

Attachment A

Comment letters received during 30-day public comment period

(July 7, 2014 – August 6, 2014)

From: [Callie Funkhouser](#)
To: [*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Upper Lightening Lake EAW
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2014 9:36:47 AM

I favor this project. I favor this project as it is good for water quality, improves the specific water quality in that watershed and is excellent habitat as well as providing flood retention. I urge your approval of this entire project.

I am certain I speak for many, many Ducks Unlimited members and other hunters and fishermen in the area in voicing this support.

Sincerely, VAN R. ELLIG

Callie Funkhouser, Paralegal **ON BEHALF OF VAN R. ELLIG**
Nycklemoe & Ellig, P.A. – Fergus Falls City Attorney
106 East Washington Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Email – cjfnyk@prtel.com
Office – 218-736-5673
Direct – 218-998-3368
Fax – 218-736-5466

From: [Mark Pederson](#)
To: [*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Upper Lightning Lake EAW
Date: Friday, July 25, 2014 1:09:55 PM

I have reviewed the materials, including the EAW, related to the proposed work on Upper Lightning Lake and strongly support the MDNR Section of Wildlife proposal to install a pump and lift station at the outlet of Upper Lightning Lake to manage water levels on Upper Lightning Lake, and improve wetland wildlife habitat and water quality. I had the opportunity to hunt Upper Lightning on two occasions this past fall. The lake appears to have outstanding potential to attract and retain migratory waterfowl. However, it also appears the lake has been severely degraded over the years with high water and carp infestation. On both occasions, I noticed carp jumping in my decoys! The water was very turbid and the lake was devoid of vegetation. Please include me as a strong supporter of wildlife lake management designation and water level management practices. I look forward to the day when Upper Lightning has "gin clear" water again, abundant vegetation, and regular waterfowl use.

Sincerely,

Mark Pederson
8963 Boiling Springs Lane
Shakopee, MN 55379
952-403-6247

From: [Chris M](#)
To: [*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Upper Lightning Lake EAW
Date: Thursday, July 31, 2014 9:37:13 AM

My apologies, I forgot to include my address.

Chris Melberg
2267 29th Ave SW
Pine River, MN 56474

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chris M** <chrismelberg6.6@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 31, 2014 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Upper Lightning Lake EAW
To: Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us

Hello,

I've read the proposal, and must say I'm glad to here it. I think you folks are on the right path, and our group fully supports your efforts.

While on this subject, I would like to point out another area that is also troubled by major sediment runoff and being choked out of hybrid narrow leaf cattails. That area would be the down stream section of Lightning lake. Specifically the area between Hwy 55 and the next road to the North, I believe they refer to it as T-118. The sediment is so bad it's pure quicksand/muck that a dog can't even cross.

Anyways, thank you again for your diligence in habitat restoration.

Chris Melberg

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

August 1, 2014

Jill Townley
Environmental Review Planner Principal
MN Dept of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: EAW – Upper Lightning Lake Water Level Management
Grant and Otter Tail Counties
SHPO Number: 2014-2311

Dear Ms. Townley:

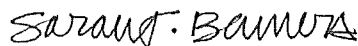
Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the above project. Because this is a project proposed by a Minnesota state agency on state property, it has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on our review of the project information, we concur with the summary outlined under #25 of the EAW that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. We have been advised that this project will impact Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) - Wildlife lands which were acquired through federal programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Pursuant to the draft programmatic agreement among our office, the MnDNR, and the USFWS it is our understanding that the MnDNR had determined that this project falls under the agreement's Categorical Exclusions and that the federal review has been completed pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(c)(4).

Please contact our Compliance Section at (651) 259-3455 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

cc: Mike Magner, MnDNR Forestry / Fish & Wildlife Archaeologist



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

August 5, 2014

Ms. Jill Townley
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review Planner Principal
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Upper Lightening Lake Water Level Management Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Ms. Townley:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Upper Lightening Lake Water Level Management project (Project) located in Lawrence Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota. Regarding matters for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has regulatory responsibility and other interests, the MPCA staff has the following comments for your consideration.

Regarding Item 14 of the EAW, for material excavated from the project site, the material should be inspected to make sure no solid wastes and/or contaminated sediment are present prior to disposal on the adjacent agricultural land. Fill brought on to the site should be free from solid waste and contamination.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. Please provide your specific responses to our comments and the notice of decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this EAW, please contact me at 651-757-2482.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kain".

Kevin Kain
Planner Principal
Environmental Review Unit
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Craig Affeldt, MPCA, St. Paul
Jim Courneya, MPCA