

January 26, 2010

Sauk River Watershed District
Attention: Holly Kovarik, Administrator
524 Fourth Street South
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Re: Comments to Proposed Sauk River Watershed District Rules

The CMBA ó Central Minnesota Builders Association ó appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Sauk River Watershed District Proposed Rules.

Established in 1971, the CMBA is a professional trade association of approximately 500 members and their employees in eight Central Minnesota counties that represent all phases of the building industry.

We ask the Sauk River Watershed District to consider the primary issues that our members foresee with the proposed Rules:

- 1) Subd. 5. Deadlines for Action. As written, the language describing the 60 day period to approve/deny a permit application is not clear, nor concise on the process to extend, plus the applicant's approval to extend that period. We ask the District to clarify the language.
- 2) Subd. 6. Performance Surety. Applicants are already submitting surety to local units of governments; ask that language be added that the same surety would, if required, extend to the District.
- 3) Subd. 8. Expiration of District Permits. Phased development and building is prevalent in our industry; sometimes over multiple construction seasons. A permit valid for only 12 months is not realistic and we ask the District to extend the initial permit period.
- 4) Subd. 11. Watershed Notice and Discretionary Enforcement. The District is requiring notice of, and an opportunity to comment on, any environment review required by Minnesota law; all NPDES permits' approval of any application for PUD within the watershed; and the approval of any application for shoreland development' including variance requests, conditional use permits, and other permit requests. The process for comment and the timeline for that comment are not well defined. "As soon as practical" is not definitive. Request the District to further define the process and timeline.
- 5) Process and Timelines. Request that the District strive to define and streamline processes and turnaround times for all aspects of these Rules.

The CMBA also concurs and supports the comments submitted by William R. Huston of Westwood Professional Services and dated January 21, 2010.

CMBA members are increasingly concerned with the multiple ó and duplicative - levels of compliance and enforcement. Depending on the construction site, a developer or builder may have permits, fees, and inspections from multiple sources: MPCA, county, municipality, watershed district, Corps. of Engineers, and more. Our member companies are very small, typically, with only a few employees; yet they strive to comply with all rules and regulations imposed at the national, state, county, and local levels.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Sauk River Watershed District Managers and Administration to detail how these proposed Rules will affect our business.

Sincerely,

Steve Squire
President



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