

**Pelican River Watershed District
Administrator Monthly Report
January 16, 2009
www.prwd.org**

MAIN DISTRICT WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES

Upper Pelican River Watershed District Project. A letter was sent out to the landowners updating them in regards to the WRP/RIM funding and explaining that the District will be contacting landowners in early 2009 to begin the sign-up process for easements and options that the District will be pursuing (lands not eligible for WRP/RIM program). The semi-annual report for the MPCA grant/loan money is due on January 31st. Guetter has been working on it.

DNR Shoreland Restoration Grant– Detroit Lake/HWY 10 Project – Highway 10 Restoration Project Update:

Almeida headed up a meeting on December 19th to discuss the next phase of the Highway 10 restoration project. Present at the meeting were staff from MNDOT, City of DL, DNR, MCC, PRWD, Prairie Restoration and Land Elements. Plans were discussed for the budget schedule, funding sources, plantings and other issues related the project timeline for this spring. A master plan is being developed by Land Elements. Almeida will submit a summary of the project plan to the DNR for approval in order to obtain funding to begin planting as early as the beginning of May 2009.

North Area Stormwater Study – Guetter met with Ulteig Engineering on January 12th to review the Draft North Area Stormwater Management Plans. Also discussed was potential funding from the Clean Water Legacy Act. Guetter requested Pete Waller, BWSR to look into project eligibility for storm water treatment upgrades. Currently the draft plans are under review by Wenck.

WATER MANAGEMENT RULES

- a. **Permits.** See enclosed small sites report. No monthly activity to report.

DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The process of writing the 2008 Annual Report has begun. Hecock calculated 2008 nutrient loadings and discharges for major stream sampling sites. Almeida summarized lake water quality data from 2008 in the form of tables and graphs. A narrative summarizing water quality trends and 2008 activities within the district is in process for the report.

Almeida is writing a monitoring protocol document outlining procedures. The guidance document will be used as a reference for standardizing monitoring practices within the PRWD. The document is modeled after the Red River Basin protocol document, but is further streamlined to PRWD monitoring efforts.

Preliminary work has been done for the 2009 Monitoring Plan. Almeida, with help and advice from Hecock, developed sampling regimes for 2009 for both lakes and streams. Monitoring initiatives and focuses have been determined. A draft plan will be presented to the Board in February for review and approval.

EDUCATION

Becker COLA. Hecock, serving as interim President of COLA, has continued to meeting with the organization Executive Board in an attempt to re-focus the group's structure and meetings. We feel that a healthy COLA is an asset to PRWD.

MAWD YouTube Channel- Check it out: MN Watershed Districts has a "YouTube" channel. This channel will be used to post various meetings, training sessions, informational sessions and watershed district videos. All videos on this channel are available to the general public, and can be used as a very cheap and widely accessible public relations tool. Videos are always free to view and post. So far, you can view the BWSR Constitutional Amendment Listening Session that took place on Dec. 19th. www.youtube.com/mnwatersheddistricts

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Annual Workplan –A copy of the 2009 proposed Work Plan is included for review.

Financial- Guetter has been working with Omberg on the financials. The following deposits were made since the last manager meeting: LMCIT insurance refunds - \$506-Property amendment & \$1,461 Workers Comp (Harvest); State of MN - \$154 PERA and \$8,106.37 – Property Tax Credit; Wells Fargo Monthly Interest - \$697.

Personnel –Guetter and Omberg gathered information on benefits administration.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT.

A shift in strategy has taken place as we have become more familiar with new DNR regulations and the manner in which they will be applied to the District. Instead of preparing an Aquatic Plant Management Plan, we now will be preparing a **Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP)**. While the general process will remain as previously described, we now will strive to prepare the plan in strict accordance with new DNR guidelines with the ultimate aim of having the DNR officially adopt the plan. The advantage of this approach is that if official approval is gained, the DNR would be committed to permit the components of the plan; variances from existing regulations may also be a part of the plan. The LVMP will also clarify the roles to be played by the DNR, PRWD, other local governments, and private landowners. Two meetings of stakeholders have been set for February 2nd. A letter of invitation has been sent to dozens of citizens and local officials. Many more e-mail invitations also have been issued. The two meetings will have identical agendas, featuring DNR, PRWD introductions and breakout sessions (by lakes). It is anticipated that follow-up meetings will be held as we move forward to formulate plans.

MN Aquatic Plant Management Rules Update: Email from Steve Enger, January 16, 2009

Judge Luis recommended that the DNR's proposed APM rules be adopted, with the changes proposed by the DNR in its response to public comments. The judge also suggested some additional minor wording changes, which the DNR is considering.

The changes proposed by DNR in its response to public comments include:

- 1) Eliminate the provision preventing commercial aquatic pesticide applicators from applying pesticides to public waters under an APM permit for violation of APM rules;
- 2) Provide for the full appeal process to occur before an APM permit is revoked;
- 3) Eliminate the phrase "but not limited to" in several places;
- 4) Clarify that more than 100 shoreline feet of submersed aquatic plant control may be allowed adjacent to commercial campgrounds;
- 5) Specify public participation requirements for lake vegetation management plans on the grandfather lakes (notice or news release in a local newspaper, public meeting, and a 30-day comment period);
- 6) Clarify ambiguous language for landowner approval requirements for APM permits so it does not appear that landowners need approval from their next-door neighbors before controlling aquatic plants; and
- 7) Retain current penalty language in rule, which specifies that violations of APM rules are misdemeanors.

You can review a pdf file of the Judges report at the web page below under "Rulemaking documents."

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/apm/index.html>

You can also review the rule making record including the ALJ's report at the Office of Administrative Hearings web page by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.oah.state.mn.us/cases/200019885-AqPlantMgmt/index.html>

Ditch Inspector's Report January 16, 2009

- Ditch 11/12- Nothing further to report.**
- Ditch 13- Nothing further to report.**
- Ditch 14- Nothing further to report.**

