

**Pelican River Watershed District
Administrator Monthly Report
April 9, 2010
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MAIN DISTRICT WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES

1. Upper Pelican River Watershed District Project.

Rice Lake Wetland - Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funding. Nothing further to report (one property purchased the other property scheduled to close in May).

Rice Lake Wetland - Clean Water Legacy. Guetter/Almeida attended "ELINK" webinar training, an online project tracking system for the BWSR grant funds on April 6th.

MPCA Clean Water Partnership. Kral and Guetter will continue to finalize the last few remaining easements.

2. MPCA Clean Water Partnership Grant (\$48,000) - Pearl Lake Subwatershed Diagnostic Study.

Equipment for the Pearl Lake Diagnostic Study has arrived! Almeida has been working on installation plans, including moving boxes out to samples sites with the help of Terry Anderson, meeting with property owners, and meeting with John Okeson of the county to research culvert locations. There are also Lake Association meetings scheduled as well as a meeting with PCA project manager Tim James to review work plan items before submittal. Almeida expects the work plan and two sites to be installed within the next couple weeks. The first grant payment of \$11,000 has been received by the District and an additional \$16,000 will be received after the submittal of the work plan.

WATER MANAGEMENT RULES

- a. **Permits** - see enclosed report.
- b. **Storm water credit system Agreement** – no action by Administrator this month due to time constraints.

EDUCATION.

Becker COLA. COLA planning for 2010 is underway under Hecock's leadership. This year's theme will be "Making Lake Associations Stronger". Among other things the Executive Director of Minnesota Waters will speak to that theme. Also there will be a monitoring workshop. COLA will attempt to find ways to improve the climate for implementing lake-friendly programs, such as an expanded septic inspection program, aquatic invasive species inspections, and more aggressive enforcement of existing ordinances.

Water Festival.

Omberg has met with the fourth grade class of Shelly Gilson at Rossman School to give a presentation of Stormwater Runoff. Omberg has now been assigned a small group of four girls from Mrs. Gilson's class to mentor them in creating a "Key Note Presentation" for the upcoming Water Festival to be held on May 18th, 2010 from 1:30-3:00pm at Rossman Elementary.

DNR Restore the Shore/Detroit Overlook. Almeida and Guetter will meet with Lindy Ekola, DNR project manager, on April 13th to review plans for the Detroit Overlook planters and to look at other potential shoreline restoration locations.

The additional grant funds (approx \$25,000) will be available July 1st for new restoration projects and to complete educational signage at the Overlook area on Big Detroit Lake.

MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The official ice out date for Detroit was April 2nd. Streams are going back down after the spring ice melt and weekly samples are being taken. It has been almost two months since there has been measurable precipitation.

The District hired a new summer intern. His name is Mike Sorenson. He is native to Detroit Lakes and will be a sophomore at the University of Minnesota Morris this fall studying environmental focused biology.

On March 31st Almeida attended a LiDAR workshop at NDSU in Fargo. The Red River Basin spent 5 million dollars to collect detailed elevation data within the Basin to aid primarily in flood control. LiDAR (Light Detection And Radar) is a highly sophisticated system to gather the most accurate and detailed elevation data available today. Data is currently ready for most of the basin; however, it is expected that data for the District will be available next month. This will help the District to determine water quality issues and better prescribe BMPs.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

2009 Audit. Scheduled for May 6th.

Deposits as of 03/17/2010 – 4/8/2010

Permits - \$150.00 – Joel Olson and Robert Hoerner

Interest – \$95.59

CWP PEARL Grant–\$11,797.00

Personnel Committee. The committee did not meet in April.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT.

Hecock recently spoke with Sen. Skogen about the apparent disconnect between Invasive Species Plans, and the Objectives of Section of Fisheries which permits Invasive Species treatments.

District's Aquatic Plant Management Plan - Guetter has updated p. 27, the expenditure/research time-line of the APMP. - see enclosure. In addition, Project 1B, 1C, and HPIF 2010 budgets should be reviewed for consideration of approval at the April Managers meeting (see enclosed recommended revisions).

Towards implements a new funding mechanism for Aquatic Invasive Species Management, Guetter has met with BWSR Staff who have reviewed the District's 10-year Revised Management Plan (2005-2014) and the Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan and have given guidelines/options for proceeding with a District-wide Project. Attorney Ramstad will also report his findings to the managers. Towards this end, the City of Detroit Lakes Council will meet on April 13th to consider approving a petition for the District to set up a project for Aquatic Invasive Species Management for activities including education, research, prevention, management .

Meanwhile, Guetter has been working with research staff and DNR on the proposals. MN DNR AIS personnel have also commented on the proposals. The proposals should be finalized the early part of the week April 12-13 timeframe. Madsen /Marko research will involve four major components including Ecology, Phenology/Carbohydrate, Assessment of Management Activity, Analysis of Plant allocation across Depth Gradient, and Field Assessment of in lake studies.

APM Permits – Guetter is preparing permit applications for DNR review.

DNR 2010 Signature Cards for Aquatic Plant Management Permits. Signature cards for parcels that have changed ownership are almost all received. Only four cards remain to be collected. This went much smoother than last year! We only had approximately 30 to collect for a 2010 treatment.

Ditch Inspector's Report April 2010

Ditch 11/12- Nothing further to report.

Ditch 13- Almeida reported dam.

Ditch 14- Nothing further to report.