



PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

AGENDA

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
Prior Lake City Hall

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

**Mike Myser, President; Curt Hennes, Vice President; Bruce Loney, Treasurer;
Steve Pany, Secretary; and Frank Boyles, Manager**

Note: Individuals with items on the agenda or who wish to speak to the Board are encouraged to be in attendance when the meeting is called to order.

Board Workshop 4:00 PM Note location change to Council Chambers

- PLSLWD Total Compensation Study (Mike Verdoon & Megan Olson, Gallagher)
- CAC Members and Direction (Bruce Loney)
- Watershed Management Study (Bruce Loney)
- District Equipment Maintenance and Care (All)
- June Retreat Agenda (Mike Myser)
- MAWD Dues Non-payment (Joni Giese)
- Watershed District Space Needs Update (Joni Giese)

6:00 – 6:05 PM 1.0 **BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

6:05 – 6:10 PM 2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

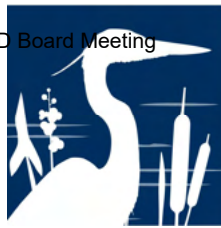
If anyone wishes to address the Board of Managers on an item not on the agenda or on the consent agenda, please come forward at this time. Go up to the podium, turn on the microphone and state your name and address. (The Chair may limit your time for commenting.)

6:10 - 6:15 PM 3.0 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

6:15 - 7:25 PM 4.0 **OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Programs & Projects Update (Discussion Only)
 - 4.1a I-LIDS Update
- 4.2 Approval of new CAC member Maureen Reeder (Vote)
- 4.3 2021 PLSLWD Education and Outreach Plan (Discussion Only)
- 4.4 2021 Fish Stocking (Discussion Only)
- 4.5 Manager Presentations & Liaison Updates (Discussion Only)

- 7:25 - 7:30 PM 5.0 **CONSENT AGENDA**
The consent agenda is considered as one item of business. It consists of routine administrative items or items not requiring discussion. Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of the Board member, staff member, or a member of the audience. Please state which item or items you wish to remove for separate discussion.
- 5.1 Meeting Minutes— April 13 Board Workshop
5.2 Meeting Minutes—April 13 Board Meeting
5.3 Meeting Minutes—April 29 CAC Meeting
5.4 Resolution 21-347: JPA/MOA Emergency Fund Interest Transfer
5.5 Authorization for District Administrator to Access District Banking and Brokerage Accounts
5.6 Approve 2020 Annual Report and Authorization to Release to BWSR and the DNR
5.7 Claims List
- 7:30 - 7:50 PM 6.0 **TREASURER'S REPORT**
6.1 Cash & Investments (Discussion Only)
6.2 Financial Report (Discussion Only)
- 7:50 - 7:55 PM 7.0 **UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE:**
• CAC Meeting, Thursday, May 27, 6:30-8:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)



MAY 2021 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROGRAM OR PROJECT	LAST MONTH'S STAFF ACTIVITIES	NEXT STEPS
Storage & Infiltration Projects (Sutton Lake) <i>Project Lead: Maggie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored site for vegetation establishment and erosion & sediment controls. Followed up with questions from landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor for erosion & sediment control until site is fully established with vegetation.
Carp Management <i>Rough Fish Management (Class 611)</i> <i>Carp Management Project (Class 750 & 751)</i> <i>Project Lead: Jeff</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking: Continued to track radio-tagged across Spring and Prior Lakes. All PIT tag stations installed to identify migration routes and check barrier effectiveness. Removals: Completed a removal on the east side of Spring Lake. 148 carp were removed totaling 1,000 lbs. Coordinating addition seines or gill netting while conditions allow. Installed Newman trap in Mud Bay. Coordination. Plan 2021 activities and look for additional funding sources. Other: Conducted pre bluegill stocking surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLSLWD and WSB staff will continue to track the tagged carp. Work with WSB and fabricator to build Tadpole barrier. PLSLWD and WSB will install barrier. Remove carp at spawning traps. Electrofishing when conditions are favorable. Apply for Bluegill stocking permits. Work with commercial hatchery to stock fish when temperatures are optimal.
Ferric Chloride System Operations <i>Project Lead: Jaime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampled 1x/week and inspected 3x/week Ferric Chloride delivery (3200 gallons) Discharge Monitoring Report completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue 1x/week sampling and 3x/week inspections.
Farmer-Led Council <i>Project Lead: Maggie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installed alum treated biolog at open tile inlet in the Fish Lake drainage area. Continued to explore research project options with Tim Radatz at Discovery Farms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold next Farmer-Led Council meeting in July/August. Potentially host a separate event to celebrate Lake-Friendly Farm certifications for 2021 or tie it into Farmer-Led Council Meeting this summer. Promote & advertise the Cover Crop Initiative for this fall round. Explore expansion of FLC initiatives County-wide with local partners.

MAY 2021 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROGRAM OR PROJECT	LAST MONTH'S STAFF ACTIVITIES	NEXT STEPS
Cost Share Incentives <i>Project Lead: Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 Accomplishments Report presented in April. Project selection scoring system finalized. District & SWCD staff reviewed first round of 2021 potential cost share projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review second round of potential cost share projects in July.
Spring Lake Parcel Restoration Project <i>Project Lead: Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacted AES to confirm 2021 vegetation maintenance schedule. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor restoration and control invasive species during growing season. Install small plant identification signs.
Raymond Park Restoration Project <i>Project Lead: Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighted project and new interpretative signs in video for SLA annual meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with volunteers, as needed, who do follow-up work on buckthorn, etc.
Fish Lake Shoreline & Prairie Restoration Project <i>Project Lead: Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing interpretative signs for project. Contacted MN Native Landscapes to confirm 2021 vegetation maintenance schedule. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MN Native Landscapes is conducting restoration maintenance & establishment work. Order & install interpretative signs for project.
Lower Prior Lake Retrofit Projects <i>Project Lead: Maggie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize maintenance acceptance materials with the City of Prior Lake. Install interpretive signs for projects.
Feasibility Reports <i>Project Lead: Maggie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized and signed the BWSR grant contract for the two new feasibility studies for Buck Lake East Wetland and Sutton Lake IESF projects. Met with EOR to discuss two upcoming feasibilities and starting drafting Scope of Services. Exploring locating the iron-enhanced sand filter to the west of CR-17 for the Spring Lake West project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate remote meeting with MnDOT and City of Savage to discuss options for Lower Prior Lake subwatershed project. Update Spring Lake West Feasibility Study with new project location. Initiate field surveys for the two new feasibility studies.
Website and Media <i>Project Lead: Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website articles posted: 3 ways to celebrate Earth Day, SLA video. Prior Lake Am: Lake ice out. SCENE: Sutton Lake and Water Quality Improvement articles submitted for summer issue. Facebook & Twitter - normal posting. Plankton sampling, Spring Lake carp removal, lake loggers, native plants, cover crops received more attention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue writing posts and updates about projects. Will tweet and/or update Facebook about projects & news. Write article for next SCENE edition.

MAY 2021 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROGRAM OR PROJECT	LAST MONTH'S STAFF ACTIVITIES	NEXT STEPS
Citizen Advisory Committee <i>Project Lead: Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate and provide support to committee. Matt Tofanelli and Loren Hanson approved as new CAC members. Recommend Maureen Reeder as new CAC member. CAC provided feedback on Ed & O plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittees continue research, present findings to Board. Develop orientation packet for new CAC members. Develop protocols to improve communication between CAC and Board.
MS4 Education Program <i>Project Lead: Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hike the Watershed challenge ongoing, highlights District projects and area lakes & encourages people to get out and explore the District. Share video created for SLA annual meeting. Finalize 2021 Education & Outreach Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement education activities. Plan anniversary events and activities, including trivia night and guided hikes. Complete annual MS4 report. Prepare presentation for Prior Lake Citizen Engagement Committee (CEC).
Monitoring Program <i>Project Lead: Jaime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finished installing all lake and stream loggers Data management Stream sampling continues Lake sampling begun Planning summer wetland sampling Attend National Monitoring and MN Groundwater Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data management Report Cards Continue lake and stream chemistry sampling Flow measurements
Aquatic Vegetation Management and Surveys <i>(Class 626 and 637)</i> <i>Project Lead: Jaime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converting BioBase data to shapefiles that will be usable in GIS CLP delineated and treatment getting scheduled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue creating maps in GIS with BioBase data Treat CLP
AIS <i>Project Lead: Shauna and Jaime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized contract, permits, and location for I-LIDS unit at Spring Lake launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install I-LIDS station at Spring Lake Launch on May 13
Rules Revisions <i>Project Lead: Joni</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposed changes with Board Board approves rule revisions this summer

MAY 2021 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

PROGRAM OR PROJECT	LAST MONTH'S STAFF ACTIVITIES	NEXT STEPS
BMPs & Easements <i>Project Lead: Maggie & Kathryn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to work with landowners to resolve existing violation issues on their properties. Worked with several amendment landowners on next steps. Mailed annual Conservation Easement Newsletter to landowners. Mailed introduction letters to new easement landowners. Mapped updated easement maps to include Tyler Chambers' amended easement area. Coordinated upcoming survey with property manager for the Timber Crest easement. Corresponded with landowners with update and to schedule a neighborhood meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review amendment requests as they are received. Work with landowners towards closing out approved amendment requests. Work with landowners to resolve easement violations. Complete baseline documentation for each conservation easement property. Send pre-season letters to easement landowners with existing violations. Work with surveyor to finalize Timber Crest amendment. Meet with affected HOA landowners to discuss amendment on May 13th.
Permitting <i>Project Lead: Maggie & Shauna</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed inspections on permit sites and followed up with permittees. Reviewed upcoming development projects: Vierling property, Kubes property, Villas at Crest Woods, Willow Beach property Submitted the required MS4 permit application on April 15th. Fully executed the Pike Lake Landing Conservation Easement and Development Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to inspect, follow-up on and close remaining open permits. Review upcoming development projects as received. Work with developers of the Kubes property & Villas at Crest Woods property on Development Agreements and Conservation Easements.
Outlet Channel O&M <i>Project Lead: Jaime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine channel/culvert inspections Installed security camera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLOC inspections Plan for vegetation management
Outlet Channel Bank Erosion (FEMA) <i>Project Lead: Maggie</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up on warranty work. Sign off on project once warranty work deemed acceptable.
Outlet Channel Admin <i>Project Lead: Jaime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start workplan and budget for 2022 TAC Meeting Finalize master plan bank erosion repair plan
General Administration <i>Project Lead: Joni</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Annual Report. Prepared for and assisted with Annual Audit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for June 19 Board Retreat.

PLSLWD Board Staff Report
April 30, 2021



Subject | CAC Member Application for Maureen Reeder

Board Meeting Date | May 11, 2021

Item No 4.2

Prepared By | Kathryn Keller-Miller

Attachment | Maureen Reeder CAC Application

Proposed Motion | Approve CAC membership application for Maureen Reeder

Background

The District's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) is composed of residents of the watershed district and advises the Board of Managers on topics relevant to the District. The CAC reviews applications for new members and provides a recommendation for membership to the Board.

Discussion

Upon review of the application for Maureen Reeder, the CAC feels that Ms. Reeder would be a valuable addition to the CAC (see attached application).

Recommendation

The CAC and staff recommend that the Board move to approve the application of Maureen Reeder for membership to the CAC.



Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Application

Name: Maureen Reeder
Address: 2850 South Shore Drive Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 612-419-4736
E-mail: mreeder5166@gmail.com
Occupation: Executive Vice President (retired)
Employer: National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Employer's Address: New York, New York
How long have you lived in the District? 28 yrs Since 1993
<p>Please state briefly why you are interested in serving on the Citizen Advisory Committee:</p> <p>My interest stems from a desire to improve and preserve fresh and ground water resources in the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District while working to balance the many and sometimes varied interests. I value the role of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed Board and staff who have created a decision-making process which allows for input from community members through the Citizen Advisory Committee. I feel we have an active and engaged board and district staff who are doing good work the volunteer role is to supplement that. Volunteers can and should contribute to the watershed districts efforts to improve our communities and work to bring along others. From my experience working with volunteers, the best are those who provide useful input when asked, help support decisions made by leaders, and make connections in the community to enhance the mission and efforts of the group. This is what interests me in seeking a volunteer role with the watershed district.</p>
<p>What focus area would you like to volunteer to assist the CAC with?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline Restoration (Water Quality) <input type="checkbox"/> • Fish Stocking (Water Quality & AIS) <input type="checkbox"/> • Storage Assessment, Plans & Wetland Banking (Reduce Flooding) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS & Water Quality) <input type="checkbox"/> • Other ideas you would like the CAC to consider:

Conflict of interest is defined as the participation in any activity, recommended action, or decision from which the individual has or could have the potential to receive personal gain, whether it be direct or indirect. In accordance with this definition, do you have any legal or equitable interest in any business, however organized, which could be construed as a conflict of interest?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please provide details:

Are you related to any Watershed District Board Member or to any member on the Citizens Advisory Committee? If so, give name and relationship.

Other qualifications, experience, information or comments you would like to submit.

I am retired from my primary career, but I continue to work as an active farm manager and part owner (with my siblings) of our family farm located near Montgomery, MN. So, I hope I can bring an agricultural perspective to the committee. In managing our farm, we follow in our parent's footsteps to care for the environment. Under their management, our farm was given statewide recognition for outstanding conservation practices. Additionally, I bring government experience. I spent four years working as the Public Affairs Director for Hennepin County. Prior to that I had a career in television journalism. I also bring knowledge of volunteerism and board experience. I served as an executive for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for 20 years supervising 14 chapters and supporting boards of trustees and hundreds of volunteers across the country. I am familiar with the important role and duties of volunteers as they inform and support boards and vice versa. Finally, I live on Spring Lake which transcends political jurisdictions and I appreciate the role of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed district in providing cohesion and leadership across multiple government entities.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO:

Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District
4646 Dakota Street SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372
info@plslwd.org
(952) 447-4166

This application will be kept on file for 12 months.

PLSLWD Board Staff Report
May 6, 2021



Subject | 2021 Education & Outreach Plan

Board Meeting Date | May 11, 2021

Item No 4.3

Prepared By | Kathryn Keller-Miller

Attachment | Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District 2021 Education & Outreach Plan

Proposed Motion | None - Discussion item only

Background

The education and outreach program follows the goals laid out in the 2020 Water Resources Management Plan and fulfills the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for the Prior Lake Outlet Channel (PLOC). The purpose of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's (PLSLWD) education and outreach program is to improve understanding of local water resources and practices among all stakeholders in the District. The best advocate for water resources is an engaged and informed citizenry.

In 2021, the education and outreach program will include coordinated efforts with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Scott County Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP) and other local partners to continue a community-wide approach to develop an understanding of local water resource issues and the impact each citizen has upon them, with special emphasis on flooding, phosphorus reduction, water quality, stormwater runoff, water conservation, aquatic invasive species (AIS), landowner best conservation practices and illicit discharge.

Discussion

The District's outreach program fulfills the District's MS4 requirements and supports many of the District's other programs including projects, monitoring and carp management. This year, the District plans to continue much of the outreach and communications work it has done in the past including project outreach, submitting articles to the Prior Lake American and SCENE newspapers, updating the website and social media, conducting District tours, working with the lake associations, coordinating volunteers and creating permanent interpretative signs to highlight District projects. The District will continue to work with the Scott SWCD to host workshops for residents, promote our cost share program and host the annual Outdoor Education Days for local students. Further details can be found in the attached 2021 Education & Outreach Plan which includes a schedule of 2021 planned activities.

PLSLWD Education & Outreach Plan

2021

“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.”

Prepared By:

Kathryn Keller-Miller,
Outreach Specialist
&
Joni Giese,
District Administrator

May 11, 2021



Hike the Watershed participants at Rice Lake. Photo: A. Stelljes



Executive Summary

The purpose of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's (PLSLWD) education and outreach program is to improve understanding of local water resources and practices among all stakeholders in the District. The best advocate for water resources is an engaged and informed citizenry. The education and outreach program follows the goals laid out in the 2020 Water Resources Management Plan and fulfills the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for the Prior Lake Outlet Channel (PLOC).

In 2021, the education and outreach program will include coordinated efforts with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Scott County Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP), Prior Lake, Shakopee, Savage, Spring Lake Township and Sand Creek Township to continue a community-wide approach to develop an understanding of local water resource issues and the impact each citizen has upon them, with special emphasis on flooding, stormwater runoff, phosphorus reduction, water quality, water conservation, aquatic invasive species (AIS), landowner best conservation practices and illicit discharge.

Background and Overview

The District will partner with the Scott SWCD, SCWEP, local cities and townships to educate the public and help meet its education and outreach requirements as an MS4 permit holder. The District's Citizen Advisory Committee will help implement the District's citizen engagement activities.

The District holds an MS4 general permit for the PLOC which carries stormwater to the Minnesota River. MS4 permits give owners or operators of publicly managed stormwater infrastructure approval to discharge stormwater to lakes, rivers and wetlands in Minnesota and charges permittees with certain responsibilities as part of the permit, including educating the public on water and pollution issues. The permits are mandated by federal regulations under the Clean Water Act and are locally enforced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Target audiences of the District's education and outreach program include agriculture/rural landowners; urban and lakeshore residents; District partners; and community groups, faith communities, schools and government.

Communications & Marketing

Communications and marketing form an important part of the District's education and outreach program. The District anticipates a variety of passive and active marketing techniques to reach out to various stakeholders in the watershed. Some potential activities include:

- Submit news articles and press releases to the Prior Lake American newspaper, Savage Pacer and the Scott County SCENE. Pitch story ideas to local reporters, as applicable
- Write and post articles and information on the District's website and social media
- Present at the Prior Lake and Spring Lake Associations' annual meetings



- Present to the City of Prior Lake's Citizen Engagement Committee (CEC)
- Annual update presentations to Prior Lake, Shakopee, Savage, Sand Creek and Spring Lake Townships, Scott County and others, as requested
- Participation at Lakefront Days, including interactive displays
- Targeted mailings, especially regarding project updates and cost share programs
- Create and place project factsheets at project sites
- Publish fact sheets/rack cards, banners, newsletters and articles
- Place fact sheets and rack cards at kiosks, such as at Prior Lake City Hall and Savage's McColl Park
- Solicit input from the public, CAC members, PLOC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and PLOC Cooperators

The District will work to maintain partnerships with other jurisdictions and interest groups that share the District's goals, including:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ➤ Prior Lake Association | ➤ Spring Lake Township |
| ➤ Spring Lake Association | ➤ Sand Creek Township |
| ➤ City of Prior Lake | ➤ Scott Soil and Water Conservation District |
| ➤ City of Savage | ➤ Scott County Watershed Management Organization |
| ➤ City of Shakopee | ➤ Prior Lake-Savage School District |
| ➤ Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) | |
| ➤ Scott County | |

Website and Social Media

The District will continue to share a variety of information including District news, project updates and workshops; articles covering water and conservation related topics; and related conservation news on its website and social media. Article topics could include highlighting success stories, project updates, District events and workshops. Staff will review website traffic information to better tailor outreach information.

General Outreach and Education

Scott Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP)

The District will continue to partner with the Scott Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP) to extend its education and outreach efforts. This program is run by the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and includes the following partners: Scott Watershed Management Organization, Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board, Scott SWCD, Spring Lake Township, Credit River Township, Jackson Township, Louisville Township, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board and Scott County.



SCWEP's vision is that making clean water choices becomes "second nature" for people who live and work in Scott County. The key message SCWEP is promoting is, "Clean Water Starts with Me!" and will focus upon illicit discharge, stormwater runoff and how individuals can make a difference. Audiences include: agriculture/rural landowners; urban and lakeshore residents; and community groups, faith communities, schools and government.

SCWEP will conduct prairie, shoreline restoration and winter maintenance workshops; promote cost share programs, such as cover crops, agricultural nutrient or residue management and shoreline restorations; participate in community events; and develop targeted outreach activities. SCWEP will publish rack cards, fact sheets, brochures and newsletters; submit news articles and press releases; rotate the Clean Water Display at the Scott County Conservation Center; and utilize social media to get its messages out. Further SCWEP plans are outlined in the SCWEP 2021 work plan.

Local Schools Partnership

The District will seek to continue collaborating with local area schools. District staff will work with staff from local schools, including the Prior Lake-Savage (PLS) schools to identify opportunities for the District to provide programming and support for teachers. This may include giving classroom presentations as requested or providing teachers with lesson plan ideas relating to water resources.

The District will also participate in SCWEP's Scott County Outdoor Education Days. Staff will help run the stations highlighting water and SWCD staff will run stations highlighting other important natural resources for 1,500 students from local schools.

Volunteers

Volunteering provides local residents with an opportunity to help further the District's work, learn more about the District's efforts and learn how to improve our local water resources. The District offers the following opportunities for volunteers to get involved with District programs and projects:

- Volunteer observers report the status of ice on and off conditions of District lakes to staff.
- Precipitation volunteers record precipitation data at their property and send staff their data monthly.
- CAMP (Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program) volunteers (*see photo*) monitor water quality on several District lakes bi-weekly throughout the monitoring season.
- Volunteers assist with the carp management program through tracking carp, baiting carp and reporting areas of carp activity.
- Volunteers participate in clean-up events hosted by the District.





