

# E-Newsletter September 2020

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# Shoreline Living



## Shoreline Living Booklet

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership is proud to share this Shoreline Living booklet, which provides examples of everyday shoreline property owners that dipped their toes into a natural shoreline.

The [pictures](#) and booklet were produced by a collaborative group of managers and outreach professionals across the Upper Midwest for property owners and lake professionals to print and use freely.

There's something magical about spending time at a lake, whether you're swimming, boating, fishing, or just sitting and listening to the lapping waves. There are simple steps property owners can take to keep their lakes clean and healthy for generations to come. Shoreline Living shares the examples of five ordinary property owners who have done something extraordinary. Each is taking steps in their own way to do their part to care for the lake. From small steps on a relatively manicured property to an almost fully forested and natural landscape, the articles within feature the efforts of people just like you.

[Booklet](#)

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## **More Boaters Mean More Threats To Loons On Minnesota Lakes**

Kristi Marohn, MPR News

With the COVID-19 pandemic driving more people to enjoy outdoor recreation this summer, there are more people on Minnesota lakes — which means a greater chance for conflict between boaters and wildlife.

With the COVID-19 pandemic driving more people to enjoy outdoor recreation this summer, there are more people on Minnesota lakes — which means a greater chance for conflict between boaters and wildlife. And that can mean problems for Minnesota's iconic black-and-white state bird.

"Just the increased amount of boat traffic will put loons in danger because they dive and they're swimming a lot of times just under the surface of the water," said Lori Naumann, information officer for the DNR's nongame wildlife program. "They can get hit by propellers and just hit by boats, because of their proximity to them."

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## Loon Rescued On Long Lake

MPR News

The Moen family lent a hand to a loon recently after a lure was hooked in the bird's beak and wing.

During a pontoon boat ride Aug. 15 on Long Lake north of Fergus Falls with his wife, daughter and parents, Dan Moen found himself doing one of Minnesota's state birds a big favor.

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## Pelican City Dam Project Funded By DNR

Louis Hoglund

With the allocation of \$1.8 million, the stage appears to be set for modification of the historic Pelican Rapids city dam.

Construction start is uncertain.

“If all goes well, fall of 2021 is in our sights....but 2022 is probably a safer bet,” said engineer Rick St. Germaine, of Houston Engineering, which has been consultant for the city on the dam project.

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## **Don't Store Docks Or Lifts on Highway Right-Of-Ways**

### **Are You Planning to Store Docks or Lifts in the Highway Right-of-Way? DON'T!**

September 4, 2020 –Otter Tail County, MN–Do you have personal property close to the highway right-of-way? Otter Tail County Highway Department reminds you to move property, signs, and items for sale back from the roadway. Public safety for all drivers including snow plow drivers is critical. We do not want your property damaged. Please keep the right-of-way clear.

The Otter Tail County Highway Department has noticed several docks and lifts and other property stored too close to the highway. It is understandable that sometimes space is limited, and these areas are often convenient for storing property or selling items. However, Otter Tail County asks for voluntary compliance with State Statute 160.27 that makes it illegal for “the unauthorized use of public highway right of way.” Public safety is the priority.



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## **Tamarac Lake Continues Fact Finding For LID Creation**

*Author: Pelican Rapids Press*  
By Louis Hoglund

Formation of a “Lake Improvement District” (LID) on Tamarac Lake was discussed at the lake association’s annual meeting.

While there wasn’t a firm direction set, nearly 50 Tamarac residents and property owners listened attentively to the information.

Both Lida and Tamarac are listed as lakes with curly leaf pondweed. LIDs are quasi-governmental entities, which have the authority to levy a tax on lakeshore property owners—though the taxing authority is limited and with some restrictions.

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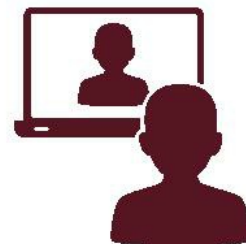
MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE  
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

### **MAISRC Research And Management Showcase**

Join us the afternoons of Sept. 22-24, 2020 for the fully online MAISRC Research and Management Showcase. The conference will run from noon to roughly 4:30 p.m. each day. The cost savings of holding the event online have allowed us to reduced the registration fee to just \$10. However, if you would like to further support MAISRC and our



research, please consider [adding a donation](#). Donations help us fund future studies and rapid response projects.

[Register for the Showcase](#)

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### **OTC Solid Waste Master Planning Meeting**

The first of four meetings of Committee Members was held on August 31 at the Otter Tail Government Services Center building in Fergus Falls. Participants could attend in person in one of two integrated rooms, or remotely. The purpose of this organizational meeting was to bring committee members together for an introduction to the project.

The County Board is interested in implementing a “Towards Zero Landfill” initiative in Otter Tail County. Further, the County recognizes that certain improvements are needed to accomplish its Solid Waste Management goals. The development of a Solid Waste Master Plan will help to articulate these initiatives and assist the County and understand the financial obligations of needed improvements.

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### **Otter Tail To Offer Private Well Water Testing Kits To Property Owners**

Beginning September 8, 2020, the Land and Resource Management Department will make available water test kits to the public. The water test kits test private drinking wells for coliform bacteria, arsenic, nitrate, nitrogen, and lead. The test results and a report are returned to the resident via RMB Environmental Laboratories of Detroit Lakes.

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# East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District



# Otter Tail River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)



## **WRAPS Video Available**

The Otter Tail River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) document is nearly complete and ready for public distribution. A video has been created to provide viewers with a snapshot of some of the information in the full document.

The Otter Tail River Watershed is one of the largest in Minnesota at 1,249,541 acres. That is a lot of land to cover as the watershed starts in Clearwater County and flows mostly south and west through Becker, Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties and into the Red River of the North. The watershed also includes very small portions of Mahnomen and Clay counties. With such a large land area, comes many different land uses and concerns. Even with all the variety through the landscape, the watershed is in great condition. Only a handful of waterbodies have poor water quality in the whole watershed. With over 1,000 lakes, hundreds of miles of streams, and countless wetlands, there is a lot of water that is in good condition.

[\*\*WRAPS Video\*\*](#)

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

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## **Wild Rice - Recent Questions**

In the past couple of years the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District (EOT SWCD) has received several inquiries about Wild Rice reappearing in some of our local lakes. Shoreland owners are bringing in samples of it for us to identify for them and then asking what they can do to get rid of it. Most of them are wondering if it is some form of invasive species as they have not seen it in these locations in the past. Because of that, I reached out to Annette Drewes, DNR Clean Water Specialist & Independent Wild Rice Consultant, asking if she would write an article on Wild Rice for us. Attached is what she provided. It includes contact information for Jerry Wendlandt, the local DNR Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Specialist.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

[\*\*Darren Newville\*\*](#), District Manager, EOT SWCD

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## **New Posts - September 2020**

- [It's Not Too Early - 2021 Directories](#)
- [OTC Shoreland & Septic Ordinance Survey](#)

[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

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## **OTC AIS Task Force Minutes**

- [August 10, 2020](#) Draft

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## **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [August 4, 2020](#)
- [August 18, 2020](#)
- [August 25, 2020](#)

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## **Instant Access Links**

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 and 2019 OTC COLA E-Newsletters. Click to access the entire issue.
- [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for 168 OTC Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [Interactive Access to OTC GIS](#)- Find addresses, navigate the OTC County map
- [Lawmaker Hotline](#)- Comprehensive contact information for OTC Board of Commissioners to the MN Governor
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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant