

Get to know your PLSLWD Staff



Jeff Anderson, Water Resources Coordinator

I lead the monitoring and research program, the Ferric Chloride treatment system, the carp management program, and the aquatic plant management program for the Watershed. In addition, I work with District partners and consultants to implement and achieve water quality goals and share information to make informed watershed management decisions.

I joined the Watershed in March of 2018 after working with Three Rivers Park District, where I monitored stormwater runoff and lake water quality. I grew up in Bloomington, MN and have a B.S. in Environmental Science from University of Minnesota Duluth.

Fun facts: 2021 regional carp flyfishing champion, 2022 PLSLWD muffin bake-off winner



Shauna Capron, Water Resources Technician

I began working at PLSLWD as an intern in 2020, and officially joined the team in 2021. I received my B.A. in Geography and Environmental Studies from Gustavus Adolphus College.

At the District, my main responsibilities include lake, stream and outlet channel monitoring, assisting with carp management, managing our AIS prevention programs, and monitoring small restoration projects.

Fun fact: I've been on the mountain/volcano that is furthest from the center of the Earth (Chimborazo)!



Emily Dick, Water Resources Project Manager

I have a background in fisheries and community partnerships. Most recently I worked in Washington state enacting projects to restore flow in dewatered streams across the state.

I have experience developing diverse solutions such as aquifer recharge, flood storage and water transactions. I spent years as a natural resource advisor in rural Zambia with US Peace Corps to advance tilapia production.

Throughout my career I have coordinated myriad partnerships between local leadership, landowners, traditional chiefs, government and private industry to create conservation solutions that fit within landowner and community visions. Midwest born and raised, I am driven by a love of culture and the outdoors.

Fun fact: I was a back-up singer in a small-time Afro-Pop song. Occasionally it was played in the Zambian bus station depots.



Patty Dronen, Administrative Assistant

I've been a resident of Prior Lake for about four years, and an employee of the PLSLWD for two years.

My husband, Dave, is a sales manager at 3M and we have two kids, Joe (25) and Maggie (22).

You'll likely find us enjoying the lake (especially Rockin' on Reeds), golfing, or working on house projects.

Fun Fact: I was a DJ at a country music station in North Dakota in my early 20's and I don't even like country music!



Elizabeth Frödén, Water Resources Specialist

I've been with PLSLWD since the fall of 2021. I have a B.A. in Geology from Gustavus Adolphus College and a M.S. in Hydrology, Hydrogeology, and Water Resources from Stockholm University.

At the District, I'm involved in a wide variety of tasks, including water quality monitoring, data analysis, and carp management activities. In my free time, you'll find me exploring the twin cities with my partner and our greyhound, Juniper.

Fun fact: I've been playing the violin since I was six years old and have performed in seven countries.



Joni Giese, District Administrator

I joined the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District in March 2021. I bring 25 years of consulting services where I managed a diverse range of landscape architecture, planning and water resource projects.

I am a licensed landscape architect with a Master of Landscape Architecture and Master of Science in Landscape Architecture degrees from the University of Minnesota. I also have a bachelor's degree in accounting.

In my free time I enjoy sailing, kayaking, gardening and enjoying time in the outdoors.

Fun Fact: My favorite place is Lake Kabetogama in Voyageurs National Park.



Paul Nelson, Manager: Special Projects

I have over 30 years of experience in water resources, primarily watershed management. I served as the Administrator for several Minnesota based Watershed Organizations, including the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD). I am now largely retired except when assisting the PLSLWD with special projects.

Prior to retiring I was the Environmental Services Program Manager for Scott County responsible for overseeing all the County's environmental efforts from solid waste to natural resources.

I received my Master of Science in Forestry with a Minor in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from North Carolina State University and my Bachelor of Science in Biology from Central Michigan University.

In my spare time, I work in the garden, read, cycle, hike, and kayak.

Fun Fact: My wife and I have converted over half our lawn into natural native plant areas.