

**Lake Level Resolution Committee (LLRC) Meeting
City Hall Expansion Room, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
Wednesday, March 13, 2013
7:00-9:10 P.M.**

Members Present: Margaret Behrens, Paul Bolstad, Bryan DeSmet (chair), Suzanne Donnell, Mike Downing, Bill Foussard, Janice Hallman, Scott Mueller, Terry O'Loughlin

Alternate Member Present: Don Madore

Members Absent: Tom Alvarez, Ali Elhassan, Todd Stutz

Others Present: Brian Davis, Carol McFarlane, Debra Neutkins, Mark Sather

Agenda:

- City of Shoreview's and Turtle Lake Homeowners' Association presentation regarding augmentation of groundwater with surface water from the Saint Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS).

The Lake Level Resolution Committee heard from Tom Wesolowski, city engineer for the City of Shoreview, regarding the Snail Lake Improvement District's (SLID) efforts to stabilize water levels in Snail Lake. In 1992 the City of Shoreview created the SLID and a year later installed the lake augmentation system with an agreement from Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) to purchase water for augmentation. The SLID started pumping in March 1994 and has used SPRWS water to sustain Snail Lake water levels ever since. Tom discussed the history of this process as well as the operational and maintenance costs. The augmentation of Snail Lake with Mississippi River water has proven to be very successful. The quality of the water has been very good with the average total cost per homeowner amounting to \$436 per year to raise Snail Lake 3-4 feet per year to its desired level of 882.7 feet.

Trace Benson and Tim Krinke spoke on behalf of the Turtle Lake Homeowners' Association (TLHOA) and its attempts to augment Turtle Lake with SPRWS water. In 2010 Turtle Lake dropped almost 5 feet but it rebounded in 2011-12 and is now down 3.5 feet. The TLHOA surveyed homeowners to ask how they used the lake and what their concerns were for Turtle Lake. Of 176/206 homeowners who responded to the survey, the majority were more concerned about water quality than the cost to augment the lake. Voting on the issue depended on where a resident lived on the lake. Residents agreed to pay \$10,000 for a scoping study but, in a later survey, 50% didn't want to conduct a feasibility study to take the next step to determine if they should augment Turtle Lake with SPRWS water. Turtle Lake hasn't done anything further at this point in time. In retrospect, Trace and Tim felt homeowners needed

more time to fully understand the issue. The TLHOA may try again in the future to augment the lake with SPRWS water.

The LLRC agreed as a group that it's important to educate residents about the various options being considered to augment White Bear Lake. It was brought up in this discussion that it's estimated that it would take 1 billion gallons of water to raise the lake a foot.

Janice Hallman said she and her Conservation subcommittee are looking at the "20 Gallon Water Pledge" campaign and would have more information for the LLRC at a later date.

The LLRC continued its discussion of options for addressing the WBL water level. The options include: 1. Conservation, 2. Municipalities in the NE Metro Area converting from Prairie Du Chien groundwater to SPRWS surface water for their primary source of water, 3. Augmenting the lake level with water from the Mississippi River through the SPRWS chain of lakes, and 4. Augmenting the lake level with water from the cooling system discharge from M-Foods.

In this meeting, the LLRC continued to support two options that could be implemented quickly: Conservation and the possibility/feasibility of pumping water from the Mount Simon Hinckley aquifer where there are current pumps and permits in place. Those municipalities with Mount Simon Hinckley aquifer wells would be encouraged to pump from this deeper aquifer during summer months when the drawdown on the Prairie du Chien is the greatest and impacts the lake levels the most.

Terry O'Loughlin, Mike Downing, and Todd Stutz will formalize these specific options and will write a report for the LLRC's consideration, review, and approval for presentation to the White Bear Lake Conservation District at its April 16 meeting.

Carol McFarlane announced there will be a Water Symposium at Century College in the Lincoln Mall on the East Campus on Thursday, April 4, at 6:30 PM. Information will follow through various media outlets.

The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor Expansion Conference Room of White Bear Lake City Hall. A representative from the Metropolitan Council will give a presentation regarding Water Conservation.