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**THE RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103D.351 and Minnesota Rules Section 8410.0150, the Board of Managers of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District submits its 2011 Annual Activity Report. The report includes the District's members, technical and citizen advisors, summaries of the plans, goals, water management projects, and communication programs of the District. The District distributes its Annual Activity Report to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Soil and Water Resources as provided by law.

Copies of the report or audit may be obtained from the District's Managers or through [www.rileywd.org](http://www.rileywd.org). The Managers invite comments and suggestions concerning this report.

## II. APPOINTMENTS

### Managers

NAME AND OFFICE	APPOINTING COUNTY	CONTACT INFORMATION	DATE OF TERM EXPIRATION
<b>John Perry Forster President</b>	Hennepin	9505 Highview Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55347 <a href="mailto:pforster@rileywd.org">pforster@rileywd.org</a>	7/31/2014
<b>Michael Casanova Vice President</b>	Hennepin	18559 Kristie Lane Eden Prairie, MN 55346 <a href="mailto:mcasanova@rileywd.org">mcasanova@rileywd.org</a>	7/31/2013
<b>Kenneth Wencil Secretary</b>	Carver	8412 Great Plains Boulevard Chanhassen, MN 55317 <a href="mailto:kwencil@rileywd.org">kwencil@rileywd.org</a>	7/31/2012
<b>Jill Crafton Treasurer</b>	Hennepin	10351 Decatur Avenue South Bloomington, MN 55438 <a href="mailto:jcrafton@rileywd.org">jcrafton@rileywd.org</a>	7/31/2012
<b>Philip Kirkegaard Manager</b>	Hennepin	3941 Colgate Avenue Minnetonka, MN 55345 <a href="mailto:pkirkegaard@rileywd.org">pkirkegaard@rileywd.org</a>	7/31/2014





Citizen Advisory Committee Members

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>
<b>Mary Borns</b>	Chanhassen	7199 Frontier Trail Chanhassen, MN 55317
<b>Greg Halvorson</b>	Eden Prairie	9536 Lakeland Terrace Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>John Bushey</b>	Eden Prairie	9000 Riley Lake Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>Catherine Thimmish</b>	Eden Prairie	8499 Red Oak Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>Steve Donen</b>	Chanhassen	7341 Frontier Trail Chanhassen, MN 55317
<b>Jim Nehl</b>	Eden Prairie	8011 Island Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>David Florenzano</b>	Eden Prairie	9470 Lakeland Terrace Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>John Tyler</b>	Eden Prairie	17574 Belfast Cover Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>Bill Satterness</b>	Eden Prairie	8597 Red Oak Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>Sharon and Tim McCotter</b>	Chanhassen	7000 Utica Lane Chanhassen, MN 55317
<b>Bob Shurson</b>	Eden Prairie	7821 Bailey Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>Frank Spahn</b>	Eden Prairie	17083 Terrey Pine Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55347
<b>Jeff Arnold</b>	Shorewood	5760 Covington Road Shorewood, MN 55331-9110
<b>Steve Jenks</b>	Chanhassen	7490 Chanhassen Road Chanhassen, MN 55317
<b>Joel Settles David Hemze</b>	County Representatives	Hennepin County Carver County
<b>Soil and Water Conservation District</b>	Carver County	Carver SWCD

Technical Advisory Committee Members

<u>NAME AND OFFICE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>
<b>Shelly Pederson City Engineer</b>	City of Bloomington	1700 West 98 <sup>th</sup> Street Bloomington, MN 55431
<b>Scott Anderson Water Resources Engineer</b>	City of Bloomington	1700 West 98 <sup>th</sup> Street Bloomington, MN 55431
<b>Paul Oehme City Engineer</b>	City of Chanhassen	7700 Market Boulevard Chanhassen, MN 55317
<b>Terry Jeffery Water Resource Coordinator</b>	City of Chanhassen	7700 Market Boulevard Chanhassen, MN 55317
<b>Doug Carter Water Resources Engineer</b>	City of Deephaven	12224 Nicollet Avenue Burnsville, MN 55337
<b>Rod Rue City Engineer</b>	City of Eden Prairie	8080 Mitchell Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344
<b>Leslie Stovring Water Resources Coordinator</b>	City of Eden Prairie	8080 Mitchell Road Eden Prairie, MN 55344
<b>Lee Gustafson Director of Engineering</b>	City of Minnetonka	14600 Minnetonka Boulevard Minnetonka, MN 55343
<b>Liz Stout Water Resources Engineer</b>	City of Minnetonka	14600 Minnetonka Boulevard Minnetonka, MN 55343
<b>James Landini City Engineer</b>	City of Shorewood	5755 Country Club Road Shorewood, MN 55331
<b>Brian Heck City Administrator</b>	City of Shorewood	5755 Country Club Road Shorewood, MN 55331

## Consultants

The principal consultants serve at the pleasure of the Board of Managers and for monthly flat fees. By requiring these terms, the Board of Managers retains independent contractor consultants who provide all of the necessary engineering, accounting, legal, public information, and administrative services without the need for employees' attendant salary, space, telephone, pension and insurance costs, while meeting statutory and regulatory requirements. The District's independent consultants effectively fulfill its obligations, goals, and objectives within the approved finances and budget. The following consultants served the District in 2011:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
Mark Enochs	CH2MHILL Engineer	1295 Northland Drive, #200 Mendota Heights, MN 55120 (651) 688-8100
Dan Cavanaugh	Cavanaugh & Company P.A. Certified Public Accountant	1660 South Hwy 100, #500 St. Louis Park, MN 55416 (952) 697-3577
John Hoffman	ICS Agency, Inc. Insurance Agent	4901 West 77 <sup>th</sup> Street Minneapolis, MN 55435 (952) 835-4848
Mark C. Gibbs	HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd. Auditor	4810 White Bear Parkway White Bear Lake, MN 55110 (651) 426-7000
Paul R. Haik	Krebsbach and Haik, Ltd Coordinator	100 South Fifth Street, #1900 Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 333-7400



### **III. PLAN PERFORMANCE**

#### **A. Basic Water Management Projects Petitioned by Municipalities**

##### **1. Purgatory Creek Restoration**

The Engineer reported on the project, which report has yet to be reviewed by the Board of Managers for further proceedings. It is anticipated further consideration will occur in 2012.

#### **B. Water Management Plan**

The Board of Water and Soil Resources reviewed and approved the update of the water management plan, which was then adopted by the Board of Managers.

The Managers are continuing their current projects seeking to restore and improve recreational and other beneficial uses. The Managers remain committed to sound scientific work and recognize the University of Minnesota has provided exceptional scientific inquiry resulting in broad recognition of the work undertaken by the Managers. Special presentations were made concerning this work at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts as well as special presentations to citizens and local elected officials during Evenings with the Watershed in May and December 2011.

Two manuscripts setting forth the work of the University are presently in peer review and one was published. The results of carp studies in the Watershed District were highlighted in over a dozen public and professional talks. Study results have also been covered by Kare11 TV (Minnesota Bound), The Minneapolis Star Tribune, The Chanhassen Villager, and the Pioneer Press. Information has been shared with three other watersheds. The publications are noted below:

- Bajer, P. G., and P. W. Sorensen. In revision. Estimating the abundance of invasive common carp using boat electrofishing. North American Journal of Fisheries Management.
- Bajer, P. G., J. Silbernagel, C. J. Chizinski, and P. W. Sorensen. In revision. Variability in native micro-predator abundance explains the recruitment of an invasive fish in a naturally unstable environment. Biological Invasions.
- Bajer, P. G., C. J. Chizinski, and P. W. Sorensen. 2011. Effects of temperature on the aggregation behaviour of the common carp, and using Judas fish to exploit it for invasive fish control. Fisheries Management and Ecology. 18:494-505.

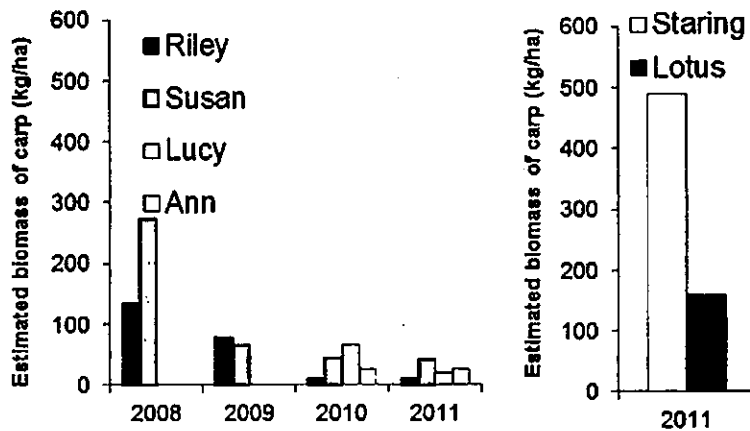
Readers may review these publications in order to obtain greater detail about the investigations.

A brief synopsis of the work follows.

Electro-fishing and trapnet surveys in the Riley Creek Chain of Lakes found that the densities of common carp remained low and under control throughout this sub-watershed in 2011 (carp biomass < 50 kg/ha). Data from Lake Susan suggests that 100kg carp/ ha may be a ‘tipping point’, at least for water quality in the spring. While springtime water clarity in both Lake Susan and Lake Riley seems to be improving each year after carp removal, improvement is not obvious in the summer (i.e. after the thermocline has become established).

High phosphorous levels in the summer appear to be the cause. The relationship is not simple. Clarity is no better in Lake Riley than in Lake Susan in spite of the former having a lower overall level of phosphorous. However, Lake Riley experiences an early collapse of its *Daphnia* population and has very few submerged plants (seemingly because of excessive herbicide treatment) and a population of bluegill sunfish that is many times larger than that of Lake Susan and which could be driving the collapse in *Daphnia*. Most of the phosphorous in both of these lakes appears to be from internal sources as it peaks in late summer –fall when hypoxic hypolimnetic waters are mixed into the epilimnion.

Initial surveys of carp in the Purgatory Creek Chain found that Lakes Staring and the Recreational area have dense carp populations (490 kg/ha) while that of Lake Lotus is likely moderate (approximately 160 kg/ha). The other lakes in this chain seem relatively carp-free. Carp removal will begin in Lakes Staring and Lotus in 2012. The figure below summarizes these carp densities and shows continuing control within the Riley Creek watershed and starting densities for Lakes Staring and Lotus.



Reduced carp densities have impacted submerged vegetation. The distribution of submerged aquatic plants was mapped in lakes Lucy, Ann, Susan, and Riley in the Riley chain and lakes Lotus, Silver, Staring and the Recreational Area in the Purgatory chain. Plants were relatively abundant in all lakes except in Lake Staring, Lotus and Riley (Fig. 1). In the first two, poor plant cover is likely driven by excessive carp biomass. In Lake Riley, plants are treated with herbicides. Species diversity is highest in Lake Ann and Lake Susan in which plant transplants have been conducted by Professor Newman, which will be discussed below.

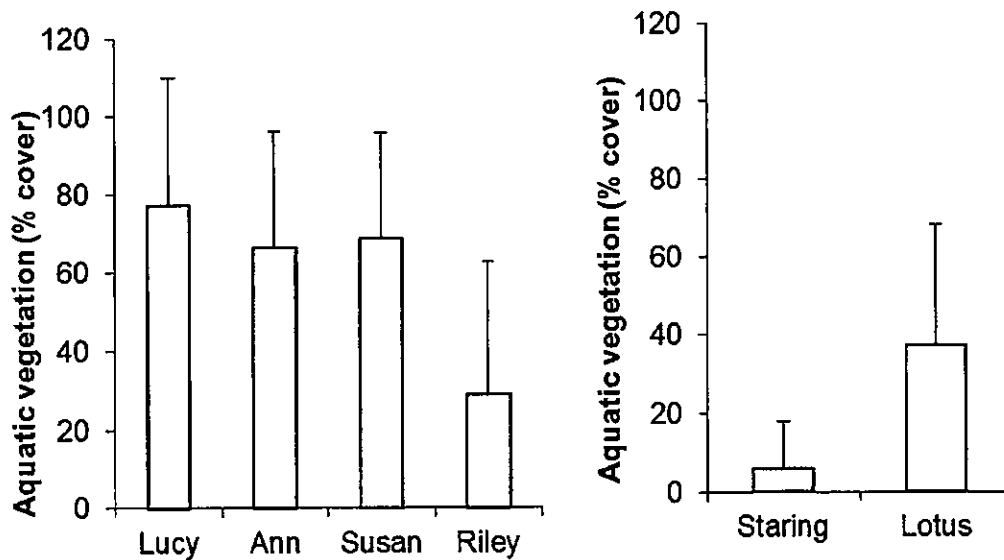
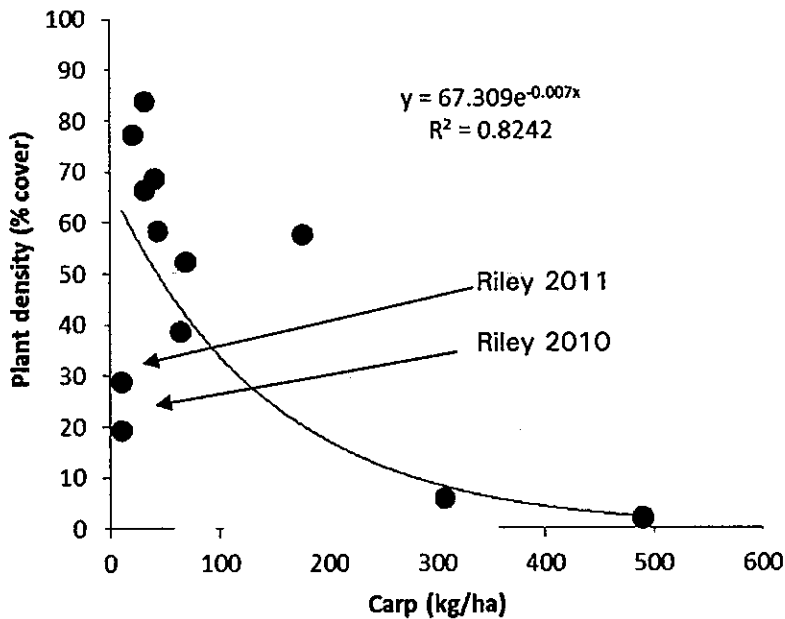


