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## MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers  
FROM: Randy Anhorn  
DATE: April 13, 2021  
RE: Normandale Lake Water Quality Project Community Meeting and Survey

### Background

The District held a Normandale Lake Community Meeting on February 18, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a mid-project check-in regarding the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, discuss lake monitoring data and the District's adaptive management strategy for the lake, along with providing a brief update on the planned spring herbicide treatment. Following the presentation, virtual breakout rooms were used to facilitate discussion and take comments from community participants. For those that could not attend the virtual meeting and/or wanted to provide additional feedback, a non-scientific online survey was used to provide feedback to the NMCWD.

The presentation from the meeting has also been posted to YouTube. Thirteen (13) people other than District staff and managers, attended the meeting. As of April 6, 2021, 15 people have viewed the presentation posted on YouTube.

The survey was active February 17-March 4, 2021. The survey platform did not allow responses to be limited by IP addresses. Fifty-five (55) responses were received. Although IP addresses were not tracked, a unique code was assigned to each IP addresses that was reported in the survey results. This showed that out of the responses, there were 46 unique IP addresses that responded to the survey. One IP address took the survey nine times, one IP address took the survey twice, and the rest of IP addresses only took the survey once. All responses were included in the results (attached). To promote the survey and virtual community meeting, the NMCWD published articles in its District newsletter, Normandale newsletter, put information on its website and social media, and sent the information out directly by email to neighborhood and business contacts. Information included links to the online survey.

### What we heard from the February 18, 2021 Normandale Lake Community meeting and associated survey:

#### Major Concerns:

- Odor
- Filamentous algae
- Too many aquatic plants (weeds)
- Toxic algal blooms

## Survey Results

A summary of the non-scientific survey results along with the raw data are attached. A synopsis of the results include:

- The majority of the respondents live in city of Bloomington
- The majority of respondents (63.7%) visit Normandale Lake either daily during the summer or a few times a week
- A majority (58.2%) of respondents live within two blocks or a mile from the Normandale Lake.
- The main use of the Normandale Lake and surrounding park is passive recreation (e.g., walking/running, attending events, biking and bird or wildlife watching)
- Forty-five-point-five percent (45.5%) of respondents feel that their ability to recreationally use the lake is better or slightly better than before the project, while 29.1% neither felt it is better nor worse, and 23.6% feel it is worse or slightly worse
- Seventy-six-point-four percent (76.4%) of respondents felt the health of Normandale Lake prior to the start of the project was very bad or bad, while 9.1% felt it was neither good nor bad and 9.1% felt it was good
- As for the perceived condition of the health of the lake today, mid-way through the project timeline; 38.2% felt the lake's health was very bad to bad (down from the pre-project perception of 76.4%), 30.9% felt the lake's health was good or very good (up from the pre-project perception of 9.1%), and 23.6% felt the lake's health was neither good nor bad (up from the pre-project perception of 9.1%)
- Major concerns identified as part of a "logic-Jump" function seeking additional comments pertaining to the respondents answer(s) to the associated question(s) were similar to what we heard at the community stakeholder meeting:
  - Odor
  - Filamentous algae
  - Too many aquatic plants (weeds)
  - Toxic algal blooms
  - Too many carp and dead fish

Moreover, the District has received additional concerns/comments from the Paola Circle Community of Concerned Citizens as received in various emails and as stated during the open mike portion of the Board's March 17, 2021 regular Board meeting.

## Additional Concerns/Comments

- **Nine Mile Blue-Green Algae (BGA)/ Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Toxicity Testing, Signage, Barriers**
  - Include HAB signage around lake
  - We want Nine Mile to add toxicity testing points #1 through #10 to Barr testing regimen on a regular basis (i.e. **\*\*not\*\*** just the Test Site Hole "27-1045-01 Site 201" which is the least likely point on Normandale Ditch to find HABs & BGA toxicity to save preventable injuries and deaths on Normandale)
  - Understand when the barriers for the toxic water near Normandale inlet will be installed

- **Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA) - have the wrongful (illegal) MGDPA policy of charging Concerned Citizens \$5,000 investigated**
  - We would like to see the raw data for the Secchi chart from Barr Engineering, esp. for 2020
  - We would like to see the index/list/table of contents electronic MGDPA requested last October for the \$5,000 of so-called data which is in such an arrangement and condition as to make them easily accessible for convenient use."
  - We want the District's MGDPA responsible authority (RA) actions, and policy, investigated for compliance to MN statute Government Data Practices including a report
  
- **Real Action and Real Results for Normandale Going Forward (Even if Test-Beds):**
  - Post the Normandale Open Meeting charts for review
  - Post the Normandale survey results before the meeting for review
  - Set No-Kidding Meaningful Measurable Goals and Having Barr Take Observable Data
    - For example: Northern Pike fishing the lake, like was done in the late 1990's, safe recreational use for kayakers/paddle boarders/canoe, stretch goals for safe wading and/or dog swimming
    - Include MPCA reasonable collection of observable data as part of data collection
      - Physical Condition (PC)
      - Recreational Suitability (RS)
      - Water Color (WC)
  
  - Nine Mile Is Currently Without meaningful "Real" Initiatives/Trials To Give High Confidence of "Real" Water Quality Improvement
    - Carp Harvesting for a knockout blow
    - Herbicide writ large, annually and aggressively
    - Aeration
    - Dredging to make Normandale deeper
    - Raising the spillway to make Normandale deeper
    - "Shunting" the polluted Nine Mile Creek North Branch to below and east of Normandale Blvd
    - Harvesting 1-2 feet of lake top algae or oxygenation "Troughs" to increase oxygenation
    - Active Alum Treatment Plant Just south of 494 on North Branch of Nine Mile (Football Field Size Treatment Plant)

## **Request**

For informational purposes to promote discussion.