



Date: **September 30, 2009**

To: MPCA and BWSR Staff

Fr: Rebecca Flood, Assistant Commissioner, MPCA & John Jaschke, Executive Director, BWSR

Re: Local Water Planning and TMDL Connections

Sound science. Good planning. Each is needed to achieve clean water.

Our agencies are pursuing ways to expand the value of scientific facts and analysis so this information can be utilized as part of local planning endeavors to better inform the choices and actions needed to improve the waters of our state. This objective is also important to us directly as state agency representatives as we deliver programs to carry out our agency missions and mandates. However, the primary reason to pursue a better connection between sound science and good planning is to grow the ownership citizens have in restoring, protecting and enhancing Minnesota's water resources.

The attached fact sheet explains the expected linkages between Minnesota's Local Water Planning and Clean Water Legacy programs. In essence, we are seeking to build on the depth of analysis required by TMDL studies to achieve pollutant reduction or resource protection goals by advocating that the means, measures and mechanisms for reaching these goals be included in the comprehensive local water management plans developed and adopted by local government units and subject to state approval.

This logical linkage is already underway in many places. It is our expectation that this approach becomes standard practice. Therefore, we need you to collaboratively engage with local government unit officials to communicate this message as they will be doing the majority of the work needed to achieve clean water results for Minnesota.