

# Regular Meeting Agenda



Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Time: 08:30 AM

Location: Wells Fargo Building, Second Floor Meeting Room  
211 Holmes St. West, Detroit Lakes MN

Manager Okeson will attend electronically at 101 East Sioux Rd #1, Pharr, TX

Manager Olson will attend electronically at 1152 Main Street, Fort Morgan, AL

Action Items in bold face

## **08:30 AM – Call to Order – Regular Meeting**

### **1. General Housekeeping**

#### **1.1. Approve Consent Agenda**

##### **1.1.1. Secretary Report**

- 1.1.1.1. Minutes – Special Meeting Workshop – February 28, 2024
- 1.1.1.2. Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 28, 2024
- 1.1.1.3. Administrator’s Report (including the Ditch Inspector’s Report)
- 1.1.1.4. Rules/Permitting Report
- 1.1.2. Pulled Consent Agenda Items
- 1.1.3. Public Comment Period – Public may address the Board for up to 3 minutes per person.

##### **1.1.4. Treasurer Report**

- 1.1.4.1. Approve March 2024 Bills
- 1.1.4.2. Approve March 2024 Fund Transfer
- 1.1.4.3. Approve January-February 2024 Revenue & Expense Report

### **2. Unfinished Business – none**

### **3. New Business (08:45 AM)**

#### **3.1. Financial Audit Report – Clausen & Schiessl Approval**

#### **3.2. 2024 Workplan Approval**

### **4. Reports (09:30 AM)**

- 4.1. Attorney – Lukas Croaker – MOU agreement update
- 4.2. Engineer – Moore Engineering

### **5. Discussion Items (10:00 AM)**

- 5.1. Little Floyd Lake Rock Arch Rapids – project update.

# Regular Meeting Agenda – March 20, 2024

## **6. Confirm upcoming meeting dates and times.**

### 6.1. Special Meeting - March 29, 2024

6.1.1. 08:30 AM – Bid Award, Little Floyd Lake Rock Arch Rapids and Moore Engineering –  
Service Agreement for Rules Update/Meeting Date Schedule

6.1.2. 09:00 AM – Manager Workshop

### 6.2. April Regular Meeting – Wednesday, April 17, 08:30 AM – 11:30 AM

## **11:00 AM Adjournment**

**PELICAN RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEETING BOARD MINUTES  
MANAGER EDUCATION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

**Managers Present:** Dennis Kral, Orrin Okeson (IT), Chris Jasken, Charlie Jasken, Laurie Olson, Phil Hansen, Rick Michaelson

**Managers Absent:** NONE

**Staff:** Administrator Guetter, Kemper, Bach

**Consultants:** Lukas Croaker (Ohnstad Twitchell Law), Chad Engles (Moore), Garrett Monson (Moore), Aimee Gourlay (League of Minnesota Cities)

**Others:** Rob Bredeson (City of Detroit Lakes), Laura Grundtner (League of Minnesota Cities), Peter Waller (BWSR)

**CALL TO ORDER. The Special Managers' meeting was called to order by President Michaelson at 08:36 AM.** Introductions were made by meeting attendees.

### **1. 2024 Operations: Permit Process, Handling Violation Complaints**

**Permit Process.** Administrator Guetter presented an overview of the existing permitting process/workflow for projects within Becker County jurisdiction.

Managers agreed on important considerations for the permitting process:

- Coordination with other agencies/ reduce overlap
- Clarity of rules
- Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Communication and relationship building with other government agencies
- Communication with permittees

**Handling Violation Complaints.** Discussion was held regarding the process and steps for handling violations. Attorney Croaker discussed ways to handle violations and clarified the initial communication should come from district staff. Responsible parties are both the landowner and contractor. He recommends a step approach with opportunities for the violating parties to correct at each step (initial contact by staff via phone or email if available; letter; with progressive steps including board hearing, attorney letter, district court action, etc.). Managers agreed staff will work with Attorney Croaker to develop an enforcement process policy and present it to the board.

**MOU Agreements.** An MOU agreement is currently in place with the City of Detroit Lakes. An MOU Agreement for 2024 operations with the County will help coordinate agency actions. Attorney Croaker will assist with conducting this effort.

### **2. Roadmap for Rules Revision Process**

Attorney Croaker and Peter Waller (BWSR) reviewed statutory requirements for watershed district rule updates. Rules are required by statute and should be developed towards meeting the District's purpose and goals as set out in the water management plan. This is a one-year process including the rule revisions, legal notices, BWSR 45- day review and comment period, MN DOT review, public hearing, board adoption, publishing, etc. Mr. Waller noted BWSR review comments are for Board consideration and not requirements.

Garrett Monson (Moore Engineering) presented 'PRWD Rule Revision Process – A Roadmap to Rule Review and Revision'.

