



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Mankato Office

FILE COPY

November 14, 2007

Mr. Jurgen Peters, Policy Board Chairperson
Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
c/o Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District
339 Ninth Street
Windom, MN 56101

Dear Mr. Peters:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed your recently submitted implementation plan for the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Fecal Coliform total maximum daily load (TMDL) project. We find the water quality improvement activities described in the plan to be reasonable, and consistent with the TMDL study. As such, we hereby approve the implementation plan.

Four years were required to complete the TMDL study and implementation plan. The implementation plan covers a 15-year time span. Over such long time periods, new information will emerge about the nature of, and solutions for, bacterial contamination of surface waters in Minnesota. Therefore, the MPCA accepts that revisions to the implementation plan will need to be made periodically. We will continue to work with Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) in this area.

The fecal coliform TMDL work in the Greater Blue Earth River basin certainly created some controversy, particularly among some groups and individual representing sources of bacteria that were deemed likely to be contributing to violations of water quality standards in the basin. Both the TMDL study and implementation plan acknowledged some uncertainty as to the exact causes of these violations. We applaud GBERBA for the ability to move forward with a reasonable plan in the face of both the controversy and uncertainty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Finley".

Robert Finley
Manager, Southeast Region
Regional Division

cc: Dave Bucklin, Cottonwood Soil & Water Conservation District
Matt Drewitz, Board of Water & Soil Resources
Shannon Fisher, Minnesota State University – Mankato Water Resources Center
Jeff Risberg, MPCA