





The Problem

During high lake levels, water is pumped from Lake Pulaski into nearby Buffalo Lake. Lake Pulaski has no natural outlet so lake levels rely on a pumping system. In 2022, invasive zebra mussels were identified in Lake Pulaski suspending pumping operations to Buffalo Lake until pumping could occur without the transport of zebra mussels per State Statute requirements. Without summer pumping, 28 homes and the City of Buffalo sewer system are at a high risk of flooding. This is a shovel ready project with time of the essence.

The Solution

Design and construct a permanent filtration system, pumping station improvements, and SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition system) monitoring updates.

Funding

The project provides environmental, economical and recreational benefit. The project will prevent flooding of properties around Lake Pulaski, prevent damage to the shoreline, prevent flooding of the City sewer system, and prevent Aquatic and Invasive Species (AIS) from being transported from Lake Pulaski into Buffalo Lake and the North Fork Crow River. By resuming pumping and managing lake levels, it will allow the Lake to be utilized for recreational purposes such as boating without damage to over 200 residential shorelines and properties. Without the project, summer pumping can't be completed and chance of flooding would significantly increase.

Regional Significance

There are over 4,000 boat launches per year in Lake Pulaski, half of which are from outside Buffalo. The spring fed, very clear lake is heavily used for both recreation and fishing by people from the city of Buffalo and people in the surrounding region. The filtration system will prevent the pumping station from transporting zebra mussels to the already zebra mussel infested Buffalo Lake and all water bodies connected to the Crow River downstream of Buffalo.

Legislative Contacts

Marion Rarick (R) - MN House 29B  
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City Contact

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Funding - from MMB Request

Total Cost .....\$4,000,000  
Wright County Grant .....\$300,000  
City of Buffalo/Pulaski LID ....\$1,300,000  
State .....\$2,400,000

