

Federal, State, Local Government, and Citizen Partnership Receives Lake Friendly Protection Award

BRAINERD, MN – October 21, 2013– The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Clean Water Legacy Project, Big Trout Lake Access Project received an award for partnership and protection of Big Trout Lake. The Award was presented as part of the 2013 Lake Friendly Award Ceremony on Thursday, October 17, 2013.

Darren Mayers, District Technician and Project Manger, “This project could not have been completed without the help of the many partners:

- The **US Army Corps of Engineers** own the access and provided volunteers.
- The **MN Department of Natural Resources Trails and Park** provided equipment and design to reconfigured current boat access.
- The **Whitefish Area Property Owner Association** contributed funds and volunteers to help plant the native plants.
- The **SWCD** provided Board of Water Soil Resource Clean Water Grant Funds to help with a 300 feet shoreline filter garden and raingardens to capture polluted runoff from Hwy 66 from entering the lake.”



l-r, Darren Mayers, SWCD, Heather Baird, DNR, Corrine Hodapp, USACOE, Tom Watson, WAPOA

Cumulatively, this partnership leveraged over \$ 30,000 of labor, supplies, and equipment from all the partners. Twenty-three volunteers worked for a total of 145 hours worth a \$ 3,000 in cost saving. This project was a huge success. Many thanks to all partners and volunteers.

Melissa Barrick, District Manager, “This is a great an example of State, Federal, and Local Government working together to protect and enhance Crow Wing County (CWC) water quality. This project is a priority in Crow Wing County (CWC) Water Plan because Big Trout Lake is the deepest lake in CWC, contains lake trout that need cold and clean water, and has decline in water quality.”

For more information on the program contact melissa.barrick@crowwingswcd.org or by phone 218-828-6197.

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