

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Sara Parker Pauley, Director

www.dnr.mo.gov

June 6, 2012

Mr. Carson Adamson
Elk River Watershed Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 6
Pineville, MO 64856

RE: Department of Natural Resources Acceptance of the Elk River Watershed Management Plan

Dear Mr. Adamson:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Department), Water Protection Program's staff have reviewed your Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the main sub-watersheds within the Elk River Basin, Hydrologic Unit Code 11070208 (Little Sugar Creek, Indian Creek, Big Sugar Creek, Elk River main stem, and Buffalo Creek). Staff reviewed the WMP to ensure all nine critical planning elements required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were addressed. Elements that were considered during the evaluation process included: land use and sources of impairment, expected load reduction, proposed management measures, technical and financial assistance, information/education and public participation, implementation schedule and milestones, load reduction evaluation, and a monitoring component.

After carefully reviewing the document, it is our opinion that your plan addresses each of the required elements and it meets the basic requirements established by EPA. However, a more detailed implementation schedule is needed. Therefore, we are accepting this plan with a condition. We would ask that the Elk River Watershed Improvement Association work with their local partners, organizations, units of government, stakeholders and citizens in the watershed to develop a more detailed and specific implementation schedule. The schedule should include all programs, activities and tasks that must be implemented to address the stream pollutant impairments and restore its water quality. The implementation schedule should be defined by short, medium, and long term goals and include a timeline that describes when activities and events will take place. To meet the watershed plan goals it will take assistance and contributions from your local partners and stakeholders, which should be specified in the schedule.

Your organization is to be commended for taking the initiative to start this project and make it a success. The development of a WMP using a locally led process demonstrates the importance of citizen involvement as we address the water quality issues of Missouri. A complete Department accepted plan can put your organization and other watershed partners in a better position for potential future funding opportunities as you implement the plan.

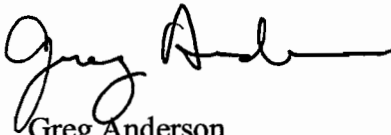
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The watershed plan is a living document belonging to the entire watershed and should be evaluated on a regular basis and revised as new information becomes available to keep the plan current. As the watershed plan is implemented, partners should periodically review the implementation activities, compare the results with your milestone goals, and revise the WMP as needed. Continue to partner with essential or key entities for feedback and assistance, and maintain partnerships with local agencies, Stream Teams and others to obtain long-term water quality monitoring data. Continued partnerships with essential or key entities for assistance will be necessary in obtaining long-term commitments for all aspects of the WMP including planning, water quality monitoring, and implementation, education and outreach efforts, to funding. We further recommend that the partners continue to investigate various watershed models to track land changes or pollutant loading, and continue to seek out various funding sources to help support future watershed activities.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on your WMP. A copy will be forwarded to EPA Region 7. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call me at (573) 751-7144, or by mail at Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Sincerely,

WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM



Greg Anderson
Nonpoint Source Coordinator
Watershed Protection Section

GA:jjd

c: Mr. Drew Holt, Project Manager, Elk River Watershed Improvement Association, Inc.
Ms. Theresa Brink, EPA Region 7