

**PELICAN RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Regular Monthly Managers' Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2021
3:00 PM—Virtual Meeting
211 Holmes St. West, Detroit Lakes, MN
(218) 846-0436**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. 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 be-
cause of the health pandemic. The Pelican River Watershed District's Meetings will
be held by electronic means as outlined in Minn. Stat. .§13D.021.

To attend the meeting virtually or to give input or testimony during the meeting,
submit a request at prwdinfo@arvig.net by Thursday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m.
Comments submitted must have the agenda item in the subject line.

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 3:00 PM | 1. Call to Order |
| 3:10 PM | 2. Approval of Consent Agenda
A. Secretary Report—February 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
B. Administrator's Report
C. Ditch Inspector's Report
D. Rules/Permitting Report |
| 3:15 PM | 4. Committees Reports
A. Personnel
B. 1W1P
C. Advisory— see new business below |
| 3:30 PM | 5. Old Business/Updates
A. Rice Lake CIP
B. MAWD response to PRWD |
| 3:45 PM | 6. New Business
A. Ultra Snowmobile Club Trail Options
B. Citizen's Advisory Committee Update
C. 2020 Annual Report
D. 2021 Education Plan
E. PRWD Bylaws |
| 4:45PM | 7. Treasurer's Report
A. Approve March 2021 Bills
B. Approve March Fund transfer
C. Review January—February 2021 Revenue & Expenses Report |
| 4:55 PM | 8. Public Forum (5 minutes) |
| 5:00 PM | 9. Attorney's Report
10. Engineer's Report
11. Pulled Consent Agenda Items |
| 5:10 PM | 12. Announcements |
| 5:15 PM | 13. Meeting Adjournment |

(action items in bold face)

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 12, 2021

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

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Rice Lake Capital Improvement Project (CIP). The advertisement for bids was placed on the District website and in the legal notices section of the DL Tribune on March 7th and March 14th. The project is also uploaded on QuestCDN which is viewed by contractors. Bid opening will occur on Tuesday, March 23 at 10:00 am at the District Office.

Campbell Creek – Guetter & Mortenson virtually met with MN DNR Vinje and Clark where they presented the streambank study results. We will schedule a time to present the findings with the board over the next couple of months. This study identifies actions to reduce sediment loss and will be useful for the 319 grant workplan.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Website, Social Media, and Workshops- Mortenson was the guest on Hodge Podge, Friday, February 19, he reviewed highlights from the monitoring report, changes in water quality expected in the spring, and made another call for intern applications. Staff has recreated a District Facebook after experiencing issues with the old account. If you have a Facebook page, please "like" the PRWD page so that more followers will be able to see our posts.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

MN DNR. Mortenson submitted all necessary permits for treatment of AIS on Detroit, Curfman, Muskrat, Sallie, and Melissa Lakes. Mortenson also applied for DNR control grants on each of these lakes and was notified the following grants were awarded: Detroit: \$5000, Sallie: \$5000, Curfman: \$ 2550, Muskrat: \$ 1500, Melissa: \$3000.

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Community Advisory Meeting. Two meetings were held on Wednesday, March 10, with 7 participants: Lance Akers-Boy Scout Leader, Becky Mitchell- Becker County Museum, Bill Henke-Izaak Walton League, Shelly Gilson-Rossman Elementary, Kellie Wolf-Roosevelt Elementary, Kimberly Goetsch-Oien-Holy Rosary School, Leigh Nelson-Edwards-4H educator. All expressed how happy they were to be invited to be part of the conversation. Items put forth for funding grants include: "science kits", microscopes, reimbursement for environmental projects around the community, funding for environmental field trips, pollinator gardens around the community and especially at the schools. Moses will bring recommendations to the board for their consideration of Cost Share Outreach Programs.

OPERATIONS/ADMINISTRATION

2021 Education Plan. The plan will be presented at the March Meeting. We are hoping to include summer project tour, and other events.

2020 Annual Report. The report is complete and there is a copy enclosed in this packet. This is a March Agenda item. The 2020 Annual Report will be filed with BWSR and the MN DNR.

MAWA Meeting – Guetter attended the virtual MN Association of Watershed Administrators on 3/11/21. MPCA and BWSR gave state agency reports. There will be a BWSR listening session for Area 1 on March 29. A link will be emailed out. Emily Javens gave a MAWD update, but no legislative report to the Administrators. Much discussion on BWSR and MAWD with funding and operations.

MAWD Legislative Tentative Agenda- The event is \$99 per Watershed Organization
Wednesday, March 17th

1pm: Introductions and Announcements by Emily Javens

1:15pm: Working with Legislators - presenters: Justin Hanson, Tim Ruzek

2:15pm: Legislative Update by Ray Bohn

BREAK

3pm: Q+A with Legislators

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Grant Oversight.

