



Citizen Input Summary

Citizens Advisory Group, Meeting #2

December 7, 2010

Meeting Goal and Structure

Following the first informational meeting held in September on the Lake Management Plan process for Crosby Lake, Minnesota Waters planned and facilitated the second meeting to gain input from community members on their priorities and concerns for the future of Crosby Lake. The 20 participants were broken down into three small groups and asked to write their three top concerns, challenges or issues pertaining to the management and future of Crosby Lake on separate post-it notes. They were then asked to place each of these ideas under one of eight action areas identified by CRWD as relevant to the scope of a lake management plan, and give a short explanation of their idea to provide more detail. The small groups then discussed and identified their highest priorities and reported back to the large group. Notes were taken by several facilitators throughout the meeting and the following report was compiled by Alex Gehrig of Minnesota Waters.

Priority Issues within Action Areas

Water Quality

Inputs

Understanding how water flows into Crosby Lake and the potential that runoff has for carrying pollutants and sediment to the water body was an important common concern. Citizens largely identified this as an issue of managing water quality. Some specific thoughts and ideas include:

- Need to identify all the inlets and potential sources for pollution
- Both point and non-point source pollution have to be studied
- Old printing plant outlet near Crosby Lake needs to be eliminated
- Evaluate threat to lake from nearby marina – during flooding there is potential for gasoline pollution
- Drainage from Shepard road to the lake is an issue
- Evaluate negative impacts from bluff erosion
- Need to address the salt in runoff and its affect on the lake

Other ideas raised

- Addressing water quality is fundamental to utilizing Crosby Lake as an example to the nation for progressive conservation.
 - o It should be made a natural clean lake with pre-industrial conditions
 - o Growing wild rice as an indicator that high water quality standards are met
- Maintain Crosby Lake as a lake; avoid the natural process of filling in from sedimentation to form a marsh.
- Need to have long term protection of the lake

Watershed Land Use Management

Flooding

- Need to establish a consistent flood plan
- There is a need for improved outlet flow between lake and river

Litter/trash

- Trash comes down from the bluff top – Shepard road
- Run-off from the 35E bridge dumps trash (plastic bottles) near the lake

Erosion

- Incorporate Highland Ravine study into management plan. It is part of the watershed and has erosion issues.

Park Use and Management

Development

- This is a unique, national park in St. Paul and should be maintained in its natural state – no more paved paths
- Create a more stable and safe path between the two lakes (marsh boardwalk)

Erosion

- Trails and bluffs need to be managed to reduce sediment flow to lake

Education and Outreach

- There is a lack of public awareness about issues involving Crosby Lake
- It is necessary to have an educated community in order to have positive change
- Work with local Dakota tribe representatives who have an historical and cultural tie to the area.

Plant Fishery and Wildlife Management

While these were presented as three separate areas for action, there was common recognition that they are interrelated and often are affected by and/or directly impact water quality.

- Need to eliminate and manage exotic plants, both aquatic and terrestrial (shoreline)
- Re-establish and promote native vegetation in and out of lake
- Algal growth has negative impact on aesthetics, both in lake and along outlet channels
- Healthy fish means a healthy lake
- Ensure safe nesting for birds and habitat for wildlife
- The wildlife value of the lake is important
- Deer hunting should not be allowed in the park

Solutions

Following each participant's identification of top concerns and ideas, small groups discussed possible solutions for the challenges they identified. While participants did not always explicitly state which action area their solution addressed, they have been categorized appropriately below.

Water Quality

- Identify all point and non-point source pollution and address each individually through appropriate BMPs
- Track sources of pollution through monitoring data.
- Conduct an erosion study of bluff areas

Watershed and Park Land Use Management

- Install fence at top of bluff to avoid litter coming down into lake area
- Conduct trash clean-ups
- Determine what chemicals are used at golf course, apartments upstream and look for them in Crosby Lake

Education and Outreach

- Share monitoring data with public through website
- Install educational kiosk near lake to highlight lake's health and promote lake friendly behavior
- Use park as an outdoor classroom
- Establish park as a model for community clean up efforts
- Revive an anti-litter campaign

Plant Fishery and Wildlife Management

- Restore native vegetation throughout park
- Ask fisherman what they have been catching
- Analyze fish for pollution/contaminants

Questions

As participants brought up and talked about their ideas and concerns for Crosby Lake, they frequently asked questions that went along with their input. With the exception of the last question*, they were not specifically addressed at the second meeting.

What are all the inlets and sources of pollution that affect Crosby Lake?

Is there a flood plan?

Is there a better outlet solution for flooding? What are the consequences for the river/lake?

Does flooding from river improve the water quality of the lake?

Is the connecting waterway between the lake and river healthy?

How do water levels fluctuate? Can we achieve better management by changing water levels?

Is there value in deepening the lake?

Is algal growth an indicator of poor water quality?

What is already in the lake in terms of pollution and nutrient loading?

Is bluff erosion worse in particular areas? It seems worse on the west side.

Are there management plans for each of the inlets identified (35E outlets, storm sewers, river floods)?

How can we restore a wild rice population?

Is submerged aquatic vegetation a concern?

How will Highland Ravine study be incorporated into this plan?

*What is the goal for Crosby Lake – restore to pristine conditions, or just improve?

- Anna Eleria responded that the goal was to improve, not attempt to restore the lake to pristine conditions.

Next Steps

Upon review of the Citizen Input Summary, CRWD staff will incorporate concerns and ideas from participants into the lake management plan that fit within the framework of the District's rules and priorities. It was explained at the beginning of the meeting that CRWD highly values the input of citizens and considers it important to incorporate it into plans for Crosby Lake, but that not all input could be feasibly addressed through the District's planning process.

The incorporated input will be presented along with the rest of the lake management plan document at the third and final meeting for the Crosby Lake Citizen Advisory Group in early spring of 2011. Citizens will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the plan at that time.