

Long Water Management Area

Summer 2021

The work of the Pelican River Watershed District continued through the pandemic of 2020 and beyond with modifications to “normal” business practices. The Board of Managers met via the Zoom app to comply with state mandates beginning in March, and have now moved to “hybrid” meetings as Minnesota COVID-19 cases decline and vaccinations rise.



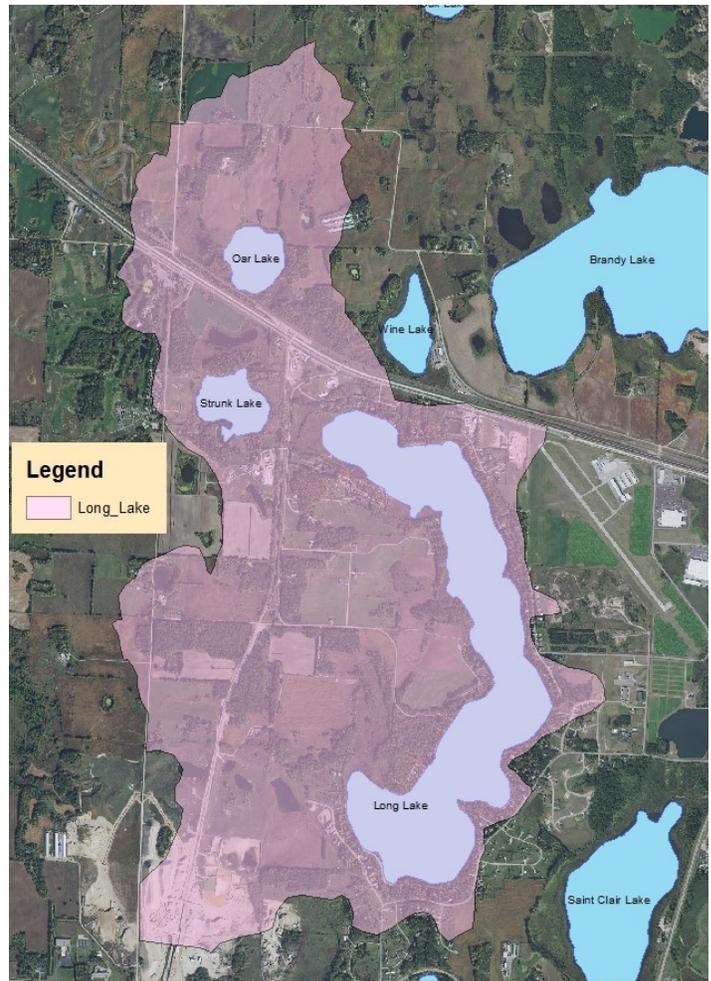
Long Lake Zooplankton Study. From 2019-20, the District collected zooplankton samples to monitor potential ecosystem changes within Long Lake due to the zebra mussel infestation. The district will continue to sample for the foreseeable future.

Water Quality Sampling. The District did not monitor Long Lake in 2020. The District’s 10-year monitoring plan (2021-30) was updated and starting in 2021, Long lake will be sampled annually. Whole lake aquatic vegetation surveys will be conducted in 2023 & 2028 and shoreline surveys will be completed in 2024 & 2029.

AIS Monitoring. Curly-leaf pondweed was found in Long Lake in 2020. The District will map the CLP area in 2021.

Flooding Issue. The District worked with a landowner on the west side of the lake towards finding a solution to resolve a wetland high water level issue adversely impacting the property owners’ driveway and yard.

MPCA Otter Tail River Basin WRAPS Study. The basin-wide assessment study was completed in Spring 2021. Long’s lakeshed area has a “highest phosphorus sensitivity” rating and a “Protection” water quality goal. Strategies to maintain Long’s WQ, include: forest and lakeshore protection, runoff infiltration on developed properties (stormwater management) , and improving upland/field surface runoff.

