



Mission: To protect and enhance the quality of water in the lakes within its jurisdiction...ensure wise decisions are made concerning the management and related land resources which impact these lakes.

PELICAN RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
Regular MONTHLY MANAGERS' MEETING
Thursday, December 17, 2020
3:00 PM – Virtual meeting
211 Holmes St. West, Detroit Lakes, MN
(218) 846-0436 www.prwd.org

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Walz under Minn. Stat. § Chapter 12 – Emergency Management declared a peacetime emergency on March 13, 2020. The District has determined an in-person meeting may not be practical or prudent because of the health pandemic. The Pelican River Watershed District's Meetings will be held by electronic means as outlined in Minn. Stat. §13D.021. Members of the public who wish to view the meeting virtually or who desire to give input or testimony during the meeting, should submit a request at prwdinfo@arvig.net by Thursday, November 12 at 11:00 a.m. Comments submitted must have the agenda item in the subject line.

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call to Order2. Approval of Consent Agenda<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Secretary's Report –November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutesb. Administrator's Reportc. Ditch Inspector's Reportd. Rules/Permitting Report |
| 3:10 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Committees Reports<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Personnelb. 1W1P Updatec. Citizen Advisory, Rules |
| 3:30 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Old Business<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Rice Lake CIP updateb. City of Detroit Lakes Petition for Data Collection Project |
| 3:45 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. New Business<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. MAWD Annual Meeting Delegate Updateb. Final 2021 Budget, Levies, Special Assessments, and Feesc. 2021 Board Meeting Schedule |
| 4:15 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Treasurer's Report<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Approve December 2020 Billsb. Approve December Fund transfer and YET interfund transfersc. Review January-November 2020 Revenue & Expenses |
| 4:30 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Public Forum (5 minutes) |
| 4:35 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Attorney's Report9. Engineer's Report10. Pulled Consent Agenda Items |
| 4:45 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Announcements |
| 4:50 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">12. Meeting Adjournment <p>(action items in bold face)</p> |

**Pelican River Watershed District
Administrator Monthly Report
December 11, 2020
www.prwd.org**

COVID-19 Infectious Disease Pandemic. The District continues to follow the PRWD COVID-19 Plan.

MAIN DISTRICT WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES

Rice Lake Capital Improvement Project (CIP). The District will be notified by BWSR after the BWSR Board meeting (December 17th) if the project is awarded funding assistance. A work plan will be developed in January and the grant agreement will be executed prior to start of project work. If funded, the goal will be to advertise for bids in February 2021 with construction to commence after construction contract is awarded.

MPCA Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Group C. Staff met with MPCA and MN DNR to start the workplan development process on December 9th.

Otter Tail 1W1P – Guetter attended a meeting with Becker County (Mike Brethorst, Larry Knutson, John Okeson, Kyle Vareberg), Jeff Moritz (Cormorant WD), and Bryan Malone (Becker SWCD). There was lively discussion regarding the planning process and there is no urgency for approving the MOU at this time until more information is gathered and concerns are addressed. During the MAWD conference, a representative from the CLEAN Water Council stated that in the future (2025 timeframe) they are considering requiring consolidation of local units of government in order to continue to receive the non-competitive funding. This started out as a “voluntary” process, but may soon turn into a political hot button in the next few years.

BWSR recently posted five (5) YouTube videos explaining the 1W1P plan process: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-videos>

Petition for Project - Data Collection and Monitoring. – The DL City Council passed a resolution last month to petition the District for a Data Collection and Monitoring Project over a 15 consecutive year period. The petition will be reviewed by the Managers at the December Board meeting.

Federal FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds application. – The application was submitted to FEMA in early December.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Detroit North Shore Public Access – Guetter will write a letter to MN DNR Parks and Recreation Director regarding updating the plans according to adjacent landowners, PRWD, and MN DNR regional staff recommendations. Apparently, the St. Paul office prefers to install rock along the shoreline and not plantings which is in direct conflict with their own policies and commissioner orders.

Becker County Zoning or City of Detroit Lakes - The District did not comment on any Planning Commission or Board of Adjustment agenda items for December.

EDUCATION

Hodge Podge –Mortenson was the guest on November 20th. He discussed ice conditions, findings in monitoring data, and AIS in the winter. Mortenson also briefly touched on the 1W1P process and what it may mean for the citizens of Becker County.