- Volunteers can join one of the District's advisory groups: the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Farmer-Led Council (FLC).

The District will also continue to partner to with volunteers on other projects as needs arise.

Events

The District will continue to partner with the City of Prior Lake to host Clean Water Clean-Up events. The clean-ups are a great way to engage volunteers and increase awareness of the District and our work. The District will try a new version of the clean-up event this fall, doing a neighborhood storm drain clean out and stenciling along with trash pickup. Volunteers will be recruited through emails to past volunteers and notices on the District's and City's websites, Facebook and Twitter pages. The events will be publicized in the Prior Lake American and the Scott County SCENE.

The District is required as part of the MS4 permit to host public involvement activities each calendar year which includes a pollution prevention or water quality theme. The Clean Water Clean-Up helps the District meet this requirement.

Additionally, the District will have a booth at Lakefront Days with information and interactive activities for the public. The District will also present at the Spring Lake and Prior Lake Association annual meetings. This summer the District will partner with SMSC and the YMCA to put on a youth education event at Pike Lake in July. SMSC will be the primary lesson and activity planner, the YMCA will bus kids from a local camp and the District will have staff presenting on lakes topics at the event.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

The District's Citizen Advisory Committee meets monthly and provides the District with feedback and recommendations on District programs and plans. The committee will help implement the District's citizen engagement activities and research new topics and ideas for ways to continue to improve the natural and water resources in the District.

The CAC formed subcommittees in 2020 to focus committee efforts on select topics. Current subcommittees include: AIS (includes AIS signage); shoreline restoration; fish stocking; and upstream storage.

Farmer-Led Council (FLC)

The District will partner with the SWCD to continue its staff support of the Farmer-Led Council. Agricultural lands make up a majority of the landscape in the Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake watersheds. The role of the FLC is to develop and guide the implementation of strategies that the District will use to accomplish agriculture's share of nutrient reduction goals. It will:

- Inform decision-makers and the public about soil and water conservation opportunities



- Identify base level and site-tailored practices that are available and needed
- Define the best approach for engaging with and assisting farmers to implement practices
- Identify potential barriers to implementation, along with tools and resources needed to overcome them

The FLC holds 3-4 meetings each year to discuss and accomplish the tasks above, as well as to learn more about and troubleshoot agricultural conservation practices. For example, during the March 2021 meeting the FLC discussed experimental cover crops and no-till practices.

The District and the FLC originally planned to host a Growing Healthy Soils event with invited speakers in Spring 2021, however the event was postponed because of Covid-19 until 2022 to allow fuller participation.

In addition, the FLC is sponsoring the **Lake-Friendly Farm Program** which was created to recognize the farmers that are doing an outstanding job of managing their farms in a way that protects the water resources in the District. Once farms meet the program criteria, the farms are certified as a Lake-Friendly Farm and farmers receive a sign (*see right*) which they can post at their farm. The program both identifies and publicly recognizes existing best management practices in the watershed and assists farmers in identifying areas for improvement to help protect our water resources.



Residential and Agricultural Cost Share

In addition to SCWEP, the District will continue to contract with the SWCD to meet with landowners to promote rural and urban incentive and cost share programs and encourage their participation. For residential incentive programs, PLSLWD will promote citizen participation in the SCWEP workshops as well as District cost share programs.



Part of the goal of the District's cost-share program is to create a "culture of conservation" which inspires residents and results in residents pursuing conservation projects beyond the cost-share program and as a natural extension of their everyday activities.

In rural areas, the District will provide construction incentive payments for filter strips, wetland restoration, well decommissioning, water and sediment control basins (WASCOB) and other stormwater management best management practices (BMP). The District approved the SWCD Conservation Practice Payment Docket, which defines practices, payments and evaluation tools. This year a new scoring system will be used to select cost share projects for funding. The scoring system prioritizes projects that will have the highest benefit to reducing phosphorus and runoff volume to priority waterbodies.



Project Outreach

The District will continue to promote District projects and efforts to improve local water quality, reduce flooding and prevent the spread of AIS. The District will provide information on these projects through project factsheets, social media, the District website, meetings/articles for lake associations and press releases to the Prior Lake American, Savage Pacer and the Scott County SCENE.

Staff will conduct literature drops to residents residing near PLSLWD construction projects. If necessary, letters may be sent to the residents and neighborhood meetings may be scheduled to meet with residents.



Carp Management Outreach

The District will continue to communicate carp management activity with the public, including information about carp removals, carp barriers, fish stocking and other carp management activity. Carp management continues to be an area of high interest to the public. Communication methods includes emails to the carp email notification list inviting the public to some removal events, website updates, posts on social media and news releases. As part of the carp grant the District also created a mailer highlighting the importance of aquatic plants for lake health which was sent to Prior and Spring lakeshore residents in April (see Attachment A).

District Tours

District staff will organize at least two District tours in 2021. On March 2 a tour of the Sutton Lake outlet project occurred. A second tour will be organized for the fall highlighting the Prior Lake Outlet Channel (PLOC).

Right: Sutton Lake project tour



Fish Lake Restoration Project

The District partnered with Spring Lake Township to complete a restoration and demonstration project at the Spring Lake Town Hall. The town hall hosts conservation workshops for residents and has many visitors visiting the town hall and grounds for other events; this visibility makes the site a great location for a demonstration project. The site already had a large rain garden and this project added both an enhanced shoreline and a restored prairie which allows visitors to see demonstrations of several different types of beneficial projects at one site. Interpretative signs



highlighting the restorations and how residents can complete their own projects are being designed and will be installed in 2021.

Spring Lake Parcel

The District owns a stretch of shoreline along the north side of Spring Lake. The District restored the property's 350 feet of shoreline in 2016, removing buckthorn and seeding the site with native plants. Two interpretive signs highlighting the restoration were installed in 2017. This site continues to function as a shoreline restoration demonstration site for residents.

Raymond Park

Four acres of upland and shoreline were restored in 2017 at the City of Prior Lake's Raymond Park and the project serves as a demonstration site for shoreline and upland restoration area for the public. Educational interpretative signs were designed highlighting the restoration project (*see photos below*) and were installed at the park in 2021. The restoration includes: a beach restoration; lawn area converted to low-maintenance turf; an oak savanna restoration and a shoreline restoration. Maintenance responsibilities on the site were transferred to the City of Prior Lake in 2020. The site will continue to be promoted as a demonstration site for the public and staff will continue to coordinate with local residents who have been doing volunteer work to further the restoration efforts at the park.

The restoration was supported by a Conservation Legacy Partners grant from the MnDNR. District project partners included the City of Prior Lake, Spring Lake Township and Great River Greening.



Raymond Park Project Signage



Living Shoreline!

Shoreline Restoration

At Raymond Park, a variety of "living shoreline" techniques have been used that not only help keep the shoreline safe from erosion and ice push, but also provide great habitat for wildlife and a beautiful array of plants.

Lawn & Beach Shorelines

Lakefront properties with traditional turf grass and sandy beaches provide a nice view to the outdoors, but keeping up with mowing, fertilizing, and sheet ice erosion is tough work.

However, traditional lawn and beach shorelines require a great deal of time and effort to maintain, and they provide less of the biological and physical benefits that come with natural shorelines.

Native Shoreline Vegetation

Natural shorelines incorporate a variety of native plants that provide habitat and attract pollinators. The deep roots prevent erosion and soak up excess nutrients & water which helps protect water quality and clarity.

Natural shorelines are not only colorful, but they require less mowing and fertilize than traditional lawns or beaches shorelines.

How YOU can make a difference:

- Cover Your Slope**
Convert several portions of your yard to native plants. Flower, or low-maintenance grass. This reduces mowing area and attracts pollinators! Best for large or steep shorelines.
- Plant Native Flowers**
Deeply-matted and robust native flowers attract pollinators and slow down & filter runoff before it enters the lake.
- Plant Low-Mow Grass**
Save time and money with this adaptable and dense, mowed grass that resembles a transitional, cool lawn. No fertilizers or watering is needed, and it only needs to be mowed 1 to 4 times each year!
- Keep the Natural Landscape**
Naturally growing plants and fallen trees protect shoreline erosion and provide habitat for pollinators, studies, and fish.

Down to the Roots: Native Plants

Native plants have deep root systems that help hold the shoreline in place. They also provide many other benefits such as:

- SAVE YOUR SHINKING SHORELINE!**
Native plants help absorb the impact of waves and ice push, and their strong roots help prevent erosion.
- KEEP MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!**
No mowing, watering, fertilizing or annual plant replacement necessary.
- PROVIDE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE**
Birds, butterflies, bees, turtles and other wildlife use native plants for food and shelter.
- CLEAN WATER**
Native plants slow runoff to soak into the soil and to filter out pollutants before entering the lake.

PROJECT PARTNERS: PLSLWD, Spring Lake, City of Prior Lake, Great River Greening, and others.

For more info: (952) 447-4166, info@plslwd.org, www.plslwd.org

Shoreline interpretative designed for Raymond Park

Stormwater & Storage Projects

To approach Upper Watershed stormwater management more comprehensively, the District completed the Upper Watershed Blueprint in 2021. The District continues to work to acquire upstream storage for stormwater, as identified in the 2016 Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation Study. The Upper Watershed Blueprint will be used as a prioritized implementation roadmap for the District and local partners to improve water quality conditions and reduce flooding. Upstream storage holds water in the upper watershed on the land longer, delaying when the water reaches the lakes. The District will partner with landowners to achieve this goal. Outreach will be targeted to landowners living near potential upstream storage areas.

Construction on the Sutton Lake storage project is occurring in 2021. Project outreach was targeted to the local landowners. The District wrote articles for the District website and press releases for the local newspapers and Scott County SCENE newspaper.

Conservation Easements

The District has nearly 40 conservation easements with over 170 landowners which are inspected annually. In the spring, landowners receive an annual newsletter (see Attachment B) and reminder letters to remedy any issues if violations were present. Landowners also receive a pre-



inspection letter prior to the annual site visit and a post-inspection letter noting the inspection findings, including any violations. Landowners are encouraged to join staff on site visits if they are interested. In 2021, staff will continue to follow-up and work with landowners to correct previously identified violations along with any newly identified violations.

PLSLWD 50th Year Anniversary

The District marked its 50th anniversary in 2020. To celebrate the occasion the District planned events and marketing surrounding the 50th anniversary to honor the District's 50 years and engage the public. However, the Covid-19 pandemic curtailed the extent of activities that could be held. As such, the District plans to hold some additional programming in 2021 to celebrate the anniversary and engage the public.

The Hike the Watershed initiative will continue to be promoted. Other possible programming includes a trivia night at the Boathouse Brothers Brewery this summer and guided group hikes at some of the Hike the Watershed locations. Potential hike locations are Jeffers Pond, Crystal/Rice Lake and Pike Lake. These events seek to engage new audiences with the District. This is a great opportunity for the CAC to be more involved; the CAC could help District staff brainstorm and plan events as well as involve the public.

Budget

The 2021 budget for MS4 activities is \$9,000 including \$3,500 for SCWEP; \$4,000 for 50th Anniversary activities, \$4,100 for the CAC; \$750 for the Prior Lake-Savage schools partnership and \$1,500 for project educational signs. In addition, the District budgeted \$58,000 for residential and agricultural cost share incentives and \$51,000 for the Farmer-led Council, which includes money for FLC sponsored cost share. A note that budget amounts do not include staff time.

Outcomes & Evaluation

The desired outcome for 2021 education and outreach is to improve understanding of local water resources and practices among all stakeholders in the District; this strategic goal will be evaluated mostly by compliance with the MS4 permit and our 2020 Water Resources Management Plan. A large part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), a component of the MS4 permit, requires identification and documentation of BMPs undertaken to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the maximum extent practicable. Metrics used to measure the impact of marketing strategies include:

- Number of participants at a specific District hosted event or workshop
- Number of direct mailings, brochures, and newsletters distributed
- Number of submitted press releases and published articles

To maintain compliance with the MS4 permit, District staff will continue to record and quantify the above metrics which help document the success or benefit of each BMP.



2021 Planned Activities

Activities & Events	Schedule	Audience	Partners
Sutton Lake project tour	March	Partners	
Cover crop workshop	March	Ag & Rural	SWCD
Contribute to PLA & SLA annual newsletters, as requested	Winter	Lake	PLA, SLA
Write Sutton Lake project article for website & newspaper	Spring	Urban, Lake & Rural	
Raymond Park project interpretative signage installed	Spring	Urban, Lake & Rural	City of Prior Lake
Mailer to lakeshore owners highlighting aquatic plant benefits	Spring	Lake	Carp grant funding
Conservation easement newsletter (mailing)	Spring	Conservation easement landowners	
Mailing to farmers highlighting available cost share & services	Spring	Ag & Rural	SWCD
Coordinate CAMP program volunteers	Spring/Summer/Fall	Lake	Met Council
Coordinate carp volunteers	Spring/Summer	Urban & Lake	
Present at SLA Annual Meeting	April	Lake	
Present to City of Prior Lake Citizen Engagement Committee (CEC)	May	Urban	
Native Prairie workshop	Spring/Summer	Ag & Rural	SWCD
Youth Event at Pike Lake	July	Youth	SMSC, YMCA
Shoreline workshop	June	Rural, Urban & Lake	SWCD
Lakefront Days booth	August	Urban & Lake	
Mailing to new lakeshore residents about technical assistance, cost share and workshops	Summer	Urban & Lake	SWCD
Watershed trivia night	Summer	Urban, Lake & Rural	
Hike the Watershed guided hikes	Summer/Fall	Urban & Rural	
Send inspection letters to easement landowners	Summer/Fall	Urban & Rural	
Clean Water Clean-Up event	Fall	Urban	City of Prior Lake
PLOC District tour	Fall	Partners	
Design & install Fish Lake restoration project signs	Fall	Urban, Lake & Rural	Spring Lake Township
Outdoor Education Days	Fall	Youth	SWCD



Activities & Events	Schedule	Audience	Partners
Coordinate volunteer ice observer reports	Winter	Lake	
Winter maintenance workshop for homeowners	December	Urban, Lake & Rural	SWCD
Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings	Monthly	Urban, Lake & Rural	
Present to partner city councils & township boards, as requested	Annually	Partners	
Farmer-Led Council (FLC) Meetings	Quarterly	Ag & Rural	SWCD
Present to school classrooms	As requested	Youth	
Create project factsheets	Ongoing	Urban & Rural	
Coordinate precip volunteers	Ongoing	Urban & Rural	
Hike the Watershed challenge	Ongoing	Urban, Lake & Rural	
Carp management outreach	Ongoing	Urban, Lake & Rural	
Write articles for website, Prior Lake American and Scott County SCENE	Ongoing	Urban, Lake, Ag & Rural	
Growing Healthy Soils (FLC event)	Postponed - 2022	Ag & Rural	

5/11/2021 PLSLWD Board Meeting

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District

4646 Dakota Street SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Office: 952-447-4166
Email: info@plslwd.org
plslwd.org



PRESERVING AND PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES.

Please visit us at our website:
www.plslwd.org



Water Plants at Work!

LET IT GROW!



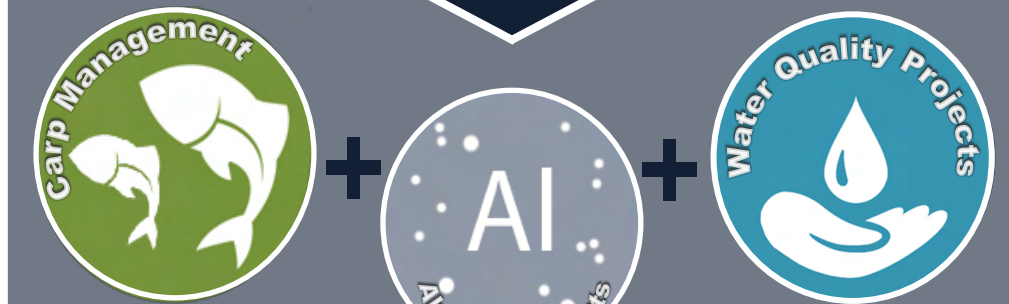
The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District has been working hard to remove the invasive carp in Spring Lake in order to improve water quality. As carp populations go down, the lake plants will begin to thrive once again.



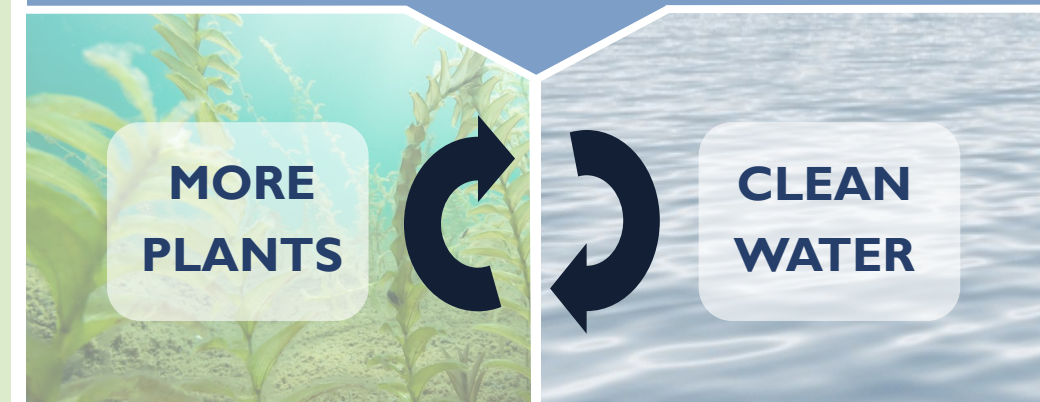
Lake plants play a critical role in helping to maintain good water quality in Spring Lake. Without plants to absorb the nutrients in the water that enter the lake from stormwater runoff, the nutrients will instead feed undesirable algae growth.

With warm weather just around the corner, it is tempting to start pulling lake plants. **Be a strong steward for your lake this year and only remove the plants needed to provide lake access along your shore. Let it grow!**

LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



LONG-TERM LAKE HEALTH



How YOU can make a difference on Spring Lake



Help maintain a healthy & beautiful lake!

How you can help:

- Let the water plants on your shoreline grow!
- Plant native plants near the edge of the lake.
- Only remove the lake plants needed to maintain access to your lake.
- Contact the DNR if you have invasive plants like curly-leaf pondweed at your shore: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives.

More plants in the lake are a sign of good water quality and help keep the lake clear of algae!

LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



LONG-TERM LAKE HEALTH



Many of the innovative approaches to carp management were funded in part by a federal 319 Grant administered by MPCA and a state Metro Watershed-based Implementation Grant through BWSR. Funding for bluegill stocking was provided in part by the Spring Lake Association.



CLEAN WATER!

In the graph on the right, notice how water quality projects (such as carp management and alum treatments), work together to create long-term lake health by encouraging plant growth and increasing water clarity.

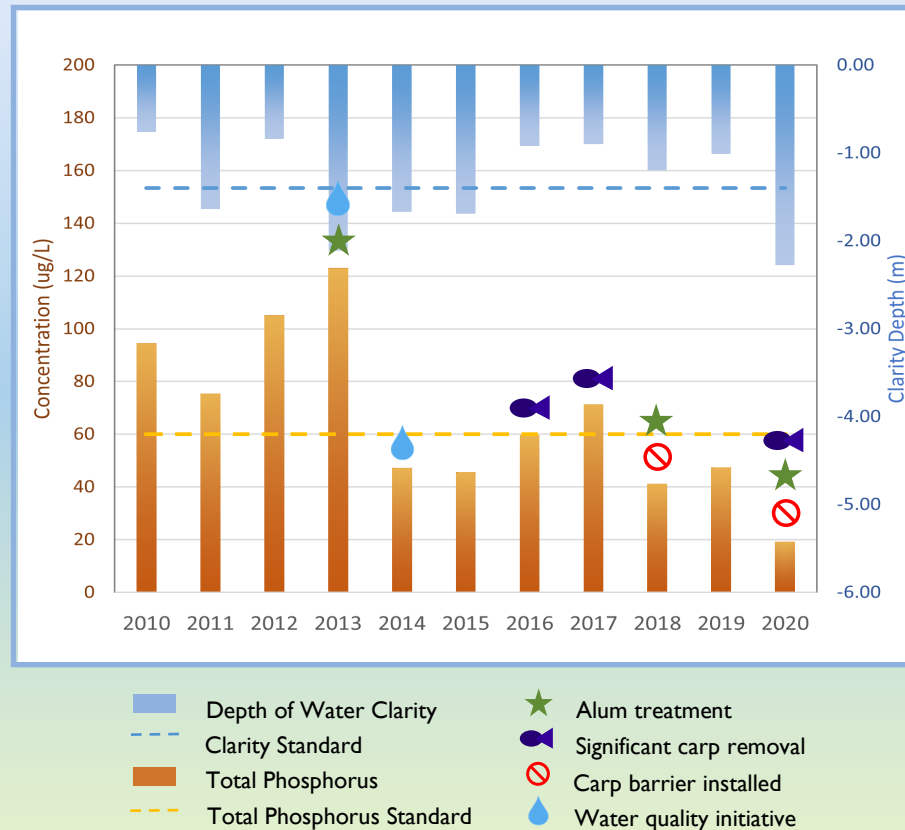
Help maintain a healthy and beautiful lake!

