

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

www.greenlakespicer.com

May 2011

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Kelly TerWisscha 320.796.5190
TerWisscha@charter.net

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randbgunderson@aol.com
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randbgunderson@aol.com
480.502.9531

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nationwideglass@hotmail.com

Executive Secretary

Terry Frazee 320.796.2502
frazee@tds.net
863.439.0455
terry.frazee@verizon.net

Brett Aamot 320.796.5257
brett@cdscpa.com
320.235.6464

Jamie Duinick 320.796.4100
jamied@prinsco.com

Trudie Lieser 320.796.6196
trudie@lieserinsurance.com

Greg Roverud 320.796.6335
roverudgreg@tds.net

Valerie Sechler 320.796.0765
jvsechler@tds.net

Ron Schneider 320.796.2710
betspicer@yahoo.com

Roger Stehn 320.796.2374
arstehn@aol.com
281.970.8217

Wow, your GLPOA has been very busy over the winter! If you have not heard yet, the board has established a separate fund to hire a lobbyist to work on our behalf in St. Paul regarding zebra mussels. To date members of the association and concerned citizens have



contributed almost \$25,000 for this effort! If you would like to contribute please contact Ron Schneider or Terry Frazee and they would be happy to take any and all donations toward the cause. While we have not completely changed the legislature's direction as it relates to zebra mussels and protecting our lakes, we have made some significant progress. Please check out the other article in this issue for more specifics on that.

As we begin to put out docks and other water toys please keep in mind the regulations for lake markers, buoys and temporary structures. If you have questions as to what they are you can check them out on the GLPOA website.

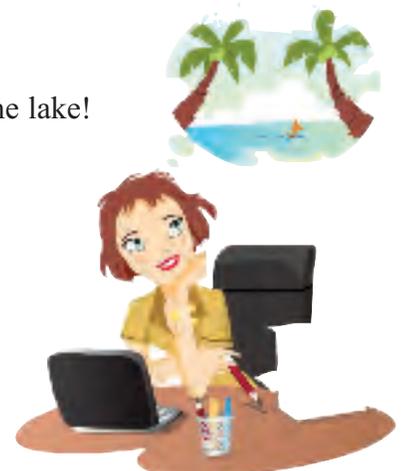


Another significant news item that most of you have probably heard about is that Melvin's has been sold. Zorbaz from Detroit Lakes has purchased Melvin's and will be taking over after this summer season. Given the questions that we had a few years ago if we were going to be able to keep Melvin's on the Lake I think that it is great that we have a new commitment to keep a restaurant on the lake for the future. Welcome Zorbaz!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the lake!

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'K TerWisscha'.

Kelly TerWisscha, President, GLPOA



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155 4037



April 4, 2011

Terry Frazee, Secretary
Green Lake Property Owners Association
PO Box 362
Spicer, MN 56288

Dear Mr. Frazee,

Commissioner Landwehr has requested that I respond to your letter of March 14. Following receipt of your letter, Fisheries staff contacted the tournament director for the Big Bass Bonanza, who had a tournament permit for Green Lake on August 21. After discussing the issue of contests moving from infested to non-infested waters, he voluntarily offered to switch the dates of his contests so that Green Lake is now scheduled before a contest will be held on Le Homme Dieu. This means that of the four tournament series coming to Green Lake in 2011, none will have had contests on infested lakes prior to coming to Green Lake, as shown in the following summary of tournament series, listed by date:

Big Bass Bonanza: Horseshoe chain, 6/5; Minnewaska, 6/19; Lake Ida, 7/10; Green Lake, 8/7 (new date) Le Homme Dieu, 8/21 (new date); and Tournament of Champions, 9/18, location TBD.

MFBA (Minnesota Federation of Bass Anglers): Lake Pokegama (Itasca), 6/5; Green Lake 7/30; Mississippi River Pool 5, 8/21; and Lake Pepin, 9/24.

Fishers of Men Minnesota Team Division: Clearwater Lake, 6/4; Green Lake 6/18; Whitefish Lake, 8/6; and Lake Minnetonka, 8/27.

West Central/Green Mill Classic (West Central Bassmasters): Green Lake, 6/25 and 9/11. No other contests.

Permit conditions for contests on Green Lake will include standard language requiring inspections of boats and trailers for aquatic invasive species (AIS) and to ensure draining laws are followed, both before and after contests. This is consistent with permits issued across the state.

