



Annual Report

2014

Thirty Lakes Watershed District
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14
Brainerd, MN 56401 218-824-1125
environmental.services@crowwing.us
www.crowwing.us/1012/Thirty-Lakes-Watershed-District

TLWD 2014 Annual Report

2014 Annual Report Thirty Lakes Watershed District Brainerd, MN

This annual report is submitted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103.D. It summarizes the activities of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District for the calendar year of 2014.

Background

Thirty Lakes Watershed District was established by Order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board on May 18, 1971 in response to two nominating petitions.

The primary goal of Thirty Lakes Watershed District is the protection of the surface and subsurface water within the District Boundaries. The 1971 petition stated environmental concerns of stormwater runoff, septic system management, excess aquatic vegetation, algae blooms, skin rashes/irritation and garbage in the lake.

There are 34 lakes and 18 protected wetlands within the 80 square miles of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District boundaries, which encompasses 7% of the total land area of Crow Wing County. The entire District lies within Crow Wing County, and 60% of the total area is covered with surface water. Portions of the cities of Nisswa and Breezy Point are within the District, as well as portions of the townships of Lake Edward, Pelican, Mission and Unorganized - First Assessment. The largest lakes within the District are Pelican Lake, Lake Edward, Lake Hubert and North Long Lake.

Introduction

The Board of Managers of the Thirty Lakes Watershed District holds regular meetings on the second Monday of each month. All regular meetings are open to the public and were held at the District Office, in the Land Services Building, located at 322 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN. Proper notices of special meetings are published in the prescribed manner in the Brainerd Dispatch.

The Annual Election of Officers for the Board of Managers is held during the regular May or June meeting.

The **Managers and Officers** at the beginning of 2014 were as follows:

Gorden Hardy, President/Chair	Wes Ellis, Vice President/Vice Chair
Joshua Heintzeman, Secretary	Darrel Palmer, Treasurer
Tony Bauer, Manager	

The **Managers and Officers** at the end of 2014 were as follows:

Gorden Hardy, President/Chair	Wesley Ellis, Vice President/Vice Chair
Joshua Heintzeman, Secretary	Darrel Palmer, Treasurer
Tony Bauer, Manager	

Citizen Advisory Committee

The Thirty Lakes Watershed Board of Managers is grateful to have the following individuals comprise the Citizen Advisory Committee:

Bob Albrecht	Rosemary Franzen (Crow Wing County Commissioner)
Rick Johnson	Michael Duval

Staff

Chris Pence, District Administrator

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2014 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thirty Lakes Watershed District Permits

The Thirty Lakes Watershed District (TLWD) has delegated stormwater regulations and permits to the Crow Wing County Land Services Department following the requirements of Article 41 of the Land Use Ordinance. The TLWD has also worked with the cities of Nisswa and Breezy Point to implement County stormwater requirements for those properties within the TLWD. This collaboration with the County includes improving customer service, eliminating duplication of services and implementing consistent rules and requirements. The County Ordinance has won local, state and national awards for the ordinance.

Web Site

The web site of Thirty Lakes Watershed District has been relocated as part of the Crow Wing County Land Services Department Website: www.crowwing.us/1012/Thirty-Lakes-Watershed-District. The old website has been discontinued. The new website is being updated on a regular basis with information such as meeting agendas, minutes and supporting documentation.

TLWD Overall Management Plan: The Thirty lakes Watershed District is in process of amending the 10 year overall management plan for 2013-2023. The plan will be adopted and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources in 2015.

Funding

The TLWD operated in 2014 with a zero levy, the second year in a row that the district operated with a zero levy. In addition, the TLWD reduced its overall fund balance in 2014 by \$33,381, a reduction of 13% as required by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. TLWD anticipates a zero levy in 2015 as well.

Vegetation Control

The TLWD provided funding to the North Long Lake Association in the amount of \$1000 to help cover the cost controlling curly leaf pondweed. This matched the amount that the North Long Lake Association received from the Department of Natural Resources.

Ditch 13

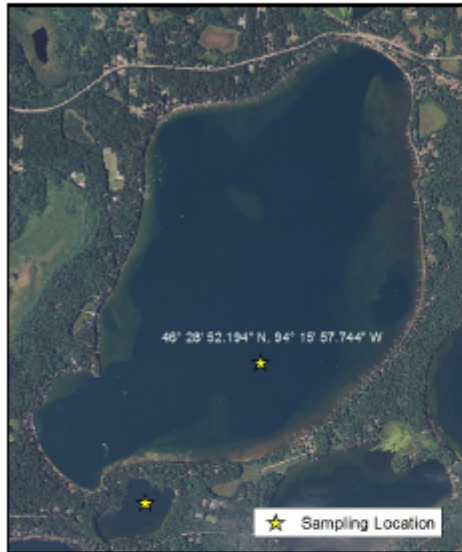
The TLWD assisted the Lake Edward Conservation Club (LECC) with securing a permit from the DNR to allow the LECC to remove sediment and vegetation from the outlet on the south side of Lake Edward. In addition the TLWD, in collaboration with the LECC, paid out a total of \$1000 to remove 20 beavers from Ditch 13 to help keep the ditch free of beaver dams and debris to allow the water to move freely.

