

LAKE ORONO WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE
JANUARY 17, 2007
ELK RIVER CITY HALL

Members Present: Mark Basiletti, Patrick Plant, Cindi Edwards-Plant, John Weicht, and Vance Zehringer, Wendy Crowell, DNR

Staff Present: Rebecca Haug

1. Approve 1/17/07 Agenda and Minutes
The Agenda was approved as submitted. Minutes were approved as submitted with the corrections of item #2 to be changed to opposition to **one** of the changes to the water plan. Also, adding that Ed Buttweiler attended part of the meeting.
2. Sherburne County Water Plan Update
John and Mark updated the group on meeting they have been having with communities such as Elk River and Big Lake Township on what amount of water should be able to leave a site. A meeting is being scheduled with the Sherburne County Public Works Director to discuss what they are proposing to do.
3. Elk River Watershed Joint Powers Board Update
Vance missed the last meeting however they have adequate funds to do projects but there are restrictions on the types of projects. Mark informed the group that the money can be used for rain gardens, stormwater treatment, cisterns, etc. he also mentioned that Terry Polsfus put in a terrace that treats runoff. Rebecca mentioned the YMCA and the possibility of using the rain gardens in the park for some of that run-off. Vance discussed the storm sewer inlet next to his property and the amount of debris, leaves, sand that comes out of it and if the City could do anything. Rebecca informed him that the City is trying to get someone to do storm drain stenciling and also the city distributed a storm water survey to all residents so we have an idea of what types of education needs to be done. Mark suggested the city look at using storm ceptors to collect some of the leaves and other debris. He also mentioned that he can only use the funds on private projects so if someone is getting run-off from a city street, he would not be able to give them any financial assistance. He would like to look at retrofitting parking lots, like Guardian Angels or the schools.
4. 2007 Curly Leaf Pondweed Discussion
Rebecca informed Wendy Crowell that she was invited to the meeting to help the group determine a threshold for when a drawdown would be warranted. Wendy informed the group that based on what was found last

June, there needs to be a lot more plants. She would be very worried if there were 200-300 stems/yd. If there were only 100 stems/yd she wouldn't be as concerned but she would be checking more frequently. Other DNR employees have a lot more issues with the turtles and the length of time the lake needs to be drawn down to adequately eradicate the weed. Patrick informed her that the lake was surveyed too early because around the 4th of July was when they were really bad. She also informed the group that Lake Orono is harder to survey due to the poor clarity of the lake. The weed also produces runners throughout the growing season causing there to be more plants. It was decided that a survey would be done in Mid-June and then again a few weeks later depending on weather conditions. It is best to do the work on a calm day with some sun. She also stated that since this is a river there will always be a problem with turions floating down. Rebecca will contact the STS Crew to see if they would be able to pull the weed. Wendy will contact Audrey about a general permit to pull the weed; we may need to get signatures of residents to pull weeds in front of their property. If we see a problem we can call Wendy and if she is available, she will come and inspect, send someone else or we should just take pictures and send them to her. As far as a GPS goes, the city should look at GPScity.com and look at mapping software with a Garmon system. Should cost around \$300.00. Once we receive GPS, Wendy can send us her information to be downloaded on to our GPS.

At the annual dinner on March 29th, Rebecca and the group will give an update on curly leaf pondweed and get signatures if they are needed. Wendy will get back to Rebecca about the permit. Rebecca will send a letter to all the lake residents after the dinner informing them of the policy, who will be pulling the weeds and possibly time periods for the pulling.

5. Other Updates

John brought up the possibility of doing something in front of his house as a demonstration. He and Mark will inspect and determine what can be done.

6. Next Meeting Agenda Items

The next LOIA meeting will be on Wednesday March 21, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. Elk River City Hall. The items to be discussed include storm water survey results, lake improvement grant from Initiative Foundation, and a calendar of events (to be drafted by Rebecca).

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.