



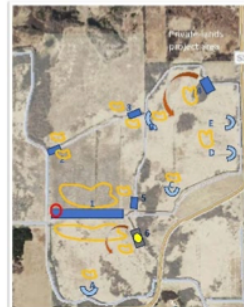
## Wisconsin Waterfowl Association Project Report

### Project Site: Peter Helland State Wildlife Area Completed: February 2025

**Background:** WWA identified this site through aerial imagery review. DNR land manager told WWA they wanted to restore the area, but couldn't figure out how. A network of ditches was dug across the site for farming; much of the ditching is evident in 1937 aerial imagery.

**Project development:** The site's lack of topographic relief and property boundaries made project design challenging, necessitating multiple site visits and design discussions with DNR before a final plan was agreed to.

That plan included a 1,000' ditch fill, four ditch plugs, installation of a water control structure, and construction of half a dozen shallow eyebrow berms and associated scrapes.



Permits were approved by summer of 2024 and a RFP was sent out in September. Krause Excavating, Inc. was selected and a contract was signed.

Most of the work was completed by the end of

February, 2025. The stone spillway will be installed once rock is available and conditions allow placement (May 2025).



Typical Ditch



Installation of WCS



Ditch Fill

### Costs, Funding:

DNR	Waterfowl Stamp Funds	\$67,321
TOTAL		\$67,321

County: Columbia

HUC Ranking: 7

Lat./Long.: 43.5278N 89.2320W

Cost/acre: Estimated acres impacted 125 total \$538/acre



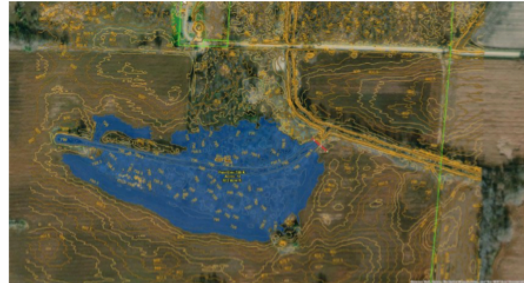
## Wisconsin Waterfowl Association Project Report

**Project Site: Navarino State Wildlife Area 5**

**Completed: July 2024**

**Background:** This site was recommended to WWA by the Navarino property manager in May of 2023. A previous landowner dug a 1,500’ ditch sometime between 1938 and 1983—presumably to enhance farming operations.

**Project development:** The site was initially surveyed in July 2023. WWA then engaged DNR with the first iteration of potential designs. After additional discussions WWA and DNR agreed on a restoration plan. Wetland permits were applied for and WWA developed and distributed an RFP the following spring. James J. Grunewald, Inc. was chosen.



The restoration plan consisted of a 150’ ditch plug at the ditch’s eastern end and a scrape to provide material for the plug. Most ditch-side trees and shrubs were removed prior to the beginning of dirt work. An old, partially functioning culvert was also removed from the site.



June: Pre-work ditch



July: Same point, post--work



Nov: Plug holding water, scrape full.

Spring and early summer 2024 was wet delaying restoration work until early July. The project required three construction days to complete.

### Costs, Funding:

DNR	Wetland General Permit Surcharge	\$8,017
WWA	Surveying, designing, permitting, management (in kind)	\$888
DNR	Forestry mowing (in kind)	\$150
DNR	Waterfowl Stamp Funds	\$1,983
TOTAL		\$11,038

**County:** Shawano

**HUC 12:** 040302020903

**Lat./Long.:** 44.6329N 88.5509W

**Cost/acre:** Modelling suggested 14 acres of impact, at approximately \$788/acre

**Other Comments:** A visit again in late December showed the ditch was full of water, and much of the wooded area to the north of the ditch was inundated as planned. Eventually, many trees, including prickly ash, will die out, resulting in more open water. The restoration appears to be successful.





## Wisconsin Waterfowl Association Project Report

**Project Site: Lunch Creek – White River Fishery Area**

**Completed: February 2025**

**Background:** WWA identified an approximately 1,000’ ditch on this property in February 2024 at the headwaters of Lunch Creek in Waushara County. The ditch drains a spring. It is unclear when the ditching occurred –between 1937 and 1979, likely in the hopes of draining the wetland enough to improve pasture.

**Project development:** WWA first visited the property in mid-February, with additional survey work completed in summer 2024. After several discussions WWA and DNR agreed upon a restoration plan. Project goals were to balance diverse but complementary interests: improve habitat for nesting and migrating waterfowl where appropriate, restore native wetland vegetation and function to a unique but degraded wetland, and contribute to the health of the nearby trout stream. The restoration plan incorporated a 1,000’ ditch fill and a small scrape located to the northeast of the main wetland adjacent to upland prairie and floodplain forest. Spoil material located on the west bank of the ditch was used for initial fill material, with additional material obtained from the scrape as necessary.



Wetland permits were applied for and WWA developed and distributed an RFP in fall 2024. Steerhead Excavating LLC was selected to complete the work.



Ditch prior to restoration.

Immediately following construction. Scrape immediately following work.

Construction began in February 2025, requiring just under 6 days of work. WWA staff met with the contractor throughout the project, and upon review requested several alterations to the work in order to improve project longevity and habitat quality. Sediment transport to nearby Lunch Creek and disturbance to sensitive wetland vegetation were primary concerns. The majority of the work was conducted during a cold spell in February, limiting soil disturbance to surface-level impacts, and woody material was placed immediately south of the ditch fill to limit sediment transport as much as possible. Water quality immediately south of the ditch fill was good with minimal sediment transport when monitored shortly after project completion. Bare soil was seeded with a cover crop to minimize soil erosion during spring snow melt or rains.

**Costs, Funding:**

DNR	Wetland General Permit Surcharge	\$11,729
DNR	Waterfowl Stamp Funds	\$8,692
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$20,421</b>

County: Waushara

HUC 12: 040302010803 (Aggregate HUC 12 Rank: 5)

Lat./Long.: 44.059729 N, 89.364125 W

**Cost/acre:** Lateral effect conservatively suggested 15 acres of impact, at approximately \$1,360/acre

**Other Comments:** A visit shortly after construction was completed showed the scrape filling quickly. Eventually, many of the upland trees and shrubs that have established in the drained wetland will die out, leaving excellent habitat snags behind alongside scattered native wetland shrubs and trees more tolerant of saturated soils.