



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Willmar Office | 1601 East Highway 12 | Suite 1 | Willmar, MN 56201-5817 | 320-214-3786
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June 20, 2013

Ms. Mary Homan
Lac qui Parle - Yellow Bank Watershed District
600 Sixth Street, Suite 7
Madison, MN 56256

Dear Ms. Homan:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed your recently-submitted implementation plan for the Lac qui Parle - Yellow Bank Bacteria, Turbidity, and Low Dissolved Oxygen Total Maximum Dailey 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.

The implementation plan covers a time frame of 10 years. Over such a long time period, new information will emerge about the nature of, and solutions for, pollutants of concern listed in the TMDL. Therefore, the MPCA expects that revisions to the implementation plan will need to be made periodically. In addition, the MPCA will start intensive watershed monitoring in the Lac qui Parle River and Yellow Bank River watersheds starting in 2015, which will provide additional water quality data and will result in Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). This new data should be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this implementation plan. The implementation plan, along with any needed revisions, should be incorporated into the WRAPS. We will continue to work with the Lac qui Parle - Yellow Bank Watershed District in this area.

TMDL studies can create some controversy in defining the sources of pollutants that were deemed likely to be contributing to violations of water quality in the watersheds. Both the TMDL study and the implementation plan acknowledge some uncertainty as to the exact cause of these violations. The Lac qui Parle - Yellow Bank Watershed District has done great work 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
South Watershed Section
Watershed Division

cc: Matt Drewitz, Board of Water and Soil Resources
Katherine Pekarek-Scott, MPCA
Jeff Risberg, MPCA