- **Campbell Creek Watershed Restoration (MPCA Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Group C Grant Funding).** Staff will be submitting work plan items to MPCA next week.
- **FEMA Grant** – Nothing further to report- will most likely be notified in May or June timeframe if the grant is awarded.

Otter Tail 1W1P Planning– The MOA was sent to Otter Tail County. A brief meeting was held by Otter Tail regarding the status of Becker County joining the planning efforts. If Becker County does not participate in the planning, then BWSR will determine if the group can proceed without Becker County participation.

Otter Tail WRAPS study – MPCA is responding to comments received from the EPA and is making updates. Ben Underhill from Otter Tail SWCD will present the study at the April Board meeting.

Project DCM-01 Data Collection and Monitoring – Guetter sent the information for the engineer's report to Stantec for review on 3/5/21.

District Website Reconstruction – Staff met with Matt of Woolly Mammoth on Wednesday, March 3 and again on Monday, March 10. Mortenson and Moses have been populating lake information this past week and will continue migrating other sections weekly from the old site. We hope to launch the site by May 1 or sooner.

Aquatic Plant Management PIF. The District will need to hire someone with a CDL to assist Terry Anderson with the roadside pickup program that operates from just after Memorial Day through September. This person works approximately 16 hours/week. If you know of someone that may be interested, please have them contact our office.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

2020 Audit – all information has been sent to the auditor. The audit will take place in May.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE POLICIES

PRWD Bylaws – Moses researched various Bylaws from other government agencies and prepared a draft document in accordance with PRWD operations. The Bylaws were last updated in 2001. Guetter reviewed and modified, and a copy was forwarded to Attorney Skoyles for review and comment. The completed document is enclosed in this packet for manager review.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS

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. On 3/11/21 Guetter and Mortenson virtually met with City of DL – Klemm, King, Remmen, Pratt, Gulon, to discuss MS4 requirements and District Rules.

PRWD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Rice Lake project meeting will be conducted in April to update our project members of the construction status.

MAWD – Kral is serving on the Strategic Plan committee. Imholte serves on the Bylaws committee. Guetter serves on the Education and Finance committees. MAWD responded to the PRWD February letter.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
MARCH 12, 2021

**DRAINAGE SYSTEM REPORT
March 2021**

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

Ditch 11.

Report: 10/12/2020: Rick Schmidt reported beaver activity in the Whiskey Creek Dr. area. **Status 2/2/21:** Bucholz Blasting is waiting for sufficient thawing to ensure an effective removal of the dam. Nothing further to report.

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.

Guetter will be attending the Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors virtual meeting on March 15th.

DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING – March 2021

Interns. We are happy to report that Meagan Powers will be returning for a second year as a summer intern to assist with lake and stream monitoring. We have also hired a second intern, Isaac Cuchna, a Natural Resource Management student at NDSU. Both interns will begin working for the District in late May.

Special Project – Long Lake High Water Issue – Mortenson inspected the wetland to the West of Long Lake on 3/10/21 and found massive beaver activity. Mortenson recorded elevations in several spots and found water levels had receded since last fall. Mortenson recommended removal of the beaver and placement of piezometers once the frost has come out. Mortenson has researched options for piezometers and will be placing a few in the Long Lake and St. Clair Lake area when the ground thaws in late April- Early May.

Campbell Creek – With the lack of snow fall and the recent higher-than average temperatures, Campbell Creek opened up the weekend of March 6th.

Equipment Updates: Mortenson has received the Sontek Flowtracker 2 and has taken online training in its operation. With this new technology, there will be some learning curve, but operation should be easier than the previous pygmy flow meter. Mortenson will begin taking measurements once ice is completely off district streams.

One HOBO unit was malfunctioning during the 2020 monitoring season. Mortenson sent this HOBO into Onset to get it serviced and ready for 2021. Hobos will be deployed in early April or late March. He ordered the calibration standards needed for accurate operation of the sonde in 2021.

Mortenson removed the pickup from storage the week of 3/1/21, checked on the boats, and charged the boat battery to ensure it is ready for operation in 2021. All equipment was winterized last fall.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 12, 2021

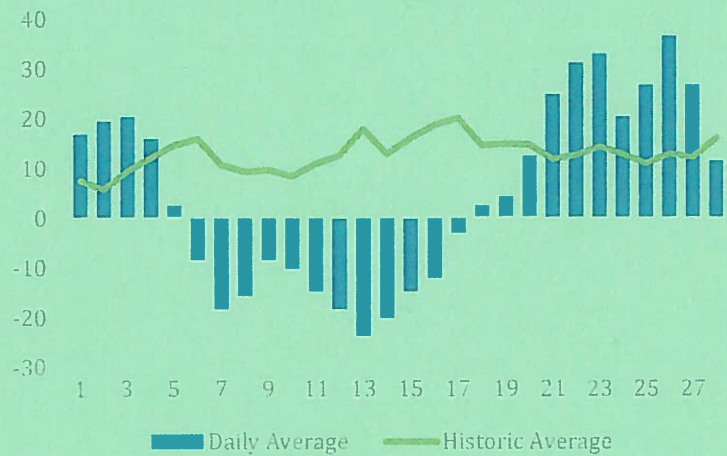
Weather

February had a near record length of temperatures below zero. Official Detroit Lakes temps broke at least a 30-year record for continuous hours below zero. In the winter of 1995-96 we had 162 such hours, but this year, starting on the evening of February 5, and ending late morning of the 16th, we blew by that record by enduring 274 hours of continuous temperatures below zero. Fair enough, the winter so far has been nowhere near as severe as in 1995/6, where lows reached minus 46 degrees, and there was more snow besides.

