

## **NEW ORDINANCE APPROVED**

The LeSueur County Board has passed the ordinance mandating septic system compliance around our lakes.

What is next? The County has identified 11 areas for feasibility studies. Three of these studies are completed and the remainder will happen this spring and summer.

Starting this spring, the County will conduct neighborhood meeting to discuss potential solutions for each area.

These studies are designed to help the property owners understand their options for updating their systems.

Here is the list of priority areas that community feasibility studies will be completed on. This was determined from the septic inventory. Funding provided by the Clean Water Fund.

- Blue Marina: 22 SSTS, 9% compliant with soil treatment area (Completed)
- Maple: 21 SSTS, 14% compliant with soil treatment area (Completed)
- Jefferson Lake Drive: 24 SSTS, 17% compliant with soil treatment area (Completed)
- East Cape Horn: 29 SSTS, 17% compliant with soil treatment area
- Tomahawk Point: 36 SSTS, 19% compliant with soil treatment area
- Evergreen Lane: 46 SSTS, 22% compliant with soil treatment area
- West Lake Drive: 21 SSTS, 33% compliant with soil treatment area
- Stavenau-Holiday Park: 33 SSTS, 42% compliant with soil treatment area
- Beaver Dam: 38 SSTS, 50% compliant with soil treatment area
- Swedes Bay: 30 SSTS, 53% compliant with soil treatment area

Hardeggers: 36 SSTS, 67% compliant with soil treatment area

The county also intends to have a general work session this spring with MPCA and with CRWP to get their suggestions.

Links to the finished studies for three neighborhoods are found on our website.

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### 2014 Dues

It is already a new year. It is time to join the other property owners who have committed to improving the lakes by joining the Lake Association.

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# Opinions



Wow! Thanks to all of those who provided input to the county commissioners on the new ordinance. Also, a huge thanks to all of you who shared your opinions with those who are on the "Lake Watch" list. The input to the commissioners and the idea sharing are invaluable. While we may not agree on the first step to protect our lake, it is clear that people really care about our lakes.

(To get on the Lake Watch list, just send your email address to [buster@hickorytech.net](mailto:buster@hickorytech.net). I promise your email address will not be shared with anyone. If you think you are on the list but haven't gotten in on this latest blast of emails, let me know.)

The commissioners have made their decision on this issue. All of our septic systems will be required to be compliant. We will be cleaning up our own waste. It is a great first step. It was a matter of taking personal responsibility.

However, it is only a first step. There is much to be done. The work continues. We are now in the midst of two major studies. The first relates only to septics. The other looks at the big picture.

Wenck has completed feasibility studies for three neighborhoods and will finish 8 more this spring and summer. The purpose of the studies is to determine what options each of these neighborhoods has to get their septic systems into compliance. It also looks at what the cost of each option will be. The county will be setting up neighborhood meetings this spring and summer to review the options and answer questions about them. The three completed reports are now online. Here is the link to the three feasibility reports: <http://www.wenck.com/septic-inventory-project/>.

The County has also called on the Cannon River Watershed Partnership and the MPCA to set up additional meetings to help property owners and neighborhoods make good choices.

The second study comes from Joe Pallardy of the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato and Shaina Keseley and John Erdmann of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. They are in the process of completing a study to follow up on the 2008 TMDL study that put our chain of lakes on the Impaired Waters list.

While we all have our opinions about what should be done to protect our lakes, this is a scientific study that will:

Look at the history of the lake and past studies

- Measure the severity of our problems at this time
- Identify the sources of these problems
- Provide costs and benefits of potential solutions

Links to TMDL study: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/minnesotas-impaired-waters-and-tmdls/tmdl-projects/lower-mississippi-river-basin-tmdl/project-upper-cannon-lakes-excess-nutrients.html> or <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=20282>

Here are some questions to think about between now and the **spring neighborhood meetings**:

- Who in any neighborhood has the expertise to know if each person should go it alone, or if some should go cluster, or if the whole neighborhood should go cluster, or if neighborhoods should join to go cluster, or if the whole lake should go city sewer?
- Who in each neighborhood knows where the government money is to help pay?
- Who knows how to bid the projects?
- Who knows how to read and compare the bids?
- Who knows how to finance the costs that any grants don't cover?
- Who knows how to set up these neighborhood sewer boards?
- Who will negotiate to buy land for new systems?

