

**MEETING OF THE ELK RIVER
LAKE ORONO WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
HELD AT WEICHT & ASSOCIATES
Thursday, September 1, 2009**

Members present: Tiffany Determan, Cindi Edwards-Plant, Patrick Plant, John Weicht

Members absent: Mark Basiletti, Nicki Blake-Bradley, Ed Buttweiler, Paul Sheets, Jim Tachney, Vance Zehringer

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

Minutes of 8/26/09 approved. There was no agenda.

Updates

Water quality. Tiffany said that she got a MPCA report that said in regards to taking Ecoli samples, the tester should grab samples from waist-deep. If they were grabbed in shallower waters, the counts may be too high as Ecoli can live in sand, the water is more concentrated and less diluted if grabbed from shore.

Patrick said that he had received a set of historical color-coded reports with graphs from the MPCA regarding water quality and Secchi disk data. Cindi said that on those reports the Secchi disk graphs showed that the readings were deeper than in the past. Tiffany stated that those results may be skewed because Curly-Leaf will clear up the water while it is active.

Patrick also said that the charts do not have the Chlorophyll-a and Total Phosphorous data from the prior testing that was done a couple of years ago and wondered if the data from the SWCD got lost. Tiffany said she would check into it.

Drawdown. Tiffany referred to her email that she sent regarding a drawdown. The DNR said that the daytime temperature should be between 50-55°F for the turtles to successfully migrate. She asked that if in past drawdowns there were pools of water about that could be treated with chemicals to remove the Curly-Leaf; John said no. He also said that if there was a drawdown we could more easily see the spots that were filling in with sediment.

Tiffany said that she could not find any literature about when a drawdown should end; i.e., the water should be brought back up. She said that with Anderson Lakes in the south metro they drew it down but let the water come back naturally and the water was down all winter until spring/summer. Cleary Lake also was down all winter and through the summer. She would give the Three Rivers District in the metro a call to see what they've done.

Patrick asked when is the latest we could bring the water back up; John said it depends on how cold it gets. Patrick said the last time the DNR told us to bring it up sooner than planned. Tiffany said the DNR may put a halt on drawing down in October if it's a cold fall. The latest the drawdown could occur is Oct. 15-30.

There is a meeting being held just after this one at 7:00 p.m. in the same place with the LOIA reps. It is now required by the DNR to have a petition signed by 75% of the riparian landowners requesting a temporary drawdown, and the meeting is for them to

receive the petitions with info about why a drawdown should be done, and also hand out a Luau flyer.

Patrick said that in addition to the petitions, we could tell the DNR that the SWCD and the City think Curly-Leaf is an issue and should be addressed.

Water clarity. Tiffany passed around a sheet that was done by NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials; nemo.uconn.edu) that showed how water clarity adversely affects property values.

Elk River Clean-up. Tiffany has not heard from anyone saying they'd volunteer. Patrick and Cindi said they would and meet her at Wapiti.

Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Next meeting Oct. 1. Agenda to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.