

# MSLID & TAMS NEWS

## *Mink/Somers Lake Community Newsletter*

Beginning in 2019-2020, Mink/Somers Lake Improvement District (MSLID) began the process of developing a Lake Management Plan (LMP) for Mink and Somers lakes. In addition, the Board has developed a Lakeshore Owners Survey to understand what is important to lakeshore owners. This survey has been completed and will be mailed to all lakeshore residents in September 2020. The results of this survey will be compiled in late September, early October 2020. A published report with results from this survey will be posted on the Mink/Somers lakes website at [minksomers.org](http://minksomers.org).

In June 2020, the first half of the Point Intercept Survey (also called Aquatic Plant Survey) was completed and the results are posted at [minksomers.org](http://minksomers.org). The second half of this survey was completed in August 2020 and the results will also be published on the website when they become available. The Point Intercept Survey is used to assess the current plant community and compare year-to-year plant variation. This survey monitors the native plant community and evaluates responses to invasive aquatic plant management control.

In 2020-2021, the MSLID Board will continue to work with Limnopro Aquatic Science in development of Mink and Somers future improvements.

**In September 2020, the Lakeshore Owners Survey and Lake Assessment will be mailed to all Lake Association residents and/or property owners. This survey is critical in the planning and development of the Lake Management Plan. Please complete and return the survey as soon as possible. When we receive your completed survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card from The Butchery in Maple Lake.**

Meetings to review and evaluate the Lakeshore Owners Survey and Lake Assessment will be ongoing from October 2020 to March 2021. These meetings will be listed on the front page calendar of [minksomers.org](http://minksomers.org).

In October 2020, there will be a meeting with the DNR to have them approve a Lake Vegetation Management Plan for 2021.

In March 2021, Limnopro Aquatic Science will present the first draft of the Lake Management Plan to the MSLID Board. This draft will help determine steps for the management of the lakes in 2021.

Weed control will be applied in April/May 2021 for Mink and Somers lakes. A Sonar Survey, an automated process to map the height of plants under the water checking depth, sediment hardness and vegetation will be done in May 2021. Also beginning in May through September 2021, a Nutrient Budget will be completed. This will determine all sources of nutrients in the lakes. Nutrients, primarily phosphorus, are the cause of excess plant growth and algae in the lakes. An additional Sonar Survey will also be completed in August 2021.

In November 2021, we will provide an end-of-year report and begin planning for 2022.

### **LAKE SURVEY NEWS**

You will be receiving a **LAKESHORE OWNER SURVEY AND LAKE ASSESSMENT** in the mail in September 2020.

**When we receive your completed survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card from The Butchery in Maple Lake.**

**- MSLID Board Members**

# TAMS Report - Looking Toward 2021

What an interesting 2020 this has been for all of us. As a TAMS Board, we were frustrated because we had to cancel many things in our 2020 plan, like the summer picnic. On a positive note, the Ice Clean-Up in March was well attended. In addition, the July 4th Boat Parade went off as planned and we had more participants than we have seen in years! In addition, it was awesome seeing all the boats on the water, ending the evening with an amazing display of fireworks on Mink. Thanks Pete for your hospitality!

As we look towards 2021 Budget and Plans, we will have a surplus of funds that were not used because of cancelled events. In future meetings, we will discuss what we can do to bring more value to our membership and how these excess funds will be allocated. TAMS is about lakeshore homeowners and building a strong association of people working together to make Mink and Somers a better place to live and enjoy the recreation we all enjoy on the lakes.

## **What is the difference between TAMS and MSLID?**

One topic I would like to explain in this issue of our newsletter is the difference between TAMS and MSLID - the two lake boards. TAMS is the association that takes care of everything surrounding the lakes, i.e. name sign boards, summer picnic, boat parade, ice clean-up day, etc. TAMS is a 501(c)3 organization and our monies come from dues, donations, and fundraising. MSLID oversees the Lake Management Plan and is operated under government guidelines. MSLID monies come from a levy on your taxes. This levy is voted on at the MSLID Annual Meeting each year in August. The majority of MSLID funds (your tax dollars) are used to improve the lakes. This is why MSLID is developing an ongoing Mink/Somers Lake Management Plan.

MSLID and TAMS Boards have defined roles and responsibilities, but are continually working together. We attend each others meetings and support the common goal of making our lake community and condition of the lakes better.

With respect to communication from our boards, our website [minksomers.org](http://minksomers.org) has been updated in the last year and we try and keep it updated when new information becomes available for lake homeowners. There is a joint calendar accessible on the front page of the website and we also use Facebook, "MinkSomers"; and Nextdoor Neighbor to communicate. The goal of both of the boards is to create transparent communication to all lake homeowners, be open to questions, and deliver answers.

My final thought...we are all neighbors. Through many conversations with individuals on both Mink and Somers, the ultimate goal is healthier lakes. Now that MSLID has begun developing a Lake Management Plan, we hope in the years to come to deliver just that. **TAMS will be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, October 10, at 8:30 a.m. at Corinna Township Hall. Come listen, learn and have your voices heard.** TAMS is always looking for volunteers for activities as well! The more people involved, the more we can do! Stay happy and healthy!

## **A 2020 LAKESHORE OWNERS SURVEY AND LAKE ASSESSMENT WILL BE IN YOUR MAILBOX IN SEPTEMBER 2020.**

Please fill it out and return it to MSLID P.O. Box 81, Maple Lake, MN 55358. Your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card from The Butchery for returning the survey.

**Let your voices be heard about what you want for your lakes!**