

A History of Firsts

The Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD) was the first watershed district in Minnesota whose primary concern was with water quality of lakes. Indeed, PRWD has a history of “firsts”! It was the *first* to conduct a scientific study on the role of septic tanks on the pollution of lakes, and the *first* to evaluate the effects of weed cutting on nutrient budgets of a lake. It was the *first* watershed district to assess properties on the basis of recreational benefits. In 1969, it sponsored the *first* statewide conference dealing with lake eutrophication.

Major Events in PRWD History

Year	Event
1965	<i>Petition to form District to Water Resources Board</i>
1966	<i>Order to establish PRWD</i>
1967	<i>Completed Overall Plan</i>
1968	<i>Established Harvesting Project, Melissa and Sallie</i>
1969	<i>Sponsored Lake Eutrophication Conference</i>
1974-1982	<i>Cal Berman hired to supervise weed harvesting programs</i>
1976	<i>Spearheaded, and secured funds for, the purchase of Dunton Locks County Park</i>
1979-1990	<i>Donald Klomstad served as District’s Executive Secretary</i>
1982-1995	<i>Morrie Estenson is weed-harvesting supervisor</i>
1983	<i>Study of Main District Lakes by Instrumental Associates</i>
1988	<i>Expanded Board of Managers to 7 Members</i>
1989	<i>First Clean Water Grant received</i>
1990	<i>Established Detroit harvesting Project</i>
1991-1993	<i>Peter Waller served as full-time Executive Secretary</i>
1992	<i>Began financial support of Waterwatch Program at DL Junior High School and later the Senior High School</i>
1993-2000	<i>Dick Hecock becomes full-time, then half-time Administrator</i>
1993	<i>State designates Flower Rush as a nuisance exotic plant</i>
1994	<i>Revised Management Plan</i>
1994-1999	<i>Built Stormwater treatment facilities</i>
1995	<i>Established monitoring program</i>
1995	<i>Terry Anderson becomes Harvesting Director</i>
1997	<i>County assigned management of 3 public ditches to PRWD</i>
1997	<i>Amended Management Plan (to accommodate ditch responsibilities and establish stormwater utility)</i>
1998	<i>Established Stormwater Utility</i>
1999-2000	<i>Tera Guetter serves as full-time Assistant Administrator</i>
2001-present	<i>Tera Guetter becomes Administrator, Hecock Senior Advisor</i>
2003	<i>Rules Revised, adopted permit system</i>
2005	<i>Revised Management Plan</i>