**Don't** think this will just blow over. That may have been a good strategy in this County in the past. However, I think this county board is committed to the new ordinance and will enforce it.

**Don't** just blame the other guy. When I was in trouble my Mom never let me say "but Johnny was doing it too and he was worse than me". She taught me that I had personal responsibility for my own actions.

**Don't** stop pushing the county to work on all of the sources of nutrients.

**Don't** leave the work up to the Lake Association. The County needs to know there is widespread support for reducing nutrient flows into the lakes.

**Do** have realistic expectations for the lake. There is no proven method to prevent curly leaf pondweed or milfoil. The lakes have never been crystal clear year around. The only totally clear lakes are totally sterile: no weeds, no insects, no fish. We don't want that.

**Do** read the new TMDL study. I know it is 173 pages, but if you don't know this study, you don't know these lakes.

**Do** keep the other lake issues on the radar:

- The Lake association can't afford to pay for the storm sirens. We can't afford not to have them.
- County Road 104 needs to be upgraded. (see picture on the other page).
- The Lake association can't afford to keep publishing a newsletter unless we get more dues paying members.
- The box culvert boat passes between West and Middle Jeff and between German and East Jeff need to be replaced.

**Not getting Lake Watch reports?** You should be getting a lot! Check your "junk mail". We now have so many on the system that some computers are thinking it is spam. Just tell your mailbox that mail from the lake association is not "junk".

**Contact County before fixing your septic system.** Have you seen the ad for a product that says it is for "Septic Restoration & Maintenance"? The ad says it should be used for these symptoms: "toilets that are slow to flush, gurgling pipes, sewage backing up in drains, foul smelling liquid above the septic system, and backflow from the septic field during pumping". These are signs of an "imminent health threat". I am not making any judgments about the effectiveness of this product. It just reminds me that we should contact the County before we invest in any work on your septic system.



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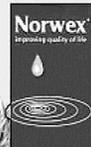
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# Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP)

Hi Buster,

Please pass this information along to your lake email list. Thanks, Aaron.

Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP) provides assistance to lake groups and small communities that would like to improve how their sewage is being treated. The solutions available range from upgrading individual septic systems to a new cluster septic serving multiple homes, or even an entire community system. CRWP staff assists community members to explore options, work with their neighbors, pursue funding, and navigate local and state rules.

CRWP has been working on sewage treatment projects for over ten years. Over those ten years, we have helped twenty small communities and lake groups upgrade their sewage treatment systems.

CRWP's services are **FREE** to property owners on the Jefferson-German lakes. We are a local, non-profit with a mission to engage people in protecting and improving water quality in our lakes and rivers. Many properties around the Jefferson-German lakes have non-compliant septic systems and will need to upgrade by 2017 according to the County's new ordinance. If you are one of those properties already identified in the inventory as non-compliant, start exploring options now for your property, especially if you'd like to consider working with your neighbors on a cluster system. For those properties who didn't participate in the inventory, but your septic system may be non-compliant, again start exploring your options now. The earlier you start looking at options, the better off you will be.

For more information or assistance, contact Aaron Wills at [507-786-3914](tel:507-786-3914) or [aaron@crwp.net](mailto:aaron@crwp.net), or see <http://crwp.net/work/sewersquad/>

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Cannon River Watershed Partnership  
&  
SE MN Wastewater Initiative  
400 Washington St.  
Northfield, MN 55057  
[\(507\) 786-3914](tel:507-786-3914)  
Check out our website at  
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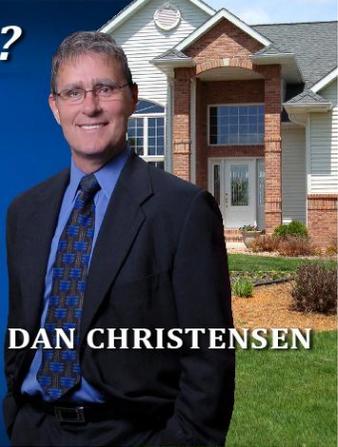
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## Le Sueur County Environmental Services Update Lauren Klement

What is going on at Environmental Services?

- Le Sueur County was awarded \$463,000 from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for the tri county Southern MN Lakes Restoration Project. The project was trimmed down from \$697,000. Legislators prefer public properties or permanent easement enhancements so we had to make changes. The project is just beginning.
- The Le Sueur County Board approved \$137,000 of gravel tax funds to be used on cost share for shoreland projects that the LCCMR did not cover and those waiting for Clean Water Funding for the past four years. There is one project on Lake Emily. Letters were sent to participants.
- Between the two sources of funding approximately 55 shoreland projects have the potential to be completed. There is a waiting list for the Gravel Tax funded projects.
- The county revised its ordinance. There were changes made to the shoreland portion. There is now a **Land Alteration Plan** that is needed for work in shoreland this includes rip rap, grading and filling, retaining walls and vegetation removal. We are still determining how this works. Riprap is now considered earth movement in grading and filling. Vegetation removal has also tightened up in shoreland.

Land alteration plan link:

<http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/LandAlterationPlan.pdf>

Below is the link to the ordinance.

<http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/ZoningOrdinance.pdf>

See Section 13 and Section 18

- Le Sueur County completed a two year septic inventory on the Jefferson German chain of lakes. The project was funded through the Clean Water Fund. This was done through voluntary participation. 345 parcels had their system/tank inspected. Approximately 50% are not in compliance.
- Clean Water Funding application process opened up in September. Shoreland projects will not be included this year. An application was submitted to complete the Jefferson German Septic Inventory project to complete high priority community assessments.
- There is a new process called Biennial Budget Request through the state where I submit a request for Clean Water Funding for 2016 and 2017 to give legislators an idea of how much money will be requested and what the money could go for. It is not a given, one still has to submit an official application and go through the funding process. This also pertains to the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) that is an annual source of limited funding for my position; the NRBG also includes funding for feedlots, Wetland Conservation Act, Shoreland and Septics. I will be looking ahead for future water quality improvement projects.
- The process to revise the Le Sueur County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan will begin mid 2014. The water plan revision will need to be completed and approved by the State by December of 2015.

### “Lake Watch” alerts

If you were on “Lake Watch Alerts” you would have received dozens of septic inventory “feedback” messages. The feedback has been very interesting! So far we have 268 valid email addresses who have signed up for our “Lake Watch” email alerts. Thanks for your interest. If you are not receiving alerts and would like them, please let me know. Also, please check your “junk mail” folder. My program is showing a large number of emails are not being delivered. Since our list is so large, your computer may be filtering out what it thinks is spam. Contact the Lake Association if you would like to be on the “Lake Watch” list. [lakeassociation@hickorytech.net](mailto:lakeassociation@hickorytech.net) or [buster@hickorytech.net](mailto:buster@hickorytech.net)

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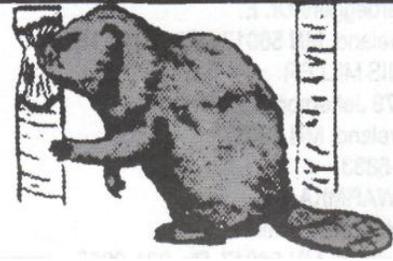
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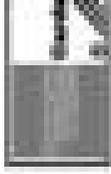
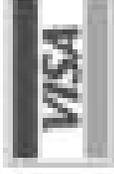
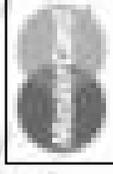
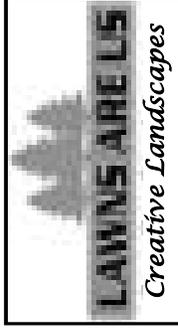
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Tuesday, February 04, 2014

In response to emails received from residents in the German-Jefferson Subordinate Service District, here is information on septic systems (inspecting, designing, installing, maintaining, and/or operating).

