

FISH & WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCE
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November 13, 2014
David Weirens
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Avenue N.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Weirens:

These are some additional comments from the Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance (FWLA). This is our understanding to date:

- A primary goal of the WCA is to achieve no net loss; however, the stakeholder meetings generally did not discuss this goal or our current understanding of whether we are achieving it. As these recommendations move forward, some basic reporting of information needs to be prepared and presented to the public and policy makers so that they are aware of the current understanding of losses, gains, and trends regarding the wetlands of Minnesota.
- Our previous understanding is based on the current facts as they relate to achieving “no net loss”. As presented, there is no evidence that we are meeting this goal and this should be a primary concern moving forward with ways to improve WCA implementation.

Other Issues – Agricultural Drainage Recommendations

- There is a tremendous amount of evidence that we are in period of increased agricultural drainage. Reports like this one given since our original comments were sent in (2012) provide additional evidence of this intensification and expansion of drainage and give us even more certainty that drainage of wetlands in agricultural areas of the state should be of even greater concern
- The agricultural drainage issue is clearly a substantial issue of concern and deserves more than to be listed as an “other issue” in the context of future recommendations for the WCA.
- We are also concerned with a lack of a buffer around existing wetlands. Given the increased concern with pollinators, we would urge a 2-rod (32 foot) buffer be established and implemented around existing wetlands.

Sincerely yours,

By: Lance K. Ness
President
FISH & WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCE