

**Fall Lake Township**  
**Rainy River Watershed Priority Issues**  
August 4, 2022

The Fall Lake Township Supervisors compiled a list of priority issues for Fall Lake Township at our regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2022.

Priorities:

- 1) Timber management:
  - Proper timber management to avoid forest fires. Eliminate the need for prescribed burns by a comprehensive timber harvesting program.
    - The goal is to eliminate prescribed burns to eliminate the possibility of future fires getting out of control like the Pagami and Greenwood fires. There is not enough time in our lifetime to replant the areas impacted and for the trees and vegetation to be replaced as they were. These fires impact generations. The air quality and life were extremely impacted during the fires. This also impacted tourism our number one industry. Only the wind direction saved Fall Lake Township from evacuation and the loss of our homes and way of life. Those affected will never regain what was lost. When the Greenwood created its own weather system, the plume it created looked like an atomic bomb was denoted from our vantage point in Fall Lake Township.
- 2) Water quality:
  - No invasive species.
  - Keep our water clean.
- 3) Septic systems:
  - Handled properly.
- 4) Lake water levels:
  - All lakes in our township, especially White Iron, Garden, Farm, Fall Lake, Birch Lake and the South Kawishiwi River. The lake levels are controlled by the Minnesota Power dams. There is a small dam on the Kawishiwi River flowing from Birch Lake into White Iron Lake. White Iron Flows into Farm Lake, then Garden Lake. There is a power dam that generates electricity flowing from Garden Lake into Fall Lake, and it flows north. Rain, drought, snow melt, etc. impact water levels and can create flooding. Careful management is important. If Minnesota Power is not included in this process, they should be, as the dam directly impacts water levels. White Iron Lake was at least 5 feet high this Spring. This caused water in some basements.
- 5) Bridges and Roads
  - Garden Lake bridge on the Fernberg Road needs major repair. At this point there is a tonnage limit to the bridge, so it does not collapse under the weight. This road and bridge are the only access to properties on the Fernberg Road, north of the bridge. It impacts construction contractors and homeowners.
  - Roads, bridges, and culverts: Create a comprehensive general road, bridge, and culvert maintenance plan for county roads in Fall Lake Township to keep users safe. Note: Fall Lake Township has a plan for general maintenance of roads in Fall Lake Township.

