



# NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2019

SPECIAL  
EDITION

No. 37

### Current conditions

According to volunteer Al Doree, the last official lake level gauge reading was 1277.52 feet above sea level on October 3, 2019. Al's last reading on November 3 was 1277.85 feet, making it 2.75 feet above the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) of 1275.1 feet above sea level. He also reported 31.01 inches of rainfall at his gauge on the east side of the lake since April 2019.

East Shamineau Drive has been flooded. Scandia Valley Township raised the two-lane asphalt road this past fall, but with the massive rainfall received in October, had to raise the road again because the new roadway was flooding and with the freezing temperatures was nearly impassable. Residents along the roadway were informed that the post office would no longer deliver there. Due to funding and the uncertainty of future flooding, only one lane of the road was raised. The road is currently very

narrow due to all the snow we have received so far this year.

Cantleberry Road has frozen over at this time. Residents were told to move their mailboxes to higher ground for mail delivery.

A portion of West Shamineau Drive has been closed. Residents can get to their homes by using different routes.

Several Twin Cities television news stations have broadcast reports on the high-water issues facing Lake Shamineau as well as a story by the Brainerd Dispatch with video. Links to these can be found on the LSA website. ↗

### SPECIAL EDITION

This special edition of the Lake Shamineau Association Newsletter is being published to update our members and other lake property owners about the high-water situation.

### LSLID continues work on high-water mitigation project

The Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID) has continued to work toward the goal of the high-water outlet project to determine a solution to the high-water problem that is the most feasible, cost effective, timely, and that will minimize ongoing maintenance and future operating costs.

To reduce the lake level by one foot requires removing approximately 470 million gallons of water. A lake level elevation goal has not yet been determined but will most likely be close to the Ordinary High-Water Level (OHWL) of 1275.10 feet above sea level.

LSLID has an agreement with Widseth Smith Nolting (WSN) Engineering to develop a high-water outlet solution to pump water from the lake. The recommendation is for a route to the northeast of the lake to infiltrate (naturally soak into the ground without any standing water). Infiltrating provides a cost-effective method to eliminate the transfer of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Utilizing natural sands is an eco-friendly way to clean out the AIS and is less expensive than mechanical filters. Removal of over one billion gallons of water is needed to get the lake down.

Since the August 2019 Annual LSLID Meeting, there has been significant progress in determining a route and working with property owners. In addition, the plan has been modified to include submersible pumps for sound mitigation. The required Department of Natural Resources (DNR) archeological study for permitting has been completed, additional borings, surveys and design work for the pumping area have been completed, and there have been good meetings and positive communications with the DNR and other agencies. The LSLID will soon be providing an update through their e-newsletter which will include information on the timeline.

The LSLID has been publishing a monthly email newsletter to keep people informed. All issues can be accessed on the LSLID website

<<https://minnesotawaters.org/lakeshamineau/lid/>>. If you would like to be added to the Lake Improvement District electronic newsletter subscriber list, send a text to 22828 with the message LAKESHAMINEAU or send an email to <[LSLIDBD@gmail.com](mailto:LSLIDBD@gmail.com)>. This electronic newsletter is different from the Lake Shamineau Association (LSA) Newsletter (this publication). ↗



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**Mission Statement:** The Lake Shamineau Association is an organization dedicated to lake conservation, to wildlife habitat, to building of community.

#### **Association Board Members**

President.: Tim Swanson, 651-698-8246  
Vice Pres: Dave Graning, 763-261-4812  
Secretary: Sandy Williams, 651-487-7916  
Treasurer: Pat Held, 218-575-2400  
Mark Frisk, 218-352-6697  
Bob Ingle, 612-759-6711  
Randy Kevern, 218-575-2844  
Don Kirchner, 218-368-9560  
Jacquie Rognli, 763-441-7239  
Kim Salisbury, 218-575-2097  
Dale Williams, 651-357-0762

