

**Pelican River Watershed District
Administrator Monthly Report
April 10, 2009
www.prwd.org**

MAIN DISTRICT WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES

Upper Pelican River Watershed District Project. On April 7th, a technical meeting was attended by Guetter, Pete Waller, Ed Musielewicz. Musielewicz presented a WRP/RIM sign-up flow chart to help educate us on the steps that be taken. A sign-up is scheduled to begin within the month. Kral will meet with eligible landowners, sign-up with the option, and start the enrollment process with NRCS.

Kral and Ramstad have closed on some flowage easements which will be held by the District. A copy of Kral's report is enclosed.

The District submitted the paperwork for the one-year extension on the MPCA Clean Water Loan Agreement (\$450,000 loan funds available at low interest rates).

Highway 10 Shoreline Restoration Project Update:

On March 27th Almeida held a meeting to discuss the Hwy 10 shoreline restoration project details. A tentative timeline for this spring is in order. As soon as the weather permits, MNDOT will begin construction of the scenic overlook, final site grading and additional alterations to the project area. Following construction, Prairie Restoration will begin the seed bed site preparation, consisting of spraying existing weeds, seeding and erosion control. Soon after that, the Minnesota Conservation Crew will join in to plant shrubs and forbs within the project area. Luxury Landscaping will supply and install all the trees for the project. The goal is for all the planting to be finished by the end of June. Another meeting was held on April 9, 2009 with a sub-committee of the project partners (City of DL –Brad Green, MN DOT- Tom Lundberg, David Graham, Master Gardeners – Sally Hausken) to review the final budget/orders; contract execution; and plant storage/watering issues.

WATER MANAGEMENT RULES

- a. **Permits.** See enclosed Rules Report. Omberg is reviewing permit application forms and will update them.

MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

In March streams within the PRWD experienced near record breaking high levels. The conditions of the streams were similar to that of a hundred year flood event. During this period Almeida consistently read gage levels and sampled the streams to characterize the amounts of runoff and nutrient loadings for this event. Due to the unlikely situation, photos were taken to document the conditions at various locations throughout the district. This was particularly helpful for the Rice Lake project progress.

On March 26th Almeida and Manager Brainerd continued in the quest to acquire a new boat for the 2009 monitoring season by visiting a dealership near Ottertail. After many trips to J&K Marine and other dealerships for prices (including used boats/motors), J&K finally counter offered within our \$7,500 budget, including the trade in for the old boat, to make their offer (2009 Alumacraft Fisherman 145 with a 25 hp Yamaha, trailer, and depth finder) the best value. Many thanks to Managers Brainard, Jordan, and Kral for their assistance with the boat search. A purchase order was submitted and hopefully the boat will arrive soon so we can get it ready for the May monitoring.

In the next couple of weeks interviews will be held for the the summer monitoring intern. We have received several very promising applications.

EDUCATION

Omberg finished education ideas on website as well as updated the home page. She also contacted Brad Green, City of DL to inform him that the education material they can use is printable from the web page. They seemed to be satisfied with the information.

Shoreland Owner's Booklet – a small committee (COLA, Becker County, PRWD, Becker SWCD) has met a few times over the past couple of weeks to iron out the local information we want in the 28-page booklet.

COLA

Hecock continues to serve as Interim President of the organization. There have been several meetings to consider ways to revitalize COLA. Among other things, there will be a greater reliance on Lake Association representatives. By-laws have undergone extensive revisions. Tera Guetter has been meeting with a COLA committee to flesh out an important brochure dealing with shoreline residence issues. The first full meeting of COLA will be held on April 16.

AUDIT

Omberg finished the Audit letters and had them signed and sent off to our Auditor Mathias C. Justin, Ltd. We now are waiting for confirmation on when we will be expecting them to conduct the audit. Guetter, Imholte and Omberg have been busy collecting and finishing all the documents that the auditors will need.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Financial- Omberg is working on the first quarter actual vs budget and will be presented at the meeting.

Personnel Committee- The committee met on April 1, 2009. They reviewed Attorney Ramstad recommendations. Enclosed is a copy of the meeting notes.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT.

Signature cards - All envelopes have been addresses, stamped and stuffed with permission cards as well as a cover letter addressing the issue regarding signature requirements for the treatment of aquatic vegetation. The process of sending the postcards out has been delayed due to the desired addition of flyers from the DNR about Flowering rush and Curlyleaf pondweed. As soon as these additional flyers are received, the letters and postcards will be sent out to necessary lake shore owners.

Legislative Action – At the MAWD legislative gathering last month, Kral and Guetter met with Rep. Paul Marquart and Sen. Dan Skogen who agreed to author changes to the DNR statutes regarding aquatic plant control permit fees. The bill numbers in the House/Senate are: HF2110 and SF1831. The DNR requested that the bill be not heard in committee, however, we have requested a hearing, at this time I don't have any further information. The DNR also suggested that if the bill goes forward to change the wording from listing specific plant species to "Aquatic Invasive Species". The DNR also is requesting limiting permit fee exemptions to lake-wide AIS treatments only – a permit fee will still be charged for AIS control on individual properties. Landowner signatures will still be required. A hearing will give us an opportunity to discuss the system and expenses associated with large-scale control measures. A newspaper article (DL paper) and a news story on WDAY highlighted our issues and urged citizens to contact their legislators. Also many emails were sent out targeting various groups for their assistance with getting the word out.

APC - On April 1 the aquatic plant committee (Imholte, Jordan, Wickum) and Hecock met with first with DNR officials, and later with the City and DNR officials. Enclosed is a copy of Hecock's meeting notes.

LVMP – Hecock continues to work on the content of the plan(s). The DNR is recommending a more abbreviated approach; if this recommendation persists, in may be necessary to re-think the PRWD approach, because of the need to deal with administrative and funding issues which go beyond the LVMP process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rice Lake Technical Meeting – Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Personnel Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Ditch Inspector's Report

April 10, 2009

Ditch 11/12- Nothing further to report.

Ditch 13- Nothing further to report.

Ditch 14- Nothing further to report.