

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Agreement on Nutrient and Sediment Reduction in the St. Croix River Basin

Preamble

The water resources of the St. Croix River Basin, including Lake St. Croix and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, provide scenic beauty, havens for a variety of wildlife and a wide range of recreational opportunities to the millions of nearby residents of the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. However, rapid population growth and accompanying land-use changes have adversely affected the water quality and biological diversity of Lake St. Croix and the water resources of the St. Croix River Basin. Given the projected increases in population growth in the St. Croix Basin, these water resources will continue to degrade unless the regulatory and voluntary actions that protect these resources, both inside and outside government, are strengthened.

In 1993, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (of the National Park Service) officially signed a Memorandum of Agreement establishing the St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team and committing to formulating a joint water quality management plan and working together on river protection efforts.

Since that time, these partners and other state and federal agencies, as well as other interested groups, have worked cooperatively to coordinate planning and management efforts for the protection and improvement of the St. Croix River and the water resources in the St. Croix Basin. In 2004, these efforts culminated in a recommendation by the interagency St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team to set a goal of a 20 percent reduction in phosphorus loading to Lake St. Croix, deemed necessary to reverse water quality and ecological changes which have occurred since 1950 and to prevent nutrient overload of the resource as the population continues to grow. If such a reduction can be achieved, average phosphorus levels in Lake St. Croix are projected to decrease from 50 ug/L currently, to 40 ug/L.

Agreement

This Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Agreement reaffirms the 1993 Memorandum of Agreement commitments to protect and enhance the quality of the St. Croix River. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources accept and endorse the 20% nutrient reduction goal established by the St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team. Further, both states will work together to support this goal, providing staff time and financial resources to develop unified strategies and coordinate efforts to achieve it.

Strategy

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will work together to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Jointly evaluate and establish water quality standards related to eutrophication which are applicable to Lake St. Croix by the end of 2009;
2. In partnership with the St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team, perform a point and non-point source nutrient loading study and develop an implementation plan by June 30, 2009;
3. Coordinate and improve water quality monitoring and assessment capabilities to track progress on the achievement of the 20% phosphorus loading reduction goal for Lake St. Croix; and
4. Provide continued staff and funding support to the St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team.

Sheryl Corrigan

Sheryl Corrigan, Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Scott Hassett

Scott Hassett, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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