

**Red Lake Watershed District  
Pine Lake Area Project Work Team  
Meeting Notes  
December 16, 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)	Terry Vonasek (Landowner)
Nate Dalager (HDR)	Nick Phillips (Clearwater SWCD)
Cory Gieseke (HDR)	Mark Larson (Landowner)
Les Torgerson (RLWD)	Steve Hofstad (BWSR)
Terry Sorenson (RLWD)	Matt Fischer (BWSR)
Tammy Baden (MnDNR)	Stephanie Klamm (MnDNR)
Dave Rave (MnDNR)	Craig Jarnot (Corps)
Theresa Olson (MnDNR)	Chad Severts (BWSR)
Les Roos (Landowner)	Dave Dalager (Landowner)

The August 19, 2016 Pine Lake Project Work team meeting notes were reviewed.

Nate Dalager asked for feedback or if there were any specific questions from the Project Work Team regarding the timeline of the project.

Discussion was held on the development of the Purpose and Need statement. Dalager stated that today's meeting is to further develop the Purpose and Need statement.

Dave Rave questioned water levels, referring to raising water levels and not addressing erosion concerns. Les Torgerson stated that most of the erosion problems are from ice. If water levels are high in the spring, the ice pushes up causing erosion. Control of water levels in the spring will be required to help minimize erosion. Myron Jesme stated that the District lowers the lake level in the fall according the Pine Lake operating plan. The current structure was installed in 1981, which has helped decrease erosion. Jesme stated that the District removed a beaver dam from the outlet channel on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Dave Dalager discussed dealing with floating bog.

N. Dalager displayed a chart, discussing the flashiness of the lake. Discussion was held on reducing the bounce of the lake overtime and potential changes to lake water levels. N. Dalager stated that currently the lake is not flooding anyone and is allowing access at an elevation of 1283.5. There would be minor flooding at an elevation of 1284.4 with cabin owners having wet lawns. At 1285.4 docks are submerged and septic system concerns. The highest level this summer was recorded on August 11, 2016 at 1284.52. N. Dalager discussed the different rankings on the chart with increased elevations, challenging the Project Work Team to take this chart and evaluate it and then hopefully the Project Work Team can come to consensus of what people can live with. N. Dalager stated that without upstream retention, he does not feel we can obtain an additional 6" of water. If the outlet structure was modified, 4" of additional water

would be attainable. Structure modifications would have the ability to adapt to changes in water elevations.

Further discussion and site visits will need to take place with remaining upstream landowners.

Chad Severts questioned if two graphs should be developed. One graph with upstream storage and one without. Could that possibly paint a clearer picture as to what would change if there isn't upstream storage? N. Dalager stated that he attempted to do this.

Terry Vonasek stated that landowners he has spoken to after receiving a rain event, with water standing in their lawns, would rather see the lake elevation a little higher versus low. Les Roos agreed with Vonasek's statement. Rave stated that if the landowners have septic systems, the higher lake levels are an issue.

N. Dalager stated that no decisions were made on the chart, but it is clear there are numerous opinions and competing interests.

N. Dalager asked what is the Purpose and Need for the project. Dalager stated that he did submit thru the NRCS planning process several documents. Approval was received for review Point 1, with Point 2 not submitted, but a draft form was reviewed. The scoping report frames up what we are going to look at in the plan, and what it may affect in terms of resources. Within the plan, there is a statement about purpose and need for action. This statement is being reviewed by Craig Jarnot, Keith Weston and Theresa Olson. Comments received to date were reviewed by Dalager. Olson stated that the purpose is not broad enough, there is too much focus. For the need portion, we need to expand/explain where the flood occurs, when it occurs and under what conditions. Olson stated that making these changes will strengthen the need statement. Discussion was held on the recreational issues, like flooding of docks or docks being high and dry. These would be good specifics for the need portion. Is there a level where boats cannot get in the lake or fish kills due to water elevation? Further explanation on these items is needed. Jarnot stated that sometimes things are so obvious, that it is a problem, but we need to make sure those problems are on paper. N. Dalager will make edits to the Purpose and Need statement and continue to work with Olson and Jarnot for a finished product.

Jarnot discussed alternative analyses, stating that we need to leave out any alternatives when we are talking Purpose and Need. The problem needs to be stated, why it is a problem and what we can do to fix the problem. Alternatives are driven by the Purpose and Need, once we figure out what the Purpose and Need is we may find more alternatives.

Vonasek stated that recreational traffic could be added as low water has a safety concern for boaters.

N. Dalager stated that a new outlet structure with a low flow outlet would allow water from the bottom of the lake to be drawn out, which could cascade over rocks, therefore helping the oxygen levels benefitting fish habitat.

N. Dalager stated that the Purpose and Need will be completed and approved before another project team meeting is held.

N. Dalager discussed modeling that has been completed upstream and downstream. Dalager stated that discussion will need to take place in terms of FDR for the project. A cost analysis will need to be completed for this project. Pre and post accounting of flooded or non-flooded footprints based off of Lidar will be needed to complete a cost analysis. Economic analysis will be completed after Step 3. Dalager is currently setting the base line for the existing condition, and will need to determine the impact. Monetary benefits will be considered and a preliminary set of non-monetary benefits considered, which are all set by Economists. Dalager discussed the approach Economists will take.

Discussion was held on public relations and information outreach.

Dave Rave updated the Project Team on the outcome of Pine Lake WMA. Installation of a streamgage will need to be completed. Discussion was held on potential replacing the structure at the Pine Lake WMA. Rave stated that a board was pulled on the structure to draw down additional water for spring flood storage if needed. MnDNR Engineers will need to assist in the discussion of replacement of the structure. Discussion was held on the operating plan. The District will install a staff gage early next spring. A Press Release was written by a MnDNR Public Information Officer.

N. Dalager discussed the 11 step process. We are currently in Step 2 and 3. Once the Purpose and Need is complete, we will then focus on the alternatives. Review Point 3 is complete.

Discussion was held in regard to taking out the Site F structure from this process as it is basically a FDR project on its own.

N. Dalager stated that the next Project Work Team meeting will be held in approximately three months.