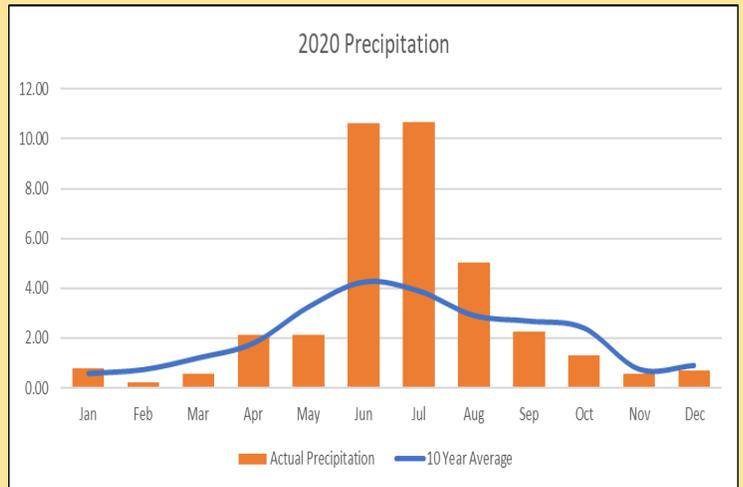


Water Management Rules	2020 Issued
Shore Impact Zone Alterations (sand blanket, rip rap, vegetation changes)	44
Subdivisions/PUD	2
Stormwater Management	21
Roads, Parking Lot, Bridges, Culverts, Storm Sewer	3

The District issued 70 permits in 2020 in efforts to maintain or increase water quality in District lakes. Staff met with property owners on the site to review proposed actions. Nearly two thirds (44) of the 70 permits were for work in the Shore Impact Zone (SIZ), including vegetation changes, rip rap, and sand blankets. A permit for the Long Pine estates-phase 2 was issued in early July. Please remember to contact the District if you plan on doing any alteration on your shoreline. These water management rules are needed to protect Long lake’s good water quality for fishing, swimming, and lake ecology habitat.

2020 WEATHER

The big story of 2020 was heavy rainfall events throughout the year, but especially during the months of June and July. Between April and September, there were a total of 20 rainfall events which precipitated > 0.5" of rain and 11 events which precipitated > 1" of rain, with the largest event on June 8th and 9th precipitating a total of 4.41" The wettest months of the year were June and July, with 10.63" of rain in June and 10.66" in July. This is 6.38" and 6.76" over the June and July 10-year average for Becker County (MN DNR Climate Data). Snowfall for 2020 (38.9") was below average (48.27") for the year. An anomaly occurred in October with 9.4" of snow falling, however, warmer temperatures melted the deposited snow shortly thereafter.



SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

Website. www.prwd.org.

Check out the new site. District staff has worked very hard through the winter months with a website designer to update the website. We launched the new page in mid-May, and will continue to update the information in the coming months. You are able to go into the *Our Water* section and click on your lake to see the latest information. We hope you find it user friendly and informative. The section titled *Our Work* is still being fine tuned, but will contain information on current projects and programs, and the *Resources* section, contains both current and historical reports and data regarding District activities. We welcome any and all feedback on the new site.

Facebook. If you aren't seeing our posts on your Facebook feed, you may need to "like" or "follow" us to see current information. Due to difficulties with the old District Facebook page, we closed it down and started up a new page in early 2021. In the Process, we lost some of our followers. Check it out for current PRWD updates.

RICE LAKE WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

After several years of planning and working with various government agencies and local land owners, this wetland restoration nutrient reduction project is ready for on-the-ground construction in 2021. It is projected the annual phosphorus reduction to Big Detroit Lake will be 800-1,200 lbs. The District has targeted the Rice Lake Wetland project as the primary source of phosphorous loading to Detroit Lake through its monitoring network. The alternatives, effects and benefits of the Rice Lake Wetland Restoration have been thoroughly evaluated.



The District engaged the services of Houston Engineering to design the project's features which include an upper embankment structure and rock fishway water control structure which incorporates a 15 ft wide low-water crossing and drawn-down capability; upper access road improvement to the existing access; installing a road terminus and removal of 2 large road culverts on the vacated Anchor township road segment; and replacing the Rice Lake Wetland historic outlet channel culverts with a rock weir grade control structure. An anticipated completion date of Phase I is November 1, 2021.