PRWD agreed to following their engineering and legal consultants recommended roadmap:

- Review District Goals & Purpose; Statutory Requirements; BWSR Rule Making Handbook
- Establish baseline knowledge (water cycle, lake/stream health, stormwater/runoff; drainage, near shore activities; high level – one meeting or more as needed)
- Clarify/Update Rule Language and Criteria
  - Permitting matrix (PRWD, CLWD, County, City, Township, NPDES, MS4, etc.)
  - Review overlapping rules
  - Fill gaps that pertain to district goals
  - Modernize Criteria (stormwater, shoreline, drainage, etc.)
  - Clarify enforcement process; use of sureties
  - Ensure advancement of goals
  - Eliminate conflicting rules

**PELICAN RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEETING BOARD MINUTES  
MANAGER EDUCATION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

- Coordination with other agencies
- Establish Procedures/Workflows
  - Review existing processes
  - Discuss needed tweaks or clarification
  - Gain collective understanding of how we complete our business moving forward
    - Staff responsibilities
    - Manager responsibilities
- Engage stakeholders
  - Bring a variety of perspectives to the table (lake associations, Chamber of Commerce, contractors, agencies, applicants)
  - Opportunity for public outreach and education, including our successes
- Complete review and comment period
  - Make draft available for stakeholder review
  - Address comments
  - Move through public hearing process
- Completion process
  - Anticipate publishing revised rules beginning of 2025
  - Board discussion and educational sessions to occur during board workshops
  - Stakeholder engagement completed during special meetings
  - Technical review and drafting to happen behind the scenes
  - Updated MOUs and/or other agreements completed after Rules adopted

**Other Manager Comments**

- Board and staff could plan how to educate new managers, including information from PRWD, attending BWSR education session
- Consider a training with contractors about the permitting process

The managers thanked Aimee Gourlay for her mediation assistance.

**The Special Meeting education workshop session ended at 11:13 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Jasken, Secretary

**PELICAN RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

**Managers Present:** Dennis Kral, Orrin Okeson (IT), Chris Jasken, Charlie Jasken, Laurie Olson, Phil Hansen, Rick Michaelson

**Managers Absent:** NONE

**Staff:** Administrator Guetter, Kemper, Utecht, Bach

**Consultants:** Lukas Croaker (Ohnstad Twitchell Law), Chad Engles (Moore), Garrett Monson (Moore), Tara Ostendorf (Moore), Travis Kluthe (Stantec)

**Others:** John Okeson (Becker County Commissioner), Erika Gilsdorf, Sally Hausken, Birch Burdick (Sallie Melissa Lake Association). Becky Mitchell (Becker County Museum),

**CALL TO ORDER. The Regular Managers' meeting was called to order by President Michaelson at 12:30 PM.** Introductions were made by meeting attendees.

**GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING.**

- 1) **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion to approve the Consent Agenda including the Secretary's Report – January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, February 5-6, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes, February 2024 Administrator's Report, February 2024 Rules/Permitting Report, and the February 2024 Ditch Inspector's Report (Kral, Olson), roll call vote carried unanimously.
- 2) **PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.** None.

**Education Workshop – Rules Revision Process.** Motion to agree to the Rules Revision Process as presented by Garrett Monson, Moore Engineering at Special Meeting Education Workshop on February 28, 2024, (Hansen, Chris Jasken) – roll call vote carried unanimously.

**3) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.**

Sally Hausken – read her 'Habitat Loss & Water Quality' commentary, giving support to PRWD staff and managers for the important work of the District. She invited everyone to her house on Detroit Lake to see her shoreline, "I'm the wildest one on the lake!" [her naturalized lake property].

Erika Gilsdorf – read comments expressing gratitude for the work of PRWD.

Ms. Hausken & Ms. Gilsdorf left the meeting.

**4) TREASURER'S REPORT.**

- a) Manager Hansen reviewed and aligned the 2024 budget and funding sources with the with the 2024 January R & E sheet.
- b) **Approval of February 2024 Bills.** Hansen reviewed the February 2024 claims. It was noted there is a clerical error listing the City of Detroit Lakes on the bills list, when the expense vendor was Clasen, Schiessl CPA for 2023 financial audit services. **Motion to approve the February 2024 claims in the amount of \$22,512.16 (vendor name correction - Clasen Schiessl CPA For 2023 financial audit services in the amount of \$7,339.00) (Hansen, Olson), roll call vote carried unanimously (attached hereto). EFT2356-EFT2362, Checks 15193-15196, 15198-15204, 15206-15207.**
- c) **February 2024 Fund Transfer.** Hansen recommended transferring \$30,000 to cover the regular monthly expenses. **Motion to transfer \$30,000 from the Bremer Bank savings account to the checking account (Hansen, Kral), roll call vote carried unanimously.**
- d) **Financial Report.** The January 2024 Revenues and Expenses Report was reviewed by the managers. **Motion to approve the January 2024 R & E Report (Hansen, Chris Jasken), roll call vote carried unanimously.**

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- e) Manager Michaelson thanked Manager Hansen for his review of the budget and funding sources with the financial report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.** None

**NEW BUSINESS.**

- 1) **INCENTIVE PROGRAMS - BMP Cost Share Application – Becker County Museum.** Becky Mitchell spoke about the request for funds to install additional native plantings on the north, west and south side of the museum. The maximum grant project amount for a nonprofit organization is \$3000.00. **Motion to approve up to \$3,000.00 for the District Incentive Program - BMP Cost Share project application for eligible expenses for the Becker County Museum planting project. (Kral, Olson) roll call vote carried unanimously.**

Ms. Mitchell left the meeting.

