

LMLID 2016 Survey Responses

In January 2016, the LMLID mailed a survey to all 522 Lake Minnewawa property owners. A total of 246 responses were received, 235 by mail and 11 through Survey Monkey. These results have been tallied and the concerns of property owners listed below with a response from LMLID.

I. Basic Statistics of Residents and Lake Use

Majority of respondents are seasonal or weekend residents.

Boating and Fishing are the two most popular activities on the lake.

II. Lake Information Awareness

Majority of respondents are unaware of excessive phosphorous and mercury. [Results from the Upper Mississippi-Grand Rapids WRAPS will provide current water quality statistics. Public meeting will be announced Fall of 2016.](#)

Familiarity with Aitkin County SWCD.

[See http://www.aitkincountyswcd.org/index.html](http://www.aitkincountyswcd.org/index.html) for information about this group. The Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project (BSALWMP) is a citizen volunteer group coordinated by the SWCD. [See http://www.bsalwmp.org/](http://www.bsalwmp.org/) for info about this group.

Use of LMLID website.

Go to <http://www.lmlid.org/> for information about our organization. Meeting minutes; annual reports; and links to other sites are there.

Visit the Lake Minnewawa Association site <http://www.minnewawa.org/> for activities by the LMA. Weed Harvesting operation; fishery stocking; AIS, are areas of focus by the LMA.

III. Participation in/Support of Lake Improvement Efforts

It is a pleasure to see such great support for both the LMA and LMLID (84 and 82%). Citizen volunteering is very rewarding - we're always looking for new people.

IV. Weed/Harvesting/Lake Quality Concerns

Lake Minnewawa is a relatively shallow, eutrophic lake. A large amount of weeds will always be a part of our lake.

A request has gone out to Lake Minnewawa Association(LMA) for response to Weed Harvesting concerns. As those responses are received, this document will be revised.

V. Other Concerns

Garbage Burning.

It is against the law to burn garbage. Local police will enforce.

About Survey.

Why did you (we) pay to print this in color?

Cost to print in color was very similar to BW and improved look.

Why did you (we) pay for SASE if website was option?

We paid for both SASE and online in an attempt to increase participation.

How much is this costing me?

The full cost of the survey was \$2.24 per property.

What is the survey trying to accomplish?

The goal of the survey is to assess property owner interests. As the LMLID makes decisions regarding the spending of taxpayer funds: we want to understand that we are meeting the interests of all. The survey responses will also be used as part of a planned comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

About LMLID

Who decides where any work gets done?

Organizations submit their plans for improving the health of Lake Minnewawa to the LMLID board of directors. This is typically done with a Funding request form. (on web site) The LMLID Board of Directors reviews the requests and approves funding if merited.

If the 'work' in your questions is weed harvesting; see LMA responses.

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Why not state what LMLID has done for the lake?

LMLID submits an annual report to the County, DNR, PCA and other governments organizations. That report is posted on our publicly available web site.

Monthly communications from LMLID meetings.

Meeting minutes are approved by the board and posted to the LMLID web site within approx. 1 week of each monthly meeting.

Assessment should be spent on the lake and not on scholarships and giving toys away.

This is something that the Lake Minnewawa Sportsman's club does.

Activity Concerns

ATV's have become too excessive.

'All Terrain Vehicles' are not in the scope of LMLID responsibilities.

All activities on the water (water skiing; boating; jet ski operation...) are

governed by Minnesota DNR.

Fire pits too close to lake.

Contact Aitkin County SWCD

Illegal Dock owners should pay their share or get dock off of shore

There are a bunch of lots which are adjacent to state-owned shoreline.

Those lots have been given permission to attach a dock, with the understanding that the docks are available for public use. They do not have any riparian rights.

About Harvester/Harvesting

A request has gone out to Lake Minnewawa Association(LMA) for response to Weed Harvesting concerns. As those responses are received, this document will be revised.

The DNR is responsible for management of rice beds. Concerns regarding wild rice should be directed to the DNR. LMLID could be supportive of a project to do something to protect the beds.

A map of Lake Minnewawa with DNR approved Harvest areas is included with the Lake Vegetation Management Plan. That plan can be found on the LMA website (Lakeminnewawa.org) or a request for paper copy can be made to the LMA.

General Lake Concerns

A request has gone out to Lake Minnewawa Association(LMA) for response to Zebra Mussel and other AIS concerns. As those responses are received, this document will be revised.

Contact Janet Smude at the Aitkin county SWCD for information regarding shoreline needs. Janet can help with ideas to improve shoreline and possibly offer financial assistance.

See: http://www.bsawmp.org/Shoreland_Guide_2_.pdf for best practice shoreland behavior. Buffer zones and rain gardens are two options to control runoff of unwanted chemicals in to our lake and stabilize the shore.

Septic systems in Aitkin county are required to be inspected whenever a property has an ownership change.

It is against State laws to use fertilizer with phosphorous on personal property.

Fish Concerns

A request has gone out to Lake Minnewawa Association(LMA) for response to Fishery concerns. As those responses are received, this document will be revised.

Other Issues

The level of the lake and Dam height is controlled by the DNR.

Requests have previously been made to change the level – DNR has not

been supportive.

The water level fluctuates throughout the year depending on rain, snow, drought and groundwater levels.

Selected lakes in our watershed do have lake level gauges; some visible from landings. There is a fair amount of maintenance with them; and DNR has not been receptive to add more.

The LMLID would be supportive of an effort to improve boat launches.

LMLID and LMA are separate organizations.

The purpose of the **Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District**(LMLID) is to provide an equitable and stable tax-based funding mechanism to support and improve the health of Lake Minnewawa. The LMLID is responsible for compliance with all State LID related statutes and other requirements as directed by Aitkin County.

Lake Minnewawa Association is a volunteer community organization which has been focused on improving the health of Lake Minnewawa for over 30 years.

LMA provides services for which it requests funding from LMLID.

Three of the largest activities include: running the DNR sanctioned Weed Harvesting operation; Walleye stocking program coordinated with the DNR and AIS activities in coordination with the Aitkin County SWCD.