



PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Prior Lake City Hall

4:30 PM

Members Present: Bruce Loney, Frank Boyles, Beverly Burnett, Christian Morkeberg

Members Absent: Matt Tofanelli

Staff & Consultants Present: Joni Giese, District Administrator
Emily Dick, Water Resources Project Manager
Carl Almer, EOR, District Engineer

Others Present: Jim Fitzsimmons, Scott SWCD
Kim Churchill, City of Prior Lake
Lisa Quinn, Spring Lake Township
Jody Brennan, Scott County
Wesley Steffen, Spring Lake Association

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

Annual Retreat Agenda Topics

The Board managers discussed topics for the 2025 annual retreat. The following topics were proposed: bonding, CAC subcommittee topics, County Ditch 13 authority, land management approach, staff compensation. The retreat is set for May 22, 2025.

Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions Discussion

Managers Burnett and Boyles attended a meeting to approve the adjusted resolution process for Minnesota Watersheds. The resolution process is now shifted earlier in the year to allow for better preparation for the legislative sessions. The Board reviewed the current Minnesota Watershed resolutions. Resolutions are retired after 5 years on the agenda. Draft resolutions must be submitted by June 2nd. Proposed resolutions will be discussed at the July Board meeting, and delegates will be chosen. The Board approved the District Administrator to research potential cuts to the competitive Clean Water Fund grants. Administrator Giese will bring back findings next month for discussion.

Administrator Report

- The Administrative Assistant position has been filled, and the District is excited to welcome Teresa Gostonczik. Teresa will onboard through a whole Board meeting cycle with Patty.
- Annual audit has been completed and received a clean report. However, a request was made to rectify old permit fees. Legal counsel will be sought for advice on how to rectify fees efficiently.
- Have started to collect information on the advantages and disadvantages of taking over the role of Drainage Authority for County Ditch 13. More information is needed, but plan to share an initial analysis at the May workshop.
- The MPCA has terminated the District's MS4 status.
- Staff installed no trespassing signs near the Ducks Unlimited wetland parcel. There were continued signs of yard waste dumping at the time of sign installation.
- The governor's budget proposal includes a 50% reduction for AIS funding to Counties in 2026 and 2027. The District obtains up to \$27,000 from the County through this funding source for boat inspections, along with delineations and treatments of aquatic invasive plants.
- There is a bill sponsored by Senator Pratt that would allow public agencies to post public notices on our website. The City of Prior Lake has been submitting public notices to the electronic local news publication, Prior Lake News Compass. The District could consider submitting notices here as well.
- There have been interim staff discussions about how to best reflect ongoing work in the monthly Programs and Projects report included in the board packet. Staff asked for feedback on how Board managers would like to see ongoing items. The board was supportive of shortening the Projects and Programs report to recent pertinent items.
- Minnesota Watersheds holds a summer watershed tour every year. This year is in Roseau, MN on June 24-26, 2025.

Liaison Updates

District Partner Reports

- *Spring Lake Township*- The Township had two meetings with PLSLWD staff over the month. One focused on ditch authority considerations. The second meeting was focused on the next steps for the Lake Ridge stormwater study. Spring Lake Township is now the official owner of Raymond Park and South Shore Park. The contractor for maintenance at Raymond Park will be responsible for dumped material clean-up, could collaborate with Ducks Unlimited if desired.
- *Spring Lake Association*- In process of trying to get a ski club to manage a ski course. Delivered 450 newsletters this week with some Watershed District updates. Phase three of ramp improvements will be completed this summer by lengthening the concrete portion of the ramp by 15 feet. The annual meeting on April 27th will have presentations from Watershed and SWCD. Blue Water Science surveyed Curlyleaf pondweed and will be treating 2 acres near the shore.
- *Scott SWCD*- Capturing drone videos to document construction of projects. Technical staff are assisting 30 District landowners for the District's cost share program. Continue advancing 200 Street Pond project. Resolving high priority easement violations.
- *City of Prior Lake*- The AUAR process will be starting for the new orderly annexation area. The County and CDA are contributing funds to the AUAR process. The kickoff meeting is TBD. Prior Lake's annual report is in the lobby. Aspen Ridge development is approved and will be

annexed into the City. Prior Lake Outlet Pipelining should be completed mid-May. The waterski course support letter was sent to the DNR.

- *Scott County*- Commissioners will be in St. Paul next week. Will see a minimum of 5% levy rate because of Health and Human Services being pushed to the Counties. AIS cuts will be brought forward to legislators as well. Several drainage ditches were abandoned at this morning's meeting.

Manager Liaison Reports

- *CAC*- None.
- *Scott SWCD*- Meeting this Thursday.
- *Lower Minnesota Watershed District*- Still looking for a new administrator.
- *Sand Creek Township*- Met with staff on Swamp IESF and appreciated coordination.
- *Spring Lake Township*- Met with staff on Lake Ridge study and ditch authority and appreciated coordination.
- *Scott WMO*- Watershed Planning Commission had a joint meeting with Scott SWCD.
- *Shakopee*- None.
- *SCALE* -Trash management discussion. Legislative issues related to zoning authority.
- *Scott County*- Ditch abandonment this morning.
- *Minnesota Watersheds*- None.
- *PLOC Cooperators*- None.
- *Farmer-Led Council*- None.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Dick
4/15/2025