



Buck's Mill Dam Project



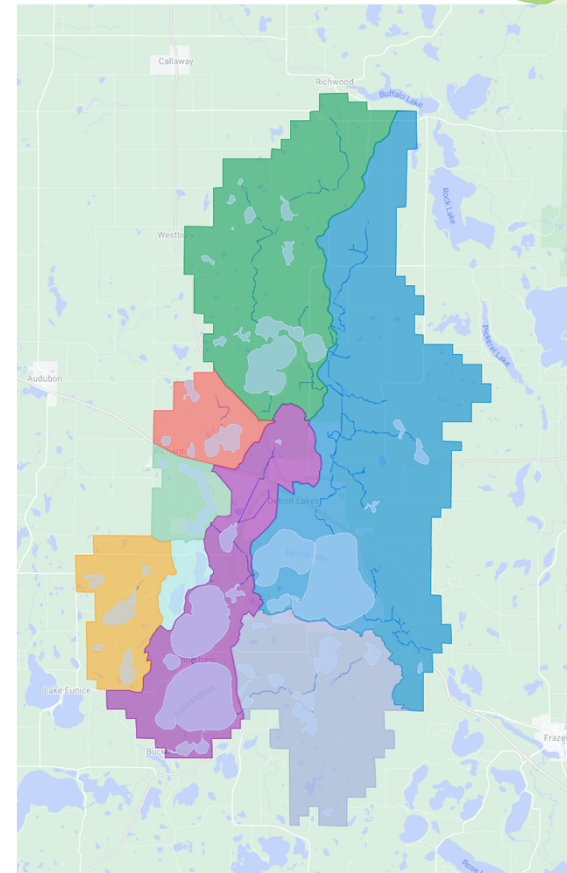
Public Information Meeting – September 25, 2024



Pelican River Watershed District



- PRWD
- Special Unit of government under MS 103D (“Watershed Law”)
- Covers approximately 120 sq. mi. in Becker and Otter Tail Counties.
- Drains to Pelican River and ultimately the Otter Tail and Red Rivers
- Board of Managers (7)
- Staff (3)



PRWD Brief History



Establishment initiated in 1965 to address lake issues, namely “finding causes and solutions for lake eutrophication problems”.



PRWD was the first WD established under the Amended Watershed Act of 1965 that expanded the definition of watershed to include lakes and the lands draining to them.



First Plan published in 1967



Fifth Plan published in 2023 as part of Otter Tail River One Watershed One Plan

Buck's Mill Dam Project



Project Goals: improved ecology, fish passage, safety, and aesthetics

Project Location



Buck's Mill Dam History



- Originally Constructed in 1871 as part of a lumber mill
 - Dam in service over 150 years
- 1908 a lock was built for navigation
- The Pelican River was navigable from Detroit Lake to Big Pelican
 - Two steamboats (Mayflower and Dakotah) and 9 launches in service of the Pelican Valley Navigation Company
 - Steamboats later replaced by gas-powered Shoreham and Pelican
 - Operated until 1918



