

PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday July 30, 2015 6:30-8 p.m.
PL City Hall, 4646 Dakota Street SE Prior Lake, MN 55372

Our mission is to manage and preserve the water resources of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District to the best of our ability using input from our communities, sound engineering practices, and our ability to efficiently fund beneficial projects which transcend political jurisdictions.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) consists of residents who provide input and recommendations to the Board on projects, reports, prioritization and act as the primary interface for the Board to address the current issues of concern of the local citizens.

CAC Members present: Steve Pany, Jim Weninger, Liz Schramm, Joe Schramm, Jodi See, Jim Goodchild, Adam Fitzpatrick, Larry Rundell

Others present: Marianne Breitbach, PLSLWD Vice President; Diane Lynch, PLSLWD District Administrator; Bill Kallberg, LAC/CAC Liaison

6:30 p.m. meeting called to order – Chair Steve Pany

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Watershed District Projects update:
 - 1 **Water levels / phosphorous levels:** Water level is up but is not an issue. The phosphorous levels are better this June than last (30 micrograms/liter vs. 40).
 - 2 **Storm Water Management & Flood Mitigation Study update:** Project is behind 1.5 mos. due to Barr using incorrect DNR data for Spring Lake. Expected to be complete in Nov. Now have the universe of options and will select the top 5 which will then be run in the model. One of the top 5 is expected to be upper watershed water storage.
 - 3 **Outlet channel repair and damage tours:** Report with photos of the area toured was handed out and reviewed. There will be 3 more tours scheduled.
 - 4 **Fish Point Park Project update:** Project summary document handed out and reviewed. The goal of the project is to improve water quality in lower PL by slowing water flow, reduce erosion and treat incoming stormwater before it reaches the lake.
 - 5 **Future alum treatment and timeline:** The timing of future treatments will be determined by test results. Typically additional treatments are only applied when needed. The final decision of when to apply treatments is made by the District Board of Managers.
 - 6 **Spring Lake shoreline restoration project:** The (GRG) Great River Greening contract will be reviewed at the next board meeting. GRG determined that they will use their own volunteers this year to remove the buckthorn from the steep bank due to safety concerns. Next year citizen volunteers will be encouraged. GRG received a grant for this project. They will cover \$8K of cost and the watershed will cover the remaining \$4K.
 - 7 **Next year's carp contest, carp gates, carp seining:** It is hoped that the Knotty Oar will manage the carp contest again next year. A grant from the MPCA was received to electronically tag 15 carp, monitor and map their movements to determine where they spawn, and prioritize gate installations. Note, Spring Lake has 2.5 times the acceptable rate of carp and Artic has 1.5 times the acceptable rate. Next spring there will be carp seining but not by St. Mary's.
 - 8 **Spring Lake site specific standard, boat slips, minimum wake distance:** Looking at PL and St. Croix standards to set SL standards. Currently 54 slips is the maximum for the SL in

total. Spring Lake Estates has a length exception for 54'. Otherwise the length is 20' maximum. (Reported by committee members)

- 9 **Ag buffers-law changes:** SWCD must make a map of where the buffers are to be located and the District may need to enforce the buffer implementation. The money for inspections is from the Clean Water Legacy. Not sure exactly what the changes are as there is confusion over what the documentation means.
- 10 **Bog removal:** Marianne attended the Metro MAWD Meeting. She handed out the DNR bog rules. If the bog is clearly on a property owner's land then they are responsible for removing it. If not, the local government is. But there are no clear guidelines for the removal/disposal of bogs. Recently a bog was removed by the city and they obtained a permit from the DNR. City staff, watershed personnel will draft a policy to clarify bog removal. Bill Kallberg has experience with bog removal and he will advise staff.
- 11 **Curly leaf Pondweed treatment:** Treatment was administered on PL this year but not on SL. SL has more than expected but it is too late to treat because it must be below 60 degrees to apply. There will be a fall assessment and probable treatment next Spring.
- 12 **Fall leaf cleanup event:** The District may ask Amber, our former Green Corp intern, if she would organize this again if they would pay her. The District will be getting its own Green Corps intern. The goal for the intern is outreach and education on the outlet channel and to keep people engaged after the flood.

C. Discussion topics.

- 1 **Restore Your Shore contest proposal:** At the last meeting Jodi proposed an annual contest for Spring and Prior Lake residents that participate in "Restore your Shore" rain garden, rain barrel or any other practices to improve water quality. Would publish the contest in newspapers, on website, Facebook, etc. Purpose is to advertise best practices for lake stewardship and encourage more to participate. The meeting members support this idea. The next step is for the CAC to determine contest guidelines and prize proposals. Once this is approved a communication and implementation plan can be developed. The ideal time to communicate is in late winter early spring. It was noted that the SWCD is responsible for "Restore Your Shore" program.
- 2 Volunteer at Lakefront Days Watershed Dist. Booth reminder.
- 3 CAC members: Please identify a specific task to volunteer for.
- 4 List of volunteers for Watershed Dist. Projects/events beyond the District and CAC members is needed.

D. Comments, suggestions, questions

- 1 Steve: Proposed a contest to create a new logo for the PLSLWD. This was supported by the meeting members. Will need a flier or communication prepared for the Lake Front Days District booth. Asked if the watershed storage areas have been identified. Diane said a map of proposed sites was created but that they must be sensitive to landowners so it is not shared at this time. Some type of incentive will be available for landowners. Ex: Pay for any crop losses (in addition to land owners' crop insurance). Stillwater has a good plan that Marianne will investigate before a final plan is made.
- 2 Larry: Wondered if the idea of using flathead catfish for dealing with carp has been reviewed. Steve said they used them at Lake Volney against bullheads with success and that they'd eat carp too. Larry asked if Lower PL residents were notified when the lake was treated for curly leaf pondweed because many use the lake water to water their vegetable gardens. Diane said that individuals were not notified but there were postings on the website and signs are posted in the area at the time of treatment. Also they do not apply it nearer than 100' from shorelines. Since treatment can only be applied when temperatures are below 60 there is no concern about it being in the water when residents use it for their gardens.
- 3 Adam: Asked how long the Green Corps internships are and whether they are paid. They are a yearlong and are unpaid.
- 4 Jodi: Asked about the GRG fall project funding (GRG pays \$8K, WS pays \$4K) and had an idea for a parking location provided it is public land. Marianne will look into the parking land proposal. Also asked what the policy is for new development residents' lake access (no

one notified SL residents about the additional docks Spring Lake Estates was given). Diane will look into it and get back to Jodi regarding the appropriate City contact. Fall leaf clean-up: has the city considered having a day where residents can rake the leaves into the street and the city picks them up (as they do in other cities)? Marianne will check but there is the challenge that people would think they can rake leaves and grass cuttings into the street at any time. Drains going into the lakes: Is there anything that minimizes the garbage that goes into these? Depends on when they were installed. Joe said current drains have catch basins that the city is required to clean out periodically. But older ones have no filters.

5 Joe: Supports Steve's idea to change the PLSLWD logo.

6 Jim: There are 20 active Spring Lake Association members out of 220 residents. Asked what residents are supposed to do if they see zebra mussels in SL and if they are caught early enough is there anything that can be done. Residents should call the DNR if they think they see zebra mussels. Treatments are experimental at this time. Jim noticed that 20 to 50 individuals treated their waters for curly leaf pondweed on their own and paid for it themselves. Individuals can do this but they need a permit from the DNR. People can get a combined permit.

7 Liz: Supports the idea of people signing up for volunteer opportunities.

8 Bill: The LAC cooperated with Park& Rec in 6 neighborhood park parties. They discussed limiting lawn sprinkling to 1" a week (less if it rained that week) and had an activity for kids to make their own rain gauge for determining if sprinkling was necessary after a rain. Jodi said it worked as kids in her neighborhood had them and were checking them after it rained. LAC meetings are no longer taped due to economic reasons. Possible that a volunteer could do it in the future.

9 Marianne: Is happy that she is the liaison between the District and the CAC. Looking for additional volunteers for Lakefront Days to man the District's booth. She manned it at the Scott County Fair last weekend. She noted that the District was nominated by the SWCD for conservation leadership in the organization category.

10 Diane: Coordinated with the SWCD to create an information display board about water and land conservation stewardship. We should all take a look!

E. Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.