

DNR announces wolf season

Survey shows stable population

DNR STAFF REPORT

Hunters and trappers can apply for the 2014 wolf season beginning Aug. 1, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced.

A total of 3,800 hunting and trapping licenses will be available, 500 more licenses than last year's seasons. The statewide target harvest of wolves is 250, 30 more than last year.

FLOOD

► continued from A1

In the Pelland Junction area, Peterson said he assessed 20 homes, five of which were affected by the flooding, with one water-oriented structure affected. In the Littlefork area, there was one home affected, which had water over the main floor, which resulted in a damage assessment of 95 percent.

In the Rainy River area, Peterson said staff assessed 52 homes on the water, with none affected. On Rainy Lake, which includes Ranier, there were 552 properties assessed, with only three homes affected, with 66 water-oriented structures affected.

“By and large there’s very little damage to the structure,” Peterson said. “Everything you’re hearing out there is retaining walls, cribs, and docks.”

Peterson said he thinks the intent of the tax abatement, tax credit, and other relief programs is to assist in repairing and rebuilding homesteads, garages, and homes, not water-oriented structures like cribs and docks.

“I think we’re going to stay away from water-oriented structures,” Peterson said. “I just would highly recommend that. I don’t think that would be a problem with the Department of Revenue.”

Peterson said he thinks he’s looked at 96 percent of the homes in the county, so there’s not much left to be assessed. In the next couple weeks, he said he’ll finalize the numbers and have them ready to submit, but it may not be enough to meet minimum standards for relief.

“Quite honestly, I think we’re going to be lucky to have 25 homes that are damaged to meet that minimum guideline,” Peterson said.

When it comes to reporting damage on uninsured property like docks and cribs, county Administrative Director Teresa Briggs said the county should report all the damage it can, to make sure officials have covered everything.

“If we don’t report everything that has happened with this flood, then I think we underreport what happened with this flood,” Briggs said. “I just want to be able to show what really happened.”

People affected by the flooding may realize their damaged docks and cribs don’t qualify for assistance, but they still want to be heard and want their damage recorded, Commissioner Brian McBride said.

“They know that their loss is not really going to qualify, but they still have a feeling that they’re part of this flood, and they have a loss, and they want it counted, whether they’re going to be reimbursed for it or not,” McBride said.

Sandbags

The board also discussed what to do with the more than 300,000 filled sandbags the county used to hold back the rising water. With water levels having already crested and starting to recede, residents are now looking at what to do with the sandbags they no longer need.

County Environmental Services Director Dale Olson said the county will take empty or full sandbags at the county transfer station, and have already started to get a few sandbags. Sand

ensure the wolf population remains well established across northern and central Minnesota.”

DNR’s goal for wolf management is to ensure the long term survival of wolves in Minnesota while addressing conflicts between wolves and humans.

Hunting information

Starting Aug. 1, hunters and trappers can apply for 2,300 early-season and 1,500 late-season licenses. The deadline to apply for the hunting and trapping license lottery is Sept. 4.

from sandbags can be used in road construction, Olson said, so there are options to reuse them. However, sand from sandbags should not be used in sandboxes or beaches, or any other use where people would be in contact with the sand.

Olson said people have contacted him about using the sand as fill in cross-country ski trails, so the county should set up a place where people can come and pick up sandbags for their own use.

“I think it’s a good opportunity, because there are a lot of people who want a little bit of sand,” Olson said.

International Falls City Administrator Ken Anderson said he would check first, but the city would probably be receptive to using City Beach as a staging area for sandbag pickup and dropoff, similar to how it was the staging area for filling sandbags during the early part of the operation.

However, there are also older county residents who may not physically be able to move the sandbags on their property, Commissioner Wade Pavleck said. In this situation, he said, it’s up to the county to help them remove the sandbags.

“We’ve got to do something here, because you can’t just leave these people with their sandbags in their yards that can’t deal with them,” Pavleck said.

It will be a “major undertaking” to remove the sandbags in the county, board Chairman Rob Ecklund said. With county staff already behind on maintenance projects, he said, the county may rely on private contractors or volunteer forces to get the job done.

