



Doug Leier

Column

INSIDE • 7

BRINGING YOU DAILY NEWS FROM THE LAKE REGION



DEVILS LAKE JOURNAL

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | DEVILSLAKEJOURNAL.COM

ESTABLISHED 1906 | PART OF THE MCM MEDIA NETWORK

Water Quality Update and Distribution Plan for the Spirit Lake Reservation

The Spirit Lake Tribal Council issued a public notice on May 27, 2025, regarding elevated levels of manganese detected in the water system managed by SL Water Resources.

This situation affects all residents within the boundaries of the Spirit Lake Reservation.

Recognizing the importance of safe drinking water, we are committed to keeping the community informed and supported during this time. In response to the findings, our designated incident command team, composed of various tribal departments, convened promptly to address the situation. We are actively developing a comprehensive plan to provide safe drinking water to our residents.

Water Distribution Plan: Beginning May 28, 2025, we will distribute bottled water to residents in need. Each household will receive water at the

rate of one case per two people. To facilitate this process, residents will be required to fill out a request form, which will soon be made available.

We kindly ask that households limit their initial requests to one case until the distribution process is fully established. Priority will be given to families with infants who rely on formula, elders, and individuals with medical conditions, such as those who are immunosuppressed.

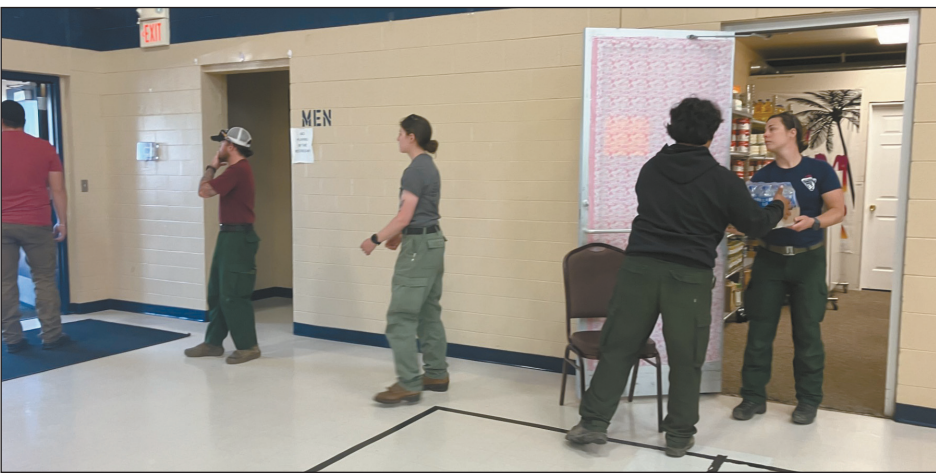
For residents without transportation who require water delivery, please contact the following individuals for assistance:

- Cher Rainbow, Transportation Manager, at 701-381-2249
- Lindsey Liggett, CHR Manager, at 701-766-4236 ext. 454
- Mary Alex, Emergency Manager, at 701-381-8964
- Vicki Alberts, Public Relations, at 701-381-

0789

Our efforts extend beyond immediate distribution. The Spirit Lake Tribal Council is actively seeking assistance from state and federal agencies and is collaborating with neighboring tribes to secure additional resources. We are exploring options for water filtration systems at our four district recreation centers, and we are aware that the Mission district rec center is currently equipped with a functioning water filtration system. Water testing will be conducted at each recreation center by the Office of Environmental Health to ensure the safety of drinking water.

Also, our Waste Management Department will be providing dumpsters in each district specifically for the disposal of plastic waste. We urge everyone to keep plastic waste separate and utilize these designated dumpsters to maintain a clean



and manageable waste environment.

Our Water Resources Department is working diligently on a temporary solution to address the elevated manganese levels. We anticipate the arrival and installation of a temporary water filtration system within approximately 14 days. Therefore, our water distribution efforts will continue from May 28 to June 11, 2025.

Further information regarding ongoing testing

See PLAN | 5



Is Devils Lake's Water Safe?



The Devils Lake Water Treatment Plant is located south of Mac's Hardware Store, beyond the Community Gardens.

With the news from Spirit Lake cautioning residents about drinking water, a number of people have inquired about the safety of Devils Lake's drinking water supply. So the Journal contacted Mike Grafsgaard from the City of Devils Lake to ask some of those questions.

Grafsgaard stated that he had read some of the posts on social media and wanted to reassure residents of Devils Lake that the city's drinking water was not in jeopardy and is safe to use and drink. The aquifer that the Spirit Lake Nation uses is the Warwick aquifer and the aquifer that the city of Devils Lake uses is the SpiritWood Aquifer. They are two different aquifers with wells located miles apart from each other.

Although Devils Lake's water used to come from the Warwick aquifer since the early 1960s, a number of years ago the city of Devils Lake switched to the larger Spiritwood aquifer, developed a new wellfield, and deeded its old well field to the Spirit Lake Nation.

They even discussed the possibility of using the City's old pipeline from the Warwick Aquifer to aid Spirit Lake in this crisis. However, Grafsgaard said that it would not be possible because construction of dams built to protect areas from flooding required that the old pipe be removed and plugged in areas of the dams.

Grafsgaard said it is a common practice to remove iron and manganese in water supplies. The Devils Lake City Water department closely monitors mineral levels and other parameters in its water supply, as other water departments do.

He also said he has been in touch with R.J. Yankton, from Spirit Lake Water Resources, and offered his and Devils Lake's help as they address this latest issue at Spirit Lake.

"We're willing to help our neighbors in whatever way is practical," Grafsgaard stated.

For more information on the City's drinking water supply, visit the City's website at dvlnd.com

Recap of the May 19 City Commission meeting

The Devils Lake City Commission met Monday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. with a full agenda to cover.

Mayor Jim Moe called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and approval of Minutes from the May 5 meeting.

Portfolios

Since there were no awards, proclamations, public hearings, bid openings, visitors or delegations they proceeded directly to Commission Portfolios and the Engineering recommendation regarding the award of the bid for the 2025 Asphalt and Concrete Street Repairs and the result of the bid for Curb, Gutter and Sidewalks.

Sanitation gave a recommendation for the purchase of an automated refuse truck. Only two people attended the public information meeting about this

purchase and both of them were City employees. They described the benefits of this kind of truck going forward as it is more and more difficult to find people to apply for these positions when there is an opening. The truck will have side dumping arms and therefore the driver can go down the alley taking care of the garbage on both sides at the same time. The cost is estimated at just over \$436,00 and will be in operation approximately 15 months from now. It will mean new and larger maybe 64 gallon garbage cans for each residence, we will no longer be using our own personal garbage cans. More information will be forthcoming on this change in the near future.

The Fire Department recommended the award of the city's tree trimming bid for

the season ahead.

New business

The designated polling location for the Devils Lake City's Special Election planned for July 22, 2025, will be the Memorial Building and contrary to what was mistakenly posted on social media, like all special elections there will be a "Yes" and a "No" option for the proposed issue. The commissioners emphasized that the plan is NOT to build a whole new City Hall but to perhaps renovate one or more of the unoccupied buildings in the downtown area and maybe remodel or expand the present City Hall. Whatever is done will depend on the outcome of the vote. The present Lake Region Law Enforcement Center most likely needs extensive renovation to continue being used, also

See RECAP | 5

