



Attachment A

Comment Summaries

Roseau Lake Rehabilitation and Sprague Creek Wetland Restoration EAW Record of
Decision

Introduction

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation and Sprague Creek Wetland Restoration Project (the Project) Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for public review on December 14, 2020. The DNR received 245 comments on the EAW from state agencies and citizens. An alphabetical listing of commenters, arranged by organization or last name of the commenter, follows in the table below.

A unique comment identification (Comment ID) correlates individual comments within each comment document. If a comment letter consisted of more than one comment, letters were assigned to the comment ID (e.g., 01a-z). Where feasible, DNR has grouped similar comments together and responded to a comment representative of the grouping (i.e., Comment Topic). These grouped responses are found within the Record of Decision (ROD). This improves the readability of the ROD and helps to show common themes expressed by commenters. In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 4410.1700, Subpart 4, DNR gave due consideration to all substantive and timely comments on the content of the EAW and a response was provided.

Comment letters are available upon request.

There were a number of comments received during the public comment period that were considered non-substantive for a variety of reasons, such as opposition for the proposed Project, stating that they wanted the Project to stop, citing local opposition and landowner concerns, provided family history of settling, farming and living on land in and around the Project area. These comments did not address the accuracy or completeness of the material contained in the EAW or environmental impacts and did not warrant further investigation prior to the final ROD. In accordance with Minn. R. 4410.1700, Subp. 4, these comments did not receive a specific response.

Reader Tip

You can search for a specific comment ID when using the electronic version of the document.

- First, locate the unique commenter ID (e.g., 01) in the following table
- Next, do one of the following:
 - Choose Edit >Find, or
 - Ctrl+F (for PC) or Command – ⌘+F (for Mac)
- Type in the commenter ID in the search box.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
04a	Amanda Frederickson	8-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"marginal theoretical 5% effectiveness of "flood mitigation,"
04b	Amanda Frederickson	8-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	"negative effects on multi-generational small farms"
04c	Amanda Frederickson	8-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"Please consider finding alternatives to the current proposed form of action, taking into account the effects on living human beings and their families"
19a	Aune, Alyssa	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
19b	Aune, Alyssa	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"bring increased flooding to the area and wreck farmland"
19c	Aune, Alyssa	12-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	"man-made lake, this would also attract more mosquitoes...As a livestock owner, this could also bring negative impacts to farm livestock and pets. More stagnant water would be a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which in return would increase the risk of West Nile in the area, especially for livestock...More marshy vegetation would also bring about more bugs and likely more wood ticks...Lyme's disease"
19d	Aune, Alyssa	12-Jan-21	Blue-green algae	"man-made lake...and likely blue green algae...Water would also mean a greater threat to pets because of the blue green algae issue, one that is commonly lethal to them."
19e	Aune, Alyssa	12-Jan-21	Wildlife	"Many area wildlife rely on fields as part of their diet. Much of the deer population prefers dry land to graze on, including fields. Many ducks and geese also prefer to nest in dry areas."

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
30a	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
30b	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"could bring increased flooding to the area and wreck farmland."
30c	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	"drive out deer and other wildlife." "Many area wildlife rely on fields as part of their diet." "Much of the deer population prefers dry land to graze on, including fields. Many ducks and geese also prefer to nest in dry areas."
30d	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	"man-made lake, this would also attract more mosquitoes, marshy vegetation" "bring negative impacts to farm livestock and pets. More stagnant water would be a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which in return would increase the risk of West Nile in the area, especially for livestock." Commenter also notes concerns for pets.
30e	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Blue-green algae	"man-made lake...likely blue green algae" threat to pets
30f	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"I believe there would also be increased flooding downstream during a big rain event as I have seen the past years because of other projects in place."
30g	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"no reason why this land should be taken from generation farmers"
30h	Aune, Elroy	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"I believe there would also be increased flooding downstream during a big rain event as I have seen the past years because of other projects in place."

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20a	Aune, Tyler	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"enormous financial cost" other completed projects in the area could benefit from more work and improved management plans
20b	Aune, Tyler	12-Jan-21	Flooding	Full basin and dykes mean no absorption and less storage capacity, little summer fluctuation will promote cattails that will fill in the basin and remove flood retention abilities.
20c	Aune, Tyler	12-Jan-21	Wildlife	"dikes used to contain the water may make a good nesting spot, however these dikes also make perfect runways for predatory animals such as raccoon, fox, coyotes, wolves, etc.,. which in turn makes these dikes a dangerous spot for a nest...Upland birds would be forced out of the immediate area as the habitat wouldn't suit them anymore, and deer would only be found in any numbers on the fringes"
20d	Aune, Tyler	12-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	"fall waterfowl hunting opportunities but as is the case on Thief Lake, hunter participation is dwindling"
20e	Aune, Tyler	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
27a	Beaumont, Nickolas	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
27b	Beaumont, Nickolas	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"it will cause farmland to flood. Additionally this will have a financial impact on 50 families."
41a	Beaumont, Pat	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
41b	Beaumont, Pat	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"flood our farmlands so that other farmers won't have floods?"

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41c	Beaumont, Pat	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"We have multigenerational land that we depend on to make a living. Land that we pay property taxes and income taxes on. My parents and grandparents gave us this."
41d	Beaumont, Pat	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"Please don't take it away from us."
10a	Cothran, Johnny Corley III	11-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"I, Johnny Corley Cothran III, do not want this project involving the Roseau River to proceed."
08a	Decimus, Dee	11-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
08b	Decimus, Dee	11-Jan-21	Flooding	Now river comes up in May and descends mid to early June. If project is done operating plan calls for lake bottom to be full, no available storage, water will push further to highway 89, 16, and 310 threatening homes and cabins.
08c	Decimus, Dee	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"We have been kept in the dark about this project"
08d	Decimus, Dee	11-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"I learned how to drive on this land and one day I'm going to teach my kids how to drive and hunt on it as well."
39a	Decimus, Denna	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	Commenter requested the project stop.
39b	Decimus, Denna	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"My grandfather purchased this land and gave it to my father and now my father has given it to my brother and I."

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39c	Decimus, Denna	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	Commenter is concerned family could no longer hunt the land.
39d	Decimus, Denna	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"sad day if our land was taken away from us to be made for a bird landing."
01a	Dempsey, Laura	18-Dec-20	Non-Substantive	"I am against the Roseau Lake project." project would drive out of community.
01b	Dempsey, Laura	18-Dec-20	Concern about land use change	"discontinue the pursuit of this project and allow us to continue to farm our land"
01c	Dempsey, Laura	18-Dec-20	Non-Substantive	"My family has farmed much of this land for more than a hundred years."
01d	Dempsey, Laura	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
01e	Dempsey, Laura	12-Jan-21	Wildlife	"concerned regarding the impact to the environment, deer, bear and other animal populations." "concerned about the impact to the bee population as many farmers have hives in that area"
01f	Dempsey, Laura	12-Jan-21	Cultural resources	"disruption of the Indian Burial Grounds, in which the project would surely destroy"
34a	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"have farmed in this state since 1984"
34b	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"strongly oppose the Roseau Lake Bottom project"

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34c	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	Commenter is concerned that highly productive land would be removed from production.
34d	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	Commenter is concerned that there is enough duck habitat in the area and that an upland game program is needed.
34e	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	Commenter is concerned that duck hunting demand is declining and upland game hunting is in demand in the area. Concern over loss of upland game hunting.
34f	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter is concerned cost is not justified when lake bottom provides flooding benefits already.
34g	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"Why didn't the watershed start the project by contacting the land owners as the first step?"
34h	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter is concerned that eminent domain will be used.
34i	Dohmen, Monica	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
26a	Grawberger, Brenda	12-Jan-21	Wildlife	Waterfowl habitat already exists near the project.
26b	Grawberger, Brenda	12-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"All of these landowners are proud to be working the same soil their ancestors farmed for over 100 years. They are proud of their heritage."

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26c	Grawberger, Brenda	12-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	Family hunts and has cabin in project are.
26d	Grawberger, Brenda	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"Holding more water in that area could cause erosion. When held water is released it could run onto and flood already growing crops and destroy them."
26e	Grawberger, Brenda	12-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	"We don't need a man-made mosquito pond."
37a	Grawberger, Brittany	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
37b	Grawberger, Brittany	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"Members of my family have hunted this area for many years and plan to continue doing so for many years down the road."
37c	Grawberger, Brittany	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	Commenter is concerned project will displace wildlife.
37d	Grawberger, Brittany	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter is concerned project is expensive and unnecessary.
37e	Grawberger, Brittany	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	"My family, along with many other families, enjoy hunting deer in the area that others want to flood."
37f	Grawberger, Brittany	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"thousands of acers of productive farm land that will be destroyed also."

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37g	Grawberger, Brittany	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"project take our friends, families and neighbors farm/recreational land, that have been passed down for generations, without an outcome their families feel comfortable with?"
22a	Grawberger, Tom	12-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	"taking productive farm land"
22b	Grawberger, Tom	12-Jan-21	Wildlife	Taking "upland game bird habitat, along with big game animals"
22c	Grawberger, Tom	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"forced to sell the land"
22d	Grawberger, Tom	12-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	"mosquito infested swamp"
31a	Gryskiewicz, Virgil	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"When our forefathers came to this area , they knew what they were doing by draining it."
31b	Gryskiewicz, Virgil	13-Jan-21	Flooding	Commenter concerned about cattails coming in, as they have in other projects, restricting water flow and increasing flooding.
31c	Gryskiewicz, Virgil	13-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	Ducks, geese, and cranes use current farm field for food
31d	Gryskiewicz, Virgil	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter concerned that projects should start at the mouth of the river to address problems.

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31e	Gryskiewicz, Virgil	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter states the "side diversion" project was not successful and is all cattails now.
35a	Halvorson, Dean	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"I grew up in the area enjoying the outdoors and I continue the traditions with my own children."
35b	Halvorson, Dean	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"My main concern is flooding of the property due to the ditch being filled in and the North embankment bordering my property. I foresee something similar to when the beavers dammed the ditch north of me, on a couple of occasions, with the water flowing easterly of the ditch through my parcel." Commenter is also concerned about losing driving access to his land.
35c	Halvorson, Dean	13-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	"loss of agricultural land and financial impact on my friends and neighbors. Not to mention that the crops attract wildlife as they forage for food"
35d	Halvorson, Dean	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	"loss of agricultural land and financial impact on my friends and neighbors. Not to mention that the crops attract wildlife as they forage for food"
35e	Halvorson, Dean	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	Commenter notes his land is good for deer hunting and worries about losing access due to flooding.
35f	Halvorson, Dean	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
35g	Halvorson, Dean	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	Comment notes he is against the project.
43a	Johnson, Luverne	15-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter states the RRWDB has stated they "do not know how this project will impact the area"

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43b	Johnson, Luverne	15-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter notes limited 5% impact.
43c	Johnson, Luverne	15-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
42a	Johnson, Patricia	15-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
42b	Johnson, Patricia	15-Jan-21	Flooding	Commenter concerned project will cause more water to back up "which the engineer says "is possible".
42c	Johnson, Patricia	15-Jan-21	Flooding	Commenter is concerned water back up will harm farm land and that farm land will be flooded at different times preventing planting.
42d	Johnson, Patricia	15-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	Commenter is concerned about a loss of hunting land.
42e	Johnson, Patricia	15-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	Mosquitos and ticks/disease
23a	Kappes, Steve	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
23b	Kappes, Steve	12-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	"deer hunting in comparison to waterfowl. There are already plenty of waterfowl areas in the county and surrounding counties."

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23c	Kappes, Steve	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	" farmers being affected by the land grab...trying to take someone's land for any project is sickening"
23d	Kappes, Steve	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"tax money is being spent on projects just like this in other areas of the state that most tax payers and myself are not even aware of."
07a	Kriese, Brett	11-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
07b	Kriese, Brett	11-Jan-21	Flooding	"unnecessary increased flooding which would destroy thousands of productive family farmland...destroy thousands of acres of tax generating farmland. "
07c	Kriese, Brett	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"minimal downstream flood reduction benefit "
06a	Kriese, Tamara	10-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
06b	Kriese, Tamara	10-Jan-21	Flooding	"create increased flooding unnecessarily and that flooding would destroy thousands of productive farmland...cost of productive farmland that has been maintained for several generations"
06c	Kriese, Tamara	10-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"downstream flood reduction benefit would be minimal"
11a	Kveen, Allayn	11-Jan-21	Flooding	"the Watershed and DNR wants to take it from us or flood us out"

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
11b	Kveen, Allayn	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"the Watershed and DNR wants to take it from us or flood us out...when you buy something its yours, and if you chose to sell something it is your choice."
11c	Kveen, Allayn	11-Jan-21	Wildlife	"There is plenty of wild life in the area, and seems they are content and feed well."
11d	Kveen, Allayn	11-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"buy the land in Roseau County, while raising our family of 3 children, thinking we wanted a good life for all and our senior years."
09a	Kveen, Carol	11-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
09b	Kveen, Carol	11-Jan-21	Flooding	Family farms land that will flood. Family would loose farmland and income. 55 families in the footprint.
09c	Kveen, Carol	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"project will have only a 5% effect on downstream flooding."
09d	Kveen, Carol	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"For the amount of money that they are spending, the project will have only a 5% effect on downstream flooding."
09e	Kveen, Carol	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Lack of communication.
29a	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
29b	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"I strongly oppose this project"

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29c	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	Hunting and recreating on family farm for 40 years, now with children. Plans to retire to family land in the project footprint to grow food and hunt deer.
29d	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	" loose our productive farm land and excellent deer hunting land to ducks, and mosquitoes."
29e	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	"loose our productive farm land and excellent deer hunting land to ducks, and mosquitoes."
29f	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter notes board members have conflict of interest.
29g	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"20 million dollars of tax payers money"
29h	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"fear for their homes and buildings if there is any significant precipitation in the fall, when the lake bottom is already full."
29i	Kveen, Kurt	13-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	Commenter states project will support mosquitos.
12a	Kveen, Norm	11-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"I am writing to be against the Roseau Lake Project scenario"
12b	Kveen, Norm	11-Jan-21	Flooding	" Farmers loose valuable crop producing farm land to the DNR for Duck and Fish projects."

