



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

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Board Conservationist
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Dear Mr. Haler and Ms. Sacket Eberhart,

Subject: Minnesota Department of Health
Comments Watonwan River One Watershed One Plan - 60 Day Public Plan Review

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Source Water Protection Unit appreciates the opportunity to review the draft Watonwan River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). MDH commends the plan partners for including drinking water as a priority concern. Thank you for allowing MDH the opportunity to be part of the advisory committee and for incorporating our ideas and suggestions into the draft plan.

MDH comments to the draft plan include:

- *Section 6 Implementation Schedule, St. James Creek Planning Region Overview (page 6-18): Planning Region Priorities* section does not mention St. James Vulnerable Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). The map of *Priority and Assessed Water Bodies* does not include the St. James Vulnerable DWSMA and Wellhead Protection layers. Since this planning region is a priority area for groundwater quality (section 5 of plan), the map layers for the vulnerable St. James DWSMA should be mapped.
- *Section 6 Implementation Schedule, Lower Watonwan River Planning Region Overview (page 6-33): Planning Region Priorities* section does not mention LaSalle Vulnerable Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA). The map of *Priority and Assessed Water Bodies* does not include the LaSalle Vulnerable DWSMA and Wellhead Protection layers. Since this planning region is a priority area for groundwater quality (section 5 of plan), the map layers for the vulnerable LaSalle DWSMA should be mapped. Thank you for including the Mankato surface water drinking water supply management area and spill management area in the text and map.

- *Section 6 Action Items:* Many of the timelines are listed as ongoing. Consider what actions will be completed first. MDH appreciates that some drinking water related projects are listed in the 2020-2023 timelines (Action RM-5, RM-18). When the plan partners determine which projects to begin with we encourage giving priority to projects in drinking water supply management areas in order to maximize mutual benefits.
- *Section 6 Action Items:* Add action item(s) for well sealing. Example language could be to provide cost share to well owners for sealing of unsealed, unused wells and provide educational materials on well sealing.
- *Table 6-6 Research and Monitoring Program Implementation, Action RM-5 (page 6-41):* Instead of Mankato source water protection area change to Mankato drinking water supply management area.
- *Section 7 Implementation Programs, Table 7.3 Potential capital improvement projects in the WRCWMP area (page 7-7):* The LaSalle-Upgrade city water supply project should have LaSalle listed as project owner. The estimated cost has recently been updated and it is \$996,000 with an end date of 2023.

We commend the planning team for their work in developing the plan. If you have any questions please contact me at (507) 476-4241 or via email at amanda.strommer@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



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CC via email:

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