

SOURCE	DEVELOPMENT	CONSTRUCTION					TOTAL
		Phase 1	Phases 2, 3, 4 & 5			Phase 6	
		through 2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
FDRWG	✓						\$78,000
RRWMB (advance)	✓						\$480,000
Local	✓	✓	✓				\$859,500
FHM program	✓	✓	✓	✓			\$5,975,875
RRWMB (committed)		✓	✓	✓	✓		\$4,700,000
LSOHC (DNR)	✓	✓					\$2,416,000
LSOHC (2024 RRWD)				✓			\$3,054,000
LSOHC (RRWD)					✓		\$3,553,000
DNR RIM				✓			\$1,100,000
TOTAL	-\$3.6M	-\$3.4M	-\$1.7M	-\$8.3M	-\$5.2M		\$22,216,375

Funding needed to complete the project

Approximately \$4M

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For more information about this or other projects contact the RRWD

 RoseauRiverWD.com

 281.463.0313

 tracy@roseauriverwd.com

ROSEAU LAKE REHABILITATION PROJECT

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

This project will improve habitat conditions in the Roseau Lake and the Roseau River while managing the available lake basin storage capacity to reduce flood damages, both near and downstream of the lake basin.



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Jason Braaten – Treasurer

Staff

Tracy Halstensgard – Administrator

Blaine Broten – Watershed Technician

Tawni Wensloff – Admin. Assistant

Cody Schmalz – Manager

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Funding Partner Logos



For questions or cost share to implement practices, please contact the Roseau River Watershed District:

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FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION GOALS

✓

Goal 1: To effectively use the water storage capacity of the lake basin to reduce peak flows on the Roseau River downstream of the lakebed by 10% or more compared to current conditions as well as reduce the footprint of the 100-year floodplain.

✓

Goal 2: This multi-purpose project will partially restore a large drained lake, restore and reclaim stream reaches, provide water level management capacity to substantially improve wildlife habitat conditions and provide flood damage reduction benefits, and will contribute to water quality improvements in the Roseau River.

NATURAL RESOURCES GOALS

Goal 1: Within the lake basin, increase the quantity and improve the quality of shallow water resting and foraging habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Goal 2: Within the basin, increase the quantity and improve the quality of shallow water foraging, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl.

Goal 3: Improve the quality of the Roseau River’s fish habitat.

- Minimize entrapment of fish with the lake basin.
- Maintain stream habitat downstream of the lake basin by managing flows.
- Maintain connectivity of the river up and downstream of the lake basin for fish populations.
- Restore flow to the oxbow of the river that passes through the lake basin in low/moderate flood events. Reduce sediment loading.

Goal 4: Improve recreational opportunities associated with the lake basin and the river.

- Improve waterfowl hunting opportunities within the lake basin as well as on nearby private lands.
- Improve bird-watching opportunities within the lake basin.
- Maintain fishing opportunities on the river.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much water will be stored in the lake for wildlife management? The MnDNR plans to manage water levels during spring and summer up to the 1028.0 elevation to manage for shallow marsh habitat for ducks and other waterbirds. At 1028.0 elevation, 1655 acre-feet or 8% of the project's gated storage north of the river would be used. In the fall, the desired elevation is somewhat higher (1030-1031 elevation) to provide for a bigger area to hold and hunt waterfowl. At 1031.0 elevation, 10,020 acre-feet of storage, or 47% of the project's gated storage north of the river would be used.

How much of the spring flood storage of the basin north of the river would be available? All of it. Water will be metered out of the basin in late fall each year to provide for spring flood storage. At 1034.0 elevation (the proposed managed level of gated storage), the basin will hold 21,090 acre-feet of water.

How will the project be operated? During a flood event, once a "trigger" elevation of flooding is attained at the Ross gauge, water would be allowed to flood the basin north of the levee wall. Water will be held in the basin to allow water from adjacent agricultural lands to more efficiently drain. Once the river has receded, water will be metered out of the basin back into the river in preparation for the next event. All project operating procedures are outlined in an available Operations Plan.

