



March 30, 2026

Dear Chairs Hawj, McDonald, and Vang,

Northwestern Minnesota often experiences flooding due to its topography. The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project will help reduce the depth and duration of floods that adversely impact farmland. **That's why Minnesota AgriGrowth supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project.**

This multi-purpose flood mitigation water storage project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows, and enhanced water quality. Most importantly, the Roseau Lake project improves approximately 5,500 wetland acres and controls approximately 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage once operational.

The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project was thoroughly vetted by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and approved in 2015, 2023, and 2025, and previously funded by the Legislature in 2016 and 2024.

We urge you to fully fund the \$3.5 million for this Project, as recommended by the LSOHC and included in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill. Your commitment will ensure the continued success and long-term benefits of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project for Minnesota agriculture and conservation.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support for Minnesota's future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin Broton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darin" and last name "Broton" clearly distinguishable.

Darin Broton, Executive Director
Minnesota AgriGrowth

CC: Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the House of Representative Legacy Committee



Bois de Sioux
Watershed District

704 Highway 75 South | Wheaton, MN 56296

Phone | 320.563.4185
Fax | 320.563.4987

www.bdswd.com
bdswd@runestone.net

March 19, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The **Bois de Sioux Watershed District** supports the Roseau River Watershed District's efforts to secure \$3.5 million in Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) funding for their Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project.

The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project has a history of support, through awards provided in 2015, 2016, 2023, 2024, and 2025; this support recognized the nature of this project to serve multiple purposes – improving approximately 5,500 wetland acres while controlling 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage. This Project also works towards meeting water quality objectives at the international border in accordance with the 1909 Treaty between the United States and Canada.

Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda J. Vavra".

Linda Vavra
President



April 6, 2026

121 Center Street East
Suite 202; PO Box 307
Roseau, Minnesota 56751

218.463.1542
218.463.1252 FAX
cityclerk@mncable.net

City Council

Dan Fabian-Mayor
Amy Bassingthwaite
Oliver Ullman
Pat Novacek
Brady Johnson

City Dept. Heads

Todd Peterson
Community Dev. Coord.

Gary Przekwas
City Superintendent

Marc Hodge
Chief of Police

Niki Johnson
Liquor Store Manager

Leon Huot
Fire Chief

Administrative Staff

Elizabeth Carlson
City Clerk-Treasurer

www.city.roseau.mn.us

Equal Opportunity Provider and
Employer

Members of the Legislature:

This letter is intended to bring to you my concerns regarding the recent action taken by the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee concerning the Roseau Lake flood mitigation project. As I understand Senator Green's amendment to remove the Roseau Lake Restoration Project funding from the Legacy Bill was accepted by Chair Hawj as a friendly amendment. I strongly oppose this action.

A little background is helpful. In June of 2002 the City of Roseau and much of Roseau County suffered a catastrophic flood. With the help of so many the City of Roseau was able to save our Hospital, School, water treatment plants and the Polaris manufacturing plant. The huge amount of damage to large numbers of homes, businesses, churches, and others resulted in disaster declarations and disaster funding from the State of Minnesota and the Federal Government totaling more than \$100 million. That funding along with other sources enabled us to rebuild our awesome town and surrounding area. Much work has been done to protect Roseau from future floods, but more work needs to be done to expand flood protection in Roseau County. This includes finishing the Roseau Lake flood mitigation project that currently is about 75% completed.

To say I was upset to learn that much of the information presented in the Committee hearing was, in my opinion, factually incorrect, is a large understatement. Let me point out some of the inaccuracies presented.

The first item was the conflation of different issues or projects that are unrelated to the Roseau Lake Restoration Project being used as rationale for stopping the Roseau Lake Project. Those include a lawsuit related to a weir structure that was constructed to improve fisheries on the Roseau River. Whether that weir structure is or isn't present has no impact on the operation or usefulness of the Roseau Lake Restoration Project.

Other factually incorrect information that was provided as rationale to remove the Roseau Lake Restoration project included the scope of the projected private flood damages because of the project and that this flooding amounted to taking private property. There were claims that over 12,600 private acres would receive increased flooding from this project. However, the entire Roseau Lake basin covers less than 8,000 acres in total, making this claim unreasonable and LIDAR data indicates that the basin is very defined and by project design all the high-water flows would be taken into lake storage area before they could impact private lands. Furthermore, many of these private lands already flood on a fairly regular basis because they are in the former lakebed.

