



PINE LAKES PRESS

Fall 2020



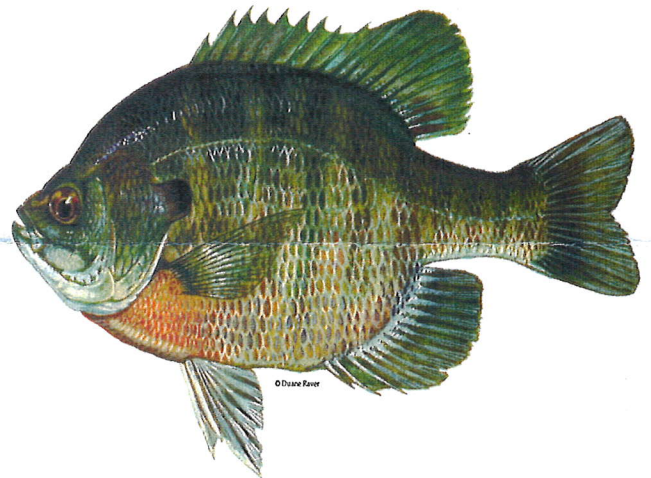
Big Pine Lake • Little Pine Lake
Perham, MN



Big Pine Lake Proposed for Reduced Bag Limit for Bluegill

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be proposing a reduced bag limit for bluegill and other sunfish in Big Pine Lake in 2021. Two options will be considered: 1) Reduced bag limit from 20 fish to 10 fish; 2) Reduced bag limit from 20 fish to five fish. All public accesses will be posted with a notice of this proposal and how the public can provide input by May 10, 2021. A formal public input meeting will be held in September 2021 with implementation in March 2022 if approved.

For additional information, please contact Jim Wolters at the DNR Fisheries Office at 218-671-7954 or at Jim.Wolters@state.mn.us



The Dam & Highway 8

From DNR Fisheries Specialist Howard Fullhart who spoke in 2019 about the proposed dam modification project for Little Pine, Big Pine and Rush Lakes is this update. "The bridge replacement and dam modification most likely won't happen at the same time...coordinating that when we don't have funding for the dam projects makes it difficult. With that said the Little Pine outlet is not going to take much modifying. Probably just some simple rock placement and we achieve what we need to."

Similar dam modification has been successfully done at Pelican and other areas. DNR will help find grants and keep the LID informed before any work begins.

County Engineer Chuck Grotte tells us: "The CSAH Bridge project was scheduled to be done this year (2020), however since the State Legislature has not passed a Bonding Bill the Bridge Bond funds are not yet available... Mn/DOT is looking at another source for the bridge funding, but the work would not start until next year (2021).

...CSAH 8 will be detoured. The detour will be on CSAH 80 (Main Street, Perham), CSAH 51, CSAH 60 and CSAH 13.

The CSAH 8 Resurfacing Project is scheduled for next year (2021), however recent discussions with the City of Perham made us aware some underground utility work will need to be done...We don't typically rebuild a bridge and resurface a highway in the same year."



Not 'Wild' about Wild Rice?

Lakeshore owners in recent years are finding new 'weeds' growing near their docks. Wild rice, a native grass that grows in shallow lake and river areas has re-emerged in locations where some say it hasn't been seen in years. For some people that is cause for celebration, for others, a headache.

Here's a few things you may not know about wild rice, or ma-noomin, as it is known in the Ojibwe language. Wild rice is the state grain of Minnesota. Wild rice, the wild grass growing perhaps around your dock, along the shoreline, and down the river, is hand harvested each fall in Minnesota and Wisconsin, the only two states where it is abundant enough to sustain harvest. Wild rice also supports a multi-million dollar cultivated wild rice industry that emerged in Minnesota a short 70 years ago. Wild rice, in Minnesota, is protected based on its cultural and ecological importance.