Why do this project? Isn't the flooding problem caused by sources upstream of Roseau? Why not spend the money for a project there? This project will not solve all of the flooding problems in the watershed. But it has the potential to significantly reduce the impact of flooding near and downstream of Roseau Lake for the smaller, more frequent floods. The RRWD and other project partners are seeking additional opportunities in the Roseau River watershed to reduce downstream flooding.

What else is being done to reduce flood damages on the Roseau River? There are a number of projects that are operational, under construction, or in the planning stages. They are: (1) Palmville WMA (operational): This project acts to slow the rate of discharge of waters from the fen and enhance the natural functions of the fen. (2) Norland/Hay Creek (operational): This project moderates flood water contributions to the Roseau River via temporary storage in impoundments. (3) Roseau River WMA—Pool 3 Outlet (operational): (a) Drawdown management in 2 pools provides spring flood storage and (b) improve timing of discharges from the pools to reduce flood peaks on the western reaches of the river.

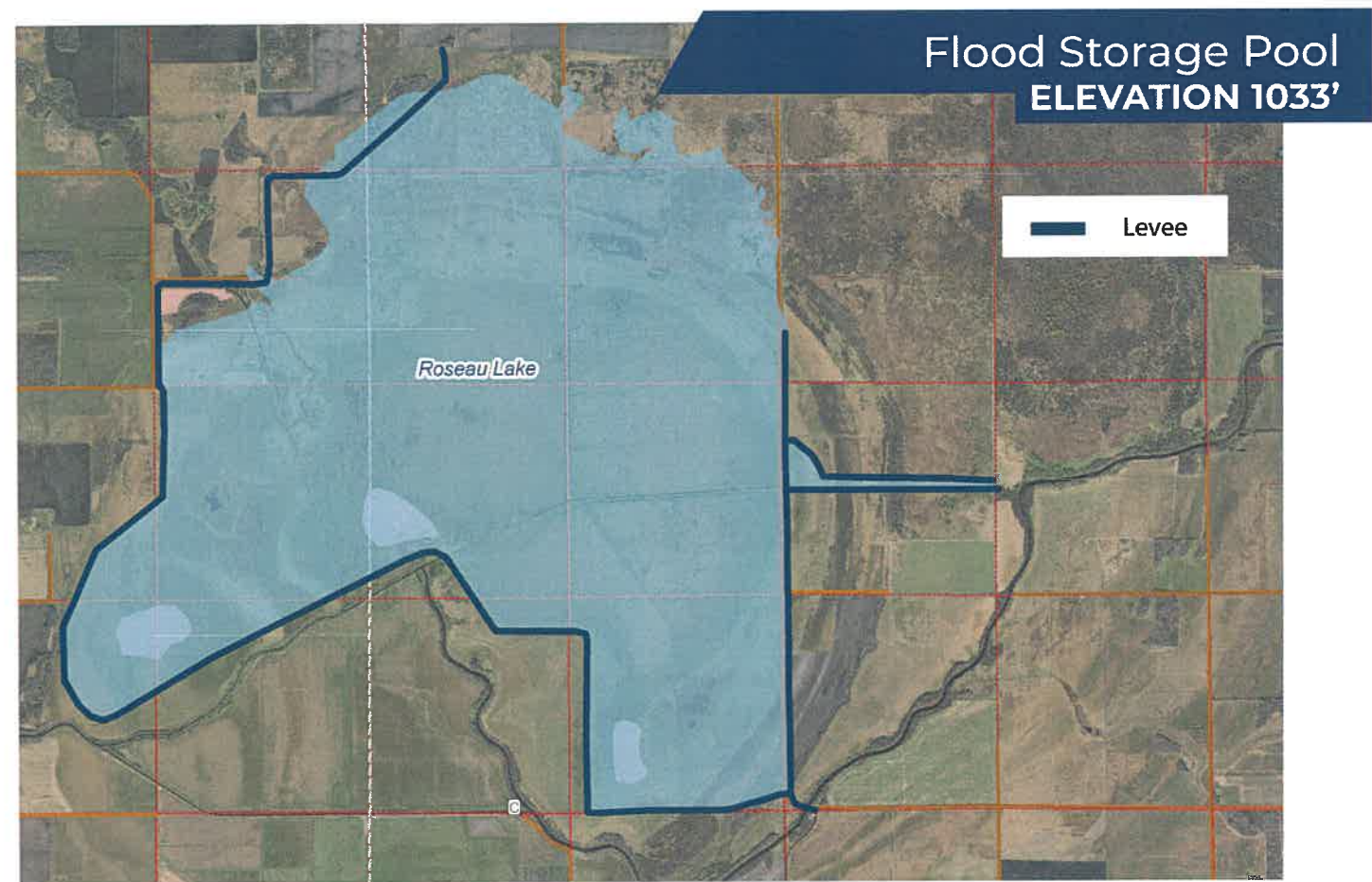
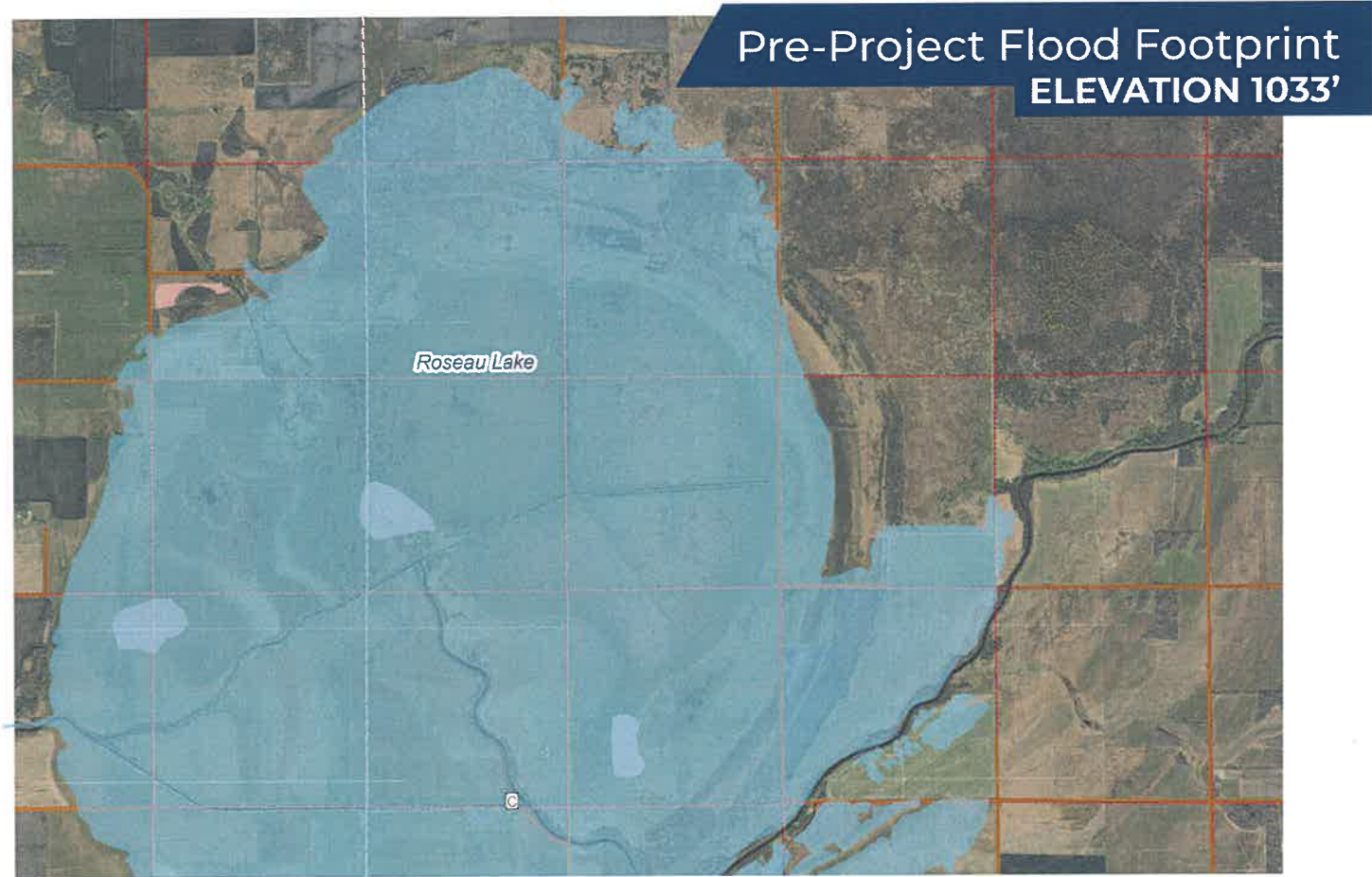
How will the project reduce flooding downstream of the basin? The peak of flooding on the river and the duration of time that water is on the land will be reduced by the project for more frequent (<10 year) events. This will be accomplished by forcing water past the lake basin early in a flood event followed by storing water in the basin once the river downstream of the lake is predicted to go above a specified level (i.e. a "trigger" elevation). Once the flood peak has passed downstream of the lake, the water stored in the lake will be metered out at a rate that will not cause flooding downstream. Basin water levels will be returned to pre-flood levels in anticipation of the next event.

