



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
SAINT PAUL 1

August 9, 1961

Mr. Richard Mullen, Clerk
Grey Cloud Island Town Board
Grey Cloud Island, Minn.

Re: O - W.R.I.
Names of Lakes

Dear Sir:

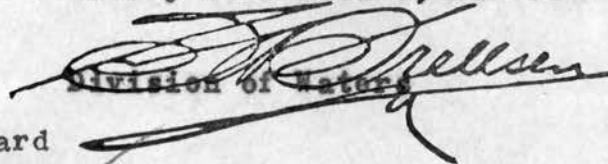
We have read the news article in the August 3, 1961, St. Paul Dispatch about the action of the Town Board in re-naming lakes within the township.

Such action is heartily approved by this division when original and usually colorful Indian names are restored as in this instance. However, it is not clear from the news article that the process of renaming is being carried on according to law and will have legal status, which is the reason for this letter.

We are enclosing a copy of the law which applies, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 378, for your guidance and so that you may advise your petitioners if necessary.

Yours very truly,

Sidney A. Frellsen, Director


Division of Waters

JME:ms
CC-State Geographic Board
with news clipping copy

NEENAH BOND
25% COTTON FIBER
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 AUG 7 - 1961
 DIVISION OF WATERS

Lake Names To Be Changed

The Grey Cloud island town board has taken action to change the names of two lakes on the island—Lake Balsam to Grey Cloud lake, and Lake Balsam to Medicine Wood lake. It was announced today.

SUBURBAN Clerk Richard Mullen said the stretch of water on the east side of the island, usually called Grey Island slough, will be called Grey Cloud channel.

The action was taken when the board received a petition to change the names and voted to endorse the petition.

The name Grey Cloud is that of a woman, who was half white and half Indian. Grey Cloud married a white man, Hazen Moorx, and they settled on Grey Cloud island, one of the first three families to live there outside of Indians who gathered on the island.

The original name of Lake Balsam was Medicine Wood lake, an Indian name, Mullen said. The Indians held the birchwood trees on the island in reverence because of certain medicinal values they claimed for them.

Have we had anything to do with this?
 Have they applied to the property to see Board?

I had a telephone inquiry some time ago at which time I gave the caller the name shown on the quad 37d & 3-18c, and believe a copy of chapter 378 was sent to her, also.

JWS
 8/2/61