- Link to Search for State Licensed SSTS Businesses:  
[http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=2265](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=2265)
- Links on Information for Septic System Owners:
  - University of Minnesota's Onsite Sewage Treatment Program (OSTP) Information for Septic System Owners: <http://septic.umn.edu/owners/index.htm>
  - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Practitioner and Homeowner Information: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/subsurface-sewage-treatment-system-ssts/ssts-practitioner-and-homeowner-information.html>
  - MPCA Factsheet on Compliance Inspections for Existing Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=5203>
  - MPCA Factsheet on Vertical Separation for Existing Systems: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=5234>
  - Factsheet: What is a mound and how does it work? [http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/pdf/WW/publications/pipline/PL\\_SU99.pdf](http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/pdf/WW/publications/pipline/PL_SU99.pdf)
- Le Sueur County Links:
  - Environmental Services: <http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/SepticProgram.html>
  - Community Health (well program delegation): <http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/CommunityHealth.html>
  - County Board of Commissioners German-Jefferson: <http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/germanJefferson.html>
  - § Link to Wenck website for Final Report and Feasibility Studies: <http://www.wenck.com/septic-inventory-project/>
  - Soil Dispute Policy: Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7082.0700 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=7082.0700>) and Le Sueur County Ordinance, Section 17 (<http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/ZoningOrdinance.pdf>)
  - MDH Well Isolation Distances: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/construction/protect.html>
  - January 2011 MPCA Report to the Minnesota Legislature on Recommendations and Planning for Statewide Inventories, Inspections of SSTS: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=15476>
  - Ordinance Providing for the Inspection of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems within the German-Jefferson Subordinate Service District (homeowner's choice of hiring a septic inspector): <http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/EnvironmentalServices/GermanJefferson/CNTY%20BOARD%20ORD%20NOTICE%20%20Jan2014.pdf>
- Certificates of Compliance on existing systems are valid for three years from the date of issuance.
  - A compliance inspection must be completed on an existing system servicing any property prior to being sold or transferred, unless there is a valid Certificate of Compliance on file with this Department.
  - In all **shoreland** Zoning Districts, a compliance inspection must be completed prior to any zoning permit application, Variance or Conditional Use Permit application.
  - A compliance inspection must be conducted any time this office deems appropriate, such as receiving a complaint or after information is received of system failure.
- Available loan programs to update a failing septic system:
  - Le Sueur County's Septic Upgrade Loan Program – please call 507-357-8538 for more information.
  - Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District's Ag BMP Loan Program – please call 507-357-4879 for more information.
  - Minnesota Valley Action Council's Fix-Up Fund – please call 800-767-7139 and ask for Housing for more information.

**?** **If you have questions regarding the septic system that services your property, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 507-357-8538.**

**The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Invasive Species Program is offering grants for the control of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, and flowering rush in 2014.**

The final application deadline for curly-leaf pondweed control depends on where the waterbody is located in the state (see county list in attached documents):

The final deadline for curly-leaf work in the southern part of the state is April 15th  
The final deadline for curly-leaf work in the central part of the state is April 22nd  
The final deadline for curly-leaf work in the northern part of the state is May 6th.

If there is a significantly late ice-out in 2014 these deadlines may be extended. If the deadlines are extended, it will be announced on the grant website.

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic\\_invasive/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/index.html)

The final application deadline for all other control grants is June 10, 2014.

Please Note: In order to provide grants in a timely manner, grant applications will be reviewed and grants written on a first-come first-served basis. Because of this, the grant program may run out of funds and close before the final application deadline of June 10, 2014.

Feel free to forward this message to anyone you think may be interested. If you have any questions about this grant please contact me, Chip Welling ([Chip.Welling@state.mn.us](mailto:Chip.Welling@state.mn.us) 651-259-5149), or your regional Invasive Species Specialist

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html>

Thank you for your interest in controlling and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Sincerely,

Wendy Crowell  
Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25  
St. Paul MN 55155  
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Get out and enjoy your lake this year. Eliminating those nasty lake weeds will make swimming, boating, and just sitting out on your dock a joy again. Call Lakescapes and rely on us to maintain your lake property. We are a local family owned company that "ONLY" services our local area, we have many satisfied local customers.

We only offer 1 treatment level to insure that everyone has a wonderful experience and all treatments are geared for your lake shore. Please contact us and I will send you information about what we can offer to improve your lake experience.

Please call any time with question or to request any additional information. Or just to chat. We look forward to providing you with great service this year. Permits do take at least a month and sometimes longer for new customers so please contact me as soon as you can.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you

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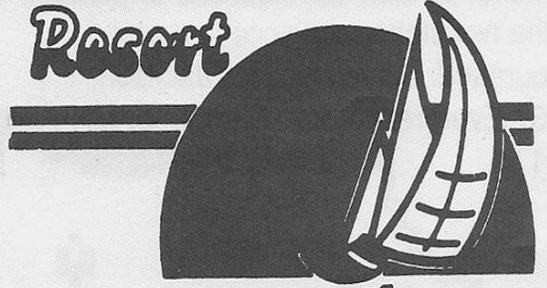
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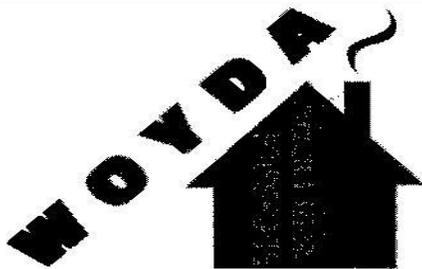


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Part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the purpose of SARE is to act as a decentralized, science-based, problem-solving competitive grant and outreach program with the goal of advancing sustainable innovations to American agriculture. SARE has partnerships with Extension and other ag professionals in every state and island protectorate.

