

MRWA - MDH



SWP AWARD NOMINATION

January 2016

Long Prairie Leads in DWP:

Long Prairie is committed to a long-term drinking water protection (DWP) program. The City is determined to protect its drinking water resources using partnerships, ordinances, education and monitoring programs. The City leads by example, but works cooperatively to get WHP done.

"Leadership:

The City meets annually with its wellhead team to work on comprehensive wellhead protection programs. They have taken the initiative to hire an outside consultant to track and ensure implementation strategies and goals are met.

- Marilyn Bayerl

INITIATIVE — WHP Partnerships

- The City has sampled Lake Charlotte and the City wells quarterly over the course of a year to assess potential lake influence on the groundwater aquifer supplying the city's drinking water.
- The City became aware of an open flowing well (privately owned) that drained to their DWSMA. The City requested MDH assistance with sampling the well in order to assess whether the flowing well posed any potential water quality concerns for their WHPA.
- The City requested MDH assistance with identifying and sampling existing wells to assess and confirm low aquifer vulnerability in portions of their DWSMA.
- The City requested MDH assistance with mapping and assessing nitrate water quality of existing wells in their DWSMA.
- MDH provided groundwater model training at the Todd County Envirofest.
- To enhance the understanding of the regional groundwater system, the City has committed staff time and is participating with MDH in a year-long MDH virus study.
- In partnership with the Todd County Soil, Water, Conservation and Development office:
 - ◇ SWCD provided cost-share for sealing of 3 wells and assisted in obtaining volunteers for sealing of six wells within the DWSMA through a Source Water Protection Implementation Grant.
 - ◇ Todd County conducted a preliminary survey of 1556 parcels for SSTS compliance.



The City has:

- Upgraded their website with links and wellhead information—<http://www.longprairie.net/>
- Provided a mailing of two 11x17 newsletters to all property owners within the DWSMA.
- Pursued and received 2 MDH Source Water Protection Implementation Grants to provide education, seal wells, and inventory SSTS.

Long-Term Commitment

The City of Long Prairie volunteered to become a test community for the proposed Minnesota Wellhead Protection Rule, and became involved in the preparation of a preliminary Wellhead Protection Plan early on in 1995, during development, testing and adoption of the State Rule.

The city adopted their initial formal WHP Plan in 2008 and has been actively involved in Plan implementation for the past 8 years, working cooperatively with MDH, MRWA, state and local governmental agencies.

The City is currently actively involved in an amendment to the WHP Plan. In response to significant changes in annual water use, the city volunteered to begin development of an amended Plan before the Rule-required date.

Partnership with MPCA

On-going mitigation work on the Creamery Petroleum Tank Release site and the superfund site located in Long Prairie

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Public meetings with the MPCA on Creamery spill site.

Seal unused wells within the DWSMA.

Ensure SSTS meet the state compliance.

Drinking water website developed to inform and educate the public about WHP.

Contribute to the Todd Co. Envirofest.



WHP Leaders - Dan Spieker & Brenda Thomes