



NEWSLETTER

COMMENTS FROM **The Chair**

November, 2022

Looking back over the last 18 years there have been a lot of significant accomplishments to protect our environment.

FOLLOW ON WEBSITE – www.prwa.us.

- Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan (WRAP). First 10-year plan complete, and the second ten-year plan started.
- The One Watershed One Plan for the Pine River Watershed (1W1P) was completed and we are into our second two year plan. This has provided \$462,000 for the first two year plan.
- A small Watershed Grant for the Whitefish Watershed, A sub-watershed of the Pine, was granted from the PCA for 4 years for \$300,000.
- A learning hub for the Pine River Watershed was just established at Happy Dancing Turtle to teach sustainable agriculture. This is a program called Grassland 2.0 and is a partnership with the University of Wisconsin. It provides both technical support along with grant funds to support our activities.
- The Harvest Dinner was held for the 12th year bringing together lake and farm people to celebrate our working together for water quality.

These accomplishments have been achieved with a network of volunteer organizations, like WAPOA, Cass County Farm Bureau, Crow Wing Forage Basin Advisory Council and many others, along with agencies like Crow Wing and Cass Soil and Water Conservation Districts, MN Pollution Control. For the PRWA contribution, it is the result of the dedicated Board Members



The Nicholson shoreline project on Roosevelt Lake completed in part by PRWA funding.

and the support of our membership which has provided the funds for us. THANKS!

When we started, we had very little operating costs which was good but we also had very little money to go toward projects. With the network that has been built, we now have significant funds for projects. The strength of this network

between agencies and volunteer organizations also is critical to implementing successful projects. The challenge is because we have grown and we haven't been able to find new Board members with particular skills, we now need to contract for services like website and finance which has significantly driven up operating costs.

The future of PRWA is dependent on both finding new Board Members and increasing our revenue from membership by increasing the number of members. Over the next two years we will continue to drive the projects noted above but also need to find new Board and watershed members. I ask your help that as you are working with the organizations you are involved with that you help us with recruiting. Your financial support has been fantastic and now I need your help recruiting.

Ron Meyer, *Board Chair, Pine River Watershed Alliance*

The Pine River One Watershed One Plan Update

The Pine River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) is a state-funded program meant to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans. To learn more about the 1W1P process and view the detailed plan visit, <https://www.crowwing.us/1476/One-Watershed-One-Plan-1W1P>.

All the Phase 1, Pine River One Watershed One Plan funding, \$482,000, has been encumbered towards projects. The watershed region did receive another \$482,000 for phase 2, which will need to be spent by 2024.

Category of Conservation	Goal	Status
Private Forest Management	20 Plans on 2,000 acres	27 Plans on 2606 acres
Pasture Management	Grazing & Soil Health	12 Projects on 420 acres
Shoreline & Raingardens	16 Projects	19 Projects
Culvert Inventory	Complete	Completed
Chloride Trainings & Equipment	Host 4 Workshops	Hosted 2 Workshops & 1:1 Meetings with Local Cities

Honorable Mention PRWA Contributors:

- Clamshell-Bertha Lake Association
- Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association
- Friends of Lower Hay Lake
- Hand/Hay Lakes Property Owners Association
- Happy Dancing Turtle
- Kimble Lake Association
- Lake Ada Association
- Lake Hattie Association
- Lake Washburn
- Pelican Lake Association
- Portage Chain of Lakes
- Roosevelt & Lawrence (RALALA)
- Upper Hay Lake Association
- Whitefish (WAPOA)



Celebrating the 2022 Educational Success at The National Loon Center in Crosslake, Minnesota.

The National Loon Center (NLC) ran tours on Cross Lake from July 21 through September 24, 2022. From members of the public to high school students, the StewardShip took 37 total educational trips. For many people, this was their first opportunity to observe the Minnesota state bird in such a fun and scientific manner. On-board naturalists, either one of the three NLC staff or a volunteer MN Master Naturalist, led the tours. To learn more about this and other programs at The NLC please contact Natasha Bartolotta, the communications & Outreach Coordinator.

Email: Natasha@nationallooncenter.org

Office: (218) 692-LOON

www.nationallooncenter.org



SMALL GRANTS!



SHORELINE EROSION? • PLANTING NATIVE FLOWERS? • REQUIRE A STORMWATER PLAN? • APPLY: www.prwa.us

Up to **\$18,000 of grants** to be awarded for proposals that fit one or more of the following priorities:

- Enhance and protect surface and aquifer water quality in the Pine River Watershed.

- Support sustainable riparian land management practices.
- Protect habitat for native plants and animals.

Application period is Dec 1, 2022–January 15, 2023

Questions? Contact Ron Meyer at rnsmeier@tds.net

Lead Tackle Collection Booth at the Lakers Lions Corn Feed

On August 20, 2022, the Crooked Lake Township (CLT) Lakes and Shores Committee along with the Lake Washburn Association (LWA) and the Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association (RALALA), collected 47 pounds, 14 ounces of lead tackle, exceeding the amount collected last year by almost 20 pounds – a fantastic result and according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), this result set a new record for a single-day lead tackle collection event!!

Again this year, anglers were encouraged to safely wrap and bring in lead fishing tackle to the Get the Lead Out (GTLO) booth at the Corn Feed where it was weighed and placed into hazardous waste bins for disposal. In exchange for turning in lead tackle, raffle tickets were given out for drawings that

afternoon. Prizes included fishing rods and reels, and gift certificates for lead free tackle. A Minn Kota trolling motor was the Grand Prize.

Research has shown that lead is toxic to loons, swans and other water birds who pick up small stones on the lake bottom to aid in their digestion. Just one split shot sinker - which to a loon may look like a pebble - can kill them if it is ingested.

The CLT Lakes and Shores Committee and the MPCA are grateful to all anglers who participated in the tackle exchange, and to everyone who stopped by the GTLO booth to pick up packets of lead-free tackle, learn about Aquatic Invasive Species, create a water safety T-shirt or just to chat.



Photos by Shelia Langer.

The lead tackle breakout for 2022 is: 20 lbs — Other/Township, 17 lbs 8 oz — RALALA & 10 lbs 6 oz — LWA. Thus RALALA won the friendly lead tackle competition with LWA. The amount of lead tackle collected in 2021 was 27 lbs 12 oz. Thus the 2 year lead tackle collection amount is 75 lbs 10 oz, very impressive!!!

The Crooked Lake Township Lakes and Shores committee consists of area residents and lake association members who are focused on continued efforts to raise awareness of AIS, shoreline restoration, water safety and water quality

Visit <https://www.landandwaters.org/post/lake-ossie-hosts-love-your-lake-landscape-tour>

Land & Waters Preservation Trust Announces Grant Fund Opportunity for 2022

Land & Waters Preservation Trust Endowment will be awarding up to \$18,000 in grants to worthy projects in March 2023. Land & Waters, administered by the Initiative Foundation, is a joint endowment of Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) and the Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA).

The Grant Application submission period is December 1, 2022 through January 15, 2023. Further information may be requested with a deadline of February 15, 2023. Grants will be made on March 1, 2023 and projects should be completed in 2023. Project grants will be made for proposals that fit one or more of the following priorities:

- Enhance and protect surface and aquifer water quality in the Pine River Watershed
- Support sustainable riparian land management practices
- Protect habitat for native plants and animals

Applicants can be lake associations, environmental groups, or local units of government. Projects proposed by the two parent organizations, WAPOA and PRWA, will also be considered.

To apply, go to the Pine River Watershed Alliance website (www.prwa.us), click “Resources & Links” to get grant guidelines and application. If there are questions regarding the grant process or application, contact Ron Meyer at rnsmeyer@tds.net.

Land & Waters Preservation Trust was created by Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) and the Pine River Watershed Alliance (PRWA) and is a Turn Key Fund of the Initiative Foundation. Land & Waters Preservation Trust is a grant making endowment fund directed to preserving and protecting the water quality in the Pine River Watershed. More information is available from WAPOA, PRWA, or the Initiative Foundation.

Applicant	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Granted
Camp Knutson	Shoreland Restoration - +/- 4,000 ft ²	\$3,034	\$3,034
SWCD/Kastner	Lower Whitefish Shoreline Restoration – Total Cost = \$17,250	\$3,000	\$3,000
RALALA/Nicholson	Roosevelt Lake Shoreline Restoration, - Total Cost = \$20,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
RALALA/Olson	Roosevelt Lake Shoreline Restoration, - Total Cost = \$35,000 to \$40,000	\$3,500	\$3,500