But even 1995/96 was not the coldest episode on record. And perhaps 1935-36 was not the worst either, but it certainly exhibited some impressively extreme weather. During that winter, on 57 days the lows went below zero; but 18 were colder than 30 below and 7 of those reached into the minus 40's. In January, 11 days stayed below zero for highs, including January 23 when the daytime high was minus 30. In February there were 17 days where temps remained below zero, including a consecutive run of 15 in a row (about 380 hours), and, where on February 5th, 30 below was again the high for the day.

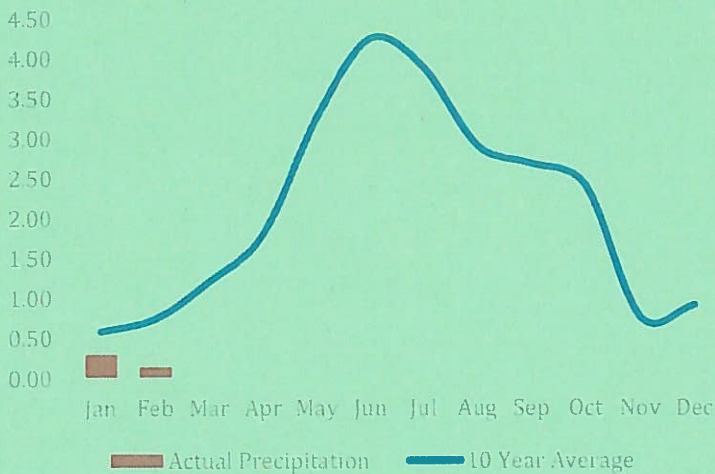
-R. Hecock

February 2021 Temperature



Temperature in February bottomed out at -32.8°F on the 13th. The highest temperature in February was 41°F on the 27th. The Coldest high was 14.8°F on the 13th and the warmest low was 32° on the 26th.

2021 Precipitation



Snowfall for February was below average, with 3" (average of 8.49). A total of 2.1" of snow fell on February 24th, the largest event in the Month. The rest of the snow that fell throughout the month was between 0.1" and 0.3" per day. A total of 0.13" of precipitation was in this snowfall.

Dryer weather this spring has allowed reduced snowpack as we come to spring. Area lakes and rivers will be allowed an opportunity to draw down and recede from near historic highs from the previous years.

RULES OF ENFORCEMENT

March 2021

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>
SS	21-01	Barnes, Taylor	2252 Clark Gable Rd.	SIZ: Rip rap
LS	21-02	Hanson Properties Hotel Shoreham	24110 Co. Hwy 22	Commercial SW Mgmt: Addition of seating area.
SS	21-03	Sunde, Blake	1885 Bridgeview Blvd	SIZ: Rip rap
LS	21-04	City of Detroit Lakes Pleasant View Apartments,	1111 Washington Ave.,	Commercial SW Mgmt: parking lot reconstruction
LS	21-05	Holiday Inn Right Choice Lodging	1175 Hwy 10 East	Commercial SW Mgmt: parking lot reconstruction.

Permit Applications submitted

LS 20-70 Aldi—Requested to amend permit to include stormwater for the old Sears building and parking lot.

Permit Applications Expected

SS Mike Whitmore—16443 Long Beach Dr.—contractor Superior Lakeside—rip rap. Mortenson has been on site with contractor.

Violation *****

SS Greta Oak, 15603 W. Munson Lake. Work done in the SIZ zone without a permit. Contractor has not yet submitted a plan or surety paperwork or payment.

SS McCollum, Joe & Amy, 21749 Floyd Lake Dr., SIZ alterations-work did not comply with permit 20-27. A plan has been received to bring the site into compliance, however, contractor has not submitted surety paperwork or payment.

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 has submitted calcs to verify site is functioning properly. Wenck has approved and work will be completed spring 2021.

Molly Ridge— No further action has been taken.

See District comments to City of Detroit Lakes and Becker County on page 2.

RULES OF ENFORCEMENT

March 2021

District Comments to City of Detroit Lakes Planning & Zoning:

Reviewed packet—no comments required.

District Comments to Becker County Planning & Zoning:

Reviewed packet—no comments required.