How you can help:

Let the water plants on your shoreline grow!

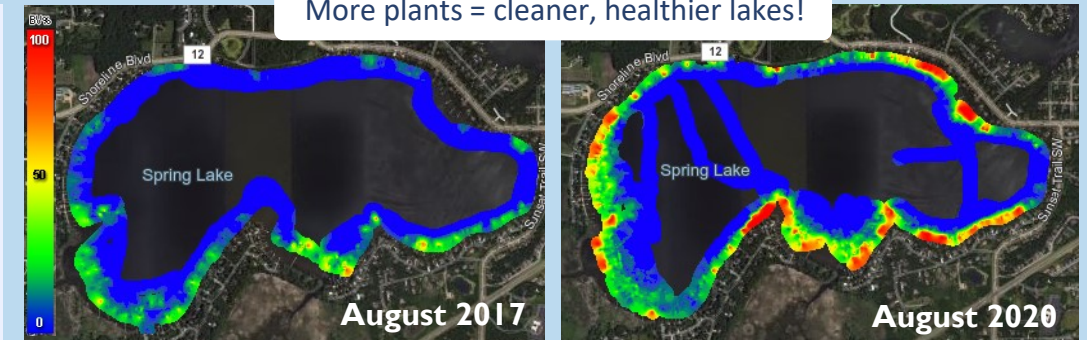
More plants in the lake are a sign of success for our water quality initiatives. Keep up the good work!

Spring Lake Annual Water Quality Averages

**MORE PLANTS!**

Underwater sonar was used to determine the density of plants at the lake bottom.

As seen in the images on the right, there has been an **increase** in lake plants, which is good! It helps maintain clean and healthy water.



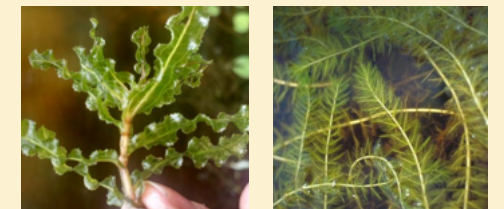
Maintaining Lake Access: What is allowed?

Lake plants are valuable to the lake ecosystem, and a DNR permit is required to remove them.

However, maintaining your lakeshore for swimming or boat-docking areas is OK! As long as you...

1. Do not remove more than 2,500 square feet of underwater plants
2. Do not remove plants from more than 50 feet along the shoreline or 1/2 the length of your shoreline (whichever is less)

Invasive Plants



Curlyleaf Pondweed (left) and Eurasian Watermilfoil (right) are two common invasive species that may be removed with a DNR permit. Visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives for more info.

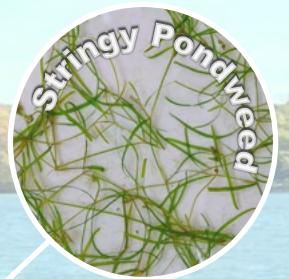
A few benefits of shoreline and water plants include...

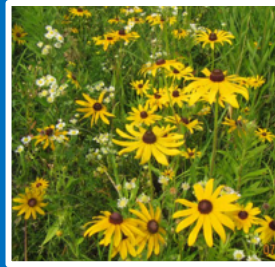
Deep roots help stabilize the shoreline and prevent erosion. They also help filter pollution before it reaches the lake water.

Native plants or low-mow grass rarely needs to be mowed or fertilized, saving you money and time!

Shoreline lake plants provide food and shelter for wildlife like fish, birds, turtles and butterflies.

Lake plants filter the water and improve water clarity.





PHOTOS & STORIES NEEDED!

Spot a charismatic bird on your easement? Find a fantastic flower? Snap a serene photo of a sunset over your easement? We would love to hear your stories and see your photos.

Contact Kathryn at
952-440-0069 or
kkeller-miller@plslwd.org.



4646 Dakota Street SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Office: 952-447-4166
www.plslwd.org

Tax Name
Mailing Address

CONSERVATION EASEMENT Newsletter



*Inside this
newsletter:*

**Learn more about
the conservation
easement on your
property!**

*Add habitat for
pollinators to your
yard with native
plants!*



**your yard
CAN BEE
the CHANGE**



Live Native Plant Kits

Create your own instant prairie with live native plant kits. Each kit has 36 plants. Six different kits.
Order May 1-21

www.scottswcdtrees.com
(952) 492-5425

PLSLWD partners with Scott SWCD to provide technical assistance & cost-share to landowners!

Spring 2021

CONSERVATION EASEMENT NEWSLETTER

Your Easement at Work!

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) holds many conservation easements within the District, including the one on your property, that help protect our water resources. These easements were created during the permitting process for your property when the development was first subdivided.

The plants in the easement area work hard to help filter out pollutants before they reach our lakes, wetlands, ponds and streams. The easement area plants and soil also help soak up stormwater runoff which reduces flooding downstream. In addition, the easements add beauty and open space to our neighborhoods and provide critical wildlife habitat.

Inside this Newsletter:

ABOUT YOUR EASEMENT..... Page 2
ANNUAL EASEMENT VISIT..... Page 2
COST-SHARE FOR PROJECTS..... Page 3
LAWN CARE TIPS..... Page 3
NATIVE PLANT SALE INFO..... Page 4



**PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

www.plslwd.org | info@plslwd.org | (952) 447-4166

Is it allowed by the easement?

When in doubt if an activity is allowed- **ASK FIRST!** Contact the PLSLWD and let us know what activity you have planned and how it will affect the conservation easement area. We will work with you to ensure activities are in compliance with the easement.

Generally, the easement area is required to be fully covered in native plants. Passive recreational activities are allowed in the easement area, as long as it does not disturb plant communities and/or cause erosion.



ABOUT YOUR EASEMENT

GUIDANCE: Managing Your Easement

What is **NOT** allowed in the easement?

- Planting trees, plants, and grasses that are **NOT** native to Minnesota, including ornamental species
- Mowing the grass or plants (unless part of an approved management plan)
- Removing native plants (cutting, trimming, pulling, chemically treating, etc.)
- Placing yard waste in easement (e.g. grass clippings, branches, potting soil, etc.)
- Storing items (e.g. wood piles, canoes, tools, chairs, equipment, etc.)
- Constructing fences, sheds, swings, or other structures
- Landscaping materials (wood chips, rocks, boulders, cement blocks, yard art, fire pits, etc.)
- Bird feeders and/or bird baths

Can I plant trees or plants in the easement area?

Please contact the PLSLWD before planting any new plants, trees, or grasses. Note that only species native to Minnesota are allowed. If you would like to get a native plant list or help with appropriate seed mixes, please contact us at (952) 440-0069.

I have observed invasive plants in my easement. Can I remove them?

Yes. But **BEFORE** you remove any plants, please contact us to notify us of your plans and to verify they are invasive non-native species (Ex. buckthorn). Once confirmed, you can remove them. PLSLWD has fact sheets available on the best removal methods.

We invite you to **JOIN US** during our annual monitoring visit!

The 2021 monitoring visits will start up this June! If you'd like to be present during the annual monitoring visit to your property, please contact us at (952) 440-0069 and we'll schedule a time that works for you.

We encourage you to accompany us when we monitor your easement, which is a great opportunity to discuss your easement and its management with PLSLWD staff.

What to expect during the monitoring season:

- 1) PLSLWD staff will send you a postcard to let you know the approximate dates for the monitoring visit, inviting you to join them. We will work with your availability as best we can to ensure you have an opportunity to join us during the site visit.
- 2) Staff will conduct the annual monitoring site visit to your property. During this visit, staff will be making sure that the conservation easement area is being maintained in a state of natural vegetation and that signs are accurately placed on the corners and/or appropriate boundary locations.
- 3) You will receive a follow-up postcard or letter in the mail indicating staff observations during the monitoring visit. The letter will note if any problems were found and if follow-up with staff is required.

HAVE QUESTIONS about your Conservation Easement?

CONTACT THE PLSLWD AT:

Kathryn Keller-Miller

kkeller-miller@plslwd.org or (952) 440-0069



Lawncare Tips for Clean Water = Clean Lakes

1. Keep your lawn at 3 inches in height. This will keep your lawn healthier and stronger over summer dry spells. Longer grass promotes deeper root systems & discourages weed growth. Make sure your mowing blade is sharp and remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blade when you mow. Keeping your grass longer requires less water, saving money on your water bill.

2. Water without waste. The early hours of the morning (4 AM-8 AM) are the best for watering your lawn; less water is lost to evaporation because temperatures are lower and the sun is less intense. Also, check to make sure you're not watering pavement or creating pools of water on the lawn (applying too much, too quickly).

3. Aerate your Lawn. Aeration involves perforating the soil with small holes to allow air, water and nutrients to better reach the grass roots. It reduces water runoff, increases water infiltration, and improves drainage.

5. Apply the correct amount of phosphorus-free fertilizer. A simple soil test will analyze your soil and provide fertilizer recommendations. A basic test costs only \$17. For more information visit: <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu>.

It's the law! Only phosphorus-free fertilizers should be applied to existing lawns. The middle number on your fertilizer bag should read **zero** (example: 22-**0**-15). Find more information at: www.mda.state.mn.us/phoslaw.

5. Go Native! Contact the Scott Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) for ideas on how to incorporate pollinator-friendly species into your yard & lawn (see info below).

Buffer signs like the one above mark the boundaries of the easement. If your sign is damaged or you would like to request new signs, please contact us at 952-447-4166.



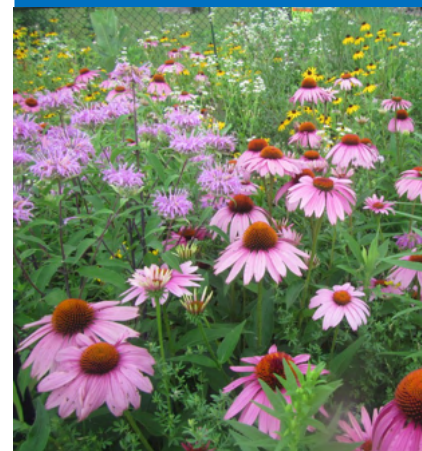
Keep our lakes CLEAN!
Only RAIN goes down the DRAIN.

Water that goes down your street's stormdrain is not treated before it flows into local lakes, streams and wetlands.

Keep our local waters clean by adopting a drain in your neighborhood. Sweep up leaves, trash, dirt & debris from around your drain.

Sign up at:
www.adopt-a-drain.org

COST-SHARE FOR PROJECTS



Thinking about adding native plants to your yard or restoring your shoreline?

Call the Scott SWCD! Their technical experts can provide you with free assistance AND help you figure out if the project is eligible for cost-share payments.



(952) 492-5425
info@scottswcd.org



Subject | 2021 Fish Stocking Plan

Board Meeting Date | May 11th, 2021

Item No 4.4

Prepared By | Maggie Karschnia, Water Resources Project Manager

Attachments | 2021 Fish Stocking Plan

Action | No motion required. Discussion only.

The PLSLWD has newly embarked on its fish stocking endeavor with its first effort just last year, stocking bluegills in carp spawning areas upstream of Upper Prior & Spring Lakes in May of 2020. In 2021, the PLSLWD will be stocking both bluegills in upstream spawning areas and walleye in Prior & Spring Lakes.

BACKGROUND

Bluegill Stocking. This stocking was part of the Accelerated Carp Management Strategies initiated in 2020. Through a research project that was completed on one of PLSLWD's own wetlands, bluegills have been documented to eat carp eggs & larvae, reducing successful carp reproduction down to as little as zero.

Walleye Stocking. In 2020, the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) researched various game fish stocking options for District lakes to improve the fish communities. This research included discussions with DNR staff, WSJ scientists and fish stocking companies. Recommendations by the CAC were presented at the June 9, 2020 Board meeting and the Board recommended moving forward with a new fish stocking program on both Spring & Prior Lakes. The PLSLWD received recommendations by the MnDNR that only walleye should be stocked on the lakes to supplement their own stocking efforts in odd years, so the District waited until 2021 to move forward.

Funding. The District received \$2,000 from Spring Lake Association for stocking fish in Spring Lake, \$2,000 from Prior Lake Association for stocking fish in Prior Lake, and \$1,000 from the Rotary Club for stocking fish in Prior & Spring Lakes. In addition, the PLSLWD planned for \$4,000 in the overall 611 – Fish Management, Rough Fish Removal budget category for stocking bluegills and walleyes.

Spring Lake Association	\$ 2,000
Prior Lake Association	\$ 2,000
Rotary Club	\$ 1,000
District Levy (611 - Fish Management)	\$ 4,000
Total	\$ 9,000

DISCUSSION

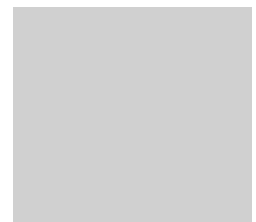
The attached 2021 Fish Stocking Plan provides a summary of proposed 2021 fish stocking activities. The plan recommendation is based on:

- 1) Carp management needs
- 2) MnDNR recommendations/what is permissible
- 3) Requested activities for earmarked funds
- 4) Overall funding (District levy & donations total)



2021 FISH STOCKING PLAN

PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
May 5, 2021





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) began its first fish stocking efforts by stocking bluegill (a known carp egg and larvae predator) in known carp spawning ponds in order to reduce successful carp reproduction. Through an initiative started by the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), the PLSLWD explored other fish stocking options.

After conversing with several key stakeholders including the MnDNR, environmental scientists at WSB, the PLSLWD's Citizen Advisory Committee, the Prior Lake Association and the Spring Lake Association, the PLSLWD decided to move forward with the stocking of two species in the connected lakes system in 2021: bluegill and walleye.

Walleye was added to stocking plans as it is not a native fish to Prior & Spring Lakes and does not naturally reproduce by itself. The MnDNR stocks this species every odd year to increase angling opportunities, and the PLSLWD is allowed to match these efforts up to the DNR stocking quantities.

Recommended stocking for 2021:

Lake	Year	Species	Size	Number	Unit Cost	Total
Spring Lake	2021	Bluegills	4" – 6"	1,600	\$ 1.50	\$ 2,400
Spring Lake	2021	Walleye	4" – 6"	1,300	\$ 1.55	\$ 2,015
Upper Prior Lake	2021	Bluegills	4" – 6"	700	\$ 1.50	\$ 1,050
Upper Prior Lake	2021	Walleye	4" – 6"	1,000	\$ 1.55	\$ 1,550
Lower Prior Lake	2021	Walleye	4" – 6"	1,000	\$ 1.55	\$ 1,550
Delivery Fee				3	\$ 150	\$ 450

TOTAL: \$ 9,015

- Prior Lake Association Donation \$ 2,000

- Spring Lake Association Donation \$ 2,000

- Rotary Club Donation \$ 1,000

2021 District Levy Total: \$ 4,015

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District has established the following two goals for the Prior & Spring Lake fisheries:

- 1) **To reduce carp populations to improve water quality**
By removing carp from the lakes, the water quality, diversity of aquatic plants, and density of native fish will all rebound. Stocking bluegills which predate on carp eggs can help advance carp management efforts.
- 2) **To maintain a healthy gamefish population**
The Board of Managers, the CAC, and the Lake Associations have all expressed interest in maintaining a healthy angling fishery in Prior & Spring Lakes.

FISH STOCKING COOPERATORS

Citizens Advisory Committee

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District has a very active Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) that has assisted with fish stocking recommendations. The Board of Managers has asked the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to research topics of interest to the District and present their findings to the Board as part of their advisory role to the District Board.

CAC member Christian Morkeberg researched various fish stocking options for District lakes, including discussions with DNR staff, WSB scientists & fish stocking companies, and presented his findings at the June 9, 2020 Board meeting. At this June meeting, the Board recommended moving forward with fish stocking on both Spring & Prior Lakes.

Lake Associations

In addition to an active CAC, the PLSLWD also actively works with the Prior Lake Association and the Spring Lake Association which have both helped communicate information to its members and have been active partners on several projects. Both Lake Associations generously donated \$2,000 each to support the PLSLWD's fish stocking efforts in 2020-2021.

MnDNR Fisheries

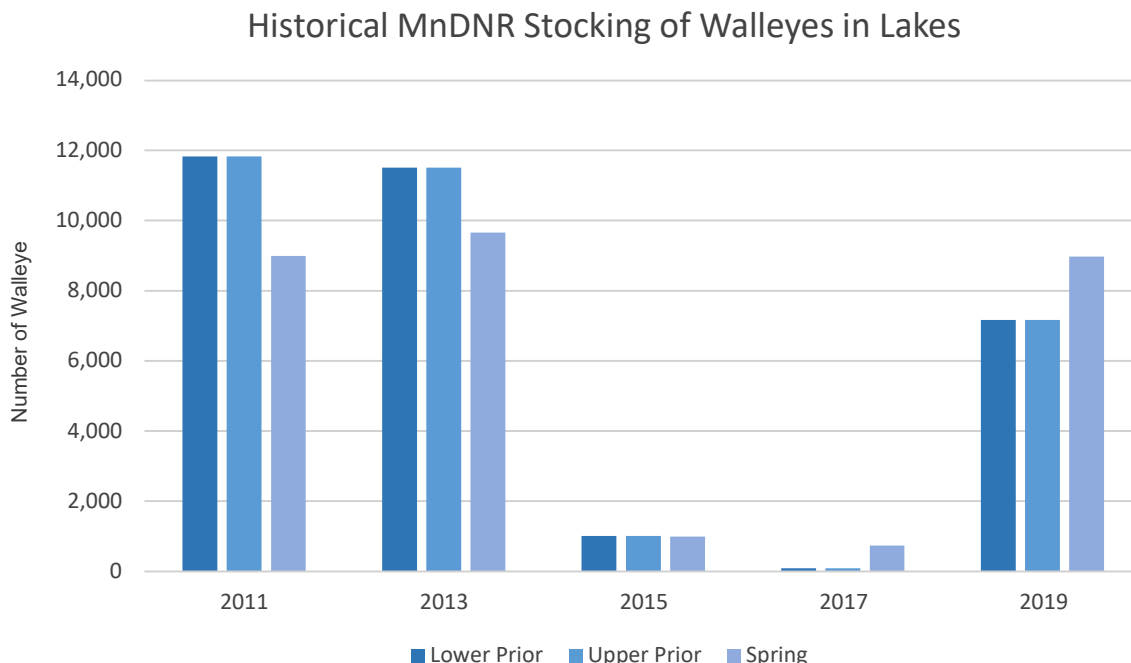
The PLSLWD works with the local MnDNR West Metro Area Fisheries office to determine common goals for Prior & Spring Lake fisheries and ways to better collaborate. Daryl Ellison, Area Fisheries Supervisor from the MnDNR, has recommended the following:

- **Bluegills:** Stock as needed in upstream spawning areas in accordance with the PLSLWD's integrated pest management plan for common carp. Natural reproduction of bluegills is adequate in Prior & Spring Lakes and as long as they remain in their normal range, there is no need to stock in the larger lakes.
- **Walleye:** Walleye is one species that doesn't naturally reproduce in Spring & Prior Lakes and so the MnDNR stocks walleye on a regular basis in odd years. Walleye doesn't get stocked every year, as a generation of walleyes stocked or hatched one year (called a year class) will eat much of the food needed by the next year class. This phenomenon is called year class suppression. In addition, walleye yearlings often prey on walleye fingerlings.

If enhancement of MnDNR's stocking efforts is desired, the MnDNR allows stocking additional walleyes up to the existing DNR stocking amounts during the fall of odd years.

STOCKING HISTORY

According to information on the MnDNR website, only walleye has been stocked in Spring and Prior Lakes as of public records. As walleye do not naturally reproduce in the lakes, the MnDNR has been stocking all three lakes on odd years for the past decade as shown in the table below:



The MnDNR stocks walleyes in lakes throughout the state for the benefit of anglers. The MnDNR adjusts stocking levels up and down as necessary based on fish assessments, available fish, and/or available funding. The goal of these manipulations is to find appropriate stocking levels that increase or maintain healthy walleye populations.

INVASIVE CARP & BLUEGILLS

Common carp is currently found in detrimental numbers in Upper Prior & Spring Lakes. The feeding habits of common carp disturb the lake bottom and uproot native plants, releasing nutrients and stimulating algal blooms. Carp reproduce in large numbers, dominating local fisheries and destroying habitat for waterfowl, fish and amphibians. Long-term management of carp could provide significant ecological improvement of Upper Prior & Spring Lakes, both of which are currently listed by the MPCA as impaired waters.

The 2012 Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake TMDL Implementation Plan identified rough fish management as a way to significantly reduce estimated phosphorus loading (Table 8. Overall Implementation Plan, p.22). As a result, the PLSLWD developed an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan in 2017 that identifies multiple strategies to reduce carp populations.

The IPM Plan includes three major components: Track, Block, and Remove. As part of the Track efforts, the PLSLWD has tracked the carp and identified multiple areas connected to Prior & Spring Lakes where carp go during spawning periods.

Bluegill Predation on Carp. One of the Block strategies is to reduce carp recruitment by stocking bluegills. Research completed by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center showed that bluegill sunfish are the main predator of carp, preying on carp eggs and

larvae. Carp actively seek out nursery sites that are devoid of these predator fish and proliferate in lakes where bluegill abundance is low.

