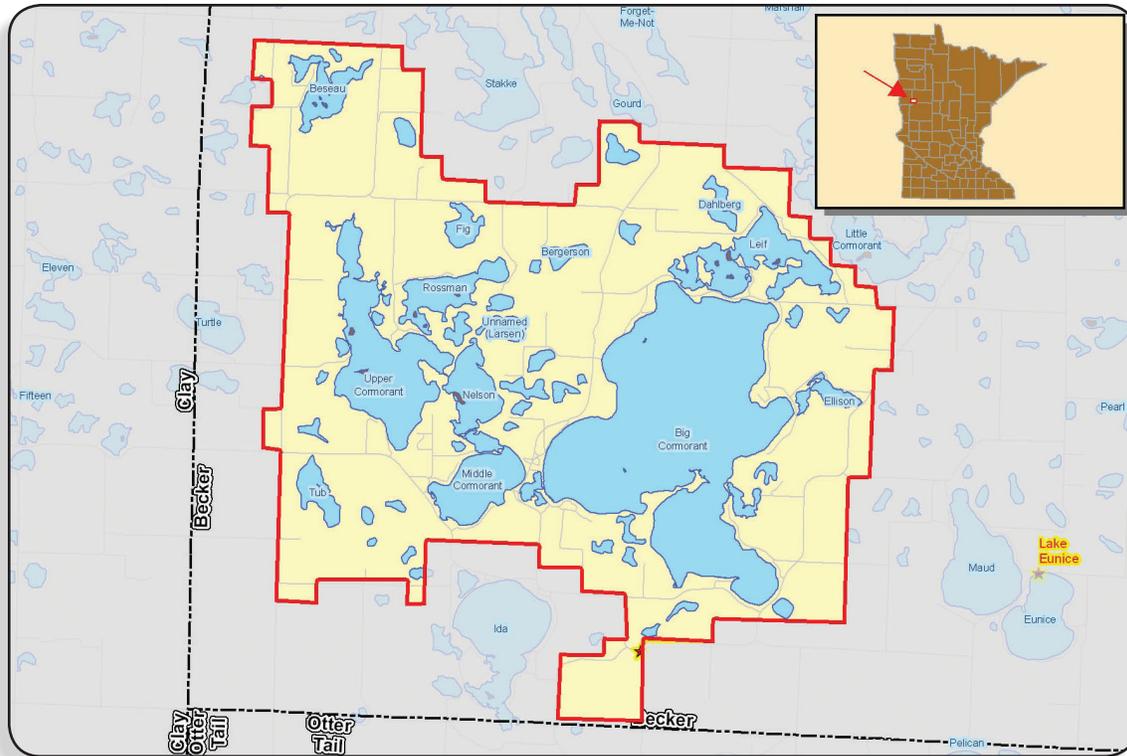


Cormorant Lakes

WATERSHED DISTRICT



GENERAL INFORMATION

Established: August 22, 1966 by Becker County petition
 10929 Cty Hwy 5
 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 Phone: (218) 532-2723

Included Counties: Becker
 District Size: 37 square miles
 Major Lakes: Watershed is a chain of lakes

Number of Staff: 3 part-time
 2008 Taxable Market Value: \$370,222,100

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Name	Position	County	Address	Phone
Ellis Peterson	President	Becker	1670 County Hwy 16, Lake Park, MN 56504	(218) 532-2104
Jeff Moritz	Secretary	Becker	12564 Tangelwood Rd, Audubon, MN 56511	(218) 439-6044
Jody Beaudine	Treasurer	Becker	P.O. Box 495, Lake Park, MN 56554	(218) 532-7602

RECENT PROJECTS

Lake Shore Inspections Program — an intensive ongoing program to make regular inspections of the shore impact zone (50 feet) within each of the lakes of the district and work with landowners to prevent or reduce environmental damage.

Ordinary High Water (OHW) Elevation Markers — permanent reference markers placed at DNR public accesses, county parks and private property (with owner permission) on all major lakes within the District — in response to frequent requests by local residents, builders, and county officials to locate and mark the OHW.

Permanent No Wake Ordinance — a restriction on boating speed within 200 feet of lake shores to reduce damage to banks, channels, and nesting areas — a response to long periods when lake levels exceed ordinary high water marks and one that will reduce time-consuming and expensive temporary ordinances. The District is spearheading a project to bring local government units together to establish a permanent ordinance to be effective when the OHW is exceeded.

South Big Cormorant Erosion Control Project — completed in response to significant erosion and storm water/snowmelt problems, this project had two parts; one provided retention areas and installed an inlet receiver and piping system to condition the water prior to allowing it to flow into the lake; the other diverted storm water/runoff that normally flowed directly to the lake into a wetland area for filtration.

Spring Creek Culvert Replacement — completed in the fall of 2006, a new culvert system was installed to replace the failing one and to provide fish migration, increase water flow and reduce long term maintenance issues.

Blue Water Bay Engineering Study and Dredging Project — initiated in response to frequent boat traffic through a small channel between Blue Water Bay and Big Cormorant Lake. The District's DNR dredging permit was reissued to allow longer and deeper channel excavation.

Aerial Environmental Surveillance and Monitoring — completed in 2005 to locate several concern areas, where there was phosphorus migration into the lakes, non-compliance of septic systems and holding tanks, uncontrolled drainage, fire pit rings and burning in shore impact zone and inadequate storm water retention. At least three new projects will address the identified concern areas.

Environmental Damage Restoration — major projects completed by landowners of two lake properties, on Big Cormorant and Upper Cormorant Lakes, to remediate



Aerial environmental surveillance and monitoring

unauthorized land alterations and erosion problems as identified by the District in its rules and in a county ordinance.

Big Cormorant Lake Level Control Outlet Structure — operated under a DNR permit by the District to allow water to discharge from Big Cormorant Lake into Spring Creek and ultimately into Pelican Lake. Operation is initiated whenever the lake level is near the lake's established Ordinary High Water Level (OHW) — in 2006, from April until November.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Environmental Assessment and Engineering Study of the West Side of Bejou Lake — will be conducted to address water quality issues (identified by Aerial Environmental Surveillance) in Bejou Lake resulting from severe runoff/snow melt from adjacent road ditch and steep slope areas. The District is currently conducting an engineering review, after which it will assess the potential for environmental damage, determine a plan to resolve the issue and seek funding.

Middle Cormorant Lake Culvert Replacement — will replace a damaged existing culvert in a channel connecting Middle Cormorant into Big Cormorant that restricts access by a landowner. It will provide for future water movement and allow unencumbered access by the landowner. The District will conduct the engineering and the landowner will pay for the new culvert.

Septic System Evaluation Program — in conjunction with Becker County Zoning and Planning, the program will investigate existing septic systems and holding tanks at sensitive locations on Big Cormorant Lake. If successful this pilot-scale project will be expanded to other lakes within the District and County.

District Rules Re-evaluation and Citizens Education Program — will be performed by the District to make minor rules changes to address recurring water quality issues and problems resulting from new construction of homes, remodeling of structures, and landscape alterations within the impact zone.