Fig. 1. The density of aquatic vegetation in Riley (left) and Purgatory Creek (right) lakes in 2011. Aquatic vegetation was mapped in June along transects in areas that were 0.5 to 2m deep. Bars represent one standard deviation.

Data on carp abundance, water clarity, phosphorus, plants and zooplankton from 2008-2011 were pooled and regression analysis used to determine the possible effects of carp versus other variables, such as phosphorus and native fish, on water clarity. This is a first such analysis that is known and advances our understanding of lake ecology, water quality and carp. However, it also preliminary and needs to be repeated; these data should not be duplicated or distributed.

Analysis suggests that removing carp from lakes can increase water clarity during the spring but not in the summer. The relationship between carp biomass and springtime clarity suggests that reducing carp biomass from 400 kg/ha to 50 kg/ha increases springtime clarity by approximately 1.5 m (5 feet). Regression analysis also suggests that when carp biomass is less than approximately 50 kg/ha, lakes can continue to support relatively dense and diverse aquatic submerged vegetation. Plant cover may further enhance water clarity by providing refuges for zooplankton. For example, a reduction of carp biomass from 307 kg/ha to 70 kg/ha in Lake

Susan was associated with an increase in vegetation density from 10% to 60%. Lake Riley is however an exception as its plant cover remains poor in late spring and summer despite extremely low carp biomass. This is most likely caused by excessive use of herbicides in this lake and it is likely contributing to poor water clarity during summer months because filtering zooplankton (*Daphnia*) are unable to hide from bluegills.



Relationship between carp biomass and plant density (percent bottom coverage in water shallower than 2 m). Plant density was mapped in June.

Phosphorus concentrations and abundance of filtering zooplankton (*Daphnia*) appears to determine summer-time water clarity in our lakes. Phosphorus has a strong and direct relationship with summer water clarity. Summer water clarity was greater than 2 m only in Lake Ann in which phosphorus concentrations are the lowest of all lakes in the watershed (below ~ 30 ug/L). The relationship between phosphorus and summer water clarity is not linear and it suggests that water clarity in lakes would improve substantially if phosphorus concentrations could be reduced below 40 ug/L. This suggests that even slight reductions in phosphorus might

substantially improve summer water clarity in Lake Riley, in which phosphorus concentrations only slightly exceed 40 ug/L. An alum treatment in this lake may thus make sense now that the carp have been removed.

Year-round sampling conducted in 2011 confirmed that phosphorus likely originates from within each lake, rather than from external sources, and is released from anoxic sediments during summer time and brought to the surface during late summer/late fall mixing. Carp may have a significant and direct effect on phosphorus in Lake Staring.

Removal of carp can also have positive effects on native fish. Notably, removal of carp from Lake Susan was associated with a rapid increase in bluegill sunfish size structure. Increasing average size of bluegills would be beneficial as larger bluegills are less likely to forage on zooplankton. Increasing plant coverage to moderate levels is also expected to be beneficial because bluegill diets may shift towards larger invertebrates associated with aquatic vegetation and their growth rates might improve. Finally, lower abundance of larger bluegills is expected to be beneficial for Eurasian water milfoil control because fewer and larger bluegills exert lower predatory pressure on weevils that control this invasive plant.

