



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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July 10, 2012

Ms. Tiffany Determan, TMDL Coordinator
Elk River Watershed Association
c/o Sherburne SWCD
14855 Highway 10
Elk River, MN 55330

Dear Ms. Determan:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed the Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan (TMDL Implementation Plan) for the Elk River (turbidity and bacteria impairments – reach 07010203 - 579), Mayhew Lake (nutrient impairment) and Big Elk Lake (nutrient impairment) for the Elk River Watershed in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. We find the water quality improvement activities described in the plan to be reasonable, and consistent with the Elk River Watershed TMDL study. As such, we hereby approve the implementation plan.

The plan makes it clear that achieving and maintaining load reductions to meet the water quality goals will require a sustained effort. Education will need to be on-going from generation to generation, and best management practices (BMPs) will require maintenance and monitoring to maintain their efficacy. In short, restoring impaired waters requires cooperation and commitment. This has been effectively demonstrated by the Elk River Watershed Association and the stakeholders within the watershed through the numerous best management practices that have been implemented to protect and restore surface water resources over the years. The implementation plan is part of a greater Watershed Restoration and Protection Project (WRAPP) which is currently ongoing for the Mississippi River St. Cloud (8 digit HUC) watershed. The strategies defined within this plan will complement and prove valuable in the overall WRAPP effort. The implementation of BMPs in the Elk River Watershed will be an adaptive process thus addendums and revisions to the plan are anticipated and will be necessary to maintain the future effectiveness of the plan.

We greatly appreciate your continued partnership in the efforts to restore and protect the surface water resources within the Elk River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Reed Larson, Manager
North Watershed Section
Watershed Division

RL/PV:vms

cc: Jeff Hrubes, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources, Brainerd
Jeff Risberg, MPCA, St. Paul