

The Mission

Acting on a nominating petition submitted on September 15, 1965, the Minnesota Water Resources Board (MWRB) established the Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD) on May 27, 1966. In explaining its action, the Board found that the...

"principal bodies of water in the upper reaches of the watercourse of the Pelican River, Detroit Lake, Lake Sallie and Lake Melissa, have become at certain times during the summer recreational months, unhealthy and unsightly due to excessive weed and algae growths. Such undesirable growths along the shores of the above lakes have interfered with boating, fishing and swimming; and have denied lake home owners the enjoyment of water scenery. In addition, weeds and algae growths have affected lake property value." (MWRB, 1966)

The perception that water quality conditions of area lakes were rapidly deteriorating was the primary motivation for proposing a watershed district, and guided formulation of the District's **1967 Overall Plan** and the subsequent efforts of the District Managers (PRWD, 1967). These efforts have included research, advocacy of sewer projects and improvement of sewage treatment facilities, aquatic plant harvesting activities, control of exotic aquatic species, and many other conservation and enhancement activities.

On March 17, 1994, the District Managers formally adopted a **new mission statement**. Rooted in its original MWRB charge, and sustained for 40 years by 25 Managers and their advisors, the District affirms its central interest in the water quality of the Upper Pelican River chain of lakes:

"The mission of the Pelican River Watershed District is to enhance the quality of water in the lakes within its 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 land resources which affect these lakes."