

Long Lake TMDL Public Meeting
5/19/09

Present: Cory Netland, Stephanie Klamm, Darrell Schindler, Bob Ast, Doris Ast, Mark Eckhart, Sue Dallman, Dave Reed, Joel Carlson, Ted Olson, Blaine Field, Ron Haroldson, Chuck Gremmels, Dean Shuck, Dick Larson, Steven Olson and Linda Olson

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

TMDL Update

Cory opened the meeting up with introductions.

He then introduced Bruce Gilbertson from the MN DNR Fisheries in Spicer. Bruce presented information on the status of the fisheries on Ringo and Long Lake. He explained how fish are sampled out of the lakes and that the information collected is used for a management plan for the lakes. The DNR looks at vegetation in the lake, fish populations and the water quality of the lake. There were many questions about how the water quality affected the fish.

Cory explained briefly 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 updated 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, currently according to the Kandiyohi County Feedlot Officer, there are five registered feedlots around Long and Ringo lakes, but there are animals that are not considered to be in a feedlot such as pastured cattle and horses.

Also, in 1997 there were a total of 67 houses/cabins on the lake, this number has doubled on and around the lakes with 275 houses within ¼ of mile of 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. PowerPoint presentations 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 on Long Lake, gravel operations discharging into Ringo Lake, illegal or legal outlets, feedlots, lake home septic systems, excessive fertilizing and other concerns were mentioned. There are still assessments that need to be completed and information will be brought back to this group for input!

Another meeting will be set up at a later time and notices will be sent out!

Hawk Creek Watershed Project
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