Aquatic vegetation surveys were performed on Lakes Lucy, Ann, Susan, and Riley between May and October 2010 and 2011. These surveys were conducted to evaluate the response of aquatic plant communities of the lakes to management actions, particularly to quantify the aquatic plant community response to the removal of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) from the lakes. By repeating these surveys after carp removal, one can assess the change in the aquatic plant community. Another secondary goal of the project was to enhance the recovery of native plants and minimize the dominance of aquatic invasive species. The hypothesis is that removal of carp will lead to a decrease in rooting of aquatic plants and an increase in water

clarity. This will in turn increase the light available to aquatic plants, which will benefit both native and exotic species (Hanson and Butler, 1994). However, invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) are already established in the lakes, and due to their natural aggressive recruitment, there is concern the invasive species will expand at a faster rate than native species. Techniques to reduce the dominance of the invasive species and enhance native plant communities are also being evaluated. This investigation is summarized by lake below:

**Lake Lucy:**

Lake Lucy saw relatively minor changes in the aquatic plant community between 2010 and 2011. Overall species composition and distribution was similar between the years. Eurasian water milfoil was noted in 2011 and not noted in 2010. This is not a new infestation as it has been listed as infested waters by the MN DNR in 2006. There were considerably more milfoil weevils noted in Lucy in 2011 than 2010. There is some suggestion that the current curlyleaf pondweed management is effective. Transplants are not needed and only monitoring is recommended.

**Lake Ann:**

The Aquatic plant community in Lake Ann is healthy and diverse. There is some concern over the high frequency and biomass of Eurasian watermilfoil. There were some differences in distribution of Eurasian watermilfoil between 2011 and 2010. The mean depth of densest growth of Eurasian watermilfoil was shallower in 2011 than 2010. This may be explained by the decreased summer Secchi disk values noted in 2011. If the water clarity and plant community continue to be good, no further management is needed. Plans to deal with Eurasian watermilfoil should be developed and this could range from sunfish control to enhance herbivores or possible







use of selective herbicides. The focus should be on retaining clarity and the diverse native plant community.

**Lake Susan:**

An increase in aquatic plants after the removal of carp has been noted in Lake Susan and in Lake Lucy to a lesser degree. Lake Susan has a greatly improved aquatic plant community, however there are some concerns about potential invasive native and exotic species. The attempts at re-establishment of native species appear to be having some reasonable success in the shallower (<1.2m) depths, but establishing native plants in depths >1.2m is more challenging. Natural recruitment of new taxa is relatively slow with one to two new taxa noted each year post carp removal. We will add more, shallow transplant sites to further expand distribution of native plants. If a number of native plant species can be established around the lake they should fill in deeper areas if clarity increases. Contingency plans to control curlyleaf pondweed should be developed and maintaining a healthy herbivore population is key to keeping Eurasian watermilfoil at low density.

**Lake Riley:**

The aquatic plant community in Lake Riley does not appear to be following the same trend as Lake Susan after the removal of carp. This is evident by the poor species richness and comparative lack of vegetation in the shallower zones. The dominance by invasive Eurasian watermilfoil may be a problem and the lack of herbivores indicates that biological control is likely limited by abundant sunfish. More research and attention to the aquatic plant management methods are needed for the reestablishment of a healthy plant community. After the lake association considers options a management plan should be developed. More resources will be needed to further manage the Lake Riley plant community.

**Lake Staring:**

The aquatic plant community in Lake Staring is very weak which is consistent with the very high density of carp in the lake. Carp removal is being considered for winter/spring 2012. Lake Staring is a good candidate for early re-vegetation options considering there is very little curlyleaf pondweed or Eurasian watermilfoil present. An effort to explore options for transplanting in 2012 will be made but will likely be held off until 2013 after assessing that natural plant community response.

Greater detail regarding these investigations is available in technical summaries, which are incorporated by reference.

