

**Lake Level Resolution Committee (LLRC) Meeting
City Hall Expansion Room, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
Wednesday, February 6, 2013
7:00-9:50 P.M.**

Members Present: Tom Alvarez, Margaret Behrens, Bryan DeSmet (chair), Suzanne Donnell, Ali Elhassan, Bill Foussard, Janice Hallman, Scott Mueller, Terry O'Loughlin, Todd Stutz

Alternate Member Present: Don Madore

Members Absent: Paul Bolstad, Mike Downing

Others Present: Brian Davis, Gloria Drake, Dennis Dunnigan, Princesa Hansen, Dale Homuth, Martha Ockentels-Martinez (Assistant to Representative Peter Fischer), Connor McNutt (Assistant to Representative Jason Isaacson), Debra Neutkens, Len Pratt, Paul Putzier, John Rapheal, Mark Sather

Agenda:

Water Supply Management Presentation by Dale Homuth, Conservation Assistance and Regulation Section Manager, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Presentation Highlights:

- The DNR's Water Appropriation Program has been in existence since 1937. It is part of the Great Lakes Compact and Minnesota has the most restrictive program in that compact.
- Water use (appropriate) permits are required for users who pump >10,000 gallons per day or 1,000,000 gallons per year.
- Covers any appropriation of "Waters of the State"
- Sustainable water resource management balances competing objectives of economic development, domestic water supply, navigation, natural resources, and recreation.
- This program is based on Riparian Doctrine that protects riparian rights - everyone who owns land has the right to use the water on or under it.
- There are six water allocation priorities:
 1. Domestic water supply
 2. Consumptive uses <than 10,000 gallons/day
 3. Agriculture irrigation and processing
 4. Power production
 5. Consumptive uses >10,000 gallons/day
 6. Non-essential uses such as car washing, lawn watering, etc.
- Water use in the Mount Simon Hinckley Aquifer is restricted by State Statute. (According to Brian Davis of the Met Council, who spoke at the LLRC meeting on January 23, 2013, there was a state law that was passed during the 1988 drought. The Legislature made that aquifer off limits from any future use because during the '88 drought, significant drawdowns were reported from that aquifer. Mount Simon, being the deepest aquifer in this area, is the one that takes the longest time to recharge. Ali Elhassan, LLRC member, stated that the Mount Simon Aquifer is restricted only in the metro area. Outside the metro area, it can be pumped. In the metro area, it is kept in reserve for future generations in case of drought. Wells in the metro area can be drilled into the Mount Simon Aquifer only if a community can prove that the Mount Simon is its sole water source and that no other aquifer will work.)
- Where do we get our water? 75% comes from groundwater (water that is pumped out of the ground through wells)

1. Surface water - 1.3 million people (St. Paul, Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth)
 2. Private wells - 1.2 million people
 3. Municipal groundwater - 2.7 million
- How do we use our water? Consumptive: 437 billion gallons reported in 2010
 1. Public supply – 199
 2. Industrial processing – 101
 3. Irrigation – 69
 4. Other – 68
 5. Non-consumptive: 916 billion gallons used in power generation
 - Currently, the DNR can't fine over users. Municipal water systems are on an "honor system" to self-report their annual water usage.
 - Annual water use trends show a 12% increase in population and 18% increase in water use
 - Water Supply Planning
 - Public water suppliers serving > 1,000 are required to have water supply plans (WSPs)
 - The latest cycle of plans are from 2006 to 2009, next cycle starts in 2 years
 - Water Supply Plans address conservation measures, future water supply sources and infrastructure, emergency procedures and interconnections, and the impact on natural resources and monitoring
 - The measurement for good water supply planning is 75 gallons/per capita/per day
 - This is sometimes hard to achieve because there is "unaccounted for water" that escapes the system through leaks or fire hydrant flushes.
 - A good "peaking" ratio is 2.6, where water use in the summer is 2.6 times higher than in the winter.
 - Climate change is a current and emerging challenge.
 - There are demands for permitting efficiencies.
 1. January 2011: Governor's Executive Order 11-04 - issue permits more efficiently
 2. March 2011: MN Session Law Chapter 4 – HF #1 - makes the permitting application process more efficient
 3. April 2011: DNR's Permits Transformation Task Force - identified options to improve natural resource outcomes associated with permitting programs
 - Solutions to Challenges – Dealing with Problem Areas
 1. Minnesota Statute 103G.287 states in part: Subd. 4 Groundwater Management areas. "The commissioner may designate groundwater management areas and limit total annual water appropriations and uses within a designated area to ensure sustainable use of groundwater that protects ecosystems, water quality, and the ability of future generations to meet their own needs..."
 2. The designation of groundwater management areas has never been done in the state and is difficult to do.
 - Conservation is an effective way to address water use issues where the public water supply is the problem.
 - Public water supply systems are designed for worst case scenarios.
 - The cost of education and ordinance enforcement is small, compared to infrastructure costs.
 - There can be a 20-30% reduction in water use through conservation efforts alone.
 - Measuring Water Use – The DNR monitors groundwater levels and makes this information available to local governments for wise water use planning.
 - Without adequate monitoring, unanticipated shortages may occur during periods of drought.

- Clean Water Fund Monies funded the Minnesota DNR Permit and Reporting System (MPARS).
 1. Customers can apply for permits and track status.
 2. MPARS can report water use and other data.
 3. Users can pay fees online.
 4. Request changes to permits can be made online.
- MPARS Components:
 1. Online permitting system
 2. Customer Portal
 3. GIS Interface
 4. Internal Notification and Distribution System
 5. Online payment system
 6. External Notification System
 7. Use Reporting

Don Madore, alternate member, presented his evaluation of the options in the Options Report that was given to the committee by the Lake Level Ad Hoc Group at the January 23 meeting.

The remainder of the meeting revolved around a general discussion of conservation ideas.

Action Item: Committee members are to review the “Options Report to the Lake Level Resolution Committee of the White Bear Lake Conservation District” and send their “pros” and “cons” for each option to Suzanne Donnell, who will compile all of the comments into a working paper that will be printed and distributed to each committee member for discussion at the next meeting. The deadline for these comments is noon on Friday, February 15.

Next meeting agenda item: Brian Davis from the Met Council will give a presentation of its Option Recommendations to the committee.

The committee decided to meet weekly, on Wednesday, starting with the February 20 meeting. Bryan DeSmet will publish these dates for public notice.

The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor Expansion Conference Room of White Bear Lake City Hall.