

Diamond Lake Wastewater Issues Timeline (at-a-glance)

1973

April – “some of the areas in the county that are geographically situated to enable formation of large sanitary districts include Green Lake, Nest Lake, etc”. “Diamond Lake can also conceivably be included in this sanitary district it can be proven that including the Diamond Lake area will be more beneficial than a sanitary sewer district serving only Diamond Lake. The cost of constructing and operating a treatment facility will have to be compared to the cost and operation of a sewer main connecting the lake area to the treatment site for the larger sanitary district. The location of the new treatment area also will greatly influence the feasibility of including Diamond Lake in the other areas”. Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan for Kandiyohi County, April 1973

1975

January 8 – a capacity crowd was present at the Courthouse for a hearing on the proposed sanitary sewer system at Diamond Lake. The crowd was so large that the hearing had to be moved to a bigger room. Early estimates put the project cost at \$780,000, would go around all of Diamond Lake except an area on the west side. A petition objecting the project was signed by 90 people. The county board continued the hearing until February 7th. A group named “HALE” (Harrison Association for Land Environment) voiced their objections. (Source: *West Central Daily Tribune, January 9, 1975*)

February 7 – continuation of the hearing to a capacity crowd. The hearing was concluded with no action except that the board was going to study the issue. (Source: *West Central Daily Tribune, February 8, 1975*)

1976

October 6 - The Kandiyohi County Board rejected the proposal for a Diamond Lake Sewer System which had been petitioned by the Diamond Lake Association. (Source: *West Central Daily Tribune, October 8, 1976*)

2004

July – Kandiyohi Cty Board contracted Bolton and Menk to prepare feasibility report.

2005

Summer – Septic Program started by DLARA. This program provides septic system owner guides to residents and provided reimbursement of up to \$50 for septic pumping.

August 6 - DLARA information meeting held to discuss sewer project. There were close to 150 people in attendance and the resulting hand vote indicated 65-70% favoring the project and approximately 90% were in favor of the DLARA Board working with the County on this issue. However, because there were still questions and concerns and the vote was not controlled for multiple votes per household, the board decided to have another meeting in 2006.

2006

March – Engineering Feasibility Study. “Recommendations made in the Engineering Feasibility Study will allow the DLARA and Kandiyohi County Board to establish, plan, fund and implement wastewater collection system improvements”.

Findings:

- States that DLARA requested the County Board look into the feasibility of connecting to GLSSWD.
- 74% of the homes had systems installed prior to 1996
- This is when there was a change to Chapter 7080 regulations regarding interpretation of suitable soil conditions
- Prior to 1996 actual water table was used
- 1996 on "seasonal high water table" is used (mottled/stained soil)
- Chapter 7080 outlines three factors which define a failing system. 1) Any system that discharged sewage into a seepage pit, cesspool, drywell or leaching pit. 2) Any system with <3' of soil or sand between the bottom of the distribution medium and the saturated soil level (2' for existing systems outside the shoreland areas. 3) Any system posing an imminent threat to public health or safety.
- 365 systems were installed prior to 1996 and are considered non-conforming
- Not many suitable soils that allow for 3' separation around Diamond Lake (*see attached*)
- Therefore mound systems are necessary
- Lot sizes restrict many mound systems from being installed
- If lot sizes are too small for a mound, holding tanks are allowed as a short term solution. Since 1996, 14 have been installed. Must be pumped regularly.
- Recommended a low-pressure wastewater collection system
- Estimated average cost per unit \$18,980 assessed at 6% up to 20 years
- User sewer rates charged by GLSSWD of \$19.80 month (2005 rates)
- GLSSWD would waive connection fee of \$1,750

June – Memo from Gary Geer highlights changes in 1996 rules regarding determination of seasonally high water table and hurdles regarding wastewater treatment around Diamond Lake. They are seasonally high water table, fill soils, small lot areas, well placement, holding tanks. Included a graph representing 74% of the properties having pre-1996 systems, 13% with post 1996 mounds, 9% with post 1996 septic, and 4% with post 1996 holding tanks and a map with soil types (*see attached*).