- 2) **INCENTIVE PROGRAMS – Environmental Education Grant Application – Lincoln Education Center.** Lincoln Education Center (preschool program) is requesting \$200 for science supplies and \$242 for transportation costs for multiple field trips to Sucker Creek Preserve. **Motion to approve up to \$452.00 for the District Incentive Program -Environmental Education Grant Application for the Lincoln Education Center. (Charlie Jasken, Chris Jasken) roll call vote carried unanimously.**
- 3) **Mankato State University – Curly-leaf Pondweed Research Proposal –** Administrator Guetter presented a proposed collaboration with Ryan Wersal, Mankato State University, for research in district lakes to study the effectiveness of Flumioxazin on Curly-leaf Pondweed in the summers of 2024 and 2025. Current MN DNR approved herbicides used for CLP treatments are Endothall and limited use of Diquat. Flumioxazin may have increased efficacy based on potential lower contact time than the other herbicide and would be another tool in the toolbox to effectively manage CLP. The study is approximately \$40,000 for two years and would include labor and technical experience from Mankato State University. **Motion to enter into an agreement with Mankato State University for a two-year study of the effectiveness of flumioxazin treatments on Curly-leaf in the amount up to \$40,000, pending review of the contract agreement by Attorney Croaker. (Hansen, Olson). roll call vote carried unanimously.**
- 4) **March Meeting Dates.** Guetter noted the March meeting date that was set in January for Thursday, March 21, 2024 is supposed to be on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. It was also noted a work session for Rules will need to be scheduled. **Motion to set the March Regular Meeting date to Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 08:30 AM and the Special Meeting – Work session for Rules Update on Friday, March 29, 2024, at 09:00 AM. (Olson, Hansen). roll call vote carried unanimously.**

**ATTORNEY REPORT.** Attorney Croaker gave a review of activities and rule revision support.

**ENGINEER REPORT.** Mr. Engles noted he will serve as the lead District engineer. Garrett Monson, P.E. will head up the rules revision process and permit reviews and Tara Ostendorf will be brought in as needed to assist with projects and outreach. A proposal for the Rules Revision process will be developed and presented to the board for review and approval.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

**Becker County MOU.** Manager Michaelson reported that Kyle Vareberg from Becker County Planning and Zoning had contacted him to set up a meeting to start discussions of an MOU agreement for 2024

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operations between PRWD and the County. It was agreed by managers that Manager Michaelson, Administrator Guetter, and Attorney Croaker to attend the meeting. Managers noted it would be beneficial for Attorney Croaker to meet County staff and to gather information for a draft agreement. It was also noted Cormorant Watershed District representatives should be invited to participate in these discussions..

**Motion for Manager Michaelson, Administrator Guetter, and Attorney Croaker to attend a meeting with Becker County Planning and Zoning on behalf of the PRWD Board of Managers and to invite Cormorant Lakes Watershed District to the meeting (Hansen, Charles Jasken). roll call vote carried unanimously.**

**Project Update – Campbell Creek.** Travis Kluthe (Stantec) gave an update on the Campbell Creek Project. The workplan will be submitted and approved by the EPA for an April or May start date. The goal is to reduce nutrient and sediment loading into Floyd Lake.

**Project Update – Little Floyd Lake.** Administrator Guetter updated the board on the Little Floyd Lake project. Nick Kludt from the DNR has been working with the landowners towards a final site planting plan.

**CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME**

- **March Regular Meeting** –Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 08:30 AM
- **Ottertail Policy Committee Meeting** (Kral, Hansen-alt) – Thursday, March 28, 2024, 9:00 AM, Otter Tail County Sheriff's Operations Center.
- **Special Meeting – Workshop Education on Rules Revision** – March 29, 2024, 09:00 AM

**ADJOURNMENT. Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 2:07 PM (Kral, Olson), roll call vote carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Jasken, Secretary

Meeting Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT  
MARCH 14, 2024

**Surface Waters Protection and Enhancement**

**1. Capital Improvement Projects/Structural and Non-Structural Practices**

- a. **Rice Lake Capital Improvement Project (CIP). Phase 2- Lower Structure** – Next step is to advertise for bids.
  - a. BWSR Grant Reporting – E-link Grant reports have been submitted and approved by BWSR
- b. **Campbell Creek Project (CIP)**. Upon approval of the Work Plan by EPA, we can start on our project!
- c. **MN DNR FEMA Otter Tail River HUC8 Watershed on a "Risk Map" project**. Guetter will be meeting with staff to review remaining work items to complete the project and grant.

**2. Becker County Drainage Systems 11, 12, 13 and 14**

- a. **Ditch 11** - No activity to report.
- b. **Ditch 12** – No activity to report.
- c. **DITCH 13 (Little Floyd Lake to Big Detroit)** –
  - i. Open Work Orders
    1. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave south of Tweeton Refrigeration – Feldt Plumbing to remove dam.
    2. Jackson Avenue – Josh Campbell to trap.
- d. **DITCH 14 and BRANCH 1 (HWY 10 to St. Clair Lake to Pelican River)** – No activity to report.
- e. **Ditch Buffer Strip Annual Reporting Form** – The annual reporting required by BWSR for our ditch systems was submitted to BWSR on 3/11/2024. PRWD performed six total inspections. No violations were identified.
- f. **MADI Conference** – Guetter will attend the MADI Conference March 21 & 22 in St. Cloud.

**3. WATER MANAGEMENT RULES** – see enclosed report.

- a. **Becker County MOU Discussion** – Guetter, Croaker, and Michaelson attended a meeting with Kyle Vareberg - Planning and Zoning, Commissioner John Okeson, Carrie Smith – Interim County Administrator, and Ellis Peterson – Cormorant Lakes Watershed, to discuss a 2024 MOU agreement regarding site permitting between Becker County and PRWD. Attorney Croaker will provide an update at the March Manager meeting. The meeting was productive.

**4. HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

- a. **River/Stream Connectivity – Barriers to Fish Movement.**  
Little Floyd Lake Structure Modification Project - The District is currently advertising for project construction bids. The bid will be awarded at the special meeting on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> prior to the Rules Workshop session.
- b. **Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management.** PLM treatment contracts are executed for Detroit, Melissa, Sallie, Curfman, Muskrat and Floyd.
- c. **AIS Research Study Proposal – CLP Flumioxazin Herbicide Treatments.** The Mankato State University Agreement is under review by Attorney Croaker and Mankato State. Kemper and Guetter attended an IT meeting March 14, 2024, with Ryan Wersal - Mankato State, Patrick Selter & David Hillstrom – PLM, Mark Ranweiler – MN DNR. The group reviewed research plots and it was decided to use Flumioxazin on all CLP treatment sites. Three different herbicide rates will be used to determine the minimum effective concentration. Treatment notices will need to be updated with any aquatic use restrictions for Flumioxazin. Permit applications will also be updated accordingly.



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**5. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (Website, Social Media, and Workshops)**

**a. Local Media/Mailings.**

**Hodge Podge Radio – Hodge podge segment is scheduled for March 15.**

- i. Discuss low lake levels and potentially high in-lake vegetation growth due to the limited snow cover.
- ii. Ice push material near shore
- iii. CLP Research Project !
- iv. Working with schools – Sucker Creek – field trip season is near!
- v. Social media – LIKE our Facebook and Instagram sites!

**b. Social Media Posts (Facebook & Instagram)**

Date	Description	Engagement
2/16/2024	Shared Education Mini Grant flyer after Hodgepodge airing	2 likes, 0 comments, 4 shares
2/21/2024	Ice Push post reminding folks to take out permits.	2 likes
2/29/2024	Congratulations to Becker Co Museum for BMP Cost Share Approval.	9 likes, 1 comment
2/29/2024	Shared Becker Co Reuse Store Spring Sale	
2/29/2024	Shared Becker Co Museum Pollination Event	1 like
3/1/2024	Congratulations to Lincoln Education Center for Ed Grant	6 likes, 2 share
3/4/2024	BWSR Native Plant of the Month – Wild Bergamot	3 likes, 2 comments
3/5/2024	MN DNR Fishing Regulations 2024	
3/13/2024	Shared MN Loon Anniversary Post	
3/13/2024	Shared Detroit Lakes Public Library Composting Class	

**6. Conservation Education Meeting:**

- a. **“No Child left Inside” Education Group** – Kemper and Bach attended a meeting on March 13 at Mstate. The group is putting the finishing touches on the MN education standards alignment document. The next scheduled meeting is in April to discuss indigenous representation and alignment with the topics.
- b. **Education Mini Grant Flyer**- no new requests.
- c. **Book Packs** - Shanna is researching options and materials for early childhood and early elementary book packs for classroom and read aloud opportunities around the district.
- d. **Lake Handouts**- Work has been initiated on lake association handouts for Detroit/Curfman, Sallie/Melissa, Floyds, and Long Lakes.
- e. **Summer Fishing League Coaches** – Shanna has been in contact with a couple coaches from the summer fishing league who participate in tournaments on Detroit/Sallie/Melissa. She is arranging times to meet with the team to discuss AIS/Fish Habitat.

