



The groundbreaking was noted with shovels of dirt. The ceremonial dirt movement was courtesy of watershed district managers, a Chisago Lake Township Supervisor, a representative for the contractor, two farm family members and the District Director and District Engineering firm. See story.

Watershed District begins wetland rehabilitation project

A wetland rehabilitation is taking place this winter to help improve water quality in downstream basins and flowages.

Peterson Companies is contracted to do the work, and the site is south of Big Green Lake, on farms owned by the Mattson and Zaruba families. The landowners were thanked by conservation officials for cooperating with the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District to create

functional wetlands again.

The idea is to rehab the wetlands to retain phosphorus, a nutrient traveling through farm country in the watershed system.

Phosphorus encourages excessive growth of nuisance plants which degrades water quality.

The CLFL Watershed District Director Michael Kinney, commented at the groundbreaking last week, that 445 pounds of phospho-

rus per year will be naturally filtered out of the watershed and will not enter the closest basin, Moody Lake or others downstream, once this rehab project is done.

The state Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) grant being applied to this project was \$429,284. The watershed district, which covers the southwest end of Chisago County and the north part of Washington County, pays for \$107,321.