

May 2, 2013

Mr. Tom Landwehr  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Request for Designation of Groundwater Management Area**

Mr. Landwehr,

The White Bear Lake Conservation District (WBLCD) is concerned about the decreasing water level in White Bear Lake. The WBLCD Board recently approved a report prepared by a committee of the WBLCD, the Lake Level Resolution Committee (LLRC). The LLRC report, dated April 16, 2013 recommends that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designate a groundwater management area around White Bear Lake. A copy of this report is attached for your information.

The WBLCD Board understands that the DNR has the authority to designate groundwater management areas in order to protect groundwater resources. Specifically we understand that Minnesota Statute 103G.287 states in part:

***“Subd. 4. Groundwater management areas – The commissioner may designate groundwater management areas and limit total annual water appropriations and uses within a designated area to ensure sustainable use of groundwater that protects ecosystems, water quality, and the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”***

We also understand that the DNR mission statement, in part, includes the mission to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state’s natural resources, and to provide outdoor recreation opportunities. The WBLCD believes that protecting the groundwater resources in the northeast metro area, as well as ensuring that the lake level in White Bear Lake allows for recreational use of the lake, are directly in line with the DNR’s mission statement.

Considering the authority of the DNR and their stated mission, we believe that the record low water levels occurring in White Bear Lake, as well as the United States Geological Survey findings of a connection between the lowering Prairie du Chien aquifer level and the water level in White Bear Lake, designation of a groundwater management area around White Bear Lake is an appropriate action for the DNR. Therefore, we respectfully request that the DNR designate a groundwater management area

around White Bear Lake, and take the action necessary to protect the aquifer for future generations, as well as protecting the ecosystems associated with White Bear Lake. If this is an action that the DNR is unable, or unwilling, to take, we would appreciate a written response detailing your concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please contact us with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

**White Bear Lake Conservation District**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Stawnychy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mike Stawnychy  
Board Chairman

Attachment: LLRC Report Dated April 16, 2013