



December 6, 2012

To: Pelican Lakeshore Owner's Association, City of Orr, Town of Leiding, and other interested parties.

**UPDATE: Water outflow restoration, Pelican Lake #69-0841P, near Orr, St. Louis County.**

In response to citizen concerns over low water levels on Pelican Lake, the weir window installed in the Pelican Lake dam was blocked in the fall of 2011 to encourage higher water levels in the lake during times of drought. Blocking the weir window resulted in a no-flow condition during the winter of 2011/2012, and fish stranded below the dam in the Pelican River were killed.

To prevent another no-flow condition and potential fish kill during the winter of 2012/2013, the DNR will reopen the blocked 10-inch by 12-inch window in the dam's center weir to restore water supply to the downstream channel and an opportunity for fish passage during certain flow conditions and water levels.

Analysis shows that the fish passage does not contribute significantly to reducing water levels, ie. : 0.012 inches per day; 0.36 inches per month; 4.3 inches per year.

The dam, reconstructed in 2002, has the same run-out elevation as the old dam. The opening in the center weir and culvert provides minimum flow downstream when the water level drops below the runout. Opening the weir window will restore the volume of outflow that was measured leaking out of the old dam prior to 2002. Providing a minimum flow downstream of the dam provides ecological benefits and will help reduce the likelihood of another fish kill in the Pelican River.

The work will be scheduled as soon as temperatures and water conditions allow the work to be performed safely. Persons are asked to refrain from attempting to block the opening in the weir as it is unlawful to tamper with the dam or the opening. The dam and water levels will continue to be monitored.

Questions related to fish kills or fish habitat can be directed to Kevin Peterson, International Falls Area Fisheries Supervisor, at 218-286-5220 or [kevin.peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.peterson@state.mn.us). Questions related to water outflow can be directed to Amy Loiselle, Area Hydrologist, at 218-744-7450 ext. 222 or [amy.loiselle@state.mn.us](mailto:amy.loiselle@state.mn.us).

e-copy:      SLC Public Works, Duluth  
                  North St. Louis SWCD, Virginia  
                  DNR Fisheries NE Reg Mgr, Tim Goeman  
                  DNR EWR Asst NE Reg Mgr, Mike Peloquin  
                  DNR Policy & Gov't Relations Director, Bob Meier, St. Paul

                  DNR Wildlife, Orr  
                  DNR Forestry, Orr  
                  DNR Enforcement, Orr  
                  DNR Fisheries, I. Falls