Standard conditions on all contest permits address AIS by stating:

- 1) "Minnesota Statutes 84D prohibits the transportation of all aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited species of animals."
- 2) "Sponsors will require inspections of all watercraft and trailers when entering or leaving tournament waters." This means following their contest on Le Homme Dieu, these actions are required. Further, "Inspections will include a thorough search, inside and out, for the presence of any aquatic plants and all other exotics, including zebra mussels."
- 3) "No boat may launch when entering tournament waters until all aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited exotic species have been removed and properly disposed of, and until all live wells and bilges have been drained and boats made free of any exotic species."

We recently completed a Best Management Practices (BMP's) for AIS and tournaments. We think the BMP's will provide a number of options for contest organizers and participants to be leaders in good practices that limit the spread of AIS. For example, the BMP's suggest that, for contests held on infested waters, organizers could set up a boat-inspection area that ensures water and plant materials are properly disposed of before leaving tournament waters. Many other examples are provided in the BMP draft document.

Following one final internal review, we will provide the BMP's to all permitted contests in 2011. In addition, the BMP's will be posted on our website by the fishing opener. We envision that posting the BMP's on our website will be a good avenue for providing information to non-permitted contests, as well as recreational anglers.

While we have no plans to ban tournaments from holding contests on infested waters, we will make a good faith attempt to make tournament organizers aware of the potential impact of schedules and movement of AIS between infested and non-infested waters. At this time, only one tournament series has a permit for a contest on a non-infested lake within 14 days following a contest permitted on an infested lake; we have been in contact with that organizer and we are hopeful that he has agreed to modify his permit dates.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Dirk Peterson, Chief
Fisheries Management Section

C: Tom Landwehr, Commissioner
Ed Boggess, Fish & Wildlife Director
Steve Hirsch, Ecological & Water Resources Director
Linda Erickson-Eastwood, Fisheries Program Manager
Al Stevens, Fisheries Program Consultant
Jack Lauer, Southwest Regional Fisheries Manager

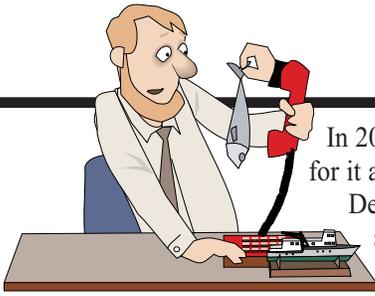
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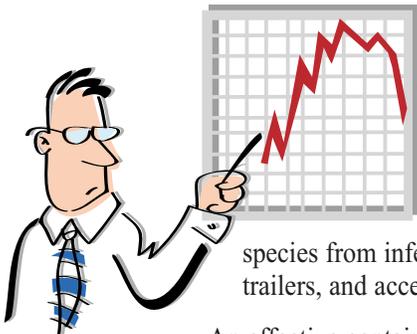
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A.I.S. Prevention Bill



In 2011, Green Lake, possibly for the first time in its history, had a lobbyist working for it and all of the other lakes and rivers in Minnesota. A group of Green Lake residents, sensing that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was unwilling to push for legislation necessary to control the spread of zebra mussels (ZM) decided that the push would have to come from lake residents. We discovered that we were not alone. Lake associations and local government groups from across the state were arriving at the same conclusion.

After speaking with members of the Minnesota Seasonal and Recreational Property Owners coalition, which has 1,000 members, and a lobbyist, we concluded that we would be most effective if we were to bring in an experienced lobbyist who could work in concert with MSRPO's lobbyist. Effective political lobbyists earn the trust of legislators by being knowledgeable, reliable and dependable. MSRPO's lobbyist enjoyed an excellent reputation with legislators on both sides of the aisle, but he was just one person in a legislative body of 201 senators and representatives. Needless to say, he was very busy.



Bruce Kleven, an experienced attorney/lobbyist, originally from Milan, was hired to aid us in obtaining legislation which would require that water bodies which are infested with zebra mussels would be contained through a rigorous watercraft decontamination system. If the mussels could be contained and restricted to those waters already infested, the ongoing spread of ZM would come to an end.

There is proof that ZMs are spread by migrating boats and trailers which carry the destructive species from infested to uninfested waters. It has also been found that a simple visual inspection of boats, motors, trailers, and accessories is not reliable because the ZM larvae are microscopic and easily escape detection.

An effective containment program must be based on a high pressure/high temperature washing of all portions of the boat, motor and trailer which have been exposed to infested waters. This must be done before this equipment is allowed to move from the water to the highway.