I am also concerned that during testimony other reasons given for removing the project from the bill were not substantiated with facts and data presented to the Committee. Somewhat vague references were made but no hard referenced data. For example three other hydrologists were referred to but no names, professional qualifications or public availability of where their findings could be accessed. In that case it is my understanding that the hydrologists referred to May have never set foot in Roseau County to gather data and view the site of the project.

The Roseau City Council passed a unanimous resolution in 2020 in support of the project. At our April meeting I will be bringing forth another resolution affirming the Council's unwavering support of the project. The County has also provided similar support for the Roseau Lake Restoration project.

A tremendous amount of planning that first started in 2014, securing of funding from multiple sources, and now construction has occurred to this point. It would be a huge waste of money, effort and loss of a needed flood mitigation project if the project is killed.

In closing let me state clearly that I am 100% in favor of completion of the project which is only possible if the funding recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Walz.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this critically important matter. If you have any questions for me please feel free to contact me when it is convenient for you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Fabian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Fabian - Mayor of Roseau,
Former House of Representatives Member,
Former member of the LSOHC,
Former and current member of the LCCMR
218-230-3975 Dfabian@mncable.net

RESOLUTION

Resolution in support of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project


WHEREAS, the Roseau River Watershed and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have been developing the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project in partnership utilizing the Project Team process as outlined in the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Roseau City Council realizes the community benefits of multipurpose water management projects that promote flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancements, and

WHEREAS, the City of Roseau strives to maintain and build partnerships with other local, state and federal agencies with the same goals of flood hazard reduction and mitigation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Roseau City Council supports the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project moving forward with the continued outreach to landowners, responsible management of public funding and utilization of the project to the greatest water management potential to meet the goals of the project.

Resolved and agreed upon this 6th day of April, 2026



City Clerk-Treasurer



Mayor

RESOLUTION #13-20

Resolution in support of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project

WHEREAS, the Roseau River Watershed and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have been developing the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project in partnership utilizing the Project Team process as outlined in the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Roseau City Council realizes the community benefits of multipurpose water management projects that promote flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancements, and

WHEREAS, the City of Roseau strives to maintain and build partnerships with other local, state, and federal agencies with the same goals of flood hazard reduction and mitigation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Roseau City Council supports the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project moving forward with continued outreach to landowners, responsible management of public funding and utilization of the project to the greatest water management potential to meet the goals of the project.

Resolved and agreed upon this 6th day of January, 2020



City Clerk



Mayor

From: [Jordan Erickson](#)
To: [Tracy Halstengard](#)
Subject: Re: letter
Date: Friday, March 20, 2026 12:29:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

I have personally witnessed the foresight and progressive nature of the Roseau watershed board. This was through two extensive and fundamental ditching projects done in Ross and Dieter townships, ditch 16 and 115. These two projects approved by said board have been a major positive economic impact to agriculture in the area. Greatly improved yields with water and erosion control.

Our farm is around 1400 acres in the Ross/dieter townships and 4700 overall. I have attended several meetings this watershed has put on and they have all been highly informational.

My opinion of the Roseau watershed board is of the highest regard as they are fiscally responsible, insightful, listen to all sides and make the best choice as a local board. They understand the environmental impacts as well as the financial implications in dealing with major projects. This Roseau watershed project is no different and believe it will be positive for the land owners.

I lived in the twin cities for 5 years as an icu nurse as regions hospital and worked on our family farm. Being that far away I trusted my father and brother to make the correct choice. That's what should be done in this case as well. Let the local individuals on these boards make the decisions as they have done well for years, not from St. Paul.

Lastly, I support the project and its inclusion in the Lessard-Sam Outdoor Heritage Fund legislation.

Thank you,

Jordan Erickson

Michelle Gawronsky
Box 13,
115 Main Street S.,
Vita, Manitoba, Canada
R0A 2K0

March 23, 2026

Dear Chair Vang, Chair McDonald, and Legacy Committee Members;

I am writing this morning to share my full support of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project in the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Bill.

I am a resident of the Rural Municipality of Stuartburn, northeast of Roseau Minnesota, sharing the United States and Manitoba border.

I have been fortunate to observe and visit the project and the benefits to the communities surrounding it. I am so impressed by the progressive planning, engineering and construction of the project. To observe the flood protection, draught protection, the benefits to the water quality and the ability to introduce wonderful recreation opportunities is impressive. I already recognise the economic benefits to the town of Roseau and the community surrounding it.

