In 1986, the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes were at an unusually high level which caused extensive flooding. The situation prompted the lake lowering or lake stabilization project, which is known as the Chisago Lakes Outlet Project. The project was initiated, ordered and financed by Chisago County to provide an outlet from the Chain of Lakes to alleviate high lake levels.

The outlet was designed to connect the lakes and include an outlet from Green Lake to the Sunrise River. Certain flowage easements were purchased at that time to complete the channeling through the marsh to Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area.

Unfortunately, due to the topography of the area, the water did not flow in the direction it was designed to travel. One option to address this included trenching deeper in the acquired easement area and increasing the flow into the Sunrise River. However as a result of changes to regulatory requirements after the initial project was designed and partially constructed, the project to expand the Swamp Lake Channel could not be completed lawfully as originally designed.

In 2014, Chisago County completed purchase of 2 foot flowage easements on all parcels north of Swamp Lake affected by the Chisago Lakes Outlet Project.