



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
CADILLAC DISTRICT OFFICE



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

August 7, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Armas Soorus
Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council
PO. Box 52
Irons, Michigan 49644

Mr. Soorus:

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has completed our review of the Little Manistee River Watershed Management Plan.

As you may know, EGLE reviews Watershed Management Plans (WMP) with respect to meeting criteria for:

- (1) The State Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program.
- (2) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 319 program of the federal Clean Water Act.

The CMI program criteria were promulgated pursuant to Part 88 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, effective October 27, 1999. Beginning in 2004, the EPA required that all implementation projects funded under Section 319 be supplemented by a watershed management plan that meets nine required elements as described in the EPA's document titled, "Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories (October 23, 2003)."

Our review of the Little Manistee River Watershed Management Plan indicates the plan meets the state CMI criteria. Accordingly, Water Resources Division (WRD) staff is pleased to hereby approve the plan for the purposes of the CMI Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program.

This watershed management plan is well-written, easy to understand, and the numerous photos are extremely helpful in providing visual information and issue context. The document does a good job addressing the water quality issues in a rural river watershed where water quality protection is the focus. The efforts of the Little Manistee Watershed Conservation Council, your contractors, and your partners, to preserve and protect Michigan's surface water resources are appreciated.

The next step in the approval process is for EGLE to forward the plan to the EPA Region 5 Office in Chicago for their review and comment on whether the plan meets the criteria for approval under the EPA Section 319 program. Once the EPA has provided review comments to EGLE, we will send you a copy of their comments along with a letter either granting federal 319 approval of the plan or identifying modifications needed in the plan to achieve federal approval.

The attached document, titled "Federal 9 Minimum Elements of Watershed Planning," identifies that EGLE believes the plan sufficiently addresses each of the nine EPA criteria. That document will be forwarded to EPA along with the completed review checklists, and our request for EPA review of the Little Manistee River Watershed Management Plan. We suggest that a final version of the plan not be printed until you receive our letter conveying the EPA comments to you.

If you have questions about CMI approval or the EPA review process, please feel free to contact Mr. Greg Goudy directly by phone at 231-876-4472; by email at goudyg@michigan.gov; or you may contact me by phone at 231-429-0982 or by email at jankowskib@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



Brian W. Jankowski, P.E.
Cadillac District Supervisor
Water Resources Division

bwj:sh

Attachment

cc: Mr. Bob Day, EGLE
Mr. Peter Vincent, EGLE
Mr. Greg Goudy, EGLE