

**Lake Level Resolution Committee (LLRC) Meeting
City Hall Expansion Room, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
Wednesday, March 20, 2013
7:00-9:30 P.M.**

Members Present: 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: Tom Alvarez, Mike Downing

Others Present: Sheryl Bolstad, Peter Fischer, Bonnie Greenleaf, Laura Horner, Mike Nevala, Amy Okaya, Gary Schroeder, Tom Snell, June Sinnett, Mary Williams,

Agenda:

- Metropolitan Council presentation regarding "Opportunities and Challenges: Considering Water Conservation"

The Lake Level Resolution Committee heard from Lanya Ross, hydrogeologist, from the Metropolitan Council. Of the Northeast Metro's water use, Lanya said that 80% is for individual use: 56% indoor residential use and 24% outdoor residential use. She estimates that of the 3 billion gallons of water that is pumped from the Prairie du Chien Aquifer every year by the northeast metro municipalities, approximately 1 billion gallons per year could be saved with effective conservation.

This 33% savings would be realized through very aggressive conservation efforts with everyone's participation. Lanya felt this savings was very realistic. She gave an interesting national statistic: If everyone in the country turned off the faucet while brushing their teeth, four times the annual flow of the Mississippi River could be saved.

Potential exists to significantly reduce water use in communities around White Bear Lake. Various water conservation options exist and can be implemented relatively quickly.

The remainder of the meeting revolved around discussion of which options the LLRC should present to the White Bear Lake Conservation District Board and what other recommendations the LLRC could make to the WBLCD.

Ali Elhassan pointed out that there are lots of private well owners and believes that conservation should work well for this group. There is a problem because no one knows the extent of their water use. Paul Bolstad disagreed with this statement and felt that the population and per capita use of these well users can be estimated.

Janice Hallman will send the LLRC members a draft of her subcommittee's recommendation for an LLRC water conservation strategy this weekend. She's continuing to look into a program called the "20 Gallon Water Pledge" campaign which would encourage participants to sign a pledge to reduce their water use by 20 gallons per day. More information on this campaign will be provided 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, 5. Well optimization, 6. The feasibility of pumping water from the Mount Simon Hinckley aquifer where there are existing wells and permits in place (during summer months when the drawdown on the Prairie du Chien is the greatest and impacts the lake levels the most).

Ali Elhassan pointed out that conservation alone won't solve the whole problem. The Met Council estimates there will be a 12% population increase in the next 20 years, which equates to 60,000 more people in Hugo, Mahtomedi, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township. This will require 6 million more gallons per year than is currently being pumped from the Prairie du Chien aquifer.

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

Janice Hallman and Ali Elhassan encouraged the group to support and attend the upcoming "Our Water, Our Future" Forum that will be held at Century College, East Campus in the Lincoln Mall, on Thursday, April 4, 2013, from 6:30-8:30 PM. The event is sponsored by the Metropolitan Council, the MN Department of Natural Resources, the US Geological Survey and the White Bear Chamber of Commerce. Additional public forums will be held in the future. Potential topics are to review the various options that have been considered by the LLRC (in May) and Conservation (in June). LLRC committee members might be asked to present at these future forums.

The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor Expansion Conference Room of White Bear Lake City Hall.