In 2017, the PLSLWD partnered with the University of Minnesota as part of a graduate research project to assess the effectiveness of using bluegill sunfish as biocontrol for common carp (Poole, 2018). The eastern basin at the 12/17 wetland restoration site was one of four study basins in the Twin Cities metro area used; it was stocked with both spawning carp and adult bluegill to measure the effective rate of bluegill predation on carp eggs. The results from the study indicate that bluegill predation had a major effect on the abundance of post-larval carp. In the 12/17 wetland study basin, there was 0% recruitment of carp during the study period.

A robust panfish and gamefish population may act as biological control and complements the other IPM strategies (Weber et al., 2012). These predator fish are necessary to prevent carp recruitment after a significant portion of the carp biomass has been removed or to keep carp from establishing in lakes.

Stocking bluegills is most critical in upstream, shallow wetland areas that have frozen over or reached low oxygen levels during the winter months, as this often leads to winterkill of bluegill and other panfish. Carp go upstream to these areas to spawn, and without bluegills present to predate on the carp eggs and larvae, they can have a high recruitment year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on recommendations by the MnDNR Fisheries, as well as the desire to improve the Spring Lake fisheries from the CAC and the Spring Lake Association, the PLSLWD recommends the following stocking for 2021:

Walleye Stocking

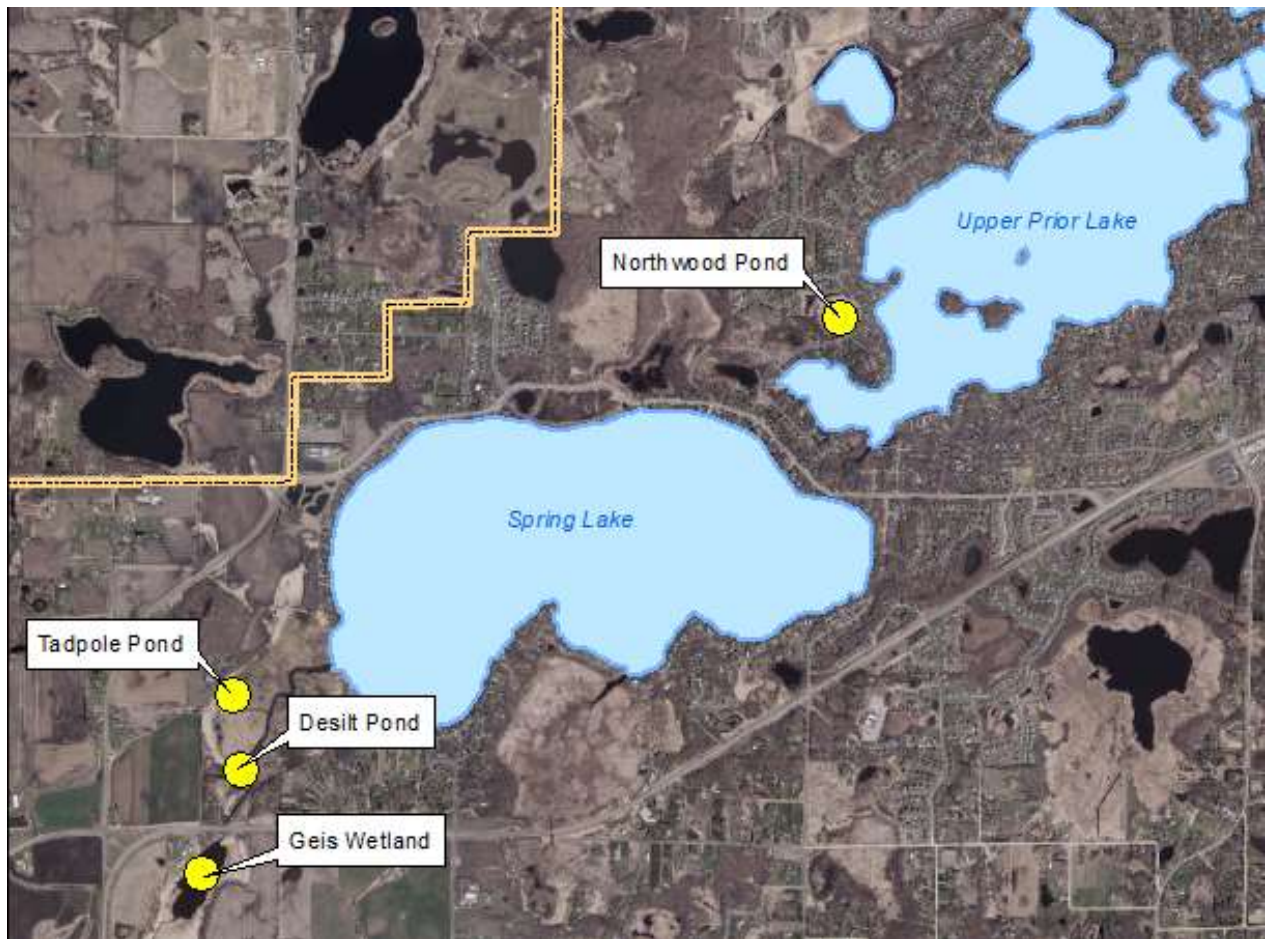
Guidance from the MnDNR Fisheries indicates support for supplemental stocking of walleye to complement their existing planned stocking efforts. While the MnDNR would allow stocking by PLSLWD to match the MnDNR existing rates, the PLSLWD is limited by funding. The following stocking of walleye fingerlings is recommended in the fall of 2021 in coordination with the MnDNR stocking at Lower Prior, Upper Prior & Spring Lakes:

Species	Size	Number	Unit Cost	Total
Walleye	4" – 6"	3,300	\$ 1.55	\$ 5,115

Bluegill Stocking

The purpose of stocking bluegills in the connected lake system is to reduce carp populations. Bluegill stocking is critical in upstream spawning areas that freeze over and winterkill panfish that would normally predate on carp eggs and larvae. Three factors indicate how critical bluegill stocking is in a wetland or pond: 1) if adult carp visit this site during spawning season; 2) if there has been a hard winter freeze and/or surveys indicate low/no presence of bluegill in the spring; and 3) if trap net surveys indicate carp young-of-the-year are present in the fall.

Below is map that indicates areas connected to Prior & Spring Lakes that have shown presence of adult carp during spawning and/or had young-of-the-year present during trap net surveys:



Every spring prior to stocking bluegill, the PLSLWD surveys and assesses potential stocking sites to create a stocking plan for that year. There are four potential sites that may need stocking this spring: the Geis Wetland, the Northwood Pond, the Desilt Pond and the Tadpole Pond. Based on what the spring data tells us, bluegills will be stocked in these basins accordingly.

The recommended stocking rate for bluegills is 500 fish per surface acre. The four upstream spawning areas will be assessed to see at what level stocking may be needed to achieve this preferred rate, as some bluegills may have survived the winter.

Species	Size	Number	Unit Cost	Total
Bluegill	4" – 6"	2,300	\$ 1.50	\$ 3,450

Summary

Based on the information identified above as well as the limiting factor of existing available funding, the PLSLWD will be stocking Prior & Spring Lakes in 2021 as follows:

Lake	Year	Species	Size	Number	Unit Cost	Total
Spring Lake	2021	Bluegills	4" – 6"	1,600	\$ 1.50	\$ 2,400
Spring Lake	2021	Walleye	4" – 6"	1,300	\$ 1.55	\$ 2,015
Upper Prior Lake	2021	Bluegills	4" – 6"	700	\$ 1.50	\$ 1,050
Upper Prior Lake	2021	Walleye	4" – 6"	1,000	\$ 1.55	\$ 1,550
Lower Prior Lake	2021	Walleye	4" – 6"	1,000	\$ 1.55	\$ 1,550
<i>Delivery Fee</i>				3	\$ 150	\$ 450

TOTAL: \$ 9,015

- Prior Lake Association Donation \$ 2,000

- Spring Lake Association Donation \$ 2,000

- Rotary Club Donation \$ 1,000

2021 District Levy Total: \$ 4,015

Bluegills are stocked in the spring so that they can predate on carp eggs after spawning. This is typically done during the months of May or June, before the water is too warm and mortality rates increase.

Walleyes are typically stocked in the fall when the MnDNR fisheries are ready with their fingerlings, the water temperatures are cooler and mortality from disease is less likely.

**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES***Tuesday, April 13, 2021**Prior Lake City Hall, Parkview Room*

Members Present: Curt Hennes, Steve Pany, Frank Boyles, Bruce Loney & Mike Myser

Staff Present: Joni Giese, District Administrator; Maggie Karschnia, Project Manager; Jaime Rockney, Water Resources Specialist

Others Present: Annette Thompson, City of Prior Lake; Jim Fitzsimmons, Scott SWCD; Lisa Quinn, Spring Lake Township; Carl Almer, EOR;

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Myser at 4:00 p.m.

Update on Gallagher's Study

Staff provided a status update on the Gallagher Total Compensation Study. The final report will be presented to the Board of Managers at the May 11 workshop.

MAWD Dues

Staff provided a brief overview of MAWD-provided member benefits, including benefits received from MAWD sponsored educational events. Board of Managers discussed whether or not the District was receiving benefits commensurate with the annual dues. A motion was made to not renew MAWD membership for 2021 and to send a letter to MAWD expressing the District's concerns. A second was made.

3 Ayes (Managers Hennes, Myser, and Loney)

1 Nay (Manager Boyles)

1 Abstention (Manager Pany)

Watershed Organizations Unification Update

Managers Myser and Loney provided a status update on the project definition, purpose, and intent.

City Hall Space Needs

Staff provided an analysis of incremental costs incurred by the City of Prior Lake associated with PLSLWD using space in City Hall. Managers directed staff to continue discussions with the City regarding lease fees.

Upper Watershed Blueprint Next Steps

Managers directed staff to develop a plan for advancing the key projects proposed in the Upper Watershed Blueprint plan in the next five-year period. This will be a Board of Managers retreat agenda item. Managers discussed that financing will be a primary issue to be addressed in order to move the projects forward.

PLOC Ride Along for Managers

Manager Pany suggested that a tour of the PLOC be organized for the Board of Managers. Managers were supportive of the idea and suggested opening the tour to District partners also. Manager Pany will provide suggested tour stops to staff.

Wake Boat Regulations

Managers discussed impacts of large waves on shorelines, general shoreline erosion, current state regulations and City of Prior Lake Shoreline ordinances. It was noted that various agencies are responsible for lake use and conditions, such as the DNR, City of Prior Lake and County sheriff's office. Manager Pany will share a video on wakeboard etiquette with City and lake associations to see if they are interested in posting it. Manager Myser suggested that the CAC review the City's shoreline ordinances for potential updates in coordination with the City.

Payroll Reporting Revisions

Staff shared that a payroll error, associated with staff voluntary deductions, was identified on previous payroll reports. The payroll reports will be corrected.

Board of Managers Retreat

Managers agreed to schedule a retreat for June 19, 2021, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Prior Lake City Hall.

Administrator Report

Staff is currently researching a potential encroachment on PLSLWD property. Staff is also working to prepare for the upcoming annual audit scheduled for April 29 – 30, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday April 13, 2021

Prior Lake City Hall

6:00 PM

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

Mike Myser, President; Curt Hennes, Vice President; Bruce Loney, Treasurer
Steve Pany, Secretary and Frank Boyles, Manager

Members Present:

Mike Myser, Curt Hennes, Bruce Loney, Steve Pany, Frank Boyles

Staff & Consultants Present:

Joni Giese, District Administrator
Maggie Karschnia, Water Resources Project Manager
Jaime Rockne, Water Resources Specialist
Kathryn Keller-Miller, Outreach Specialist
Carl Almer, EOR, District Engineer

Others Present:

Jim Fitzsimmons, Scott SWCD
Troy Kuphal, Scott SWCD
Lisa Quinn, Spring Lake Township
Jason Wedel, City of Prior Lake

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Meeting called to order by President Myser at 5:52 P.M.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Manager Hennes moved to approve the agenda. Second by Manager Boyles. All Ayes. Passed 5-0.

4.0 OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- **4.1 Programs & Projects Update**

Water loggers have been installed. 2020 Lake Water Quality Standards are improving for Spring, Prior and other lakes. Due to low oxygen, Jeffers Pond, Pike Lake, and Crystal Lake had fish kills this winter. New signage has been added to Raymond Park. The Farmer-Led Council met on 4/1/21. Mitch Holicky from Le Sueur County was the guest speaker. Two more farms are now lake friendly. Ten percent of the farm acres in the district are doing cover crops. 582 acres of cover crops reduce 506 pounds of phosphorous. Cover crop costs are approximately \$36.77 per pound of phosphorous removed, compared to alum treatment, which costs approximately \$90.00 per pound of phosphorous removed.

- **4.2 Approval of new CAC members Loren Hanson and Matt Tofanelli**

Manager Pany moved to approve the new CAC members. Second by Managers Boyles. All Ayes. Passed 5-0.

- **4.3 SWCD 2020 Accomplishments**

The PLSLWD hires Scott SWCD to provide a variety of services. Troy Kuphal, District Director of Scott SWCD, stated overall projects are making an impact, reducing phosphorous, and improving the water and land resources. In 2020, Scott SWCD assisted 65 land owners and completed 22 cost share projects, which resulted in approximately 631 pounds of phosphorus reduction and 93 tons of sediment reduction. In 2020, 582 acres of cover crops were seeded and 425 acres were certified under the Lake-Friendly Farm certification. Scott SWCD staff performed 65 water quality samples.

- **4.4 Lower Minnesota River Watershed 1W1P**

Motion for PLSLWD to accept the amended boundary for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed 1W1P plan and to affirm the District does not want to participate in the Lower Minnesota River Watershed 1W1P policy committee, but does want to participate on a technical advisory committee. Manager Boyles moved to approve. Second Manager Loney. All Ayes. Passed 5-0.

- **4.5 Pike Lake Landing Development Agreement & Conservation Easement**

Motion to approve the Pike Lake Landing Development Agreement and conservation easement for district administrator execution and recording in the Scott County Land Records Office. Manager Boyles moved to approve. Second by Manager Loney. All Ayes. Passed 5-0.

- **4.6 Manager Presentations & Liaison Updates**

Manager Hennes mentioned that the Citizen Advisory Committee is looking to add members. Manager Hennes also mentioned that he and Joni Giese met with Spring Lake Township Board members and saw the vegetation restoration project on the site. Sutton Lake project is looking good with vegetation establishment still needed.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- Manager Loney moved to remove 5.2 and 5.6. Second by Manager Pany. All Ayes. Pass 5-0.
 - 5.1 Meeting Minutes---March 9 Board Workshop.
 - 5.2 Meeting Minutes—March 9 Board Meeting and Workshop.
 - 5.3 Meeting Minutes—March 25 CAC Meeting.

- 5.4 PLOC Transfer Request.
- 5.5 Liability Coverage—Waiver Form.
- 5.6. 2021 Carp Management Services Contract Approval.
- 5.7. Claims List.
- Manager Loney moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Manager Pany. All Ayes. Passed 5-0.
- Manager Loney suggested revisions to the March 9 meeting minutes.
- Manager Hennes moved to approve the amended minutes. Second by Manager Pany. All Ayes. Passed 5-0.
- Item 5.6, Manager Loney inquired about budget status associated with the carp management program. Staff provided a budget status update. Manager Loney asked that future cover memorandums associated with contract approval requests include a summary of the current budget status.
- Manager Loney moved to approve the 2021 WSB carp management services contract as substantially written not to exceed \$131,300. Second by Manager Boyles. All Ayes. Passed 5-0.

6.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

- 6.1 Cash & Investments. Treasurer Loney indicated finances are looking good for rest of year for activities and operations.
- 6.2 Financial Report.
- 6.3 2020 Year End Financial Report.

7.0 UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE:

CAC Meeting, Thursday, April 29th, 6:30pm (Virtual Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

Manager Hennes moved to adjourn meeting. Second by Manager Boyles. All ayes. Motion Passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Steve Pany, District Secretary

April 13, 2021
Monthly Board Meeting



CAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 29, 2021
6:30-8:00 PM

Virtual Meeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/190085805>

Attendees: CAC: Christian Morkeberg (Chair) 6 of 8 members present
Woody Spitzmueller
Christopher Crowhurst
Ben Burnett
Matt Tofanelli
Loren Hanson
Staff: Joni Giese District Administrator
Kathryn Keller-Miller Outreach Specialist
Board members: Bruce Loney
Guests: Maureen Reeder Potential new member
Lisa Quinn Board member, Spring Lake Township

I. Convene meeting – 6:30 pm – Chair Christian Morkeberg

II. Minutes & Agenda

- a. Christian reviewed March Meeting Minutes for Maureen
- b. March Minutes approved Motioned: Loren; Seconded: Woody; passed
- c. April Agenda approved Motioned: Woody; Seconded: Chris; passed
 1. Added “Review new member application”

III. CAC Business

- a. Welcomed new CAC members
 1. Matt Tofanelli
 2. Loren Hanson
- b. Review new member application
 1. Maureen Reeder introduced herself as a potential new member
 - a) Long time Spring Lake resident, background in ag
 - b) Involved with archiving and tracking ice-in/ice-out dates for PL Assoc.
 - c) Retired from national MS Society – worked with boards, volunteers, etc.
 2. Chris moved to recommend to the PLSLWD Board for approval to join CAC
 - a) Seconded by Woody
 - b) No discussion on motion
 - c) Voted and Approved
- c. Discussed developing a new member orientation packet
 1. Loren and Ben will help Kathryn
 2. Brainstormed ideas of what to include (most are also on website)
 - a) Subcommittee information
 - b) Updated CAC member names, contact information, short bio/background
 - c) Background:
 - (1) CAC bylaws and “What is a watershed”
 - (2) Purpose of CAC (using real-world language)

- (3) Links to past PLSLWD projects, maps, overviews, plans
 - (a) <https://www.plslwd.org/projects-and-programs/projects/>
 - (b) <https://www.plslwd.org/2020plan/>
 - (c) <https://www.plslwd.org/districtoverview/maps/>
 - (d) etc.
- (4) Summary report from previous year
- (5) List of acronyms (e.g., SWCD, MPCA, etc.)
- d) Staff list and “job descriptions” (see below)
- e) A generalized PLSLWD/Board/CAC project/budget timeline/process
 - (1) When does budgeting start for next cycle?
 - (2) Best time to propose big ideas for the future is during budgeting
 - (3) Small ideas can be done in shorter terms using current years misc./surplus funds if available
 - (4) See discussion below, need to consolidate this and refine with a diagram and timeline.
- f) NOTES: 1. Validate above is updated on website; 2. careful not to include too much, or make the packet too big

IV. April Board Meeting Report

- a. CAC Member Report – Jim
 - 1. Jim was not at the CAC meeting
 - 2. Bruce gave a quick summary during liaison report below
- b. May 11 Board Meeting Attendee – Loren & Maureen

V. Staff Project Updates

- a. Kathryn
 - 1. Finishing up annual report – summary of what PLSLWD did last year
 - 2. Plankton sampling on Upper Prior Lake – results on website
 - 3. Feedback on Wetland Monitoring sites
 - a) New this year haven’t done this before
 - b) Macroinvertebrates (bugs) will be collected [types of bugs found at different locations indicate health and condition of wetlands]
 - c) Need 2-liter bottles for bug traps – drop off if you have any
 - d) Will monitor some “restored” areas and other wetlands of interest (e.g. 12/17 wetland, Northwoods pond for fish stocking. Geis wetland for ferric site, etc.)
 - 4. Fish Stocking
 - a) Pre-stocking surveys next week
 - b) Bluegills scheduled for Geis wetland and tadpole pond, pending survey results
 - c) SMSC – stocking bluegill & perch later this spring in Pike Lake & Jeffers Pond
 - 5. Carp management communication feedback
 - a) Carp Management – removal last week was about 1000+ lbs
 - b) Survey – please fill out
 - c) Asked for feedback – Woody: good info, adequate; Chris: also thought social media posts were good and liked the survey
 - 6. Feedback on Education & Outreach Plan
 - a) Will be revamping clean water clean-up event this year, doing a fall event
 - b) In the past focused on things like: leaf raking and buckthorn removal
 - c) New ideas:
 - (1) clean out storm drains & disburse stenciling kits to label storm drains and give people reminders drains go to the lake
 - (2) Retention ponds – cleanup, help maintain, ask PL city if they need help

- d) Let Kathryn know any other feedback or ideas
- b. CAC Update from Joni
 - 1. CAC is being rejuvenated, new members, all are learning, want to help and encourage this
 - 2. New opportunity – Wants to develop better protocols for communication between CAC, board and staff – Wants to create a better and more defined process
 - a) When CAC has new “Projects and Initiative” ideas, we need to formalize the idea write-up for staff and the board, it should include:
 - (1) What it is? – A problem statement
 - (2) Deliverables and metrics to be used to define the problem and track the gains/improvements
 - (3) Outline, define, and present to Board
 - (a) Best time to propose “big” projects is during budgeting for the next year (so project will be about 1.5 years from happening)
 - (b) “Small” projects can be done sooner using current misc. or surplus funds if available
 - (4) Once “aligned” or approved then develop a program and timeline, etc.
 - (5) Goal is to help staff, Board and CAC to better allocate time and resources
 - b) Budget for 2022 – does CAC have suggestions for problems and initiatives to tackle in 2022?
 - c) PLSLWD may set up a periodic work group with both CAC and Board, this should help speed up the process, current back-n-forth process takes a long time and for time-sensitive projects, this can be too much
 - (1) The work group could be a small team; using a limited budget; need to prioritize and budget; research
- 3. Feedback from CAC members
 - a) Christian – agreed, likes idea of a better process to help improve the lake and many initiatives
 - b) Chris – this would be valuable, recognize that full CAC (9) is now larger than watershed staff (7), so we want to help them help us and guide the volunteer work. CAC needs to plan ahead to get things in budget, we can’t do anything on our own, so we need to help staff and board to get our ideas in to the budget and plan. Better processes will help organize the CAC to help us help PLSLWD improve.
 - (1) The muck digesters project was proposed to the staff and Board last month but was delayed, missing a window of opportunity based on seasonal timing. An improved, better defined process and timeline would have helped.
 - (2) Once defined, this process should be part of the new-member information
 - c) Bruce – The Board’s goal is to try to get everything (all plans, ideas, projects) into the budget for the next cycle, but that process is an 18 month process (planning and execution), so nothing is “fast.”
 - (1) If a new short-term idea is proposed and small enough, it might be approved to be done using a budget amendment process if a surplus is available, otherwise, needs to go through the longer-term planning to be done in the next cycle (next year or further out).
 - (2) I-LIDS used a budget amendment
 - (3) Muck digesters – was a good idea and liked, but Board and staff had questions. Need to follow-up with answers then re-present to staff and

board. The seasonal timing was too tight to address questions and get it done at the correct time this year.

