



Stormwater project to protect Pelican Lake moves forward

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Staff Writer

The Thirty Lakes Watershed District Monday agreed to move forward with the stormwater runoff project on Pelican Lake in Breezy Point.

The watershed conducted a public hearing on the management of stormwater runoff from the parking lot area in and around the Breezy Center, Point Condominium, Point Place and Lodge Apartments, which are located partially within the Breezy Point Resort.

The Pelican Lake Association approached the watershed district for assistance with the project to protect the lake at "The Point." In the engineer's report prepared by Westwood Professional Services in Brainerd, it states that a stormwater ponding system was installed to treat runoff at the site, but at one point the ponding area had breached the berm and was allowing water to enter Pelican Lake with little or no treatment.

Three property owners will be affected by the construction of the stormwater management system. Watershed district chair Mark Young said the property owners spoke at the public hearing and were in favor of the project.

Watershed manager Ken Svee said that the board approved the concept plan from Westwood, but the plan will still have to be approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the DNR before final approval.

Tim Ramerth, Westwood branch office manager, said his office has been working on the project since last June, but the project has had a long history.

Ramerth said Westwood is using the "treatment train" approach to treat the stormwater runoff because it is the most economical and practical solution for the area. Ramerth said the treatment plan utilizes the best management practices approach that relies on bio-retention and infiltration drainage ponds to treat the stormwater. Ramerth said this practice will keep the water where it falls.

"This is something that has been around for a while," said Ramerth. "It has gained a lot of attention and this treatment is low cost to obtain what they'll need on Pelican."

Ramerth's report said long-term maintenance of the treatment train approach system will be critical in assuring a long-term benefit to Pelican Lake.

Ramerth said the cost of the project is \$55,450 and the project received an estimated \$38,600 grant from the Clean Water Legacy Grant. Ramerth said the remaining cost of the project would be paid by the watershed.

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