



## For Immediate Release

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### MAWD Names Program of the Year

#### Prior Lake – Spring Lake Watershed District Excels in Carp Management

**St. Paul, MN:** Earlier this month, the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) named the Prior Lake – Spring Watershed District as the recipient of its Annual Program of the Year Award for its Carp Management Program. MAWD is a non-profit organization that provides training and lobbying resources to Minnesota’s 45 watershed districts and 19 watershed management organizations.

Since 2015, the Prior Lake - Spring Lake Watershed District has undertaken a comprehensive effort to reduce common carp in its regionally recognized recreational lakes -- Upper Prior and Spring Lake by creating and implementing an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) to reduce internal phosphorus loading.

“The District’s Board of Managers empowered staff to reduce biomass by employing aggressive measures using District levies leveraged with grant funds. The goal is to go beyond the ecological threshold estimated by experts to be 100 kg/ha and aim for 30 kg/ha,” said Maggie Karschnia, Prior Lake – Spring Lake Watershed District’s Acting Administrator, “Upper Prior’s biomass was estimated at 342 kg/ha and 122 kg/ha in Spring, which means the District must employ every means possible to reach those drastic reductions.”

Besides using traditional techniques of estimating carp biomass, carp schooling locations and seines, the District developed its own traps; herded carp underwater to trapping locations; trained citizens to locate and bait carp; instituted innovative netting techniques and used underwater and stationary cameras to locate carp and improve haul success.

“This is an iterative process, but so far carp removal efforts have resulted in substantial carp biomass removal and progress has been made on meeting the goals,” said Karschnia.

To watch a video of a carp seining event, learn more about the methods used to manage carp, or to find out how residents and lake enthusiasts can help, Karschnia directs those interested to their website at [www.plslwd.org/projects-and-programs/projects/carp-management/](http://www.plslwd.org/projects-and-programs/projects/carp-management/).



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