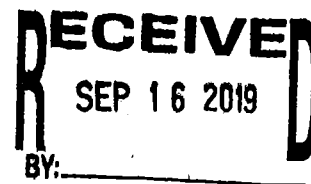




**Anoka County**  
HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION  
Public Health & Environmental Services



Environmental  
Services

September 12, 2019

Mr. Bruce Westby, PE  
City of Ramsey  
7550 Sunwood Drive NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303

Dear Mr. Westby,

The Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services Department offers the enclosed comments regarding the Draft Ramsey Wellhead and Source Water Protection – Part 2: Wellhead Protection Plan Amendment (July 2019), hereinafter referred to as the Plan. Our review is offered to provide the City of Ramsey with additional (possibly alternative) planning views that may enhance their Plan.

Please find general and specific comments regarding the Plan enclosed. Should you have any questions in regard to these comments, you may contact me via the information below.

We look forward to continued collaboration in protecting our water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abby W. Shea".

Abby W. Shea  
Environmental Health Specialist  
763-324-4207  
[Abby.Shea@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Abby.Shea@co.anoka.mn.us)

### General Comments:

The Plan refers to the *Know the Flow* website many times throughout. The website is a great resource and we want the Plan to include it, however, it is referred to many times as belonging to/operated by the Anoka County Municipal Wellhead Protection Group (“ACMWHP”), which is not entirely the case. *Know the Flow* is a cooperative website of environmental and water management organizations and local government units in Anoka County that provides public information and coordination among organizations and agencies. While I cannot be 100% sure of whether the website was truly “established by the ACMWGP” (as stated on page 30), it is a bit misleading, as it was also an action item of the County’s Community Health Improvement Plan in 2015. The website is maintained by Anoka County Environmental Services, and while the ACMWPG contributes to topics posted, many other organizations contribute as well.

- Recommendation #1: Change the reference to the *Know the Flow* website, specifically in the 3 instances on page 3, page 21, and page 30, to reflect the collaborative nature of the site.

We are wondering if the City plans on including manganese anywhere in the Plan. It is not regulated, so the City does not have to, but we believe that citizens may be curious as to where information on this topic is. Even if not enough research has been done to make any conclusive statements, citizens may appreciate an acknowledgment that elevates levels have been found. If the City is interested, Anoka County Environmental Services has been keeping a log of all manganese results within the City of Ramsey. We have not mapped them to know if they are near the DWSMAs of the City wells or in the same aquifer, etc., but we would be open to sharing this information in some format.

- Recommendation #2: If the City deems it appropriate to do so, acknowledge manganese somewhere within the main part of the Plan.

### Specific Comments:

Could sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 be combined? The content overlaps between the two sections and is a bit confusing to read as there is no clear difference between them. Also within Chapter 4, will the only changes related to population increases be the anticipated installation of two additional municipal water supplies? In other words, would there be any circumstance where new residents would be allowed to drill a new private well?

- Recommendation #3: Combine sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 for clarity and address the aforementioned question if the City finds it relevant to the Plan.

In regard to section 4.2.3, the City should keep in mind that some of the primary purposes of the ACMWPG are related to applying for, receiving, and utilizing grant funding. If the City is interested in exploring any grant opportunities with the ACMWPG, you may include it in the Plan and/or bring it up at a meeting.

In regard to section 5.1.1 Source Water Aquifers, we would suggest including even a short statement about the potential aquifer drawdown and the effects that would have. Changes in static water level with additional high capacity wells are briefly discussed, but aquifer drawdown implies an unsustainable change. Also, aquifer drawdown does have the

potential to occur in some conditions even without the addition of new high capacity wells. In regard to the increased population effect of additional pumping (referred to in Chapter 4), does the City have any general idea of about how much can be done before aquifer drawdown becomes a concern? Or is there extremely little to no chance of aquifer drawdown in the City? If that is the case, was a study done? If so, briefly mention and cite it in the Plan.

- Recommendation #4: Reference aquifer drawdown to some extent within the Plan. Include reference(s) to any study or studies conducted in the area if they have been done.

Within section 5.1.3 DWSMAs, the plan refers to the ACMWPG, but the connection to the DWSMAs is not completely clear. The context before and after the reference is in regard to land use, so it would be helpful to explain to the reader the point you are trying to get across with including the ACMWPG in this section. Also, it would be helpful for the ACMWPG to know what you anticipate expecting from the group in regard to the DWSMAs.

- Recommendation #5: Expand upon the reference to the ACMWPG in the section 5.1.3 DWSMAs.

In regard to the section 7.2.2 (sealing wells), there is not a “section of the *Know the Flow* website that has information related to the sealing of unused wells” at this time. Anoka County and MDH did create an informational YouTube video on sealing wells that is featured on the *Know the Flow* website, but it does not have its own page (it can also be found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iuRi1DNrbo>). The only other relevant information on the website at this time is a document of well sealing contractors. Also, the “low interest loan program... for the sealing of unused wells” is specifically through Anoka County Community Development and we request that be specified. In addition, so that the City is aware, the Anoka Conservation District is expecting to receive state funding for the sealing of unused wells. Lastly, how are wells of “high priority” determined?

- Recommendation #6: Accurately reference what is available on the *Know the Flow* website and specify that the well sealing loan program through the County is through Anoka County Community Development.
- Recommendation #7: Briefly explain, or include an appendix if deemed necessary, how “high priority” unsealed wells are determined.

Unless we overlooked an explanation, the acronyms in the Figure 3 legend are not defined in the Plan.

- Recommendation #8: Either write out the full land use type or include a list of acronym definitions.

The contact information for Anoka County Environmental Services in the Local Water Supply Plan is outdated.

- Recommendation #9: Update the contact to read “Abby Shea” with 763-324-4260 as the contact number.