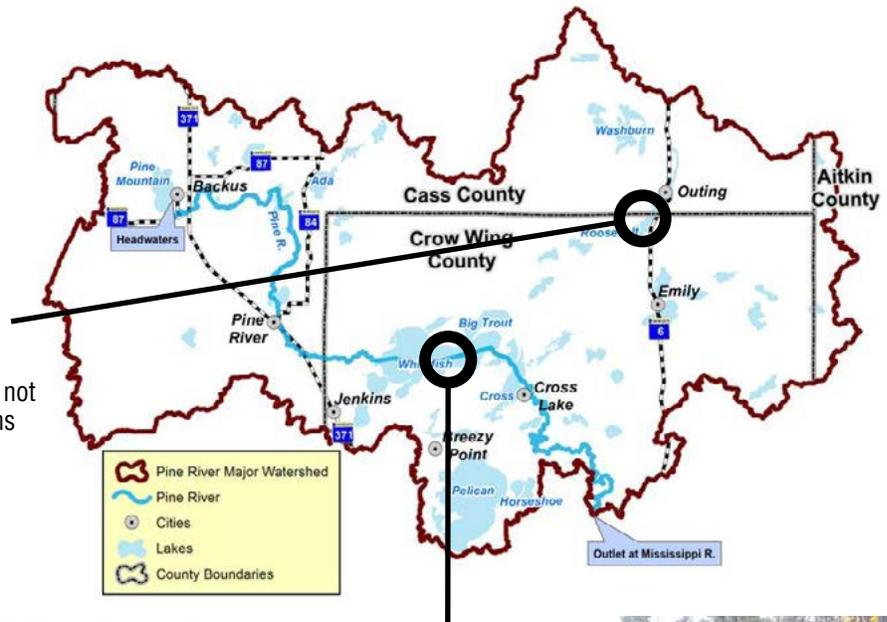
Featured Projects



MALBARI: Bart & Cyrus are conservationists at heart and wanted to stabilize their shoreline, enhance the vegetative buffer below their lawn & restore a failing hillside near their home. They worked with Minnesota Native Landscape Co. to not only establish long-term erosion control solutions but also add pollinator habitat to the landscape.



Please reference the PRWA website or Facebook Page to view The 2022 PRWA Accomplishments.



KASTNER: The Kastner's are located on the Lower Whitefish Chain of Lakes & were experiencing washout due to wave action, lack of deep-rooted vegetation and a shoreline area used for recreation. Contractors were able to restore the shoreline using natural tree material that will catch and re-build soil while simultaneously growing native vegetation that will be able to withstand the waves and use in the future.



2022 Local Farm Tours

In September the Crow Wing River basin Forage Council hosted three farm tours in the Pine River Area. It was the second day of tours featuring a young rancher, Issac Tappenden, the farm manager at Greener Pastures Farm in Missouri. Greener Pastures Farm is owned by Greg and Jan Judy, leaders in adaptive grazing management.

The first stop was at the Borman ranch and included cover cropping, paddock subdivisions, and water distribution systems that were funded through the Pine River One Watershed One Plan. There were good discussions on the complexity and challenges livestock producers face in implementing adaptive grazing management.

Next we toured the Hedlund Farm where they are in their second year of implementing cover crops into row crops to stabilize soil and take up residual nutrients. There was a good discussion on soil health principles and the benefits of well managed livestock.

The final stop was at the Stattelmann Ranch to tour their grazing



operation. A grass based operation that doesn't feed any silage or grain, this ranch is a good example of how we can raise livestock in a way that protects water quality and is economically viable.

The Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council is a networking group of the Sustainable Farming Association of MN and is organized by local volunteers and resource professionals. These events are open to the public, please join us.

For more information go to:

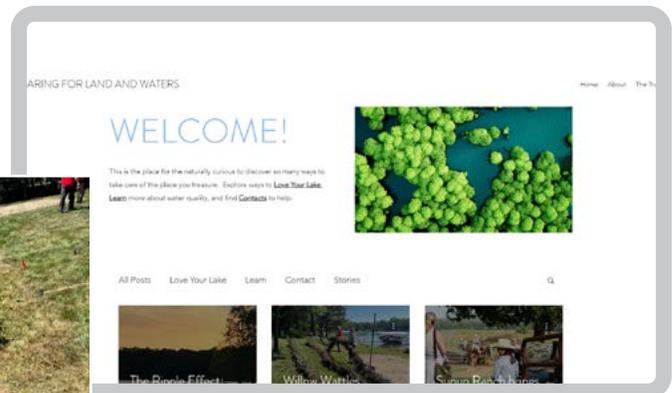
<https://www.sfa-mn.org/forage-council>

Blog Highlight

Jodi Eberhardt, PRWA board member & watershed resident, is the star behind a blog in The Brainerd Lakes Area with a topic for anyone to enjoy and learn about how to care for our lakes and streams. Caring for Land & Waters Blog articles feature local project such as shoreline restoration, lake tours, local conservationists being recognized and other ways to be mindful of our environment.

One recent article highlighting a 2022 shoreline restoration highlights the start-finish process of utilizing willow wattles to restore, enhance & permanently hold a shoreline using only native plants and biodegradable materials.

Willow Wattles Combat Wave Action on Lake Ossie (landandwaters.org)




PINE RIVER
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Become a member. Donate. It all helps.

The Pine River Watershed Alliance is supported by grants, memberships, and contributions from residents and friends of the watershed, not by tax money. Your membership and gifts will help protect area land, lakes, rivers and streams for future generations. *Thank you!*

NEW!!! Online Membership is now available! prwa.us/shop.
Find membership and donation information at: prwa.us