Living in Manitoba, I have a personal stake in projects carried out in Minnesota and have become actively involved in this initiative. I have attended informal events held by the Watershed District about the project. I have requested and received information from the District on the project. I congratulate the Watershed on moving in such a positive direction for the benefits of towns, communities, and farmers alike. I also see an international benefit for us in my community just north of the border.

I thank you for your time in reading my letter. If you would like to contact me for any clarification or questions please feel free to contact me any time at (204) 391-0287 or mlgawronsky@gmail.com.

Respectfully

M. Gawronsky

March 19, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

As the former Executive Director of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) and as current U.S. Commissioner of the International Joint Commission (IJC) I have first-hand experience working on land and water related issues in the Red River Basin—not only in Minnesota, but also North and South Dakota and Manitoba in Canada.

After the major 2009 flood that hit the Red River Basin -- both Minnesota and North Dakota at the state levels, provided funding to the RRBC that resulted in a Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Report. This report highlights the importance of holding water in retention areas like the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project. These types of projects along with diversions, dikes, land use changes and habitat are all a part of building flood resiliency in the Red River Basin. These types of investments provide significant benefits to the economy of the state and local governments by preventing re-occurring damages from flooding that can easily reach 10's and 100's of millions in damages.

I want to lend my support to the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District and for a request for a re-consideration of funding this important project.

This Project was thoroughly vetted by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), which is a citizen-legislator council that spends significant time reviewing proposals, hearing presentations, and deliberating recommendations to spend Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars for habitat projects across the state. The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project has been vetted and approved by LSOHC in 2015, 2023, and 2025 and previously funded by the Legislature in 2016 and 2024.

This multipurpose flood mitigation – water storage Project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows to Canada, and enhanced water quality to downstream neighbors. When completed, this Project is a win locally, regionally, and internationally. The State of Minnesota also benefits from this Project as it improves approximately 5,500 wetland acres. In addition, 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage area will be controlled once the Project is operational.

Red River water flows north to Lake Winnipeg and this Project works towards meeting water quality objectives at the international border in accordance with the 1909 Treaty between the United States and Canada.

Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,
Lance Yohe



Lance Yohe
U.S. Commissioner
International Joint Commission
lance.yohe@ijc.org
Work Cell: 202-227-0492
Personal: tbslance@gmail.com
Personal Cell: 701-371-8246

Dear Chair Vang, Chair McDonald and Legacy Committee Members,

I support the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project in the Leppard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Bill.

My husband and I are landowners and past farmers in Dieter and Ross townships. We own 785 acres and live 3 miles west of the Roseau Lake. We attended informational meetings and especially ones which we were invited to that pertained to our land. We received letters regarding meetings and were kept well informed! The watershed meetings (time & place) are published in the local newspaper (Roseau Times Region) as well.

We sold land to the watershed and were given fair prices and our requests for changes were honored. I believe this project will be beneficial to land owners downstream especially to reduce flooding during flooding events. We have lived on the river for 54 years and experienced several floods in our time. I grew up in Ross and remember many flooding years as more & more drainage was done upstream. The prime lake bottom land was not very consistent for planting or harvesting! We definitely support this project.

Phil & Roberts Johnson

Dear Chair Vang, Chair McDonald
and Legacy Committee Members

I am a landowner who resides in
Dieter Township and I own 40
Acres of land in Section 27, Next
to Hwy 89, west of the Ross bridge
and south of the Roseau River.

In the past 10 yrs of ownership
I have been flooded out 2 times, total
crop loss due to overland flooding

I believe if this project was
to be completed and the water could
be controlled this could be very
minimal damage to cropland and
the same for other farmers

I support the Roseau Lake
Restoration Project in the Leland-
Sams Outdoor Heritage Funding bill
and encourage the funding to be
approved

David S. Lee

3/21/2026

Dear Chas Vang, Chair McDonald, and
Legacy Committee Members;

I ask you to please support the
Roseau Lake Restoration Project and
to continue it's funding through the
Leason-Dain Outdoor Heritage Fund
legislation... I feel that this
project will be a tremendous
benefit to the landowners who are
in the area affected by routine
flooding.

I live in sections 23 of Peter
township right next to the Roseau
lake; also I own land in section
26 of Peter. I'm directly affected by
this project and am a big supporter
of it. I own around 560 acres here.

