

Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force

In the fall of 2019, the Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID) was beginning to assemble an inflow committee, and the LSLID board felt, given the emergency 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) and Options for High Water (OHW).

During these initial meetings, some of the LSA members were going to report back to their board and see if they could free up some monies to assist in this important effort. However, the budget had already been approved by the LID members at the annual meeting and did not include funds for inflow and outflow.

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 would instead begin 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. They have put their heads together to look at the watershed areas that help dissipate the water away from Lake Shamineau. This effort also has been the main topic of the Emergency Task Force group. The goal is to restore the flowage areas that have been impacted by humans 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. The identified areas make it easier for discussion purposes and identifying features unique to each direction of water flowage.



Spring 2020 Update from the Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force from LSA Newsletter

The Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force (LSETF) is made up of individuals from all of the various groups that have been grappling with high water on Shamineau. Here is an update on projects.

The South of County Road 203 Drainage.

The goal for this area was to have the original drainage ditch cleaned out so that impounded surface water could flow. This ditch exists between 30th Ave. and Morrison County Line Road west of Highway 10, just over 2 miles long. Scandia Valley Township paid for this project and water is flowing. An additional cleanout west of Morrison County Line Road was completed with funds provided by The Lake Shamineau Association with Todd County agencies cooperating. This was a needed addition to the ditch cleanup and improved the water flowing away from Shamineau. Any water removed from the drainage ditch allows for the water (aquifer) to move horizontally and this will aid in moving water away from Shamineau.

The Southeast Drainage Area.

This area is east of 30th Ave to Bugle Road, south of Co. Road 203 and includes the area north of County Rd 3 on the north side of Lake Alexander. The goal for this area is to reduce the inflows to Lake Shamineau. We believe that most of the excess surface water from this area is now flowing north through the Aquatic Management Area (AMA) which flows into the SE bay of Shamineau. This seems most pronounced in times of heavy rainfall and early spring runoff. This area presents some challenges. Much of the area is a wetland, so permitting for drainage is difficult since the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) doesn't allow drainage of wetlands.

Currently Morrison County is reviewing this area to help with ideas to assist us. We believe that modification to drainage and culverts that were made when County Road 3 was changed in 2006 (near Castaway on Lake Alexander) restricts water from flowing south. The LSETF is exploring some possible options including: creating a water impoundment, overland pumping to an established ditch and reestablishing flows south.

There are many agencies involved, county/state/federal. Private landowners in this area are cooperative and hope to see less standing water. Scandia Valley Township is very positive and County support is building. Stay tuned. We continue to pursue options to stop the inflow of water into Lake Shamineau. Our new ditch has provided us with some new opportunities to move water away from the lake which we will continue to pursue.

Update on temporary pumping

The LSETF is working to install a temporary pumping station that will begin pumping ASAP. The DNR is granting a permit for emergency pumping. This is not the LID project as they are working on a permanent/long term pumping plan. Goals for the LSETF are to reduce lake levels by 12" by end of summer. The project seeks to be: quiet (pump may be electric); high capacity; and cost



Drainage ditch south of County Road 203

Your membership dues and generous donations help make this flood mitigation work possible.
THANK YOU!

effective.

Fall 2020

A Report on activities of the Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force from LSA Newsletter

By Dale Williams, LSA Board Member

A group of LSA members met after the spring 2019 association meeting and expressed interest in discussing immediate actions that could be taken to address the lake's high water. Questions were asked like: Are beaver dams restricting the lake's outflow? Are ditches clogged? What about inflows to the lake? Recognizing that the LSLID was working and fully engaged in a long-term permanent pumping solution this group was interested in projects that might offer more immediate relief. The group wanted to keep the LSLID informed of its efforts but it was a separate group of motivated individuals who would have its own agenda while sharing a common goal with the LSLID to get the Lake Shamineau water level to an acceptable, sustainable level.

It was and continues to be important that the Emergency Task Force (ETF) was open to all individuals and groups seeking a solution to the high water. Diversity on the committee has led to better solutions and has resulted in more consensus which leads to better support from governing agencies.

The first project implemented was installing a siphon over a beaver dam in Cass County Lake west of Lake Lena. The LSA Board approved funds for building the siphon and ETF members did the installation. This allowed impounded water to continue on its normal pathway to Fish Trap Creek leading to the Long Prairie River. Shamineau is a part of the Long Prairie watershed. Like Fish Trap Lake and Lake Alexander, water from Lake Shamineau finds its way into the Long Prairie by way of Fish Trap Creek. Fish Trap Creek flows year-round carrying water from the Lincoln Area Lakes.