Blue Thumb Partnership- After listening to the MAWD session presented by Blue Thumb, an organization in the metro area which promotes clean water and pollinators, Moses contacted the organization to inquire about a membership thinking it may be a good partner for the District in that we could use some of their environmental education literature and we could possibly sponsor a seminar for landscapers to promote native and pollinator friendly plants in conjunction with our Cost Share Program. During a conversation with their staff, we were told annual membership for a Watershed District our size is \$1750. When we responded that our limited budget would be strained with that fee, they said perhaps they could give us the SWCD rate, or \$500 annually (3.5 times less). There are also in-kind options to reduce this fee. We are still in discussions with them and no contract has been signed. Emily Javens, MAWD Executive Director was notified of this discrepancy.

MAWD Annual Virtual Conference—Staff attended several webinars during the MAWD annual conference. Topics discussed include stream restorations, Blue Thumb membership, stormwater management innovations, low head dam removal, and numerous others. Guetter was a presenter at the preconference (pre-recorded presentation). The conference highlight was of course, the Project of the Year awarded to PRWD for the Flowering Rush Project.

MAWD Resolution – a resolution was drafted and sent to MAWD (see report).

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Nothing further to report.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Website Update —The District has selected the company Woolly Mammoth to design the new website. Mortenson, Guetter, and Moses have been working together to define a new layout for the website which will give the site a fresher, more professional look, while making information easier to locate. The site map will be based upon the updated PRWD Revised Water Management Plan programs, projects, and the water management regions. Woolly Mammoth will be getting back to the District with a preliminary design and updated logo in early December.

LMCIT Insurance Policy-Guetter and Moses will be meeting with Brooks Larson of Bell Insurance in December to review the District insurance needs. The District may need to purchase a water structure rider for the Rice lake water control structure.

Annual Report-Moses has started to collect information and search through pictures for the 2020 Annual Report, which will reflect various procedural changes due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Financials- January – November R & E totals have been added to the Budget, along with the final payment from Becker County received in early December. Year- end interfund transfers have also been listed so that final fund balances are more reflective of the true year-end totals.

Indebtedness Report – This report is required annually by Ottertail and Becker Counties. We are happy to report at year-end the District has no long- term debt.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM REPORT December 2020

DITCH 11/12 (Moon Lake to Campbell Lake to North Floyd Lake)

Ditch 11.

Report: 11/3/2020: Orrin Okeson reported beaver activity north of County 26 by Moon Lake. **Status:** Josh Campbell trapped 3 beaver. No further action needed.

Report: 10/12/2020: Rick Schmidt reported beaver activity in the Whiskey Creek Dr. area. **Status:** Josh Campbell trapped 9 beaver and reported a large dam which will need to be removed after deer hunting season.

12/4/20: Mortenson contacted a few people who may be able to “blow the dam”. We have heard back from a couple of contractors, who have declined the work but may know of others who could help us. We will continue to seek a resolution to this issue. Any ideas are welcome.

Ditch 12

Nothing further to report

DITCH 13 (Little Floyd Lake to Big Detroit)

Nothing further to report.

DITCH 14 and BRANCH 1 (HWY 10 to St. Claire Lake to Pelican River)

Nothing further to report.

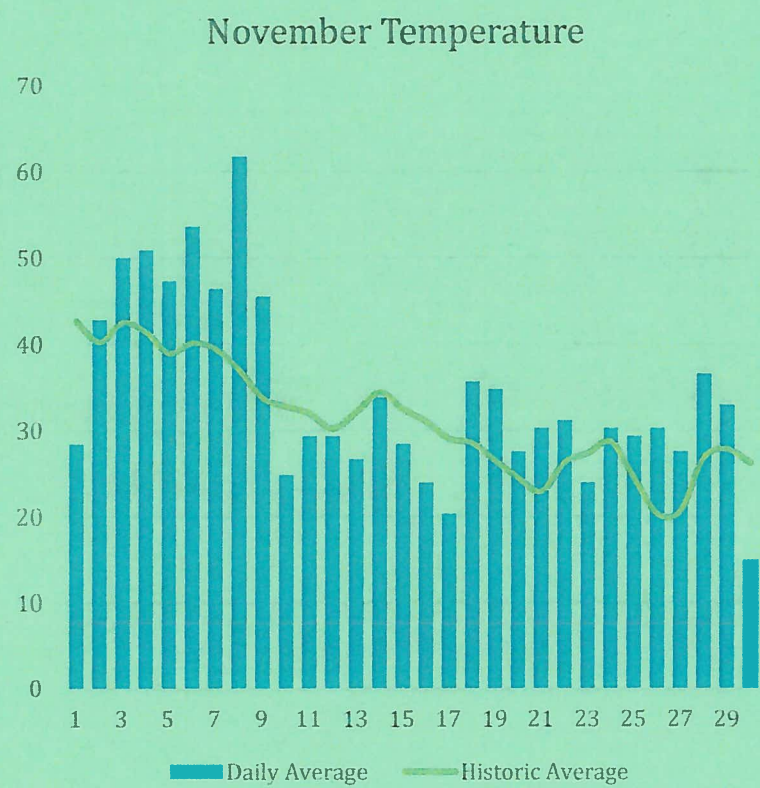
MONITORING – November 2020

Data Analysis. Mortenson began compiling the annual monitoring report in November and begin to prepare the 2021 monitoring plan. He will give a report at the February Meeting.

