



# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

## DNR WATERS

**“Helping people ensure the future of our water resources”**

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218-744-7450 ext. 2222 FAX-218-744-7445

July 14, 2009

To: Pelican Lakeshore Owners Association, City of Orr, Town of Leiding, and all those interested

UPDATE - DAM REPAIR, PELICAN LAKE #69-0841P, ST. LOUIS COUNTY.

The DNR and St. Louis County have the necessary materials to repair this dam. In order to facilitate construction we are waiting for the lake level to drop below top of weir to safely and effectively install the repair to this dam. If such conditions do not develop this summer, then the County will consider utilizing a temporary coffer dam so they can do this work. They would block only a portion of the dam at a time. The repair consists of adding flat iron to the weir to raise the top of the runout (weir) to the authorized elevation, which is equal to the old dam. The opening in the center weir of this dam will be covered at this time. In the future, DNR will develop a stream restoration project to improve fish passage when that is determined to be high priority for DNR. The dam will continue to be monitored and will be corrected, if necessary; however, additional repair is not expected after this ‘fix’.

Raising the elevation of the dam higher than what is authorized has potential negative impacts to existing wild rice stands in some of the bays. And wild rice isn't abundant on this lake. In addition, the weir at a higher elevation would have negative impacts during wet periods and other periods of high lake levels due to potential for flooding low lying properties and increasing the erosion of shorelines. Therefore, DNR objected to a runout higher than the authorized elevation.

Pelican Lake level has dropped 0.6-foot from May 28 to July 13, 2009.

Lake Vermilion has dropped 0.8-foot from May 22 to July 6, 2009.

Burntside Lake has dropped 1-foot from May 25 to July 13, 2009.

Precipitation (ppt).

Monthly precipitation in November 2008 through March 2009 has all been greater than the 10-year average for each month. In contrast, the period April 2009 through the present has been less than the 10-year average ppt.

(Total 2008 annual ppt was 1.03-inch above the 10-year average for the entire year; however, seven months, especially January through March, July, and August, were less than the 10-year average.)

If you have any questions, please contact me at the above telephone number or at [amy.loiselle@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:amy.loiselle@dnr.state.mn.us) or Michael L. Peloquin, NE Regional Hydrologist, at 218-327-4417.

Sincerely,  
DNR Waters Division

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy J. Loiselle".

Amy J. Loiselle  
Eveleth Area Hydrologist

e-copy: North St. Louis SWCD DNR Wildlife & Forestry-Orr DNR Fisheries-IFIs  
DNR Waters NE Regional Hydrologist, M. Peloquin

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