How will the project reduce flooding between Highways 89 and 310? Early in a given flood event, additional water (as compared to the present condition) will be forced downstream. Once a "trigger" elevation is attained at the Ross gauge, flow will be directed into the lake north of the river. After the flood peak passes downstream and water has receded from private lands located near the river that lie between Highways 89 and 310, releases of water out of the basin will commence. As flood waters recede, the operating plan will give priority to drainage off of private lands (as opposed to the public lands north of the river) to make storage available for the next flood event.

Will this project be effective in reducing the effects of the big (>25-year event) floods? The project will not reduce flooding or make conditions worse for larger floods. The amount of land and infrastructure needed to reduce damages for the larger floods would be cost-prohibitive. The project work team has several farmers as members. They indicated that if the project helped farmers manage their lands better for the more frequent floods (i.e. < 10 years), this would be helpful.

What will the fishing be like on the river after the project is built? The project will restore low-to-moderate flows to the oxbow, which starts at the Mickelson Bridge and re-enters the channelized river near the outlet of the old lakebed. This will improve fish habitat along that stretch as well as moderate velocities downstream of the project under low-to-moderate river flows, thus improving conditions for fish along that stretch of river. In addition, opportunities for additional access both for boats and for river bank fishing will be explored in the vicinity of Roseau Lake.