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12c	Kveen, Norm	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	" At best, a five percent Improvement"
12d	Kveen, Norm	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"tax dollars that could be spent on many other more worthwhile projects."
12e	Kveen, Norm	11-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter notes farmers have lost land for past DNR wildlife projects.
38a	Kveen, Norm and family	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"I do not want to loose ownership of my land,"
38b	Kveen, Norm and family	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"I do not want to be flooded out" "Lake Bottom flooded and held that way, causing surrounding farmland to be flooded."
38c	Kveen, Norm and family	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	"We will miss hunting and observing deer, bear, moose and many other animals that call it home."
38d	Kveen, Norm and family	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	"We will miss hunting and observing deer, bear, moose and many other animals that call it home."
38e	Kveen, Norm and family	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"Project is abandoned before millions of dollars are totally wasted."
38f	Kveen, Norm and family	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.

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24a	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
24b	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"Many of the 55 families within the scope of the project were not aware of it until we came to them, but they were not contacted by the Roseau River Watershed Board."
24c	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	People in contact with RRWD "periodically left out of meeting notifications, emails or letters."
24d	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"very productive farmland would be taken for temporary or permanent water storage"
24e	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"very productive farmland would be taken for temporary or permanent water storage"
24f	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"only have a 5% flooding reduction benefit"
24g	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"pinion by another engineer that was brought in by other farmers said this project could cost millions of dollars more than is being stated"
24h	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"store water in the old Roseau Lake bottom that it could increase flooding as we would no longer have the natural basin that the water would flow to when a flood occurred. If this is already full of water then the water has to go elsewhere such as onto private farmland or into people's homes."
24i	Kveen, Tim	12-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"My family has been farming in Roseau for more than 100 years and I don't want it to end because of this project."

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16a	Lisell, Susan	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
16b	Lisell, Susan	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"impact of the project on the many families and the farmers in the area proposed to become a lake. Roseau County farmers would be losing thousands of acres of productive land."
21a	Magnusson, M. Yhone	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
21b	Magnusson, M. Yhone	12-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"I have lived all of my 57 years within 4 miles of the affected area, living 2 miles away since 1988. I have seen and know what the water does." Lived in the area for 57 years, family land would also be effected.
21c	Magnusson, M. Yhone	12-Jan-21	Flooding	If the "DNR controls the outlet and holds water in there spring and summer and we get heavy rainfall? Where does the water go? On the farm fields"
21d	Magnusson, M. Yhone	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Farm land the "Watershed District is trying to take"
21e	Magnusson, M. Yhone	12-Jan-21	Cattails	"DNR floods the "Lake Bottom", it is going to turn into a cattail swamp"
21f	Magnusson, M. Yhone	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"cattail swamp like Pool 2 of the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. I have driven on the road when it was open for the wildlife drive, beyond Pool 1, I can't recall if I have seen any wildlife. Lots of cattails though."

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28a	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"My name is Matt Magnusson, I am an avid outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hunting, fishing, and many other outdoor activities. I also happen to be a landowner and farmer in the proposed project area. I've farmed, fished, hunting and enjoyed many other outdoor activities in this project area my whole life, and have many concerns with this project...."
28b	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
28c	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	"Benefits to wildlife will not be improved, simply shifted from upland game birds, deer, bear, Grey wolves, and many other species that currently make the area their home to primarily waterfall in the permanent shallow swamp that will be created...-Pine Creek (akaSD87)- By filling in the channelized portion they will be losing fish habitat, the historic channel is almost nonexistent, and will be cut off by the project North embankment structure making it impossible for fish to pass...(reference Sprague Creek) Also, many small mammal species thrive in these flowing ditch system areas...." Commenter references negative impacts to upland game several times.
28d	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Cattails	"Plant communities that are currently present will be drowned out, and overtaken by unwanted cattails. Dewatering over winter will not prevent this, just look at any ditch that has water in it all summer that then gets dewatered during winter months." Commenter referenced concerns about cattails overtaking the project again.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
28e	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Flooding	<p>"Page 5-Roseau River-Installing of a weir on the channel would slow down the flow of water resulting in a backwater effect in certain events. Post project this will cause additional flooding of private lands upstream. A higher level of flow down the historic channel will increase stress to embankments along private property.." Commenter expresses concern about erosion of private embankments and required maintenance. (referencing Sprague Creek "Filling in parts of these ditch systems will negatively affect private lands adjacent to and downstream." Commenter states private lands will flood earlier and more often. Commenter states that existing conditions already accomplish many of the project goals. "Page 9 table 2 -Early spring project to provide flood storage during spring runoff events</p> <p>-Existing conditions already do this The current lake bottom does a pretty dang good job of flood damage reduction according to Nate Dalager Project Engineer.</p> <p>-Spring/Summer-Maintain stable water levels for nesting birds</p> <p>At the expense of agricultural lands in some cases Fall-Provide fall migratory habitat and hunting opportunities</p> <p>Trade off- For waterfowl in place of upland birds, small game, big game, and many other fur bearing species Winter-complete drawdown</p> <p>Existing conditions already accomplished this Page 11 table 3 1031.9 all gates closed-This pushes water immediately over embankments along private property before the basin fills. River levels many times do not exceed 1031.5' feet with existing conditions due to the ability to back in the basin earlier."</p>
28f	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	<p>"360Th AVE and other Roadways-Raising of the roads upwards of five feet in areas will require the taking of land for additional road and ditch right of way from unwilling sellers."</p>

