



WATER SOURCE

BY MARK POPPITZ
ISLAND VIEW C.C.

When the decision was made to automate our irrigation system, we had to decide where our water supply would come from. A new well would have to be drilled or use lake water. We are fortunate to have Lake Waconia directly across the road from Island View.

Drawing water from the lake was not my first choice. After drilling a test well in October of '83 we found there wasn't enough available water. Two wells would have to be drilled for an adequate water supply. The cost factor involved in drilling two wells made us concentrate our efforts on drawing our water supply from Lake Waconia.

This was the beginning of many phone calls, miles, and paper work. After talking to LeRoy Young at Minnesota Toro he designed our present system. On the lake we have a 500 gpm low pressure floating pump, with a 6" discharge line, which pumps the water under the road, onto the golf course and into the pumphouse. In the pumphouse we have a 3' diameter 16'deep wet well, with an 18" culvert 275' long connected to one of our ponds which serves as a reservoir. In the pumphouse I have my central controller, and my pump control panel. Water is pumped from the wet well by two 30 h.p. pumps which have a 650 g.p.m. capacity. These pumps can be run in union with my existing 8" well which has a 250 g.p.m. capacity. My well can also be used to fill the pond if necessary.

With finding out it was possible to get lake water onto the golf course, I made first contact with the D.N.R. in late October '83. After my first discussion with the D.N.R., I was told it should be no problem using lake water. After a few days I received various applications and instructions for other information.

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I had to fill out Water Use Permits for our existing well plus one to draw water from Lake Waconia. Write up a contingency plan if our water allocation was reduced or suspended. Draw a map showing proposed pumping site, existing well, distribution point, legal descriptions, aerial photos and lake shore owned. After compiling all the information I waited for their reply which I was told would be no problem and wouldn't take long.

After the paperwork for the D.N.R. was done, I went to the county. I applied for and got a tiling permit which was needed to auger a culvert under the road bed to bring the water onto the golf course. I also had to talk to the County Water Safety Patrol about dock placement and a protective cage for our pump.

I kept in touch with the D.N.R. calling every week, always getting the same answer, don't see any problems with your getting the permit. With this response we started dredging and excavation work. By mid-February we had finished our dredging and excavation work and building a pumphouse but we still had not received our

permit. When I called the D.N.R. the next time, the lady I had been working with was no longer with the D.N.R. and nobody knew anything about our application. Now was a time of panic, 3 1/2 months of the D.N.R. telling me "NO PROBLEM", \$15,000.00 spent and we had nothing!

I had to start all over again, filling out applications and gathering all the information. This time I'd call the D.N.R. twice a week to check the status of our permit. Even with all the set backs we were going ahead with automating our system and use our well to fill the pond. After all the phone calls and waiting, our permit was approved on the 24th of April, only to find that a mistake was made on the application.

I had asked for 40 million gallons of water I thought, but the D.N.R. said I asked for 40 acre feet which amounted to 13.3 million gallons. Knowing that this would not be enough water, I went to see our lawyer. After giving our lawyer all the information I had, he went about writing letters and making phone calls. On June 15 an amended permit for 40 million gallons of water was issued.

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