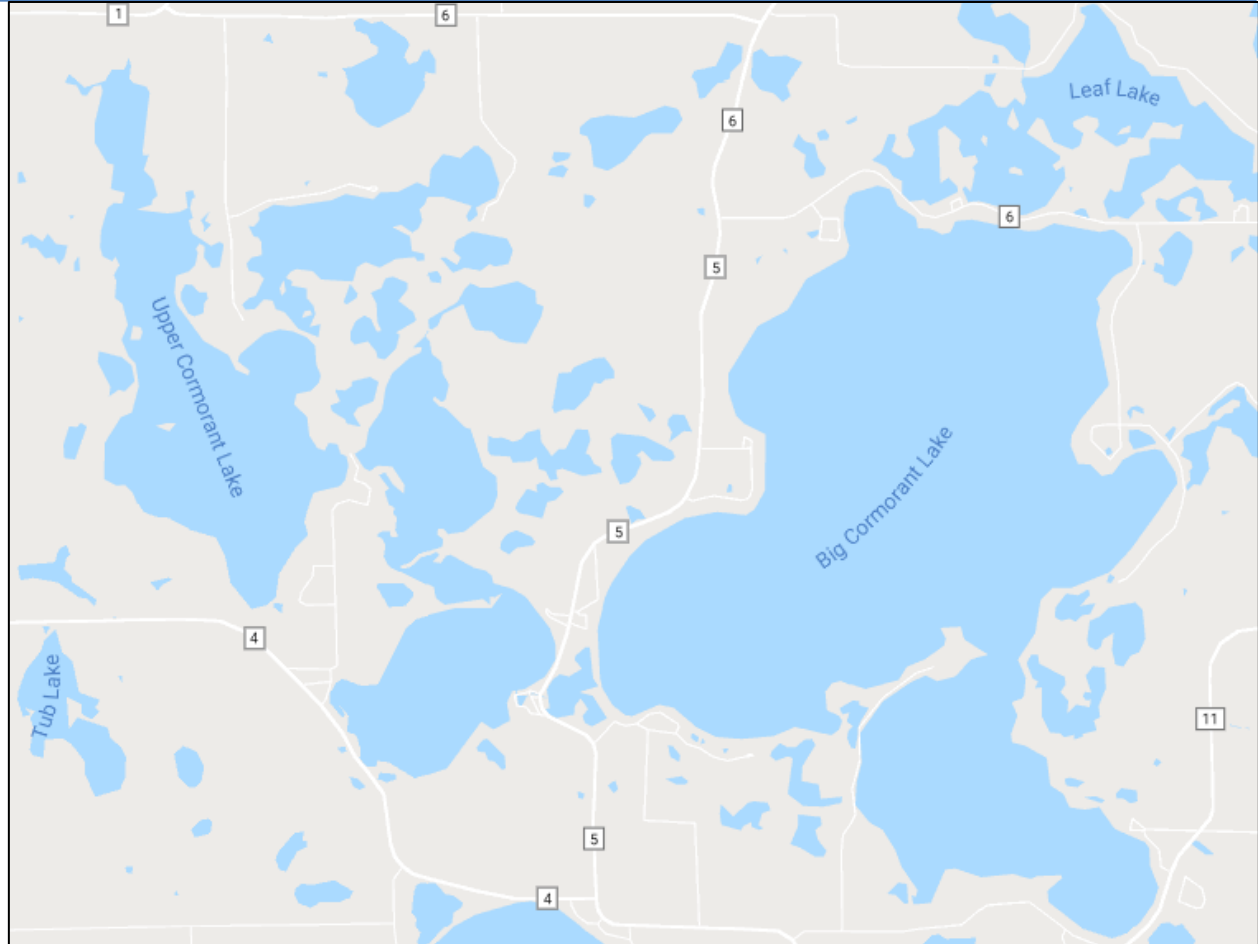


2024

Cormorant Lakes Watershed District Citizen's Advisory Committee



Provided by the Cormorant Lakes
Watershed District
6/19/2024

INTRODUCTION

What is the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District?

The Cormorant Lakes Watershed District (CLWD) is a specialized unit of government created to protect and manage all the wetlands, creeks & lakes that are in the Cormorant Watershed basin.

From Minnesota Association Watershed Districts:

Watershed districts are local, special-purpose units of government that work to solve and prevent water-related problems. The boundaries of each district follow those of a natural watershed and consist of land in which all water flows to one outlet. The districts are usually named after that watershed.

