

2007 Annual Report
Thirty Lakes Watershed District
Brainerd, MN

This annual report is submitted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103.D. It summarizes the activities of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District for the calendar year of 2007.

Background

Thirty Lakes Watershed District was established by Order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board on May 18, 1971 in response to two nominating petitions.

The primary goal of Thirty Lakes Watershed District is the protection of the surface and subsurface water within the District Boundaries.

The primary purpose of the District is to conserve natural resources through land use planning, flood control and other conservation projects to protect public health, safety and welfare.

There are 52 lakes with the 70 square miles of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District boundaries. The entire District lies within Crow Wing County, and 60% of the total area is covered with surface water. Portions of the cities of Nisswa, Merrifield and Breezy Point are within the District, as well as portions of the townships of Lake Edward, Pelican, Mission and Unorganized First Assessment. The largest lakes within the District are Pelican Lake, Lake Edward, Lake Hubert and North Long Lake.

Introduction

The Board of Managers of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month. All regular meetings are open to the public and are held at the District office located at 17064 Commercial Park Road, Brainerd, MN. Proper notice of special meetings is published in the prescribed manner.

The Annual Election of Officers for the Board of Managers is held during the regular June meeting.

The **Managers and Officers** are as follows:

Thomas R. Ebnet, President
7335 Crabtree Lane
Nisswa, MN 56468
(218) 963-2318

Dale Armstrong, Vice-President
4752 South Road
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 963-7550

Ray Wilson, Treasurer (deceased 12/26/07)
19343 Soder Road
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 833-8166

Joseph J. Hampl, Secretary
27117 Pelican Lake Road
Merrifield, MN 56465
(218) 330-9236

Bruce Yund
30190 Osceola Circle
Breezy Point, MN 56472
(218) 562-4443

Advisory Board

The Thirty Lakes Watershed Board of Managers has been grateful to have the following individuals comprise this very active Advisory Board:

Bob Albrecht
22 Third Street N.W.
Crosby, MN 56441
(218) 546-6633

Rick A. Johnson
9124 Hunter's Lane
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
(218) 562-4201

William LaTour
2059 Perch Lane S.W.
Nisswa, MN 56468
(218) 828-9858

Glen Gustafson
28077 Blue Jay Way
Merrifield, MN 56465
(218) 765-3796

County Commissioner Rosemary Franzen
14732 Inglewood Drive
Baxter, MN 56425
(218) 820-7640

Staff

Marty Peisch, Administrator
5211 Ojibwa Road
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 963-4359

Tasha Lauer, Office Manager
14451 Blackberry Court
Baxter, MN 56425
(320) 905-1757

Mary Lou Cody, Bookkeeper
10894 County Road #127
Nisswa, MN 56468
(218) 829-9588

Technical Consultant

Alan Cibuzar
A. W. Research Laboratories, Inc.
16326 Airport Road N.E.
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 829-7974

2007 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

A Vision for the Future

In early 2007, the Thirty Lakes Watershed Board of Managers, together with the Advisory Board, began a series of six "Visioning" workshops, wherein they evaluated past progress and planned for the future. Efficiency, Productivity, and improving the public image of the Watershed District were the goals.

Educational Seminar

In February of 2007, the Thirty Lakes Watershed District partnered with the Mid-Minnesota Builders Association, A. W. Research Laboratories and Westwood Professionals to host a one-day seminar on Porous Concrete and Pervious Asphalt. There were more than fifty people in attendance representing Contractors, Governmental Units, Engineers and members of the general public. Three different Speakers made presentations on porous concrete, pervious asphalt, and pervious paving stones.

County Building Permits

In an effort to be pro-active and informed on the development within the District, in 2007 the Thirty Lakes Watershed District began making inspections on properties recently granted Construction Permits from Crow Wing County. Onsite inspections were made of some 197 properties. Approximately 16 of those inspections resulted in requiring the property owners to secure a Storm Water Permit from the District. Six resulted in discovering land use violations which were turned over to the County Enforcement Officer. The general results were positive. Many property owners were pleased that Thirty Lakes had made their inspections, and were most willing to comply with suggestions as to storm water management.

Storm Water Permits

The District issued 21 Storm Water Permits during 2007, with 10 more pending approval at the end of the year.

Data Management

It has been the long standing practice of Thirty Lakes Watershed District to make annual over-flights to identify potential land use violations. These photographic records date back to the 1970s. In 2007 all the historic slides were digitized and entered into ArcView 9, making them available at the click of a mouse. Further, those same photographs were put on the Thirty Lakes website so that they can be viewed by the public.

Web Site

The web site of Thirty Lakes Watershed District, 30lakes.org, was completed renovated in 2007. The goal was to make it more "user friendly", with a lot more photographs and current information about the projects of the District.

Crow Wing County Commissioners

Before elected, Crow Wing County Commissioner Rosemary Franzen began attending the meetings of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District, and has continued to do so as a member of the Advisory Board. She has been an important liaison, keeping the District Managers up to date on the operations of the County.

