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JD2 AND MILLER BAY PROJECT TEAM POSTPONEMENT

NOTICE & STATUS UPDATE

~~05/18/2026 | 9:00 to noon~~ POSTPONED

SRWD JD2 Sed Ponds Efficacy Analysis Update

- Garrett Munson of Moore Engineering is conducting an efficacy analysis on the SRWD's JD2 sediment ponds.
- Sediment core samples were collected in early February and are currently being analyzed for phosphorus content and flux. Concern has been raised at project team meetings that these ponds may be a source of nutrients and sediment, and this analysis is meant to determine whether that is the case.
- Survey data from the previous year contained an error related to instrument height, which has now been corrected.
- Updated analysis indicates **less sediment accumulation than previously estimated**, likely below cleanout thresholds.
- Additional data collection methods (including drone-based sonar surveys) are being explored.
- A full memo will contextualize phosphorus loading, removal efficiency, and overall system effectiveness.
- Concerns have been raised regarding phosphorus sources, peat soils, and whether ponds may become nutrient sources if full.
- SRWD board will await the efficacy analysis report & recommendations before making management decisions. Practices related to maintenance, cleanout, and operation will change relative to the pending analysis results.
- Data is currently being analyzed and the report is anticipated to be complete and will presented at an upcoming SRWD Board meeting, tentatively scheduled for June.

BOARD OF MANAGERS
Bill Becker, David Zerr,, Paul Hartmann, Kevin Lahr, Donovan McKigney, Scott Klatt, Eugene Mensen, and Russel Miller
STAFF
Melissa Roelike, Jon Roeschlein, , Scott Wittkop, Kory Klebe, Steve Zeece III, Abigail Parker Allison Schugel
"Water Quality Is Our Concern"

United States Army Corps of Engineers Osakis Alternatives Analysis Update

- Houston Engineering has provided comments and edits on May 8th to the US Army Corps on the Lake Osakis Comprehensive Plan.
    - **Final Report Timeline:** July 17, 2026 the final report will be published and presented to the project team at the following JD2PT meeting.
- Report includes measures evaluation, modeling, and alternatives analysis based on previously identified watershed issues.
- Proposed outlet modification in the USACE simulation model reduced lake level variability (~7-inch reduction in range over long-term simulation).
    - Higher average water levels but reduced peak elevations.
    - Results align with expected design outcomes.

Osakis Outlet Rock Arch Rapids Modification Update

The Joint County Ditch #2 Drainage Authority received a grant award from the DNR's CPL program, which covers 90% of the project cost, and is the same funding source as the SRWD's recently completed Little Birch Lake Outlet Modification Project. This funding is derived from state sales taxes. The drainage authority recently held a coordination meeting with local gov., State gov., and Osakis Lake Association representatives in attendance. Following is an excerpt from the meeting minutes/notes:

HOUSTON engineering, inc.

minutes

NOTES FROM MEETING OR OTHER INFORMATION

Notes
HEI will be providing monthly update emails to this group. Inform HEI if others should be included on the monthly email list.

County highway will no longer be listed as the dam owner after project completion. There will be no official dam owner as it will be classified as a water level control structure and not a dam.

Fish passage and rough fish concerns: Carp are already present on both sides of the structure and allowing passage for native species is beneficial for ecological balance.

Final report will document that the culvert would not limit flow once the weirs are removed.

The goal is to begin construction as early as fall of 2026 with the possibility of construction being delayed until 2027 if there are any issues with design or permitting. Funding is available through June 2029.

The meeting was recorded and the recording is available.

Anticipated Permits
- DNR Public Waters Work
- JCD #2 103E Petition
- Sauk River Watershed District – Stormwater, Drainage, Water Uses
- Todd County – Work in the ROW
- Todd County – Planning and Zoning
- USACE Nationwide 27
- *DNR Dam Safety – Exempt due to height*
    - *Use "water level control structure" as type in DNR application*

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Osakis Lake Association Wastewater Scoping Study Update

- OLA with technical support from Houston Engineering are conducting a wastewater scoping study involving:
  - Evaluation of centralized and decentralized wastewater collection/treatment options
  - Review of collection methods, treatment alternatives, and governance structures
  - Conceptual cost considerations and system configurations

- Aging septic systems are identified as a potential contributor to water quality concerns.
- Concerns raised regarding:
  - Septic compliance and enforcement
  - Seasonal property usage and cost burden
  - Unauthorized or improper waste disposal practices
- Emphasis placed on:
  - Public education regarding septic maintenance
  - Potential need for ordinances or regulatory enforcement
  - Consideration of a future feasibility study

Next Steps:

- Distribute final scoping study
- Continue discussion with Lake Association and stakeholders
- Explore feasibility study funding opportunities (potentially Sauk Collaborative WBIF)
- Consider increased water quality monitoring

SRWD's Crooked Lake Project Update

  - All major permits obtained (USACE, WCA, SRWD)
  - Remaining Permitting Item: The petition to JD2 Drainage Authority has been signed by the 3 landowners affected by branch 3 to divert, reroute, impound, and partially abandon branch 3. Upon receiving this petition, the JD2 Drainage Authority will need to legally notify via newspapers and hold a public hearing.