VI. Board Liaison Updates & Requests to CAC – Bruce

- a. Good CAC team – energetic, good ideas, etc.
- b. Workshop prior to Board meeting has lots more details, consider attending these if possible
- c. Watershed District & Scott WMO unification possible – better resource management
 1. WMO – Water Management Organization (very similar to watershed districts, cover different areas)
 2. 2012/13 explored, but didn't go through with it
 3. Steering committee started, but very early stages
- d. Upper WS blueprint plan
 1. Next steps, how to accelerate, prioritize, funding
 2. Considering bonding – loans to do big projects – will discuss at retreat in June
- e. Approved new CAC members (Matt T and Loren)
- f. SWCD 2020 accomplishments were discussed
 1. \$121K total budget
- g. Lower MN River watershed 1W1P (One Watershed One Plan) discussed
- h. Conservation easements approvals
- i. 2021 carp management service \$130K – contract approved – committed to 3 yr. plan
- j. Testing criteria in Upper, Lower, and Spring Lakes – met criteria in all three lakes, and Sutton Lake – phosphorous loading very high
 1. Iron Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF) needs to go to the top of the list for Sutton Lake
 - a) IESF links for more information [added by Ben]
 - (1) <https://www.rwmwd.org/projects/iron-enhanced-sand-filter/>
 - (2) [https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=Operation and maintenance of filtration#post-construction operation and maintenance](https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=Operation_and_maintenance_of_filtration#post-construction_operation_and_maintenance)
 - (3) <https://ascelibrary.org/doi/10.1061/9780784481431.007>
- k. Discussed new ideas and innovations
 1. Muck Digesters - They thought it was a good idea and very interesting, they had never heard of it before and had more questions, but liked the idea
 2. Other innovations are out there: They want the CAC to help research new innovations, like:
 - a) Blue Lake Technologies – natural techniques for lake water quality
- l. Joni was asked to introduce and explain the roles of PLSLWD staff for new members
 1. Staff contacts: <https://www.plslwd.org/contact/staff-contact/>
 2. Maggie Karschnia – Project Manager
 - a) Works with consultants and capital projects
 - b) Oversees construction projects, developing easements, and reviews of development projects for compliance
 3. Kathryn Keller-Miller – Water Resources Outreach Specialist
 - a) District communications & outreach – including website, articles, social media
 - b) Coordinate volunteers, including CAMP program – Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program – Met council
 - c) Manages some restoration projects
 - d) Works with conservation easements and verifying property owners are in compliance
 4. Jaime Rockney – Water Resources Specialist
 - a) Manages District monitoring program

- b) Monitor and data collection for flow data and water quality data
 - c) Operates ferric chloride plant
 - d) Helps with PL outlet channel tracking/assessment, repairs, etc.
- 5. Jeff Anderson – Water Resources Technician
 - a) Helps Jamie with data collection & analysis
 - b) Point person for Carp Management Program
- 6. Shauna Capron – Water Resources Assistant
 - a) Helps with tracking carp, RFID tags and tracking
 - b) Will be point person for I-LIDS project
 - c) Monitor construction sites and make sure they are staying in compliance and not polluting

VII. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Shoreline Restoration (Christopher, Matt)
 - 1. Discussion on what is needed, would be helpful to residents – need some more definition
 - 2. Not much new to report
 - 3. Read outreach plan – want to see outreach about shoreline restoration, ideas/requests of what to tell/inform people about:
 - a) What they can do and how, what kinds of plants, what kinds of home projects, etc. (was an article in recent paper/newsletter, more of this)
 - b) Cost sharing is available for home projects – is it on the website?
 - c) Avoid throwing fertilizer in to the lake (accidentally or on-purpose with examples)
 - 4. Kathryn/Joni – will work with committee to improve text/problem statement, etc.
- b. Muck digesters (Christopher, Matt)
 - 1. Matt and Chris prepared plan for fish lake and presented to board in March, board staff decided not to present to the board at this time
 - 2. Joni explained that staff wanted some more independent scientific background (not from manufacturer) and wanted more third-party reviews and background (e.g., request to reach out to manufacturer to get more research results). One concern was about if this product could kill off plants and current effort is focused on restoring plants, so this was a concern and needed more info. Staff was concerned about unintended negative consequences to using in lakes.
 - 3. Chris and Matt were concerned about the staff and Board saying no, when requested information was on the internet (e.g., company site, etc.). They wanted the board/staff to take on more of the background info gathering themselves, but staff have limited time to explore unplanned for projects. (Do CAC presentations just need to include more URL links that staff can follow for more information?)
 - a) Research shows that continued alum treatments are potentially worse than the muck digester unintended negative consequences concerns
 - b) Staff wanted a small test first, but the muck digester proposal was already thought to be presented as a viable small-test project that was rejected
 - (1) What would be a small-test then? How should we present in the future?
 - (2) Chris and Matt are doing small local tests personally this year and will report results
 - c) Christian suspected this plan would actually be better for plant life in the long-run
- c. AIS/Signage (Christian, Ben)
 - 1. Moving forward – permit for station was granted for May-November – installation in early May

2. Work with Jamie and Shauna
- d. Fish Stocking (Christian)
 1. See Board update comments above
- e. Storage Assessment, Plans and Wetland Banking (Christopher, Woody, Jim)
 1. See Board update comments above

VIII. Other Topics

- a. Raymond Park update - video – Christian – link in e-mail
- b. Spring Lake Assoc. video – Bruce Loney suggested sending link around

IX. Goals & Topics for Next Meeting

- a. Assigning new members to subcommittees
- b. Subcommittee discussions: should/can we setup some kind of online discussion board with subcommittee discussions, an e-mail list, google drive?
- c. Budget timeline – what is it? When should feedback be in? – June and Sept – this needs to be better defined
 1. Bruce is PLSLWD treasurer, suggested look at 2021 budget process, projects, reports.
 - a) <https://www.plslwd.org/projects-and-programs/projects/>
 - b) <https://www.plslwd.org/2020plan/>
 - c) etc.

X. Staff & Other Announcements

- a. Past board meetings are on website and YouTube channel for information and review
- b. PLA 75th year – started the PLSLWD 50 years ago – watch for events
- c. Vierling farm was sold to developer – touches a large part of Lower Prior Lake

XI. Adjourn – 8:06 pm

- a. Motioned: Loren
- b. Seconded: Chris
- c. Passed

XII. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Board Meeting: Tues, May 11, 6:00 pm
- b. CAC Meeting: Thurs, May 27, 6:30 pm



April 5, 2021

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District
Board of Managers
Prior Lake, MN

Board of Managers:

I am writing at the request of District Administrator Joni Giese to request certain actions by the Board of Managers. These actions support the current financial and programmatic activities of the District. The actions are documented below as well as a brief explanation of why the request is being made.

BOARD RESOLUTION

Action

The Board approves a total transfer of \$901 from the JPA/MOA Emergency Fund to the JPA/MOA Operations Funds as explained below. This transfer will be effective December 31, 2020.

The JPA/MOA agreement was revised during 2020. As part of that revision, interest income in excess of \$10,000 that accumulates in the Emergency Fund is required to be transferred annually to the Operations Fund and used to offset costs. The transfer amount of \$901 represents the amount of accumulated interest income in excess of \$10,000 at the end of 2020.

Respectively Submitted,



Christopher Knopik, CPA, CFE
District Accountant

PLSLWD Board Staff Report
May 5, 2021



Subject 	Authorization for District Administrator to Access District Banking and Brokerage Accounts	
Board Meeting Date 	May 11, 2021	Item No 5.5
Prepared By 	Joni Giese	
Proposed Motion 	Approve District Administrator access to District's Northland Securities Brokerage account and Old National Bank account	

Background

Per the PLSLWD Investment Policy and Procedure Manual, the District Administrator and the District's Treasurer function as the District's Financial Management Team. The Team is authorized to invest District funds in accordance with the latest District Investment Policy and Procedure Manual.

The Governance Manual states that District Administrator may transfer funds between District accounts and may deposit funds to District accounts. It also directs the District Administrator and Treasurer to review select financial activity and report any error or irregularities to the Board of Managers.

Discussion

In order to fulfill these assigned roles, the District Administrator requires access to the District's Northland Securities Brokerage account and Old National Bank account. This does NOT include the District Administrator being an authorized signatory of District checks.

Recommendation

Approve District Administrator access to the District's Northland Securities Brokerage account and Old National Bank account.

PLSLWD Board Staff Report
May 5, 2021



Subject 	PLSLWD 2020 Annual Report Approval and Authorization to release it to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Department of Natural Resources	
Board Meeting Date 	May 11, 2021	Item No 5.6
Prepared By 	Joni Giese	
Attachment 	Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District 2020 Annual Report	
Proposed Motion 	Approve the PLSLWD 2020 Annual Report and authorize its release to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Department of Natural Resources	

Background

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.351 states that managers must prepare a yearly report of the financial conditions of the watershed district, the status of all projects, the business transacted by the watershed district, other matters affecting the interests of the watershed district, and a discussion of the manager's plans for the succeeding year. The report must be submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Minnesota Rules 8410.0150 require metro watershed districts to provide additional specified content in the annual report. The rules also require organizations to submit the report for the previous calendar year within 120 days of the end of the calendar year.

Discussion

Staff prepared the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District 2020 Annual Report with the intent of meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.351 and Minnesota Rules 8410.0150. Staff did receive a waiver from BWSR to extend the submittal beyond 120 days of the end of the calendar year in order to receive report approval at the May 11 Board of Managers Meeting.

Recommendation

Approve the PLSLWD 2020 Annual Report and authorize its release to BWSR and the DNR.



Prior Lake- Spring Lake Watershed District

Annual Report

2020



Mission: To manage & 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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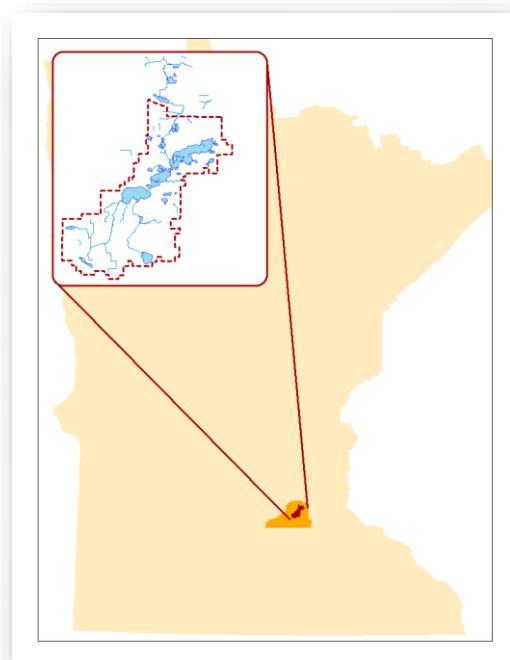
INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD, or District) and details the activities of the District through the calendar year 2020. The report will focus on the District's program and project accomplishments relative to the approved Capital Improvement Plan established in the 2020 PLSLWD Water Resources Management Plan and annual work plan. Annual reporting requirements listed in Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.0150, Subpart 3 will also be included in this report.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District was established on March 4, 1970 by order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board (MWRB) under the authority of the Minnesota Watershed Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 112). The order was in response to a petition filed by resident landowners within the watershed on June 24, 1969. This citizen petition sought establishment of the District for the purposes of wisely managing and conserving the waters and natural resources of the watershed.

The PLSLWD is approximately 42 square miles in size and located in north central Scott County, Minnesota, encompassing parts of the cities of Prior Lake, Shakopee, and Savage and parts of Sand Creek and Spring Lake Townships. In addition, a portion of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) tribal lands are located within the District.



Location of PLSWD

BOARD OF MANAGERS

PLSLWD is administered by a five-person Board of Managers (Board) appointed by the Scott County Commissioners. All the District's policies, goals, and accomplishments are directed by the citizens who serve on the Board. The Board of Managers meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Prior Lake City Hall, located at 4646 Dakota St. SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372. As result of the Covid-19 pandemic, some of the 2020 Board meetings were held virtually and a meeting link was posted to allow the public to attend. Meeting notices, agendas and approved minutes are available on the District website at www.plslwd.org/meetings.

Board members serving during the calendar year 2020 are listed below.

Fred J. Corrigan*

Manager

Term: 3/3/19-2/11/20

Resided in Prior Lake

8075 E. Martindale Dr.

Prior Lake, MN 55372

952-445-9681

fcorrigan@armofmn.com

Curt Hennes

Vice President

Term: 6/12/19-6/11/22

Resides in Prior Lake

17286 Sunset Trail SW

Prior Lake, MN 55372

952-440-7443

clphennes@gmail.com

Charlie Howley

Treasurer

Term: 7/26/17-7/25/20

Resides in Prior Lake

4291 Coachman Lane NE

Prior Lake, MN 55372

952-440-5800

howleyctccn@gmail.com

Bruce Loney

Secretary (1/1/20 – 7/14/20)

Treasurer (7/14/20 – present)

Term: 3/3/19-3/2/22

Resides in Prior Lake

5870 Shannon Circle SE

Prior Lake, MN 55372

952-769-7408

bruceloney1972@gmail.com

Mike Myser

President

Term: 3/12/18-3/13/21

Resides in Prior Lake

3857 Island View Cir NW

Prior Lake, MN 55372

651-341-5932

m.myser@mchsi.com

Steve Pany*

Secretary (7/14/20 – present)

Term: 7/14/20-3/2/22

Resides in Prior Lake

5561 Cedarwood Street NE

Prior Lake, MN 55372

952-496-1138

C22steve@gmail.com

Frank Boyles

Manager

Term: 7/26/20 - 7/25/23

Resides in Prior Lake

5153 Hope Street

Prior Lake, MN 55372

952-292-0400

Frank10350@mchsi.com

**Fred Corrigan vacated his term early because he moved out of the District. Steve Pany was appointed to complete the remainder of the term.*

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District formalized its Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) in 2011. The 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 integrate the current issues of concern of the local citizens.

The CAC meets monthly on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Prior Lake City Hall, located at 4646 Dakota St. SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, many of the 2020 CAC meetings were conducted virtually via video conferencing.

Citizen Advisory Committee members that served during the calendar year 2020 are listed below.

Jerry Mealman
Resides in Spring Lake
Township

Christian Morkeberg
Resides in Spring Lake Township

Woody Spitzmueller
Resides in Prior Lake

Kim Silvernagel
Resides in Prior Lake

Christopher Crowhurst
Resides in Prior Lake

Ben Burnett
Resides in Prior Lake

Marianne Breitbach
Resides in Prior Lake

Jim Weninger
Resides in Spring Lake Township

Matt Newman
Resides in Spring Lake Township

Jodi See
Resides in Prior Lake

STAFF

Day-to-day operations of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District are managed by a District Administrator and staff. All staff can be contacted through the main District phone number, 952-447-4166, or at the District Office, 4646 Dakota Street SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372.

Diane Lynch
(Retired Nov 2020)
District Administrator
dlynch@plslwd.org

Amy Tucci
Administrative Assistant
atucci@plslwd.org

Jaime Rockney
Water Resources Specialist
jrockney@plslwd.org

Kathryn Keller-Miller
Outreach Specialist
kkeller-miller@plslwd.org

Maggie Karschnia
Water Resources Project
Manager, Interim District
Administrator
mkarschnia@plslwd.org

Jeff Anderson
Water Resources Technician
janderson@plslwd.org

Shauna Capron
Water Resources Assistant
scapron@plslwd.org

CONSULTING SERVICES

The following are the consulting firms selected in 2019 for 2020/21 consulting services:

Abdo, Eick and Meyers, LLP
Audit Services
Andy Berg
Phone: 952-835-9090
www.aemcpas.com

HG & K, Ltd
Accounting Services
Chris Schadow
Phone: 952-927-8350
www.hgkcpa.com

Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc
Engineering Services
Carl Almer
Phone: 651-770-8448
www.eorinc.com

Smith Partners, PLLP
Legal Services
Charles Holtman
Phone: 612-344-1400
www.smithpartners.com

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved the District's fourth generation Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) on June 24, 2020 and the District Board adopted the plan at its July 14, 2020 meeting. A copy of the WRMP is available on the District website or by request, or in hard copy format at the District office.

THREE PRIORITY CONCERN AREAS

During discussions and meetings for the WRMP, three recurring priority concerns were identified. PLSLWD used these three priority concerns to develop three guiding principles with nine underlying policies and 23 measurable goals.



WATER QUALITY

Maintaining or improving the water quality in the PLSLWD's resources with most emphasis on lakes that have public access and are most widely used.



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Continued monitoring and management of existing AIS (curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels and common carp), as well as prevention of new AIS.



REDUCE FLOODING

Making strides toward flood reduction goals on Prior Lake (e.g. upstream storage) and reducing the impacts of flooding in other areas in the District.

PRIMARY ISSUES

Within the Priority Concern Areas above, the PLSLWD identified several associated issues:

WATER QUALITY ISSUES:

- External Loading
- Internal Loading
- Low Plant Diversity
- High Phosphorus Levels
- Insufficient Information Available
- Loss of Wetland Quality
- Loss of Wetland Quantity
- Streambank Erosion & Slumping
- Erosion along the Prior Lake Outlet Channel
- Groundwater Quality and/or Contamination

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ISSUES:

- New AIS Can Reduce Water Quality
- Common Carp Reduce Water Quality
- Overgrowth of Invasive Plants
- Recreational & Ecological Hazards

REDUCE FLOODING ISSUES:

- Current Flooding Risks on Prior Lake
- Historical Flooding on Prior Lake
- Future Increased Runoff
- Insufficient Information to Inform Projects
- Need to Assess Flood Reduction Goals

PRIORITY GOALS

Within the Priority Concerns above, there are a total of 23 goals. While all of these goals are intended to be accomplished in this ten-year WRMP, there were four that were of highest priority. These include:

WATER QUALITY MAIN GOALS:

- **GOAL WQ2:** *Meet the state water quality standards for aquatic recreation on Spring Lake.*
- **GOAL WQ3:** *Meet the state water quality standards for aquatic recreation on Upper Prior Lake.*

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MAIN GOALS:

- **GOAL AIS1:** *Develop and implement an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Response and Prevention Plan in coordination with Scott County to help prevent new AIS from entering Tier 1 lakes.*

REDUCE FLOODING MAIN GOALS:

- **GOAL RF1:** *Achieve the first-tier priority flood reduction goal to reduce the flood level on Prior Lake (from 905.62) to 905.5 feet for the 25-year return period.*

ASSESSMENT OF THE 2020 WORK PLAN

The following is a summary of the activities completed in 2020 organized by District's new 2020 WRMP.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Capital Projects | 5. Regulation |
| 2. Operations and Maintenance | 6. Education and Outreach |
| 3. Planning | 7. Prior Lake Outlet Channel |
| 4. Monitoring and Research | 8. Administration |

CAPITAL PROJECTS

CARP MANAGEMENT PROJECT

In 2020, the District moved into its fifth year with its Carp Management Program in Spring and Prior Lakes and received the 2020 Minnesota Association of Watershed District's Program of the Year award for the program. The District's carp management work was partially funded through a 319 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and a Watershed-based Implementation Funding grant from BWSR.

The project aims to improve the water quality of Spring and Upper Prior Lakes by decreasing total phosphorus concentrations using an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM). The project has several different components, including: track movement and population of carp, remove seine obstructions, complete carp removals, install carp barriers at strategic locations, and engage local community through outreach materials and events.

