

2009
ANNUAL REPORT
PELICAN GROUP OF LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PGOLID)

Introduction:

Minnesota Statutes section 103 B.571 (4) require Lake Improvement Districts to file an Annual Report to the County Board, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This direction has been and will be interpreted to be the Otter Tail County Commissioners, Land and Resource Management, Bill Kalar, the DNR Director, and Tim James at the MPCA office in Detroit Lakes.

The Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District (“PGOLID”) commenced 2008 with nine members: Jeff Peltier, Nick Valentine, Dennis Tollefson, Vance Stueness, Janel Uglen, Lisa Wheeler, Bill Zimmerman, Mike Ostbye and Gary Hart. At the 2008 Annual Membership meeting Mr. Valentine, Mr. Hart and Mr. Peltier were elected to the board. Mr. Bill Zimmerman was appointed to the board.

Current Program Status:

1. Monitoring of Lake Water Quality:

2008 was the seventh year of monthly evaluation of the water quality parameters of Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Total Suspended Solids, Chlorophyll A, two kinds of Phosphorus (Ortho and Total), Total Dissolved Solids, and Temperature which are taken at nine sites including the several inlets and one outlet. This information continues to be incorporated into a Comprehensive Lake Water Quality Study.

- a. PGOLID, through RMB Labs and the PGOLID Lake Resource Coordinator Moriya Rufer, continue to monitor inflow at Strom’s inlet, the Spring Creek culvert at the Simison inlet to Pelican Lake, at Bob Creek and at other locations. These are the sites in which the data show the majority of the nutrient loading into Pelican Lake.

2. Mosquito Control:

Management for mosquito control has been assigned to the Mosquito Abatement Board, chaired by board member Stueness. The continued presence of the West Nile Virus encourages a continuing aggressive and expensive mosquito control program now.

3. Comprehensive Water Quality Study

Blue Water Science, 550 S. Snelling Ave, St. Paul, MN, has completed its several year efforts to prepare and present a comprehensive Water Quality Study and Evaluation of the water and land resources in the LID. Copies of the Report are available on PGOLID’s web site and at the Pelican Rapids Regional Library.

We remain encouraged that the water quality parameters in the PGOLID are rated in the satisfactory categories and that Eurasian Milfoil is not an imminent threat to the lakes in the LID. Northern Milfoil is a real nuisance in Little Pelican Lake and Curly Leaf Pondweed is a major weed in Pelican Lake. Flowering Rush is another evasive plant that has been discovered in the Pelican River watershed, and is being monitored by PGOLID and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This report continues to be our benchmark; however it needs to be updated in the near future.

4. Navigation Aids:
The LID now owns 36 buoys that are marked as PGOLID property and they are strategically placed in the LID to mark channels, rocks, no wake zones, and other navigation needs.
5. Fish Lake Dam Evaluation:
Since the early 1930's, the water levels in the lakes in the LID have been controlled by a concrete structure of three weir levels, which is located in the Pelican River below Fish Lake. The dam was flooded during the high water years, but now due to erosion and age it no longer effectively limits the outflow. It has been determined that the dam is under the ownership and control of the DNR. PGOLID is working with the DNR to plan repairs to the dam.
6. Curly Pond Weed
PGOLID contracted with Minnesota Shoreline Restoration to spray this exotic species that has been located in the lake. The results were encouraging with a 95% kill rate in some areas; however it is a multi-year process.
7. Septic Systems Inspections
Otter Tail County abated 39 sewer systems on Pelican Lake during 2007. The county also inspected 142 properties during 2007. Otter Tail County continued to inspect and abate sewer systems in 2008.

DIRECTORS INTENTIONS AND CONCERNS:

1. Septic system compliance and monitoring is a continuing worry since a significant number of private systems were found to be out of compliance over 20 years ago. The voluntary survey of 2006 indicated that 21% of the systems were out of compliance in some way. The LID has assembled data and is working with Otter Tail County regarding future inspections.
2. Exotic weeds that have been introduced into the Pelican River chain of lakes are a real nuisance; especially bothersome is Northern Milfoil in Little Pelican Lake and Curly Leaf Pondweed in Pelican Lake. Flowering Eurasian rush has been discovered in the Pelican River chain of lakes and is being monitored by the Pelican River Watershed, the DNR and PGOLID.
3. PGOLID currently has a program to control Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLPW). In previous years portions of Pelican, Little Pelican, Bass and Fish have been sprayed to control and eradicate the weed. This spray takes place during May. The proposed budget for 2009 included funds to treat this problem species.
4. The PGOLID is in a predominantly farming community and has both livestock and cropland in the lake watershed. Several large agricultural efforts utilize shallow well irrigation on crops of corn, alfalfa, potato, and sugarbeet. All are high users of water and soil nutrients. The Directors are concerned that e-coli and weed-encouraging nutrients are being leached or transported directly into the streams and river feeding the LID. The Board is working with the lake coordinator to visually inspect nearby streams and drainages leading into the LID.

5. The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners stated in the Order establishing the LID, that “The PGOLID will benefit the property values and quality of life within the district by enhancing and maintaining the environmental quality of the Pelican Group of Lakes and the surrounding land areas”. The discovery of naturally occurring arsenic in deep water wells, the potential for nitrate and e-coli contamination of the shallow water wells, and the ageing septic systems all lead the board to continue to investigate alternative water and sewer accommodations for property owners in the LID.

6. An agreement with Cormorant Lakes Watershed and Becker County regarding the control of water flowing out of the Cormorant Lakes was reached. This agreement is especially important when the lake levels are at or exceed the Ordinary High Water Mark. The Agreement, now includes the Lake Ida property owners over their new outlet.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

The budget approved at the August 2008 meeting for 2009, of \$154,600 utilizing \$55,500 of the 2008 carryover for a total assessment to the LID property owners in 2009 of \$99,100. If approved, the 2010 budget of \$149,100 will utilize \$49,100 of budgeted allocation of reserves for a total assessment of \$100,000 to property owners.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors, PGOLID
Mike Ostbye, Chairman
Jonal Uglem, Vice Chairman
Lisa Wheeler, Secretary
Nick Valentine, Treasure
Vance Stueness
Jeff Peltier

Dennis Tollefson
Bill Zimmerman
Gary Hart