

**Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District**  
**Board Workshop: TMDLs**  
**April 12, 2006**  
**Prior Lake-Spring Lake District Offices**  
**15815 Franklin Trail SE, Prior Lake, MN 5537**

Members Present: William Schmokel, William Kallberg, Craig Gontarek, Roger Wahl, Larry Mueller

Staff Present: Shannon Lotthammer, District Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Schmokel called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

3. OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A) TMDL Process and Discussion. Shannon Lotthammer explained to the Board the origin of the TMDL requirements and the connections between the TMDL requirements, the NPDES permit for small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), the nondegradation requirements of the new MS4 permit, and watershed planning. She noted that the District's watershed planning efforts are parallel to the TMDL process. Shannon explained that some of the groundwork for the TMDL has been laid through the diagnostic study for Spring and Prior Lakes and the Sustainable Lake Management Plan.

Shannon also updated the Board on policy and guidance development underway at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to help inform TMDL development projects. Shannon noted that she participated in a conference call with MPCA and EPA staff on March 20, 2006, to discuss the potential for extending the grant period for developing the TMDLs for Spring and Upper Prior lakes. At that meeting, the EPA agreed to extend the PLSLWD's grant period to June 2008 to allow time for the state-level policy development to be completed in advance of the TMDLs.

The Board discussed the importance of setting an appropriate target for Spring and Prior Lake nutrient levels, as the target helps define the TMDL results. Shannon noted that continued leadership by the PLSLWD of the nutrient TMDL development for Spring and Upper Prior lakes will allow more local involvement in and control over the establishment of the target than if the state were to develop the TMDL, since the PLSLWD is more familiar with the resource. She also noted that the PLSLWD has good working relationships established with the many stakeholders who would be involved in the TMDL development, such as the cities and Scott County. She said she has talked with City of Prior Lake staff about the TMDL development, and they are more comfortable with the PLSLWD leading the nutrient TMDL development now than waiting for the state to develop the TMDLs, particularly since some of the work will overlap with the City's nondegradation analysis and therefore would help inform that effort.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of moving forward with the TMDL development at this time, including the PLSLWD's leadership role, the potential loss of grant funds and the timeline for policy development at the state level.

**Motion by Craig Gontarek to move forward with the nutrient TMDL development for Spring and Upper Prior Lakes under the revised timeline for the EPA grant. Second by Roger Wahl. Motion passed 5 ayes.**

The Board directed Shannon to revise the Work Plan for the grant, work with EPA to extend the grant contract, and obtain a proposal from Wenck Associates for assisting with the TMDL development. Shannon said she would bring a revised timeline and an outline for the TMDL development process to a future Board meeting for discussion.

B) Staffing. Shannon presented a simple analysis of work tasks and responsibilities for her and Jim Eggen, and a list of potential tasks and activities for the proposed intern position. She also presented a hiring timeline for Board consideration. The Board authorized Shannon to move forward with hiring the intern position. Shannon asked if any Board members wanted to participate in the interviews; they said they were comfortable with her and Jim handling that process.

C) Additional Items:

Segment 1 Update. Shannon provided a brief update on the project and noted that the contractor is wondering if the District would be able to close the outlet to allow them to place the end sections on the culvert under the railroad embankment. Otherwise, the contractor may want to come back at a later date when the water is lower to finish that work. The Board and Shannon discussed this approach and the potential for additional cost. The Board noted that it may be worth some limited additional cost to avoid shoreland owner concern about temporarily closing the outlet, but encouraged Shannon to take another look at the contract to see if the District would be responsible for additional mobilization cost if the contractor completed the culvert work later in the year.

Scott County Comprehensive Plan Revision: Manager Mueller noted that Spring Lake Township has proposed a 2.5 acre zoning density for the area of the Township outside of the annexation agreement with the City of Prior Lake. Manager Mueller suggested that the PLSLWD Board may want to consider taking a position on this proposal. Shannon said she would get information about the Township's proposal from their web site.

4. ADJORN: The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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William Schmokel, President

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Craig Gontarek, Secretary