



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ANDY RODRIGUEZ, CPRP, DIRECTOR**

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August 16, 2022

TO: Co-Chairs Gibson, Hansen, and Ingebrigtsen
Members of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

FROM: Andy Rodriguez, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation

SUBJECT: **Support for Workplan for 2022-304 (Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force)**

Dear Co-Chairs Gibson, Hansen, and Ingebrigtsen,

I am writing to express Saint Paul Parks and Recreation's support for the draft workplan for the Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force. The workplan represents a commitment to collaboration between the many stakeholders for this important site in our community, and we appreciate the thorough engagement from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in the short time between the enactment of this appropriation and the drafting of this workplan.

Pig's Eye Lake and the surrounding areas are of great natural and cultural value to the City of Saint Paul. It remains a significant site for the Indigenous Peoples of Saint Paul who have long been dedicated to restoring the area to create safe and vibrant greenspaces for community. This area is also home to large swaths of urban and migratory wildlife, including multiple active bald eagle nests, herons, and egrets. Climate change has significantly increased the risk of flooding and subsequent dispersal of PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals", into the Mississippi River. In turn, this impacts the drinking water and wildlife of communities downstream.

The proposed workplan acknowledges this important role the site plays and defines a comprehensive framework to plan to address these challenges. We have a unique opportunity to begin to address the cleanup and restoration of Pig's Eye Lake. The City of Saint Paul remains committed to this work and greatly appreciates the partnership from the State. I ask your favorable consideration of the proposed workplan so that this very important work can get under way.

Sincerely,

Andy Rodriguez

Andy Rodriguez (Aug 16, 2022 10:45 CDT)

Andy Rodriguez, CPRP

Director, Department of Parks & Recreation