**7. DISTRICT OPERATIONS/ADMINISTRATION**

- b. **Facilitator Work Sessions**- Aime Gourlay, LMCIT Collaboration Services Manager, has completed work sessions with the start of the rules update process (Moore Engineering). Ms. Gourlay asked us to reach out in the future if further assistance is needed.
- c. **Storage Building at Dunton Park** – No updates. Manager Hansen will keep us apprised.
- d. **2023 financial audit** – Audit is complete and will be presented and approved at the March Regular Meeting.
- e. **MN Watershed Administrators Meeting and Legislative Meeting** – Guetter attended the MN WD Administrator Meeting and Legislative events from March 5-7<sup>th</sup>. Administrators discussed education needs for staff, legislative issues, and the upcoming summer tour. MN Watersheds are emailing out regular legislative updates this year. Administrators received legislative briefings from Jan Voit (MN Watersheds) and Jess Lindeen (Lobbyist) - Modernization of Watershed Law M.S. 103D; Support of limited liability for

# DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

## MARCH 14, 2024

certified commercial salt applicators; and various drainage related issues (outlet adequacy, public notice for project requirements). Agencies (BWSR, MPCA, Governor's office) gave updates.

- f. **2024 Workplan** – The proposed work plan will be reviewed for approval at the March meeting.
- g. **2023 Annual Report** – The draft reports is 95% complete and will be presented for approval at the April meeting.
- h. **Project 412** – PRWD has reached out to the Project 412 staff for collaboration opportunities.
- i. **Grant Oversight** - Campbell Creek Watershed Restoration (MPCA Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Group C Grant Funding), FEMA Grant, BWSR Clean Water Rice Lake Project – Phase 1 & Phase 2. MN DNR – Conservation Partners Legacy Grant, Otter Tail 1W1P Implementation Grant.
- j. **Computer issues**- the computer in the large conference room has been giving us problems – Windows operating system isn't working properly.

**Otter Tail River 1W1P Partnership – WEBSITE:** <https://www.eotswcd.org/ot1w1p/>

- a. **1W1P Grant – Feasibility Study West Area (“Willow Pond”) Stormwater Treatment** –Study started by Stantec Engineering.
- b. **OTW Policy Committee** (Kral, Hansen-Alt). The Policy Committee meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> to review project implementation progress and to review and approve the next funding request of \$1.5 M.
- c. **OTW TAC Committee** (Guetter). The next TAC is on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Kemper and Bach are members of the Otter Tail education/outreach committee. Meeting is scheduled for March 18.

### DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING PROGRAM

**Lakes and Streams** – Kemper has wrapped up the 2023 Monitoring report and the lake/stream portion of the annual report. She is now preparing materials and equipment for the 2024 Monitoring Season.

## Weather

### February 2024 Temperatures

A remarkable warm February this year brought only 2-3 days with colder than normal temperatures. The vast majority of days brought warmer than normal temperatures and on some days record-setting temperatures.

With the very warm February to go along with the warmest December in state history, as well as a warmer than normal January, the meteorological winter (Dec-Feb) will go down as the warmest in state history without question, surpassing the old record set in the winter of 1997-1998 by roughly 2.0°F. MSP even surpassed the Pioneer Era record warm winter of 1877-1878. So far, over 65 long-term climate stations have officially reported 2023-2024 as their warmest winter in history. Many communities reported a record number of days with temperatures of 50°F or higher during this winter.

The February temperatures for Detroit Lakes were warmer than average almost the entire month with the exception of 3 days. Detroit Lakes reported 26 days averaged well above the historical average and 3 days below the historic average with one of those days being below 0°F.

**Hottest Day:** 54°F, February 26<sup>th</sup>

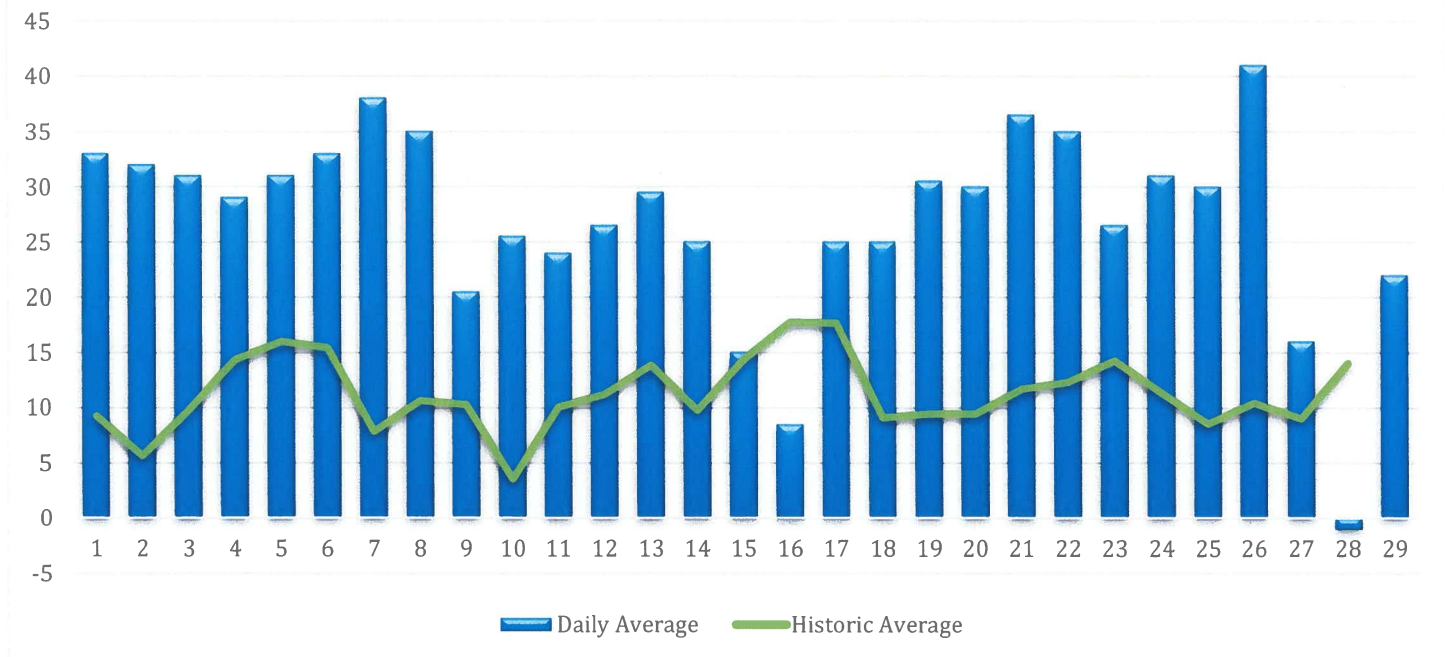
**Daily average High for Detroit lakes:** 35°F.

**Coldest Day:** -9°F, February 28<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly average temperature:** 27°F

**Daily average low temperatures:** 19°F.

## 2024 February Temperature - Detroit Lakes, MN (Daily Average)



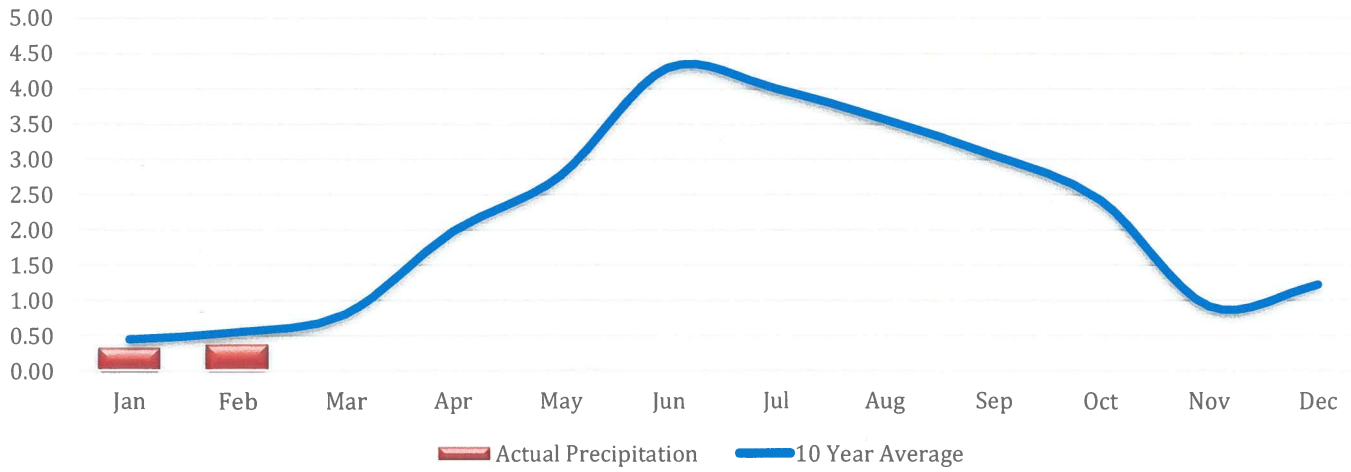
### February 2024 Rainfall / Snowfall

Winter moisture started with a record-setting wet month of December, wettest in history. Most of the precipitation came as rain. This was followed by a drier than normal January and February. Overall, most places in Minnesota have received above average precipitation since December 1st, but thanks entirely to the record-setting wetness of December. Most areas of the state reported less than normal precipitation for the month of February. The statewide average precipitation in February was 0.55 inches, but a number of places reported over an inch. In addition, seasonal snowfall totals are some of the lowest in history for many long-term climate stations in Minnesota. Granted some late season snowfalls may still occur in March and April, but according to the NOAA outlook models this appears unlikely.