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For more information about SARE, visit [regional](#) and [state websites](#). Or contact SARE Co-Coordinators Kate Seager ([kseager@umn.edu](mailto:kseager@umn.edu), 612-625-8235) or Jill Sackett ([sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu), 507-389-5541).

## Pomme de Terre: Shoreland management, other work needed to restore and protect waters

Shoreland and floodplain management are among the top restoration strategies for [the Pomme de Terre watershed](#) in western Minnesota, as outlined in a report by the MPCA and local partners. This watershed has some of the best water quality in the Minnesota River Basin, but there is room for improvement as many of the streams and lakes are impaired by excess nutrients and other pollutants.



The Pomme de Terre River begins cool and clear in Otter Tail County, bordered by wooded hills and grassy meadows. It flows south through several lakes and five more counties – Grant, Douglas, Big Stone, Swift, and Stevens. But as the river nears its mouth, the surrounding area changes to mostly cropland and more of the riverbanks become erosive, with the Pomme de Terre becoming increasingly muddy before discharging into the Minnesota River at Marsh Lake.

Along with shoreland and floodplain management, other strategies to restore and protect the waters include:

- Soil erosion and sediment controls;
- Nutrient management;
- Adequate wastewater treatment systems;

- Wetland restoration;
- Controlled drainage; and
- Tile inlet controls.

See the [report on Pomme de Terre Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies](#) for details. This report is one of the first completed under the state's watershed approach, a holistic way of gauging the health of streams and lakes, and developing strategies, including TMDL studies, to restore or protect their water quality. Local partners such as the Pomme de Terre River Association are using funding from the BWSR to implement conservation practices in the watershed, and are working to secure other grants to begin implementation of the recommended strategies.

## TMDL Study Close to Completion

The opinions are in. Here comes the science.

This is a massive comprehensive study. It is over 170 pages long. I doubt that many will read it. However, if you are serious about improving the lake, this is a must read. We have to move beyond the opinions and move on to facts. The draft of the full study is at the link below:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=20282>

Below are some excerpts from the study.

### Executive Summary

In 2008, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) listed the Jefferson-German Lake Chain (JGC) as impaired for aquatic recreation due to excess nutrients under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Excessive phosphorus loading is the main cause of the impairment. The goals of the JGC Excess Nutrients Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study are to describe the nature and extent of the lake chain's phosphorus impairment and determine source load allocations that consider major sources. Resources are currently being allocated to the Cannon River watershed (the major watershed that the JGC lies in) to complete a comprehensive assessment, conduct stressor identification focused on biological impairments, construct a watershed model and complete additional TMDLs as necessary. These components of MPCA's watershed approach, particularly the modeling, will allow for simulation of various management scenarios aimed at pollutant load reductions.

The JGC is a five basin lake system comprised of German Lake (40-0063-00), East Jefferson Lake (40-0092-01), Middle Jefferson Lake (40-0092-04), Swedes Bay (40-0092-03) and West Jefferson Lake (40-0092-02). It is located in the upper portion of the Cannon River watershed within Le Sueur County. The JGC watershed comprises a total area of 15,167 acres within the North-Central Hardwood Forest ecoregion and is dominated by mostly agricultural land-use. At 3,157 acres, the JGC basins themselves represent the largest waterbody in south central Minnesota.

This lake has been the subject of past investigations. Concerned citizens began tracking secchi transparency in 1973 and the first comprehensive study of the lake was begun by the MPCA in 1990. That MPCA study identified German Lake as being eutrophic and the lake basins that make up Jefferson Lake as being hypereutrophic. German lake was found to be more eutrophic than 56% percent of lakes within the North Central Hardwood Forests (NCHF) eco-region while the Jefferson lake basins were more eutrophic than 80% of lakes within the NCHF.

