

Long Lake Kick Off Public Meeting 4/16/09

Present: Cory Netland, Stephanie Klamm, Darrell Schindler, Forrest Peterson, Randy Nelson, Steve Smith, Royal Ashburn, Vincent Melquist, Gloria Melquist, Marie Ostby, Beth Johnston, Bob Ast, Doris Ast, Pat Roberts, Mark Eckhart, Sue Dallman, Dave Reed, Dale Segler, Joel Vreeman, Joel Carlson, Greg Spartz, Ted Olson

The meeting was held at the Health and Human Services Building in Willmar.

TMDL Update

Cory opened the meeting up with introductions. He explained what the Hawk Creek Watershed Project is and what the project does. He also stated that this meeting was a public meeting on a TMDL project on Long Lake, north of Willmar and west of Highway 71. Long lake is listed on the federal (303d) impaired waters list for excessive nutrients, specifically phosphorus. The lake was listed in 2002 and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has funded an assessment study to be completed by the Hawk Creek Watershed Project, in cooperation with Long Lake residents.

Information on what a TMDL is can be found on the Hawk Creek Watershed Project website, under the TMDL link. The address is <http://www.hawkcreekwatershed.org/>.

Cory also presented information specific to Long Lake and its watershed. He stated that there is 7,300 acres in the watershed with 46% of it being water such as East and West Twin lakes, as well as Ringo, Carlson, Henderson lakes and Long lake itself. A study completed in 1997 by the MPCA showed that there were eight active feedlots. Also, in 1997 there were a total of 67 houses/cabins on the lake. This number has likely doubled on and around the lake. The goal of this TMDL study is to assess the watershed, look for pollutant sources, and develop a plan to reduce nutrient loading. This PowerPoint presentation can also be found at the Hawk Creek Watershed website under the TMDL link.

There was a lot of discussion on some of the concerns and problems facing the Long Lake, and its watershed. Discussion on the rookery, turkey barns, discharging into Ringo Lake, illegal or legal outlets, feedlots, lake home septic systems, excessive fertilizing and other concerns were mentioned. In addition, discussion on the lake association was brought up. The citizens at the meeting were interested in reorganizing and strengthening the association.

A small evaluation was handed out for the purpose of obtaining information about the lake, and what the citizens feel are the biggest issues affecting its water quality. The feedback consistent with the discussion at the meeting, comments included; the lake has many green algal blooms in the summer, and it is very green and not visually pleasing to the swimmers or boaters. It needs to have an assessment study to find out the sources of pollution and a way to reduce the nutrients in the lake.

Another meeting will be set up and notices will be sent out!