



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Brainerd Office | 7678 College Road | Suite 105 | Baxter, MN 56425 | 218-828-2492

800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

March 14, 2013

Mr. Clifford Hall, Chair
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
14 2nd Avenue West
Foley, MN 56329

Mr. Tom Brutscher, Chairman
Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District
16776 Heron Road
Little Falls, MN 56345

Dear Mr. Hall and Mr. Brutscher:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed your recently submitted combined *Little Rock Lake and Creek Watershed Protection and Improvement Plan (Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan)* for Little Rock Lake and Creek located in Benton and Morrison counties in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. We find the water quality improvement activities described in the plan to be reasonable and consistent with the Little Rock Lake and Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies. The Little Rock Lake Nutrient TMDL was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on February 2, 2012. The Little Rock Creek TMDL has not been submitted to the EPA for final approval as of yet. Since the two watersheds are nested, it is appropriate that one combined Implementation Plan serves for both TMDL projects. 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 Little Rock 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 Little Rock Watershed.

Sincerely,

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

Reed Larson, Manager
North Watershed Section
Watershed Division

RL/ML:cas

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