This report provides background information on the District’s programs, activities and finances for 2015. The District’s ongoing programs include education and outreach, data collection, installation of best management practices to reduce pollutants, water management regulation and permit, lake management planning, septic system management, ditch management, and general operations administration.

In 2015, the District launched its redesigned website, which includes GIS interactive maps, permits, historical records, and updated information.

The flowering rush research program that began in 2010 was moved into the management phase of the project due to the overwhelming success of the treatments. We did begin treating a new pilot area with bulrush stems and may continue with research in this area only.

Work also continued on the Drainage Inventory for the BWSR Grant and a GPS receiver was purchased to acquire and transmit inspection data. This tool will also be helpful with some of our permit work. New funding sources for the Rice Lake project were identified and explored. We continue to work toward completion of this extensive and costly restoration project.

"The mission of the Pelican River Watershed District is to enhance the quality of the water in the lakes within it’s jurisdiction. It is understood that to accomplish this, the District must ensure that wise decisions are made concerning the management of streams, wetlands, lakes, groundwater, and related lake resources which affect these lakes."

And finally, every ten years the District is required to complete a Revised Management Plan which encompasses all avenues of the District’s work. Many hours were spent in 2015 compiling information and reviewing other plans in order to lay the groundwork for our plan to be completed in 2016.

This 2015 Annual Report is submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Director of the Division of Waters. Copies are available in the District office.

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The Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD), is one of 46 watershed districts established under MN Statute 103D. The purpose of watershed Districts is to conserve the natural resources of the state by land use planning, flood control, and other conservation projects utilizing sound scientific principles for the protection of the public health and welfare and the prudent use of the natural resources.

Because of the deteriorating water quality in area lakes and streams in the 1950s and 1960s, local residents petitioned the state of MN to establish a watershed district for the upper Pelican River watershed area to address the water quality issues. PRWD, established on May 27, 1966 was the first watershed district formed for the purpose of water quality (other watershed districts were formed to address flooding issues).

The District is 120 square miles and located primarily in Becker County (95%) with 5% in Ottertail County. The Pelican River watershed is part of the Ottertail River basin which eventually discharges to the Red River of the North. Eight major lakes include the Floyd Chain, Big/Little Detroit Lakes, Long, Sallie and Melissa which serve as the economic engine for the NW region of Minnesota, providing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, including fishing, boating and swimming.

### History of Significant Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Petition to form District to Water Resources Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Order to establish PRWD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Completed Water management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Sponsored Lake Eutrophication Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Study of Main District Lakes by Instrumental Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Expanded Board of Mangers to 7 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Clean Water Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Established Detroit harvesting project</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Revised Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-99</td>
<td>Built Stormwater treatment facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Established monitoring program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>County assigned Ditch management to PRWD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Established Stormwater Utility</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Revised Rules, Adopted permit system</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Rice Lake Nutrient Reduction Project begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004/5</td>
<td>Revised Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Highway 10 Overlook Restoration project</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Flowering Rush Research begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>Campbell Creek Agricultural BMPs installed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Flowering Rush in-lake Operational treatments begin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A board of seven managers, appointed by the Becker County Board of Commissioners, guides the work of PRWD.

PRWD works with other government units, groups, citizens, and neighboring watershed districts to protect and improve PRWD’s lakes, streams, wetlands and the Ottertail and Red River of the North watershed basins.
The Board of Managers holds their regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 6:15 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Bank Building, second floor conference room located at 211 Holmes St. West, Detroit Lakes, MN. All meetings are open to the public. The Becker County Board of Commissioners appoint the managers to 3-year terms.

### Consultants

**District Engineers**

**Marlon Mackowick,** Wenck Associates, 3303 Flechtner Dr., Suite 100, Fargo, ND 58103. Phone: (701) 297-9600

mmackowick@wenck.com

**Todd Shoemaker,** Wenck Associates, 1802 Wooddale Dr., Suite 100, Woodbury, MN 55125. Phone: (651) 294-4585 tshoemaker@wenck.com

**District Attorneys**

**Karen Skoyles,** Briggs, Ramstad & Skoyles, 114 West Holmes St., Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 Phone: (218) 847-5653

skoyles@arvig.net

**Tami Norgard,** Vogel Law Firm, 218 NP Ave. No., Fargo, ND 58102 Phone: (701) 237-6983 tnorgard@vogellaw.com
Tera Guetter, Administrator
Joined the District in 1999 and became Administrator in 2000.

Brent Alcott, Assistant Administrator
Started working at the District in September 2014

Brenda Moses, Office Manager
Began working for PRWD in February 2013

Terry Anderson, Harvest Supervisor
Jerome Genz, Harvest Assistant

Tim Lenzmeier, student at NDSU.

Josh Sundberg student at MSU—Moorhead

Two college interns are hired each year to assist the District Staff. Their main focus is on the water quality monitoring program. They are responsible for collecting samples from area lakes and rivers, entering data into the District's database, assisting with Flowering Rush sampling, and conducting plant and shoreline surveys. They are also exposed to educational and outreach opportunities such as our booth at the Becker County fair.

Advisory Committee

John Postovit, 20344 Co. Rd. 131, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, (218) 847-1165

Rodger Hemphill, DNR Hydrologist, 14583 County Hwy 19, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, (218) 846-8484

Peter Mead, Becker SWCD, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, (218) 846-7360

Brad Green, City of Detroit Lakes, 1023 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 (218) 846-7145

Tim James, MPCA, 714 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, (218) 846-0749

John Okeson, County Commissioner, 13167 W. Lake Sallie Dr., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, (218) 847-6244

Richard Hecock, 633 North Shore Dr., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, (218) 847-6052