Over the years I've attended many
informational meetings; I missed some
but the watershed district (RRWD) was
always making efforts to keep me
updated with events and information.

Please ask you to continue
funding of this almost finished project.
Charles James John 218 242 1622

Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project Letter of Support 3-22-26

Greetings Chair Vang, Chair McDonald, and Legacy Committee members, I am writing to you today from Roseau Minnesota in support of the Roseau Lake rehabilitation Project in the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Bill. I am property owning resident living on the west side of this project who is in support of the completion of this project. I Live in Dieter Township in Roseau county less than a mile from the west side of the project. I am a homeowner on a few acres and have experienced flooding many times in my lifetime. I have lived in the area over 20 years combined and have been a Roseau County resident my entire lifetime. I have not attended many meetings on the project, but I am very aware of the project and the benefits it will have during peak flooding for residents and farming upstream from here. Please Support this project and it's inclusion in The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Legislation. I have lived on both sides of the river up here and I am a very avid outdoorsman. I have spent my whole life hunting and fishing the Roseau River area and I believe this project will be a great asset to that as well as be functional for holding back some of the flood waters. I strongly support the completion of this project.

Thank you for time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS-11' or similar, written in a cursive style.

This is in regards to the Roseau Lake Project.

IF it Does what its supposed to do. I am not
against it. I understand the DNR own the land.

IF their willing to give the Roseau Water Shed
a say in what happens, with the water after
spring thaw, thats a good thing I think.

I Have Flooded 4 times once in 1996 2 Times
in 1997 and in 2002. Unless a Channel is

Built from here to Lake Winnepeg. We will Flood
again. anything to help Im all for.

I live in The First ~~Place~~ Place West of the lake Bottom
Down Stream.



Rick Isham

Gary Sunsten

35336 310th Ave

Roseau MN 56751

3/21/2026

Dear Chair Vang, Chair McDonald, and Legacy Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project and to respectfully urge its inclusion and continued funding in the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund legislation.

I reside with my son on our family's riverfront property along the Roseau River, located approximately one mile west of the Roseau Lake bottom in Dieter Township. I have lived here with my son in recent years. While the property is not in my name, I share the home and have a direct stake in its well-being and future.

Although I have not been as actively involved in following the project's details as others, I have visited the construction sites with my son and have observed the progress firsthand. I have been supportive throughout and was looking forward to the project's completion. The restoration would allow the lake bottom to function once again as a natural reservoir, helping to mitigate the minor flooding that has affected our property over the years. The inclusion of public access features would enable the broader community to enjoy recreational opportunities in the area, which I view as a positive outcome for everyone involved.

It is concerning to learn that funding has been halted at this advanced stage, after substantial progress and investment. Halting support now would prevent these anticipated benefits, both for our family and for the public.

I fully support the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project and its continuation through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund. I respectfully request that the Committee restore the necessary funding to enable the project to reach completion.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important initiative and for your stewardship of Minnesota's outdoor heritage resources.

Sincerely,

Gary Sunsten

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Sunsten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a stylized "S".

Phone: 214-563-2400

Gary.sunsten@gmail.com

Boyd Olmstead
31342 County Road 112
Roseau, MN 56751

March 22, 2026

RE: Lake bottom project

I'm addressing this to whomever it may concern,

I have lived in Ross for 40 years, approximately ½ mile from the Roseau River and I have seen many neighbors suffer with flooding over the years, that could have possibly been prevented by holding the water in the lake bottom and releasing it at a proper time. It would be beneficial to many families and farmland along the Roseau River if the projected outcome is reached.

It doesn't make much sense to allow the project to get this far and stop it when it almost completed. It is my opinion that the project should continue as it was originally planned. Due to changes Roseau County has made in their flood plan, the Roseau River fills up faster than before and causes significant flooding. I think this project would be a good plan for a water holding area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd Olmstead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

March 23, 2026

To: Chair Vang, Chair McDonald
Legacy Committee Members

From Jerry Arneson
429 Birch Circle,
Moorhead, MN 56560
Landowner - Dieter Township, Ross, MN
701-361-7595



Re: Support Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project and the inclusion in the Lessard-Sams
Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF) legislation.

I strongly encourage your support of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project in the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Bill. Please consider funding the project.

I am a landowner within one mile of the project; I own agricultural land which is connect to the Roseau River. I grew up on a farm operation within one mile of the project, my mother currently lives on the family farmstead, near Ross, MN within one mile of the project.

