

Goose Lake Stakeholder Meeting: Summary

4 pm - Vadnais Heights City Hall

7/16/2018

Attendance:

Greg Wilson Barr Engineering	Kristi Skillings Ski Otters	Kurt Carpenter Ski Otters	Jeremy Erickson SPRWS
Justine Roe SPRWS	Tyler Thompson VLAWMO	Brian Corcoran VLAWMO	Gloria Tessier Gem Lake
Connie Taillon White Bear Lake	Eric Alms MPCA	Jen Sorensen MN DNR	Dan Fabian BWSR
Ann WhiteEagle Ramsey SWCD	Stephanie McNamara VLAWMO	Dan Jones VLAWMO	Paul Duxbury VLAWMO

I. Reframing Goose Lake

With this meeting the effort to improve Goose Lake can be shifted from unfocused into a team effort of multiple players. This team effort established its focus on seeking water quality improvements, community use, and an understood direction for the lake's future. Within these main themes, participants expressed the following points of interest surrounding Goose Lake (one point per person).

Healthy water resource :

- Having a healthy, clean lake
- Meeting water quality standards
- Ecological function – ambitious but realistic
- Water clarity
- Wanting resources to be spent in right spot – dollar wise
- Coordinating technical and financial resources to be of assistance

Community:

- Expressing a need for balance between lake uses and water quality
- SPRWS has a historic and current interest in Goose Lake as tributary to Vadnais Lake, a drinking water reservoir. They may realize a benefit from either water quality improvement in Goose or an alternative way to use the spent lime produced.
- A need to be mindful with the Lake's visibility to public, which includes the view from hwy 61, recreation, and habitat
- A need for the lake to be accessible to recreation and an asset to the community
- Neighbor lakes being concerned that Goose's condition may hinder their lakes, but these neighbors are also able to support Goose efforts with resources. The formation of a lake association and building from neighbor association models may be useful and of interest to property owners.

Direction:

- Establishing an plan of action for the lake
- Establishing both long-term goals for the lake and short-term activities.

- Recognizing that there's lots of balls in the air surrounding the lake – through it all wanting a path forward.
- Recognition of the existing Lake Plan (Goose Lake SLMP) and it's ongoing updating from VLAWMO. Competitive grant applications with the State require detailed steps and precise goals.

II. Discussion

The discussion was productive and informative. Two options were formulated for a path forward: pursuing spent lime studies and application, or pursuing grants for alum treatment. These options were weighed in terms of pros and cons.

Pros and cons of Spent Lime Pilot:

Pro: Lake use is increasing and a direct effort meets this need, provides clear water and less algae, is cost effective.

Con: Clear water would mean an increase in aquatic vegetation, it's an experimental/new idea, is high risk in terms of research results, and would require a recreation adjustment and a need for education

Needs: Needs a plan with DNR, time for research, discussion on vegetation harvest/treatment, analysis of dosing pH levels

Pros and cons of Alum treatment:

Pro: Produces less algae and clean water. Cost is less than other upstream projects, aquatic habitat gets better, there is less sediment resuspension, is proven, and grants are available.

Con: Other variables make it difficult to predict. Risk in pH levels. Needs a vegetation management plan. Costs more than spent lime. Unsure about longevity of treatment.

Needs: To establish a balance between prioritizing P and vegetation, aquatic vegetation plan, vegetation harvest planning, and additional upstream efforts to boost grant.

Ideas that were mentioned but undeveloped in the discussion:

Considering other filtration systems at Oak Knoll or Goose Lake outflow, doing nothing, better quantify cost savings to SPRWS, better use of water dispersed from nearby company.

III. Direction

Based on meeting consensus, the following will recommend the following direction measures to VLAWMO Board TEC and Board. All local partners may consider their role moving forward:

1) Proceed with grant application for alum treatment. This is justified by the findings from the feasibility study that internal treatment is both more cost-effective and more relevant for the unique circumstances surrounding Goose Lake.

2) Continue spent lime study in Oak Knoll Pond/Wood Lake. Potentially pursue implementation grant funding

3) Continue ongoing efforts with partners to improve the Goose Lake sub-watershed, and the Polar Chevrolet channel. These on-the-ground efforts build the steps necessary to submit a competitive grant application to BWSR.

Long-term strategies and supporting meetings:

4) To support these priorities, VLAWMO will take initiative in conjunction with the City, DNR, County, and the Ski Otters to form an aquatic vegetation management plan.

Specific supporting efforts:

The following topics will need further prioritization and discussion between partners (City of White Bear Lake , Ramsey County, VLAWMO, & possibly MNDOT and Polar Chevrolet) :

- Hoffman road and County Road F construction
- Hoffman road railroad ponding and pinpointing runoff direction
- Lake access and shoreline use
- Expansion of Bruce Vento Trail
- Drainage improvements and channel restoration at the Polar Chevrolet channel