

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
TO: MCWD Board of Managers  
FROM: Eric Fieldseth, MCWD AIS Program Manager  
RE: Update on Lake Minnewashta Zebra Mussel Discovery

During a routine AIS early detection survey on August 18, 2016, MCWD AIS staff found 4 juvenile zebra mussels located on rocks under one of the docks at the public access. The MCWD led a search of the lake the next day, which involved MCWD and DNR staff, to determine the extent of the infestation. A total of 12 man hours searched 9 different areas of the lake and found no additional zebra mussels outside of the public access. However, another 10 zebra mussels were found under the same dock at the public access.

MCWD staff met with partners around the lake on August 22, 2016, to discuss next steps. Partners around the table included City of Chanhassen, Carver County, Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association and MN DNR. Due to a variety of factors, including the size distribution of the zebra mussels and the location they were found, it would lead one to believe it was a recent introduction that warranted further response. Lessons from the Christmas Lake rapid response can be applied to this situation that will hopefully improve the success of this response. That includes treating a larger area from the very beginning, and having greater knowledge on control product selection.

Outcomes of this partner meeting were as follows:

- Carver County will look into closing the main access point in the Carver Park, and re-open an old access in the same park that has been closed.
- Carver County will purchase the needed containment curtain, and MCWD will assist in placing the curtain.
- The MCWD would treat a small area directly around the access with EarthTec QZ (cost likely less than \$5,000) while the DNR considers allowing treatment of 27 acres in the access channel.
- Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association indicated it would share in the cost of a larger treatment.
- MCWD will help lead many of the DNR required monitoring activities during and after treatment.
- MCWD is primarily providing technical and in-kind support at this time.

*We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.*

The MCWD's AIS Program relies on Early Detection and Rapid Response as part of its prevention strategy. Knowing that watercraft inspections can never be 100% effective in detecting AIS, Early Detection and Rapid Response provides the next steps in preventing a widespread infestation. Containment and control are realistic options, especially considering the amount of research being done right now on zebra mussel control. The outcome at Christmas Lake was not what we hoped for, but by applying all of those lessons learned to this situation, it should increase the likelihood of a successful response. Finding low populations of zebra mussels is difficult, so any response that occurs needs to be done knowing there could be zebra mussels in the main lake that we could not find, and that future introductions are possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eric Fieldseth at [efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org) , or (952)-471-7873.



*We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.*