



July 13, 2017

Senator Carrie Ruud, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee

Senator Chris A. Eaton, Ranking Minority Member
Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Senator David J. Tomassoni, Ranking Minority Member
Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Representative Dan Fabian, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee

Representative Rick Hansen, Ranking Minority Member
Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee

Representative Bob Gunther, Chair
House Legacy Funding Finance Committee

Representative Leon Lillie, Ranking Minority Member
House Legacy Funding Finance Committee

Subject: Analysis of Sustainable Water Supply for Cold Spring Creek Area: Annual Progress Report

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The 2016 Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to “*conduct necessary monitoring of stream flow and water levels and develop a groundwater model to determine the amount of water that can be sustainably pumped in the area of Cold Spring Creek for area businesses, agriculture, and city needs.*” A final report must be submitted by January 15, 2022, with interim progress reports due annually beginning July 1, 2017 (Laws of 2016, Chapter 189, Article 3, Section 44).

Multiple investigations demonstrate that groundwater pumping in and around the City of Cold Spring reduces groundwater flow into Cold Spring Creek, a designated trout stream. The glacial aquifer system, which is strongly connected to Cold Spring Creek, supplies groundwater to the City of Cold Spring, Cold Spring Brewing Company, other businesses, and numerous private and agricultural irrigation wells.

In 2017, the DNR established a project team, reviewed and compiled available data, and identified stakeholders and technical experts to advise our efforts. The attached annual report summarizes these efforts and the work planned in 2018.

If you have questions about information in the attached report, please contact Luke Skinner at 651-259-5106, or at Luke.Skinner@state.mn.us

Sincerely,



Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

cc: Senator Michelle Fischbach
Representative Jeff Howe
Barb Naramore, DNR Assistant Commissioner
Bob Meier, DNR Assistant Commissioner
Luke Skinner, DNR Director – Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Jason Moeckel, DNR Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Section Manager
Dan Lais, District Manager – Division of Ecological and Water Resources