

**Lake Orono Water Quality Committee (LOWQC)
Annual Action Plan**

For

**City of Elk River,
Lake Orono Improvement Association, Inc.
and
Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District**

This is an action plan for the Lake Orono Water Quality Committee whose membership represent the City of Elk River, the Lake Orono Improvement Association, Inc., hereinafter called LOIA and the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District, hereinafter called SWCD.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this document is to clearly identify and coordinate the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to improving and protecting water “quality of use” and depth in Lake Orono and to affect the attitudes of the public regarding both.

In particular, this document is intended to define each partner’s role in:

- Protecting and/or improving the water quality of Lake Orono
- Protecting and/or improving the water depth of Lake Orono
- Protecting and/or improving the habitat of Lake Orono
- Promoting environmentally friendly land use and zoning regulations
- Controlling invasive species
- Increasing awareness of water quality and depth issues and promote Best Management Practices

II. BACKGROUND

Prior to 1990, LOIA created a Sedimentation Task Force to study the perceived filling in of Lake Orono. They took extensive readings of the lake bottom and created marketing materials to promote their cause.

In 1995, Hank Duitsman became the Mayor of Elk River. In February of that year he attended a LOIA Annual Meeting and became aware of the sedimentation problem. After this meeting he assigned a City Staff person, the Building and Zoning Administrator, to the issue and to meet with LOIA. Regular meetings were set up by the City Staff person. The City Staff person also coordinated efforts with state agencies. A representative from the SWCD also attended those meetings. It was the combined participation of the LOIA, City of Elk River and SWCD that provided the proper foundation to execute an effective action plan that addressed the Lake Orono sedimentation issue.

In 1996 a sedimentation study was completed by an independent consultant, Wenck & Associates, a public hearing was held, and the lake was dredged in 1998.

After the lake was dredged, the group decided to continue as there were outstanding water quality issues as evident in the study and a Lake Assessment Program completed by the DNR. Later they changed the name to the Lake Orono Water Quality Task Force, and subsequently to Committee, as it was evident that the issues were long term. As such, this Annual Action Plan is meant to provide a more formal working framework ensuring the ongoing continuity of Lake Orono environmental activities.

III. LOIA RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS Action Plan

LOIA shall undertake the following activities:

- Provide staff expertise and time relevant to the purpose and scope of this action plan
- Write agendas, chair LOWQC meetings, take minutes and post on the LOIA website
- Provide volunteers and equipment for water quality and depth related projects (e.g. pontoons/boats, waders, rakes/cutters, cameras, chemical testing)
- Participate in the MPCA Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (SECCHI disk), report data annually to MPCA and share data with other parties
- Provide funding support as approved by the LOIA Membership for lake management plan projects and promote Best Management Practices (e.g. buffer strips, rain gardens, erosion control, storm water management, silt fencing, sedimentation ponds, cluster developments, etc.)
- Notify parties of opportunities and concerns (grants, events, meetings, variances, workshops, etc.)
- Maintain records for lake chemical and SECCHI disk testing

IV. CITY OF ELK RIVER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS Action Plan

The City of Elk River shall undertake the following activities:

- Provide staff expertise and time relevant to the purpose and scope of this action plan supporting City Council approved lake projects
- Write, modify and enforce ordinances relevant to Lake Orono concerns
- Provide funding support as approved by the City Council for lake management plan projects (e.g. fish stocking, goose trapping, chemical testing and sedimentation study/control)
- Coordinate, inform, seek advice, write permit applications, and solicit funding or labor from other agencies and City departments (e.g. DNR, MPCA, BWSR, Army Corps of Engineers, Sherburne County, Sentence-to-Serve (STS), the City of Elk River City Council, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Environmental Departments, Elk River Municipal Utilities)

- Promote Best Management Practices (e.g. buffer strips, rain gardens, erosion control, storm water management, silt fencing, sedimentation ponds, cluster developments, etc.)
- Notify parties of opportunities and concerns (grants, events, meetings, variances, workshops, etc.)
- Pursue funding opportunities, sponsor grants
- Train and/or inform citizens regarding Best Management Practices
- Maintain official records regarding lake management activities
- Sponsor and be fiscal agent for grants
- Advise on and assist with evaluating effectiveness of adopted lake management activities

V. SWCD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS Action Plan

The SWCD shall undertake the following activities:

- Provide staff expertise and time relevant to the purpose and scope of this action plan
- Train volunteers in approved methods (i.e. collecting water samples, water quality monitoring, planting buffers, etc.)
- Coordinate, inform, seek advice and funding or labor from other agencies (e.g. Elk River Watershed Board, Sherburne County, DNR, MPCA, BWSR)
- Promote Best Management Practices (e.g. buffer strips, rain gardens, erosion control, storm water management, silt fencing, sedimentation ponds, cluster developments, etc.)
- Notify parties of opportunities and concerns (grants, events, meetings, variances, workshops, etc.)
- Sponsor watershed-wide activities
- Advise on and assist with evaluating effectiveness of adopted lake management activities

VII. FUNDING

Activities requiring funding, or funding reimbursement between the parties, must be mutually agreed upon in advance. A receipt is required and must be submitted within the fiscal year.

Activities may be funded in part or whole by the respective parties.

Program activities should not supplant existing outreach programs, and when operating in conjunction with existing programs, enhance and/or supplement them.