



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Mankato Office

COPY

September 22, 2009

Mr. Jack Beardsley, Chairperson
Heron Lake Watershed District
1008 Third Avenue
P.O. Box 345
Heron Lake, MN 56137

Dear Mr. Beardsley:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan for the West Fork Des Moines River and Heron Lake that was submitted by the Heron Lake Watershed District in September 2009. We find the water quality improvement objectives and management actions described in the plan to be reasonable, and consistent with the findings of the TMDL Study that was approved in December 2008. As such, we hereby approve the implementation plan.

In addition to approving the plan, we would like to offer special appreciation to the Watershed District for the way in which the plan was developed. Your process included a series of advisory and technical committee meetings, balloting and professional judgment to select key action strategies, and communication with watershed residents throughout. Your planning process will greatly enhance the viability of the action strategies and, ultimately, improve the likelihood of significant water quality improvements in the Des Moines River, its tributaries, and Heron Lake.

This TMDL Study and Implementation Plan took four years to complete. The implementation timeline covers a ten-year span. Over such a long time period, new information will emerge about the nature of, and solutions for the various water quality problems confronting your area and the rest of the Minnesota. Thus, we accept, and the plan acknowledges, the need for an adaptive management approach. The MPCA will work with the Watershed District to help make this approach as effective as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Finley".

Robert Finley
Manager, Southeast Region
Regional Division

RF/LG:jj/ml

cc: Jan Voit, Heron Lake Watershed District
Matt Drewitz, BWSR
Kelli Daberkow, MPCA
Jeff Risberg, MPCA