

In early December, a representative of the Lake Hendricks Improvement Association (LHIA) attended meetings and met with both Lincoln County, MN and Brookings County SD Commissioners to discuss and request administrative funding to see the Lake Hendricks Improvement projects through to completion. "I'm happy to report that Brookings County Commissioners have voted to provide funds in the amount of \$25,000 with \$12,500 to be dispersed on December 22, 2009 with the remaining \$12,500 to be dispersed in 2010," stated Lake Hendricks Improvement Project Manager Joe Beech. Beech went on to add that he will be meeting again with Lincoln County Commissioners in January of 2010.

"The funds will be used to follow through on current projects such as the purchase of 225 acres in South Dakota bordering Lake Hendricks on Deer Creek, an upgrade to a flood retention dam on Deer Creek in South Dakota, the rerouting of storm sewer pipes away from the lake in the City of Hendricks and filter strips and wetland restoration on Ditch 11 in Minnesota," explained Beech.

"These projects are moving along very quickly. For instance, we expected it would take up to two years to get approval for the purchase of the land south of Hendricks (which will be made into a filter for water entering the lake). It took six months." stated Beech. Beech went on to say that while there will be noticeable immediate improvement in the quality of Lake Hendricks in 2010, it will take 3 to 5 years to see the full affects of the improvement projects.

Beech also explained that there are several benefits to improving the quality of the lake. "It benefits everyone. It will enhance property values, more people will want to and be able to use the lake in the summer months, which in turn means more tourist revenue for the area, and it also opens up the opportunity for possible future area development such as for other attractions or parks," said Beech.

"There are several things that property owners, both those living on the lake and in town, can do to minimize the pollutants going in to the lake which will in turn maximize the benefits of the projects," said Beech.

Useful information will be available soon that everyone can use to do their part in cleaning up this wonderful resource that we are so fortunate to have in our back yard.

Beech went on to say that the primary funds for the projects are from the LHIA, the City of Hendricks and the EDA and that donations have also been received from private donors with several others making requests for information regarding making a donation to the LHIA.

The LHIA operates solely on contributions; unlike Lake Benton who has a taxing authority that provides funds to do any number of projects and has a steady stream of dollars at its disposal. This is why we would like to extend a special thanks to those who support our efforts with their time and money.

We would encourage anyone living in this area or that uses this lake to get involved or make a donation to a project that 100% of your dollars will stay in this area.

You can contact use at: LHIA, PO Box 161, Hendricks, MN 56136
or call Joe at Ph. No. 605-479-3780 with any questions you might have.