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
28g	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"Having the basin partially full of water (cattails) all summer will take up a lot of acre feet of storage, plus the soil saturation losses. There are many acres of private farmland that depend on the basin being dry for flood storage in an event." Commenter states water in the basin in the fall will reduce storage and push water onto farming land possibly before harvest.
28h	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter states there will be no flood reduction outside project footprint. "very small amount of acres downstream of the project at the expense of the nesting birds."
28i	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Flooding	Commenter expresses concerns about crop damage from flooding in the project footprint. States farm land will flood earlier and more often.
28j	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	EAW accuracy	"Page 12 Diversion channel structure-The report states currently most flow is diverted through the cut off channel and water only flows into historic channel during high flows. However, this is not correct, the only time water does not flow in the historic channel is at a very very low water level."
28k	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"The Department of Natural Resources wants to create habitat for the production of waterfowl and hunting opportunities of these birds. It seems to make more sense to do this in an area that is not prone to flooding, as nesting birds will need to abandon their nests when the water rises. Major rain events can happen anytime, and encouraging more birds to nest in this area will result in greater mortality. The MNDNR owns plenty of land in other locations that do not regularly flood and would be a lot more successful at waterfowl production in those areas."

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
28l	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	Commenter expresses concern over loss of hunting and recreation.
28m	Magnusson, Matt	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter expresses concerns about project cost.
40a	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"I'd like to express my opposition to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project"
40b	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"project has been in process for about 7 years, but I have never been notified by the DNR or RRWD. I only learned of the project from my Dad and brother."
40c	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"My Dad invested in these 30 acres, for my brother and I, when we were young. This a productive piece of farmland and, in fact, the proceeds helped finance my college education." Family has farmed the lake bottom for three generations"
40d	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Change during public comment	"project has been ongoing for several years, but in the middle of the EAW public comment period, the Board changed their chosen alternative."
40e	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"My family has farmed the Lake Bottom for 3 generations. Today, there are multiple families and multiple generations fighting to save it from being deliberately flooded and destroyed." Commenter is also concerned about loosing valuable farming soil to flooding.
40f	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"majority of us do not want to sell our land or allow water easements."

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
40g	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	"cabin located in the flood easement area which could make it inaccessible to us at certain times of the year. We spend time year-round at our cabin and much of my family deer hunts there in the Fall. "majority of us do not want to sell our land or allow water easements." "flooded project area will be too shallow for boating or fishing" Commenter notes lake will be too shallow for hunting or fishing.
40h	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"a \$15 million dollar price tag for another wetland habitat"
40i	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	"wildlife, currently living in the project area, they'll be forced to relocate" "wildlife being displaced from the project area, combined with animals already in the surrounding area, could potentially be detrimental to the health of these populations."
40j	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	"The project will force an increased number animals onto the surrounding agricultural lands which will lead to more crop damage. Additionally, the blackbirds, ducks, and geese that will be attracted to the flooded area could devastate the surrounding agricultural fields." "soil, such as that in the Lake Bottom, is one of earth's most valuable natural resources. The Roseau Lake project will potentially flood and destroy 3000+ acres of rich farmland. "
40k	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"5% downstream flood reduction so that benefit is very minimal." Commenter states that the lake bottom currently has capacity to reduce flooding.
40l	Magnusson, Melissa	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
36a	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	Commenter is against the project.
36b	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
36c	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	Commenter provides family history, history of the area and his history with project development.
36d	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	"The watershed's engineer states they will be providing wetland habitat in the basin, but what isn't mentioned is that it will be displacing all of the upland game in the area. Most people in the area would rather see the upland game than ducks. And the DNR has a 30,000 + acres Bog-duck pond 5 miles away." Commenter notes birds nesting in the lake bottom in early spring or summer may be harmed by flooding. Commenter also notes that farming attracts upland wildlife "such as deer, moose, bear, fox, coyote, bobcats, lynx, wolves, and occasional elk and mountain lion and many more" and they will be displaced.
36e	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Ross gauge	Commenter questions the accuracy of the Ross gauge. "This tells me the Ross gauge is not accurate for what is going on in the Lake Bottom and most water elevations are gauged off the Ross gauge. I have addressed this issue several times to the watershed with NO action taken and NO answers given."
36f	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter notes that downstream flooding mostly happen in 100+ year events and this project will not provide flood mitigation for events that large.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
36g	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Flooding	<p>"This project is NOT creating new flood storage. It is taking away our safety net. It is taking away the storage area that we have relied on for years by changing the flooding from the DNR side of the Basin to the farmable private land. As it is now, we have 12,000 acre feet of storage in DNR basin, or 4400 acres of land that has to flood before any private land floods. The way the Lake Bottom works now there can be say, for example, 2300 CFS going toward the lake and only 1350 going out. The balance is being stored in the Lake Bottom until the river starts to lower. This is what keeps the private land from flooding up to approx. 1031.5. This provides flood damage reduction for the private lands near the Lake Bottom and also to the west of the Lake Bottom. In the watershed engineer's plan the water would not be allowed to go in the DNR basin until 1031.9. This level will have flooded all the private lands to the south."</p>
36h	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	<p>Commenter notes no information has provided on Sprague Creek Restoration prior to the EAW. Commenter notes that he has been excluded from project communications. Commenter notes lack of transparency from WD and engineer. Commenter also describes meeting with DNR that ended with remaining questions.</p>

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
36i	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Flooding	<p>"The watershed engineer's map showing how the lake will drain is very inaccurate as he shows all the private land to the south being drained first. This is not a true picture because when the river at Ross reaches 1030.8 or 10.8 at Ross gauge, the proposed operational plan will start releasing water from the basin which will leave all the farmland to the south underwater. As a result of this, we will no longer be able to farm this land. This is because timing is a key factor in farming, and this operational plan does not take this into account." Commenter notes concerns about flooding after crops are planted. "At 1031.9 elevation the project floods most the farmland to the south which normally would not flood because the water would have gone into the DNR basin" Commenter further details concerns about flooding and farming loss to lands inside the embankments.</p>
36j	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	<p>Commenter notes that deer hunting is popular in the local community and notes observing few waterfowl hunters. Commenter notes that the lake will not provide recreational fishing opportunities. Commenter expresses concern that the Sprague Creek Restoration will flood the peat preventing hunting of his land.</p>

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
36k	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	EAW accuracy	"The water flows in the historic channel does flow under 500 CFS until it gets very low. Another thing the river does at one point when it is draining some of the water from the DNR Basin will come out of the basin and go south back to the cutoff ditch and then go west to Ross. The Block in the cutoff channel is going slow that drainage also. It appears a little more water is expected from the Pine Creek and the Weber ditch than what is really going to be gotten. These are very low flow ditches except in a larger rain event and then they are up quick and down quick." "I am only seeing approximately 5 miles on the maps where EAW claims 9.3?" Commenter states figure 6 underrepresents agricultural land and figure 10 is more accurate. Commenter also notes that figure 18 does not contain all wells into he project area.
36l	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Flooding	Commenter notes basin currently provides flood damage reduction and releasing water faster could cause bank erosion. Commenter also notes land in the project footprint would flood more frequently than they are now.
36m	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Cattails	Commenter expresses concerns the project will be overtaken by cattails.
36n	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	Comment notes the project may increase mosquitos.
36o	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter states no need to spend 15 to 20 million dollars.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
36p	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter notes land in the project area is not for sale or available for easements. Commenter notes it is unclear if easements will be needed or paid out south of the river with alternative 1.
36q	Magnusson, Mitch	13-Jan-21	Change during public comment	Commenter notes change in preferred alternative during public comment period.
17a	MDA - Balk, Becky and Patton, Bob	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"How will earlier flooding impact farmers ability to access field for planting or harvesting?"
17b	MDA - Balk, Becky and Patton, Bob	12-Jan-21	Organic farms	"Identify any organic farms in the project area. Potential impacts and considerations include: Flooding which can put farmers organic certification at risk. Organic farmland acquisition plan that should consider the unique requirements for organic certification and maintaining that certification."

