

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ecological and Water Resources
1035 South Benton Drive
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

November 6, 2023

Pulaski Lake Improvement District
Attn: Jon Tank
P.O. Box 332
Buffalo, MN 55313

RE: Request to pump to lowest elevation allowed under permit 1987-3002

Dear Mr. Tank,

On October 17, 2023, I received a request via email the Pulaski Lake Improvement District (PLID) President, that the PLID would like to utilize the option specified under the condition in Permit 1987-3002 titled "Pumping Authorization Required". The request states in part, The PLID would like to request a drawn down due to filtration system not being complete and parts to complete filtration system are back ordered till mid-summer. We would like to do this to allow for more storage capacity in the lake to deal with spring melt and summer rains until which time the filtration system can be completed.

Through phone conversations seeking clarity on this request, the PLID President told me that they would like to begin pumping prior to Pulaski Lake reaching the elevation of 966 feet (NGVD 1929) and that the PLID would like to draw the lake down to the maximum lowest level allowed (964.5 feet) under permit 1987-3002.

Past model results show that the request is warranted to avoid impacts to private structures and public infrastructure around Pulaski Lake due to the risk of spring flooding and summer rains. Though snowpack is yet to be determined, a precautionary approach should be utilized as NOAA's long term season climate model show equal chance for all conditions of snow over the winter season. The hydrologic model also illustrated that flooding would not be exacerbated in the receiving waters if all pumping ceased when Buffalo Lake water levels reached an elevation 915.5 feet (NGVD 1929).

Based on these findings the request is granted to drawdown Pulaski Lake to an elevation of 964.5 feet. Once 964.5 is reached no further pumping shall be allowed until the lake reaches an elevation of 966.0. All pumping must follow the conditions below.

1. The elevation in Buffalo Lake is not at or above 915.5 feet (NGVD 1929). If Buffalo Lake reaches or exceeds this elevation all pumping activities are to cease immediately.
2. Water elevations for Buffalo Lake and Pulaski Lake are to be taken daily.
3. Follow all conditions listed in the "Lake Pulaski Zebra Mussel Filtration Monitoring Plan", in particular section 2. "Seasonal Pumping During Non-Reproductive Season".

If you have any questions, please contact me at 320-223-7850 or at james.bedell@state.mn.us

Sincerely,



James Bedell
Area Hydrologist

Ec. Tim Crocker, DNR R3 North District Manager
Constance Holth, DNR R3 Hydrologist Supervisor
Dan Lais, DNR Region 3 Manager
Dan Miller, DNR Water Use Consultant
Christine Jurek, DNR Region 3 North AIS Specialist
Kelly Pennington, DNR Invasive Species Unit Supervisor
Dustie Speldrich, DNR Water Resources Enforcement Officer
Clint Fitzgerald, DNR Conservation Officer
Justin Kannas, City of Buffalo Engineer
Taylor Gronau, City of Buffalo Administrator