Shortly thereafter the ETF addressed the large amount of water that continued to grow south of County Road 203 between Hwy 10 and 30th Ave (just east of the Friendly Inn). There was an established ditch through this wetland which could be cleaned. Members of the ETF obtained permission from the affected landowners which led to granting permission to have the ditch cleaned. The LSA Board helped make this happen by paying for culverts in some of the affected properties. Scandia Valley Township was instrumental in moving this project forward. Again, there was widespread agreement by members of the ETF which helped influence governing agencies. After the successful ditch project ETF turned attention to the watershed area east of the ditch. Could we extend ditching one mile east to 40th Ave to capture water traveling north so that rather than flow into the lake this water would move west into the ditch? ETF has been studying the area between Lake Alexander (Co. Rd 3) and Co. Rd 203 and much of the surface water from the three sections of land bounded by Hwy 10 to the west, 203 to the north, Bugle Rd (#2) on the east and Co. Rd 3 on the south which flows north to Shamineau's inlet through the DNR Aquatic Management Area under 203 (near the snowmobile trail). Rather than have this excessive flow move into Lake Shamineau before continuing on to its eventual path to the Long Prairie River we wondered if this water might flow west before entering the inlet. We believe that much of this water used to flow south toward Lake Alexander. Because much of the area east of 30th is considered wetland and there is

no established ditch there and the Wetland Conservation Act restricts some ditching and drainage, we were not allowed to extend the ditch east. However, another option became available. We could create two temporary retention ponds at the culverts south of 203 near 40th Ave and pump from them to the ditch at 30th Ave. This project was tagged "Turn off the Faucet". Morrison County adopted the project to help move it forward and dedicated substantial funding for construction and engineering. Electric motors will move water to the ditch on 30th Ave and funds from LSA, LSLID and Scandia Valley will help cover those operating costs.

Through this whole process the ETF is mindful of being a good neighbor. These projects happen after many meetings and discussions with private landowners. These landowners are our neighbors and we thank them for their participation, for sharing their concerns and for considering design possibilities that could result in benefit to all parties. ETF wants to create solutions that are win-win for all parties. We think Lake Shamineau is a fantastic natural resource and a jewel for the entire community.

Our most recent project is the Ramey Pond Project. This is a test project to see how quickly the pond recharges itself after pumping. Ramey Pond is about 6 acres, is on the west end of the lake immediately across from Aztec Rd (202) and is bounded to the north by the golf course (the 13th hole). The LSLID helped in obtaining a

temporary permit from the DNR and DOT to do controlled pumping from Ramey Pond to the ditch along Hwy 10. Water is pumped in an 8-inch pipe to the junction of Hwy 10 and Aztec Rd., then flows in the ditch about a half mile south where it enters a culvert under Hwy 10 moving into Cass County Lake on the west side of Hwy 10. This is a small project, moving a relatively small amount of water. Water that eventually gets to Fish Trap Creek will be minimal. Much of the water pumped from Ramey Pond infiltrates into the ground before it enters the south culvert at Hwy 10. Water being pumped from the pond has been filtered by the adjoining wetland and is free of Aquatic Invasive Species. We believe that the aquifer under Shamineau and Ramey Pond is the same and that the pond will see recharge from the aquifer rather quickly. The floor of the pond is sand and we think is quite water-bearing. Pumping started on September 26, so information is just coming in. So far it appears that water is coming back into the pond over an 8 hour period to replace the water we have removed over a 12 hour period.

The constant financial support for these projects has come from the Lake Shamineau Association. Last winter LSA members stepped up to a challenge presented by the LSA Board to match a \$5,000 commitment. Not only did members match the \$5,000 they tripled it! The LSA Treasurer reports that to date, since the start of the fund appeal, more than \$15,000 has been received to fund projects like these. Thank you to members and friends. The ETF intends to use these dollars wisely.

In general, there are two groups we should thank. The many volunteers who serve on the ETF- they have been meeting for a year now, usually every 1-2 weeks in meetings that last from 1-1/2 to 3 hours. More recently these are zoom meetings, but they are planned and productive. Bob Ingle is the Chair and he has been hugely committed to successes for this group.

The other thank you goes to you, members of the LSA. Your financial support means a great deal. We know we have you as the wind in our sails and that moves us forward. Going forward we expect to have expenses for power for these short-term projects as well as costs for materials (pipe, culverts, excavation/installation).



Ramey pond pumping project

Spring 2021 Update from the Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force from LSA Newsletter

The ETF is a group of 8-10 individuals who meet (by Zoom) 2-4 times each month to discuss projects that have some impact on water levels affecting Lake Shamineau. Past projects include clean-out of the three-mile ditch south of County #203, efforts to establish pumping of water from areas west of 40th Ave to the cleaned ditch (“Turn off the Faucet”), pumping of Ramey Pond and identifying and controlling beaver dams that restrict water movement away from the watershed. The ETF works closely with Lake Shamineau Association and its Board, with government entities (township, county, state and federal) and with local private land owners. Current projects include:

Pond pumping project - Controlled pumping of Ramey Pond was started last September and was monitored for 5 weeks until an early freeze up. Permits from DNR and DOT were re-instated for 2021 and pumping was started again in mid-April. We are currently installing an electric submersible pump to operate through the remainder of this season. This project offers benefit to residents along Aztec Road. We are waiting to realize any marked movement of water through the watershed as water infiltrates to the pond rather slowly. Our past efforts indicate we can pump down 1.5” each normal operating day then the pond recharges at a rate of about .5” per day. We hope to draw water from a larger area this season and see if the pond will recharge at a faster rate through the summer.

Turn off the Faucet (TOF) - This project is on hold presently until we get agreement from all private property owners to allow water to pass through their property. The intent of this project was to divert water away from the Aquatic Management Area (AMA) along CR#203 and into the newly cleaned ditch at 30th Ave. Because the land east of 30th Ave is considered wetland, we were prohibited from extending the ditch east. In times of heavy rainfall and seasonal run-off there appears to be a marked increase of inflows through the AMA.

South watershed wetland - The ETF is gathering elevation measurements in the three-section land area (2,000 acres) between CR #203 and CR#3. Water from this area flows south into Lake Alexander and at times north into Lake Shamineau. This is an important land area and excessive surface water can impact Lake Shamineau significantly. We are engaged with local landowners on ways to help move excessive water and keep existing waterways open and free from beaver dams.

Long Prairie River Watershed Advisory Planning Committee- we are an active member of this citizen advisory committee and are working diligently to have the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) new plan for our area watershed address problems that affect Lake Shamineau.

Fall 2021 Update from the Lake Shamineau Emergency Task Force from Spring Membership Meeting Minutes

High Water Emergency Task Force (ETF): Dale Williams explained the task force which has frequent Zoom meetings, often weekly. He recognized the members of the group: Dan Amundson, Ardis Sandstrom (LID representative), Ray Gruber, Pat Held, Dave Graning, Mark Frisk, Chuck Ross, Dale Williams, Jerry Lukoskie, Tim Rice (LID representative), and Thomas Schuler. All members are volunteers. Minutes are taken of the meetings. Dale thanked the association members for their generosity in funding the ETF projects. Dale reviewed past projects, including a siphon to move water past beaver dam west of Highway 10, the ditch cleanout south of county road 203 to drain excess wetland water with Scandia Valley Township funding and support, proposed additional work to move water that is coming into the lake from south of county 203 and east of the ditch, but not all landowners approved so county funding of the proposed plan was put on hold, and the pumping of 10-acre Ramey pond west of Aztec Road. The pond pumping project met approvals from DNR, DOT and Morrison County. The Lake

Improvement District (LID) obtained the required permits for this project. Agencies receive weekly reports on this water movement. It was hoped that this project would move underground water from the lake, but the Houston Engineering test wells indicate the pond feeds the lake instead of the other way around. The project provided both a small reduction in water moving into the lake from the pond and provided a good working relationship with the DNR, DOT, Morrison County Soil and Water, and the golf course, as well as benefits to the residents on Aztec Road with flooded buildings. The latest ETF proposal is to request outlets to allow water to move to Lake Alexander that historically were present before County Road 3 road work eliminated those outlets.

Spring 2022 from minutes in LSA Newsletter

Emergency Task Force Update: A meeting was held at Scandia Valley Town Hall to determine if landowners between County Roads 203 and 3, and between 30th and 40th Avenues would allow reestablishing drainage to Lake Alexander which was previously closed off in 2006. Landowners were not supportive at the present time. Dave and Pat indicated that they were not aware of further plans of the group at this time.

The pipe, pump and flow meter purchased for the Ramey pond pumping is no longer used as permits have expired.

Fall 2022 from minutes in LSA Newsletter

Sale of ETF Equipment- Regarding the sale of various items which LSA has acquired to support past projects initiated by the Emergency Task Force. This included the 1800 ft of 8-inch irrigation pipe and the 2 hp submersible pump. As there seemed to be some interest in the submersible pump it was agreed that we would solicit bids for the equipment but before a final sale we would reconvene and agree on a final sale.

Dale posted an ad on Craigslist and now have a bid for the 8-inch pipe. LSA paid \$2 per ft, about \$3600 and then got some additional new gaskets so has about \$4000 invested. The bid for the pipe (just the pipe not the pump) is \$4250, about \$2.40/ft.

Dale recommended that LSA sells the pipe as demand is seasonal and if we pass on this bid we risk damage to the pipe (currently stored under trees on Ramey property), loss to theft and/or difficulties finding another buyer who can move 40' pipe sections.

Culvert Funding Request by the Emergency Task Force for ditch on private land – A north-south farm ditch, south of County Road 203, 0.3 miles north of County Road 3 and east of Bugle Road, proposal to put in a culvert to allow water to run south. Currently is blocked by cattle crossing. This appears to be ag-related and a project NRCS could support (erosion and dealing with sedimentation). Questions raised: Has cost share been explored with NRCS-USDA? Will the owner contribute? Who maintains the culvert if there is future sedimentation, beavers blocking, plugging, etc. Motion was made by Dale and seconded by Rick for the LSA to contribute \$1,000 to the project. When it is complete and with a copy of the invoice, LSA would contribute one third of the cost, not to exceed \$1,000. The LSA would not be involved with maintenance or any future expense relating to the project.