In 2020, the District continued to actively track the movement of 18 carp that were implanted with radio-tags in Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake systems with a Yagi antenna. An additional 10 radio-tags were implanted late in the 2020 season. Radio-tags have a 2-4 year lifespan. The District is trying to keep up a manageable radio-tag count with older radio-tags becoming unresponsive. The carp location maps were documented on the District's website so that the public could see their locations.



The District also continued to track carp through Passive Integrate Transponder (PIT) tags that are implanted into the carp. By the end of 2020, approximately 520 PIT tagged carp remain in the waterbodies. PIT tags are used to track movement of carp through a specific channel where a receiver is installed. This is a more economical way of tracking carp but has its limitations as the carp can only passively be tracked when they pass through a specific location.

In 2019, the District installed eight receiver devices to study the movement of PIT tagged carp throughout different waterbodies which helped document movement and determined the effectiveness of installed carp barriers. Two of the PIT stations were in partnership with SMSC. The receivers were installed at the Arctic Lake Outlet, Artic Lake Channel, Brandt Property midway up County Ditch 13, Pike Lake Inlet, Pike Lake outlet, Northwoods Pond outlet, Buck Lake channel inlet on Spring Lake, and downstream of the ferric chloride weir.

Telemetry surveys were conducted on Spring Lake and Prior Lakes to determine aggregation areas and migration routes. These surveys guided timing and location of seine (carp removal) events and identified carp barrier locations.

The District worked with its consultants and three commercial fishermen to complete under ice and open water seines on Upper Prior Lake and Spring Lake. Additional removal efforts including those supported under an Accelerated Carp Management Strategies (ACMS) plan resulted the following:

Upper Prior Lake

REMOVAL METHOD:	# INDIVIDUAL CARP:	TOTAL WEIGHT (lbs):
Seines	827	10,450
Electrofishing	658	4,296
Newman Trap	184	1,116
Gill Netting Pilot Project	157	2,293
Micro-hauls	71	438
Baited Box Trap	15	114
TOTAL:	1,912	18,707

Spring Lake

REMOVAL METHOD:	# INDIVIDUAL CARP:	TOTAL WEIGHT (lbs):
Seines	349	3,078
Electrofishing	656	4,075
Push Trap	154	892
Micro-hauls	33	152
Baited Box Traps	764	3,775
TOTAL:	1,956	11,972

In 2020, Upper Prior Lake's overall carp biomass decreased from 274.1 kg/ha to 250.8 kg/ha while Spring Lake's overall carp biomass decreased from 266.2 kg/ha to 240.5 kg/ha.

Carp barrier locations were identified which were determined by the radio-tag monitoring, site visits, anecdotal information and staff knowledge. Staff explored different carp barrier designs and conducted site visits to determine the barrier suitability for the sites during 2019 and 2020. Carp were discovered in a wetland to the west of Upper Prior Lake in 2019, including a radio-tagged carp which solidified the reasoning for additional barrier locations. Barrier designs developed in 2018 and 2019 in partnership with the City of Prior Lake, in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), resulted in a horizontal bar barrier installed at the outlet of the Northwoods Pond in Prior Lake.

Additionally, the existing carp barrier located at the ferric chloride facility had not been functioning for several years. The District's carp consultant and staff worked together to re-design this weir to include a different, functional carp barrier, as well as some safety updates. The replacement and updates were completed in 2020.

In 2021, the District will continue with its carp management efforts under its current, approved version of the IPM Plan and complete its third and final year of the grant funding provided through a federal 319 grant and a Watershed-based Implementation Funding grant through BWSR to help accelerate management efforts moving forward. The goal in 2021 is to achieve grant deliverables of installing barriers and removing carp to meet the water quality goals.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Fish Lake Shoreline & Prairie Restoration Project

Fish Lake Park is located on the northwest corner of Fish Lake at Spring Lake Town Hall and is owned by Spring Lake Township. The project enhanced a section of shoreline along Fish Lake behind the town hall and created a prairie restoration on the north side of the property.

The restorations will improve habitat for wildlife and pollinators and act as a demonstration site for landowners interested in completing restorations on their own



properties, giving them an opportunity to view an example of a rain garden (existing project), prairie and shoreline restoration all in one, easily accessible location. This project is a frequent site for events and is home to Spring Lake Township's main park. This project is a partnership between Spring Lake Township and the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District.

The initial site restoration was completed in 2019. Invasive species, including reed canary grass and buckthorn, along shoreline were controlled; existing turf grass in the prairie restoration area was terminated and the prairie and shoreline areas were seeded with native plant species in fall 2019. Additional vegetation maintenance occurred at the site in 2020 and design began on interpretative signs explaining the restoration project.

ALUM TREATMENTS

Spring Lake was treated with aluminum sulfate (alum) to help control release of nutrients contained in the lake bed. The 2020 treatment marked the third of three treatments, following the initial dose in 2013 and the second dose in 2018. The original plan was to treat half of the total alum dose in 2013 (292,000 gallons), followed by two more treatments that were a quarter of the total dose. The second treatment dose was a quarter of the total dose (146,000 gallons). However, the second dose was not as effective as hoped and the third dose was increased to 249,000 gallons. Barr Engineering conducted the feasibility study and HAB Aquatic Solutions conducted the alum treatment.

The first of two alum treatments on Upper Prior Lake were conducted in 2020. A total of 132,337 gallons of alum was applied along with 66,169 gallons of sodium aluminate (S.A.). Since Upper Prior is a shallow lake, a buffer of S.A. was added to the treatment to prevent wide pH swings. Grant money and favorable contractor quotes allowed for 60% of the total dose to be treated, rather than 50% of the dose as was originally planned. The shallower areas (zone 1) were originally set to receive a slightly lower dose than the deeper areas (zone 2) but that was reversed to compensate for the potential of carp to stir up the bottom in the shallow areas and increase the alum sediment treatment depth.

The full treatment is still expected to last 10 years and reduce excess internal loading by 571 lbs of phosphorus per year. A grant from BWSR paid for 80% of this project and PLSLWD paid for the remainder. Unless another grant is awarded, the District may need to pay for the entire next treatment with levy dollars. EOR conducted the feasibility study and engineering while HAB Aquatic Solutions conducted the alum treatment.

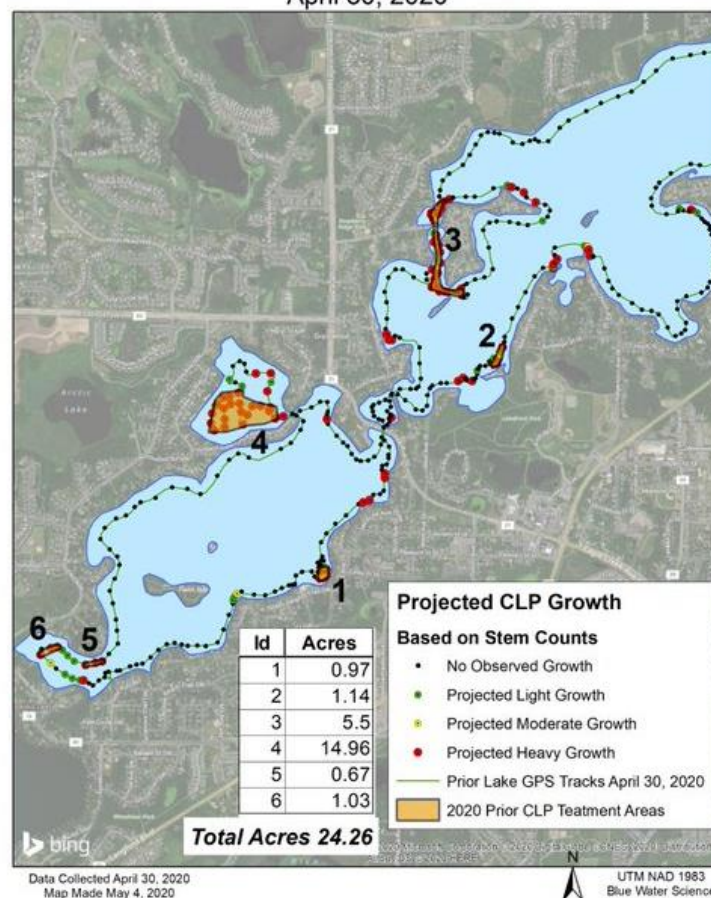
Sampling on Spring and Upper Prior in 2020 showed the best water quality results either lake has had in recorded history. All three parameters (Secchi depth, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a) met the state water quality standards for the first time on both lakes in 2020.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Aquatic vegetation management for curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) occurred on Spring, Upper Prior, and Lower Prior Lakes in 2020. Seven acres on Lower Prior, 18 acres on Upper Prior, and 15 acres on Spring Lake were treated by PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation with the chemical, Diquat.

Prior Lakes Curlyleaf Pondweed Delineation and Treatment
April 30, 2020



COST SHARE

The District has a cost share incentive program for residents and agricultural producers coordinated with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Cost share projects installed in 2020 included 70 linear feet of lined waterway, two raingardens, 70 feet of shoreline protection, 24 acres of conservation cover, 67 acres of residue management/no-till, 291 acres of nutrient management and seven well decommissions. Whole farm planning assistance was provided for two farms encompassing 425 acres of land.

The Scott SWCD received requests and provided follow-up assistance to 65 landowners in the watershed. There were 28 projects approved and 22 cost share projects completed. Seven landowners rented equipment (such as no-till drills) from the SWCD and one received facility planning and design assistance.



FARMER-LED COUNCIL

The Farmer-Led Council (FLC) was created in 2013 to help the District reduce nutrient loading to Spring Lake to levels that meet or exceed state water quality standards. Agricultural lands make up the majority of the landscape in the Spring Lake & Upper Prior Lake watersheds. As such, farmers are the most important stewards of the land and their active input and participation is critical to achieving water quality goals.

Represented by local leaders in the farming community, the role of the FLC is to develop and guide the implementation of strategies that PLSLWD will use to accomplish agriculture's share of the nutrient reduction goal. Specifically, the FLC aims to:

- Inform decision makers and the general public about practical issues and opportunities related to soil and water conservation on agricultural lands.
- Identify base-level and site-tailored practices that are available and needed.
- Define the approach for engaging with and assisting farmers to implement practices.
- Establish a schedule with reasonable milestones and timelines for progress.
- Identify potential barriers to implementation, along with tools and resources that are needed to overcome them.

The District held two FLC meetings in 2020 where a variety of agricultural topics related to water quality were discussed. The FLC also provides recommendations for innovative cost share programs and incentives that are not included in the PLSLWD's current cost share programming. In 2020, the

FLC continued with its inlet protection program which included offering free Agri-Drain water quality inlets to farmers.

The Lake-Friendly Farm program was first piloted by two FLC members in 2017. Since then, over a dozen farms have been certified into this program aimed at targeting phosphorus reduction in the upper watershed. In 2020, five additional farms were certified through the Lake-Friendly Farm program.

In 2018, the FLC developed a new Cover Crop Initiative Program that targeted critical water quality fields in the watershed, identifying tiered priority areas. Nearly 600 acres were enrolled in the program in 2020. Scott SWCD helped to coordinate the aerial seeding on most of the fields, with a couple of farmers opting to interseed the mixes directly on their fields. In addition to no-cost seeding, the program also offered free rental of the no-till & interseeder equipment to aid in implementation. The program is anticipated to continue on a slightly larger scale in 2021 with the hopes of getting more new farmers working with cover crops in the upper watershed.

FERRIC CHLORIDE TREATMENT FACILITY

A desiltation pond was built in 1978 to capture phosphorus before the stormwater from County Ditch 13 reached Spring Lake. In 1998, a ferric chloride plant was constructed to use this chemical upstream of the desiltation pond to bind with phosphorus and preventing it from entering the lake.

In 2013, the system was redesigned to release the ferric chloride (FeCl_3) solution into a desiltation basin, rather than the stream, per a MPCA permit requirement. The initial targets for design parameters, with input and agreement by regulatory agencies, was to allow flows up to approximately 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) into the desiltation pond for normal operations. High flows were to overtop a high flow bypass weir east of the existing pond which flows directly to Spring Lake to prevent possible resuspension and flushing within the desiltation pond.

In September 2018, the pump was programmed to dose ferric chloride based on a relationship with stream height. The maximum treatment dose rate is 4 gallons per hour when the depth over the ferric chloride weir is 0.50 feet. Once the depth is greater than 0.50 feet, the pump will continue dosing at 4 gallons per hour based on the maximum flow calculations of the desilt pond diversion culvert.

In 2020, the desiltation pond treated water with ferric chloride from March 10 to August 24, and again from September 30 to November 4. The gap in treatment was due to dry conditions and no water flow in the stream. Samples were taken weekly during treatment to analyze efficiency of the treatment system. On average, the treated water decreased the concentration of total phosphorus by 25% and dissolved phosphorus by 58%.

A new carp barrier and deck over the ferric chloride weir was built in 2020. The old barrier was missing tines and ineffective at carp blockage. The deck was also becoming unsafe for staff and needed replacement. During the time of replacement, the flow was unable to be measured because

the temporary barrier interfered with the stream level, making PLSLWD's rating curve unusable. Normally PLSLWD would be able to calculate the volume of water that was treated, but that was not possible in 2020.

Results of the 2020 sampling can be found in the Annual Ferric Chloride Report available on the District [website](#).

ROUGH FISH MANAGEMENT



In 2020, the District implemented a plan for a new initiative for carp management: Accelerated Carp Management Strategies. These strategies were created to accelerate the removals of carp in Spring and Upper Prior Lakes by allowing staff to implement new techniques and to promote innovation.

A major component in the Accelerated Carp Management Strategies (ACMS) is to increase carp removal efforts and methods. One of the new removal strategies involved the alteration of a baited box net with throated hoop net entrance to trap migrating carp heading toward Arctic Lake call the "Newman Trap." Another migration trap was designed and installed near the outlet of the desilt pond call the "Push Trap." This trap allows carp to push

through one-way fingers where carp are trapped in a cage upstream of the fingers.

The District also used strategies such as underwater speakers to train and move carp, purchasing block nets to direct carp to removal areas during seines, making informational signs for the seines, adding additional funding for multiple seine efforts and finding a broader network to sell or dispose of the harvested carp.

RAYMOND PARK

The District restored shoreline and habitat to create a demonstration site for four different habitat types at Raymond Park: beach restoration, oak savanna restoration, shoreline restoration and low maintenance turf grass at the City of Prior Lake's park. A walking trail was added at the park which winds through the oak savanna restoration allowing residents to explore the park and view the restoration. The initial restoration work was completed in 2017 with partial funding received from a Conservation Partners Legacy grant and Great River Greening.

In 2020, vegetation maintenance work was done at the park and volunteers removed additional buckthorn at the park adjacent to the original restoration area. Maintenance responsibilities were transferred to the City of Prior Lake in 2020. Interpretive signs explaining the restoration project were designed for the park.

RESTORATION PROJECTS MAINTAINENCE

The District conducted vegetation maintenance on restoration projects that were installed in previous years. These projects include the District-owned shoreline parcel on Spring Lake, the Indian Ridge biofiltration basin project, the Fairlawn Shores biofiltration project and the 12/17 wetland restoration project.

PLANNING

2020 WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2020, the District continued updating its Water Resources Management Plan, meeting with stakeholders, conducting public meetings and continuing plan revisions. The updated ten-year management plan laying out the District's goals and activities for the next ten years was successfully completed and approved in 2020.

UPPER WATERSHED BLUEPRINT

In 2020, the District developed an Upper Watershed Blueprint study in order to comprehensively approach stormwater management in the Upper Watershed over the next ten years. This analysis is intended to be used as a prioritized implementation roadmap for PLSLWD and local partners to improve water quality conditions and reduce flooding in the watershed through a series of projects.

The Upper Watershed Blueprint resulted in the identification of 14 potential water quality projects and three potential flood reduction projects that could help the District meet its 10-year goals. These projects will help the District meet the annual phosphorus reduction goal of 2,959 pounds set in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Spring and Upper Prior Lakes to improve water quality in the lakes.

The four top recommended projects with the highest phosphorous reduction potential in the study and their estimated load reductions are:

- Sutton Lake Iron Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF) - 735 pounds per year
- Ferric Chloride System Improvements Alternative 2 which includes upgrades to the system, assuming that the entire system can be optimized to remove 70% of the total phosphorous from half of the total flow – 911 pounds per year
- County Ditch 13 Chemical Treatment System – 1,062 pounds per year
- Buck Lake Chemical Treatment System – 793 pounds per year

The amount of phosphorus reduction may be different if multiple projects are completed in series because an upstream capture of phosphorus will mean less phosphorus is available to be captured downstream. If all four projects listed above were completed, the total annual phosphorous reduction would be 2,621 pounds.

The two top recommended projects evaluated that can make the most significant positive impact on the flooding are:

- Upper Watershed Lakes Controlled Outlet Storage:
Install outlet controls on lakes in the Upper Watershed (Swamp, Sutton, Fish and Buck Lakes) to limit discharge when targeted water levels are reached on Upper and Lower Prior Lakes.
- Prior Lake Outlet Channel Modifications:
Modify the culvert and discharge allowance for the Prior Lake outlet channel to have a higher discharge rate during period when the capacity is available in downstream channels and basins.

The District will start moving forward with feasibility studies for two of the water quality projects identified in the Upper Watershed Blueprint in 2021.

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Monitoring was conducted in accordance with the Monitoring Plan and included a mix of staff, volunteer and contract work which incorporated in-lake monitoring, stream water quality & flow measurements, precipitation and aquatic vegetation monitoring. Partners included Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, Three Rivers Park District, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SWCD), Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Blue Water Science, and Emmons and Oliver Resources (EOR). The District also hired interns.

STREAM MONITORING DATA

STREAM CHEMISTRY SAMPLING

Stream chemistry samples were collected at 11 locations around the watershed by PLSLWD staff. Water temperature, conductivity, pH, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen were also measured at these locations using a YSI EXO1 multi-parameter sonde.

- Three sites were sampled weekly to fulfill the MPCA permit requirements for the Ferric Chloride site (FC_CD1, FC_CD2, FC_CD3).
- The District Monitoring Program included six sites (ST_40, ST_19, DLO, ST_14, ST_24, and ST_26A). These sites were monitored biweekly.
- Two agricultural monitoring sites were monitored biweekly for the Farmer-Led Council program (T3 and B3). T3 was sampled where it flows out of the tile and B3 was located in a channel downstream of T3. B3 is a tributary of Fish Lake and located approximately 100 feet before entering Fish Lake.

STAGE AND FLOW MONITORING

Continuous stage and flow monitoring occurred in conjunction with the stream chemistry and lake monitoring. Stage and flow monitoring consisted of level loggers that continuously recorded stage and flow measurements. By combining chemistry and stage/flow monitoring results, loads can be calculated using the FLUX modeling software. The sites mentioned in the stream chemistry section above (except T3) all had level loggers. In addition to those sites, stage and flow were monitored on the outlets of Fish, Spring, Sutton, Crystal, Prior Lakes (sites ST_08, ST_21, ST_5D, Crystal_OUT, PL_OUT respectively).



Stream Monitoring

Flow measurements were collected by PLSLWD and Scott SWCD. Flow meters used include FloMate 2000 and a Sontek Flowtracker. Continuous stage was recorded using level loggers, such as pressure transducers, an ultrasonic distance sensor and an area velocity meter.

LAKE MONITORING DATA

TELEMETRY LEVEL LOGGERS

Four telemetry level loggers were installed to monitor the lake levels on Spring, Prior, Fish, and Pike Lakes. The loggers were programmed to log the lake level every 15 minutes and then transmit the data to the PLSLWD website once per hour which was accessible to the public.

DNR STAFF GAGES

Four staff gages were monitored for the DNR on Fish, Pike, Spring and Lower Prior Lakes. Staff gages are surveyed in every year by the DNR to tie the results to Mean Sea Elevation.

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Three Rivers Park District monitored five lakes in 2020: Fish, Pike, Upper Prior, Lower Prior and Spring Lakes. These lakes are monitored 13 times per year, and where possible, profile samples are collected.

CAMP VOLUNTEER LAKE MONITORING

The Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) program was coordinated by Metropolitan Council, and locally coordinated by PLSLWD. Volunteers collected samples on eight lakes through the CAMP program in 2020. Four new lakes were sampled in 2020 and five new volunteers joined the program.

Lake	Volunteer(s)
Lower Prior (site 2)	Amy Card
Haas	Tom Chaklos
Buck Lake	Steve Beckey
Cates	Paula Thomsen
Little Prior	PLSLWD staff
Fish	Jon Haferman
Crystal	Scott Thulien
Sutton	Ashley & Laura Murr

Samples are normally collected every other week during ice-free conditions; however the start of the sampling season was delayed until June as a result of Covid-19. Sampling includes parameters such as Secchi depth, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a.

AQUATIC VEGETATION SURVEYS

Using a point-intercept survey (evenly-spaced sampling locations around the lake), Blue Water Science conducted summer aquatic vegetation surveys on four lakes – Fish Lake, Upper Prior Lake, Lower Prior Lake and Spring Lake. These surveys include the type and abundance of vegetation at predetermined sampling locations throughout the lakes during summer, which is the time most vegetation is present.

Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) surveys were completed in springtime on Spring, Fish, Upper Prior, and Lower Prior Lakes to determine if treatment was needed. Aquatic vegetation management for curly-leaf pondweed occurred on Spring, Lower Prior and Upper Prior Lakes in 2020.

AQUATIC VEGETATION DENSITY MAPPING

Using a fish finder, the density of aquatic vegetation in District lakes was mapped using BioBase software. BioBase creates whole-lake maps of aquatic vegetation density, bathymetry, and bottom hardness, connecting the points collected in the aquatic vegetation surveys. BioBase mapping is used to fill in the gaps and compliment the work of the vegetation surveys.

Volunteers and staff mapped all or parts of Crystal Lake, Lower Prior Lake, Upper Prior Lake, Spring Lake, Fish Lake and Jeffers Fish Pond in 2020.

The benefits of this project include:

- A better understanding of density of vegetation in lakes
- A better understanding of plant area coverage in lakes (% of lake bottom growing plants)
- More accurate bathymetric maps
- Lake bottom sediment composition maps
- Improved implementation and analysis of curly-leaf pondweed treatments
- Greater understanding of lake ecology and sediment deposition rates
- Better management of fisheries including for sports fishing

Table 1 Percent of Lake Bottom Growing Aquatic Vegetation

Lake	Plant Area Coverage %	Year
Arctic	6	2019
Buck	47	2016
Cates	99	2018
Crystal	31	2020
Fish	24	2020
Jeffers Fish Pond	83	2020
Little Prior	50	2016
Lower Prior	32	2020
Spring	21	2020
Upper Prior	23	2020

PRECIPITATION

One volunteer, Richard Schultz, collected rain and snowfall data daily in 2020. PLSLWD forwarded the data to the State Climatologist. District staff also recorded daily precipitation at the office location. The District also has a weather station at Spring Lake Town Hall which logged and transmitted data to Weather Underground.

REGULATION

EASEMENT INSPECTIONS

The District holds many conservation easements and development agreements that were acquired while permits were being actively issued. These easement and agreement restrictions provide water quality benefits by protecting water resources with buffers and water quality features. The District's conservation easement program contains three components to ensure protection of its investments: yearly monitoring inspections, effective communication with landowners and a strong enforcement policy.

In 2020, staff inspected the District's 37 conservation easements. The District's conservation easements are on property owned by 172 landowners and the number of properties in compliance with the easement terms has grown since consistent inspections began in 2015. In 2020, 76% of properties were in compliance. Of the remainder, most of the easements have only minor violations of the easement terms. Staff are working with landowners that have larger violations to resolve the violations and bring their easement area into compliance. Many landowners with violations have made improvements, correcting some, if not yet all, of the easement violations on their property.



Staff wrote letters to landowners advising them of the violations and offering to provide them further assistance to ensure the violations would not continue. The most common easement violations were mowing, yard waste, storage (wood etc.), dumping/trash, landscaping, and planting non-natives. During the 2021 inspections, staff will concentrate on monitoring the violating properties and working with landowners to resolve issues.

PERMIT ACTIVITY

The District inspected active permits to ensure that conditions of the permit were being met. The District issued four new permits in 2020:

- 20.01 Pickleball Court
- 20.02 Pike Lake Culvert
- 20.03 Hwy 282
- 20.04 Strauss Driveway Removal

Weekly permit inspections began in April and went through November 2020. Inspections also continued from previous years' open permits: 17.01, 17.03, 18.01, 18.02, 18.03, 18.04, 18.05, 18.06, 19.01, 19.02 and 19.03.

In addition, the District continued to close out permits as the projects met all necessary requirements.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PLSLWD staff continued to conduct and attend monthly Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. CAC meeting minutes and monthly updates were included in every Board meeting package and a Board member was assigned to attend CAC meetings. The committee experienced a revitalization in 2020, as a number of inactive members left the committee, and several new people joined the CAC.

The CAC researched and provided recommendations to the Board of Managers on several topics including fish stocking and the Internet Landing Installed Device System (I-LIDS), a tool for reminding boaters to inspect their boats to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The CAC normally does community outreach at Lakefront Days in August; however, Lakefront Days was canceled in 2020.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The District partnered with the Scott SWCD through the Scott County Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP) to provide public outreach and education opportunities.

The District and the Scott SWCD hosted a native prairie workshop, a shoreline workshop, a “Lawns to Legumes” workshop, and a smart salting workshop for homeowners. For the first time, the workshops were conducted via a webinar format; this allowed the workshops to be recorded and posted on YouTube and the District’s website to allow on-demand viewing.

The District conducted a tour of the District’s Upper Watershed highlighting potential project areas from the draft Upper Watershed Blueprint report. The District did not participate in Prior Lake’s Lakefront Days this year because of the pandemic.

The District and the City of Prior Lake typically coordinate Clean Water Clean-Ups, where volunteers participate in removing buckthorn and preventing organic material in local parks from being deposited in local waterbodies through stormwater runoff. The spring event was canceled as a result of the pandemic. In the fall, the District tried a new format and did a remote clean up event, allowing people to come anytime over the course of a weekend. The new format was successful with over 50 volunteers participating.

The District provided an annual presentation to the Cities of Prior Lake, Savage, Shakopee, Scott WMO, Sand Creek and Spring Lake Townships. In addition, the District gave presentations at the annual meetings of the Prior Lake and Spring Lake Associations. The District gave several presentations to local classrooms on various topics including carp management, watershed management and water quality, including presentations over a videoconferencing platform.

PLSLWD 50TH ANNIVERSARY



In 2020, the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District celebrated its 50th Anniversary. To highlight some of the District’s work over the last 50 years, a 50th Anniversary brochure was created, outlining District history and projects in the watershed. The brochure was well received and distributed to partners and shared with local residents. A 50th celebration and trivia night at a local brewery was planned but was canceled due to the pandemic.

The Hike the Watershed challenge was developed to get local residents involved and help them explore some of the lesser-known waterbodies in the District. The challenge highlighted 11 different hikes and turned out to be an activity very well suited for the pandemic. The challenge was publicized with an article in the local newspaper, on our website and social media. Flyers with maps of the hikes were placed at parks around the District and periodically rotated around to other parks.



PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The District submitted 11 articles to be published in the Prior Lake American. The District also provided articles for the Prior Lake and Spring Lake Association newsletters. Staff submitted 10 articles to be published in the bi-monthly Scott County SCENE. In addition, other media outlets and newsletters were used to publicize District events and initiatives.

The District's carp management program won the MAWD Program of the Year award in 2020 and PLSLWD Project Manager, Maggie Karschnia, was recognized as the 2020 Outstanding Watershed Employee by the Minnesota Board of Soil & Watershed Resources (BSWR).

Lake levels for Prior and Spring Lakes were updated automatically on the website year-round and for Fish and Pike Lakes during the growing season. Numerous Facebook and Twitter posts were made on a wide variety of topics. Nine videos were published on the District's YouTube channel, in addition to the video recordings of the District's 2020 Board of Managers meetings.

PRIOR LAKE OUTLET CHANNEL

OUTLET STRUCTURE

The Prior Lake Outlet Structure was constructed in 1983 to address high lake level issues on Prior Lake, which does not have a natural outlet. The structure received a major update in 2010 to incorporate an improved design.

PRIOR LAKE OUTLET CHANNEL (PLOC)

The Prior Lake Outlet Channel (PLOC) is utilized by the District and other partners in managing lake levels on Prior Lake as well as providing a 7-mile stormwater conveyance system for the surrounding communities. There is a Memorandum of Agreement between the Cities of Prior Lake, Shakopee, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the District that specifies operation and maintenance as well as cost-sharing.

The PLOC is considered an MS4 municipal stormwater conveyance system and the District must secure permits and submit annual reports. The annual report is available on the [PLSLWD website](#), which includes a summary of all activities that were completed along the channel.

Some of the recurring annual activities included channel inspections, flow and chemistry monitoring, and invasive terrestrial vegetation management. Projects specific to 2020 included installation of a security camera at the outlet structure and televising the outlet pipe to check conditions and need for replacement or repair.



FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIR

The District sustained over \$1 million in damages in the Prior Lake Outlet Channel due to the 2014 flooding events. The District was approved for federal funding for repairs from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for Emergency Protective Measures (temporary Spring Lake Dam); Culverts and Crossings; Downed Trees and Sediment Delta and Bank Erosion.

By the end of 2020, all of the projects were completed including extensive bank erosion repair work along the channel.

WETLAND BANKING PROGRAM

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District does not have a locally adopted wetland banking program within its jurisdiction.

STATUS OF LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Minnesota Rule 8410 required that local units of government complete their Surface Water Management Plans and Comprehensive Plans by December 31, 2018. In 2020, the PLSLWD approved the City of Savage's Local Water Plan in March and the City of Shakopee's Surface Water Management Plan in April. The District had previously reviewed and/or approved: the Scott WMO's Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan; Lower MN River Watershed District's Watershed Management Plan and Prior Lake's Local Surface Water Management Plan.

EVALUATION OF PROGRESS

The following are major projects and programs completed since 2016 PRAP Level II Report:

- The Prior Lake Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation Study (2016 Flood Study) was completed. Two of the three recommendations of the Flood Study were also completed:
 - The City of Prior Lake completed a Flood Response Policy to coordinate temporary protection measures during flood events.
 - The District updated its Management Policy and Operating Procedure and received approval by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) to open the low-flow gate at its own discretion, by following the Procedure.
 - The third recommendation was to meet the first-tier, high priority Prior Lake protection level of 905.5 for the 25-year return period. In 2020, the District completed design work and contract bidding for its first flood storage project, the Sutton Lake Outlet Modification Project.

- FEMA-funded projects resulting from the 2014 flood are now complete. Nearly \$1 million in damages to the Prior Lake Outlet Channel included stream bank erosion, downed trees, sediment delta and culvert replacements.
- Four Lower Prior Lake Retrofit Implementation Projects were completed which will reduce phosphorus by 33 lb. or 10% of the total drainage area phosphorus load to Lower Prior Lake. In addition, the Fish Point Park Water Quality Improvements Project was completed and was expected to reduce phosphorus from entering Lower Prior Lake by 34 pounds per year.
- The Farmer-Led Council (FLC) was created in 2013 to develop and guide the implementation of strategies the District will use to accomplish agriculture's share of the nutrient reduction goal. The FLC has expanded to include more area farmers who participate in regular meetings, attend workshops, participate in new incentive programs like the Lake Friendly Farm and Cover Crop Incentive Program.
- Carp management has grown from sponsoring carp tournaments and occasional seines to implementing a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM Plan) that includes population estimates, installing carp barriers, large open and closed water seines and an Accelerated Carp Management Plan that focuses upon innovative techniques to reduce the carp population in Spring and Upper Prior Lakes.
- Two demonstration shoreline restoration projects were completed on Spring Lake—on the District's property and at the City of Prior Lake's property, Raymond Park. Restoration work occurred on a shoreline enhancement and prairie restoration project in 2019 on Fish Lake.
- Conservation easements were not a high priority of the District prior to 2015. All 37 conservation easements, which represent 155 landowners, have been inspected annually and most have responded to easement violations by correcting problems or making improvements.
- The Citizen Advisory Committee met monthly and participated in Lakefront Days and Clean Water Clean-ups. In 2019, they initiated a new action plan for CAC-sponsored activities and work for 2020 and beyond, such as fish stocking, AIS/Signage, shoreline restoration and the District's 50th Anniversary.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2020 PLSLWD Audit was completed by Abdo, Eick and Meyers LLP, and will include both the District's Annual Financial Report and the Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Minnesota Legal Compliance Guide for Local Governments for the year ended December 31, 2020. A copy of the 2020 Annual Audit will be available for review on the District website and at the District office after June 8, 2021, when it is scheduled to be approved by the Board of Managers.

2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Values presented in the chart and graph below are unaudited. Please refer to the 2020 Annual Audit for more details, which can be found at www.plslwd.org

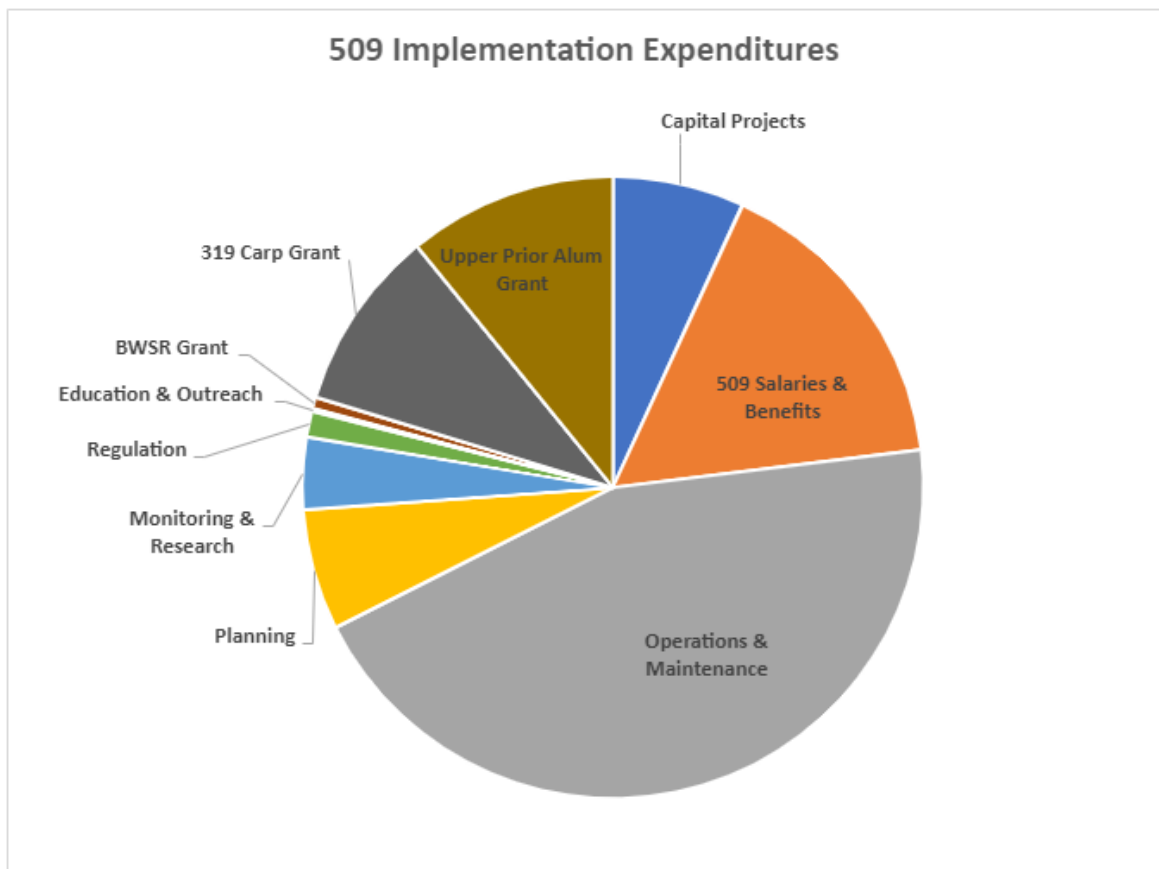
2020 Project Expenditures

2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Fund	Starting Balance	Approved Budget	Tax Levy Revenue *	Additional Revenue **	Transfers to/(from)	Expenditures	Ending Balance
General	\$305,958	\$225,739	\$225,946	\$1,968	\$0	\$192,788	\$341,084
509 Implementation	\$1,240,098	\$2,879,440	\$1,388,782	\$584,223	\$(242,863)	\$2,320,210	\$650,030
MOA/JPA Funds	\$400,758		\$0	\$103,119	\$90,220	\$131,650	\$462,447
Bond Debt Service	\$21,984	\$177,175	\$176,167	\$123	\$152,643	\$350,917	\$0
Total	\$1,968,798	\$3,282,354	\$1,790,895	\$689,433	\$0	\$2,995,565	\$1,453,561

*Tax levy revenues shown are actual tax levy dollars collected. The 2020 tax levy was \$1,794,632.

** Additional revenue is comprised of permit fees, investment income and grant funding.



GRANTS

Grants obtained by the District that were active in 2020 were as follows:

- Internal Loading BMPs in Spring and Prior Lakes grant*
Goal: Utilize integrated pest management principles to effectively manage the common carp population and manage aquatic vegetation to reduce the levels of phosphorus in Spring and Prior Lakes.
Funding Source: 319 Grant through the MPCA
Total Grant Amount: \$80,300
Effective: February 14, 2019 to December 31, 2021
- Watershed-based Implementation Funding grant*
Goal: Utilize integrated pest management principles to effectively manage the common carp population and aquatic vegetation to reduce the levels of phosphorus in several District lakes and wetlands including Spring Lake, Prior Lake, Pike Lake, the Geis wetland and the Northwoods wetland. The District's Farmer-Led Council will hold three meetings for the District's agricultural community to discuss new and innovative conservation practices within

Scott County. Two feasibility studies will be conducted to determine suitability for possible future projects.

Funding Source: BWSR

Total Grant Amount: \$185,000

Effective: May 15, 2019 to December 31, 2021

- Raymond Park Restoration Project grant

Goal: Restore the shoreline and oak savanna of Raymond Park (located on the south side of Spring Lake) and convert the existing turfgrass to a low-maintenance grass mix.

Funding Source: Conservation Legacy Partners through the DNR

Total Grant Amount: \$24,000

Effective: February 8, 2017 to June 30, 2020

- Fish Lake Shoreline & Prairie Restoration Project grant

Goal: Enhance the shoreline and reconstruct a prairie on Fish Lake at Spring Lake Town Hall.

Funding Source: Conservation Legacy Partners through the DNR

Total Grant Amount: \$13,800

Effective: April 4, 2019 to June 30, 2022

2021 WORK PLAN

The following is a summary of implementation activities planned to be completed in 2021 and the amount budgeted for that activity.

Implementation Fund	\$2,133,416
General Fund	\$166,126

CAPITAL PROJECTS

In 2020, the District will partner with Spring Lake and Sand Creek Townships and the City of Prior Lake on Public Infrastructure Partnership Projects. In addition, the District will finish construction on the Sutton Lake Flood Mitigation Project in early 2021.

The Carp Management Program will continue with its three main components: track, block and remove. The carp will be tracked using PIT tags, radio tags, and visual observations. The Tadpole Pond carp barrier will be installed in 2021 to block carp from spawning areas. The District plans to stock bluegills in several wetlands where carp are known to spawn to reduce carp reproductive success. The District will attempt to remove a significant population of carp from Spring and Upper Prior Lakes in 2021.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Cost Share and Residential Incentives programs and Farmer-Led Council will be continued. Operation and maintenance of the ferric chloride facility will continue. The District will also complete an updated NPDES/SDS Permit for the Ferric Chloride Plant. Aquatic vegetation treatment may occur in Prior and Spring Lakes, depending upon the survey reports. Vegetation maintenance will continue on restoration projects like the District's Spring Lake parcel and the Fish Lake restoration project at Spring Lake Town Hall.

PLANNING

The District will finalize the Upper Watershed Blueprint study in 2021. The District will move forward with projects identified in the Upper Watershed Blueprint, including feasibility studies for two water quality projects identified.

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

The District will continue its monitoring program in 2020, which includes stream monitoring, flow monitoring, lake quality, lake level, plankton surveys, plant surveys, and plant density monitoring. The District will begin a wetland quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring program in 2021.

REGULATION

The District will complete an MS4 Annual Report and apply for a new MS4 permit. The District's rules were last substantially revised in 2003. A decade later, planning was undertaken by the District and its municipal partners to advance rule revisions, but ultimately, the District decided not to move forward with finalization and adoption of a new set of rules. The new rule for Illicit Discharge, Rule P, was adopted by the District on December 10, 2013. Four rules were revised and adopted to meet MS4 requirements on October 13, 2015 in order to meet MS4 permit requirements: A (Definitions), D (Stormwater Management), E (Erosion & Sediment Control) and P (Illicit Discharge). The District convened a Rules TAC in August of 2017 and rule revisions are expected to be completed in 2021. The District will continue enforcing its Rules, inspecting permit sites and monitoring conservation easements.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The District will continue its education and outreach program to meet the requirements of its MS4 permit and improve understanding of local water resources and practices among all stakeholders in the District. The District will continue working with the Scott County Clean Water Education Program and will be participating in innovative public outreach and education opportunities. Updating the website and writing articles for submittal to local newspapers will continue. Two tours are planned in 2020 to highlight the Sutton Lake outlet project and the Prior Lake outlet channel.

