

PRIOR LAKE - SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

Citizen Advisory Committee

Tuesday September 24, 2019

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Prior Lake City Hall

4646 Dakota Street SE Prior Lake, MN 55372

Attendees:

- **CAC Members present:** Steve P., Elizabeth S., Jim W., Woody S., Adam F. Marianne B., Christian M., Jerry M., Larry R. Roger W. Jim G.
 - **Others present:** Water Resources Outreach Specialist: Kathryn K-M, Board Member: Curt H., Board Secretary: Bruce L. District Staff Director, Diane L. Prior Lake Association, John T., Water Resources Specialist: Jaime R.
 - **Special Guest:** Jennie Skancke, DNR Area Hydrologist
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- I. Call meeting to order 6:27 pm – President Steve Pany
 - II. Agenda-additions-Approval of Agenda & July meeting minutes.
 - a. Approved minutes.
 - b. Approved agenda.
 - III. Election of Officers – Nominations/votes
 - a. Chair- Christian M
 - b. Vice Chair- Marianne B
 - c. Secretary- Kim S
 - IV. Watershed District Projects update / Discussion topics
 - a. DNR Presentation. Jennie Skancke, Area Hydrologist
 - i. Low flow gate discussion
 - 1. Established many years ago
 - 2. Much study around how much water could be sent out
 - 3. Prior Lake is a 'closed' basin
 - 4. Lowering the OHW (Ordinary High Water) is/was the purpose.
 - 5. Rules dictate that the low flow gate cannot go lower than 1.5 below the OHW.
 - 6. DNR cannot grant lowering it further as the statutes do not allow it.
 - 7. The District's Management Plan allows opening the low flow gate to 902 in certain months of the year, based upon certain conditions.
 - 8. Another issue brought in to discussion was the Spring Lake outlet and its operation.
 - a. The County owns the weir on Spring Lake.
 - b. OHW on Spring Lake is 912.8
 - c. Most of the outlets are not operated by any organization
 - d. Water is publicly-owned and the land underneath is privately owned.
 - 9. Hypothetically, new development should not send water to the lakes, the water should go into holding ponds.
 - 10. Dropping the water level is not allowed under current state law. Landowners around Prior Lake would have to agree. The District would need to go to Legislature as well, to change the law.
 - 11. Rules do not distinguish between temporary changes.

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12. Other measures for low-lying homes should be considered before lowering a basin.
13. It takes a very long time for the evidence to change the lake 'normals'.
14. OHW looks at established trees (6" or more in diameter) or markers on shorelines etc.
15. City can restrict the boats to the shoreline etc. to protect erosion vs. dropping the lake levels.
16. Another form can be educating the shoreline owners on what type of shoreline restoration is beneficial to prevent erosion.
17. When upstream land goes into a transition, it is a good time to purchase storage easements.
18. Spring Lake Ridge development – no marina issue any longer.
 - a. Future of the marsh; fill is prohibited
 - b. Developers can do a voluntary environmental impact assessment.
- b. Lakefront Days booth – review
 - i. It rained again this year.
 - ii. There was a lot of interest.
- c. WD 50th year anniversary update.
 - i. No plans yet, volunteers will be needed
- d. Proposed project: Shoreline stabilization/path to beach. Boat landing to Sand Point beach.
 - i. Rugged terrain, many boats
 - ii. Possible project to restore/stabilize this area. Will need to be planned and scheduled.
 - iii. City may have interest in this project. Diane will ask Pete who may own this.
- e. Water Resources Management Plan update.
 - i. Accelerated carp control strategies update.
 - ii. Major format change (for the better) has pushed the delivery from the end of this year.
 - iii. November may provide an update to the CAC.
 - iv. Carp are being bated to encourage schooling for future seining.
- f. Next CAC meeting: October 31
 - i. Preference is to avoid Halloween, so Diane will look to see if the meeting room is available the Tuesday before.
- V. Comments, suggestions, questions.
 - a. Buckthorn removal with some leaf raking at The Woods at the Wild on October 27.
 - b. District Tour is Oct 7th from 3-6pm – upper watershed tour (via bus is in planning).
 - c. Marianne commented how nice the Fish Lake Park looked as a result of a project completed a few years ago and the Clean-up that was done there.
 - d. Lake Association has a benefit 6-9pm Charlie's on Thursday, 9/26
- VI. Adjourned 7:57pm

PLSLWD: 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.

CAC: 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

Projects: ferric chloride treatment facility, alum treatments, carp seining, carp management program, carp mapping, carp contests, carp barriers, easement enforcement, permits, 12/17 wetland, Lower Prior Lake protection program, outlet channel, outlet channel repair, invasive aquatic plant control, NW Spring Lake shore project, lake and stream water monitoring, flood reduction plan, Farm Led-

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Council, partnerships with other agencies, workshops, project cost share, Water Quality Improvement Award, Fish Point Park, Raymond Park, Indian Ridge Park, Sand Point Beach Project, Watzl's Beach shoreline restoration.