

City of Wood Lake

Drinking Water | Wastewater | Storm & Sewer Improvements



Wood Lake's aging infrastructure, including **watermains dating back to 1927 (some with asbestos)** and a **faulty sanitary sewer system**, is causing frequent issues. Two boil water orders were issued in 2019 and 2021, and **backups occur due to overburdened lift stations**. The lack of a proper storm sewer system leads to **frequent flooding**, especially in "Frog Town" on the north side, with significant damage during the 2022 storm. Urgent updates or replacements are needed to address these problems.



Flooding in Wood Lake, MN

Project Affordability

- The population of Wood Lake is 376.
- Current monthly utility costs in Wood Lake average \$135/month and could increase an additional \$110/month without bonding assistance.
- 55% of the Wood Lake households have a low to moderate income
- Proposed project aligns with the current regional Community Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)
- As part of this project, the city will establish a reserve/replacement account.
- Introduced SF 147
- Introduced HF 650

Funded • In Progress

Phases 1 & 2

Phases 1 & 2 utility work totaled \$9.5 million. Both were funded and included:

- Replaced both lift stations and forcemains
- Replaced the sewer main between the lift stations
- Replaced the watermain in conjunction with sewer work
- Created a new stormwater outlet
- Drilled a new well and rehabilitations the water treatments plant.

Funds Needed

Phase 3 Project Scope

Phase 3 utility work will total \$6.2 million and will begin once funding is secured. This project includes:

- Reconstruction of approximately 48% of the existing drinking water distribution systems - PPL Rank 705
- Reconstruction of 72% of the sanitary sewer collection system - PPL Rank 10
- Reconfiguring the wastewater treatment pond facility
- Reconfiguring the storm sewer conveyance system



Why Your Support Matters Now

Wood Lake knows this final project will improve the quality of life, health, safety, and well-being for the residents and visitors to their community. The City of Wood Lake is respectfully requesting **\$4.525 million** in Minnesota Legislative Bonding to leverage Federal and City funding proposed to complete Phase 3.

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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. **650**

02/13/2025 Authored by Swedzinski
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment

1 1 A bill for an act
1 2 relating to capital investment; appropriating money for improvements to water
1 3 and sewer infrastructure and street reconstruction in the city of Wood Lake;
1 4 authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

1 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1 6 Section 1. **WOOD LAKE; WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND STREET**
1 7 **RECONSTRUCTION.**

1 8 Subdivision 1. **Appropriation.** \$4,525,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund
1 9 to the Public Facilities Authority for a grant to the city of Wood Lake to design, construct,
1 10 and equip the replacement of aging and failing municipal infrastructure. This appropriation
1 11 includes money for improvements to and replacement of water distribution system,
1 12 wastewater system, storm sewer system infrastructure, and reconstruction of city streets.

1 13 Subd. 2. **Bond sale.** To provide the money appropriated in this section from the bond
1 14 proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue bonds of
1 15 the state in an amount up to \$4,525,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect
1 16 prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota
1 17 Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

1 18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority



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*Serving the shippers, communities, and counties of Carver, Sibley,
Renville, Redwood, and Yellow Medicine in Minnesota.*

To Whomever It May Concern,

I am writing to express our full support for the City of Wood Lake's bonding request to complete their utility project. As an entity committed to economic development and infrastructure improvement, we recognize the critical importance of this project for not only the residents of Wood Lake, but the businesses as well.

I represent the Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority. We are a short line railroad that owns the track and land that runs through five MN counties, Carver, Sibley, Renville, Redwood, and Yellow Medicine.

The City of Wood Lake has a history of dealing with significant flooding issues, which have not only posed immediate threats to public safety but have also resulted in substantial economic disruptions for the community. Furthermore, the challenges associated with contaminated water have necessitated city-wide boiling advisories, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive utility improvements.

By completing the proposed utility project, the City of Wood Lake will not only address these pressing concerns but also lay the groundwork in the face of future environmental challenges. Moreover, it is important to recognize the indirect benefits that such infrastructure improvements can bring to our rail system.

Improving the utility infrastructure in Wood Lake could potentially bring more businesses and shippers in in the future, which could contribute to the overall stability, longevity, and success of our rail system. Therefore, supporting the completion of this project aligns with our shared goals of fostering regional economic development.

In conclusion, the Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority wholeheartedly endorses the City of Wood Lake's bonding request for their utility project. We believe that investing in this critical infrastructure will not only benefit the residents of Wood Lake but will also contribute to the long-term prosperity of our region. We are happy to help one of the many communities along our rail line and would sincerely appreciate your further support and consideration in providing additional dollars towards this deserving community in need of financial assistance.

Thank you for considering our support for this vital initiative. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

McKenzie Taylor, Administrator
Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority