imperative that lake owners check to see if there are any zebra mussels attached to their boats or docks. If you suspect that you have zebra mussels please contact the DNR office in Hutchinson or call any of the lake association board members. Successful control of zebra mussels hinges on early detection.

Fall Road Ditch Cleanup

Thanks once again to Stan Kittelson and his loyal group for their efforts in keeping the surrounding area clean of litter and other trash.

Water Clarity

Stan Kittelson reported that the clarity in our lake ranged from approximately 10 to 20 feet this year. Clarity varies depending upon the time of year and other conditions. Lake Minnie Belle has the best clarity of any of the surrounding lakes in our area. LMBIA wants to keep it that way.

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

Membership Drive

Approximately half of Lake Minnie Belle residents are members of LMBIA. Our goal is to see these numbers increase each year. Costs for treatment of AIS and other improvement projects continue to increase. Our organization relies on the membership dues as a primary source of paying for these expenses. We all benefit from these projects and treatments.

Little Red Schoolhouse Holiday Sale

The annual holiday sale will take place on Saturday, Dec. 5th, 2015 from 8:30 to 2 p.m. The location of the event will be at 20553 CSAH 28, Litchfield or 1 mile east of Beckville Church. Vendors will be selling their wares to help with holiday shopping. This is in conjunction with Beckville Church's cookie bake. Contact info:
Judy Walstad (C) 952-237-5529.

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.



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Improvement Association**
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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.