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## JD2 AND MILLER BAY PROJECT TEAM MEETING NOTES

02/26/2024 | 9AM to 1030am

### Sauk River Watershed District Office

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#### Attendees

**JD2 PT In person:** Steve Zeece III, Jon Roeschlein, Drew Kessler, Ken Rutten, David Zerr, Bruce Magnus, Janice Hauri, Susan Capitola, Jerry Rapp, Randy Neumann, Bret Zimmerman, Tom Anderson.

**Virtual via Teams Link:** Danielle Anderson

The meeting recording was initiated.

Bret Zimmerman presented an update on the preliminary concepts of the restorations within the Crooked Lake Basin to be completed by the Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) in partnership with the Fergus Falls office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Previous designs had a constructed berm and outlet structure located south of CR 73. This project site is now effectively double the area of the original foot print. The structure is proposed to be constructed north on the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement. The NRCS will lead the design and fund the outlet structure, while SRWD will fund work within the road Right of Way (ROW). SRWD will fund the buttressing/reinforcement of county Road. The SRWD has met with the County engineer who approved this activity under the condition the Road Authority retains the ability perform general maintenance (mowing).

Soil borings and topographic field survey were completed at this site in early 2024. Peat was found at 2-4 ft of depth in most boring locations, with one outlier exceeding 10 ft. The road bed consists of constructable material.

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In conversations with project partners, the SRWD will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the structures. It has been discussed amongst partners that structures will be operated in a staggered method that 1; Benefits wildlife and meets requirements of the Outdoor Heritage Council/Fund, and 2 ;conforms to both SRWD’s Easement Contracts and NRCS’ WRP easement contract. O&M costs were also discussed and are expected to be low. Forthcoming modeling will provide an estimate on the frequency of sediment cleanouts/ bulldozer scrapes, which are also expected to be minimally costly.

Drew Kessler provided an update on the Unites States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Planning Assistance to State program (PAS) Alternatives Analysis. The SRWD has now secured 50/50 match funding, with part of the match planned to come from the Osakis Lake Association’s (OLA) Outlet Feasibility Study and core sampling efforts with the UofM/Science Museum/St Croix Watershed Research Station. Drew provided the table (copied below) detailing the schedule of work events.

Task	Deliverable	Start	Finish
<b>Task 1.A - Lake Survey</b>	-Lake sediment texture and physical properties on 18 samples -Lake sediment accumulation rates from bathymetric survey (two weeks of survey) -Phosphorus release rates from lake sediment into Lake Osakis for response modeling on 18 samples -Sediment depth to lake bottom on 18 samples	March 2024 (Planning)	June 2024
<b>Task 1.B – Watershed Source Assessment</b>	-Assessment of watershed loading of sediment and nutrients to Lake Osakis using HSPF -Assessment of near-channel sediment and phosphorus loading to Lake Osakis from JD2 -HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS model for the Lake Osakis watershed -Assessment of water quantity loading to Lake Osakis utilizing HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS	February 2024	May 2024
<b>Task 2.A – Set Project Goals</b>	-HEI will provide one set of draft goals and metrics for evaluating planning alternatives.	August 2024	October 2024
<b>Task 5 – Project Team Meetings</b>	-Participate in Project Team Meetings	February 2024	February 2025

The role of the Project Team in this effort will be setting goals for the future condition/function of the lake. Following, the Project Team will provide input on the types of projects to be pursued in the lake and landscape that will help us reach those goals. From there, Army Corp Partners will find alternatives in the watershed which will be ranked, with project team input, by practicality. These practices will then be placed into the Army Corp’s Lake Response Model to see how the actions/projects lead toward goals. Through this process, all project team members and stakeholders, including the City of Osakis will be encouraged to participate.

Following the Army Corp Study, the SRWD plans to conduct a project feasibility study determine the ease/difficulty of implementing projects that were identified in the USACE Alternatives Analysis.

HEI is seeking a local pontoon rental and lodging to perform their bathymetric survey and bottom sampling. Head of the Lakes Resort was recommended. Some members of the group also discussed lending their personal pontoons and cabins. Any project team member offering lodging or equipment will be compensated. HEI's survey is planned for ten days and 10 hour per day. A pontoon with Sea Legs is preferred.

SRWD will work with the Lake Association to inform the public of the survey via the Osakis Anchor, OLA's Newsletter, SRWD's mailing list, etc. The Conservation Officer should also be notified.

Bruce Magnus provided an update on the Osakis Lake Association's Outlet Feasibility Study. Bruce reports the study is approximately 50% complete. A proposal was discussed consisting of a rock-rapid structure upstream of the current weir. This design is expected to both reduce water elevation bounce resulting from and maintain lake elevation during drought conditions.

Tom Anderson reported they are continuing to coordinate to clear debris from the outlet of the Sauk River/JD2.



The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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