



PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Prior Lake City Hall

4:00 PM

Members Present: Bruce Loney, Frank Boyles, Ben Burnett, Christian Morkeberg,
Matt Tofanelli

Staff & Consultants Present: Joni Giese, District Administrator
Emily Dick, Water Resources Project Manager
Anne Wilkinson, EOR, District Engineer Representative
Jeff Anderson, Water Resources Program Coordinator

Others Present: Jim Fitzsimmons, Scott SWCD
Jody Brennan, Scott County
Lisa Quinn, Spring Lake Township

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

2025 Board Office Appointments Discussion

The Board discussed how to move forward with Board appointments in 2025. Managers agreed to hold the same positions for the next two months until Manager Loney's term ends. The appointments will happen through an election process where a slate is approved unanimously. If there is an objection, each position will go through a nomination and voting process.

2025 Board Liaison Appointments Discussion

The Board discussed how to move forward with Board liaison appointments in 2025. Managers agreed to hold the same positions for the next two months until Manager Loney's term ends. A vote will occur at the Board meeting to follow.

Upper Prior Lake Carp Goal Met- Priorities for 2025

District Program Coordinator Jeff Anderson presented an update on the Upper Prior Lake carp management program. The District's carp management program is directed by the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM). The District has now met the population goal (less than 100kg/ha) for Upper Prior Lake and is planning to move into the maintenance phase as directed by the IPM. The main priority for 2025 will shift towards carp removals and management on Spring Lake, primarily through commercial seines, bluegill stocking, bypass barrier development and an aging study.

Board managers were overall supportive of the carp management continuing as suggested in the IPM. There was interest in making sure that the Upper Prior Lake population is monitored and maintained at sustainable levels.

Approach for Alum Treatment Assessments

District Program Coordinator Jeff Anderson presented an overview on the process for assessing future alum treatments. Both Spring (2013, 2018, 2020) and Upper Prior (2020) Lakes have received alum treatments in the recent decade.

Due to hypolimnion data on Spring Lake indicating an internal load rise, the District conducted a sediment coring on Spring Lake in the fall of 2024. The results from the sediment core will inform potential future treatments on Spring Lake and will be presented to the Board in March.

The 2020 alum treatment on Upper Prior was the first 60% of the planned treatment. Staff is proposing a sediment core on Upper Prior to understand how and when to best complete the second alum treatment.

Administrator Report

- The District received a BWSR Competitive Clean Water Fund grant for \$443,975, which will fund the Swamp Iron Enhanced Sand Filter. A grant agreement must be executed by the April Board meeting. The funds must be expended by December 2027.
- Several managers attended a noticed public meeting with Senator Pratt and Representative Bakeberg to share information the District's goals and initiatives and to discuss 2025 legislative priorities.
- The annual audit is scheduled for March 20th and 21st.
- Held a meeting with Spring Lake Township to discuss parcel re-guiding in the Lydia area for industrial land uses. The meeting was focused on gaining an understanding of existing conditions and to brainstorm incorporation of flood storage into development. Thus far, it seems that there may be opportunity to preserve the area of flood storage interest. Scott County approved the comprehensive plan amendment earlier in the day.
- District Administrator will be meeting with the developer who is proposing to develop the Vierling property at the SE intersection of County Road 42 and County Road 21. The goal will be to discuss if there is any potential collaboration on the property to improve the wetland function for increased water quality on Pike Lake.
- District purchased a new truck in August and has had ongoing issues with the instrument dashboard draining the battery. The truck has been repeatedly serviced by the dealership with no results. The resolution will likely result in trading in the car for another from the dealership.
- The Administrative Assistant will be retiring in June. Staff plans to advertise the position within the month to leave time for hiring and an overlapping transition.
- Minnesota Watersheds has confirmed that Manager Burnett is on the resolution committee and Manager Boyles is on the legislative committee. Minnesota Watersheds is proposing to move the resolution process sooner in the year, and to combine the two committees.
- Minnesota Watersheds will be holding a legislative day at the capital.
- City hall renovations are going well with a return likely in February, staff may review office hours.

Liaison Updates

District Partner Reports

- *Spring Lake Township*- The comprehensive plan amendment was approved today at the County Board. The meeting with the District on the Lydia area identified potential future collaboration. There was interest in understanding if alum treatments affect nitrates of the surrounding aquifer.
- *Scott SWCD*- Director will present at the February Board meeting. Staff is preparing the annual report and 2025 service agreement.
- *Scott County*- The comprehensive plan amendment in the Lydia area was approved today at the County Board. The County Board is aware of the District Board opening. The County is still considering a countywide health insurance pool and approved a SCALE study to develop a draft governance structure for the health insurance pool in 2025.

Manager Liaison Reports

- *CAC*- None.
- *Scott SWCD*- None.
- *Lower Minnesota Watershed District*- None.
- *Sand Creek Township*- Presented District update at the meeting.
- *Spring Lake Township*- Provided District update to supervisors which was read out at the meeting.
- *Scott WMO*-None.
- *Shakopee*- Going to excavate the marina for watercraft.
- *SCALE*- Phase I of the countywide health insurance pool draft governance structure will be completed in Q2 or Q3 in 2025. Solid waste was another discussion item. Evaluating the use of regional training facility. Cannabis regulations discussed.
- *Scott County*- None.
- *Minnesota Watersheds*- Meeting on combining legislative and resolutions committees.
- *PLOC Cooperators*- None.
- *Farmer-Led Council*- None.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Dick

1/21/2025