

March 14, 2022

Les Lemm  
Wetlands Section Manager  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Possible Amendments to Rules Governing Wetland Conservation, Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8420; Revisor's ID Number R-04356 – MnDOT Comments

Dear Mr. Lemm,

Staff at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) appreciate the opportunity to comment on the possible amendments to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) rules. MnDOT has participated in state wetland rules development since the inception of the WCA. As a transportation authority and WCA local government unit, we are involved in WCA administration and compliance activities on a daily basis.

As a result, MnDOT has a significant interest in any potential amendments to the rule, especially in the areas of wetland replacement siting and development of the in-lieu fee mitigation program. We are also interested in supporting efforts to clarify the current rule to make it more efficient and user-friendly both for local government units and for regulated parties.

We look forward to continuing dialogue on possible WCA rule amendments, including through participation on stakeholder or advisory groups.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

**for**

Marni Karnowski  
Chief Environmental Officer  
Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship

CC: Mark Gieseke, MnDOT Deputy Commissioner  
Michael Beer, MnDOT Assistant Commissioner, Engineering Services  
Jay Hietpas, MnDOT Assistant Commissioner, Operations  
Kristine Elwood, MnDOT Assistant Commissioner, State Aid  
Erik Rudeen, MnDOT Government Affairs