The focus and primary intent of this project is to better characterize phosphorus levels, probable sources, and estimate reductions required to meet the TMDL water quality goal. Watershed wide phosphorus loading was

estimated to assess the magnitude of nonpoint and point sources and establish a cause-effect linkage of loading sources and subsequent in-lake phosphorus concentrations.

Samples were collected for the TMDL study between April and October 2009 and 2010 (note that only June-September results were used for TMDL calculation). Ten monitoring stations were located throughout the watershed and lake. The resulting data illustrates a declining trend in water quality through the season due to watershed and internal phosphorus loading. The current total phosphorus load to West Jefferson is 397 kg/yr; Middle Jefferson is 1340 kg/yr; Swedes Bay is 3566 kg/yr; East Jefferson is 1700 kg/yr; and German is 1477 kg/yr. A total phosphorus load of 140 kg/yr in West Jefferson; 534 kg/yr in East Jefferson; and 583 kg/yr in German would be required to reach the water quality goal of 36 µg/l; the goal includes a 10 percent margin of safety. A total phosphorus load of 254 kg/yr in Middle Jefferson and 286 kg/yr in Swedes Bay would be required to reach the water quality goal

of 54 µg/l; the goal includes a 10 percent margin of safety. Over time, reductions in external loading should lead to reductions in internal loading.

## Section 8.0 Implementation Strategy

Implementation of the Jefferson German Lake Chain TMDL will require significant reductions from non-point sources throughout the watershed. Assigning a predetermined reduction amount per implementation practice is not within the scope of this project. There is not enough research to determine the exact phosphorus reduction incurred by the implementation of given BMPs. Rather, a list of potential tasks that could be completed in both agricultural and developed portions of the watershed is provided. Further stakeholder involvement is needed to determine how this TMDL aligns with other local plans (e.g. county water plans). Nonpoint-source phosphorus BMPs and detailed monitoring of the Cannon River watershed are discussed in the *Cannon River Watershed Management Strategy*.

Also, the Intensive Watershed Monitoring (IWM) was initiated in the Cannon River Watershed in 2011. A HSPF model is in development for the entire Cannon River watershed as well and will help simulate scenarios and water quality on nearby lakes. The next few years of study in the Cannon River Watershed will allow for further cooperation between water resource professionals. It will also allow the use of adaptive management, which is an iterative implementation process that makes progress toward achieving water quality goals while using any new data and information to reduce uncertainty and adjust implementation activities.

The Clean Water Legacy Act requires that a TMDL include an overall approximation (“...a range of estimates”) of the cost to implement a TMDL [Minn. Statutes 2007, section 114D.25]. Restoration options for lakes are numerous with varying rates of success. Consequently, each technology must be evaluated in light of our current understanding of physical and biological processes in that lake. Best estimate using professional judgment and review of other projects in similarly sized watersheds is a range from \$1,500,000 to \$3,500,000. This estimate will be refined as implementation plans and projects are developed. A list of potential activities by land use is listed below:

### *Potential Agricultural BMPs to promote:*

- 1) Nutrient management plans
- 2) Crop residue management
- 3) Wetland restoration
- 4) Identify and target highly erodible lands and promote appropriate BMPs
- 5) Two-stage ditch design (specifically at site JG9)

### *Potential Developed Land BMPs to promote:*

- 1) Identify lakeshore property owners that are willing to implement stormwater BMPs on their property (rain gardens, rain barrels, etc.)

- 2) Determine the potential to redirect culverts through treatment ponds or through rain gardens before directly entering the lakes.
- 3) Sewer system upgrades (Note: currently, a study of current septic system conditions is taking place in the entire watershed)

*Potential in-Lake and near shore Implementation Activities to promote:*

- 1) Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) mechanical harvest
- 2) Re-establish native emergent and submergent vegetation along 15% of the shoreline

## **8.1 Implementation Underway**

Several recent developments will support the pursuit of this TMDL's goals. As of January 1, 2005, the State of Minnesota banned the use of phosphorus fertilizer on residential lawns.