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
03a	MPCA - Elizabeth Tegdesch	7-Jan-21	Construction stormwater permitting	"numerous water bodies, including impaired waters and also calcareous fens which are restricted waters. The EAW does not discuss the additional requirements needed to protect these waters during construction. Due to the restricted status of the calcareous fens, the Project proposer is required to maintain an undisturbed 100 foot buffer zone during and after construction, except where a water crossing or other encroachment is necessary to complete the Project. In that case, the Project proposer must fully document the reason for the buffer encroachment and include restoration activities in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The Project proposer must minimize all potential water quality, scenic and other environmental impacts of these exceptions by use of additional or redundant (double) best management practices (BMPs). All other waters, including wetlands, ditches, streams or other waters, require at least 50 feet of undisturbed buffer maintained during construction, unless encroachment is necessary to complete construction. In that case, redundant down gradient sediment control BMPs will also be required to protect those waters during construction."
03b	MPCA - Elizabeth Tegdesch	7-Jan-21	Construction stormwater permitting	"required to stabilize soils within 7 days where exposed soils will remain unworked for 7 or more days on any portion of the site. This includes soil piles on the site. Also, temporary sediment basins will be required where 5 or more acres of exposed soil drain to one location."
03c	MPCA - Elizabeth Tegdesch and Karen Kromar	7-Jan-21	Construction stormwater permitting	"Due to the sensitivity of the site, construction should be phased to limit the amount of soil disturbed at one time. The dewatering activities need to include plans to treat any sediment-laden water prior to discharge into area surface waters. An effort should also be made to avoid compaction of soils from equipment within the area, especially in sensitive areas."

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
03d	MPCA - Elizabeth Tegdesch	7-Jan-21	EAW accuracy	"The EAW states that Pine Creek was listed as impaired for aquatic life due to fish bioassessments during a 2017 assessment (AUIDs 09020314-501, 08020314-527, and 09020314-528). Please note the AUID numbers listed for Pine Creek are incorrect. There is only one impaired AUID on Pine Creek and its AUID number is 09020314-542."
15a	O'Leary, Hayden	12-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"It is viewed by all local farmers and or hunters in the lake bottom area that this project is foolish and should be taken into deep consideration not to go through with."
15b	O'Leary, Hayden	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"my family have utilized their land here for many different and much more productive reasons, as opposed to the flooding of the lake"
15c	O'Leary, Hayden	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"This is multi generation property that is being taken away"
02a	Oleary, Hunter	19-Dec-20	Substantive-out of scope	Property owner not willing to sell or sign water easements, concerned about use of eminent domain.
02b	Oleary, Hunter	19-Dec-20	Flooding	"The thousands of acres of crop land would be then useless from the flooding also."
02c	Oleary, Hunter	19-Dec-20	Wildlife	"There is all sorts of upland game that would be forced out do to flooding"
02d	Oleary, Hunter	19-Dec-20	Substantive-out of scope	"5% flood reduction "
02e	Oleary, Hunter	19-Dec-20	Non-Substantive	"This project simply can't happen"

