

RECENT PROJECTS

Upper Pelican River Nutrient Reduction Project — \$2.6 million PL-566 Federal Project; MPCA Clean Water Partnership Grant/Loan Funding; WRP/RIM to reduce nutrient loads to Big Detroit Lake. The project will include restoration and impoundment of Rice Lake wetland, township road improvement, and installation of various agricultural best management practices. USDA Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) programs with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Clean Water Partnership grant and loan monies will be utilized for project implementation which began in 2008.

Monitoring Program — to assess water, this program quality involves 17 lake sites, 19 stream sites, 750 separate observations, 1,100 lab tests, 257 Secchi measurements, thousands of observations with automated equipment for precipitation, stream and lake water levels. District staff, including student interns, do this work in order to diagnose problems and evaluate solutions.

Sewer and Water Supply Alternatives Analysis — covering Big/Little/Upper Floyd Chain of Lakes; Monson/Fox/Muskrat/Sallie/Melissa Chain of Lakes. In response to requests by lake associations and township officials, the District contracted with Wenck Associates to provide information on sewage treatment options around several District lakes. Options included annexation to the city of Detroit Lakes, regional sewer district, or private cluster systems. In pursuing the study, the Wenck company staff surveyed all of the lakes and worked with local officials, including those from the city of Detroit Lakes.

Education — presentations are made to numerous organizations and lake association groups. In 2007 the District sponsored a Lakeshore Restoration Workshop for over 50 contractors. The District also supports various high school and elementary environmental events. These efforts together with the District’s website and printed materials are aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of water quality problems and solutions, and effecting long-term changes in behaviors which are detrimental to water quality.

Aquatic Plant Management — Project 1 B-Sallie/Melissa and Project 1C Detroit, projects petitioned by the citizens to assist with controlling aquatic plants. Recent focus has been on the control of exotic species, especially Flowering Rush and curly-leafed pondweed. Herbicides were applied to all known Flowering Rush sites from 2006-2008, and will continue in 2009.

The District continues to partner with Becker SWCD and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to cost-share best management projects located within the District’s targeted priority area (Campbell Creek/Ditch 12).



Water Management Rules — in 2007, 54 permits were issued for land alterations in the shore impact zone, impervious surface changes, subdivisions, and highways or parking lots in the District. The District’s engineering firm, Wenck Associates, assists in reviewing plans and applications. The District also works closely with Becker County and city of Detroit Lakes zoning departments. In 2007, St. Mary’s Hospital installed an underground stormwater treatment system, the first in the District.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Many of the activities described above will continue. Among the new initiatives for 2008 and beyond are:

Long-term aquatic management — a plan for seven lakes aimed at identifying additional treatment needs will be started in 2008; the first step will involve aquatic plant mapping for all lakes involved in the planning area. Starting in November 2008, public and various governmental agencies input will be solicited for the plans.

Updating and reconfiguring monitoring data — examining data collected since 1993 to make them more accessible for analysis and submission to Storet.

2007 EXPENDITURES

Total	\$447,250
Programs & Operations:	\$82,600
Planning, Projects & Cost Share:	\$55,600
Permitting/Regulatory:	\$73,350
Data Collection and Monitoring:	\$36,100
Education & Outreach:	\$19,800
Ditch Management:	\$10,800
Aquatic Plant Management– Project 1B/1C:	\$119,000
Capital Outlay:	\$8,000
319 CWP Loan Payment –	\$42,000