- The Southeast Minnesota Wastewater Initiative has been facilitating improvements in sewage treatment for small communities since 2002. Work on the Jefferson-German Lakes unsewered community is currently underway, and a voluntary septic inventory was completed in May of 2013. Recommendations to complete wastewater feasibility assessments in the eleven identified areas, to educate homeowners within the Subordinate Service District on septic systems, and to encourage upgrades to non-compliant systems should be carried forward.
- Two nutrient management specialist positions were funded, in part with Clean Water Fund dollars, in southeast Minnesota: one services the southern part of the region (officed at the Fillmore County SWCD (507-765-3878)), and another services the counties that comprise most of the Byllesby Reservoir watershed: Rice, Steele, Goodhue, Wabasha, Freeborn, and Dodge (officed at the Rice County SWCD (507-332-5408)). Their focus is writing nutrient management plans for farmers, addressing both nitrogen and phosphorus applications to cropland.
- A landowner on the north shore of Middle Jefferson Lake installed four acres of Conservation Reserve Partnership land in 2013. The NRCS, in partnership with the County, will be installing a \$20,000 grade control project in the same area. State funds (LCCMR) will be used to restore the wetlands down on the low grounds. A large amount of support for this project exists from the locals and the county contributed an additional \$6,500

to have it installed. This type of project with buy-in from many sources is promising of more implementation activities to come.

## **Here is the link to the draft document:**

### **Necessary Reductions**

It is helpful to look at TMDLs in terms of reductions necessary to meet the standards. Watershed runoff phosphorus loads need to be reduced from 61% to 92% overall across the chain, with reductions varying from 13% to 80% for individual watershed portions. The same reduction percentages apply to average export and concentrations (Table 7.6).

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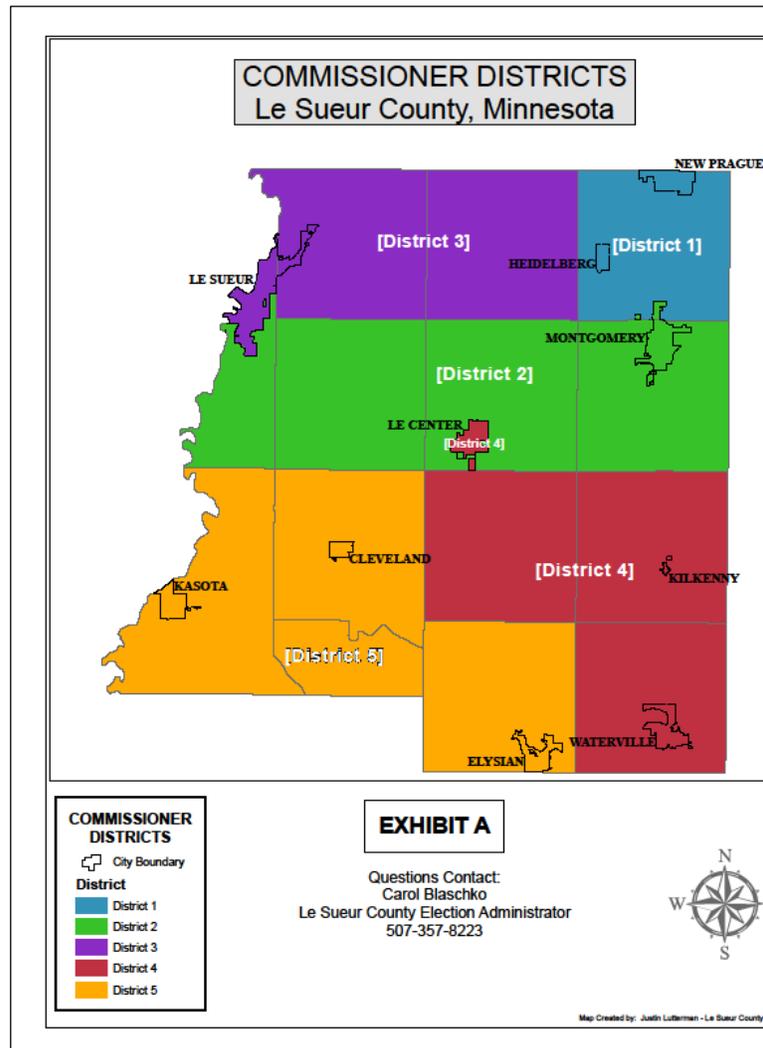
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## Mission Statement

The mission and purpose of the Association is to:

- Promote and coordinate water management, water quality, and water control in the Jefferson German lakes water basin.
- Further communication between members of the Association and other parties interested in the Jefferson German lakes water basin.
- And do all other things of common interest and benefit with regard to water management, water quality, and water control regarding the Jefferson German lakes water basin.