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.