Boy Scout Camp

The Watershed District was approached by the Parker Boy Scout Camp on North Long Lake with a request for assistance in preventing erosion of a shoreline slope. Together with the Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District, a plan was devised to stabilize the slope, plant rain gardens, and control the storm water erosion.

The Boy Scouts of America authorized Thirty Lakes to apply for grant funding from the Department of Natural Resources under their Shoreline Restoration Program. With assistance from the University of Minnesota Extension Office Master Gardeners, the work is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008.

Water Quality and Lake Level Monitoring

Fourteen (14) lakes were tested three times during the summer of 2007 to determine their Trophic State Index. Of the 52 lakes within the District, 12 to 14 are tested each year on a rotation basis.

Lake gauges were placed in nineteen (19) lakes, and their level was recorded every two weeks from May through October.

Precipitation Study

Thirty Lakes Watershed District and A. W. Research Laboratories have continued a Precipitation Study which began in 2006. During the first year, the Sauk River Watershed District and the Red River Watershed District also participated and collected precipitation samples. The findings not only revealed that precipitation brings a considerable loading of Phosphorus, but that the atmospheric level and origin of the weather system can determine the amount of the Phosphorus load.

MAWD and NALMS

In late October of 2007, two of the Thirty Lakes District Managers and A. W. Research Laboratories traveled to Orlando, FL to the National Association of Lake Management Society conference where they made a presentation on the findings of the Precipitation Study.

Another similar presentation was made at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts conference in November at Alexandria. In addition, Thirty Lakes also made a second presentation during the MAWD Conference on the subject of ArcView 9 and the process of digitizing and loading historic photographs.

Pelican Lake Stormwater Project

Recognizing a serious storm water runoff situation in an area of Breezy Point, MN, Thirty Lakes Watershed District hired the Engineering firm of Widseth, Smith, Nolting to design options for containment and management. The most viable option was that of pervious asphalt with underground storage. However, that option would be very costly, and would involve relocation of underground utilities and infrastructure.

Currently the services of a Conservation Engineer are being provided through the Soil & Water Conservation District Joint Powers to put together a plan involving swales, berms and rain gardens to manage the storm water with less disruption to the neighborhood and a more reasonable cost to the property owners. The Conservation Engineer's report will be available in the spring of 2008, and will be shared with the property owners in the project area.

Certified in Storm Water Management

Three of the five Managers on the Watershed Board have been certified through the University of Minnesota in Stormwater Site Management. This enables them to evaluate sediment and erosion control measures in and around construction sites.

In 2007, the Administrator completed a similar course and was certified in Stormwater Pond Design. This training will be important in the evaluation of ponds used in stormwater management plans.

E.Coli Project

Glen Gustafson and Rick Johnson, members of the Watershed Advisory Committee, participated in a study of E. Coli bacteria testing led by Barb Liukkonen of the Water Resources Center. The project involved volunteers collecting and incubating samples and comparing the results with those completed by a professional laboratory.

“Intelligent Growth”

The Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce organized a project to plan for the projected growth in the area and at the same time protect its resources. The project was entitled “Intelligent Growth: Regional Planning for the Lakes Area”. Manager Tom Ebnet worked on the Water Planning Committee and Manager Joe Hampl worked on the Solid Waste/Waste Water Committee from the beginning through the conclusion of the project.

North Central Lakes Collaborative

After serving several years on the Governor’s Clean Water Legacy, Tom Ebnet is continuing to be a part of the Collaborative Management Committee of the North Central Lakes Collaborative in their efforts to plan innovative strategies for water resource management.

Looking Ahead to 2008

Data Management

The plan is to digitize all the Meeting Minutes dating back to the beginning in 1971. All documents will be scanned and loaded into the computer for easy reference.

Performance Review of the Managers

The Advisory Committee will be evaluating the Managers and meeting individually with them to discuss opportunities for improvement.

Brainerd Lakes Stormwater Education Group

Facilitated by the University of Minnesota Extension Office, this group of professionals will be seeking out opportunities for education in the area of stormwater management. Thirty Lakes Watershed District will be a part of that group.

Pelican Lake Stormwater Plan

If the Conservation Engineer designs a plan to reasonably address the management of the parking lot stormwater, Thirty Lakes will present this plan to the property owners and move forward to the construction phase.

Boy Scout Camp

Once funding approval is received from the DNR, plans will be finalized for the shoreland restoration at the Parker Boy Scout Camp. Plans for purchasing the equipment, supplies and plants required will be finalized. That plan will be shared with the Master Gardeners and volunteers from the Boy Scout Camp to determine a work schedule.

If funding can be obtained, plans for a Public Viewing of the project or an “Open House” will be made as a means of promoting the partnership between the Watershed District, DNR, Soil & Water Conservation District, Master Gardeners and Boy Scouts of America.

District Expansion

It continues to be the goal of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District to expand its boundaries to include the true geographic watershed.