Mr. Kleven has informed us that the current Senate environment finance bill provides a total of \$17.56 million for A.I.S. prevention over the next two years while the house bill provides \$15.26 million for the same term. This is a significant increase over the \$1 million per year which DNR now receives for A.I.S. prevention. It has been estimated that the cost of an effective containment program affecting 40 infested bodies for one year would be approximately \$8 million.



Unfortunately, at this point, the bill stops short of requiring decontamination of all watercraft and related equipment before migrating from infested waters. This is a serious deficiency and we are asking that the legislature correct this.

Please take the time to contact Bill Ingebrigtsen who is the chair of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee: 303 State Capitol Bldg., 75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155, or call him at (651) 297-8063. His email is sen.bill.ingebriigtsen@senate.mn. Let him know that you hope that the aquatic invasive species (A.I.S.) prevention bill which comes out of the Senate will require decontamination of boats, motors and trailers when they leave waters infested with ZM. You might also request that there be stricter rules for all fishing contests so that fishing tournament organizers MUST decontaminate all equipment if the tournament is held in infested waters. We know that four out of the 10 most popular bass tournament water bodies are zebra mussel infested. Green Lake is among the six tournament lakes not infested. It appears that fishing tournaments subject the tournament site to great risk of infestation.



Please contact Sen. Ingebrigtsen as soon as possible. The regular session of the legislature will end May 22. You might also inform Governor Dayton that you hope that he will use his influence to ensure that the A.I.S. Bill will require decontamination of water-related equipment if it leaves infested waters. The Governor can be reached at:

150 State Capitol, 75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 296-3391, (800) 657-3717 • Fax: (651) 296-2089
Website: www.governor.state.mn.us • E-mail: mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Our County Commissioner, Dennis Peterson, deserves our thanks for devoting many days to meetings with our legislature pushing for containment based upon mandatory decontamination of all craft and equipment leaving infested waters.



continued on next page

A.I.S. Prevention Bill continued...



Our Green lake “neighborhood,” through its financial contributions, made it possible for us to have a strong advocate, Bruce Kleven, at the Capitol, five days a week throughout the session. You made it possible for us to raise over \$21,000 through our Stop Zebra Mussels Association. None of us knows what future challenges we may have to face, but we hope that this association will provide us with the means and resources so that the future generations will be able to enjoy our Minnesota waters.

Ron Schneider

Aquatic Invasive Species Issue

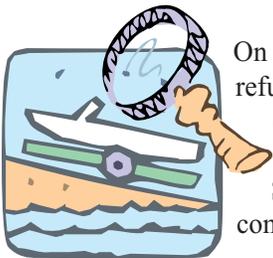
The aquatic invasive species issue has been quickly gaining ground so far this session and both the Governor and the legislature appear committed to passing legislation and providing more funding to combat invasive species, in particular zebra mussels.



Governor Dayton announced his plan to step up AIS prevention measures at a news conference on Wednesday, March 16. The Dayton proposal would raise the boat registration fee to \$10 for canoes, \$20 for boats 17 feet in length or less, and \$25 for boats over 17 feet in length. A \$2 surcharge on nonresident fishing license fees would rise to \$5. These increases would raise about \$4 million annually, doubling the amount the state now spends on AIS efforts.

The DNR would add 13,000 hours of enforcement, twice its current effort. Purchasing decontamination equipment would also be part of the mix, and

the Governor’s plan would control and remove aquatic plants, increase public awareness, and train dock and boat lift installers. Republican majorities in both the House and Senate are resistant to fee increases generally, no matter how meritorious they might be, and as a result the fee increases have not moved so far this session.



On the policy side, DNR conservation officers would have more authority to inspect boats, and boaters who refuse to be inspected could be prevented from launching their boats. The Governor is proposing to double the civil citations for those caught transporting AIS to \$100 for milfoil and \$500 for zebra mussels — both double current fines. The AIS prevention proposal has been moving through the legislative process in SF-1115 (Ingebrigtsen) and HF-1162 (Ward) for the past few weeks and the goal is to have the legislation completed and signed by the fishing opener.

House and Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committees, led by Committee Chairs Representative Denny McNamara (R-Hastings) and Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen (R-Alexandria), have passed their 2012-2013 omnibus finance bills and they are currently in a conference committee. The Senate bill, SF1029, provides a total of \$17.564 million for AIS prevention efforts over the next two years, while the House bill, HF-1010, provides \$15.258 million over the next two years. The additional funding is for management, law enforcement, public awareness, assessment and monitoring research, and water access inspection to prevent the spread of invasive species; management of invasive plants in public waters; and management of terrestrial invasive species on state-administered lands.



