

December 21, 2022

Jon Tank, President
Pulaski Lake Improvement District
PO Box 332
Buffalo, MN 55313

Dear Jon Tank:

Thank you for your letter to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) dated November 21, 2022. The Commissioner's office forwarded your letter to me for reply.

I understand that because Lake Pulaski has no natural outlet, you have relied on a pump to mitigate high water levels when needed. That pump discharges into Buffalo Lake.

Even though some zebra mussels have been found in Buffalo Lake, the DNR still has regulatory responsibilities to prevent the further introduction and transport of zebra mussels from Lake Pulaski. Moving large quantities of zebra mussel infested water with no mitigation measures in place may introduce more veligers into Buffalo Lake, more quickly increasing the zebra mussel population in Buffalo Lake or spreading zebra mussels to other parts of the lake than they would have otherwise spread.

Filtering the pumped water prior to discharge in Buffalo Lake is one way to prevent larval zebra mussels (veligers) from being transported from Lake Pulaski to Buffalo Lake; if the filter is upstream from the pump, that would also protect the pump infrastructure from fouling by zebra mussels. However, a filtration system is not the only method to reduce the likelihood of moving zebra mussels; for example, your mitigation plan might include discharging the water on land, pumping during winter when veligers are not usually present because of cold temperatures, water treatment methods, or some combination of these.

We appreciate your partnership in helping to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species from Lake Pulaski, whether via the pumped outlet or other pathways such as boats. Please contact Kelly Pennington at kelly.pennington@state.mn.us or 651-259-5131 if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Katie Smith
Division Director

c: Teri Lachermeier, Mayor, City of Buffalo; Christine Husom, District 1 Commissioner, Wright County; Sarah Strommen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; James Bedell, Area Hydrologist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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