Wild rice provides many benefits in shallow lakes or shallow areas of deeper lakes. Wild rice provides nursery areas for fish, habitat for dragonflies and other aquatic insects, and hiding areas for ducklings and other wetland birds. Growing near shore, wild rice like other emergent plants (those plants that grow in the water, but above the water line), protects shorelines from erosion and help hold sediment in place, keeping the water clean. In the fall, wild rice feeds thousands of migrating waterfowl as they wing south for winter – many species key in on ripe rice for much needed fuel for their southward migration.



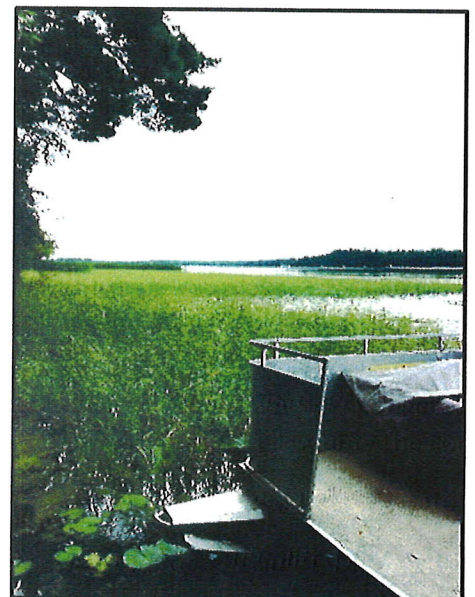
So why is wild rice emerging now? When we see something new happening to our lakes, I like to think about what has changed in or on the lake. Often times, a drop in water levels can bring wild rice back. On Harriet Lake, in Hubbard County, a beaver dam was removed downstream of the outlet and water levels lowered. Wild rice returned. Growing annually from seed, the sediment in a lake may hold thousands of seeds just sitting dormant, waiting for conditions to be right for germination. How long can those seeds sit there? There is a lake over in Wisconsin, Totagatic Lake, in Bayfield County, known for its wild rice. Over the years, due to some blocked outflow, water levels rose and wild rice disappeared. For decades the rice declined until very little grew. One year the outlet was cleaned out, bringing the lake back down to historical levels and the wild rice the next year covered the entire lake.

We know that wild rice can sit in the sediment for years before germinating. What else has changed recently in your lake? Has water quality improved? Wild rice is sensitive to pollutants, so improvements in water quality may lead to wild rice reemerging. Are there new types of boats? Specifically thinking about Wake boats that stir up sediment when used in shallow areas, or even the use of larger motors in the shallows. Both would re-suspend bottom sediment, potentially moving wild rice seed closer to the surface, resulting in germination the following spring.

Wild rice removal is regulated in Minnesota and requires a permit. Your local Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Specialist in the Fisheries Section can answer your questions about control of this, and other emergent vegetation. In Otter Tail County the contact is Jerry Wendlandt at

jerry.wendlandt@state.mn.us

Submitted by: Annette Drewes, Clean Water Specialist, MN DNR



LID Annual Meeting Minutes • August 1, 2020

Call to Order

Chair Soeth called to order the 2020 annual meeting for the Pine Lakes Improvement District at 9:04 am on 8/1/20 at Tuffy's baseball field in Perham. Approximately 27 Lake Residents were present along with board members Sylvia Soeth, Jeff Lepp, Chantal Tougas, Gary Layman, Mark Huber, Jim Gravalin, Bruce Becker, and Ken Krajsa. Wayne Enger was not present.

Reoccurring Action

Secretary's minutes from the previous annual meeting were reviewed by members and were approved by unanimous vote. Gary presented the 2019 and 2020 through June financial report and bank statements and were approved by unanimous vote.

Standing Committee Reports

Land and Resources- Bruce had nothing major to report.

Projects- Mark read a letter from Howard Fullhart, DNR Fisheries, stating that they are proceeding with the fish passage project which will modify the areas below the dams on Otter Tail, Rush, Big Pine, and Little Pine Lakes. They are working on obtaining funding for the project hopefully for 2021 and 2022. A walleye population study was completed on Big Pine this summer by the DNR. Results show a healthy walleye population. Little Pine was not surveyed due to their shutdown during the covid virus outbreak.

