# Attachment A

Comment letters received during the 30-day public comment period for the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area EAW

*February 16, 2015 – March 18, 2015*

Roseau River Watershed District

108 3rd Ave SW ~ Roseau, MN 56751
PHONE: (218) 463-0313 FAX: (218) 463-0315 EMAIL: rrwd@mncable.net WEBSITE: www.roseauriverwd.com

March 10, 2015


Irina Woldeab, EAW Project Manager
DNR, Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

RE: Comment on the RRWMA Pool Enhancement Project

The Roseau River Watershed District Board (RRWD) of Managers wishes to express their support for the RRWMA Pool Enhancement Project.

Since 2013 the RRWD has been working closely with the Randy Prachar, Area Wildlife Supervisor; Henry Van Offelen, Red River Basin Coordinator and other agency personnel to design a project that optimizes current flood damage reduction benefits provided by the WMA and improves water management capacity to meet wildlife habitat management goals.

The RRWD Board feels the willingness of agencies to work together and build consensus during the environmental assessment and design of this project validates the merits of the project moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tracy Halstensgard

Tracy Halstensgard
Administrator

Duane Frislie
4532 380th St.
Lancaster, MN 56735

FARGO ND 583


25

Irina Wallace
500 Lafayette Road
St Paul M.N. 55155

8.3

551555402

Roseau River Project

the RRWM got off on the wrong start by taking in the pine creek ditch which drains the upper swamp which consists of 10,000 acres about. Also the engineers said it would take about 4 too 5 years too fill the pools which the embankment broke the first years and flooded farms too the south which the state lost a law suit

If you are running 4 gates of Water into the new ditch you lined with a 82ft top & 22ft bottom that will be too much water at the county line where there is a 10ft rise 3 mi too the west it will not take the Water and it will go back too the south in the swamp area and go over land until it goes across road no 7 which is the county line road No 7 then it goes south about 5 mi and over the road over the land which some is farm land and on west 5 mi then back north. this has happen even on years with only high water

the project will be of harm too more area & people than it will help. also we dont know the full impact of the Roseau diversion yet that will push the water much faster too the west

I think the old overflow too the south and across road No 7 has too be used

the people on the south side of county road 7 are the real pleas too have this change it will hurt more people too the north than help too the south

I have seen this water react a life time I am 67 years old

Dean Fuller

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300
800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

March 17, 2015

Ms. Irina Woldeab
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Pool Enhancement Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Ms. Woldeab:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Pool Enhancement project (Project) located in Roseau County, Minnesota. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has reviewed the EAW and have no comments at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. **Please provide the notice of decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement.** Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this EAW, please contact me at 651-757-2482.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kain
Planner Principal
Environmental Review Unit
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Dan Card, MPCA, St. Paul

**From:** jaenblom@gmail.com
**To:** *Review, Environmental (DNR)
**Cc:** Talmage, Phil J (DNR)
**Subject:** Roseau River WMA EAW
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:38:13 PM
**Attachments:** Roseau River WMA EAW.docx

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Attn: Irina Woldeab

I am submitting the above attached Word Document as part the public record for this project. I thought the EAW was very well prepared, but needs to include some further discussion of water quality impairments that may relate to WMA Pool operation (dissolved oxygen, mercury etc.), and how these can be addressed.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Box 25

Attn: Irina Woldeab

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

I am providing brief comment for the Roseau River WMA EAW based on review of the document and past experience with stream surveys on the Roseau River. During the 1975-77 period, my MDNR River Surveys Program (Section of Ecological Services) conducted fish and stream habitat survey work on the Roseau River. Our study reach of the river included the current EAW study area for the WMA pools. The results for those surveys are contained in Section of Fisheries Special Publication # 130. In addition to the fishery and habitat analysis provided in the report, there was discussion and recommendations regarding potential water quality impacts to the river from the WMA pools. The results for those surveys and recommendations made are not referenced in the EAW.

A principal concern, during the 1975-77, surveys was that WMA pool operations over the winter period may be contributing to low dissolved oxygen and fish kills in the Roseau River. Our report recommended that additional investigations and monitoring should be conducted to characterize the water quality constituents of the water discharged during the winter period. At these times, thick layers of snow and ice cover the WMA ponds which blocks re-aeration and photosynthesis. I am not aware that any, or an adequate level of monitoring was ever conducted by area staff. This is work that should be conducted before pool outfall design criteria and winter water release schedules are finalized.

The EAW on p. 18 indicates that the low dissolved oxygen and turbidity TMDL studies are scheduled for 2015, with target completion by 2019. A watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS) for the entire Roseau River Watershed will also begin 2015, and DNR Baudette Area Fisheries will be conducting extensive fish surveys. These expansive efforts will provide a basis for watershed planning and restoration. It is unfortunate that the WMA construction project is scheduled for completion in fall 2015, before the analysis and completion of the various watershed studies. The engineering design of the new pool 3 outfall structure should be informed by the results of the watershed studies. The studies should also be a basis for determining the need for modification of the existing outfall structures, for pools 2 and 3, to provide maximum rates of gas exchange and oxygenation of released water.

I have also included the following points for your consideration:

1. If the new Pool 3 outfall structure proceeds on schedule, it should be designed to provide maximum vertical drop and agitation for the released water. This requires that releases come from the top of the

reservoir water column. The sluice gates referred to on page 8. would seem to imply a bottom draw of water from the reservoir, which at times would be more anoxic. The gates would also not provide the maximum vertical drop and agitation for entraining atmospheric oxygen.

2. Winter/early spring drawdown schedules should be optimized to provide a steady maximum flow release throughout the ice covered period, when the Roseau River is at a low base flow.

3. The outlet channel for the new Pool 3 discharge structure should be designed so that isolated pools are not created within the channel when reservoir releases stop. Fish will be strongly attracted to the reservoir discharges in the new channel, and could be trapped with receding flow.

4. In relation to WMA Pool operation, it is important that no releases from the City of Roseau waste stabilization pond system occur during the period of ice cover on the Roseau River.

Jack Enblom