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## **Appendix B**

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**Letters from the City of Detroit Lakes  
October 25, 2007 and February 7, 2008**



In the case of Long Lake the property owners approached the City and Township seeking annexation and sewer and water services from the City. In this case the City and Township negotiated an Orderly Annexation Agreement, which provided for phased annexation of the area over a 12 year period extending to 2015.

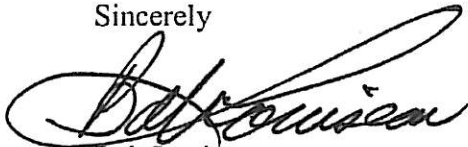
Sewer and water services are being extended around Long Lake in the most efficient manner possible. In some cases the services are available prior to the area actually being annexed to the City. In those situations residents desiring to connect to the system pay a connection fee and which is credited against the assessments which are levied against their property once it is annexed to the City.

As we mentioned at the meeting the City will likely be looking at its long term wastewater treatment needs in the near future. This assessment will include an analysis of future development and the extension of service to areas outside our current boundaries. Coordinating this assessment with any plans for sewer services being developed by the Watershed District seems to be a logical.

While it is unlikely the City will change its policy of annexation upon request, we certainly recognize the value of working with Watershed District and the surrounding Townships to provide for the long term orderly growth of the area. Should the Watershed District desire to pursue the orderly extension of sewer and water services and orderly annexation; the City would be willing to participate in the discussions with residents and Township officials.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 847-5658 or [blouiseau@lakesnet.net](mailto:blouiseau@lakesnet.net).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Louiseau", written in a cursive style.

Bob Louiseau  
City Administrator

CC: Mayor Buboltz  
City Council Members

February 7, 2008

Ms. Tera Guetter  
Pelican River Watershed District  
801 Roosevelt Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Re: Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply Alternatives  
Lake Sally and Lake Melissa Chain and Floyd Lake Chain

Dear Tera:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply Reports for Lake Sallie and Melissa and Floyd and Little Floyd Lakes. Given the general nature of the report, our comments will pertain to both reports.

To begin with, I thought it important to clarify the status of the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Detroit Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facilities are permitted to process 1,640,000 gallons of wastewater per day. The current average daily flows are 1,148,000 (70%) gallons per day. Discharges from the system are well below permitted limits for all monitored standards.

In reviewing the report, we noted the estimated volume of wastewater appears to be greater for both study areas than we would have anticipated. As an example in the Lake Sallie – Melissa area, the report projects a daily wastewater flow of 553,950 gallons per day. This nearly equals the total daily flow generated by the City of Perham (580,000 gpd). Perham has a population of over 2700 people and three major food processing industries which together produce over 200,000 gpd of this total.

It appears the report proposes the installation of cluster systems as a prelude to eventual connection to the City's system in the future. It is unclear, however, if or how much cost inefficiencies would be associated with the use of the cluster systems in the short term. These costs should be carefully analyzed to insure property owners get the best value for their investment over the long term.

It would also be very important to analyze the design of the cluster system to insure it would be compatible with sewer system design standards used by the City. The City typically does not use a "mini" lift station system to pump wastewater from groups of

residents to a sewer main. Wherever feasible, the City connects individual residents and businesses to the sewer mains serving their area.

The City does this to minimize the lifecycle cost of the sewer collection system. We have found the fewer pump stations, force mains and similar items are used in the system, the lower the system's long term operation and maintenance costs. We have found most of our sewer collection system has a useful life of 40 years or more, while the pumps, controls and other equipment need major servicing and repair several times during this life cycle.

The assessments to property owners of \$33,000 per lot for sewer and water is higher than the assessments the City has incurred for Phase I and II of the Long Lake improvement. The assessment for a 150 foot lot in the Long Lake projects has been approximately \$20,000. This would include the sewer and water mains along with the services stubbed out to the edge of the property for the property owner to connect to and restoration of the road.

The City Assessment Policy includes a general cost sharing of the expenses with residents. Residents were not assessed for the full cost of the sewer and water when these services were extended around Detroit Lake or in Phases I and II of the Long Lake improvements.

Both reports include a significant connection fee to be able to connect to the City's sewer system; the City's current connect fee is \$35 for water and \$35 for sewer.

The design information for the small community water system purposed seems to be substantially different than would be provided by the City. The City's system includes treatment of the water for iron and manganese, which may be required. The City would also provide adequate volume and pressure to meet fire flow requirements for the area being served.

We hope these comments will be of assistance to you. As we mentioned in our previous letter we would be happy to meet with the Watershed District, Townships, Lake Associations or other groups to discuss the provision of water and sewer to these area. If you have any questions for us, please let me know.

Sincerely

Bob Louiseau  
City Administrator

cc: Mayor Buboltz  
Council Members  
Curt Punt, Utilities Superintendent  
Gary Nansen, Ulteig Engineering