Update

The purpose of this update is to:
- Maintain public awareness and understanding of the project.
- Provide opportunity for public input.

Recent Activities
- A public input meeting was held on July 12.
- A Project Team meeting was held on August 19.
- Preferable water levels continue to be evaluated and discussed.
- Project need, purpose, and goals have been drafted.
- The planning process will include development of an Environmental Assessment this Fall.

Project Understanding & Goals

Historical Context
- A 45 square mile drainage area flows into Pine Lake.
- In 1981, a sheet pile dam with two adjustable stops bays was built to raise the lake level and provide a means to manage the level.

Project Purpose
The purpose of this project is to allow adaptive water level management of Pine Lake throughout the year.

Today’s Needs
- Runoff causes rapid increases in lake levels.
- Flooding has occurred in 13 of the last 33 years.
- Lower lake levels in late summer, fall, and winter result in recreation issues and fish kills.

Goals for Tomorrow
- Contribute to regional goals of reducing peak flows along the Red River by 20% during flooding events.
- Construct a new outlet to improve operational flexibility and operator safety.
- Improve wildlife habitat and recreational activities.
- Construct upstream retention basins to reduce flood damages at Pine Lake and areas downstream from Pine Lake.

Project Location
There are several alternative retention basin improvements under consideration within the watershed upstream from Pine Lake. The operating plan of one existing retention area (Little Pine WMA) is being considered for modification to increase gated storage volume.
Lake Outlet Modifications
The control structure downstream from the outlet of the lake could provide the following benefits:

- A combination of stop logs and slide gate to allow for flexibility in operations.
- Stop logs could be adjusted periodically to adapt to changing seasonal or yearly conditions.
- A slide gate could allow draining of the lake to a lower level and provide supplemental outlet capacity.
- A slide gate could be operated with ease, allowing drainage of the lake to a lower level and provide supplemental outlet capacity.
- Additional lake level control that could help improve lake habitat.

A new structure could include a walkway that would allow for:

- Access to stop logs and gate during elevated water conditions.
- Increased normal pool elevations.
- Improved safety and convenience for operators.

Little Pine Management Area
The State of Minnesota and the Red Lake Watershed District have signed an agreement which establishes authority and responsibility for water level management in the Little Pine WMA to provide flood control, and provide wildlife habitat and public recreational opportunities.