



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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May 22, 2013

Mr. Mike Lentz, Chair
Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District
130 Southgate Drive
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Mr. Lentz:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed your recently submitted *Big Sandy Lake and Lake Minnewawa Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan* for Big Sandy and Minnewawa lakes located in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. We find the water quality improvement activities described in the plan to be reasonable and consistent with the Big Sandy Lake and Lake Minnewawa TMDL study. The Big Sandy Lake and Lake Minnewawa TMDL was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 14, 2011. As such, we hereby approve the implementation plan.

One of the most challenging aspects of installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) is getting support and commitment of local landowners and other stakeholders. Education and financial support often are needed to initiate and maintain a long term commitment to BMP implementation and function. The implementation plan will promote further and better understanding of appropriate land management according to the progress in research, inventory work, and monitoring. Thus, implementation of BMPs in the Big Sandy and Lake Minnewawa watershed will be an adaptive process. Addendums and revisions to the plan will be anticipated and necessary.

We appreciate your continued partnership in addressing surface water issues in the Big Sandy and Lake Minnewawa watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reed Larson".

Reed Larson, Manager
North Watershed Section
Watershed Division

RL/ML:dlp

cc: Jeff Hrubes, Board of Water and Soil Resources
Jeff Risberg, MPCA

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