A conference committee is in the process of reconciling the differences between the two environment finance bills and no matter how they reconcile the funding the final numbers will be significantly higher than the \$1 million per year for AIS prevention the DNR has now. Eventually a budget agreement will be reached between the Governor and the legislature, but while the two sides remain far apart on tax and spending proposals ~ the clock continues to tick as the regular legislative session must adjourn by midnight on Monday, May 23.

*Bruce Kleven, Lobbyist
Hired by the GLPOA Board*

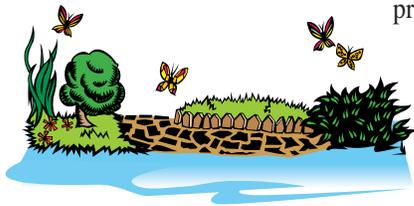
New Project on Green Lake



The Spicer Design Team is excited about a new project - a 100' observation deck, with landscaping, located south of the parking lot of downtown city park, along the shoreline of Green Lake. It includes a handicap accessible ramp and benches, and a spectacular view of Green Lake. The goal for this project is to create a multiuse area. It will be a wonderful place for concerts and events, or just sitting quietly and enjoying nature at its best. You may view the concept drawing at the Spicer City Hall.



Our Spicer area community has completed other major projects in the past few years. With volunteer labor and financial support, we now have a new playground, gazebo, picnic shelter, shore land walk path and landscaping around all these projects. This summer, with your help, the deck and landscaping could become a reality.

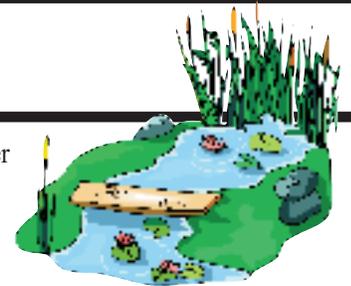


Please consider making a tax deductible donation toward this project. Any amount would be most helpful in reaching the estimated budget of \$35,000, for materials and landscaping. Donations may be sent to: City of Spicer, PO Box 656, Spicer, MN 56288 or dropped off at the Spicer City Office: 196 Manitoba St. Please make your check payable to the City of Spicer.

Val Sechler, GLPOA Board Member

The One That Got Away...

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District submitted a grant proposal to the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) in the fall of 2010 for the purposes of improving the quality of the stormwater flowing into Green Lake. The \$219,000 proposal entailed the retrofitting of existing stormwater infrastructure at two locations, the installation of biofiltration cells at two more locations, and the stabilization of a natural channel at a final location. The proposal was in response to the competitive Clean Water Fund that BWSR administers. The Clean Water Fund is available to local government units like the Watershed District because the voters of



Minnesota passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment in 2008 which designates an additional sales tax of 3/8 of 1% for the purposes of water quality improvement, among other activities.

With help from the Green Lake Inlet Partnership - a collaborative working group comprised of representatives from the Green Lake Association, Kandiyohi County, MnDOT, DNR, the City of Spicer and the Watershed District - we submitted what we felt was a very strong proposal. Feedback we received from BWSR representatives confirmed this. All grants submitted to BWSR were reviewed and ranked as high, medium or low - ours ranked high. Unfortunately, project demand was also extremely high - \$10 million was available for projects statewide and the 159 proposals submitted totaled over \$28 million. Many worthy projects were not

funded; unfortunately, ours was not selected.

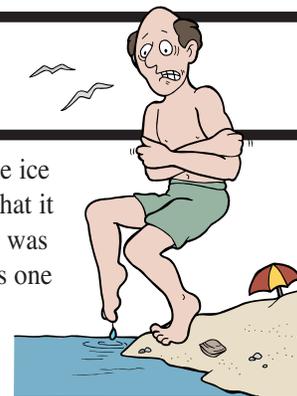
Fortunately, the Watershed District has been successful in procuring other grants that allow us to continue working for water quality improvement throughout the watershed - future articles will detail these efforts. Meanwhile, the Green Lake Inlet Partnership will continue to meet in 2011 and when we submit our proposal for funding again, we hope to be able to relay better news!



