

**Red Lake Watershed District
Four Legged Lake/JD 5 Project Team
Meeting Notes
June 17, 2016**

The meeting was convened by Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) at 9:30 a.m. The following Project Team members (or their alternates) were present:

Myron Jesme (RLWD)	Theresa Olson (MnDNR)
Nate Dalager (HDR)	Nick Phillips (Clearwater SWCD)
Dillion Nelson (HDR)	Keith Weston (NRCS)
Les Torgerson (RLWD)	Denise Oakes (MPCA)
Terry Sorenson (RLWD)	Matt Fischer (BWSR)
Lee Coe (RLWD)	Tammy Baden (MnDNR)
Dave Rave (MnDNR)	Craig Jarnot (Corps) via telephone
Dan Thul (MnDNR)	

Nate Dalager reviewed the April 15, 2016 Project Work team meeting notes.

Dalager discussed the NRCS funding process and how it relates to the Four Legged Lake Project. The NRCS National Watershed Program Handbook dictates how the process proceeds. There are 11 steps, with this project currently in Steps 2 and 3. Dalager discussed the Informational Meeting to be held on July 12th in Gonvick, and the process in which notices will be sent out to the public.

Keith Weston discussed review and coordination of the 11 step process. Weston will be sending THPO and SHPO formal letters requesting agency participation as part of process. After the July 12th Informational Meeting, we will be working towards review Point #3, with the Environmental Assessment (EA) beginning after that point.

Dalager discussed the project schedule, stating that we are a little behind on the website information which will have a link on the RLWD website.

Dalager discussed the projects goals, stating that this is also a legal ditch system. Dalager discussed concerns by the landowners, Clearwater County road concerns, and MnDNR wildlife habitat located within the four basins.

Myron Jesme and Les Torgerson discussed the Purpose and Need of the project. Dalager stated that the main purpose is lake level management. Discussion was held on the elevation of the culvert at the county road.

Dalager discussed the flood control concept of the project by having a drawdown, along with a bounce. Dalager stated that the Project Team had discussed having four structures. A meeting was held with staff from the MnDNR, to discuss lake elevations. Dalager noted that the elevations that were discussed has DNR, RLWD and most landowner's support. Les Torgerson indicated that he has heard that some landowners may want to see the lake deeper/higher.

Dalager believes the scheme they have meets the objectives of most parties mentioned. Dalager recommends one operable structure that could be drawn down to 1423.8 which is the pre 1999 elevation that most people on PWT seem to be able to live with, with the possible exception of some of the landowners on the west end. Discussion was held on the change of culvert elevations at the county road and individual interests of a few landowners. The elevation of 1423.8 has a historical reference and fits the MnDNR interests. The two western basins would be connected with drawdown potential to 1423.8, with the eastern basins having culvert at 1425.5, but then again there would be no control so they would drain down to 1425.5 some years, which would mean ~2' lower than what it is today Dalager stated that this would simplify things. Under normal conditions there would be stoplogs set to hold the basins at 1425, a little deeper than wildlife experts would like, but any lower and we would drain the basins down quite low. Dalager stated that these are all proposed numbers. Culverts would need to be changed throughout the system. If we drawdown to 1423.8 each fall and only bounce up to 1425 which is normal pool that is only 1.2 feet for FDR. Dalager proposed for spring operation to bounce to 1427 for all of them just for the spring then things would be brought down to normal levels that would be acceptable to all partners. If there is no spring runoff in late March, early April, and dependent on spring rains, the elevation would be set for duck/geese habitat.

Torgerson asked for a visual on how much the basins would shrink at an elevation of 1425.

Jesme stated that RLWD staff installed gages on Four Legged Lake for public viewing. The staff gages were installed south of township road along north side of the Northeast Basin as well as along east side Clearwater County Road #2 between Southwest and Northwest Basins. Elevation at the time of installation is as follows. Northwest pool is 1427.32, Southwest elevation 1427.36.

The proposed elevations are lower than what is currently going on recently, but we need to keep in mind that there is a legal ditch system running through the chain of lakes.

Dalager asked for reactions to the proposed lake levels, stating that the low levels are for drawdown in the fall.

Discussion was held on removal of beaver/beaver dams that the RLWD has jurisdiction over.

Dalager stated that in August 2015, the Project Team seemed to have a consensus on water levels, but it became obvious when the Project Team met in April there was not a consensus on water levels. Dalager stated that the Purpose and Need will cause us to step away from these levels but at a minimum we need to have some kind of a consensus to water levels.

Tammy Badin stated that according to her survey from 2011, the elevation of 1425.5 would make the east basin dry. Discussion was held on checking to make sure the datum/benchmark is 1988 datum. Dalager asked if we could specify a basin depth from which we could base a culvert invert that would give us an adequate depth. Jesme stated that we need to get further elevations of these basins and make sure we all have the same numbers. We can look at what benchmark they used and compare datum. Jesme asked Dave Rave and Badin if they would

rather see a foot. Rave responded 1' to 2' feet depth in the basin. Dalager stated that we will survey the lakes and get to the point. Rave stated that we do not want to get mud flats.

Theresa Olson discussed the EA process and how we would analyze the impacts and then have alternatives.

Dalager stated that when we determine the basin bottom, we will set the culvert a foot above it. Rave stated that assuming there's not more than one foot of drop within the basin. Badin stated that she does not want to get locked into elevations at this point.

It was the consensus of the group to include in today's meeting notes about the culvert being one foot above the basin bottom. Dan Thul and Olson both agreed with the statement.

Nick Phillips discussed the Enbridge Pipe Line 3 and potential conflicts with elevations. Dalager stated that this will need to be addressed with Enbridge. Jesme stated that Enbridge will have to complete permitting through the District.