



Northern Waters Land Trust History

Since 1992 the Northern Waters Land Trust has been working to help preserve and protect the places we love. We've come a long way!

1992: A small team of active conservationists gathered to respond to water quality issues. The Tri-County Leech Lake Watershed Project focused on water quality and community resource development with DNR support

1995: Tri-County continues with the mission to fund, promote and enable activities that protect the natural environment of the Leech Lake watershed

1997: A Board of Directors and formal Board was formed. We became the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation...LLAWF for short. We won a State grant for \$300,000 for aquatic management area on Lost Lake.

1998-2002: We grew. Assisted in 16 conservation projects in the Leech Lake area watershed

2002-2005: DNR phases out funding support. Conservation projects continue without DNR assistance and new funders came on-board.

2005-2006: Woman Lake / Lantern Bay project begins

2007-2014: Paula West was hired a first Executive Director. Continued state grants and Cass County support for 4 projects.

2014-2017: Paula West retires. New Executive Director, Lindsey Ketchel, hired. Continued partnerships with counties and the receipt of state grants. Office moves from Hackensack to Walker, MN. The Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 created.

2017-2018: The Board begins the Accreditation process with Land Trust Alliance. Name changed to Northern Waters Land Trust. Executive Director, Lindsey Ketchel, moves to Wisconsin Land Conservation organizations.

2019 – present: Search begins for new Executive Director. Achieve accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. New database secured. Rebranding, logo and website created.

Preserving land to protect water

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