

Lake Level Resolution Committee (LLRC) Meeting
City Hall Expansion Room, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
Wednesday, April 3, 2013
7:00-9:00 P.M.

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

Members Absent: Paul Bolstad, Terry O'Loughlin

Others Present: Larry Lanoux, Mark Sather, Tom Snell

Agenda:

- Discussion of the draft report entitled, "Recommendations for Addressing the Declining White Bear Lake Water Levels"

The Lake Level Resolution Committee discussed the various sections of the draft report that will be presented to the White Bear Lake Conservation District on April 16, 2013. Mike Downing felt that the stakeholders should be identified in the report. He also felt that there was a need to define the regulatory process to make it clear how to get various projects approved and a suggested timeline for implementing specific recommendations. A lot of good discussion ensued and several recommendations were made that chair Bryan DeSmet said he would incorporate into the third draft of the report and would email it to LLRC members within the week. Bryan would like the Recommendations Report to be finalized at the April 10th meeting.

Ali Elhassan said 3 questions need to be asked in any feasibility study for the options it's reviewing: (1) Is it going to work? (2) How will it work? (3) How much will it cost?

Larry Lanoux attended as an interested observer and asked the LLRC to consider augmenting White Bear Lake with St. Croix River water. Even though the infrastructure isn't currently in place, he felt it would be as easy to implement as some of the other options that are in the Recommendations Report. The discussion included comments about the shorter distance to the Saint Paul Regional Water System (SPRWS) Mississippi River source and the likely lower cost to obtain the augmentation water from the SPRWS source. After some discussion, the LLRC took a vote with 8 members voting to only include augmentation with the SPRWS and with 2 members voting to include the St. Croix River augmentation option in its final report. With the 8-2 vote, this option won't be included in the final report.

Scott Mueller requested that the pumping of the Mount Simon Hinckley aquifer be presented as a "stand alone" option in the report. The LLRC voted to include this as its own option. Mark Sather was asked to provide information regarding this option which he stated was do-able. He also discussed the challenges in using this aquifer, such as its lower volume capacity, the 6.6

million gallons per year permit restriction by the MN DNR, and the higher cost to pump a greater distance. The consensus of the discussion was that it should be included as an option that could immediately be utilized to take strain off of the Prairie du Chien Aquifer during the peak summer months.

The LLRC reiterated that the two options that are the quickest to implement are the pumping of the Mount Simon Hinckley aquifer well during peak summer months and the conservation of water.

The LLRC members asked Bryan how the presentation of the Recommendations Report would be made to the White Bear Lake Conservation District (WBLCD). Several wanted a formal presentation with power point slides. Bryan said he'd check with the WBLCD chairperson to see how the WBLCD Board would prefer to have the LLRC report its findings. He'll report back to the group at the next meeting.

Ali told the committee that he'll be a presenter along with the MN DNR and USGS at the following night's "Our Water, Our Future" Forum at Century College and encouraged LLRC members to attend and support this event that will be held in the Lincoln Mall, from 6:30-8:30 PM. It's the first in a series of planned public forums. The event planners hope to attract 100+ participants. The current plan is to present the various options from the Recommendation Report at the next forum that will be held in a few months.

Next meeting's agenda: Finalize the Recommendations Report and discuss how to present it to the WBLCD at its April 16 meeting.

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor Expansion Conference Room of White Bear Lake City Hall.