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
02f	Oleary, Hunter	19-Dec-20	Substantive-out of scope	A board member has a conflict of interest and will benefit from the project. Inaccurate information on the RRWD website.
02g	Oleary, Hunter	19-Dec-20	Non-Substantive	"The property has been in my families name for over 100 years"
02h	Oleary, Hunter	9-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
02i	Oleary, Hunter	9-Jan-21	Flooding	"The lake bottom will be full in the fall according to the operating plan and say we get a big rain. All the storage is already being used and it will push the water further away then it comes up." Homes and cabins could flood.
02j	Oleary, Hunter & Hannah	9-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	Commenter shared family history.
02k	Oleary, Hunter & Hannah	9-Jan-21	Flooding	"The lake bottom will be full in the fall according to the operating plan and say we get a big rain...Outside the lake bottom people have their houses and cabins that face potential flooding if it were full."
02l	Oleary, Hunter & Hannah	9-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"We have been kept in the dark about this project and it's needs to be reviewed more then just an EAW."
02m	Oleary, Hunter & Hannah	9-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
32a	Pederson, Eric	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
32b	Pederson, Eric	13-Jan-21	Flooding	"do not want any water sitting around in the lake bottom or on adjoining land. We would like all the water out of this area as fast as possible, it's very frustrating to have this land so saturated and standing water, that nothing can be done with it."
32c	Pederson, Eric	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	"We like seeing the deer and other animals that also don't want it wet!!!"
32d	Pederson, Eric	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"actually try to fix the water problems, maybe dredge the river west as far as it takes"
32e	Pederson, Eric	13-Jan-21	Mosquitos, ticks and disease	Commenter states project will support mosquitos.
14a	Peterson, Sharlene	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
14b	Peterson, Sharlene	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"adjacent farm land I own and the drainage issues."
14c	Peterson, Sharlene	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"interceptor ditch project. That was for water diversion and flood mitigation. This project has not proven to help any flooding issues. It is an expensive project with minimal benefits."
33a	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
33b	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	Commenter states evaluation process was not transparent and no cost benefit analysis was completed.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
33c	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	EAW inadequate	Commenter notes an alternative engineering firm disputes published engineers report.
33d	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	EAW inadequate	Commenter states land use claims in Section 9 inadequately describe effects to private property in and advance to project footprint. Commenter notes project plans are not finalized based on comments in meetings and change in preferred alternative so too early to determine EIS need. Operating plans are not finalized. Commenter notes published EAW does not accurately reflect currently preferred alternative. "The uncertainty and inaccuracy of the EAW's Land Use analysis is sufficient to trigger an EIS determination pursuant to Minnesota Administrative Rule 4410.1700, Subpart 2a"
33e	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Change during public comment	"Public statements by the RRWD Board make it clear that Board and DNR have not finalized plans for the project with sufficient specificity to determine the extent of potential environmental effects...Even if the project did not meet those criteria, DNR should conduct an EIS because of the uncertainty and inaccuracy of the information developed for the project. Last, the recent changes to the project during the public comment period for the EAW introduced environmental impacts that have not yet been sufficiently addressed or reviewed and does not provide substantial evidence to support a negative EIS determination." Commenter states alternative 1 does not remove risk of flooding south of Roseau River.
33f	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"Easements would devalue the land and make large swaths of it unfarmable. An easement on any property results in a devaluation of that property, as its use is limited in perpetuity. It is especially devalued as farm land because easements prevent farmers from attaining crop insurance." Commenter notes LSOHC funding cannot be used for eminent domain.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
33g	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	Commenter notes that the project would not create new habitat with wildlife and ecological benefits.
33h	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Flooding	Commenter states a larger area will be impacted by flooding.
33i	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Flooding	Commenter states private land will not be farmable due to flooding or lack of access. "Indeed, the irreversibility of a catastrophic loss of viable cropland also triggers a mandatory EIS determination, pursuant to Minnesota Administrative Rule 4410.1700, Subpart 7 A" Commenter notes flooding would become less predictable impacting land fertility and farming.
33j	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Wildlife	Commenter notes displacement of upland game.
33k	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	Commenter notes private land used for hunting would be impacted.
33l	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	Commenter notes "substantial community opposition to the project."
33m	Reese, Chad	13-Jan-21	EAW inadequate	Commenter states "the project primarily appears to speculatively divert wildlife habitat from one existing DNR-owned wetlands to another while destroying a significant amount of wetland acreage. This change meets the threshold test for environmental impact significance according to Minnesota Administrative Rule 4410.4400 Subpart 20, and is sufficient on its own to require a Mandatory EIS." Commenter notes Otisco Engineering report indicates large ponded wetlands are less valuable ecologically.
18a	Rice, Brian	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
18b	Rice, Brian	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"I own and farm land that borders the perimeter of this project and I don't agree with holding water in the project area because it takes away water storage on big rain events."
18c	Rice, Brian	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"farmer landowner who has land inside the diked area of this project as he or she will be holding water on the land and will take away their ability to raise crops.", "unable to plant a crop two years in a row they will not be able to apply for crop insurance"
18d	Rice, Brian	12-Jan-21	Wildlife	"holding water to create a wetland will move the deer and other dryland wildlife out of the area."
25a	Stone, Debby	12-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
25b	Stone, Debby	12-Jan-21	Non-Substantive	"been working with more than 55 landowners in the footprint of this project all opposed to the project."
25c	Stone, Debby	12-Jan-21	Flooding	"crops and growth cycles, production, our way of life and associated economic activity. This project, in all its alternatives, threatens to alter, to take or flood thousands of acres of productive, multi-generational farmland"
25d	Stone, Debby	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"watershed district's own engineer admits that it will not help with major flooding"
25e	Stone, Debby	12-Jan-21	Substantive-out of scope	"permanent marsh at a cost north of \$15 million"

Comment ID	Commenter Name	Comment Received	Comment Topic	Comment Summary
25f	Stone, Debby	12-Jan-21	Change during public comment	"the watershed just voted last week to change its preferred alternative in the middle of an open comment period"
05a	Terry Kveen	9-Jan-21	Concern about land use change	"1300 acres would be affected by the DNR and Watershed proposal." Land could not be farmed, lost retirement income.
05b	Terry Kveen	9-Jan-21	Flooding	800 acres in the big island are now flooded for 2 weeks using 5 culverts and naturally fertilized.
05c	Terry Kveen	9-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
13a	Wierschke, Mark and Lisa	11-Jan-21	Request EIS	Commenter request an EIS.
13b	Wierschke, Mark and Lisa	11-Jan-21	Flooding	"retention of water in this area will have negative impacts on the environment. The destruction of farmland, the retention of water, and flooding of this land"
13c	Wierschke, Mark and Lisa	11-Jan-21	Wildlife	"flooding of this land will destroy critical habitats for white tail deer and upland game birds."
13d	Wierschke, Mark and Lisa	11-Jan-21	Hunting and fishing	"The area currently provides wonderful hunting opportunities for many people"