



## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** LMRWMO Board of Managers  
**From:** Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD  
**Subject:** 2021 Water Monitoring Planning  
**Date:** March 2, 2021

### **WATER MONITORING HISTORY**

The LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies the need to evaluate and track water quality trends through monitoring of DNR protected water bodies within the WMO. Monitoring efforts since 2011 have focused on lakes larger than 10 acres and on water bodies identified by the member Cities to be of interest. The attached monitoring summary table shows the lakes historically monitored by the LMRWMO and Member Cities, primarily through the Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) with volunteer coordination, data analysis processing, and Met. Council coordination provided by the Dakota County SWCD.

### **RECOMMENDED 2021 WATER MONITORING**

Dakota County SWCD staff recommends continuing to monitor Thompson Lake, Pickerel Lake, Seidl's Lake, Lake Augusta, Schmitt Lake, Dickman Lake, Interstate Valley Creek, and Ivy Falls Creek in 2021. The water quality data is useful in tracking the effectiveness of LMRWMO past and potential future projects implemented to improve the water quality of those waterbodies. To maintain baseline data, Dickman and Schmitt lakes are also recommended for monitoring in 2021.

If LMRWMO member Cities would like additional lakes to be included in the 2021 contract between the Met Council and LMRWMO, please propose them at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, as the Met Council has a March deadline to submit lakes to be included in the CAMP program.

### **LAKE MONITORING PROCESS**

The CAMP program obtains data on eutrophication parameters only, which include total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and Secchi depth. CAMP volunteers also collect surface temperature data and note general observations such as water color, odor, wind conditions, lake level, amount of aquatic plants, physical condition, and recreational suitability.

The cost per lake for CAMP covers the training, monitoring equipment, and monitoring supplies for each CAMP volunteer, as well as the laboratory analysis.

### **STREAM MONITORING PROCESS**

Dakota County SWCD staff are coordinating with a volunteer stream monitor at Interstate Valley Creek and Ivy Falls Creek (2 sites). The sample analysis occurs through the Met Council's lab. Staff is currently seeking permission to enter private property to access a new monitoring location on Ivy Falls Creek for ease in sample gathering and safety concerns over a site identified in previous years.

### **2021 WATER MONITORING COST ESTIMATE**

Thompson Lake	CAMP - 7 Events	\$380
Pickerel Lake	CAMP - 7 Events	\$380
Seidls Lake	CAMP - 7 Events	\$380
Lake Augusta	CAMP - 14 Events	\$760
Schmitt Lake	CAMP - 7 Events	\$380
Dickman Lake	CAMP - 7 Events	\$380
Interstate Valley Creek	CAMP - 7 Events	\$400
Ivy Falls Creek (2 sites)	CAMP - 14 Events	\$800
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,860</b>

The current 2021 LMRWMO Budget and 2021 SWCD Work Plan includes services for data management, volunteer coordination, and backup water monitoring if the volunteer is unavailable. SWCD staff can reach out to landowners on Dickman and Schmitt Lakes to solicit volunteer water monitors.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Metropolitan Council's 2020 CAMP data is not yet fully available. When this information becomes available, Dakota SWCD staff will update, finalize, and post the attached 2020 monitoring reports on the LMRWMO website.

### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

- Determine which waterbodies to fund water quality monitoring for 2021. SWCD staff recommend Thompson Lake, Pickerel Lake, Seidls Lake, Lake Augusta, Schmitt Lake, Dickman Lake, Interstate Valley Creek, and Ivy Falls Creek (2 sites)
- Authorize the Administrator to execute an agreement with the Metropolitan Council for 2021 water monitoring through the CAMP program

**ATTACHED:** Summary Table of Past and Future LMRWMO Water Monitoring  
DRAFT 2020 LMRWMO Monitoring Reports