

# PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE

---

## WATERSHED DISTRICT

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

*Tuesday September 24, 2013*  
*Prior Lake City Hall*  
*4:00 PM*

Members Present: Marianne Breitbach, Curt Hennes, Bruce Thorsen, Woody Spitzmueller & Fred Corrigan (arrived at 4:20 PM)

Staff & Consultants Present: Mike Kinney, District Administrator  
Emily Javens, Watershed Engineer  
Nat Kale, Watershed Planner  
Chuck Holtman, District Attorney

Others Present:

Kim Silvernagel, CAC	Rick & Mary Steinhoff
Wes Mader	John Crary
Glenn Kelley	Debbie Larson
Liz Weninger	Michael Larson
Ken Berens	Amy Butani
Marlene Ellingson	Pete Young, City of Prior Lake
Lisa Quinn	Bill Heimkes, Sand Creek Township
Craig & Linda Clausen	Kathy Nielsen, Spring Lake Township
Mike Higgins	Randy Thatjes
Dale Getz	Bernie Carlson
Scott & Janet Shanesy	James Streefland, LAC
Shelley Beard	

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Meeting called to order by President Marianne Breitbach at 4:00 PM.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING: SPRING LAKE ALUM TREATMENT:** \*\*President Breitbach recessed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing for the Spring Lake Alum Treatment Phase 1 Project. At this time members of the general public were encouraged to comment. Mr. Kale reviewed the phosphorus reduction needs for Spring Lake, the proposed dosing and the schedule for the work. He stated that the project would use the public access but that

the access would remain open for public passage. He read into the record correspondence from Alice and Steven Mercurio suggesting that as lake pH decreases due to climate change, toxic aluminum will have a greater tendency to be released. He also read correspondence from Dr. Christian Morkeburg noting the health concerns to children from algae and supporting the proposed treatment.

John Crary asked whether the project would raise property taxes and said that he has lived on the lake since he was a child and never has known anyone to get sick from swimming there. Manager Thorsen replied that the project would be funded from reserve funds and would not increase the District's 2014 levy.

Wes Mader has lived on the lake for 21 years. He said the lakes distinguish the community and he supports the project, but the District always should be careful that its funds be spent cost-effectively.

Mike Higgins has lived on the lake for two seasons. One of his daughters had a fever for 30 hours after swimming in the lake this summer. He supports the project.

Jim Weninger has lived on Spring Lake all of his life and supports the project. He has served on a number of water advisory boards locally and regionally and now serves on the District's Citizens' Advisory Committee. He noted that alum is a legitimate tool that is used in water treatment plants. Internal loading has been identified as a problem since the 1980's. Phasing the treatments will improve the chance of success.

Dale Getz has lived on Lower Prior Lake for nine years. He has observed a water quality degradation and supports the project. It is just one tool, but he has done research and alum treatment is safe and effective if used properly.

Craig Clauson stated he is impressed with the thinking and energy and supports the project. He urged that the District, however, also focus on treating pollution at the source.

Liz Weninger is on the Lakes Advisory Committee for the City of Prior Lake. She asked about sources of external load. President Breitbach noted these include the ditched channel, the Buck Lake system, exporting wetlands and carp.

Glenn Kelley is on the Spring Lake Board of Supervisors but is appearing in his own capacity. He lives on Spring Lake and supports the project as one piece of a larger program.

Manager Spitzmueller noted that he received an e-mail from Dr. Morkeburg stating that he has observed ten children ill from swimming in Spring Lake, including infections in eyes, ears and sinuses and gastrointestinal malady.

Manager Hennes stated that the board realizes that the project is costly, but it is for a serious problem. He said that he lives on Spring Lake and sees lots of algae, including blue-green algae. He said people swim from boats but almost never swim from shore. He reviewed other parts of the District's work within the Spring Lake subwatershed to emphasize that this is just one part of it.

Debbie Larson asked what happens when the project lifetime is reached. Mr. Kale replied that the District's consultant has advised that the treatment should be effective until 2036 or later. Responding to President Breitbach, Mr. Kale stated that the progress and location of the application is precisely tracked so that if bad weather causes an interruption, treatment can resume accurately. He reviewed treatment zones and noted that the littoral edge to ten-foot depth is not treated. Treatment occurs after fall turnover is complete.

Mike Higgins asked about carp seining and its failure to date. Mr. Kale reviewed further District plans for rough fish control.

There being no further public comment, President Breitbach closed the public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING: COUNTY ROAD 12/17 WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT:** President Breitbach then opened the public hearing for the CR12/17 Wetland Restoration project. Ms. Javens reviewed the project schedule and funding allocation among the City of Prior Lake, Scott County, a grant of state funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the District. The estimated external load reduction to Spring Lake from the project is 48 pounds per year of phosphorus. At this time members of the general public were encouraged to comment.

Liz Weninger thinks the project is excellent, but cautions the District to monitor erosion and sedimentation control during construction carefully.

Jim Weninger supports the project and noted that it provides parkland and trails, also. He asked about maintenance and sediment build-up in the wetlands. Ms Javens replied that the trails are designed to allow for maintenance access, and that the city will assume maintenance responsibility after five years.

Marlene Ellingson lives on the lower end of the channel where she has experienced flooding problems, and asked about the project's effect on volume. Ms. Javens replied that the project should manage volume well for the area that drains through the channel.

**\*\*President Breitbach closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Manager Hennes moved to accept the agenda. Second by Manager Breitbach. All ayes. Motion passed 4-0 (Manager Corrigan was absent for this vote).

### **OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Manager Corrigan moved to adopt Resolution 13-275, Ordering Spring Lake Alum Treatment Project, as revised by counsel and distributed at the meeting, with deletion of the word “about” from the third WHEREAS and the reference to meeting location in the fifth WHEREAS changed from the District offices to the Council Chambers, Prior Lake City Hall. Second by Manager Hennes. All ayes. Motion passed 5-0.

Manager Hennes moved to adopt Resolution 13-276, Ordering County 12/17 Wetland Restoration Project, with the reference to meeting location in the fifth WHEREAS changed from the District offices to the Council Chambers, Prior Lake City Hall. Second by Manager Spitzmueller. All ayes. Motion passed 5-0.

Managers and Staff had a discussion of the 2014 Priority Capital Projects. No decisions were made.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Manager Hennes moved to adjourn meeting at 6:30 PM. Second by Manager Corrigan. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

---

Woody Spitzmueller, Secretary