

Project Summary Document: Kveen and Roseau Lake Restoration project

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Below are a few key points about the project.

- MN DNR and the Roseau River Watershed District want to complete the project. They claim it provides flood control and ecological conservation.
- Several thousand acres of farmland being impacted, with assertions of eminent domain taking, at the expense of the farmers in the Roseau Lake area.
- The project is not really justifiable. The flood control benefit is minimal. Only 300 acres of flood area reduction (or 5% of the pre-project flooded area).
- The project offers no flood reduction for larger storms/river flow events (the 5-year storm or less frequent higher flow storms).
- Most significantly impacted is the Kveen farmland (approx. 1,500 acres at risk of increased flooding).
- Local and state politicians appear to be supporting the opposition (Roseau River Watershed District and ODNR) and not the local farmers. Although they have not openly admitted their support of the project, the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (a state fund/council that supports ecological and recreational conservation/restoration projects) voted to continue funding the project in Dec. 2019.
- Mitch Magnusson met in January 2020 with Representative Dan Fabian. Pat Nortz (Otisco Engineering; Kveen's consultant) also attended by phone. Fabian seemed in favor of the project and offered no consolations after the meeting.

Attached are a few key documents which should help understand the situation.

- Updated letter of Engineering Findings to Terry Kveen 10-1-2019
- Talking Points for Mitch Magnusson to LSOHC 12-2020
- Letter to Dan Fabian re Jan 2020 meeting
- Letter to editor in Roseau Times-Region newspaper (photo)
- Map showing local opposition to project (photo)

Here are links to historic articles about the project area:

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/news/4258549-proposed-roseau-lake-project-offers-both-flood-control-and-benefits-fish-and-wildlife>

<https://www.kvrr.com/2020/03/10/rrwmb-meets-to-discuss-projects-that-would-reduce-flooding/>