

**LLWA Fall Meeting
Minutes
Oct. 27, 2018**

Attendees:

Chuck
Jessica Schaum
Jane Byron
Dan Linser
Paul Habegger
Kate Habegger
Dan Dimarco
Nancy Anderson
Deb Jorgenson
Susan Allen
Diane Fields
Craig Fields

8:30 a.m. -- Introductions and Opening Remarks

Paul Habegger, Dan Linser and Dan Dimarco attended the council meeting hearing to discuss the Long Lake drawdown. There was only one minor question and council members were very supportive. Bill Sherry, on Farquar, shared positive remarks about the City of Apple Valley and the management of Long and Farquar Lakes. One council member asked about doing drawdowns more frequently. When drawdowns are done, the goal is to mimic a natural drought cycle. So it's recommended not to do a drawdown each year, but in a pattern that makes sense. Based on the updated TMDL and outside expert opinion, we are on a five-year drawdown cycle.

Long Lake Drawdown Results to Date

Rain has slowed the drawdown process, but it will get low enough to have a lasting impact on the curly leaf pond weed seed pods. A check of the pipe resulted in having to remove bullheads caught in the overflow. There were some concerns about the water level of Long Lake during the summer. Now that the lake is lower, the utilities division will send a robotic camera into the main overflow pipe to make sure the pipe is free of any obstructions. The city will plan to close the valve in early March 2018 allowing the lake to refill as snow melts.

Nancy Anderson asked about a water project happening on 134th Street West. Jessica will follow up.

Plant and Fish Surveys

Each year, this survey is completed twice (spring and fall) to track the concentration of aquatic plants and determine if a chemical treatment is needed to help control curly leaf pondweed. The August survey showed no curly leaf pondweed present in Long Lake – so the treatment in 2018 was effective. Susan Allen noted it was the best year in 20 years. This is the third year of

chemical treatment, so the cumulative effect of three continuous years of treatment followed by a drawdown, which will further freeze out seed pods, will continue to improve the water quality. Over time, the lake will have fewer seed pods, which means less curly leaf each summer. This means that in 2019, depending on the results of the early year aquatic plant survey, the City may opt to not do a chemical treatment. Residents could still get permits to treat their area of the lake. Also of note, the last two years we have not had to add to the city treated portion (no cost to homeowners).

Paul requested that the city file for the permit in 2019 so it's available if the plant study shows a need to chemically treat portions of the lake.

The Fish Survey was completed prior to the drawdown and shows mostly bullheads and sunfish in Long Lake. Reminder to all lake residents not to dispose of goldfish in the lakes and ponds. Bullheads and sunfish can become a problem if the quantity rises to the extreme. Because Long Lake is shallow and oxygen level is low, there is likelihood the fish will die off in winter. Game fish can't survive in shallow lakes like Long Lake, so the bullheads don't have a natural predator. Long Lake can't be aerated because of its small size and shallow depth.

Johnny Cake Ridge Road Reconstruction – 2019

The City is changing the architecture of Johnny Cake Ridge Road and adding the Dakota County Greenway from 140th street to McAndrews. The road itself will become a three-lane road with a center turn lane. There is potential for several new rain garden/water runoff areas to assist with water management practices. The City is also looking at tree trenches as an option and submitted a grant request to the state for \$300,000 to help offset the cost of the water drainage projects. The Vermilion Watershed is providing \$100,000 to assist with funding. It's around \$700,000 in improvements for storm water practices. Open houses will be scheduled by the City to invite resident input prior to the start of construction.

The other City project is rehabbing the basin in Erickson Park south of 140th. Currently it's a depression and water soaks in. City intends to expand it and increase its capacity. The Vermilion Watershed is providing some grant money for that as well.

The TMDL update shows where consultants indicated a potential for other watershed projects. See the appendix of tables and timeline for implementation of projects for the guide to how the City determines what projects to work on each year.

Long Lake Shoreline Cleanup Day

The City provided heavy duty garbage bags for trash and misc. Residents should only gather trash items (plastic, metal, rubber, etc.). Logs and aquatic plants must stay -- no raking, grading or landscaping.

We will notify all LLWA residents of the clean up day and provide the garbage bags as needed. Residents can do their own shoreline or participate as a group on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 8 to

10 a.m. We'll monitor who is participates and and let Jane/Jessica know following the cleanup as the City of Apple Valley likes to track volunteer hours.

Other Misc. Items

Buckthorn and Ash Tree Management

The lakes and ponds in the Long Lake Watershed are a high risk area for Emerald Ash Borer. Residents can set up a plan to preserve or remove ash trees. Jessica and Jane have information on tree treatments, which must be done every year. Buckthorn can be pulled and or cut at the stump and treated with brush be gone to kill the stump. Residents should take note of woodpecker activity in late fall and early winter. This is the first sign that a tree may be infested.

The State Fair advertised the adopt a drain program. Homeowners can adopt a storm drain and go out to clean up the drain area. Vermilion River Watershed is participating and co-funding the program.

The City is still looking for homeowners who want to do a rain garden on their property. Master Water Steward program signup will be in summer 2019. Residents can get their names on the list now for next summer. Training on water quality and practices, etc. Some funding available to help pay for classes.

Susan Allen noted that a portion of someone's dock structure on Long Lake has floated to properties at the far east end of the lake. Chuck will send out a note to homeowners related to the dock and where to find it.

Future Meetings

Paul noted that the Apple Valley Public Library meeting room is difficult to book. Since the attendees of the meeting prefer the 8:30 meeting time, Paul will continue scheduling future meetings at the Apple Valley Community Center and use LLWA monies to pay for the room rental.

Next meeting in April 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

