



# PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

## 2024 Board Retreat Minutes

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Prior Lake City Hall, *Wagon Bridge Conference Room*

9:00 AM

Members Present: Bruce Loney, Christian Morkeberg, Frank Boyles,  
Matt Tofanelli, Ben Burnett

Staff & Consultants Present: Joni Giese, District Administrator  
Emily Dick, Water Resources Project Manager  
Carl Almer, EOR, District Engineer

Others Present: None

• **1.0 CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by President Loney at 9:05 am.

• **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

• **3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Agenda changes:

- Add Prior Lake Orderly Annexation as 4.11.1

**Motion to approve amended agenda by Manager Boyles; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Manager Tofanelli;  
Passed 5-0.**

• **4.0 OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**4.1 Upper Watershed Approach for Projects and**

- District Water Project Manager Emily Dick gave an overview of the District's TMDL goals and project suite that could work to accomplishing the goals. Staff presented a recommended 2024 approach which included high phosphorus removal projects and projects with landowner willingness. Projects with willing landowners are eligible for grant funding which improves their cost effectiveness. Project costs and phosphorus reduction were presented and the Board was supportive of the project approach.

#### 4.1.1 Buck Stream Stabilization Update

- The Buck Stream Stabilization project was discussed in order to provide the Board information preceding a future Board vote on a Scope of Work to support that project. Administrator Giese has authority to approve the initial work (Phase 1) to keep the project moving, and further work will be brought to the Board for approval as Phase 2 Scope of Work.

**Manager Boyles moved to proceed with project as discussed; 2nd by Manager Morkeberg; passed 5-0.**

#### 4.2 Project Implementation: Easement Advancements

- The Board discussed how to support easement advancement with real estate support. Currently Edina Realty is offering the District support. The Board was supportive of maintaining real estate support and additional support if ever needed or a conflict of interest with the Edina Realty representative and a project location.

#### 4.3 Project Funding

- Administrator Giese presented updates and details about each of these:
  - 4.3.1 District Cash Flow
  - 4.3.2 Utilization of Reserves and/or Bonding, low-interest loans
  - 4.3.3 Grant Solicitation for Projects (Fish Lake, Swamp IESF)
  - 4.3.4 PLOC Lining (Possible State Bonding Funds)

#### 4.4 Alum Treatments for 2024/2025?

- Staff developed alum treatment decision trees that were included in the retreat packet.
- Managers discussed the decision trees, asked questions to staff, and provided suggestions for revisions.

#### 4.5 Low Water Levels

- Managers discussed low water levels on District lakes. Additional precipitation is needed to raise water levels.

#### 4.6 2023 Results

- Manager Loney presented a list of highlights from 2023.

#### 4.7 2024 Goals from Board and Staff

- Administrator Giese presented staff goals for 2024.
- The Board discussed and decided our primary goal is to move forward on capital projects to benefit water quality and flood prevention as best we can. Board agreed the current plans are in line to support this.

#### 4.8 Opportunities to Better Collaborate with District Partners

- Board discussed the importance of maintaining collaboration with District Partners.
- Manager Morkeberg inquired with staff, how the board can best help with this.

- The board will help as requested by staff to collaborate and work with our many partners.
- There was a discussion whether role of liaison should be defined better to clarify that liaisons have the ability to decide most appropriate manner for monitoring activity and reporting out District activity. No action was taken.
- The board discussed several liaison appointments. It was discussed that the SWCD liaison will switch from Manager Morkeberg to Manager Tofanelli. Formal liaison appointment action to be taken at future board meeting.
- 4.8.1 Governmental entities within PLSLWD boundaries include:
  - City of Prior Lake
  - City of Shakopee
  - City of Savage
  - Spring Lake Township
  - Sand Creek Township
  - SMSC
  - SWCD
  - Scott County

#### **4.9 Manager Per Diems**

- Administrator Giese presented the current policy. It was determined that current policy is vague. Administrator Giese to provide proposed updated guidance for board consideration.
- These will be presented in the future for approval as needed.

#### **4.10 Potential Revamp of Joint Board/CAC Meeting**

##### 4.10.1 Focus on District Priorities and Budget for 2025

- Board agreed to move the joint board and CAC meeting from June to May to better accommodate District Priorities and Budget planning.
- Administrator Giese recommended moving the annual CAC Chair report be moved from the joint CAC/Board meeting to a presentation at the board meeting starting in 2025. No action was taken.

#### **4.11 Miscellaneous Topics**

##### 4.11.1 Prior Lake Orderly Annexation

- Manager Boyles brought forward his understanding of the current status of the Prior Lake orderly annexation of a portion of Spring Lake Township. Managers discussed the likely improvement to water quality (in the long run) associated with transition of land uses in the proposed annexation area. The District will continue to monitor future development to ensure compliance with PLSLWD rules.

#### **• 5.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by Manager Burnett; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Manager Boyles; Passed 5-0.**

- Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ben Burnett, PLSLWD Secretary, 2/13/24