

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Office Memorandum

TO : Morris T. Eng, Supervisor
Hydrologic Services Unit

DATE: Feb. 26, 1975

FROM : James Nye, Hydrologist
Hydrologic Services Unit

SUBJECT: SPIT - OTTERTAIL LAKE, OTTERTAIL COUNTY

The unique sand spit at the north end of Ottertail Lake was the original name sake of Ottertail Lake, River and County.

The discharge of the River at this point has formed a sand spit that averages about 100 feet wide and tapers as it extends a mile in length to the southeast.

The northwestern portion of the sand bar which is called Pleasure Park is connected to the mainland and developed with cottages. The southeastern portion near the mouth of the river is undeveloped and forms a breakwater to protect the frontage of an area know as "Paulson's Addition."

The spit in the past has been breached from time to time by high water causing a new channel on the northwest portion of the spit. This channel has been maintained for easy lake access by property owners on this end of the river.

Some times the mouth of the river becomes blocked by sand and the river is impounded behind the southern portion of the sand spit. When this occurs the flow of the river is shunted to the lake instead of traveling the entire length of the sand bar. The flow of the river tends to improve the new channel and cause the former mouth and back water area to become blocked and form a narrow enclosed lake area.

It should be noted that property owners of "Pleasure Park" take advantage of the protected waters of the river for their boat docks and so favor the channel on the northwestern end of the sand bar because it shortens the boat run to the lake. Conversely, the residences of Paulson's addition are concerned about the still water and back of lake access caused by the blocked channel in the bay behind the sand bar.

In 1969 permit P.A. 69-1203 was issued to Clarence Paulson to reopen the original channel, block the existing channel, and improve 5000 feet of the channel.

Public sentiment and a subsequent letter from Mr. Paulson requested that the northern channel continue to be kept open.

Morris T. Eng
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February 26, 1975

Compounding the situation is the fact that there is not sufficient flow of water in the river during low river stages to maintain the outlets and so the up river opening tends to become dominant.

It is reported that erosion of the sand bar is now occurring. Regional Hydrologist Jerry Paul has been contacted by local residences about a plan for stabilizing the spit with timbers (estimated cost \$3,000.00 for 500-700 feet of timbering).

Representative Woe Graba has also been reported to be willing to sponsor a bill to preserve the area as a historic site.

This raises the questions:

1. Does DNR wish to become involved in stabilizing the sand bar. Under "natural conditions" the spit has maintained it self since man has settled in the area. A deposit such as a spit is almost a living thing which under natural conditions deposits sand at one time and removes it at another.
2. What effect, if any, does the new channel have on altering the deposition patterns that formed and maintained the spit originally.

The following permits have been issued in regard to this matter:

P.A. 73-4011 - Memo dated April 17, 1973 G. Paul to L. Seymour - To construct a breakwater - permit denied - "The proposed work would transform the appearance of this natural phenomena into a vertical wall navigation channel." "It would seem to be more important to preserve this unique natural feature for the benefit of the overall public than to alter it for the convenience of a comparative few in a new development plat,... therefore, he (Mr. Paulson) should be consigned to the fact that it was his choice to develop land in an area having inherent flow problems and should accept on that basis."....

P.A. 69-1203 - Re-open original channel and block existing opening and improve 5000 feet of channel - application submitted by Clarence Paulson - Subsequent letter by Paulson requested that northern channel also be kept open.

P.A. 69-1249 - Applicate James Merickel - To return river to its original course and open original mouth.

P.A. 61-531 - River breached sand bar in 1958, original mouth closed off. James Ahlf, Ottertail Village council asked that original outlet be restored.

Minnesota Conservation Department
DIVISION OF WATERS, SOILS AND MINERALS
Centennial Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

November 20, 1969

Mr. Clarence R. Paulson
6825 Winsdale North
Minneapolis, Minnesota - 55427

Re: P.A. 69-1203

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of the permit authorizing you to change the course, current, or cross section of Ottertail Lake and Ottertail River, Ottertail County.

Attached is notice to the public of the authority under which this work is being done. This card is to be securely posted in a conspicuous spot at the site of operations before any work is started.

