

Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID)
High-Water Project
Fact Sheet
May 22, 2019

In 2015, the Morrison County Board of Commissioners established a Lake Improvement District (LID) for Lake Shamineau as a necessary component in helping to preserve Lake Shamineau as a viable natural resource in the County. Included in the Establishment Order were provisions for the LID to undertake programs for high water problems. This fact sheet document provides information regarding the High-Water project initiated by the LID. Also, visit the LID Website: <https://minnesotawaters.org/lakeshamineau/lid/>.

1. *What is the current lake level and how does it relate to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)?*

The lake elevation was recorded in May 2019 at 1276.80, which is 1.9 feet over the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL). From a historical perspective, the overall lake level has risen over 3 feet in the last 9 years. This most recent reading virtually ties the highest recorded reading from July 2018.

2. *What caused the high water level?*

Lake Shamineau is a closed watershed basin and with the recent wet hydrologic cycle, which includes rainfall and snowfall, the inflow from runoff and groundwater has exceeded the evaporation (which is the only way currently to lower the water level). This has caused an ongoing trend in rising water levels.

3. *What is the goal of the project?*

The goal of the high-water project is to determine a solution to the high water problem that is the most feasible, cost-effective and timely, and will minimize ongoing maintenance and future operating costs.

4. *What is the cost of the damage to the lake from flooding?*

The higher lake level has caused flooding of properties, shoreline erosion, loss of trees, wildlife habitat destruction, loss and/or changes of aquatic vegetation, reduced water clarity, and challenging water quality. In a survey of lake owners in 2015, it was reported that an estimated \$1.230 million has been spent as a result of the high water level. Since lake owners have continued to make repairs to their property, the costs are much higher.

5. *What work has been completed over the past year related to this project?*

- In July 2018, there was a survey of Lake Shamineau property owners taken by the Morrison Board of Commissioners regarding the High Water Project, with 85% agreeing that the water is too high, 74% agreeing something should be done about it and 59% reporting that they agree that the solution to the high water problem should be installing a mechanical outlet to lower the current water level of Lake Shamineau.
- At the annual meeting in August 2018 of the LID members (property owners), the membership approved the 2019 budget including a budget amount for the High-Water Project.
- On October 9, 2018 the Morrison County Board of Commissioners approved the LID budget including \$100,000 for the High Water Project. Taken with the \$65,000 DNR grant, the amount of funds available for the High-Water project in 2019 is \$165,000.
- In January 2019 the LSLID issued a Request for Engineering Services. After reviewing proposals, checking references, and conducting interviews, the LSLID Board of Directors approved an agreement with Widseth Smith Nolting (WSN) on April 15, 2019 to develop a high-water solution which includes 3 steps:
 - 1) Complete a route analysis in the NE area with emphasis on infiltration and update the feasibility study with an Engineers Report to be completed by May 31, 2019;
 - 2) Complete a preliminary design and provide an estimate of project costs for the High Water solution to be completed by August 1, 2019; and
 - 3) Complete plans and permitting with an anticipated completion date of November 19, 2019.
- WSN has made progress on Step 1 with a review of routes including a possible solution that would pump water from the lake to infiltrate in a gravel pit located NE of the lake across Bugle Road. Borings, observation wells, and initial surveys have provided preliminary data with positive results.

6. *What is the schedule of future work?*

The Engineer Report will be completed by May 31 which will include options for a route and preliminary cost estimates for a solution. The LSLID Board of Directors will meet in early June to accept the report and establish a route. WSN will continue design work on the solution in June and July and work with agencies including the DNR, Soil and Water, and the County to ensure the solution is feasible for permitting. By August 1, detail on the solution including estimated costs will be available for review by property owners around the lake. At the August annual meeting, property owners will be voting on a 2020 budget which will include costs for the next steps for a high-water solution. Plans and permitting tasks will continue in the fall of 2019. The schedule for future steps including final design, construction plans, construction and operation will be announced as they become available.

7. Are there grant funds available for the high-water project?

A grant request was submitted to the DNR in February 2018. In August 2018, we received notice from the DNR of a grant of up to \$65,000 for 50% of the costs for Steps 2 and 3 (noted in 4 above). Once the LSLID Board of Directors accept the Engineers Report and establishes a route in early June, an agreement will be executed with the DNR for reimbursement of costs. The DNR has stated that it is possible that additional grant funding may be available that could reduce future project expenses by up to 50%.

8. What will be the total cost and schedule of the project?

In 2019, the project budget includes \$165,000 (which includes \$65,000 in DNR grant funds). This budget will fund work to complete an Engineer's Report, establish a route for removal of water, complete preliminary design work and complete plans and permitting. The costs for future steps including final design and plans, construction and operation have not yet been determined.

9. How much water will need to be removed from the lake?

To reduce the lake level by 1 foot requires removing 470 million gallons of water. A lake level elevation goal has not yet been determined but will most likely be close to the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL).

10. Do property owners have input into decisions for the project?

A project team has been formed for communication and feedback. The team is made up of property owners, LID Board members and invited attendees from Morrison County, the Soil and Water District and the DNR. Team members will provide valuable input at key points in the project.

11. What would be the impact if nothing is done?

A previous feasibility report identified that the lake would need to rise approximately 6 feet before it would find a natural outlet. No action can lead to continued flooding of homes, damage to shoreline and septic systems, loss of trees, destruction of wildlife habitat, reduced water clarity, and challenging water quality.

12. Will an operating plan be developed?

An operating plan will be developed which will include details of oversight of the operations. While the governing body has not yet been determined, the LSLID will continue to be involved and the Morrison County Board has oversight over the LSLID. Even after the project is completed, State and Local regulations will be followed to ensure no negative impacts are created.

13. What is the Morrison County Flood Protection Ordinance?

Morrison County has enacted a Flood Protection Ordinance for the benefit of residents on Lake Shamineau and Crookneck Lake. The ordinance, which sunsets December 10, 2020, essentially relaxes the limits for grade and fill within the shore impact zone. Contact Amy Kowalzek at Morrison County Land Services for more information, and visit the LID website to view the ordinance.

14. How does the LSLID Board of Directors provide information on the high-water project?

- Two mailings were sent to property owners in October 2018 and January 2019.
- Beginning in 2019, electronic newsletters have been e-mailed to subscribers in February, March, April and May.
- Several meetings of the Board of Directors have been held to discuss tasks and approve project work. These meetings are open to the public with meeting notifications, agendas and notes provided on the LID website.
- An informational meeting will be held in July for property owners.
- The LID website includes project documentation, budget and finance information, schedules, meeting agendas and notes.

15. Is the LSLID Board working with other lake groups?

We have been in contact with the Options for High Water (OHW) group for input regarding the hiring of an engineering firm and used their comments in the development of the RFP. We have been in contact to request information from OHW regarding their testing and they have responded that they believe their specific testing data to be proprietary and have not shared it. More recently they have shared with us survey data that they had completed in January that will be of assistance in the establishment of a route. The LID Board will continue to meet and communicate with OHW to learn more about their project. The LSLID Board has also spoken to and attended meetings with other concerned property owners.

16. Is there a "No Wake Zone" on the lake?

The Morrison County Sheriff's office has established a 300 foot No Wake Zone on the lake. Until further notice or when the lake level returns to normal, there is a "No Wake (idle speed) Zone" within 300' of the shoreline around the entire lake.

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Lake Shamineau Improvement District Board of Directors

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