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## Watershed District authorized by DNR to open low-flood gate

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District requested permission from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to open the low-flow gate on the Prior Lake Outlet Structure on April 25.

At that time, the lake level was 902.87 feet, lake levels were rising and additional rain was forecasted. On May 1, the lake level was even higher at 902.9 feet, and the DNR extended permission for the district to leave the low-flow gate open until the lake drops to 902.5 feet.

The DNR generally allows the low-flow gate to be opened

to create storage for snow melt runoff and spring rains during March and April. Opening it later results in a higher level of DNR review.

There are several factors to be considered prior to opening the low-flow gate including precipitation amounts in the near and far future, current levels on both Prior Lake and Spring Lake, soil saturation levels, risk of causing low lake levels and the amount of water storage available in the Upper Watershed.

For more information, review the district's website at <http://plslwd.org> or call the district at 952-447-4166.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Watershed District staff open the low-level flood gate.**