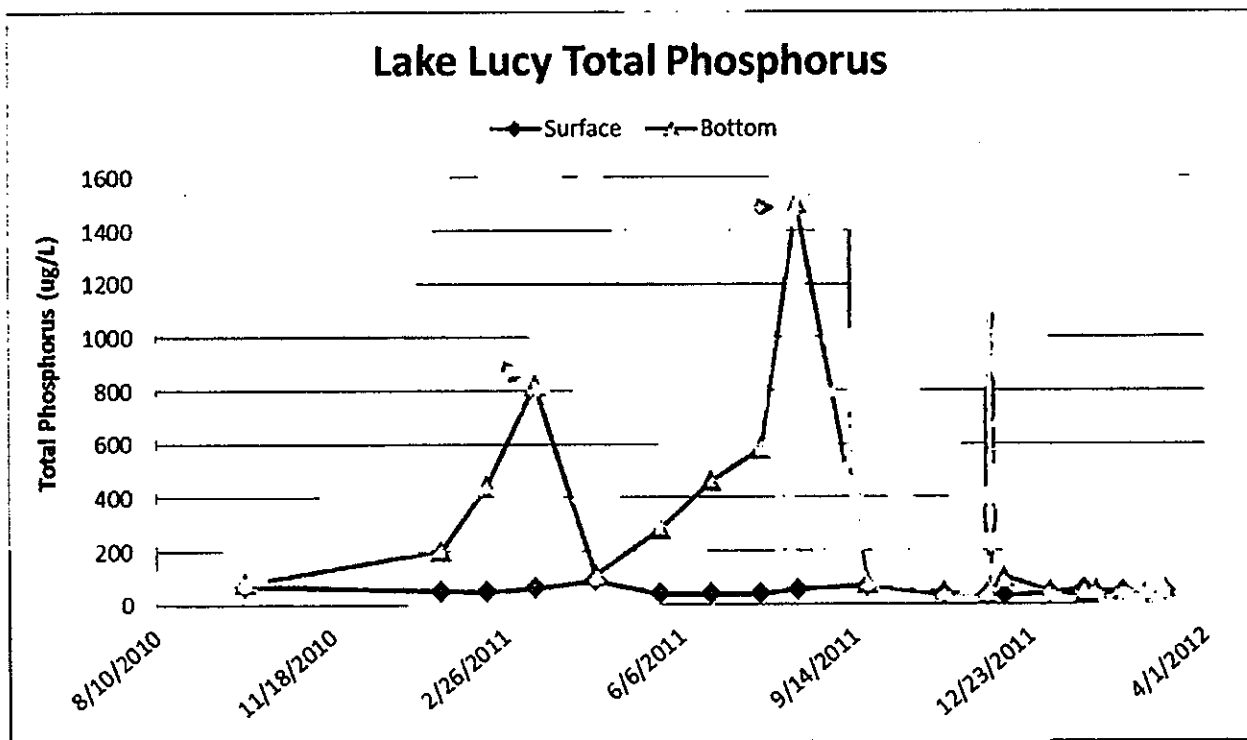
**Aeration Initiatives**

An aeration system was installed in Rice Marsh Lake in November and December of 2010 and began full operation in January of 2011. The system aerated the deeper portion of the lake with combined flow of 25 cubic feet of air per minute through seven diffusers from January through ice-out in April. The purpose of aerating is to prevent winter fish kills, which provide opportunity for carp recruitment to gain an advantage over other species and allow re-infestation and re-injury to the aquatic plant communities. Winter fish kills were observed on several District lakes including Ann, Duck, Lucy, Michel, and Silver but not on Rice Marsh Lake. The winter fish kill was prevented by a combination of aeration and flow of high dissolved oxygen water from Riley Creek. The Aeration system was permitted to run from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 allowing for full year aeration.

A winter aeration system was also installed in Lake Lucy. The primary purpose of the aeration system is to maintain a low carp population by preventing winter fish kills. The secondary purpose is to improve water quality by reducing winter internal phosphorus loading.

The Lake Lucy Ice Preserving Aeration System (IPAS) was installed and began operating on December 8, 2011. The IPAS system was operated continually until ice out in March 2012 (the system is currently being shut down and removed for storage).

The combined effect of photosynthesis and aeration maintained a dissolved oxygen concentration well above what is needed for fish survival. Additionally, winter internal phosphorus loading was prevented, resulting in a decrease in the peak winter hypolimnion total phosphorus concentration from 820 ug/L in 2011 to 57 ug/L in 2012 (Figure 1).



Lake Lucy will now be monitored to determine the rate at which the effects of the high levels of oxygen deplete. That depletion rate will enable future planning and designs.

