

Sawyer County, Wisconsin Round Lake Chain Taskforce Recommendation

This recommendation is presented for consideration of the interested parties. Please note the recommendation has not been approved by the Zoning and Conservation Committee of the Sawyer County Board nor has it been approved by the full Sawyer County Board. It is subject to change

For the purpose of this recommendation, The Round Lake Chain is defined as Round Lake, Little Round Lake, Osprey Lake and Osprey Creek from the point it leaves Little Round Lake to the point it exits the County NN culverts.

For the purpose of this recommendation “natural” is used to define existing conditions. Although, Osprey Creek has been modified in the distant past it is assumed these modification were so long ago the current state is now “natural”

Factors Used in This Recommendation

1. The large amount of storage within Round Lake and Little Round Lake and the small change in elevation , 2.4 feet from the Carlson Road dam to County Road NN, about 1.8 miles, makes it very difficult, if not virtually impossible to effectively manage day to day the levels of these lakes. Consequently, these recommendations are intended to, in a passive way, decrease the drawdown during the times of low water and increase the amount of water passed during times of high water.
2. These recommendations are for only those aspects that are under the jurisdiction of Sawyer County. The beaver dams downstream from Osprey Lake have a significant impact on the system but are outside the County's jurisdiction.
3. The presence or absence of the beaver dams is not reliable. Consequently, it is prudent to modify the structures under the County's control to retain water in the system at low level and increase the amount of water passed during times of high water in the absence of the beaver dams
4. The Carlson Road dam bridge will need major repair or need to be replaced within the next five years
5. The recommendations do not change the natural restrictions of Osprey Creek.
6. The facts contained in the 12/27/10 SEH letter report are consistent with prior SEH studies.

Recommendations

1. Replace the Carlson Road bridge, removing the existing dam. Replace the dam with a 12-foot span by 7-foot rise reinforced concrete box culvert. The elevation will be set at the natural stream level so that it will not be considered a dam. It is assumed this level will be at or close to an elevation of 1343.8 feet. The final elevation will be determined by surveying the channel profile from 100 feet upstream from the existing Carlson Road dam to approximately 250 feet downstream from the existing dam. The new structure has increased capacity over the existing structure so more water can leave Round Lake and Little Round Lake during times of high water.
2. Rework the County Road NN culverts. The inverts of the existing culverts will be lowered to an elevation of 1340.7 feet and a third 48" culvert installed at an elevation of 1340.3 feet. This will allow more water to leave the system in times of high water in recognition that the new structure at Carlson Road will let more water pass during times of high water. Details of the permit application are contained in the SEH application letter dated 12/28/07. The application was subsequently approved by the Wisconsin DNR. Upon reaching agreement, we will determine whether the prior approval remains in effect or can be renewed based on previously submitted data.
3. The County will consult with the Tribe about the feasibility of improving the wild rice production in that portion of the creek near the culverts. Any wild rice destroyed during the construction will be restored by a joint County/LCO Conservation project.
4. Petition the DNR to rescind the 1941 PSC order. Alternatively if a legal review determines we need an order, petition the DNR to approve setting the sill of the Carlson Road reinforced concrete box culvert at the natural stream level presumed to be 1343.8 feet.

Estimated Cost

Replace Carlson Road bridge, dam removal and related construction (Could be lower if county does work)	\$120,000
County NN culvert work	\$4,000
Replant wild rice/habitat improvement	\$2,000
Recommended source of funds "Resource Development Fund"	

Discussions with SEH

Interested parties are free to discuss the technical aspects of the engineering reports with Brad Woznak, SEH Project Manager. Costs related to these discussions will be born by those imitating the discussions. We ask that Bruce Paulsen be included in the discussions. Brad suggests you send him questions in advance. His contact information follows

Brad Woznak, PE, CFM

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