

Lemm, Les P (BWSR)

From: Mikeo <mikeobriens@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 2:19 PM
To: Lemm, Les P (BWSR)
Subject: Rule Changes to WCA

I am co-president of Crow Wing County LARA (Lakes and Rivers Alliance) and also president of the Lower South Long Lake Improvement District. I apologize for waiting until the last minute to respond. Too busy even in retirement!

Basically our concern is with the wetland replacement rules. We believe the intent is or should be applied to situations where roads and agricultural areas are involved not where wetlands abut lakeshore, rivers or streams. We have had a few incidents in Crow Wing County where individuals were allowed to fill in wetlands near or abutting lakes, rivers or streams then allowed to purchase credits in other counties.

We realize that the wetland replacement program is statewide and that Crow Wing County has no wetland areas for replacement to purchase either by governmental or private sale. By allowing this to happen lakes, rivers and streams are endangered and purchases of wetland areas outside of the county do nothing to mitigate the negative impact here in Crow Wing County.

We believe the best practices should be to enforce the "least amount of negative impact" to the environment.

Thank You!

Regards,

Mike O'Brien

Life is full of choices. Choices have consequences

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