- The Roseau Watershed District has been open/available in sharing information on the project with the public. The district web site provides meeting/project information, public meetings held to share information and respond to questions. Supervisors have been open to individual and group meetings to discuss the project.

I believe the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project will be a benefit for controlling water flow (preventing flooding, crop damage, etc.) of the Roseau River. The project will be a benefit/enhancement to wildlife/fisheries and waterfowl habitat.

Please support the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project and the inclusion in the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF) legislation.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

March 23, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District.

The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project has been vetted and approved by LSOHC in 2015, 2023, and 2025 and previously funded by the Legislature in 2016 and 2024. This multipurpose flood mitigation – water storage Project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows to Canada, and enhanced water quality to downstream neighbors.

Red River water flows north to Lake Winnipeg and this Project works towards meeting water quality objectives at the international border in accordance with the 1909 Treaty between the United States and Canada.

Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CGriffith".

Caroline Griffith
Water Program Director
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy



March 23, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Minnesota Watersheds represents 42 watershed organizations throughout Minnesota. Many of our member organizations have received funding for projects that have been thoroughly vetted through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). As a citizen-legislator council, we appreciate the significant amount of time spent reviewing proposals, hearing presentations, and deliberating on recommendations to appropriate money from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Minnesota Watersheds supports the rigorous process employed by LSOHC. This process ensures recommendations are consistent with the constitution and state law, directly relate to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.

Minnesota Watersheds supports the recommendations made by the LSOHC as introduced in [SF4304](#) and [HF3879](#) which include the following funding for watershed districts:

- Roseau River WD; Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 3 - \$3.505 million
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD; Greenbelt, Phase 1 - \$1.448 million
- Shell Rock River WD; Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program, Phase 15 - \$2.039 million
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD; Bone Lake South, Phase 2 - \$1.413 million
- Red Lake WD; Mud River Enhancement Project - \$2.917 million
- Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD; Swift Coulee Channel Restoration and Enhancement, Phase 2 - \$2.635 million

Thank you for your consideration.

Jan Voit
Executive Director

PRESIDENT
Brad Kramer (Region 2)
Shell Rock River WD
brad@provenioconsulting.com
507-369-6050 | Term 2028

VICE PRESIDENT
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DIRECTORS
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Jeff Gertgen (Region 2)
Middle Fork Crow River WD
jg liaison@gmail.com
608-370-3934 | Term 2026

Shaun Kennedy
Bassett Creek WMC
shaun.kennedy1066@gmail.com
651-260-0916 | Term 2026

Shawn Mazanec (Region 3)
Capitol Region WD
mazanecshawn@gmail.com
651-428-6076 | Term 2028

Jan Voit
Executive Director
jvoit@mnwatersheds.com
507-822-0921





MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT

Portions of Marshall, Kittson, Polk, Pennington and Roseau Counties

453 N McKinley St
Warren, MN 56762
Phone 218-745-4741
Fax 218-745-5300
info@mstrwd.org
www.mstrwd.org

OP-26-011
03/19/2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Re: letter of Support to fund Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project

Dear Committee Members,

The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project (WRE-06) that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District.

This Project was thoroughly vetted by the LSOHC, which is a citizen-legislator council that spends significant time reviewing proposals, hearing presentations, and deliberating on recommendations to spend Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars for habitat projects across the state. This project has been vetted and approved by LSOHC in 2015, 2023, and 2025 and previously funded by the Legislature in 2016 and 2024.

This multipurpose flood mitigation – water storage Project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows to Canada, and enhanced water quality to downstream neighbors. When completed, this Project is a win locally, regionally, and internationally. The State of Minnesota also benefits from this Project as it improves approximately 5,500 wetland acres. In addition, 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage area will be controlled once the Project is operational.

Red River water flows north to Lake Winnipeg and this Project works towards meeting water quality objectives at the international border in accordance with the 1909 Treaty between the United States and Canada.

Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,

District Administrator

BILL PETERSEN
MIDDLE RIVER
PRESIDENT
MARSHALL COUNTY

ROBERT KOVAR
EAST GRAND FORKS
VICE PRESIDENT
POLK COUNTY

KEITH SZCZEPANSKI
STEPHEN
TREASURER
MARSHALL COUNTY

BRADLEY BLAWAT
VIKING
SECRETARY
MARSHALL COUNTY

LEIN SCHILLER
ARGYLE
AST SEC/TREASURER
MARSHALL COUNTY

JOEY MCGREGOR
WARREN
MANAGER
MARSHALL COUNTY

JARED SANDS
ALVARADO
MANAGER
MARSHALL COUNTY

Red Lake Watershed District

President
Gene Tiedemann

Vice President
Terry Sorenson

Treasurer
Tom Anderson

1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls MN, 56701

218-681-5800

218-681-5839 FAX

E-mail: RLWD@redlakewatershed.org
www.redlakewatershed.org

Secretary
LeRoy Ose

Managers
Grant Nelson

Allan Page
Brian Dwight

March 19, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The Red Lake Watershed District supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District.

This Project was thoroughly vetted by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), which is a citizen-legislator council that spends significant time reviewing proposals, hearing presentations, and deliberating on recommendations to spend Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars for habitat projects across the state. The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project has been vetted and approved by LSOHC in 2015, 2023, and 2025 and previously funded by the Legislature in 2016 and 2024.

This multipurpose flood mitigation – water storage Project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows to Canada, and enhanced water quality to downstream neighbors. When completed, this Project is a win locally, regionally, and internationally. The State of Minnesota also benefits from this Project as it improves approximately 5,500 wetland acres. In addition, 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage area will be controlled once the Project is operational.

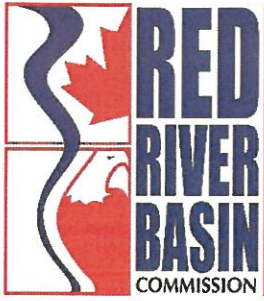
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Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,



Tammy Audette
Administrator



Red River Basin Commission

Manitoba • Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota

info@redriverbasincommission.org

Fargo Office: 1120 28th Avenue North, Suite. C, Fargo ND 58102 Phone 701-356-3183
Winnipeg Office: 203 - 1111 Munroe Avenue • Winnipeg, MB R2K 3Z5 Phone 204-982-7250

www.redriverbasincommission.org

2025 - 2027

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March 19, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The Red River Basin Commission supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District.

This multipurpose flood mitigation – water storage Project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows to Canada, and enhanced water quality to downstream neighbors. When completed, this Project is a win locally, regionally, and internationally. The State of Minnesota also benefits from this Project as it improves approximately 5,500 wetland acres. In addition, 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage area will be controlled once the Project is operational.

The Red River Basin Commission has long advocated for projects like this that contribute to our Natural Resource Framework Goals. This project in particular contributes to the following goal areas:

Goal #1 - Manage natural resources in the RRB by watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries

Goal #4- Improve stakeholder participation and awareness of land and water issues and awareness of land and water issues

Goal #6 – *Reduce risk of flood damages for people, property and the environment in the main stem floodplain and in tributary waters.*

Goal # 9 – *Maintain, protect and restore surface and ground water quality in the Red River Basin.*

Goal #12 – *Conserve, manage and restore diversity and viability of native fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.*

Red River water flows north to Lake Winnipeg and this Project works towards meeting water quality objectives at the international border in accordance with the 1909 Treaty between the United States and Canada.

Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,

Ted M. Preister, Executive Director



RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

1120 28th Avenue North, Suite C - Fargo, ND 58102 - Phone: 701-356-6644

March 19, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The Red River Retention Authority supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District.

This Project was thoroughly vetted by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), which is a citizen-legislator council that spends significant time reviewing proposals, hearing presentations, and deliberating recommendations to spend Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars for habitat projects across the state. The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project has been vetted and approved by LSOHC in 2015, 2023, and 2025 and previously funded by the Legislature in 2016 and 2024.

This multipurpose flood mitigation – water storage Project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows to Canada, and enhanced water quality to downstream neighbors. When completed, this Project is a win locally, regionally, and internationally. The State of Minnesota also benefits from this Project as it improves approximately 5,500 wetland acres. In addition, 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage area will be controlled once the Project is operational.

Red River water flows north to Lake Winnipeg and this Project works towards meeting water quality objectives at the international border in accordance with the 1909 Treaty between the United States and Canada.

Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian L. Fuder".

Brian L. Fuder, Executive Director
Red River Retention Authority



March 19, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representative Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District.

This Project was thoroughly vetted by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), which is a citizen-legislator council that spends significant time reviewing proposals, hearing presentations, and deliberating on recommendations to spend Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars for habitat projects across the state. The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project has been vetted and approved by LSOHC in 2015, 2023, and 2025 and previously funded by the Legislature in 2016 and 2024.