It is your responsibility to notify this office and the local game warden before you undertake any work authorized by the permit in addition to complying with all of the provisions thereof.

Yours very truly,

Director, Division of Waters,
Soils and Minerals

Enc: Permit
Public Notice

5518	Director		
	Supervisor		
	Regulation		
	Development Studies		
	Basic Data		
	Graphics		

P.A. 69-1203

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF **Clarence R. Paulson**

for a PERMIT TO CHANGE THE COURSE, CURRENT, OR CROSS SECTION OF **Ottertail Lake and Ottertail River, Ottertail** County.

PERMIT

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 105, and on the basis of statements and information contained in the permit application, letters, maps, and plans submitted by the applicant, and other supporting data, all of which are made a part hereof by reference, PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED to **Clarence R. Paulson**

whose address for the purpose of notices and other communications pertaining to this permit is **6825 Winsdale No., Mpls., Mn. 55427**, which address is subject to change by written notice from the permittee.

To excavate and remove earthen materials from the beds of the Ottertail River and Ottertail Lake in the construction of a 30' wide channel, 4' in depth and 40' in length to re-establish a previously existing connecting channel between said waters, and abutting

PROPERTY DESCRIBED as: **Government Lot 4, Section 10, Township 134 North, Range 39**

West, Ottertail COUNTY
for the purpose of **navigation improvement.**

This permit is granted subject to the following GENERAL and SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This permit is permissive only and shall not release the permittee from any liability or obligation imposed by Minnesota Statutes, Federal Law or local ordinances relating thereto and shall remain in force subject to all conditions and limitations now or hereafter imposed by law.
2. This permit is not assignable except with the written consent of the Commissioner of Conservation.
3. The Director of the Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals shall be notified at least five days in advance of the commencement of the work authorized hereunder and shall be notified of its completion within five days thereafter. The notice of permit issued by the Commissioner shall be kept securely posted in a conspicuous place at the site of operations.
4. No change shall be made, without written permission previously obtained from the Commissioner of Conservation, in the hydraulic dimensions, capacity or location of any items of work authorized hereunder.
5. The permittee shall grant access to the site at all reasonable times during and after construction to authorized representatives of the Commissioner of Conservation for inspection of the work authorized hereunder.
6. This permit may be terminated by the Commissioner of Conservation, without notice, at any time he deems it necessary for the conservation of the water resources of the state, or in the interest of public health and welfare, or for violation of any of the provisions of this permit, unless otherwise provided in the Special Provisions.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- I. Construction work authorized under this permit shall be completed on or before **November 30, 1970**. Upon written request to the Commissioner by the Permittee, stating the reason therefore, an extension of time may be obtained.
- II. The excavation of soil authorized herein shall not be construed to include the removal of organic matter below ordinary high water level unless the area from which such organic matter is removed is impervious or is sealed by the application of bentonite after excavation.
- III. In all cases where the doing by the permittee of anything authorized by this permit shall involve the taking, using, or damaging of any property, rights or interests of any other person or persons, or of any publicly owned lands or improvements thereon or interests therein, the permittee, before proceeding therewith, shall obtain the written consent of all persons, agencies, or authorities concerned, and shall acquire all property, rights and interests necessary therefor.
- IV. This permit is permissive only. No liability shall be imposed upon or incurred by the State of Minnesota or any of its officers, agents or employees, officially or personally, on account of the granting hereof or on account of any damage to any person or property resulting from any act or omission of the permittee or any of its agents, employees, or contractors relating to any matter hereunder. This permit shall not be construed as estopping or limiting any legal claims or right of action of any person other than the state against the permittee, its agents, employees, or contractors, for any damage or injury resulting from any such act or omission, or as estopping or limiting any legal claim or right of action of the state against the permittee, its agents, employees, or contractors for violation of or failure to comply with the provisions of the permit or applicable provisions of law.
- V. No material excavated by authority of this permit nor material from any other source, except as specified herein, shall be placed on any portion of the bed of said waters which lies below ordinary high water level. It shall be the duty of the permittee to determine correctly all pertinent elevations at the site of the work for the purpose of complying with the conditions of this permit.
- VI. Any extension of the surface of said waters resulting from work authorized by this permit shall become public waters and left open and unobstructed for use by the public.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

VII. Receipt is hereby acknowledged of \$7.80 as payment for 178 cubic yards of sand, gravel or rock ~~XX~~ the estimated amount of material to be removed hereunder computed at the rate of ten cents per cubic yard for sand and gravel and two cents per cubic yard for rock and silt.

Permittee agrees by acceptance of this permit to obtain by endorsement of check authorized hereunder to pay, by certified check, bank or postal order, all amounts payable to the State Treasurer and delivered to the Director, Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals, Department of Conservation, Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, for any material removed from the bed of public waters in excess of that so estimated, at the above rate within thirty days after completion of the work authorized hereunder.

CC: Paul Kruger
State Conservation Officer
Box 193
Perham, Minnesota 56573

Ottertail Village
ATTENTION: Jim Ahlfs, Clerk
Ottertail, Minnesota 56571

~~XXXXXXXX~~

DATED AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, THIS 31st DAY OF October, 1969

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

William R. Gen.

Director, Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals

~~XXXXXXXX~~

August 13, 1970

69-1203

Minnesota Conservation Department
Division of Waters, Soils & Minerals
Centennial Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Permit No. 69-1249

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the Ottetail Lake Property Owners Association and the Conservation Department, we would like the original permit amended as follows:

Instead of closing the channel from the river into Ottetail Lake, we will leave an opening 16 ft. in width and approximately four to five feet in depth to permit boat passage. This opening will be reinforced with rock as well as the banks on each side of this opening.

The purpose of this request for amendment is to furnish property owners lake access nearer their respective property lines.

This work will be done by a local contractor and shall be completed early this fall.

Sincerely,

Clarence R. Paulson


James Merickel

Otter Tail Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.

Battle Lake, Minnesota

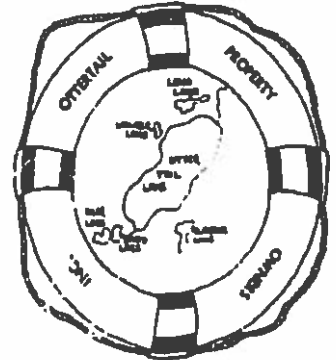
TELEPHONE 864-8181

ZIP 56515

RECEIVED

AUG 19 1970

Division of Waters Service Minerals



69-1203

August 25, 1970

69-1203

Dept. of Conservation
Division of Lands & Minerals
Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Re: Permits No. 16-1203 and 16-1249

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the Ottertail Lake Owners Association, improvements are planned as follows:

1. This opening will be reduced to a width of 16 ft. and a depth of approximately 4' to 5'. This opening will be reinforced with rock as well as the banks on each side. The peninsula north of this opening will be reinforced with rock on the lake side to prevent further erosion.
2. This section of the river will have a uniform width of 50 ft.
3. This section of the river has an area approximately 50 ft. wide and 100 ft. long which will require removal of material from the river beds to a depth of 4 ft. The present depth is approximately 2 feet.
4. This opening will have an overall depth of 4 feet and will be reinforced on the south side by rock.

Yours very truly,

Clarence R. Paulson

2458 2560

24.00 A-

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Conservation
DIVISION OF WATERS, SOILS AND MINERALS

September 25, 1970

Director		Management
Supervisor		
Regulation		<i>idw</i>
Development		
Studies		
Basic Data		
Graphics		
69-1203		

Division of Lands & Forestry
Centennial Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Re: P.A. 69-1203

Attached is a copy of the above mentioned permit issued to
Clarence R. Paulson, 6825 Winsdale N., Mpls, Minn. 55427
 for removal of materials from the bank of public water on a parcel
 for payment for the materials to be removed in the amount of \$ 24.00****.
 Identification number 2456 date Aug. 25, 1969.

Please call or write if you have any questions and if you
 have any comments with the permit.

Yours very truly,

Eugene R. Gere

Eugene R. Gere, Director
 Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals