

**Red Lake Watershed District  
Four Legged Lake/JD 5 Project Team  
Meeting Notes  
December 16, 2016**

The meeting was convened by Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) at 11:00 a.m. The following Project Team members (or their alternates) were present:

Myron Jesme (RLWD)  
Nate Dalager (HDR)  
Dillon Nelson (HDR)  
Les Torgerson (RLWD)  
Terry Sorenson (RLWD)  
Tammy Baden (MnDNR)  
Dave Rave (MnDNR)  
Patty Olson (Landowner)

Theresa Olson (MnDNR)  
Nick Phillips (Clearwater SWCD)  
Steve Hofstad (BWSR)  
Chad Severts (BWSR)  
Stephanie Klamm (MnDNR)  
Craig Jarnot (Corps)  
Ed Isackson (Landowner)

The August 19, 2016 Project Work Team meeting notes were reviewed.

Landowner Ed Isackson introduced himself. Myron Jesme gave an overview of the history of the project.

Discussion was held on water levels and coming to a consensus amongst the Project Work Team. Nate Dalager distributed a field survey with cross sections completed by staff from HDR Engineering. Survey information was used to determine actual depths of water of each pool as that had been a point of contention from previous meetings. The southeast basin has a maximum depth of 5' in the middle at elevation 1423.30. The bottom was illusive as there is about 18" of floating vegetation. Dillon Nelson stated the west basin felt sandier, but as they went further east it was dead vegetation on the bottom. The elevation of northeast basin varied from 1428.40 to depth of 1422.9. The northwest basin was 5' deep in places with the lowest elevation at 1422.10 and the highest at 1427.80. The southwest basin was 7' depth with the lowest elevation at 1420.10 and highest elevation 1427.80. Dalager stated that this is preliminary information for discussion to work towards a consensus.

Dalager displayed a matrix that has different values for the Project Work Team to consider. Discussion was held on how the various elevations work for various aspects (water quality, FDR, aesthetics, waterfowl, etc.). Les Torgerson questioned if bank erosion takes into consideration the impacts on County Road 2? Dalager replied that this matrix is helpful to know there are many factors to consider.

Isaacson stated if the culvert was previously raised three feet, it did not raise the lake elevation 3'. Chad Severts stated that he looked at the site and he concurred with Isaacson that it appears looking downstream from the township road, it was hard to vision the culvert being raised that much. Jesme responded that over time sediment may have contributed to elevations

downstream. Jesme also indicated that in looking at the profile, it appears to show the culvert is indeed perched.

Dalager stated that we have a proposed conceptual scenario. A structure could be built on the extreme west outlet at 1423.8 bottom elevation that would drain thru the road but would have the ability with stoplogs to maintain a pool elevation of 1425. The water elevation in November was 1427.8, the normal pool would be 2.38' lower than this fall. As we go across to County Road 23 to the east basins we would have culverts set at 1426 and all basins would bounce to 1427 for FDR. With this concept, Dalager stated that it would be helpful to look at the map showing the depth comparisons. Dalager asked MnDNR staff their thoughts on the depths now that we know the basins are deeper than what we originally thought. Dave Rave stated that discussion was held on keeping the depth at 1-2' deep and now we see them at 3-4' deep with the proposed elevation the culverts. Dalager indicated that he looked at the acreage and we would have for 0-1' and 1-2' at the various elevations. Patty Olson discussed elevations that impact landowner's property. Olson stated that at an elevation of 1428, she has water on her land. Olson stated that she would be comfortable with an elevation of 1426 and spring elevation of 1427. Olson stated that the water elevation had dropped when the Mennonites removed a beaver dam and that a heavy rainfall this fall had washed out a township road.

Dalager commented that several entities have stated what their interests are, with each entity having a range. A consensus needs to be reached. Discussion was held on this area being a high value waterfowl area. History has shown that prior to the increase in water elevations, this area was in the top 10% of waterfowl habitat, therefore, Jesme indicated that if the water is 3 or 4 feet in places, we still should have a very high waterfowl habitat lake as it was before the culvert was raised three feet.

Discussion was held on the aesthetic view. Les Torgerson stated that it appears everyone agrees on the elevation of the southwest basin, except those that are concerned with the aesthetic view. Torgerson stated that it appears that even if the elevation is at 1425, the landowners will still have an aesthetic view, it will not be a dried up basin. Olson stated that the landowners need to pay attention to the staff gages that were installed as they would understand the visual aspect of how the elevation would appear.

Dalager stated that based on the survey, an elevation of 1425 for the west basins and 1426 for the east basins is attainable. Dalager questioned MnDNR staff if these elevations would be acceptable? Tammy Baden stated that she would like to go out and take a visual look at it these elevations.

Olson discussed her concern regarding beaver dams and the lack of an entity taking responsibility for beaver control. Discussion was held on the installation of Clemson levelers to help keep the beavers out of culverts.

Dalager stated that it his goal to finish the planning process in less than one year, and implement the plan in 2018.

Discussion was held on the Purpose and Need. As part of the 11 step planning process, review point 2 identifies impacted resources (soils, water, air, plants, and animals). Dalager reviewed comments received on the draft Purpose and Need. Dalager further stated that we want the same document that will meet the needs of the NRCS and the Corps.

Discussion was held on the goals of the project. Are the goals as we presented them in the past still accurate? Dalager reviewed the revised goals of the project with the group adding additional changes.

Discussion was held on the planning process. Completion of an EAW will help with the permitting. The project is currently in the Step 2 and 3 stage. Once we complete the Purpose and Need we will be moving forward.

Next Project Work Team meeting will be held mid to late winter (March/April). The Purpose and Need will be done by then and the EAW will be drafted.

Dalager stated that there will be a Press Release available in the next couple of months.

Torgerson discussed the significance of the lake appearance after the survey was completed. Dalager discussed the appearance of the basins at elevations of 1425 and 1426. The west basin would look similar at 1425 as its get shallower as you work around the basin.