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Changes to upcoming deer season
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Lending a hand
Officials begin reviewing relief process
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FEMA



The Journal

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With barrels still on area docks, the boats raced below the Ranier lift bridge, left for the takeoff in the up position. Note the many ducks and ducklings sharing the water.

And they're off

Amid strong current that appears to boil the water just west of the Ranier lift bridge, competitors in the 2014 Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship hit the Ontario side of Rainy Lake on the first day of the three-day tournament. Many local teams from both sides of the border, as well as well-known regional anglers, are again competing for the largest bag of bass, which will be determined at Saturday's weigh ins.



It looks to be quite a ride as teams ply the strong current toward the lift bridge.

County outlines flood relief plan

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday met with county department heads and other local officials to consider a local flood relief plan.



Brian McBride

County Assessor Len Peterson addressed the group, and updated them on his efforts to assess the flood damage in the county. Thanks to local sandbagging efforts, he said the structural damage was kept to a minimum.

"I can tell you from experience, the sandbagging was unbelievable," Peterson said. "It saved a horrendous amount of damage."

Peterson said he and his staff went door-to-door to inspect damage in the county and looked at 630 homes to assess the damage. He assessed homes with two different relief criteria in mind: the state of Minnesota and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, he said.

"When I go out there, what I'm really looking for is, how high was the water," Peterson said.

Flood to A7 >

Meetings to focus on water levels

Meetings also on basin water quality plan

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Public meetings on two local water-related issues are planned for August.

The International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board will conduct a public meeting 7 p.m. Aug. 12 on water levels regulation at the Rainy River Community College Theater.

The meeting is expected to focus on the actions taken to manage the rising water levels in the lakes and rivers in the watershed as levels began to rise in June , and dramatically so following a June 12 deluge of rain.

At 6 p.m. on that same day and at that same place, the board will conduct an open house on a draft of the Lake of the Woods Basin Water Quality Plan of Study.

The plan will also be the focus of a public meeting at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 13 in Kenora.

Basin to A7 >

Falls Council approves Donahue payment

Just one \$15,000 payment now left on 122-acre property

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

International Falls has just one payment left on the Donahue property after it agreed Monday to make a \$15,000 payment due July 15.

The council took action after city Attorney Steve Shermoen reported he'd discussed three times with Matt Donahue the possibility of renegotiating the agreement that provided the 122-acres of property to the city in exchange for \$90,000 in brokerage



Pete Kalar

fees paid to MGD Enterprises, owned by Matt Donahue, and creation of a trail and a monument to the family.

Mayor Bob Anderson was absent from the meeting.

The council earlier in the month agreed to base an attempt to renegotiate the agreement and brokerage fees on the 2009 assessed value set by Koochiching County at \$376,000.

The brokerage fees were based on 5-percent of a 2009

\$1.8 million property appraisal, the accuracy of which has been questioned by residents and some city officials. A final payment of \$15,000 is due July 2015.

Anderson voted against the motion, instead favoring a new appraisal on the property, which he said he believed may give more strength to the city in renegotiating the agreement with the Donahue family.

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