#### **Association**

#### **Volunteer Committees**

Communications: Newsletter & website-  
Jacquie Rognli; Secretary-Sandy Williams  
Fishing: Rick Rosar  
Ice Damage & Jacking: Deryl Ramey  
Membership: Kim Salisbury  
Al Doree Water Quality: Al Doree; Bob  
Koll, Bob Ingle, Dave Graning, Dale  
Williams  
Lake Level: Dale Williams, Daryl Ramey,  
Dave Graning  
Loons & Wildlife: Diane Schroepfer

#### **Membership**

The membership year for the Lake Shamineau Association is June 1 to May 31. Annual dues are \$20.00. Three-year membership is \$55.00. Non-property owners can join for a \$10.00 associate membership.

#### **Donations**

The Lake Shamineau Association is a 501C3 non-profit institution. Donations and dues are tax deductible with your check as a receipt.

#### **Meetings**

Lake Association Annual Membership meeting is held the Saturday of Memorial weekend.

#### **Newsletter**

The newsletter is published two times a year. Deadlines are April 15 & July 15. Submissions can be sent to Jacquie Rognli, editor at [LakeShamineau@gmail.com](mailto:LakeShamineau@gmail.com)

## **Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force organized**

In the fall, the Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID) was beginning to assemble an inflow committee and the LSLID board felt that given the grim situation on the lake, it was better to start the process as soon as possible rather than wait for the spring thaw. Bob Koll began contacting individuals who were interested in being part of this committee based upon emails received and comment cards from the LSLID annual meeting. During the initial communications, a majority felt that instead of being a LSLID committee, they would organize what is now called the Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force (LSETF). The initial meetings were attended by individuals from the LSLID, Lake Shamineau Association (LSA), Options for High Water (OHW) and other interested property owners.

During these initial meetings, some of the members were going to see if they could free up some money to assist in this important effort. The LSLID budget had already been approved by the LID members at the August annual meeting and did not include funds for an inflow and outflow project. However, the LSA Board has now passed a motion to assist with funds by matching donations up to \$5,000 (see page 3).

The LSETF originally attempted to begin a temporary pumping project and the LSLID board began meeting with property owners. As the cold weather set in, it became apparent that temporary pumping would be difficult to get started in the frigid temperatures and the LSETF instead began analyzing the inflow and outflows and focus on those areas with hopes of beginning a temporary pumping project in the spring time that might be utilized until the permanent LSLID outlet control structure could be constructed.

Many agencies have been involved and helping with this high-water situation. They include Scandia Valley Township, Morrison County Public Works, Minnesota DNR, Morrison County Administrator, Soil and Water of Morrison County, Soil and Water of Todd County, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and many private property owners in the impact areas. The group has looked at the watershed areas that help dissipate the water away from Lake Shamineau. This effort has been the main topic of the Emergency Task Force group. The goal is to restore the flowage areas that have been impacted by human and beaver activity in the last 40 years. By cleaning and restoring these drainage areas the water will flow away from Shamineau instead of into Shamineau.

In their analysis, the LSETF has divided the wetlands south of Lake Shamineau into three separate drainage areas that help dissipate the water away from the lake. Identifying the areas makes it easier for discussion purposes and identifying features unique to each direction of water flowage.

A rough map of the watershed areas can be found on the back page with more detail available on the website. The three areas are:

1. **The Southwest Drainage.** This area includes movement of water in a southwest direction from Lake Shamineau, through Lake Lena, under Highway 10, through Cass County Lake, towards Fish Trap Creek.
2. **The South of County Road 203 Drainage.** This area is the old established drainage ditch (originally dug out in the 1930s) that flows in a westerly direction, starting at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue flowing west to and under Highway 10, then west towards Todd County, continuing west to Fish Trap Creek.
3. **The Southeast Drainage Area.** This is the largest watershed area and starts at 30th Avenue and runs east to 70th Avenue. The north boundary is the southeast side of Lake Shamineau and the south boundary is Lake Alexander. This area includes Bernhart Lake located just northwest of Lake Alexander.

