



# **Record of Decision Attachment 1**

Whitewater State Park Campground Development

Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Public Review Period

September 29 – October 29, 2014

Public Comments Received



**From:** [Joel H. Dunnette](#)  
**To:** [\\*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Whitewater SP campground  
**Date:** Monday, October 20, 2014 9:27:28 AM

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I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Whitewater state park campground.

I feel that it addresses concerns, and in many ways will be a positive change for the natural elements in the park. My personal concerns are for the native plants.

The closure of the Gooseberry Glen campground will allow that area of very good native woodland wildflowers to improve to possibly excellent quality.

The area where the new campground will be does not currently have much native vegetation, so there will be little harm from doing that.

In 2013 I worked with park staff to double the size of the 'prairie/butterfly garden'. We can build off that seed source, and experience, to make some nice native flower and grass additions to appropriate areas within the new campground.

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Joel Dunnette  
President, Zumbro Valley Audubon  
MN Master Naturalist instructor

4526 County Road 3 SW  
Byron MN 55920

507-269-7064

OCT 24 2014

October 21, 2014

DNR Ecological and Water Resources  
Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager  
500 Lafayette RD  
St Paul MN 55155-4025

Dear Mr. Wieland:

I recently read an article regarding some upcoming changes at Whitewater State Park. My family and I have enjoyed many days and nights in this great State Park. I understand the safety concerns regarding the Gooseberry Glen Campground for flooding. The move to a different location makes sense to us. My concern is that this current campsite is primarily used by people in tents. Reading the new proposal it sounds as if these sites will be electric sites and some additional camper cabins. I understand the appeal of the RVer's, campers and camper cabins and realize they continue to grow in popularity. We are tenters and feel the new campsite should consist of a blend of sites to help accommodate all campers. Also I have camped at some State Parks where the sites are too close to each other; this is not as enjoyable for most campers. This is an opportunity to enhance the experience by many campers, please consider all the users of this State Park. Keep the rustic appeal that many State Parks continue to enjoy so this great place can be enjoyed by all for many years to come. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,



Dave Engstler  
2225 Brook LN SW  
Rochester MN 55902

**From:** [Hutton, Nathan L](#)  
**To:** [\\*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Whitewater EAW  
**Date:** Monday, September 29, 2014 10:56:26 AM

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We have camped at Whitewater State Park 3 of the last 4 years. My family has camped and/or visited 29 of the MN state parks, and Whitewater is in our top 5 all-time favorites. The proposed improvements will help foster more enjoyment of the park, as the camping facilities are grossly understated for the amount of traffic that comes through there (part of the reason we have only camped there 3 times in the last 4 years is reservations for sites that fit our camper are hard to come by). I am also pleased to see that the proposal includes fixing the roads and bathrooms in the existing campsites.

Thanks,

Nate & Hanna Hutton  
215 Lucy St  
New Prague, MN 56071

**From:** [Wieland, Ronald \(DNR\)](#)  
**To:** [\\*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Whitewater EAW  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 10:04:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [Whitewater State Park Campground Dev EAW.pdf](#)

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**From:** Tegdesch, Elizabeth (MPCA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2014 3:26 PM  
**To:** Wieland, Ronald (DNR)  
**Cc:** Kromar, Karen (MPCA); Card, Dan (MPCA); Cords, Wayne (MPCA); Hower, Corey (MPCA)  
**Subject:** MPCA Comment Letter - Whitewater State Park Campground Development

Attached are the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's comments on the Whitewater State Park Campground Development Environmental Assessment Worksheet. A paper copy will follow by U.S. mail.

**Please acknowledge receipt of this comment letter to Karen Kromar at**  
[karen.kromar@state.mn.us](mailto:karen.kromar@state.mn.us)

Thank you.



## 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](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) | Equal Opportunity Employer

October 29, 2014

Mr. Ronald Wieland  
EAW Project Manager  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Re: Whitewater State Park Campground Development Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Mr. Wieland:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Whitewater State Park Campground Development project (Project) located in Winona County, Minnesota. The Project consists of development of a new campground in Whitewater State Park. 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.

**Water Resources (Item 11)**

11.b.2. Please note that if either Winona County or the MPCA is the entity providing the permit for the wastewater system for the additional 59 campsites, a new dump station will be needed or the existing dump station may need to be expanded. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Corey Hower at 507-206-2603.

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 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Karen Kromar", is positioned above the typed name.

Karen Kromar  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review Unit  
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Dan Card, MPCA, St. Paul  
Wayne Cords, MPCA, Mankato  
Corey Hower, MPCA, Rochester

**From:** [Robert & Julie Rocheleau](#)  
**To:** [\\*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** White Water State Park EAW  
**Date:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 6:30:55 AM

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Thank you for the opportunity to give input, Please preserve the integrity of the park as a natural place to visit.

This park has been our family's favorite Minnesota Park.

In adding more campgrounds and facility's please use the wisdom of our forefathers.

My input would be to keep each site private from each other, we go to get into nature, not to live in a tent right next to someone else who may have kids and dogs they are trying to control, usually unsuccessfully.

I don't want to see or hear everything that is going on with the campers to my right or to my left.

Keep in mind that your designs are not to make as much money as you can but to give the campers an outdoor experience and "packing them in" mentality would be a detriment to the park to the environment and to the campers experience not only in camp but on the trails. State Parks should be about our history and our natural connection to nature, people are better when they connect with nature. Please don't make this a KOA camping experience.

Thank you for letting me put in my opinions.

Bob & Julie Rocheleau

Young America, MN

**From:** [Kelly Gragg-Johnson](#)  
**To:** [\\*Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Whitewater EAW  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 28, 2014 4:50:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [Whitewater EAW SHPO comments.pdf](#)

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Please find attached, the MNSHPO comment letter for this EAW. Please contact Sarah Beimers (contact information on the comment letter) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelly Gragg-Johnson

**Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Review & Compliance Specialist**

Government Programs & Compliance | State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota Historical Society | 345 Kellogg Blvd W | St. Paul, MN 55102  
tel: [651.259.3455](tel:651.259.3455) | fax: [651.282.2374](tel:651.282.2374) | e: [kelly.graggjohnson@mnhs.org](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@mnhs.org)



October 28, 2014

Ronald Wieland  
EAW Project Manager  
MN Dept of natural Resources  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

RE: EAW – Whitewater State Park Campground Development  
T107 R10 S17 & S20, Elba Twp, Winona County  
SHPO Number: 2015-0099

Dear Mr. Wieland:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that was prepared for this project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

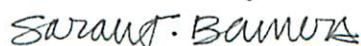
The historic properties summary you have provided in the EAW identifies the proposed campground project as being located within the boundaries of the Whitewater State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources historic district which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Please note, however, that both Bridge 5835 (WN-ELT-042) and Bridge 5836 (WN-ELT-041) have also been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP as contributing resources to the historic district. It appears as though these bridges may be located within or directly adjacent to the proposed campground project.

Also, you have indicated in the EAW that the Department of Natural Resources Parks & Trails Division's Cultural Resources Management Program will be completing a formal archaeological reconnaissance survey and a full assessment of potential adverse effects that this project may have on historic and archaeological properties. We look forward to reviewing the results of this survey and assessment as we continue consultation on 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. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal license or permit, it should be submitted to our office by the responsible federal agency.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please feel free to contact me at 651-259-3456 or [sarah.beimers@mnhs.org](mailto:sarah.beimers@mnhs.org).

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs and Compliance