

Lake Level Resolution Committee (LLRC) Meeting
City Hall Expansion Room, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
Wednesday, March 6, 2013
7:00-9:25 P.M.

Members Present: Tom Alvarez, Margaret Behrens, Paul Bolstad, 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: Mike Downing

Others Present: Amy Okaya, Mark Sather, Tom Snell

Agenda:

- Morningstar Foods Presentation

The Lake Level Resolution Committee heard an overview of Morningstar Foods production processes by Eric Rickman, manager of production at the plant that is located on Highway 61. Morningstar is currently permitted to draw 160 million gallons per year from the Prairie du Chien aquifer although the withdrawal may be closer to 120 million gallons per year. The water is used in a single pass heat exchange system (water is pumped from the aquifer, passes through the heat exchange system to cool the process water, then flows into Little Goose Lake, however if the water is 86 degrees or higher, the water must be diverted into the sewer system). There was a lot of discussion of whether or not this discharged water could be diverted to White Bear Lake to raise lake levels. The consensus of the LLRC was to study this option further, since the water is the nearest augmentation source, is readily available, is currently being pumped from the Prairie du Chien Aquifer and could be diverted to the lake at a relatively low cost compared to other augmentation options.

The LLRC continued its discussion of several options for addressing the White Bear Lake level issue. In addition to the long term options discussed, the LLRC agreed that two options that could be implemented quickly are to encourage conservation and to explore the possibility and feasibility of pumping water from the Mount Simon aquifer where there are existing pumps and permits in place. Those municipalities with Mount Simon aquifer pumps would be encouraged to pump from this deeper aquifer during summer months when the drawdown of the Prairie du Chien is the greatest and impacts the lake levels the most. More study is needed of this second option.

Janice Hallman gave a brief report on the Conservation Strategy for the LLRC. She, Margaret Behrens, Paul Bolstad and Bill Foussard will continue to fine tune this strategy.

Tom Alvarez, Paul Bolstad, and Ali Elhassan will meet soon to formulate questions the LLRC would like Perry Jones, USGS, to address when he conducts his additional flow studies of the lake, if additional funding is provided by the Legislature.

The LLRC will try to have a summary of the options that they recommend for further study available for presentation to the White Bear Lake Conservation District April 16th meeting.

The next LLRC meeting will be held on March 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor Expansion Conference Room of the White Bear Lake City Hall. A representative from the Turtle Lake Homeowners' Association and a representative from the City of Shoreview will speak about their experiences with augmenting lakes with treated Mississippi River water provided by Saint Paul Regional Water Services.