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Filings begin for Round Lake watershed project

Sawyer County Record
Last updated: Tuesday, November 20th, 2007 09:47:09 AM

The Round Lake watershed project is one step closer to a reality, but is still a long way from completion after the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors voted last Tuesday to begin filing applications with state agencies.

The county will apply to replace the Carlson Dam wooden structure with a concrete box and v-notched weir. A second application will also be submitted to lower the Highway NN culverts. Both applications will be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the Voight Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, as well as to the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe.

LCO has been hesitant to support the project as they feel the lowering of the Highway NN culverts will eliminate a small wild ricing area growing in the pool of water immediately upstream from the culverts.

Sawyer County will be submitting the applications together as part of a larger project plan for the watershed.

But there's still a considerable way to go, according to county board member Shirley Riedmann.

After the WDNR receives the applications, they will allow a public comment period and could additionally request that an environmental assessment statement be drafted.

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Depending on the length of the public input sessions and multi-agency reviews, the project is not expected to begin until 2009 at the earliest.

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