While all other government units, such as states, counties and cities have political boundaries, because water knows no boundaries and goes where it wants to, it makes sense to manage natural resources on a watershed basis. This type of management allows for an overall, holistic approach to resource conservation.

Minnesota's 45 watershed districts are each governed by a Board of Managers appointed by the Boards of Commissioners of the counties that have land in the district. Watershed Districts were authorized by the Legislature in 1955 when it passed the Watershed Act, MSA103D – this legislation sets out the role and responsibilities for watershed districts in Minnesota. All meetings held by a watershed district Board are open to the public.

Watershed districts are formed for reasons ranging from flood control to water quality protection.

They are established when water management problems become greater than one community or city can handle.

They are formed at the request of local citizens, county boards or cities by petitioning the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) under the procedures set forth in the Watershed Act.

Water management on a watershed basis is important for uniform and effective controls, not only to correct problems but to prevent them.

What do Watersheds do?

From Minnesota Association Watershed Districts:

- Conduct water quality surveys of lakes and streams within the district;
- Monitor groundwater levels;
- Manage draining systems;
- Regulate, conserve and control the use of water within the district;
- Provide for wildlife and enhance recreational opportunities as a benefit of projects to improve water quality and provide flood protection;
- Establish, record and maintain hydrological data;
- Approve culvert size and placement in all roads of the district; and
- Other projects related to meeting the purposes of the district.

Cormorant Lakes Watershed Lakes & Creeks Include:

- Nelson Lake
- Erickson Lake
- Mollar Lake
- Larson Lake
- Middle Cormorant Lake
- Upper Cormorant Lake
- Tub Lake
- Big Cormorant Lake
- Arrow Lake
- Leaf Lake
- Ellertson Lake
- Dahlberg Lake
- Hougland Lake
- Bijou Lake
- Round Lake
- West Lake
- Spring Creek

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

What is a Citizen's Advisory Committee?

The Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) is a group of environmentally responsible & concerned residents from throughout the watershed district who meet to assist and advise the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District's Board of Managers. The CAC meets at the request of the CLWD to assist in managing the water resources of the CLWD. The CAC fulfills legislative requirements for watershed management organizations. CAC members participate in the overall function of the CLWD as an organization in a variety of aspects.

Roles & Responsibilities:

The Citizen's Advisory Committee is established to advise & assist the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District Board of Managers with:

- District organizational development, planning processes & program implementation
- Consider issues pertinent to the functions & purposes of the CLWD
- Review & comment on reports, minutes, activities, & proposed projects of the managers
- Report to the CLWD Board of managers on the content of citizen's advisory committee meetings & resulting recommendations
- Conflict Resolution

The CAC will provide feedback & review in the form of recommendations made to the CLWD Board of Managers. Time commitment will vary from year to year based on the activities of the CLWD. Typical CAC commitments are less than 10 hours per year including meetings.

The CLWD's staff liaison is Liz Larson, CLWD Administrator, who will facilitate the flow of information between the CAC & CLWD Board of Managers.

MN State Statutes:

103D.331 Advisory Committee

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.**

The managers must annually appoint an advisory committee to advise and assist the managers on all matters affecting the interests of the watershed district and make recommendations to the managers on all contemplated projects and improvements in the watershed district.

Subd. 1a.Duties.

For purposes of carrying out its duties under this section the advisory committee shall:

- (1) elect a chair from its membership;
- (2) elect a recorder from its membership;
- (3) establish a meeting schedule, which at a minimum meets annually;
- (4) consider issues pertinent to the functions and purposes of the watershed district;
- (5) review and comment on reports, minutes, activities, and proposed projects of the managers; and
- (6) report to the managers the general content of advisory committee meetings and resulting recommendations.

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Subd. 2.Members.

(a) The advisory committee consists of at least five members. If practicable, the advisory committee members selected should include a representative from each soil and water conservation district, a representative of each county, a member of a sporting organization, and a member of a farm organization. Other advisory committee members may be appointed at the discretion of the managers. The members must be residents of the watershed district, except representatives from soil and water conservation districts and counties, and serve at the pleasure of the managers.

(b) In addition, the managers may appoint other interested and technical persons who may or may not reside within the watershed district to serve at the pleasure of the managers.

Subd. 3.Expense reimbursement.

The managers may reimburse members of the advisory committee for actual traveling and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties in the amount as provided for state employees.

History:

1990 c 391 art 4 s 24; 1995 c 199 s 15