

Watershed Receives \$825,000 in Funding for Pickerel Lake Subwatershed

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On Wednesday, May 25th the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced that the Shell Rock River Watershed District received \$825,000 to target projects in the Pickerel Lake Subwatershed. Pickerel Lake is located west of Albert Lea, but is actually considered the top of the Shell Rock River Watershed District. According to Courtney Christensen, Resource Technician for the Watershed District, "This latest grant award is the culmination of years of work improving the water and habitat quality at the top of our watershed. This is a win for our community, but especially for our lakes."

This is the third round of Clean Water Fund grants totaling \$8.17 million that will help local governments from around the state to accelerate their efforts in conservation work and taking a targeted approach to addressing water quality issues. This is the first time the Shell Rock River Watershed has received funding from this source.

"It is our hope that the projects resulting from this grant could be the final step in achieving water quality standards for Pickerel Lake," said Courtney Christensen. "Once water quality standards are consistently met, Pickerel Lake can be removed from the Minnesota impaired waters list. "Removing Pickerel Lake from the impaired waters list is a key priority to the District, we have put a lot of time and effort into that lake with the reclamation process," said Director of Field Operations, Andy Henschel.

Projects in the Targeted Watershed Program focus on addressing water quality impairments that are known and can be accomplished in a four year window timeframe. Projects included in this Program consist of grassed waterways, streambank restorations, wetland restorations, rock inlets and ditch improvements.

For more information about the Targeted Watershed Program, and BWSR's other Clean Water Fund programs, visit www.bwsr.mn.us. More information about the Shell Rock River Watershed District can be found at the District's website at: www.shellrock.org

Pickerel Lake is 620 acres and has a watershed area of 5,120 acres. The maximum lake depth is 6.0 ft and the average lake depth is 3.8 feet.