Water Quality- Ken reported that for 2019 Little Pine Lake phosphorus and chlorophyll levels were down and clarity up. The levels for Big Pine Lake were mixed. Both lakes are within the water quality parameters for our ecological region.

Legislative- Funding opportunities from the state for this year are not looking good.

Communication and Education- Chantal

reported that a newsletter is planned for this year. She is looking into the possibility of an online apparel clothing store.

Fisheries- Jim asked if there was concern over the slot limits on the lakes. Bruce commented that the DNR is proposing a reduction to the sunfish limit for Big Pine to either 10 or 5 in order to try to increase the size.

Volunteers- Ken recommended everybody checkout the COLA web site as it contains some good information. Brian Zepper and Roger Silkey reported that water clarity in Big Pine and Little Pine in June was around 14 to 17 feet which was higher than previous years. Midsummer was about 5 to 6 feet. Brian has been doing the COLA water testing on Big Pine for 23 years. Roger does Little Pine.

Unfinished Business

AIS: Forty- Eight and a half acre were treated for Curly Leaf Pondweed on Big Pine this year for a cost of \$27,094.75. Seven Big Pine lakeshore owners contracted with PLM privately to treat their shorelines at \$431.00 each. No Curly Leaf Pondweed was found on Little Pine. Big Pine has been designated for zebra mussels based on them being in the Otter Tail River, but none have been found in the lake. Doonie discussed the purpose of the I-LIDS on both lakes being able to identify weeds being brought into the lakes. This is the 6th season they have been in use. The county maintains them. Otter Tail County has 25 AIS inspectors for this year plus a Deputy and the DNR inspectors. Doonie mentioned that there is a 21 day wait rule on moving docks and lifts and a permit is required. Cold water decontamination for zebra mussels maybe coming. Doonie mentioned that the U of M Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center is studying the impact of wake boats on shorelines. We all need to promote clean, drain, and dry.

Doonie mentioned that there is up to \$1000.00 available from the LID to landowners performing lake scaping projects on their shorelines in cooperation with the EOT SWCD.

The LID is a member the OTC COLA and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers.

A question was asked concerning the McDonald Lake water pumping. Gary reported that the county is testing water levels at 10 to 12 sites. A recommendation was made to install a permanent water level gauge on the new bridge going in on Highway 8 by Little Pine.

New Business

Budget - Gary reported that 2021 budget was approved by the Board for \$40,249.00, Gary stated that the Ad Valorem tax by the county is driven by the LID's annual budget which is mostly allocated to curly pond weed control. A motion was made to approve the 2021 LID budget, as attached, to the minutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Nominating Committee

Ken reported for the committee that terms were expiring for 2 members: Gary and Jim. Jim has decided to resign from the board and John Chose has agreed to be a nominee. The committee nominated Gary and John for full terms. A motion was made and approved by unanimous vote to elect the 2 nominees to full terms.

Bylaws - Gary reviewed the new proposed bylaw changes, as attached to the minutes, that were approved by the board. A motion was made and approved by unanimous vote to approve the bylaw changes.

Chair Soeth adjourned the meeting at 10:30am.

Minutes submitted by:
Jeff Lepp, Secretary

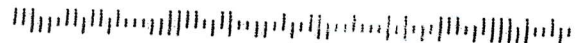


PO Box 405 • Perham, MN 56573

enclosed!

John Kuse
1437 12th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

58103-413137



From the North Shore



President
Soeth

Sylvia

It seems nothing is "normal" in 2020, not since March anyway. We did find a way to have an Annual Meeting August 1, outdoors at the baseball stadium and past our usual June date, but we did it! The Board has met on Wayne Enger's deck, but soon it will be too cold for that and we will find another option.

We have continued to keep an eye on our special lakes, however. Water Quality Chair Ken Krasja samples water at four inlets each month and runs it to RMB Labs in DL. It has been a fairly "normal" year with seasonal fluctuations. COLA water testing began late in

May but has been done. Roger Silkey, MN lake clarity monitor, put the secchi disk down and reported exceptional depth of clarity early in the season. This is reported to the State where we have years of data recorded thanks to George Taylor before Roger.