This multipurpose flood mitigation – water storage Project will result in approximately 22,000 acre-feet of water storage and habitat, reduced flood flows to Canada, and enhanced water quality to downstream neighbors. When completed, this Project is a win locally, regionally, and internationally. The State of Minnesota also benefits from this Project as it improves approximately 5,500 wetland acres. In addition, 1,000 square miles of upstream drainage area will be controlled once the Project is operational.

Red River water flows north to Lake Winnipeg and this Project works towards meeting water quality objectives at the international border in accordance with the 1909 Treaty between the United States and Canada. Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF3879, the 2026 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Finney".

John Finney, RRWMB President

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Sip".

Robert L. Sip, RRWMB Executive Director



154 Friesen Avenue
Steinbach, MB, R5G 0T5
Ph: (204) 326-1030
info@srrwd.ca
www.srrwd.ca

March 20, 2026

Att: Tracy Halstensgard
Roseau River Watershed District
Roseau, MN

On behalf of the Board of the Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District (SRRWD), we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Roseau River Watershed District's Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project.

67-2025: Neil Claringbould – Harold Janzen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD supports the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project being initiated by Roseau River Watershed District in Roseau, Minnesota.

The SRRWD recognizes the importance of proactive watershed management initiatives that enhance water quality, improve ecological function, and support long-term sustainability within our shared watershed. The proposed rehabilitation of Roseau Lake represents a valuable investment in both environmental health and community resilience. Projects of this nature contribute to reduced nutrient loading, improved aquatic habitat, and strengthened natural infrastructure that benefits surrounding communities and residents.

As neighboring watershed districts, we understand the interconnected nature of our water systems and the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing watershed challenges. The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project aligns with our shared goals of responsible water management, flood mitigation, and the protection of natural resources for future generations.

We commend the Roseau River Watershed District for its leadership and commitment to advancing this initiative. The SRRWD Board fully supports the progression of this project and encourages continued investment in watershed-based solutions that deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ed Penner", written in a cursive style.

Ed Penner
SRRWD Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joey Pankiw", written in a cursive style.

Joey Pankiw
SRRWD District Manager

Two Rivers Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties



Board of Managers: *President – Rick Sikorksi, V.P.- Roger Anderson, Secretary - Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer – Gerald Olsonawski
Manager - Bruce Anderson, Manager - Scott Klein, Manager – Mark Langehaug*
Staff: *Dan Money, District Administrator; Tyler Coffield, Head Technician; Kimberly Soberaski, Administrative Assistant*
*410 5th Street S., Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728 - Phone (218) 843-3333 - Email: dan.money@tworiverswd.com
World Wide Web: www.TwoRiversWD.com*

April 3, 2026

Members of the Minnesota Senate Environment, Climate, & Legacy Committee
Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives Legacy Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The Two Rivers Watershed District supports the \$3.5 million funding recommendation of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) specifically related to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project that is being constructed by the Roseau River Watershed District.

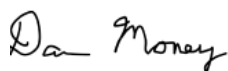
It is the understanding of the Two Rivers Watershed District that this project was thoroughly reviewed by each member of the LSOHC and then scored and ranked among all other project applications that were received. The LSOHC, which is a citizen-legislator council, spent significant time reviewing proposals, hearing project presentations, and deliberating on recommendations to spend Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars for habitat projects in all regions of the state.

Prior phases of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project have been vetted and approved by the LSOHC in 2015, 2023, and 2025 and previously funded by the Legislature in 20216 and 2024. Further, projects of watershed districts in the Red River Valley not only follow rigorous requirements of MN Statute 103D, but they also follow the process set up by the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, which convenes a project team of local, state and federal citizens, agencies, and special interest groups to collectively agree by consensus on projects. In short, this project has been viewed and reviewed numerous times by numerous entities and has held up to rigorous standards that are required by law.

This project will reduce flooding in the Roseau River Watershed, reduce crossover flooding in the Two Rivers Watershed, and reduce flooding in the Province of Manitoba, Canada by storing 22,000 acre feet of flood water. It will also provide exceptional habitat in the project area by enhancing and protecting approximately 5,500 wetland acres.

Please consider full funding of \$3.5 million for this Project as it was reviewed and recommended by the LSOHC and contained in HF 3879, the 2026 Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund bill.

Sincerely,



Dan Money
District Administrator