

Detroit Lakes Area Fisheries
14583 County Highway 19
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

May 9, 2022

Hello Floyd Shores Lake Association,

The Pelican River Watershed District and Minnesota DNR are exploring a fish passage and habitat project for the Little Floyd Lake outlet dam. This would ease fish seasonal and spawning movements, and is part of a basin-wide effort to benefit the ecology of the Pelican River system. It is also part of statewide efforts to restore aging infrastructure using more natural methods, while still fulfilling the original construction purpose.

To maintain Little Floyd's lake runout elevation, the underwater portion of the dam will remain. Concrete above the waterline and ground will be removed. Natural materials will be placed for fish movement and habitat. While deceptively simple looking, careful engineering and design ensures lake outflow is similar across a range of conditions, pre- and post-project. Several larger projects on the Pelican and Otter Tail Rivers have successfully used this approach. Project sites provide excellent spawning habitat for Walleye and native sucker species.

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to visit with you.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Kludt, PhD
Red River Fisheries Specialist
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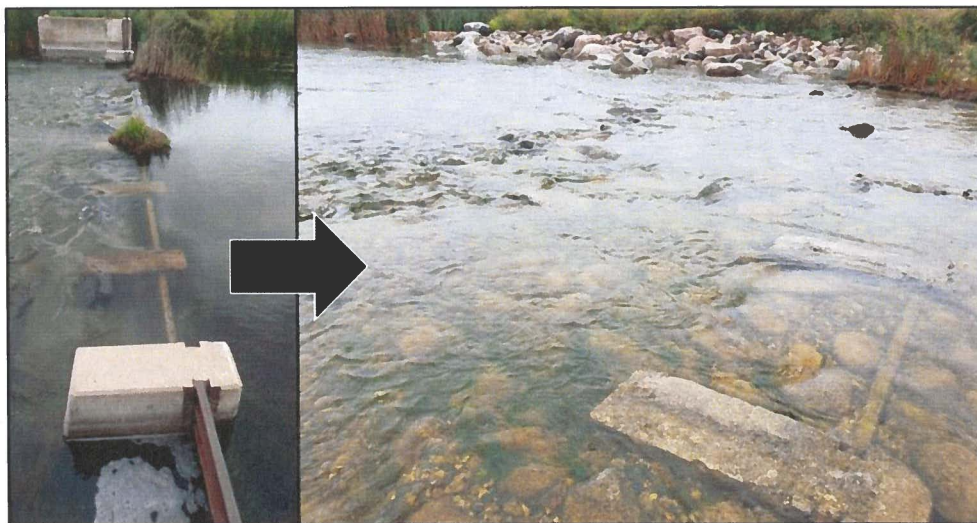


Fig. 1: Lake Lizzie outlet dam, pre- and post-project. A similar design would be used for Little Floyd.

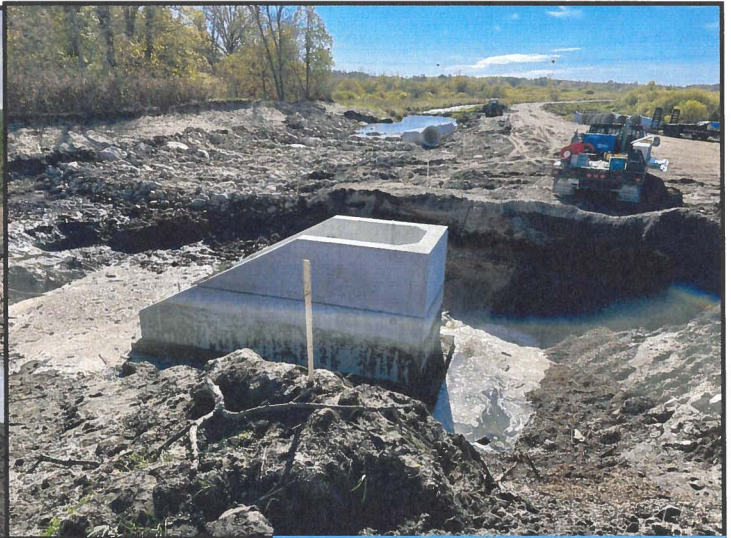


Rice Lake Wetland Restoration Project Phase I Construction

Rice Lake Capital Improvement Project (CIP) - Phase 1 Upper Structure Completed!

The District was awarded a MN Clean Water Land and Legacy Trust grant for construction of the Phase 1 Upper Water Control Structure in 2021. The project was advertised for bids and in March 2021, the project was to Williams Excavation and Seeding based out of Ashby, MN in the amount of \$501,499.27.

After the May 13th pre-construction meeting, letters were sent to nearby landowners to let them know the project is finally underway and expectations over the summer construction period. Williams Excavating began construction of the Phase 1- upper structure access road (Industrial Park and along Ditch 13) and Anchor Road Improvements. Anchor Road Improvements included removal of 3 existing culverts in Ditch 13/Pelican River, removal of the road segment to Becker CSAH 21 and re-establishment /seeding of the road slope. On June 3rd, construction started on the Pelican River/Rice Lake Wetland in-channel impoundment section (earthen dam, rock fishway). Project construction schedule was modified as there were ongoing delivery delays with the concrete water control structure until October. However, the contractors, HEI, and MN DNR staff revised an alternative construction method to continue project construction on the rock fishway and historic outlet portions of the project and then install the water control structure and the concrete piping for the waterway bypass in early October and finish final site clean up by November. This project is projected to reduce summer phosphorus loading to Detroit Lake by 600– 1,000 lbs annually, depending upon weather conditions.



Project Partners

- Clean Water Legacy Amendment
- Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds
- NRCS- USDA University of MN
- MN Pollution Control Agency- Clean Water Partnership
- MN DNR –Landowner
- City of Detroit Lakes– Landowner
- 34 private landowners
- Detroit Township
- Pelican River Watershed District and its residents