BASIN

► continued from A1

The International Joint Commission formed the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board to assist with binational coordination of water quality efforts for the entire boundary watershed and to coordinate the management of the water levels and flows on Rainy and Namakan lakes and the Rainy River.

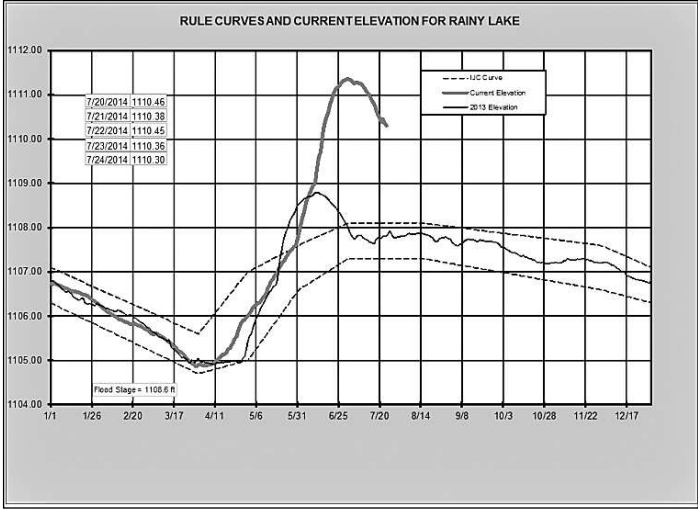
Eight public meetings are scheduled during the 30 day public comment period, which ends Aug. 22.

Written comments can be submitted to the study team through its website at: ijc.org/en_/LWBWQPOS/ or by mail to: Kelli Saunders, secretary, LOWBWQ Study Team International Watershed Coordinator, 47 Donbrock Drive, Kenora, ON P9N 0A2 Canada.

“We would like to thank the experts working in the basin on these issues, the International Multi Agency Arrangement partners, the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board and its community and industry advisory groups and Canadian and U.S. indigenous communities for their contribution to the draft water quality plan of study,” Canadian Study Co-Chair Glenn Benoy said in a news release.

“Now we need to ground truth to the plan to ensure that it addresses the needs of the Basin, first and foremost,” U.S. Co-Chair Mark Brigham added.

The draft study was prepared by the International Joint Commission’s Lake of the Woods Basin Water Quality Plan of Study Team, following a workshop held this March in conjunction with the Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum and building on the information



enous communities for their contribution to the draft water quality plan of study,” Canadian Study Co-Chair Glenn Benoy said in a news release.

“Now we need to ground truth to the plan to ensure that it addresses the needs of the Basin, first and foremost,” U.S. Co-Chair Mark Brigham added.

The draft study was prepared by the International Joint Commission’s Lake of the Woods Basin Water Quality Plan of Study Team, following a workshop held this March in conjunction with the Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum and building on the information

DONAHUE

► continued from A1

The council agreed to hold the July 15 payment until Shermoen concluded an attempt to renegotiate the agreement.

Shermoen reported Matt Donahue is not “amenable to alter the existing contract.” The brokerage

fees are being used to pay for the care of Donahue’s mother, Ethel, who lived many years on the property.

Shermoen also said the idea of a “first-class trail” that is paved is not his. Instead, Shermoen said Matt Donahue understands the financial difficulties the city is facing with the more than 200 layoffs from

the local paper mill. The monument and trail is not an immediate need, but is expected to be created at some point, Shermoen said.

Councilors said the payment should be made.

Councilor Pete Kalar reiterated his belief that regardless of feelings about the terms of the agreement, it is a contract that must be honored.

CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT				
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of International Falls to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at the Municipal Building, 600 4th Street. Questions about this report should be directed to Ken Anderson, City Administrator at (218) 283-9484.				
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS (GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS)				
	Total 2013	Total 2012	Percent Increase (Decrease)	
Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 2,172,025	\$ 2,170,237	0.08%	
Licenses and Permits	64,114	79,842	-19.70%	
Intergovernmental Revenues	4,086,668	5,366,151	-23.84%	
Charges For Services	2,922,200	3,009,641	-2.91%	
Fines and Forfeitures	34,207	57,409	-40.42%	
Special Assessments	28,693	19,255	49.02%	
Interest and Investment Earnings	6,768	49,859	-86.43%	
Other	78,361	244,134	-67.90%	
Total Revenues	\$ 9,393,036	\$ 10,996,528	-14.58%	
Per Capita	\$ 1,468.58	\$ 1,719.82	-14.61%	
Expenditures				
General Government	\$ 711,248	\$ 792,816	-10.29%	
Public Safety	3,133,719	2,919,309	7.34%	
Public Works	1,595,303	1,512,384	5.48%	
Culture and Recreation	574,730	662,220	-13.21%	
Community Development	366,872	398,259	-7.88%	
Airport	234,000	870,140	-73.11%	
Other	685,041	478,306	43.22%	
Debt Service:				
Principal	355,000	340,000	4.41%	
Interest and Other Charges	606,320	615,183	-1.44%	
Capital Outlay	2,833,284	3,028,341	-6.44%	
Total Expenditures	\$ 11,095,517	\$ 11,616,958	-4.49%	
Per Capita	\$ 1,734.76	\$ 1,816.85	-4.52%	
Total Long-term Indebtedness	\$ 11,282,291	\$ 11,631,922	-3.01%	
Per Capita	\$ 1,763.96	\$ 1,819.19	-3.04%	
General Fund and Special Revenue Funds Non-Spendable, Committed, Assigned and Unassigned Fund Balances at December 31	\$ 4,360,533	\$ 4,520,532	-3.54%	
Per Capita	\$ 681.76	\$ 707.00	-3.57%	

CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA BALANCE SHEET PROPRIETARY FUND DECEMBER 31, 2013		Water and Sewer
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ -	
Property Taxes Receivable	2,686	
Receivables, Net of Uncollectibles	532,130	
Due From Other Governments	884	
Inventory	186,939	
Total Current Assets	722,639	
Capital Assets		
Distribution Systems	11,258,718	
Equipment	831,397	
Total	12,090,115	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	6,260,704	
Capital Assets, Depreciated Value	5,829,411	
Total Assets	\$ 6,552,050	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 146,360	
Accrued Salaries and Wages Payable	28,872	
Accrued Compensated Absences	307,422	
Due To Other Funds	181,010	
Customer Deposits	52,043	
Total Current Liabilities	715,707	
Net Assets		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	5,829,411	
Unrestricted	6,932	
Total Net Assets	5,836,343	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 6,552,050	

CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET ASSETS - PROPRIETARY FUND FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013		Water and Sewer
Operating Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$ 3,745,311	
Operating Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	671,646	
Employee Benefits	239,146	
Purchased Wastewater Treatment Services	1,700,363	
Other Purchased Services	55,947	
Insurance	30,504	
Utilities	81,247	
Materials and Supplies	172,661	
Repairs and Maintenance	30,831	
Other	37,881	
Depreciation	313,978	
Total Operating Expenses	3,334,204	
Income from Operations	411,107	
Non-Operating Revenues		
Taxes and Assessments	78,257	
Income Before Transfers	489,364	
Operating Transfers		
Transfers to Other Funds	(574,695)	
Change in Net Assets	(85,331)	
Total Net Assets - Beginning of Year	5,921,674	
Total Net Assets - End of Year	\$ 5,836,343	

CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS PROPRIETARY FUND FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		Water and Sewer
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash Received from Customers and for Services	\$ 3,617,905	
Cash Paid to Employees and Suppliers	(3,072,469)	
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	545,436	
Cash Flows from Non-Capital Financing Activities		
Cash Received from Nonoperating Revenues	78,216	
State and Federal Grant Receipts	(212)	
Transfers Out to Other Funds	(574,695)	
Net Cash Used by Non-Capital Financing Activities	(496,691)	
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Purchase and Construction of Capital Assets	(48,745)	
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	-	
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	\$ -	
Reconciliation of Net Income From Operations to Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities		
Income from Operations	\$ 411,107	
Depreciation and Amortization	313,978	
(Increase) Decrease in Assets:		
Accounts Receivable	(127,933)	
Inventories	(11,732)	
Prepaid Expenses		
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	78,684	
Accrued Expenses	1,764	
Due to Other Funds	(131,899)	
Compensated Absences	10,940	
Customer Deposits	527	
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	\$ 545,436	