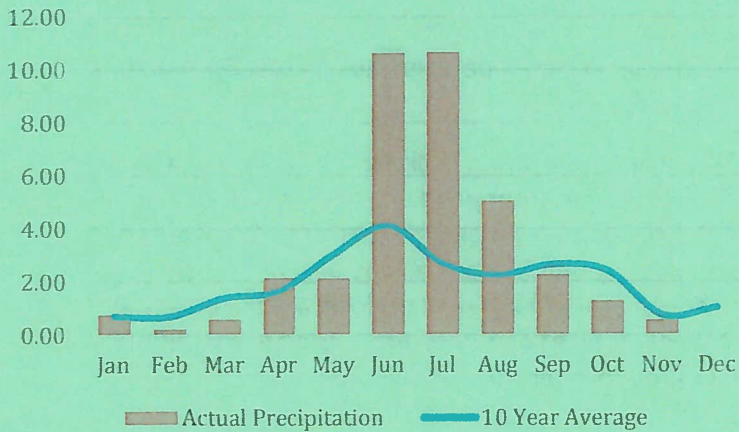
Long Lake Wetland Area high water investigation. In early November, Mortenson spoke with Shawn King, City of Detroit Lakes, concerning the investigation he performed of the City’s stormwater pond and wetlands to the West of Long Lake near Jay Deraney residence. King stated the stormwater pond needed a clean-out and the City would be taking care it in the near future. He also stated they found a spot where groundwater was bubbling up into the wetland. More investigation into this issue is needed. Mortenson will be working with Deraney to perform a more extensive investigation into the possible outlets of the wetland and any possible sources of excess water. We are contemplating installing groundwater monitoring stations (piezometers) to track groundwater levels in this area.

Weather

Mortenson spoke with Shawn King with the City of Detroit Lakes concerning the investigation he performed of the City’s Stormwater pond and wetlands to the West of Long Lake. King stated the Stormwater pond needed a clean-out and the City would be taking care of it as soon as possible. He also stated they found a spot where groundwater was bubbling up into the wetland. More investigation into this issue is needed. Mortenson will be working with Dr. Deraney to perform a more extensive investigation into the possible outlets of the wetland and any possible sources of excess water.



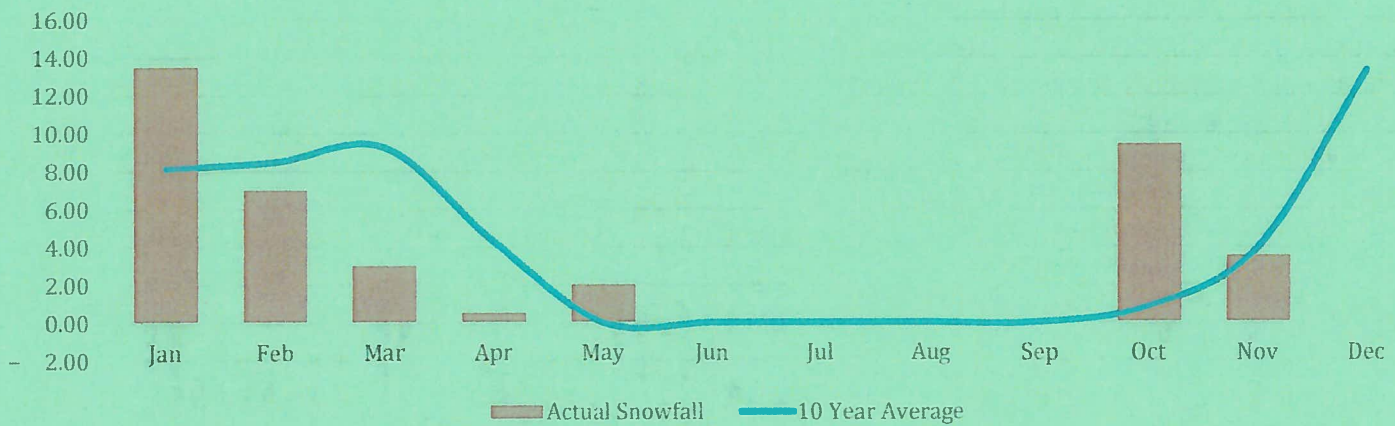
2020 Precipitation



Precipitation for November was slightly less (0.56") than the historic average (0.75"). This dryer weather has helped to allow area lakes and rivers to recede to more normal levels. If this trend continues, we may be on track for a mild winter, and an opportunity for limited flooding in the spring.

Snowfall was also closer to the average for the month of November, with about a half an inch less than the historic average of 4". Mild temperatures have limited snow accumulations throughout the month, breaking away from previous years where snow was established before the 1st of December.

2020 Snowfall



MAWD Annual Meeting Update – December 2020

Resolution

1. Capacity funding equivalent to SWCDs for non-metro watershed districts capped at \$250,000 (general fund) and for expenses related to attending meetings for 1W1P planning timeframes (manager per diems, staff time, travel, etc);
2. Training services/funding to provide training for WD staff; and
3. BWSR provide data how their funds are allocated (amounts and percentage)-BWSR staff; SWCD competitive and non-competitive grants/capacity funds; and WD's.

PRWD Delegate Update: (Haggart, Imholte, Kral)

Resolution was not heard at the Annual Meeting – it was deemed to be too late in the process. However, it received great support at the Region 1 meeting. Current MAWD Bylaws do not allow for late Resolution submittal.

8.1 Resolutions: The Chair of the MAWD Resolutions/Policy Committee will send a request for resolutions, along with a form for submission, to the membership at least 3 months prior to the annual MAWD membership meeting. Resolutions and their justification must be submitted to the MAWD Resolutions/Policy Committee in the required format at least 2 months prior to the annual MAWD membership meeting for committee review and recommendation. The committee will present these resolutions and their recommendations to the Board of Directors and the MAWD membership at least 1 month prior to the start of the annual MAWD membership meeting. The Board of Directors may make additional recommendations on each proposed resolution through its board meeting process. This same procedure will be used when policy issues are to be considered at any special MAWD membership meeting.

MAWD Business meeting take-aways:

1. The Bylaws need to be changed – A PRWD board manager should be on bylaw committee
2. MAWD to ask how the BWSR funds are allocated to SWCD, WD, and Counties. ***“Be it resolved that BWSR provides MAWD funding ratios from legislative appropriations and BWSR spending policies for SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, BWSR, and other funding recipients prior to the 2021 legislative session.”***
3. MAWD Dues structure needs to be updated to be more equitable between larger and smaller Districts
4. MAWD Board meeting agendas and minutes need to be sent BEFORE their meetings so managers can review and let Region 1 reps (Linda, Peter or Gene) know of concerns to be relayed to MAWD Board
5. MAWD Annual Business Meeting:
 - a. Enforce time limit for resolution discussion
 - b. When resolutions are submitted, review and ask presenters questions within the 3 months preceding MAWD.
 - c. Reports from each Region should be presented to the full assembly Business meeting to allow for discussion
 - d. Allow for New Business, questions from the floor, or at least request questions to be submitted before the meeting.
 - e. MAWD board agenda should be received before meetings, as well as timely post-meeting reports.
 - f. Executive Director Monthly Updates to WD's – Meetings with Agencies, What is being worked on and progress.
 - g. Legislative updates during session, in particular, what is MAWD lobbyists pushing for and are they in the best interest of all watershed districts.

RULES OF ENFORCEMENT

December 2020



SS: Small Site LS: Large Site Gov: Government Project

Permits Issued

| | <u>No.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Address/Area</u> | <u>Approved Project</u> |
|----|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| V | 20-69 | Christopher Bachmeier | 700 South Shore Dr. | Surety and plans received to remediate work completed in the SIZ without a permit. |
| LS | 20-70 | Aldi | 1305 US Hwy 10 West | Commercial stormwater Management >1 acre Impervious surface; new store construction. |

Permit Applications submitted

None

Violation *****

SS Greta Oak, 15603 W. Munson Lake. Work done in the SIZ zone without a permit. Working to secure Letter of Credit with contractor.

SS McCollum, Joe & Amy, 21749 Floyd Lake Dr., SIZ alterations-work did not comply with permit 20-27. Owner has been notified how much rip rap needs to be removed to bring site into compliance. Working to secure letter of credit with contractor.

Progress Report

Long Lake Road— Vegetation establishment looks good. Mortenson will continue to monitor in spring 2021.

Long Lake Dr.-Residents have been questioning high water issues on the west side of the wetland area. No source for the excess water was found. We will continue to explore the situation .

18-41– Highland Estates-City approved changes to the PUD. District permit has expired and developer will need to reapply.

Riverview- HOA has agreed to have Meadowland install another easement sign and will contact staff when complete.

Midtown Dev. -1281 Washington Ave. Moore Engineering working on calcs to verify site is functioning properly.

Molly Ridge— No further action has been taken.