

# PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District

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### Citizen Advisory Committee

**Thursday March 30, 2017**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Prior Lake City Hall**

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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.

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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

**Others present:** Diane Lynch, District Administrator; Marianne Breitbach, PLSLWD Manager; Curt Hennes, District Manager; Mary Headrick, WSB environmental scientist; Jeff Will, SLA Treasurer; Dan Field, SLA board member; Christian Morkeberg, SLA board member

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm
- II. Agenda additions, approval, and February meeting minutes approval
- III. Watershed District Projects updates/Discussion topics
  1. WSB Company Mary Headrick. Carp management program presentation & questions.
    - i. Carp were intentionally introduced in the 1880s as a food source. By 1910 the Game and Fish Commission realized the error and we've been trying to control them since. One female can lay 2 million eggs a year (a very small percentage survive). Control is currently done through a multi-pronged method called Integrated Pest Management (ISP):
      1. Removal
      2. Chemical
      3. Biological (introduction of predators - Blue gills eat their eggs)
      4. Barriers
      5. Regular monitoring
      6. Data gathering (population estimates)
      7. Education
      8. Other BMPs (Best Management Practices)
    - ii. PLSL Project Objectives
      1. Track Movement
        - a. Radio tagging: Runs on an AAA battery that last 3 years. Cost is \$250. The radio receiver is good to somewhat over 200 feet. Inserted 26 into both male and female carp. 16 in Upper Prior (PL) and 10 in Spring Lake (SL). Purpose is to track their movement over time and to target where to seine (remove) them. Also to locate where they spawn. Found they like shallow waters best. No PL tagged fish moved into SL. SL tagged fish visited the waterway between Spring and Buck Lakes. They don't go into Lower Prior much – less food.
        - b. PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tagging: Small magnetic chips are inserted into the carp with a syringe. When they pass antennae they are

recorded. The antennae are placed at outlets/inlets between the lakes to track movement between the lakes and ultimately figure out where they spawn. 145 carp were inserted with the chips during a seining in Upper Prior.

2. Determine Population: Acceptable level is 100 Kg/Ha or less.
  - a. Upper Prior estimated population before seining 294 Kg/Ha, after 284 Kg/Ha.
  - b. Spring Lake estimated population before seining 84.9 KG/Ha, after seining 24.5 Kg/Ha.
  - c. Lower Prior population estimate 9 KG/Ha. Think this could be the zebra mussel effect. Jim G. reported hearing carp spawning in a duck pond near his house. (Mary noted they are glad for carp location and movement reports from residents).
  - d. Arctic Lake had no specific population estimate but believe not many stay there because it's so deep and not many plants or food. It is a spawning area because of those conditions.
3. Remove them: Seining results – note seining is more successful in winter because the carp school up more and less game fish are caught.
  - a. Upper Prior: Originally was thought to be not seinable because of the rocks. But they were able to sein them near Wagon Wheel Bridge. Caught 412. 267 were removed and 145 PIT tagged and released. Estimated there were a total of 7,622 carp so the 145 tagged and released were less than 2% of the total.
  - b. In Spring Lake 2577 were captured including 5 of the radio tagged carp. This is estimated to be 70% of the carp population. They also found an intentionally weighted log that could have had catastrophic effects on the seining as it could have ripped the net. It was removed without damage. Someone placed it there (illegally) to provide protection for young game fish.
  - c. A grant is being proposed for the watershed to own an invasive species resistant net (tough enough against zebra mussels)
4. Install Barriers:
  - a. In 2017, the District plans to install a drum style barrier as well as a PIT antenna on the south side of SL, a temporary (so it won't impact native fish) rotating drum style barrier and PIT antenna between SL and PL. There is a portable barrier between Prior and Arctic. Fish and Buck Lakes are not a part of the project at this time so no barriers planned for them.
2. Non-native aquatic plants in Spring and Upper Prior Lake. Treat or not treat?
  - i. Decision made to treat Spring Lake this year.
  - ii. Will not treat Upper Prior this year although they will keep monitoring the situation.
  - iii. Noted that Steve McComas of Blue Water Science continues the aquatic plant study.
3. Commercial aquatic plant harvesters. How much is happening? Permits needed? Yes, from the DNR.
  - i. More answers on this topic to be covered in our next meeting. Diane will ask Woody about it as he knows more about this topic.
4. Spring Lake Bog issue. New developments?
  - i. Handout of the approved watershed floating bog policy (it follows DNR guidelines). Jeff will distribute the handout to the Spring Lake Association.
  - ii. In general they are considered natural. You need a permit from the DNR (no cost – they just want to monitor them) to remove them. You can apply for them online. Owners are responsible for removing bogs that land on their property.
5. Road salt. Can it be reduced more? Are there alternatives?

- i. We don't know much about what is or can be done to reduce road salt. It would be a good project for a CAC member to call the city about it and gather the facts.
    - ii. Prior Lake has used a molasses and beet juice mixture as an alternative.
  - 6. Leaf cleanup day is Sunday, April 23 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Sand Point Beach Park. If weather doesn't permit, the fall back day is April 30.
  - 7. Next CAC meeting is April 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - 8. Spring Lake Association annual meeting Sunday 4/23 at the Wilds Golf Club. 6-8 p.m.
- IV. 8:00 pm meeting adjourned