

MEETING OF THE



LOWQC
lake orono water quality committee

ELK RIVER CITY HALL
Thursday, November 5, 2009

Members present: Nicki Blake-Bradley (by phone), Tiffany Determan, Cindi Edwards-Plant, Patrick Plant, John Weicht

Members absent: Mark Basiletti, Ed Buttweiler, Paul Sheets, Jim Tachney, Vance Zehringer

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes of 9/1/09 approved. Agenda approved.

Drawdown

The drawdown will not happen this year; it is now planned for next year.

Nicki said she will be applying for a permit for curly-leaf hand pulling in March. She wants the petitions ready so we'll be ready for a drawdown next fall.

Patrick said next year may be better for curly-leaf, so he wants to hold off until it's clear we need a drawdown.

The plan for the process was developed as follows:

1. Conduct a curly-leaf survey in the spring. We should lay out the structure of our plan and give it to the DNR; the DNR can then decide if it needs to do its own survey separately or coordinate with us. When we do our survey we should prepare a map or document where we find it.
2. Hand pulling by volunteers, homeowners and the STS crew should be done late June and finished no later than early July.
3. We should determine if we need to ask for a drawdown by early July.
4. If the determination is yes, we should present the petitions to the council at the earliest opportunity and put out public notices for a hearing; there must be at least two notices in the paper for the hearing (i.e. published for two weeks). People may send letters for approval or disapproval to the council prior to the public hearing to be included in the record. The hearing should be held late July or August. The council can make an immediate determination as to a request to the DNR for a drawdown to happen in Oct.

Updates

TMDL. Tiffany said she and Mark Basiletti will be canoeing the reach from County Rd. 5 down to Orono next summer to look for erosion and to help determine if the turbidity (lack of clarity) of the water is from algae or erosion.

Tiffany will be analyzing the TMDL data collected from this year and will hold a public meeting this winter.

The MPCA is grouping watersheds together in the TMDLs and aims to prioritize them.

Tiffany is also resubmitting the chlorophyll-a and Total Phosphorus lab results our group has collected in the past to the MPCA.

City Council worksession to be held on Nov. 9. Cindi and Paul Sheets will be attending. The council will be updated on the curly-leaf situation and our efforts for a petition. It is planned to ask for \$5,000 or a portion thereof for a sedimentation study to determine if the lake is filling back in. It was noted that there was no goose trapping or fish stocking this past year which may help with funds.

River cleanup

This was held Sept. 26th. Tiffany said it went well--there were 25 volunteers and they covered 6 miles of stream. Lots of bridge crossings were cleaned and in addition, Wapiti campground residents adopted their section for the future. Reusable grocery bags and Diamond City bread were given to the participants. The event was featured on the front page of the *Citizen*.

A tire remains in the water off Boelter's property that still needs to be removed; perhaps that can be done next summer.

SWCD/Sherburne County Commissioners/State Reps meeting

This was an invitation by the SWCD; it is to be held Nov. 13 at 8:40 a.m. at Orono Park near the rain garden. Patrick and Cindi are planning to be there to give a short presentation. John said to emphasize that we are a citizen's group, Tiffany said to mention what the SWCD helps us with. A one or two page summary of what our group does would be helpful for attendees.

Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Next meeting Jan 7. Agenda to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.