

December 7, 2022

Jennifer Mocol-Johnson
11 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 300
Mankato, MN 56001

Ms. Mocol-Johnson,

The RPBCWD appreciates your thoughtful and thorough review of our planning efforts as well as our implementation of our programs and practices. While the district is proud of the work accomplished to date, we know that there is always room to improve. The district welcomes the opportunity to review our policies, practices, and programs with an eye towards improvement. Even those items for which the district received commendation are not without room for improvement.

The recommendations presented in the PRAP report do not come as a surprise to us. The board and staff have been discussing the need to review the progress made thus far on our plan and to evaluate if our vision, goals, and priorities are consistent with the watershed, in its current state, and with emerging water resource science. This would, as recommended in your report, be best accomplished through a strategic planning and visioning process facilitated by a trained third party. It is our hope that, through this process, we can address the recommendations and come away with improved staff and board relationships and a more efficient process for administering our board meetings.

Staff has in the past, met with various stakeholders to address concerns with inefficiencies with the regulatory program. These meetings have resulted in several changes in the rules in an effort to address the concerns expressed. In looking at the survey responses, it is evident that we have more work to do. This may include changes to the procedures and regulations, or it may be providing more insight to stakeholders as to why these delays may, in some cases, be unavoidable. It may also be beneficial to spend more time explaining how and why the rules came to be as they are. The district will continue to engage stakeholders, through a variety of media, to address those comments.

The board has instructed staff to prepare a PRAP grant application. The purpose of this will be to retain the services of a third party to help mediate discussion between, and within, the staff and board. If BWSR has any guidance regarding organizations that may provide such services, the district would appreciate such guidance.

Thank you for the time you have taken in reviewing the district and for the thoughtful recommendations. We look forward to growing as a district and implementing these recommendations. Please do not hesitate to contact staff or board members should you have any need.

Sincerely,

David Zeigler, President
On behalf of the RPBCWD BOM

cc. RPBCWD Board of Managers
Terry Jeffery, Administrator
Steve Christopher, BWSR