

**2009 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 2009.

**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 34 lakes and 18 protected wetlands within 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** at the beginning of 2009 were as follows:

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

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

Kenneth B. Svee, Secretary  
20200 Elm Drive (P. O. Box 1077)  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
(218) 963-9432

**Appointed** to the Board in May of 2009:

Gorden Hardy  
22426 County Road #3  
Merrifield, MN 56465  
(218) 829-2737

Mark Young  
13873 County Road #109  
Merrifield, MN 56465  
(218) 831-0539

### **Advisory Committee**

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

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

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

Coralee Fox  
205060 Carolyn Lane  
Brainerd, MN 56401  
(218) 963-4462

Vic Peterson  
24400 Smiley Road, Suite 4  
Nisswa, MN 56468  
(218) 562-5643

### **Staff**

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

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

Tasha Lauer, Office Manager  
14451 Blackberry Court  
Baxter, MN 56425  
(218) 330-4310

## 2009 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

### **DNR Shoreline Habitat Program**

Through the Department of Natural Resources Shoreline Habitat Grant Program, Thirty Lakes Watershed District was able to fund 6 shoreline restoration projects. The DNR guidelines require that the restoration be a shoreline area of 100 ft. by 25 ft., or 75% or more of the shoreline on a particular property. The projects included the Elks Camp, the Parker Boy Scout Camp, the Legionville Safety Patrol Camp, and three private residences.

### **County Building Permits**

Onsite inspections were made of some 61 properties that had been granted Construction Permits from Crow Wing County. The District conducted the inspections only to address possible stormwater issues both during and after construction.

### **Storm Water Permits**

The District issued 30 Storm Water Permits during 2009, with 5 more pending at year end.

### **Annual Overflight**

The 2009 overflight documented the entire southern portion of the District. The result was digital photographs entered into a GIS mapping system. These photographs will provide important historic information for future land use decisions.

### **Web Site**

The web site of Thirty Lakes Watershed District, [www.30lakes.org](http://www.30lakes.org), continues to be regularly updated with current information, meeting minutes and photographs.

### **Water Quality and Lake Level Monitoring**

Fifteen (15) lakes were tested three times during the summer of 2009 to determine their Trophic Status. Of the 52 lakes and wetlands within the District, 12 to 14 are tested each year on a rotation basis.

Lake gauges were placed in twenty one (21) lakes within the District, and their levels were recorded every two weeks from May through October. Nine Volunteers checked 10 of the lakes, while District Staff monitored the rest. All data was submitted to the MPCA STORET system and made available on the Thirty Lakes website.

### **Pelican Lake Stormwater Project**

Thirty Lakes continues to work with the "stakeholders" to design a project that will be acceptable to all. Another design was created using a large grassy area for temporary retention of storm water, and this plan was submitted to the Board of Soil & Water Resources for funding through the Clean Water Legacy program. If funding is granted, the project will begin in 2010.

### **Earth Day**

Thirty Lakes was instrumental in organizing an Earth Day event at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd. Ten (10) Exhibitors had displays, and Speakers made presentations about Rain Barrels, Shoreline Buffers, Rain Gardens, Composting and Honey Bees. Nature Walks were guided by a Habitat Specialist from the Department of Natural Resources.

### **Lakes Area Clean Waters Council**

As a Charter Member and the Fiscal Agent, Thirty Lakes Watershed District continues to be active in this group and is responsible for the creation, design and update of their website, [www.dropstopabsorb.org](http://www.dropstopabsorb.org). The goal of this organization is to implement 1,000 new rain gardens, shoreline buffers or rain barrels by the end of 2010. At the end of 2009, 66 projects had been completed and appeared on the website.

### **Organizing Lake Associations**

In partnership with Minnesota Waters, Thirty Lakes hosted a one day workshop with the goal of organizing new Lake Associations. Residents from three (3) different lakes showed interest in forming an association.

### **Elks Camp Shoreline Restoration**

The District assisted with the seeding of the shoreline area in the fall of 2008 as well as the planting of the seedlings in May of 2009. The project was funded in part by the District's DNR Shoreline Habitat grant, with the balance coming from the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association, Minnesota Waters, the University of Minnesota Extension and Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District.

### **Cost-Share Project**

A new Cost-Share system was established to split the cost of shoreline restoration or creation of rain gardens with the residents of the Watershed District. The first such project was started in October of 2008 with spreading seeds and planting shrubs, followed by the planting of "plugs" or small flower plants in the spring of 2009. By the end of the summer, the project area was in full bloom and the Brainerd Dispatch featured several pictures in a two page article about the project.

Five (5) more cost share projects were completed on residential property in 2009, with nine (9) more proposed for 2010.

### **"What Shoreline Owners Need to Know"**

Thirty Lakes, in partnership with Dale Braddy of the Northland Arboretum, organized and held two identical seminars. The first was in April and the second in July. A spokesperson from the DNR discussed the DNR Shoreline Rules, a DNR Habitat Specialist discussed native plants and shoreline restorations, and an Entomologist spoke about indicators of a "healthy" shoreline. Approximately 60 residents attended the seminars.

### **Daisy Girl Scouts**

The District made a presentation to the local Daisy Girl Scout Troop about planting trees and flowers. Each of the girls planted a flower seedling in a small cup, and were given a pine seedling to take home and plant in their yard.

The Troop was then invited to put their planting skills to work at the Elks Camp shoreline restoration project. They did a great job, and earned a badge for their efforts.

#### **Crow Wing County DRT**

The County established Development Review Team (DRT) meetings wherein an applicant for a variance is able to meet with all permitting agencies prior to making the application. Thirty Lakes has been invited to participate and has attended most of the bimonthly meetings. This provides the opportunity to make the applicant aware of Thirty Lakes' requirements for permits.

#### **Document/Data Management**

The project of digitizing all the meeting minutes back to 1971 was completed. The arduous task of digitizing project files is underway and will continue for quite some time. A special program in the computer enables all the files to be OCR searchable by text.

#### **Home Builder's Show**

At the request of the Mid-Minnesota Builder's Association, Thirty Lakes Watershed District made a presentation on the subject of Stormwater Management at this three day show held at the Brainerd Civic Center.

#### **Certified in Stormwater Design**

Both staff members have been certified by the University of Minnesota in Stormwater Pond Design and SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan) Design.

#### **Crow Wing County Geological Atlas Tour**

The District partnered with Crow Wing County in hosting a Geologic Atlas Seminar and Tour. The first half of the presentation was on reading the Atlas. During the second half, participants were taken to several locations in the County to experience the landscape and compare it to what the Atlas showed.

#### **County Water Plan**

Although not a member of the County Water Plan Board, Thirty Lakes attended the monthly meetings and provided input to the Board. Thirty Lakes had discussed partnering with the Water Plan to host a seminar about on-site septic systems, however changes in the administration of the Water Plan caused the plans to be delayed.

#### **Hazard Mitigation Planning**

A representative from Thirty Lakes has been involved in the Crow Wing County Hazard Mitigation Planning, with the final Plan to be completed in early 2010.