Two Lakescaping projects were completed on BP this season. Josh and Laura Pettit and Mary Mercer worked with the EOT Soil and Water Conservation District for plans, grants and planting assistance on their lakeshore restoration. Plans are in the works for one on LP in 2021. The Board enjoys the beauty of Enger's and the success of Jeff Lepp's restoration projects as they have matured and been maintained. A matching grant of \$1000 from LID is available to any property owner with the easy application. The first step is at EOT SWCD.

Board member Jim Gravalin decided not to run for reelection this year. He will be missed! We have to under-

stand that he and Mary plan to travel more, though. It's a standing joke that you have to find your own replacement to retire from the Board, but Jim did just that. Jon Chose was elected at the Annual Meeting. Jon lives on Little Pine and has been active with LPLA and interested in OTCLID. He will handle the Projects portfolio.

We have a new Editor! Chantal Tougas has agreed to take on the Pine Lakes Press. She has been gathering articles and working with the printer - appreciate her! You'll find that she has organized a T shirt shop with LP or BP logos. In her day job Chantal is Administrative Secretary at EOT SWCD, a great resource for the LID. On the LID Board since 2018 with Communication and Education, she and Mike and their puppy live on Little Pine.

To receive an application for a \$1000 Lakescaping grant,

email dooniesoeth@gmail.com



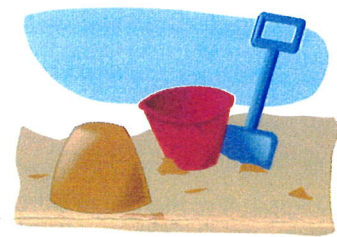
PO Box 62 • Perham, MN 56573 • littlepinelake.org

LPLA Board Officers 2019 - 2021	
President	Gary Layman
Vice President	Ken Krajsa
Treasurer	Mary Bader
Secretary	Mary Doyle



LPLA Board Members	
Member	Year Elected
Mary Bader	2019
Steve Colliton	2019
Mary Doyle	2018
Ray Ehly	2019
Ryan Jundt	2020
Jason Jundt	2019
Daryl Kowitz	2018
Ken Krajsa	Reelected 2020
Gary Layman	Reelected 2020
John Maddock	2018
Madge Murphy	Appointed 2020
Chantal Tougas	Reelected 2020
Paul Wills	2018

LPLA Beach Captains	
Carol Schmitz	N. Little Pine Road
Cliff Weber	Red Pine Trail
Doris Moen	N. Little Pine Road
Jeff Dolby	Benny Lane
Jon Chose	N. Little Pine Road
Mark Halbakken	Benny Lane
Rob Evans	N. Little Pine Road
Ron Live	Cty Hwy 51
Ryan & Jason Jundt	Yellow Pine Drive
Terri Haugen	Little Pine Loop



Little Pine's Annual • 4th of July Celebration

And the winner is . . .



1st Place - Boat Parade
Jundt's on Yellow Pine Drive
Hawaiian Theme



2nd Place - Boat Parade
Martin's on Yellow Pine Drive
USA Theme

Best Decorated Beach
DeConcini's
Red Pine Loop



Noisiest Dock
Jacobson's
Benny Lane

Big Pine Lake Association News



The Annual Meeting of BPLA was on August 1 at Tuffy's Stadium, allowing room for social distancing. Masks and sanitizers were available. Many of topics important to BPLA are reported at the LID meeting preceding BPLA.

Topics brought to the BPLA meeting include

- Treasurer Cyndy Huber reports \$9,676.28 in General Fund. Motion was made and approved to move \$1,041.00 from long standing Fish Stocking Fund to the General Fund. DNR reports good natural reproduction makes stocking fish unnecessary.

- Question from Janet Rosen regarding drainage under Highway 8 into Big Pine was asked of County

Engineer Chuck Grotte: "As for the culverts on CSAH 8 north of Big Pine Lake, we do not have any plans to do anything with the culverts at this time. Our responsibility is to maintain the natural flow water as if the road did not exist. We do not remove culverts or change the elevations of culverts on established drainage ways, either natural or manmade that have existed for many years. It is not our responsibility to that the water that passed through the existing drainage ways and culverts.

- It was discussed and voted to provide Potty Shacks at the Toad River access as well as the southeast access in cooperation with the DNR at a cost of \$640.00 Memorial Day to Labor Day next season. There is heavy use of the Toad River access for pontoons, boats, jet skis and land traffic. Neighbors report little noise.

- BPLA provides light at the Grand View access.

- Curly Leaf Pondweed was treated on 48.5 acres through OTCPLID. Individuals can work with PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

- We continue to monitor and share costs for beavers and dams on the Toad River.

- Allen Schmitz was newly elected to the Board of Directors. Josh Pettit was re-elected to join Cyndy Huber, Bryan Zepper, Clint Brandt and Sylvia Soeth on the Board.

- Mike Brasel offered to dispose of trash at the Toad access if DNR allows a trash can on the property. He offers assistance as a Director of Lake Region Electric, District 3, for property owners. Reach him at 346-4869.

Thank you to those who were able to attend and those who have asked about membership for 2020.

2020 Big Pine Lake Association Membership Application

Name or names _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ E mail address _____

BP address if different from above _____

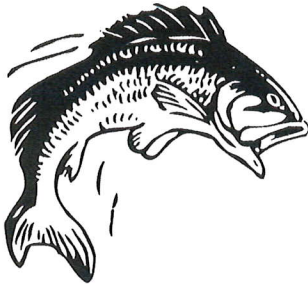
\$20.00 dues included _____ Property owner _____ Associate member _____

BPLA needs you to help protect our water quality and natural resources.

Return this portion to BPLA • Box 174 • Perham, MN 56573

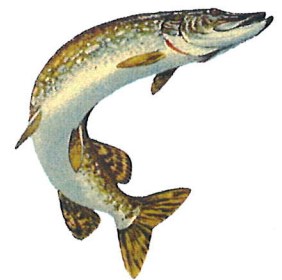
Big Pine vs. Little Pine

What's the Difference? • From the Fisheries Committee



Depending upon the lake you reside on there has always been the debate of the differences between the Pine sisters lakes. Anyone interested in finding out what each has to offer can find a bunch of information at www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakes. Here are some of the basic facts to perk your interest in our jewels of Minnesota, Big Pine Lake and Little Pine Lake.

	BP	LP
Water Acres	4728	2079
Littoral Acres (<15 feet)	2386 (50%)	698 (35%)
Shoreline Miles	14.59	7.28
Maximum Depth	76	63
Av. Water Clarity	4.9	7.0
Inlets	6	2 (1 source)
Outlets	1	1
Public Access	3	2
Aquatic Invasive Species	2 (Zebra Mussels?)	1 (Zebra Mussels?)
	Curly Leaf Pondweed	
Recent Fish Stocking fingerlings	111 lbs. Lake Sturgeon	62 lbs. Lake Sturgeon



The Minnesota DNR samples the fisheries every so often to determine fish populations. There is virtually no difference between the lakes. Both lakes have the same fish species and numbers per water acre. The growth rate and average size of any given species in the sampling is also similar. The only real significant difference comes when comparing the numbers of bluegills caught in test nets with BP having a significant higher catch rate. Northern Pike attain an average 25 -26 inches in 4 years while Walleye reach about 14-15 inches in the same period. Both lakes have a high perch and crappie population. So when it really comes down to it, size does matter. Big Pine has a fisheries advantage being twice the size and 3.5 times more littoral area. This means that BP has 3.5 times more spawning area to produce fish and twice the number of acres to support the whole fishery.

The real advantage to Little Pine appears to be water quality. With 5 fewer sources of water entering the lake there is less sediment and nutrients entering the lake which translates into clearer water. Another plus for LP is the absence of the invasive curly leaf pondweed. Although there appears to be no finding of zebra mussels on either lake, both have been designated for this invasive due to its presence in the upstream section of the Ottetail River.

While our Pine Lakes are not identical they are very similar. A few more fish here, a bit clearer water there, twins yet not identical. Our commonality is in the lakeshore residents. We share a common concern for our valuable resource and strive to not only maintain but improve it. *Submitted by Wayne Enger, LID Board Member*

2020 - 2021 LID Board Members

Name	Election Date	Phone	E-mail	Represents	Position
Doonie Soeth	2019	(701) 238-3662	dooniesoeth@gmail.com	Big Pine	Chairperson
Mark Huber	2018	(218) 346-3916	hubers@arvig.net	Big Pine	Vice Chair Legislative
Jeff Lepp	2019	(218) 770-0845	Jeff.lepp21@gmail.com	Big Pine	Secretary
Gary Layman	2020	(630) 804-2577	llyman@sbcglobal.net	Little Pine	Treasurer
Bruce Becker	2019	(218) 346-3055	blbmax@gmail.com	Big Pine	Land & Resources
Jon Chose	2020	(701) 261-4454	chosejon@gmail.com	Little Pine	Projects
Wayne Enger	2019	(218) 850-7159	Wae2000@hotmail.com	Big Pine	Fisheries
Ken Krajsa	2018	(701) 388-6526	ken.krajsa@gmail.com	Little Pine	Water Quality
Chantal Tougas	2018	(612) 581-2405	chantilly882@gmail.com	Little Pine	Communication & Education



On-Line Apparel Store



Get your Christmas shopping done in our one stop shop! Use this link <https://bigpinelittlepine20.itemorder.com> to connect to Big Pine/Little Pine's online clothing store only open for a short time. Steps to order are listed below.



The store will be October 18-31, 2020

1. Select the clothing item you wish to purchase.
2. Select your lake/logo.
3. Select your color and size.
4. Once you have selected everything you want just use your credit card and check out online.



There is a processing fee and shipping fees. I would suggest ordering with a neighbor to split those costs.

Windsocks

Windsocks are available for a limited time. Pricing for the Windsocks will depend on the quantity ordered. They will be between \$40-\$55. There is a minimum of 5 per lake. Please contact Chantal @ chantilly882@gmail.com or my cell at 612.581.2405 with your order. Orders will be taken from October 18-31, 2020, this will allow time for shipping in case you want to give one for Christmas. Big Pine will be red with a black logo and Little Pine will be white with a burgundy

logo. The overall size of the windsock is 30" x 5.5".



Water Quality Report

For the 6 month period May-October we take monthly water tests at 4 locations: (1) Avis Creek - NE side of Big Pine; (2) Toad River - along Hwy 8; (3) North Little Pine Rd; (4) Zorbaz Bridge. Tests are taken for phosphorus levels as it is widely accepted that the amount of phosphorus levels in a lake often determines the ultimate disposition of health for a lake. Tests are also taken by others for chlorophyll and water clarity (secchi). These tests are delivered to RMB Lab in DL for analysis.



Water quality results trend line for Little Pine Lake through 2018 shows improvement. This means phosphorus levels down, chlorophyll down, and water clarity up.

Trend line analysis for Big Pine Lake is mixed as trends do not support a decrease or increase in clarity or data appears to be inconsistent. RMB goes on to say that your interpretation of the trend may differ from that which is offered.

Another approach to evaluating clarity in lakes is to test data compared to Ecoregions. The lakes in Otter Tail County are in the Northern Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion.

The Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Association (COLA) has an excellent website where you can get much information on lake water sample analysis.

www.Ottertailcountycola.org

Submitted by Ken Krajsa, LID Board Member



AIS. YES or NO?



Aquatic Invasive Species bring many questions.

YES. We continue to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed on Big Pine to control the spread. What would the lake look like if we had never done that?

NO. There has not been CLP found in Little Pine!