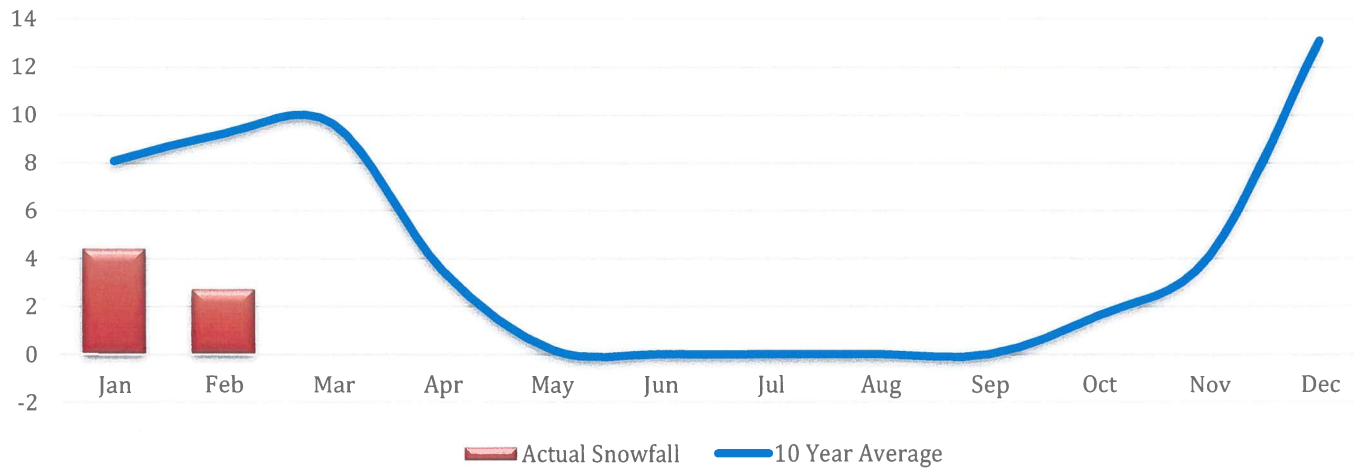
In Detroit Lakes the total rainfall was 0.37 inches which is 0.17 inches less than the 10-year average of 0.54 inches. Most of the rain fell between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> (0.28 inches). We received a total of 2.70 inches of snow, which is down 6.50 inches from the 10-year average (9.20 inches).

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S MONTHLY REPORT  
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### 2024 Precipitation - Detroit Lakes, MN

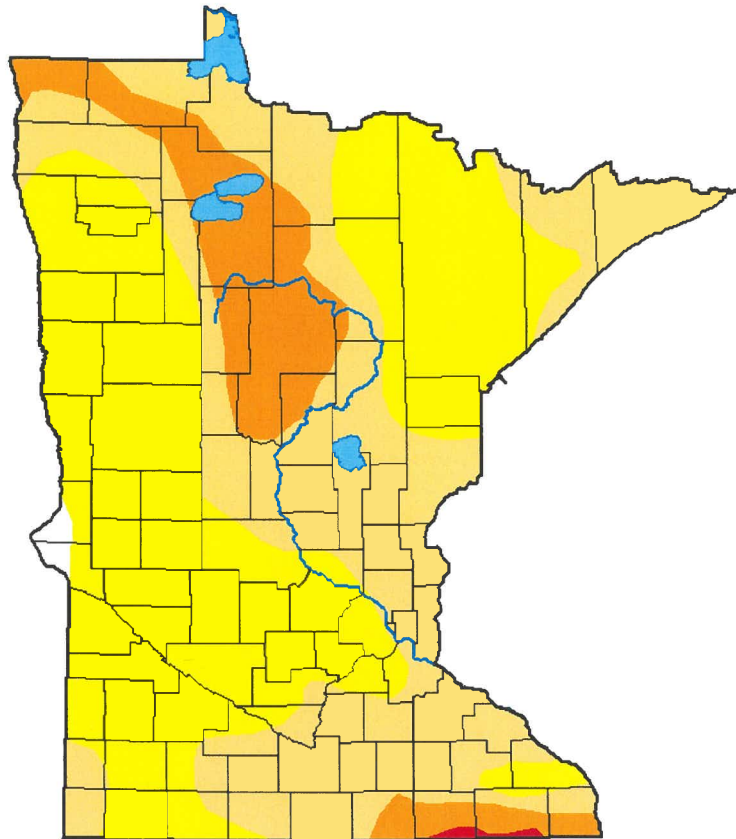


### 2024 Snowfall - Detroit Lakes, MN



**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Minnesota**

**February 27, 2024**  
*(Released Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024)*  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.51	99.49	50.73	12.42	0.25	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>02-20-2024</i>	14.41	85.59	42.97	12.42	0.25	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>11-28-2023</i>	10.16	89.84	43.65	18.01	0.25	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-02-2024</i>	14.82	85.18	40.24	12.42	0.25	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-26-2023</i>	0.00	100.00	82.65	46.65	8.03	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>02-28-2023</i>	43.38	56.62	27.21	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

**Author:**

Richard Heim  
NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Winter rains have continued to slowly help to improve hydrologic conditions. The lack of snow cover this winter is helping lead to a low risk of flooding this spring at this time. Winter rain events have helped replenish some of the soil moisture deficits going back to the summer of 2023, but the lack of snow cover will leave us susceptible to seeing increased soil moisture losses from exposure to the wind.

The lack of snow cover across the area also means a wildfire threat already existed for the last week of February. Though it does not sound like much, there is typically no wildfire risk this time of year due to the presence of snow cover. The lack of snow in general this winter has resulted in Minnesota and Wisconsin being in line to see above normal wildfire activity this Spring fire season (March through May).

