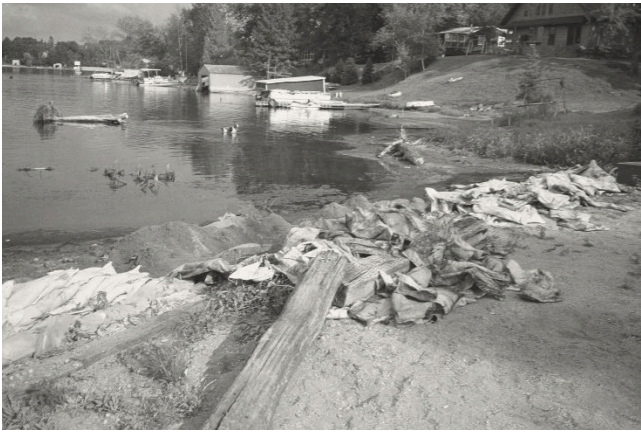


## Summary (HF 3569)

**Sand Hill River Watershed District** | Union Lake & Lake Sarah Mechanical Outlet Pump Retrofit | **Request:** Support **HF 3569 (\$1.5M)**

- **The ask:** Support and include HF 3569 in the capital investment package to retrofit the Union Lake/Lake Sarah mechanical outlet pump to meet current MN DNR invasive species filtration requirements. Without the improvements funded through this request, the District loses a critical tool for water management.
- **Local history:** After 1997 flooding, landowners installed the pump (~1999) and until 2012, paid for the construction/O&M; the Watershed District accepted the facility in 2012 under Minn. Stat. §103D.705 recognizing broader public purpose.
- **Why now:** The existing pump is mechanically sound and capable of operating; however, following zebra mussel detection, current MN DNR permit conditions prohibit discharge unless it meets invasive species filtration requirements. Without these upgrades, the facility cannot be legally operated and the District loses a critical tool for managing high-water conditions.
- **What the project does:** Install a 35-micron filtration system so discharge can resume in compliance with MN DNR requirements. The restrictive filtration system requires installation of a new pump capable of pushing water through the filter screens.
- **Cost:** Approximately \$1.7 million.
- **Public waters / public benefit:** Union Lake and Lake Sarah are public waters with public access. This infrastructure protects water quality and reduces flood-related impacts to structures, septic systems, and downstream waters.
- **Benefits if funded:** Reduced shoreline erosion and nutrient/sediment loading; fewer septic failures/contamination risks; improved habitat and water clarity; protection of homes/infrastructure and the local tax base; continued safe public recreation.
- **If not funded:** Higher risk of preventable flood damage, septic inundation, shoreline/bank instability, and long-term water quality degradation—undoing decades of responsible lake-level management.
- **Other funding pursued:** MnDNR flood hazard mitigation grants (not funded), federal (USACE), Clean Water Fund/One Watershed One Plan, MPCA Clean Water Partnership (loan only; flood mitigation ineligible), AIS outreach (not infrastructure), and habitat/invasive plant grants (not applicable).
- **Why bonding fits:** A remaining viable path is legislative bonding for public water infrastructure delivering statewide environmental and flood mitigation benefits; similar mechanical outlet projects have received prior with legislative support. This includes recent installations at Little MacDonald Lake (Otter Tail County, MN) and Lake Shamineau (Morrison County, MN).
- **Closing:** Please vote yes on HF 3569 and include this project in the capital investment package.



*Landowner submitted photos*