



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

April 1, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Sharon Marie, Chair  
Portage Lake Watershed Forever Council  
PO. Box 299  
Onkama, Michigan 49675

Ms. Marie:

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has completed our review of the September 2019 Portage Lake 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 Portage Lake Watershed Management Plan indicates the plan meets the state CMI criteria. Accordingly, Water Resources Division (WRD) staff is pleased to hereby approve the Portage Lake plan for the purposes of the CMI Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program.

This WMP plan is well-written, thorough, and easy to understand. The document does a good job addressing the water quality issues in a rural lake watershed where water quality protection is the focus. The efforts of Portage Lake Watershed Forever, Spicer Group, 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 enclosed 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 completed review checklists, that were shared with you previously, and our request for EPA review of the Portage Lake 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](mailto:goudyg@michigan.gov); or you may contact me by phone at 231-429-0982 or by email at [jankowskib@michigan.gov](mailto: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