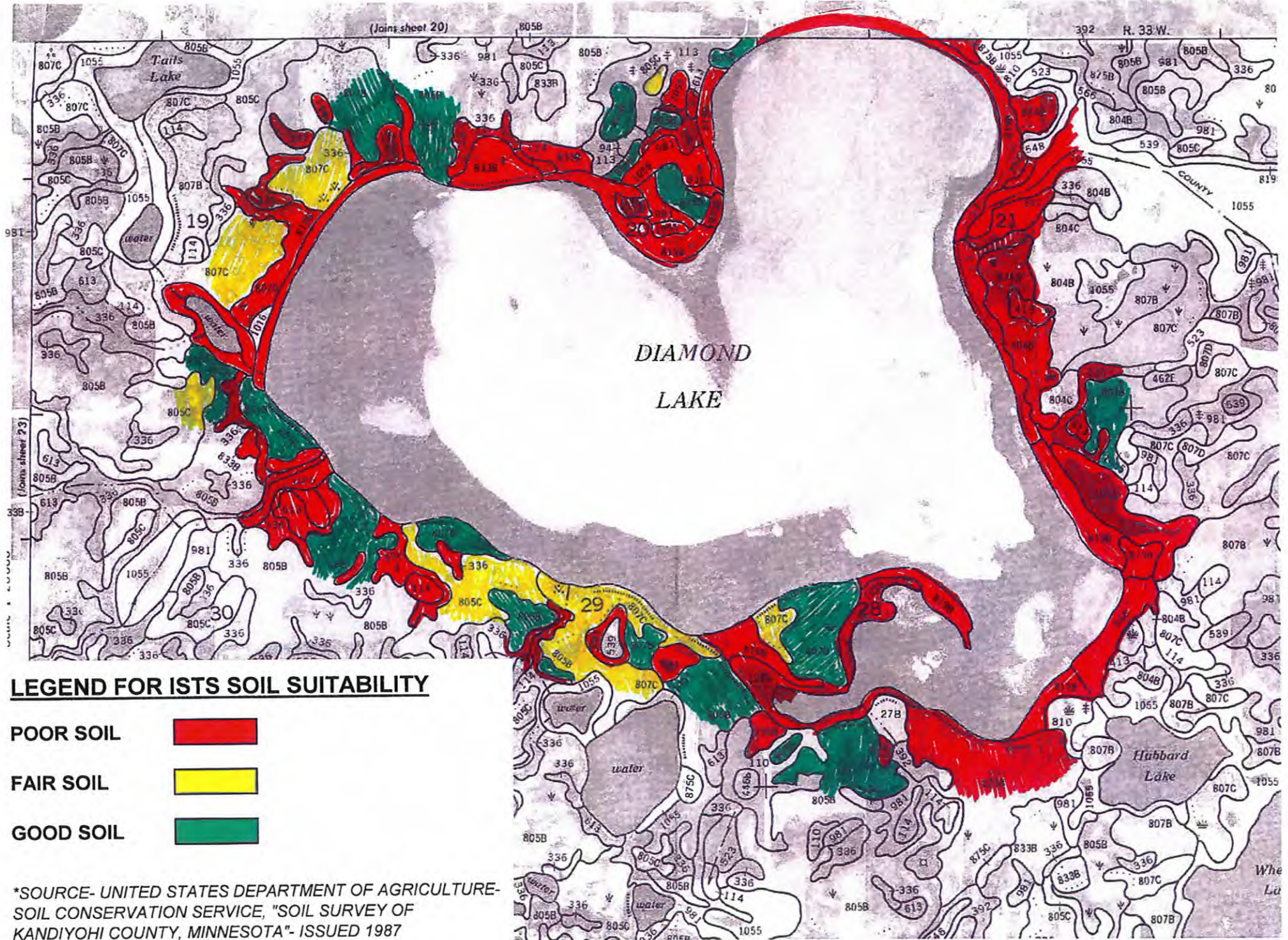
July 8 – Diamond Lake meeting regarding the proposed sanitary sewer system. Estimated total cost of \$7,876,000 with updated estimated average cost per unit of \$17,740 which results in an assessment of about \$1,500/year.

August - DLARA Board minutes indicate that they received 197 valid ballots (from association members). 86 were for the sewer system and 111 were against it. There were 60 members who did not cast ballots, 76% did cast ballots. 72% of the residents are members.

2007

July – DLARA Board meet with Gary Danielson, Gary Geer, Skip Wright and Harlan Madsen to revisit the sewage treatment issues. There are approximately a dozen residents that were given two year extensions to address failing septic systems. That time is up.

September 29 – U of M and Middle Fork Crow WD host meeting to discuss decision making process.



Existing Wastewater Systems

Current Diamond Lake Wastewater Treatment Systems

