

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

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 nearly three years.

My husband, Dave, is a sales manager, and we have two kids, Joe (26) and Maggie (23).

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!

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.

Zach Nagel, Water Resources Technician



I grew up in Savage, MN and earned a B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Hydrogeology from University of Wisconsin – River Falls. Throughout my career, I have furthered my knowledge with water quality analysis and reporting, fish/habitat surveys, and land management plans and projects.

In my free time, I enjoy new experiences and am a lover of everything outdoors. Some of my favorite activities include hiking with my partner and our 4 dogs, kayaking, and fishing the large river systems.

***Fun Fact:** I have caught fish bigger than myself with the largest being a 9-foot white sturgeon on the Columbia River in Oregon.*



Danielle Studer, Water Resources Specialist

I moved to Minnesota from Ohio. I graduated from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania in 2022 with a major in Environmental Science and Sustainability and minors in Writing and Biology resources. I gained an understanding of freshwater ecosystems through water quality and species surveys, invasive fish monitoring, and conducting and assisting with a myriad of research projects.

Following graduation, I worked for the US Geological Survey analyzing shoreline change rates and monitoring sediment deposition in the Gulf of Mexico.

***Fun Fact:** As a child, I won first place many years in a row in the small pet category of the pet show at my Ohio hometown's summer festival with my pet hedgehog, Prickers "Hedgy" McGregor.*