

PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee

**Thursday Sept. 29, 2016
6:30 p.m.
Prior Lake City Hall**

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, Roger Wahl and Jim Goodchild

Others present: Diane Lynch, District Administrator

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:32pm
- II. Agenda approved
- III. Watershed District Projects updates/Discussion topics
 1. Outlet structure low flow gate level 902. The process to open the gate is to follow an operating manual approved by the DNR. Originally it was intended for the spring melt but with higher water of late they asked for it to be revised to allow more frequent openings. It is being revised and will include using NOAA's week in advance precipitation forecasts. Diane volunteered to notify the CAC when gates are opened and closed.
 2. Possible high water levels/flood. The District and the City strategize on this together.
 3. Flood study meeting with public date is Nov.16 6:30-8:00. There are 3 basic principles that are proposed to control the flooding, 2 short term and 1 long term. They were discussed at the Policymakers Meeting on September 26.
 - i. Enhanced protection: Documented a city emergency plan to protect 7 street intersections that flooded previously
 - ii. Increased low flow gate usage
 - iii. Upper watershed storage: Good news is that the Farmer-led Council will help with storage – this is a change from the past.
 - iv. A second outlet pipe was not supported due to the risk of flooding downstream among other issues
 - v. Arctic Lake for storage is not an option as it would ruin the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's conservation plans for the lake. In addition, it would not help much anyway.
 4. Electronic carp tagging. Is it working? Upcoming carp seining? Carp gates location?
 - i. Fall electrofishing planned for Upper Prior and Spring Lakes
 - ii. Fall carp seining is planned for Upper Prior, winter/spring seining planned for Upper and Lower Prior
 - iii. Additional carp barriers planned for a number of locations on Spring and Prior

5. Steve McComas' survey of Prior Lake bays. Reviewed color copy report at the previous meeting.
 - i. Citizens reported concern about algae issues in 6 locations around the lake – Shady Cove was one. Steve went to each location and determined algae was not an issue. Citizens were confusing other plants with algae.
6. Update: Water Quality Improvement Award.
 - i. 4 winners selected (that's how many applied aside from one outside of the watershed)
 - ii. The award money, yard signs and certificates will be awarded at the managers meeting on Oct. 11 at 6:30.
 - iii. Jodi is in contact with the Prior Lake American and the Scene to do articles about the award.
 - iv. We will also publish the winners on the website and in social media.
 - v. Diane will publish a press release and her staff will prepare a PowerPoint for the presentation.
 - vi. The couple that was outside of the district will be sent letter of appreciation and certificate for their conservation efforts (Diane's staff will do this).
7. Fall cleanup event update. Sunday 10/30 at 9:30 a.m. at Sand Point Beach Park.
8. Fall project tour planned for Wed Oct 5. Electrofishing will be in process at the same time.
9. Aquatic Invaders Summit Oct. 5 & 6 St. Cloud. Fee \$180.00. No one will be attending. Note that we still have \$500 left (none used yet) so be sure to request it if you plan to attend a conference. Upcoming is the Water Resources Conference at the end of Oct and the MAWD Annual Alexandria meeting the first week of Dec.
- IV. 7:45 pm Comments, suggestions, questions.
 1. Steve asked if lake draw down was considered for Upper Prior. No it has not been considered. It is tough to do that on such a large lake.
 2. Jim W. asked about alum treatments. On Prior Lake it will not be done until the carp are under control as it is useless otherwise. Spring Lake is doing fine so far. Will determine next year for a possible 2018 treatment.
 3. Jim W. asked about stocking the lake with fish as he noticed records show it's down. Diane will look into it.
 4. Jim W. inquired who is responsible for the county ditch buffer management along 13. Diane said it is the county's responsibility.
 5. Jodi noted that high winds recently broke loose bogs in Spring Lake. Four were loose and three ended up on city property. Who is responsible for addressing the bogs? Diane said a policy will be formalized and approved by the city council but the proposal is:
 - i. If it's a hazard or it's on the weir, it's the county's responsibility
 - ii. If it is just a floating bog, it's the DNR's (non-hazardous floating bog)
 - iii. If it's on your shore, it's your responsibility
 - iv. It is illegal to move bogs around to others' property
- V. Adjourned at 7:50 PM