The goal is to restore the flowage areas that have been impacted by humans and beavers. By cleaning and restoring these drainage areas, the water will flow away from Shamineau instead of into Shamineau. The plan is to identify the most effective means to move the most water before the 2020 spring melt. ■

# Progress from the Emergency Task Force

The focus of the Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force (LSETF) is to reduce the water flowing into our lake and to repair our watershed to its previous condition. The plan is to lower blockages from west to east to get the water flowing out to the west and not into Shamineau.

Water is now flowing over a beaver dam that was causing blockage in the #1 Southwest drainage area in Todd County. This has been accomplished by means of a 20-foot length of 14-inch diameter siphon pipe flowing over the dam. Elevations are being reviewed with the DNR and Todd County Soil and Water to install leveling devices into the same beaver dam to lower the water to the OHWL of Cass County Lake, which was established in 1993 at 1273.6 feet. Preliminary data shows Lake Shamineau at 2-1/2 feet higher. There will be additional work to accomplish on drainage area #1. For now, some water is flowing away from the lake.

The next area that is being worked on is #2 South of County Road 203 Drainage. This ditch needs to be cleaned out as nature has clogged the ditch over the years. Why this ditch cleanout you may ask? There is nearly 4-foot elevation drop between 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Highway 10. The ditch and wetland are so plugged up with vegetation the water is currently backed up to the east, all the way to Bugle Road. This backup of non-flowage is contributing to the flowage into the southeast side of Lake Shamineau. By cleaning out the existing drainage ditch, allowing the ditch to flow to the west, this will take water away from Lake Shamineau.

There are ten private property owners on this ditch cleanout corridor. Morrison County Soil and Water requires a permit to clean the ditch from each of the ten owners. This process is almost complete. The next step is to get bids from excavators that can complete this type of work. Scandia Valley Township is interested in helping financially as the roads and residents of the Township are also impacted from the high water. This whole project benefits all residents within the entire watershed, and as well as property owners on Crookneck Lake.

The #3 Southeast Drainage Area will be looked at next.

For now, Number 1 and Number 2 Drainage Areas will move the most water in the least amount of time. A Todd County Soil and Water Technician said it best, "Move as much water now, before spring, while the downstream tributaries can handle the water." ■

## Donations needed to get water flowing away from lake

A plan to clean a two mile stretch of ditches on private and public property to divert water away from Shamineau has been approved by all parties involved in this cooperative project with a goal to have it completed in January. This flowage project **does NOT replace the LSLID pumping project** which is needed to remove over one billion gallons from the lake.

The good news is that many people and agencies are working together to carry out these activities which we expect will make our watershed better for next spring and summer. Scandia Valley Township has committed to funding a portion of the ditch cleaning project. To offset the remaining costs, the Lake Shamineau Association (LSA) is spearheading a fund-raising campaign to raise \$10,000 for work to be

completed in January. The LSA will match every dollar donated for the first \$5000 raised in private contributions. Your contribution of \$250 becomes \$500!! Please support this campaign so we can move quickly with ditch cleaning. Thank you to those who have already donated and to all our current dues paying members.

Please help! Send your check payable to: **Lake Shamineau Association, PO Box 152, Motley, MN 56466**. Your dollars will be doubled with a match from the LSA, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Progress in reaching our target will be posted on the LSA website. Our goal is to raise \$5000 with a Lake Shamineau Association match of \$5000 before January 15, 2020. ■



Siphon over beaver dam in the #1 Southwest drainage area. Private donations and volunteers have made this possible,

## Your help needed to appeal to your legislators

Your help is needed convincing Minnesota legislators to support the DNR bonding bill, particularly the provision for monies dedicated to the Flood Hazard mitigation grant. If the DNR bill passes we are likely to receive additional grant money for our LID High-Water Mitigation Project. If

the bill fails, we will get nothing. Contact information for your state representatives and senators can be accessed at <<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legdir>> This is the most important thing residents can do right now. The DNR needs our help in getting this bill passed. ■

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## Lake Shamineau Drainage Watershed Areas

1. Southwest
2. South 203
3. Southeast

