

**Wirth Lake Excess Nutrients TMDL Stakeholder Meeting**  
**February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.**  
**Theodore Wirth Park Golf Chalet, Minneapolis**

**Meeting Notes**

The second meeting of the Wirth Lake excess nutrients TMDL stakeholders group was held on 2/17/2009 at the Theodore Wirth Park Golf Club Chalet in Minneapolis.

Stakeholders in attendance were:

Jeff Oliver, City Engineer, City of Golden Valley  
Mayor Linda Loomis, City of Golden Valley, Commissioner Bassett Creek  
Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)  
Pat Byrne, City of Minneapolis, Public Works  
Lois Eberhart, City of Minneapolis, Public Works  
Dan Stauner, City of New Hope, Commissioner BCWMC  
Nancy Stauner, City of New Hope, Citizen  
Marcey Westrick, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)  
Michael Welch, City of Minneapolis, Chairman BCWMC  
Barb Loida, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)  
Tim Brown, Environmental Operations, Manager, Minneapolis Park and  
Recreation Board  
Brooke Asleson, Project Manager, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)  
Chris Zadak, MPCA  
John Erdmann, MPCA  
Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering Co.  
Len Kremer, Barr Engineering Co., Engineer BCWMC

Michael Welch welcomed the group and discussed the importance of Wirth Lake to the community and the role of the Commission in its management. After introductions Brooke gave a general overview of the TMDL process and the Wirth Lake project (presentation available on project website: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/project-wirthlake.html>). The project team includes the MPCA, the BCWMC, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Barr Engineering Co. The MPCA listed Wirth Lake as impaired due to excess nutrients in 2002 and the TMDL project was started in 2008 and will be completed in October, 2009. Wirth Lake is considered to be a deep lake and it is classified as a Class 2B water, Aquatic Recreational Use category and the standards for the category are total phosphorus 40 ppb, chlorophyll-a 14 ppb and Secchi-disk transparency of 1.4 meters. The role of the stakeholders includes providing comments on project progress, assisting in determining how the waste load allocation will be split, assisting in the development of the Implementation Plan, commenting on the draft TMDL and approving and accepting responsibility for the Implementation Plan activities.

Greg Wilson gave a presentation (available on project website) that included:

1. A discussion of the existing and historic lake water quality relative to goals
2. A review of the watershed of the lake and past improvement efforts
3. The results of the watershed and lake modeling calibration process
4. The predictions of lake water quality with the implementation of possible Best Management Practices (BMPs)
5. The future steps that need to be taken to complete the TMDL report, monitoring plan and Implementation Plan

Greg noted that the water quality of the Lake has been improving since the early 1990's and that the lake met water quality standards for three of the last five years. In 2004 and 2006, when it did not meet standards, overflow from Bassett Creek to the lake appeared to be the reason for the failure to meet water quality standards. A P8 water quality model of the watershed and a Bathtub model of the lake have been calibrated to match historic lake levels and water quality. The models were run assuming no overflow from the creek and with a water quality pond to treat the runoff from Highway 55. The models predict that water quality standards would be met if the overflow from the creek was eliminated and if a BMP was constructed to treat the runoff from Highway 55.

There was discussion about the following: the background information that the MPCA used to set the standards for deep and shallow lakes – detailed information about development of the states lake standards available at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/lakequality.html>; whether stimulus money from the Federal government could be used to construct BMPs for the lake – Federal money has already been allocated, but the clean water amendment money will **likely** (will not be sure until legislation session is over and funds are dedicated) be a source for BMP funding through BWSR; if all implementation plans required monitoring – yes, effectiveness monitoring is required for all TMDL implementation plans; on the requirements for removing a lake from the impaired waters list – similar to the listing process; whether the population of rough fish was large enough to be contributing to the water quality problem – unknown, can look at MNDNR fish surveys; about past discussions with MnDOT and the BCWMC about the problem of the runoff from Highway 55 ; and whether preventing overflow from Bassett Creek would have adverse effects on creek flows – Barr Engineering will be submitting a cost estimate to model this situation to the MPCA and BCWMC for consideration of inclusion in the TMDL project. It was agreed that the MNDNR would be contacted to determine if fisheries data was available, Barr will run a BMP scenario of the Highway 55 pond with no other changes, and that the effect of preventing overflow from Bassett Creek to the lake would be reviewed in the context of its effects on Bassett Creek flood levels before the next meeting. The next stakeholder meeting will take place at the same location sometime this Spring.

The next steps are to determine how waste allocations will be split, evaluate and recommend load reduction alternatives, develop the TMDL report, and to complete an implementation plan.