Water Quality Monitoring

Sixteen lakes were tested four times during the summer of 2014 to determine their Trophic Status Index (TSI). All data was submitted to the MPCA EQUIS system and made available on the Thirty Lakes Watershed District website. Of the lakes sampled, 5 lakes were stable, 7 lakes may be declining, 2 lakes were improving and 2 lakes had no trend. The managers worked closely with staff from AW Labs to revise the year-end report to make the report easier to understand. This included classifying the lakes in the TLWD into tiers based on size and level of development to better help the managers manage lake water quality. Below is an example of the summary of lake water for Lake Hubert.

LAKE SUMMARY

Lake Hubert ID #18-0375-00



Tier 1 Lake

Sampled By: Paul Lund

MPCA Site ID: 206

Trophic Status: 41.1 = Mesotrophic

Total Acres: 1287

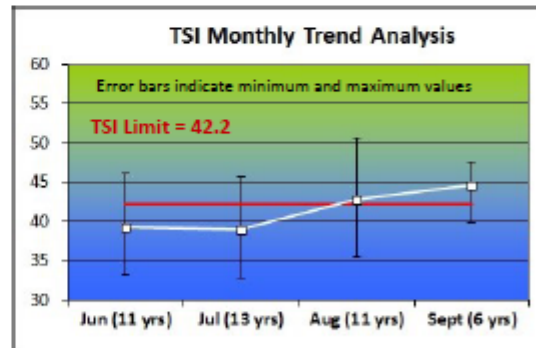
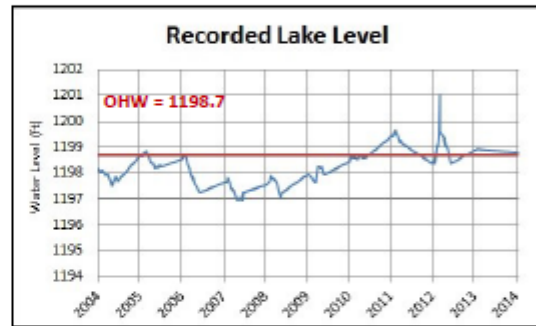
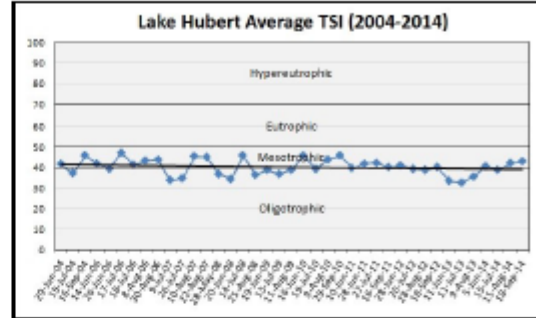
Littoral Acres: 465

Max Depth: 83 feet

Dev. Class: General Development

DATA SUMMARY

Over the past 10 years of monitoring the Average TSI of Lake Hubert is stable while the total phosphorus trend is improving. The Monthly Trend Analysis graph shows that the established TSI Limit of 42.2 is being exceeded in August and September. This increase in TSI from June through September is a normal trend for a recreational lake such as Hubert.



TSI Trends (2004-2014), 10 yrs, N=39

Total Phosphorus:	Improving
Chlorophyll a:	No Trend
Secchi Disk:	No Trend
Average TSI:	Stable

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Work Plan for 2015

Collaboration

The District will continue its cooperation with Crow Wing County and the Cities of Nisswa and Breezy Point relative to effective stormwater management regulations. This collaboration with the County includes improving customer service, eliminating duplication of services and implementing consistent rules and requirements.

Water Quality Monitoring

The TLWD will enter into a three year contract with a state registered laboratory to sample lake water to monitor the water quality of the lakes.

Aquatic Invasive Species

The TLWD will work closely with Crow Wing County and assist in implementation of the County AIS prevention plan within the boundaries of the TLWD.

10 Year Plan

The TLWD will receive approval from the Board of Water and Soil Resources in 2015 regarding its 10 year plan as required by State Statute.

Ditch 13

The TLWD will continue to work the LECC regarding maintenance of the outlet on Lake Edward. In addition, the TLWD will pay for up to 20 beavers to be trapped and removed from Ditch 13.

Funding

The TLWD will operate with a zero levy in 2015, the third year in a row the TLWD operated with a zero levy. The TLWD will also continue to reduce its fund balance as required by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Point Place Timeshare Stormwater Maintenance Plan

Work with the Crow Wing SWCD on a 6 year maintenance plan to complete maintenance agreement on the long term maintenance requirements.