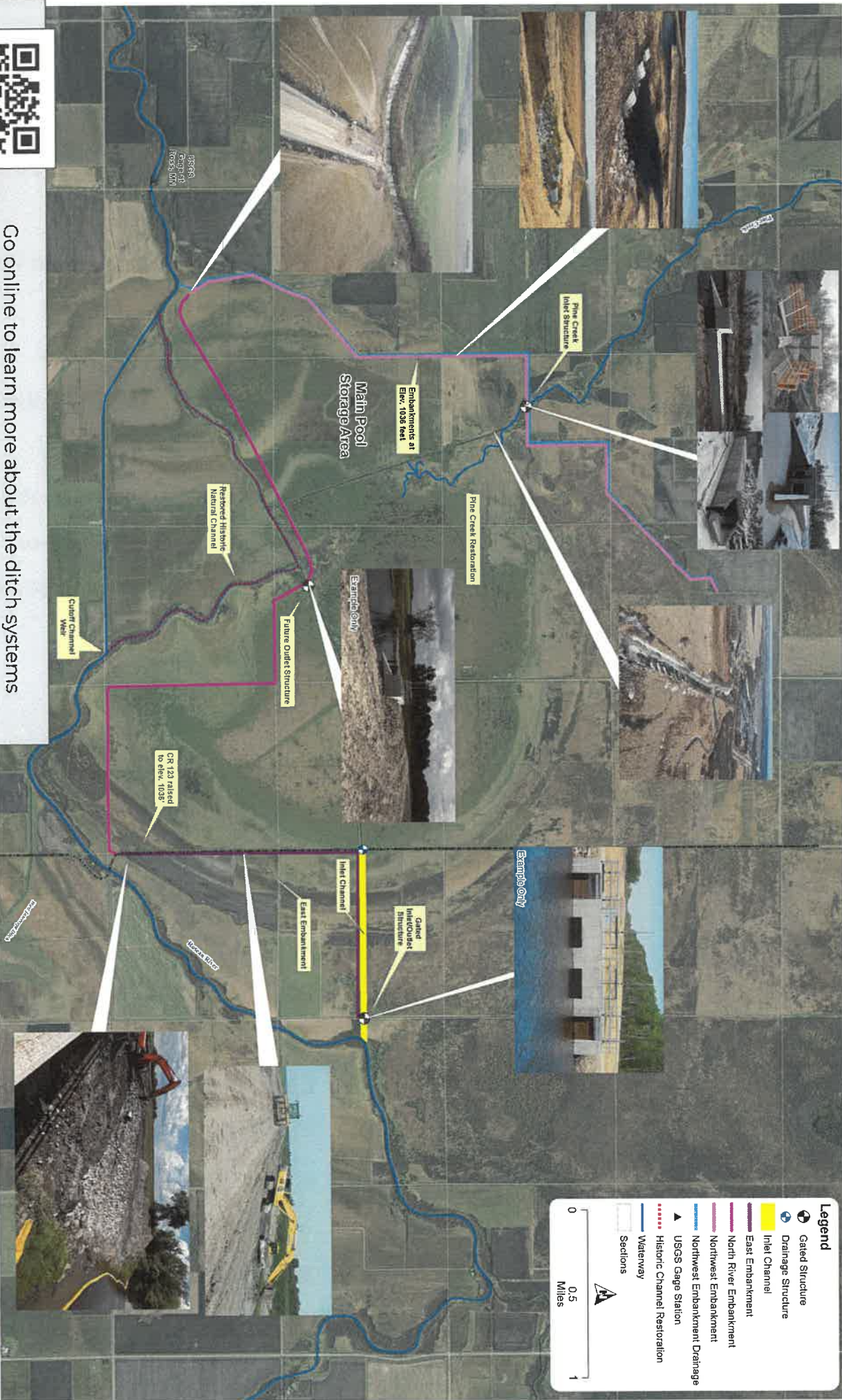
Who is in charge of building and operating this project? How much will it cost to build the project? The Roseau River Watershed District and Minnesota DNR will share responsibility for constructing and operating the project. The cost of building the project is approximately \$26 million for the alternative chosen.





Go online to learn more about the ditch systems in the Roseau River Watershed District.
VISIT: WWW.ROSEAUWATERSHEDDISTRICT.COM

Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Components



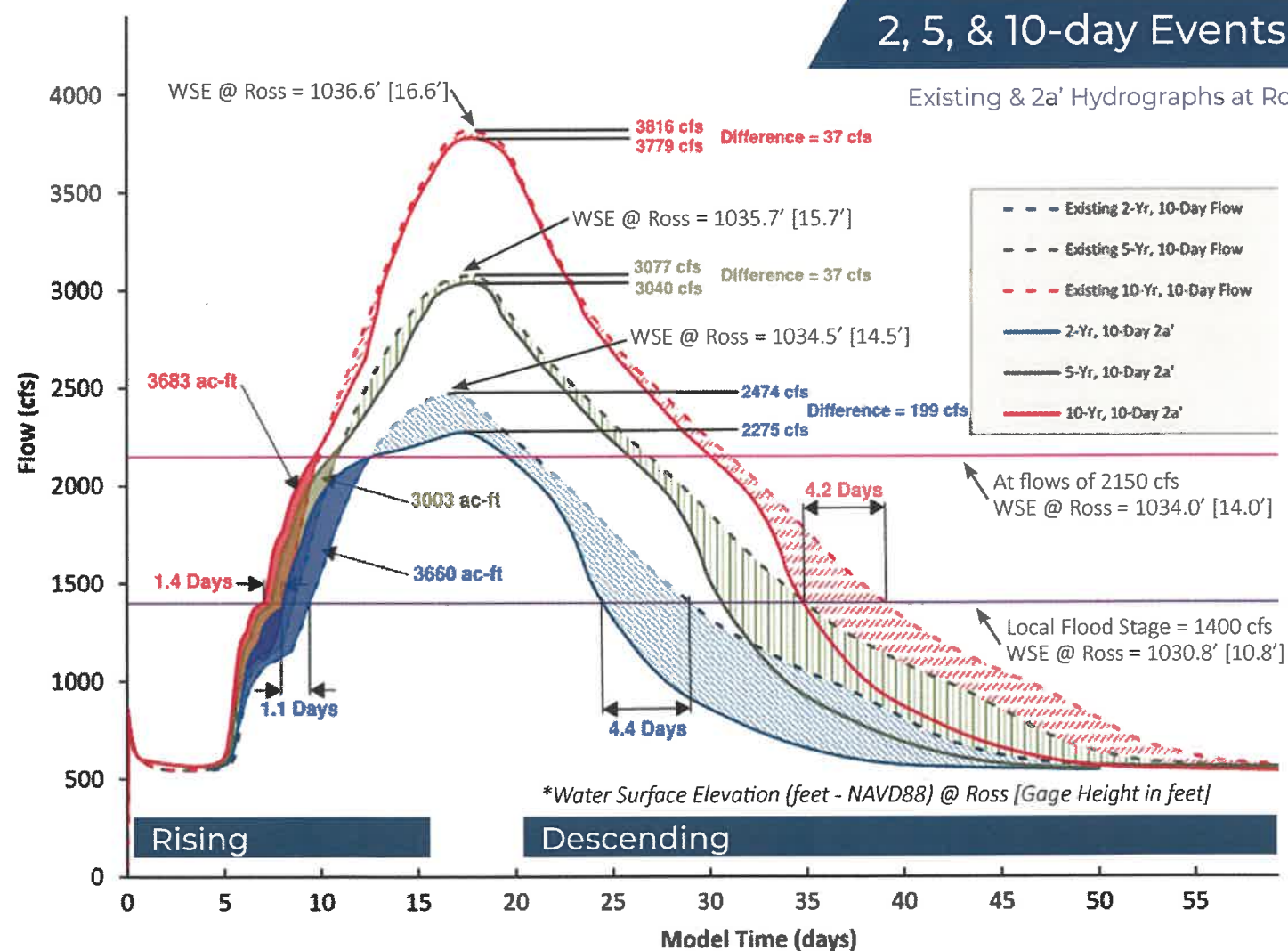
What will happen to the lake bottom road? The road will have a lift placed on it such that the top of the road will be the same elevation as the top of the dikes (i.e., 1036.0 feet). Part of the road (just north of the Stoe Bridge) will actually be part of the dike system. Culverts of sufficient size will be placed to allow water to pass under the road rather than have to flow over the road when the lake floods.

Will my property taxes go up to pay for this project? No. This project will be funded using State bonding (Flood Hazard Mitigation Bond), regional (Red River Watershed Management Board), State Legacy Amendment funds (Lessards Sams Outdoor Heritage Council), and local construction funds which are currently included in the Roseau River Watershed District levies. The project partners will also pursue other funding as the project progresses and opportunities become available.