### **Shoreline Restoration Initiatives**

As part of a holistic approach to protecting and restoring recreational uses, the Managers proposed and were awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to restore an impaired reach of Lotus Lake shoreline and well as Lake Susan. The Lake Susan project is a cooperative project with the City of Chanhassen. Work is to be completed in the summer of 2012. Two other projects to address external loadings are underway to complement and supplement in-lake restoration efforts.

### **External Loading Initiatives**

The 2011 Stormwater Ponds Protocols and Prioritization project continued the efforts of the Internal/External Phosphorus Control / Stormwater Pond Project. The purpose was to evaluate the hypothesis that some stormwater ponds discharge substantially more total phosphorus than current models predict. High total phosphorus concentrations occur when phosphorus attached to settled particles become soluble. Bacteria in highly organic sediments make settled phosphorus soluble. Because cities within the District operate nearly 2,000 stormwater basins, it is not practical to sample ponds individually to determine total phosphorus removal performance. Therefore, a simple protocol was developed and tested to determine which ponds are not removing TP. This science-based protocol will provide broad applicability when fully validated. A Rapid Assessment Protocol is being jointly implemented with municipal staff the summer of 2012 to identify these contributing ponds and plan for abatement.

The Managers have also ordered implementation of a low impact development project within the Lotus Lake Watershed to construct infiltration and related treatments to reduce runoff. Work on that project is expected to commence in 2012.

## C. Other Matters

### 1. Water Quantity and Quality Monitoring Data

The development of an integrated, comprehensive means for collecting, storing, and disseminating data concerning water resources has been very successful. The Engineer completed this collection and implemented web-based distribution and facilitated incorporation into State agency databases. The data is available through [www.rileywd.org](http://www.rileywd.org).

### 2. Local Plan Adoption and Implementation

The District was not asked to act upon any local water management plan approvals.

### 3. Annual Communication

For its annual communications, the District coordinated for publication of articles in its official newspapers and held two public community meetings; one in May and the other in December to report on work of the District. An additional annual publication identifying membership and contact and related information was published. Copies of the presentations are available through [www.rileywd.org](http://www.rileywd.org), and are incorporated by reference.

### 4. Solicitation of Interest Proposals

In 2011, the District again solicited professional services by publication in local news papers and special mailings. Interest will again be solicited in 2013.

### 5. Maintenance

The inspection of District structures ordered by the Managers was completed. Repairs have been coordinated the Hennepin County and the City of Eden Prairie to complete repairs. A separate inspection following completion of recommended maintenance will be made to confirm repair.

## 6. Other Metro Watershed District Performance Standards

The Annual Reports of Activity, Finances, and Chief Engineer are timely prepared and filed. Financial and other policies are current and available through [www.rileywd.org](http://www.rileywd.org). The Annual Budget provides total expenditures per year for the past ten years. Manager appointments have been provided to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Along with participation of customarily two managers, the Chief Engineer has regularly coordinated with municipal staff through Technical Advisory Committee meetings. Three cooperative initiatives are underway: first, the MDNR shoreline grant for restoration of Lotus Lake Shoreline involves the participation of MDNR and the City of Chanhassen; second, the District and the City of Chanhassen are undertaking completion of restoration of the shoreline of Lake Susan; and third, the District has proposed a cooperative initiative with the Cities of Chanhassen and Eden Prairie to undertake AIS prevention. This AIS initiative was part of a strong recommendation of the Citizen Advisory Committee, which continues functioning and reporting regarding matters of concern.

IV. FINANCIAL AND AUDIT REPORTS

A. Reporting of Revenues and Expenditures

An audit report prepared by a certified public accounting firm is incorporated by reference. The audit includes a balance sheet, a classification of revenues and expenditures, an analysis of changes in final balances, and contains all additional statements considered necessary for full financial disclosure.

B. Budget Adopted for 2012

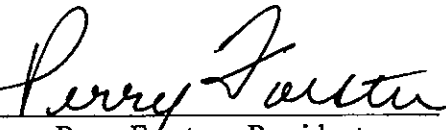
The adopted annual budgets are available through [www.rileywd.org](http://www.rileywd.org) and are incorporated by reference.

V. CONCLUSION

With successful completion of the Third-Generation Water Management Plan, the Board of Managers looks forward to continued success expediting meaningful restoration of beneficial uses of District waters.

Respectfully submitted,

RILEY-PURGATORY-BLUFF CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

By   
Perry Forster, President

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