

# ROSEAU LAKE REHABILITATION PROJECT: LSOHC-ACQUIRED LAND & ITS ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE

The Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project recently acquired a key 255-acre tract located on the west side of the basin along the lake's beach ridge. The boundary of the tract (Figure 1, yellow-shade with red Xs) has been surveyed in and posted. The MN DNR's partner in the project, the Roseau River Watershed District, is working on acquisitions and easements to round out the lands needed to build the dike. A question has come from one of the adjacent landowners who is working with the RRWD on an easement across his property. Here's the situation:

1. The tract acquired came in 2 parts, one a 215-acre piece, the other a 40 acres isolated from the other piece. Both were adjacent to Roseau Lake WMA.
2. The proposed dike alignment bisects the 40-acre parcel, which is adjacent to private land. The landowner is willing to sell an easement to build the dike on his property (blue line, Figure 2), but would like to acquire by exchange or sale the part of the 40-acres severed from the remainder of the WMA.
3. Since the part of the 40 acres west of the dike and ditch would effectively be severed from the remainder of the WMA and would not be easily accessed by either the DNR or the public, the MN DNR could entertain exchanging the parcel for something more desirable.
4. The landowner doesn't have any land to exchange that the state would be interested in.
5. The RRWD does have 3 parcels within the project footprint that would be desirable to add to the WMA (outlined in dark blue, Figure 1).
6. The RRWD and DNR could exchange properties. With the severed piece, which would amount to approximately 20 acres in the RRWD's possession, they could then sell that parcel to the landowner.

The owner is willing to enter into a purchase agreement with the RRWD for the blue alignment shown in Figure 2 so long as he knows there is a pathway to acquiring the severed piece adjacent to his land. He does not need that transaction to occur prior to project construction

This scenario raises a couple of questions. The project partners ask the council to consider:

1. May land that was purchased with LSOHC funds be exchanged for other lands, so long as such an exchange would benefit the project?
2. May the appropriated funds be used to fund the professional service needed to complete an exchange with the RRWD (see #6 above)?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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