Stream flows across MN and WI are near normal, though we are at the time of year where we typically see our lowest flows right before the spring snow melt. Given the lack of snow to melt, we will likely see stream flows deteriorate quickly with respect to normal during March and April. The current drought is expected to persist through March, with minimal improvements expected. There are indications that through the spring, drought conditions may expand across northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin.

# RULES Report

## March 2024

Permits Issued - No Permits Issued

### Permit Applications Pending

**Wallace Danielson**—685 South Shore Dr. Over 25% impervious surface coverage. **3/13/2024** Neither PRWD or City have not received a new/updated site plan or issued a permit. We continue to work with the contractor.

**Reski, Kevin & Joy**—1559 East Shore Dr. Over 25% impervious surface coverage. 3/13/24 waiting for signed mitigation maintenance Agreement and approval from the City.

**Zorbias**—Under review by Engineer Garrett Monson.

### Violation \*\*\*\*\*

**Solmon, Marty:** 12044 Cty Rd. 17: Work done in the SIZ without a permit. Permit 21-12 for riprap and grading has expired. A boulder wall >200 ft on the shoreline was constructed without a required permit from the MN DNR or PRWD. A Stop Work Order was issued on 6/29/23. Mr. Solmon applied for a MN DNR permit for the retaining wall which requires an engineered plan. He was informed he could add rock in front of the boulder wall and it would be considered rip-rap and not a retaining wall (a MN DNR permit is also required for this action due to the shoreline length. **10/18:** Kemper met on site with owner and Engineer and Engineer was to develop a site plan and Kemper has provided elevation shots to both Engineer and MN DNR. **11/8:** Kemper sent email to Engineer for update on the Engineered site plan, and is following up with MN DNR on their status. To date we have not received letter of credit from owner. received and email from Marty stating that his engineer has been backed up with other project but hoping to hear back from him soon (1/5/24).**2/21/24:**

**Hausmann, Jeffrey & Diane:** 1670 East Shore Dr.: Work in SIZ without a permit including extensive vegetation clearing and excessive riprap. **3/13/24:** Permit has been issued for remediation work and planting continues on the site, however, it may not be completed until spring 2024.

**Eilers, Cary & Jill:** 15092 E Munson Rd., Attorney Skoyles sent the violation notice to the landowners. Vegetation restoration plan submitted along with Letter of Credit. Permit has been issued. **3/13/24:** Work continues on the site. Expected completion—**spring 2024.**

**Nord, Chris:** 15216 E. Munson Dr.; Attorney Skoyles sent the violation notice to the landowner. Vegetation removal and grading in the SIZ **9/19:** Owner requested an extension on the 9/22/23 date to complete soil stabilization to 9/29/22—approved; **9/29:** Owner requested another extension to stabilize the soils to 10/10/23 and an extension to plant the replacement trees by 6/1/24 with a \$500 escrow agreement—approved with the condition if the site is not stabilized by 10/10/23 a surety of \$5,000 would be required. **10/11:** Staff contacted Mr. Nord to see if the remediation work had been completed, but was informed it had not been done, however on **10/12** work had started. **3/13/24:** Work continues on site, trees will be planted and completion expected **spring of 2024.**

**Smoley, Chad:** 13281 West Sallie Lake Drive: Work done in the SIZ without a permit. Removal of 5 healthy trees. Attorney Croaker drafted violation notice letter that was sent out from by Kemper 3/8/24.

### Permit Applications Expected

Nothing further to report

#### City of Detroit Lakes Planning Commission

February 22, @5:30PM: No Comments

#### City of Detroit Lakes Development Authority

- **March 5, 2024 :** Meeting was **CANCELLED** .
- **April 2,20204 @8:00AM:** No packet received yet

#### Becker County Planning Commission

- **March 27, 2024— Meeting @ 6:00PM: Jay Boeddeker Trust (13617 260th Ave. Detroit Lakes):** Request for a conditional Use Permit for a Shoreland Multi-unit Development consisting of 10 units. If approved they would need to obtain a PRWD stormwater Management Permit.

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**Becker County Board of Adjustments**

**March 21, 2024 @ 6:00PM— John W. & Tracy L Alin (23797 County HWY22):** The Shore Impact Zone (SIZ) on Melisa Lake is 37.5 Feet inland from the OHWL. The request is for a variance from the OWH setback (28 ft) for the proposed deck and side yard setback for the residential structure (3 ft). If a variance is granted for the proposed project and structures within SIZ, they would need to obtain a PRWD Stormwater Management Permit.

While reviewing the site plan and the impervious surface calculations provided,

Lot size: 10,400 SF; 25% impervious coverage = 2,600 SF

- New proposed house with roof covered areas (porch, deck, or patio) = 1,848 SF
  - New proposed garage = 520 SF
  - Driveway, sidewalks = 680 SF
  - Total proposed Impervious surface = 3,048 SF
- 3,048 SF/10,400 SF = 29.3% Impervious Coverage

A PRWD Stormwater Management Permit will be required for the proposed actions if approved by the County.