



**Ecological and Water Resources Division
2532 Hannah Ave NW
Bemidji MN 56601**

Feb. 23, 2021

Zach Gutknecht
Beltrami County SWCD
701 Minnesota Ave
Bemidji, MN 56601

RE: Response to submittal of Mississippi River Headwaters Draft Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan(CWMP)

Dear Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) thanks you for the opportunity to review the draft Mississippi River Headwaters CWMP. We have no significant comments on the draft. We appreciate the collaborative efforts of those who participated in the development of this plan. DNR is committed to provide the necessary science to protect and improve the function and health of the watershed as this plan moves toward completion and implementation.

The Draft CWMP, with its focus on Stewardship (Lake, Forest, Agriculture and Urban) addresses the priorities the DNR brought to the advisory committee. Protecting a watershed can be more challenging than restoration in terms of developing a plan. We congratulate you on all of the hard work put into this plan and the many discussions facilitated to get us there. The DNR and our technical staff look forward to continuing our work with the watershed to finalize the plan and set in motion actions to improve Minnesota's water resources, and protect the Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Annette Drewes, Clean Water Specialist

EC: MNDNR, Barbara Weisman,
MNDNR, Nathan Kestner,
MNDNR, Theresa Ebbenga,
BWSR, Chad Severts,
BWSR, Jeff Hrubes,
BWSR, Julie Westerlund