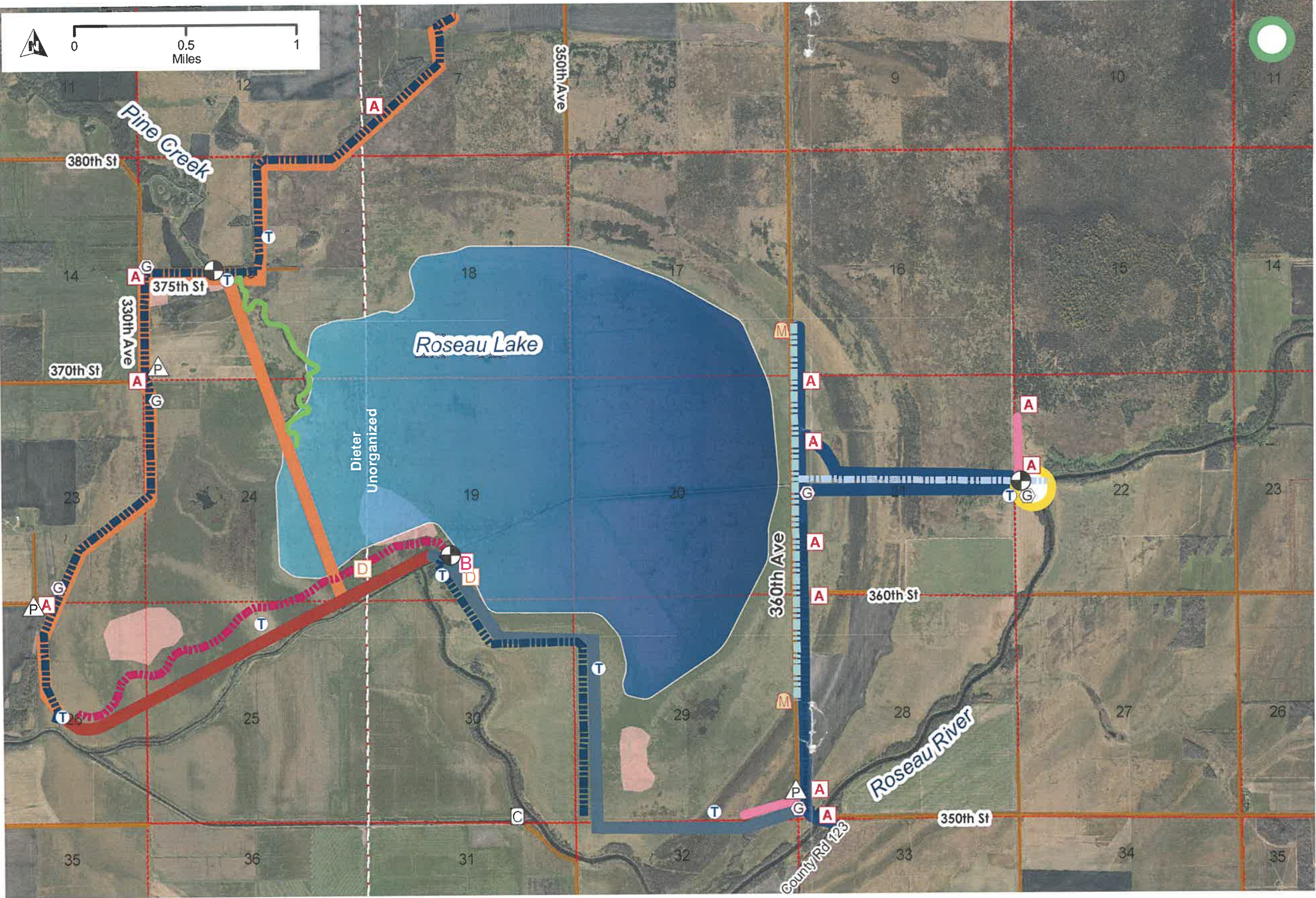
Why isn't the project building the dikes higher to store more water? Design alternatives with higher dikes were considered but the higher dikes result in higher project costs. In addition, in order to take advantage of the increased storage provided by the higher dikes, the project would need to restrict the larger flows in order to save flood storage and reduce the peak of the larger flood events. The current layout does not restrict flow from entering the basin once water is in the overbank.

2, 5, & 10-day Events

Existing & 2a' Hydrographs at Ross



Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project



- LEGEND**
- Wildlife Management Pool
 - Phase 1 - Completed
 - Phase 2 - Completed
 - Phase 3 - Under Construction
 - Phase 4 - Completed
 - Phase 5 - Under Construction
 - Phase 6 - Future Phase
 - Viewing Mound, Boat Ramp, and Parking Area
 - Cutoff Plug
 - Turnaround
 - Gated Access
 - Duck Banding Area
 - Parking Area
 - Boat Ramp
 - Approach
 - Gated Structure
 - East Inlet Ditch
 - Exterior Ditch
 - Interior Ditch
 - Navigation Channel
 - Pine Creek Restoration
 - Inlet Weir
 - Borrow Area