Chad Anderson

Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District Administrator

Nature Observations



Unlike Julie Andrews in *Sound of Music*, we'll start with now—not the “very beginning.” Those who chased the ice around the lake four days in a row agreed that the ice officially went out Sunday, April 17. I'd like to mention that it was Palm Sunday, but I'll be confused next year when Palm Sunday is on a different date. As of Saturday there was a place on the south shore from which one could not see open water. That changed by Sunday, the ice so porous one knew it would melt by nightfall. With the constant east winds while ice was shifting, some damage occurred on the west side—and could have piled up places that I didn't learn about.



On April 13th I heard the first loon. As soon as the ice moved out a few yards from the east shore, the mergansers and a few loons were cavorting to their hearts' content. One young lady even saw a couple swans “a-swimming.” One could hear them but they didn't hang around the open water very often. The Canada geese came earlier—as soon as the outlet and more extensive wildlife management area were open. In spite of the beastly winter, I don't think the outlet under the bridge completely froze over.

What is there to say about the winter except that it was l-o-o-o-n-g, the fourth snowiest winter on record (that was in the Cities), cold with 45 mph winds. The front picture window shivered all night. Snow blocked doors, drifted across and the length of driveways and sidewalks. It came from the northwest and the east, making us realize that our snow-bird neighbors were smart. Not everyone left—one of my neighbors came out almost every weekend, waving cheerily to me as I went out for the morning papers and the mail, watching to see that I didn't slip on the ice. A few newspapers blew out of the box, never to be seen again. It was an adventure, to put it mildly.

To return to birds. The usual little ones—finches, chickadees, nuthatches—were often joined by red-winged blackbirds in the spring, crows kept up with their raucous chattering, and by the pileated woodpeckers, in spite of their suet basket filled for them. To see those huge birds wrap themselves around the sunflower feeders was a sight to behold. (I'm easily amused, as you can tell.) Flickers, red-bellied woodpeckers, downy and hairy woodpeckers visited frequently. This year not so many cardinals or blue jays added color, but a cardinal pair lingered during Christmas time. Robins appeared for two weeks in January and again the next month or two. What a welcoming sight those wintering robins are!



Eagles soared back and forth above the tree tops and one posed for several days in the top of a huge, bare tree where the north end of Indian Beach Road met #4. 'Twas a perfect picture opportunity, but I didn't have my camera along.

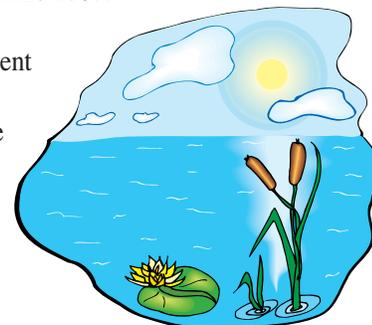
For those who have been watching the Decorah Eagles in a nest 80 feet above ground in a tree by a fish hatchery near Decorah, Iowa, (a camouflaged camera on them all the time—infra red at night that they can't see and doesn't bother them), it's easy to become hooked on them. From the first week (in March) with the three eggs, to the hatching of each one, their feeding, the parents reinforcing the nest in the snow and high winds (one can hear the wind and it sounded so cold two days that I went in the other room and turned up MY thermostat), they've been fascinating to watch. The mother makes me nervous occasionally when she doesn't seem to be feeding the smallest one—can't she count? (I've read that animals can't count)—but the eaglets appear to be doing well.

Back to Green Lake. I saw the first kingfisher this morning—interesting after just reading about them in *Birds and Blooms*.



One final important note: Remember to tell family and friends who share the lake about watching for Eurasian milfoil and warn them about zebra mussels. We've all received information about this serious problem. Besides all the other detriment to the health of a lake, when I read that one would no longer be able to walk barefoot in the sand along the shore as it would be too sharp underfoot, that made an impression (no pun intended) on me.

Enjoy your summer at Green Lake. May its gentle breezes bring re-creation to you and yours.



Gloria Benson



GLSSWD Cost & Flow Report



A number of people have asked how recent expansions to the City of Kandiyohi and Diamond Lake have affected GLSSWD wastewater treatment plant capacity and how expansion is affecting sewer rates. The history of the sewage treatment plant flows has been interesting to watch. The first full year all Green Lake wastewater was treated by the new plant was in 2002. That year, 143,700,000 gallons of wastewater were treated, which included the flows coming from the cities of New London and Spicer. In 2007, Lake Florida was hooked up to the system, and in 2009, George, Henderson and Nest Lakes were added. The City of Kandiyohi was brought on last year, and Diamond Lake should be fully hooked up by mid-summer. So, expanding the number of customers by 1/3 adds 33% more flow? Not even close, as the chart below shows! In fact, even with the addition of 300 customers on Diamond Lake, we will likely close out 2011 at or near the 2002 flow level.



2002 to 2010 GLSSWD Wastewater Treatment Plant Flow History

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Million Gal./yr	143.7	120.9	108.7	118.2	110.0	108.7	112.3	123.2	131.7
% Change	-	(-16.8%)	(-10.1%)	+8.7%	(-6.9%)	(-1.2%)	+3.3%	+4.2%	+7.3

2002-2010 Wastewater Flow Decrease: (-9.2%)

So, what has happened that has kept wastewater flows down despite GLSSWD expansion? The answer lies primarily with infrastructure improvements to city collection system lines within the municipalities. Both the cities of New London and Spicer recognized that ground and surface water entering their sewer lines - combining with the new, higher sewer rate structures established in 2001 - were costing them a lot of money. In fact, New London has another major project planned this summer to stop the inflow of ground water into old sewer lines.



The reduction in flows from the two cities has a mixed affect on user rates. The reduced flow through the plant has caused usage rates to increase, as most operational costs remain, whether flows are going down or up. Energy and chemical costs have been the hardest to contain, but as shown in the next chart, the rate per 1,000 gallons treated has pretty much been kept within the rate of inflation, even with reduced flows. On the other hand, the unused plant capacity allowed expansion to the other lakes and the City of Kandiyohi, and the increased the number of users paying monthly base rates. The history of the base rate is also shown in the chart below. This increase in users has kept the monthly base rate \$5-\$7/month lower than previously projected.

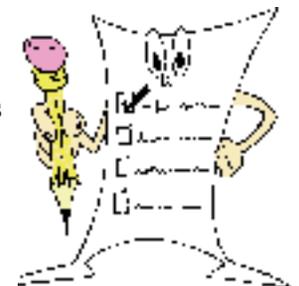
2002 to 2010 GLSSWD Sewer Rate History

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Base Rate*	\$19.00	\$19.80	\$19.80	\$19.80	\$19.80	\$20.40	\$20.40	\$20.40	\$20.40
Rate/1,000 gal**	\$2.85	\$3.00	\$3.15	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.74	\$3.85	\$4.04	\$4.24
Percent Increase	-	4.5%	1.6%	4.6%	2.0%	1.3%	1.0%	1.8%	1.8%

*Capital Costs
 **() & M Costs

2003-2010 Average Annual Rate Increase: 2.3%/year

Please take note that the monthly rates and usage rates shown in the chart are higher than what shows up on your monthly bill. Green Lake customers' bills show lower monthly rates, with the difference made up with annual fees showing up on property tax bills. Please feel free to call with questions: Gary Danielson, Public Works Director 320-235-3266 ext. 4101.



The Green Lake Breeze
Green Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 362
Spicer, Minnesota 56288
www.greenlakespicer.com

Return Service Requested

Milfoil Treatment Chemicals



The herbicide used in the milfoil treatments: Triclopyr (3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinyloxyacetic acid).

Restrictions following Triclopyr applications:

- * **Swimming - None**
- * **Fishing and fish consumption - None**
- * **Irrigation of ornamental plants and newly seeded lawns - when residues go below 1 ppb (about 30 days)**

Our point here is not that the chemical we have used in the milfoil project are without risks, they are as are all milfoil management tools. Our point is that the tools, techniques and products used to control milfoil have been thoroughly tested using accepted scientific and regulator protocol and are allowed for use in the environment by federal and state agencies.

The Green Lake Property Board of Directors is aware that individuals and organizations may oppose using chemicals for milfoil control for their own particular reasons. However, we become concerned when objections are founded on fear, speculation and sometimes non-factual claims.

The Green Lake Association is an advocate for a healthy Green Lake. Milfoil in Green Lake is one kind of pollution that diminishes our lake's health. Controlling milfoil using herbicides has been deemed safe by the US EPA, the MN DNR and other agencies and organizations. In a perfect world, other seeming less "nasty-sounding" alternatives would be available, but unfortunately right now they are not. The milfoil project has been and continues to be overseen by scientists representing federal, state and local agencies and the team has found the use of herbicides to be the only feasible method to accomplish the project's objectives which includes being safe and restorative.



Terry Frazee