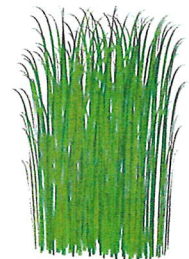
YES. There are signs at the accesses warning about Zebra Mussels.

NO. There have not been Zebra Mussels found in either Big or Little Pine. DNR AIS Specialist Mark Ranweiler tested at Zorbaz bridge

last fall and found no trace of veligers or adult ZM. This summer he reports there have been none found in either lake. Because we are on the Otter Tail River and ZM are found upstream and downstream DNR decided at a meeting in February to designate both lakes. Continue to CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY!

YES. Wild rice is having a good year.

NO. Wild rice is not an invasive species! From DNR Clean Water Specialist Jerry Wendlandt: "The Minnesota DNR has not planted wild rice in any developed lakes within my nine-county work area, which includes Otter Tail County. We have not issued any permits to private individuals on developed lakes for the transplanting of wild rice." Please read the article "Not 'Wild' about Wild Rice?" to see why it's a bumper crop.



Shoreline News

SWCD Awarded Clean Water Fund Grant Targeting Five Otter Tail County Lakes

The East Otter Tail (EOT) and West Otter Tail (WOT) Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were awarded a Clean Water Fund Grant in the amount of \$167,600 for projects that reduce phosphorous loads on 5 of Otter Tail County Lakes. Big Pine, Little Pine, Walker, Wall and South Lida Lakes have been identified through various monitoring and planning efforts as lake of concern due to their phosphorous sensitivity and occasional nuisance algal blooms.

The EOT and WOT SWCDs are partnering to use this grant to provide cost-share for up to 75% of the cost of projects on these five lakes. Landowners on any of these 5 lakes that are interested in stabilizing eroding shorelines or installing vegetative buffers and/or rain gardens should contact one of the SWCD offices to inquire about the grant.



SWCD staff will make a site visit to determine the need and if the project would qualify for the grant. If it does the staff will develop a plan and cost estimate for the project. If the landowner agrees to proceed a cost-share contract will be developed and approved by the appropriate SWCD board setting aside funding for the project. At that time the SWCD staff will work with the landowner to get the project installed. After the project is installed and certified completed to standards by SWCD staff, the landowner can submit the paid receipts to be approved by the board for reimbursement. If you would like more information about this or other grant programs, please contact the EOT or WOT SWCD offices.

Submitted by Darren Newville, EOT SWCD

OTC COLA WEBSITE

You are a member of Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations as a LID member. Water samples are taken to RMB Labs each month May to September, analyzed and reported on the COLA website and to the State of MN. Bryan Zepper has done this for BP for 23 years and Todd Colliton has taken it on for LP. Because of the coronavirus COLA was not able to hold member meetings in 2020, losing opportunities to share information.

OTCPLID does not currently have a website, but it is in the works. Go to the COLA website and sign up for the monthly newsletter if you aren't already subscribing. On the website you can click on newsletters or go to the end of the page to easily enter your email.

www.ottertailcountycola.org

Fish Passages

The MNDNR Fisheries is still moving forward with the Otter Tail River outlet dam modification proposals. MNDNR Fisheries is currently working on securing funding through both State and Federal programs. Again it is the responsibility of the MNDNR to secure funding for these projects and will work with the Pine Lakes LID so that a concept and design for each one of the four outlet dams meets all parties' expectations. As far as time frame, if all goes well and funding is secured we could see construction during the winter 2021/early spring 2022.



The framework and partnership that was established with the Pelican Group of Lakes LID (PGOLID) worked well to complete three projects on the Pelican River. This will be the same partnership that the MNDNR and Pine Lakes LID will model to complete our proposed Otter Tail River Outlet Dam Projects. As the MNDNR moves forward with the proposal and plans to modify the outlet dams on Little Pine, Big Pine, Rush, and Otter Tail Lakes, the MNDNR Fisheries will keep the Pine Lakes LID up to date with any new progress.

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