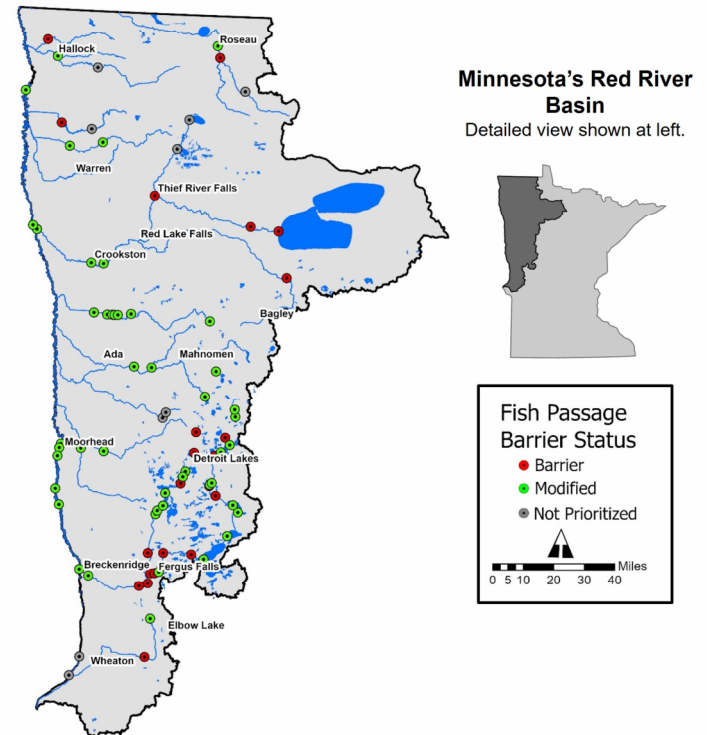
Project Inception



- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) has developed a plan to “Reconnect the Red” to restore fish passage throughout the Red River Basin
- Several projects have already been completed in the region
- Buck’s Mill Dam is a critical next step in connecting lake sturgeon to spawning grounds
- MnDNR developed concept design and completed initial public engagement

Reconnect the Red

30 Years of Fish Passage Partnerships



Current Status



- MnDNR has partnered with PRWD to be local project sponsor
 - PRWD Board “owns” the project
 - Close partnership on scope, design, funding, and public engagement
- PRWD has ordered Moore as District Engineer to prepare a project plan for review by MnDNR and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
 - Initiates the project under MS 103D.605 (legal process for District to complete projects)
 - Contract for this work executed Sept. 11, 2024
- Moore initiating work to develop the project plan
- MnDNR has secured \$2M in State Funding, identified additional State and Federal Funding opportunities



Moore Engineering, Inc.



PRWD District Engineer

Established in 1960

ESOP S-Corp

180+ Employees

Engineers

Engineering Technicians

Surveyors & Crews (PLS)

CADD & GIS Technicians

Environmental Scientists



Project Development



Field Work

Engineer's
Report

Environmental
Review

Public Hearing



Field Work

Geotechnical Investigation
Topometric (ground) Survey
Bathymetric (water) Survey
Aerial (drone) Survey



Engineer's Report

Hydraulic Study
Preliminary Design
Dam Modifications
*Township Culvert and Road
Modifications*
Partner Review Meetings

ROW Considerations
Cost Estimate
Funding Summary



Environmental Review

EAW

Wetland Review
Cultural Review (by MnDNR)
Threatened & Endangered Species
Review
Other Considerations

Permitting Plan

WCA
USACE 404
MnDNR DSP*
PMCA Section 401 WQC
MPCA NPDES
Local



Public Hearing

Publicly noticed hearing

Consistent with MS 103D.605

Public Comment

Board to Establish Project and Direct Execution

Project Execution



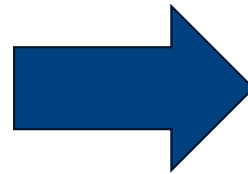
Final Design

Permitting

Contracting

Construction

Project Execution



(Probably something like this, too early to be certain)

Anticipated Project Timeline



1

Fall 2024

- Field Work
- Engineer's Report
- Environmental Review

2

Winter 2024/2025

- Engineer's Report
- Environmental Review

3

Spring 2025

- Engineer's Report
- Environmental Review
- Public Hearing**
- Final Design
- Permitting

4

Summer 2025

- Final Design
- Permitting
- Contracting

5

Fall 2025

- Start construction

Project Funding



- Estimated Cost \$2-3M
- DNR has secured \$2M
 - \$1M from Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)
 - \$1M from Get Out More (GOM)
- DNR pursuing additional \$375k
 - State and Federal funds
- Additional funding opportunities identified for use as needed
 - DNR is leading the pursuit of all funding



Public Outreach & Engagement



Public Outreach & Engagement



Media and communication



Advisory committee



Public events and feedback sessions



On-site Plaque & Museum Exhibit



Engagement Calendar



- September 2024: Multi-media promotion begins
- October 2024: Advisory Meeting 1 - Kickoff Meeting
- Early March 2025: Advisory Meeting 2 - EAW Review
- Late March 2025: Advisory Meeting 3 - Draft Design and Discussion
- Fall 2025: Advisory Meeting 4 - Construction Kickoff
- Spring 2026: Advisory Meeting 5 - Construction Update
- Summer 2026: Permanent plaque with history of dam on-site and at Becker County Museum
- Summer 2026: Tentative public celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony
- Winter 2026: Advisory Meeting 6 - End of Construction

Partners & Funders





Visit our project
website to get the
latest information on
the Buck's Mill Dam!

prwd.org/project/bucks-mill-dam-modification/





moore
engineering, inc.