

## Blaschko, Dani

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**From:** Koppelman, Tim (DNR) <tim.koppelman@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022 11:45 AM  
**To:** Martin, Joe  
**Cc:** Innvaer, Stein H (DNR); Stangel, Joseph (DNR); Kittelson, Steve M (DNR); John Lindstrom; Soupir, Craig (DNR); Rohlfing, Steven; Wetzell, Lance; Schultz, Michael; Kadel, Nikolos; Blaschko, Dani  
**Subject:** Le Sueur Co. Shallow Lake Projects  
**Attachments:** 2020\_Lake\_Henry\_Notes.docx; 149629\_Le Sueur County\_Sanborn Lake.pdf; 153115\_McCleod County\_Ward Lake WC Structure\_FINAL.pdf; RE: Diamond Lake Project; Diamond\_Lake\_CD15.pdf; Diamond Lake Culvert 2.jpg

Good morning Administrator Martin,

My name is Tim Koppelman and I am the Assistant Manager with the DNR Area Wildlife office in Nicollet which manages lands in Le Sueur County; Stein Innvaer is the Area Supervisor also copied here. I've been meaning to reach out and introduce myself and touch base on a couple shallow lake projects in the county that have been on our radar for some time now. We started working with your predecessor Darrell Pettis on these but due to other area priorities and/or circumstances outside our control they had been put on hold temporarily.

The first project we would like to discuss with you and get rolling again is Lake Henry. I've attached here my compiled notes on the project since it came to our attention in late 2020. In summary, the Ditch Authority was planning to replace the failed outlet when DNR Wildlife became aware of the project, and thereafter we asked to collaborate on the design for future lake management (i.e. water level management for fish & wildlife habitat and clean water benefits). We then worked together on modifying the existing design to include a stop log bay at a nominal cost for the alternate. Construction of the new outlet was completed in late-2020, and our last discussion was to transfer ownership and management responsibilities to DNR through a JPA. A couple examples of similar JPAs are attached - Sanborn Lake with the Le Sueur Ditch Authority in 2018 and Ward Lake with the Sibley/McLeod Joint Ditch Authority in 2019.

To that end, we would like to confirm this is still agreeable with the Ditch Authority, and if so we can begin moving forward on the next steps. It is also our goal to begin discussions later this spring through a public meeting with riparian landowners and other interested groups as far as shallow lake management tools & techniques, primarily to address any concerns up-front and further gauge interest in the project; from all accounts it appears there is local support for this project but need to invest further in that area. Pending the outcome of that public meeting, we would then begin plans for a Wildlife Lake Designation public hearing (if favorable) to obtain legal authority to manipulate water levels and operate the new outlet. This would be a typical process for most of our shallow lake projects, typically Lake Designation runs concurrently with outlet design/replacement (unlike Sanborn that became a Designated Wildlife Lake back in 1982 without having the ability to manipulate water levels, which came much later); two recent examples would be Ward and Indian Lakes in Sibley County that went through the Lake Designation process as part of each respective project. However, every lake project is unique, and in this case the outlet design/construction is already complete (often the most difficult and time-consuming portion).

Finally, the second project for discussion would be Diamond Lake just outside Kilkenney. Like Sanborn, Diamond Lake is a joint project between DNR/Ducks Unlimited that has been in the works for a number of

years now. The draft outlet design has been complete since 2016 but was put on the back burner as we wrapped up Sanborn and other high priority projects. At this time we are now ready to move forward towards completing the new Diamond Lake outlet. Unlike Henry, DNR Wildlife owns all riparian rights at Diamond Lake so Lake Designation is not needed for legal authority to manipulate water levels. However, from our last conversations in 2017 it does seem we may need to petition the CD15 Ditch Authority for modification of the system (attached) which we can now start if that's still our next step.

Please advise at your earliest convenience how you'd like to move forward with these items; we look forward to working with you and discussing these projects further.

Sincerely,

**Tim Koppelman**

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