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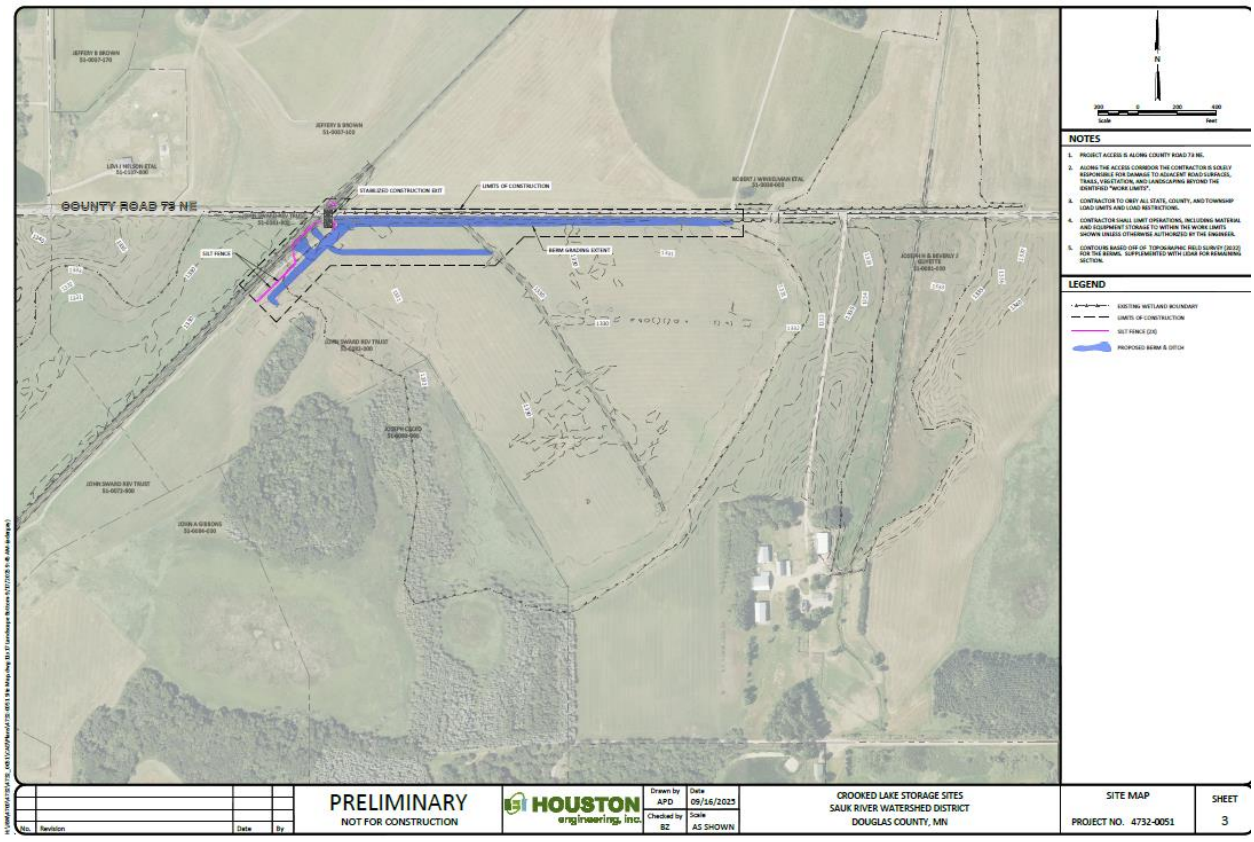
Timeline:

- Upon petition approval the project will be advertised for bids with target construction during summer 2026, though it may not start until spring 2027 depending on the pace of the final permit item, bidding process, mobilization, and vegetative establishment consideration



Next scheduled JD2 Project Team Meetings:

- June 15, 2026 (Tentative pending project status updates)
- July 20, 2026 (At this meeting we anticipate to present the Alternative's Analysis Osakis Comprehensive Plan.
- August 17, 2026