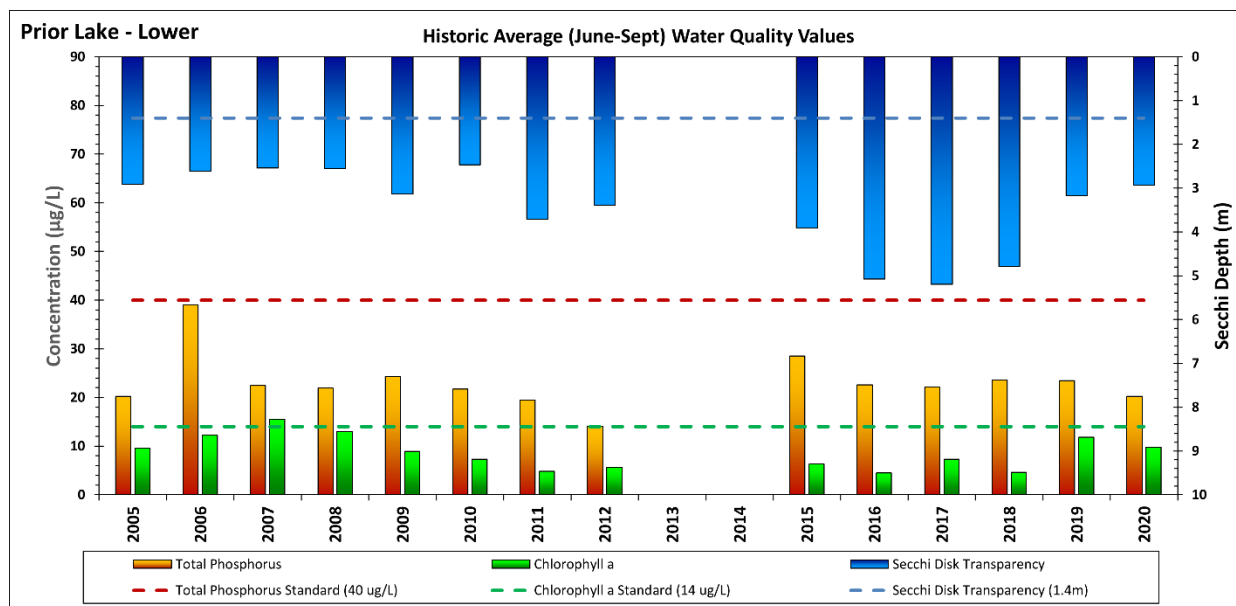
PRIOR LAKE OUTLET CHANNEL

Recurring annual operations such as inspections and vegetation management will continue in 2021. Repair work to fix major damage to the channel from 2014 flooding was completed in 2020 with funding from FEMA and the State of Minnesota, however other bank erosion issues remain that were not caused by the flood. Repair for these bank erosion projects will be engineered in 2021, with construction planned for 2022. The Ridge Creek development and channel restoration in Shakopee will re-meander a section of the channel and be completed in fall of 2021. Projects and other maintenance will be discussed and decided upon by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Cooperators (Memorandum of Agreement) members.

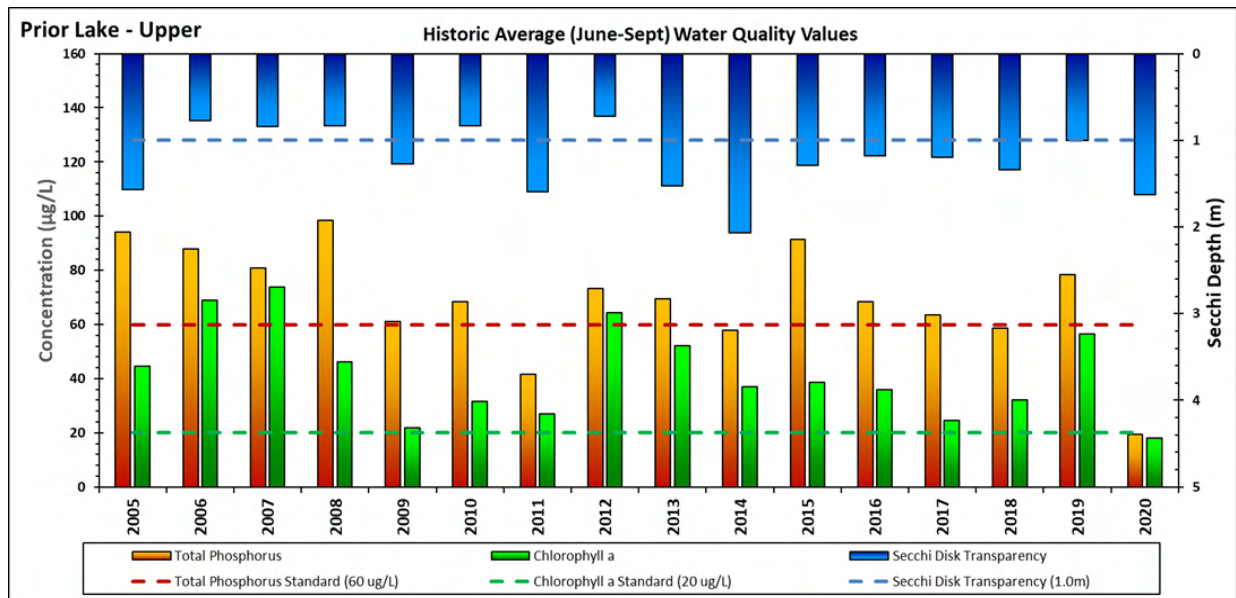
WATER QUALITY GRAPHS

The following graphs indicate the status of the District's monitoring efforts on District lakes since 2004.

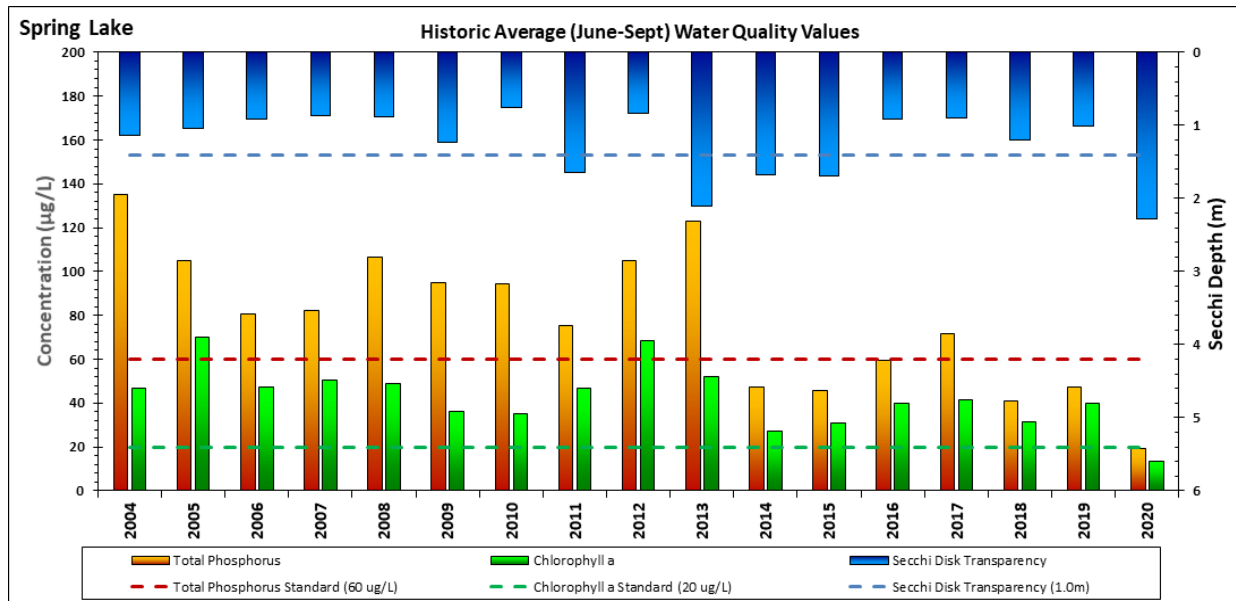
Lower Prior Lake



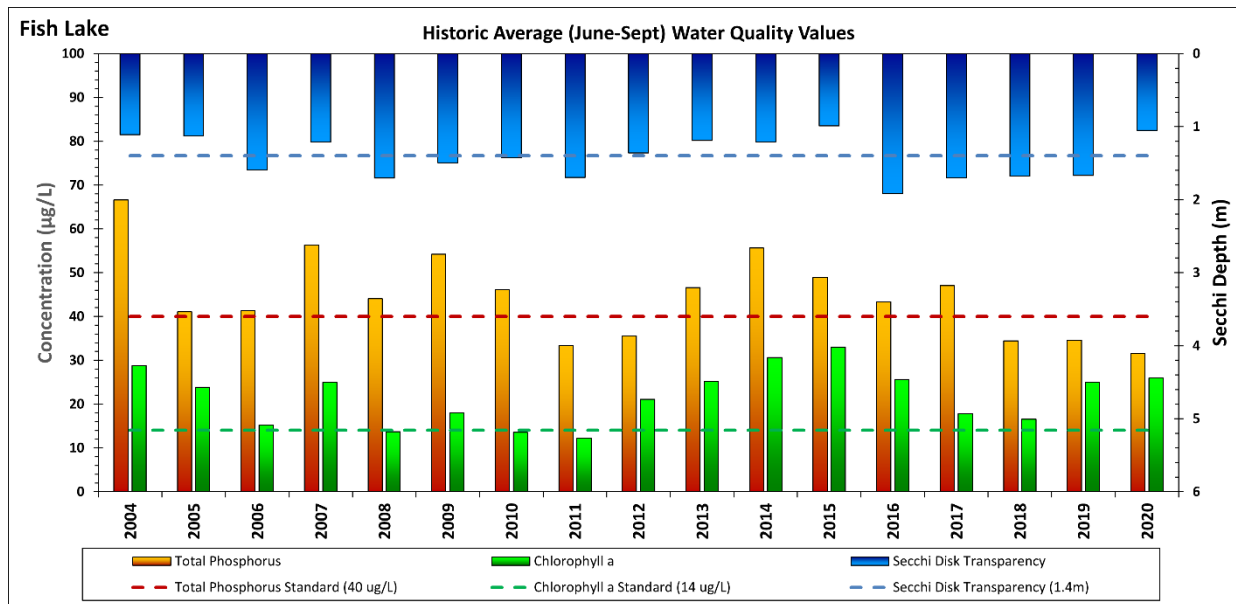
Upper Prior Lake



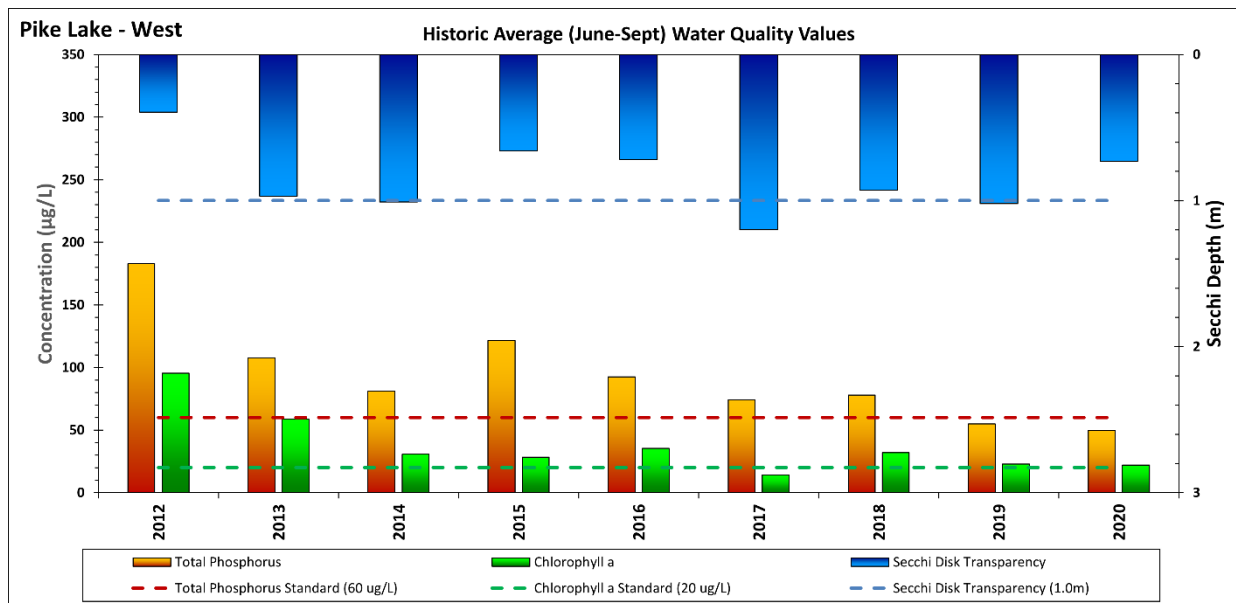
Spring Lake



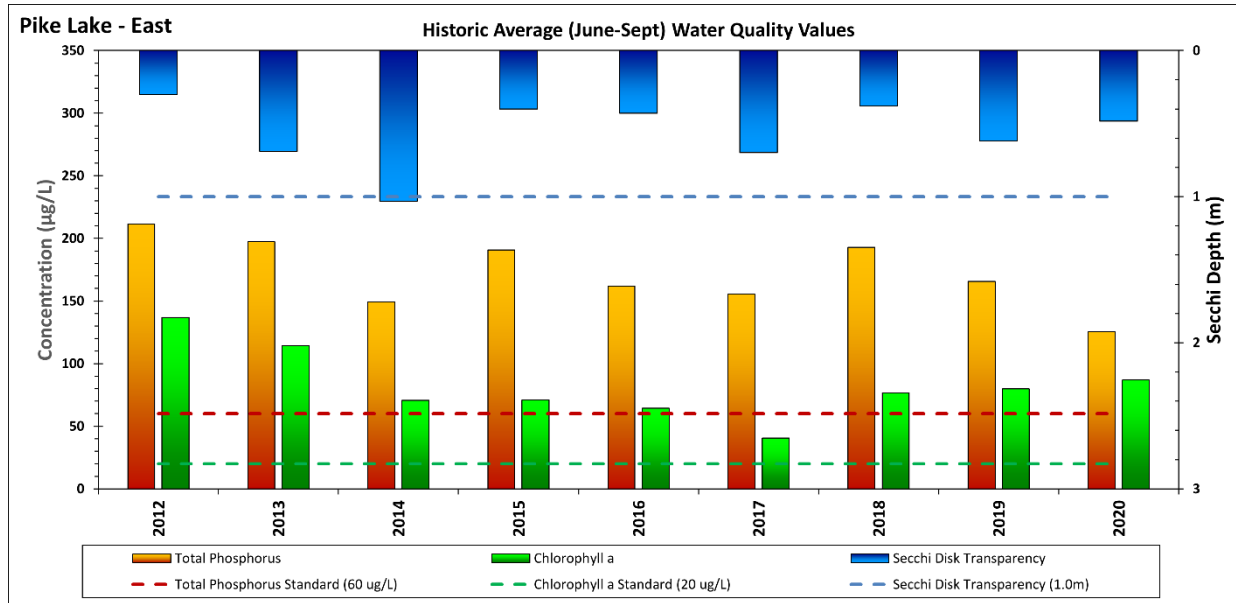
Fish Lake



Pike Lake - West



Pike Lake - East



Patty Dronen - Administrative Assistant	CLA is accountant	Bruce Loney, Treasurer	
5/11/2021			
Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District			
Claims list for Invoice Payments due for the prior month			
Managers will consider approving this claims list - Staff payroll and Manager per diems have already been paid via ADP.			
After the managers vote, two Managers will sign checks within three days of the meeting for approve claims.			
Then, staff will US mail checks (written on the Sterling State Bank) to the claims list parties.			
Staff will request that all vendors provide information on their invoices to fit into the categories below			
Vendor	Invoice	Description	Amount
1. Watershed District Projects (excluding staff payroll)			
EOR	00758-0114	Sutton Lake Outlet Constr Admin	1,843.62
EOR	00758-0139	General Engineering	739.50
EOR	00758-0139	District Monitoring Program	2,030.75
EOR	00758-0139	Permitting	1,171.00
EOR	00758-0139	BMP Easements	451.50
EOR	00758-0139	Rule Revisions	478.50
EOR	00758-0139	Northwood Pond Survey	1,501.88
EOR	00758-0139	District Monitoring Program	43.50
Hydrite Chemical	2463031	Ferric Chloride Tech Bulk	5,592.34
RMB Environmental Laboratories	B001802	Ferric Monitoring	310.00
RMB Environmental Laboratories	B001767	Ferric Monitoring	407.00
RMB Environmental Laboratories	B001766	Watershed Monitoring	776.00
RMB Environmental Laboratories	B001864	Ferric Monitoring	393.00
SWCD	2021-106	Task I - Cost Share	3,414.50
	2021-106	Task II - Farmer Led Council	10,112.50
	2021-106	Task III - Monitoring	
	2021-106	Ferric Flows	167.50
	2021-106	Ferric Samples	167.50
	2021-106	DMP Flows	368.50
	2021-106	DMP General	703.50
	2021-106	Task V - Education and Outreach	341.00
WSB	R-027785-000-1	MS4 Services	1,067.00
	R-017421-000-1	Carp Management	12,873.25
	R-017421-000-2	Carp Management	3,500.00
	R-017421-000-3	Carp Management	7,332.50
	R-017421-000-3	Carp Management	12,745.75
	R-017421-000-4	Carp Management	4,332.00
Smith Partners	42308		3,604.27
	42309		430.20
	42310		406.30
Xcel Energy	725829322	18051 Langford Blvd	29.84
		Subtotal	69,117.95
2. Outlet Channel - JPA/MOA (excluding staff payroll)			
EOR	00758-0140	PLOC MOA Engineering Assistance Seg	348.00
EOR		PLOC MOA Engineering Assistance Nor	87.00
SWCD	2021-106	PLOC Samples	117.25
HG&K		PLOC Accounting	175.00
		Subtotal	727.25
3. Payroll, Office and Overhead			
ADP Manager Per Diems		Per Diems	169.48
ADP Staff Payroll		Payroll Services	36,888.25
ADP Taxes & Benefits		Taxes and Benefits	17,461.51
Fidelity		Fidelity	265.38
HSA Bank		HSA Bank	265.38
Reliance Standard		April, May Premiums STD, LTD	1,011.28
Dodge of Burnsville		Truck Purchase	28,117.00
Innovative Office Solutions LLC		Office and Board meeting nameplates	134.91
Scott County		Full Year Property Tax	140.00
T-Mobile		Account Close for all lines (per Jaime)	317.36
League of Minnesota Cities Insu	40002869	Workers' Compensation Coverage Pre	2,882.00
Metro Sales	1805197	April-May usage	110.60
Domain Listings	242-1848	Annual Website Domain Listing (plslwd)	228.00
NCPERS		Life Insurance	80.00
VISA		April billing	1,379.54
CLA	2849535	Monthly Bookkeeping	1,300.00
CLA	2849535	Payroll Services	500.00
CLA	2849535	W-2 Research	160.00
CLA	2849535	Audit Prep	3,150.00
CLA	2849535	Technology & Client Service Fee	98.00
		Subtotal	94,658.69
4. Debt repayment and Interest			
Northland Trust Services		Principal	
Northland Trust Services		Interest	
		Subtotal	0.00
TOTAL			164,503.89
X		X	

PLSLWD Monthly Treasurers Report

Treasurer: Bruce Loney

Account balances as of 4/30/2021

Old National Bank (Checking Account) *				\$	586,918
Sterling Bank (Checking Account)				\$	371,529
Total Uncleared Transactions				\$	(11,430)
Northland Securities (Investments)				\$	380,798
Cash			\$	380,798	
Securities	none				
SUBTOTAL					\$ 1,327,815

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Permit Deposits, etc.				\$	84,440
PLOC Contingency Reserve (850)*				\$	260,000
PLOC O&M Funds (830)*				\$	140,758
Alum Internal Loading Reserve				\$	230,000
TOTAL DISTRICT/PLOC RESTRICTED OBLIGATIONS					\$ 715,198

Available cash at end of April 2021	\$ 612,617
26.6% of 2021 Budget	

PLSLWD Monthly Treasurers Report

Treasurer: Bruce Loney

Account balances as of 4/30/2021

Old National Bank (Checking Account) *		\$	586,918
Sterling Bank (Checking Account)		\$	371,529
Total Uncleared Transactions		\$	(11,430)
Northland Securities (Investments)		\$	380,798
Cash	\$	380,798	
Securities	none		
SUBTOTAL		\$	1,327,815
<u>FUTURE REVENUE</u>			
1st half Levy payment (May, 2021)		\$	922,000
2nd half Levy payment (December, 2021)		\$	825,000
2020 Grants		\$	247,000
Carp grant (remaining)	\$	40,000	
Other as listed in monthly report to be received in 2021	\$	207,000	
Interest/Investment income		\$	200
Subtotal		\$	1,994,200
TOTAL EOY 2020 FUNDS		\$	3,322,015

FUTURE EXPENDITURES

Remaining 2021 District Budget yet to spend			1,757,684
Estimated remaining PLOC expenditures to be paid in 2021		\$	58,482
TOTAL REMAINING 2020 EXPENDITURES		\$	1,816,166

END OF YEAR CASH AND INVESTMENTS LESS EXPENDITURES	\$	1,505,849
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RESTRICTED FUNDS

Permit Deposits, etc.	\$	84,440
PLOC Contingency Reserve (850)*	\$	260,000
PLOC O&M Funds (830)*	\$	140,758
Alum Internal Loading Reserve	\$	230,000
TOTAL DISTRICT/PLOC RESTRICTED OBLIGATIONS	\$	715,198

PROJECTED 2021 EOY RESERVES	\$	790,651
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34.4% of 2021 Budget

* as of audited 2019 EOY