



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

July 12, 2016

Kerry Netzke  
Executive Director, Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc.  
1424 East College Drive, Suite 300  
Marshall, MN 56258

Dear Ms. Netzke:

Subject: Minnesota Department of Health Comments for the Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Source Water Protection Unit appreciates the opportunity to review the draft Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). MDH commends the plan partners for including groundwater as a priority concern. The main supply of drinking water in the plan area is groundwater – either from private wells, community wells, or a rural water system. Thank you for allowing MDH the opportunity to be part of the advisory committee and planning work group and for incorporating our ideas and suggestions into the draft of the plan.

MDH suggestions to the draft plan include:

- *Section 3.1.3 Protect and Preserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality* (page 29): The third paragraph regarding the MDA Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan was inserted between two paragraphs about public water suppliers. Recommend re-arranging the paragraphs so the section flows better.
- *Table 4.1- 4.7 Priority Concern Measurable Goals and Objectives* (pages 36-52): Suggest moving the repetitive acronym boxes at the start of each table to the beginning or end of the set of tables. Some acronyms listed in the Responsibility or Cost Share/Funding columns are not included such as LCCMR, USACE, FEMA, WLI, and LSOHC.
- *Section 5.3.4 Protect and Preserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality* (page 58): Remove Belview as it is outside the 1W1P boundary.
- *Section 5.4.4 Capital Improvement Projects to Protect and Preserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality* (page 61): It is great that you point out that the capital improvement projects from the other sections will have positive effects on groundwater. It will be important to consider groundwater quantity and quality in many of the proposed projects so as to avoid any adverse impacts to groundwater.
- *Section 5.8.1.7 Septic System Compliance Surveys and Inspections* (page 80): Seeking funding for SSTS compliance surveys and inspections is not specifically included in the measurable goals table in Section 4. Recommend adding this activity as a measure.

- *Section 5.9.7 Formal Education Programs* (page 86-87): This section lists good examples of potential education programs. Even though it is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of options please consider including groundwater education so that it does not get missed. Examples might be irrigation management for agricultural producers, educating elected officials about drinking water protection, or providing groundwater resource education to middle and senior high school students.
- *Table C-3* (page C-19): Table headings are cut off.

We commend the planning team for all the time spent on this plan! It was great to see how well everyone worked together and we are confident that the partners will be able to continue to coordinate during plan implementation. If you have any questions please contact me at (507) 476-4241.

Sincerely,



Amanda Strommer, Principal Planner  
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1400 E. Lyon Street, Marshall, MN 56258

cc: Yarta Clemens-Billaigbakpu, SW Minnesota Hydrologist, Source Water Protection Unit  
Mark Wettlaufer, Planning Supervisor, Source Water Protection Unit  
Carrie Raber, Planner, Source Water Protection Unit