

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

"Thousands of years ago, the melting of a glacial ice sheet resulted in a lake about 20 miles long and 5 miles wide. This lake was later called Glacial Lake Aitkin. The gradual melting of this glacier was the beginning of the Mississippi River drainage system. There are at least seven other rivers or streams draining into the Mississippi between Aitkin and Grand Rapids. Lake Aitkin existed geologically for a very short period of time and created a series of 365 smaller lakes now located in the area of Aitkin County.

Sioux Indians were among the original occupants of the area. During the 1600's, the Ojibwa/Chippewa forced the Sioux to move westward into what is now southwestern Minnesota and the Dakotas. There were many battles for the Aitkin County area because the area was recognized as a rich hunting paradise. This area will forever remain rich in Native American history." – Aitkin County Website, co.aitkin.mn.us

I am lucky enough to work and be a permanent resident of this beautiful paradise, Aitkin County. I am proud of Aitkin County's commitment to recognizing this rich history, and protecting it's future. Did you know that 51% of Aitkin County is considered jurisdictional wetland? In April 2000, Aitkin County developed a Comprehensive Land Use Management Plan which states "the County shall protect and enhance the wetland resources through management policies that maximize the functions and benefits this resource provides."

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) "soil erosion and sediment runoff to waterways are significant problems in Minnesota." When new construction projects are not handled responsibly, they further add to this problem. That is why I want to assure our members and governing agencies that MLEC is taking the rules and regulations of Aitkin County, the State of Minnesota, and the MPCA seriously, and is doing everything necessary to protect our streams and waterways from sediment and erosion pollution during and after our new building construction.



The first phase of this was the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP is a written plan that must be approved by the MPCA prior to the disturbance of soil on a construction site. As outlined by the MPCA, it "describes the strategies and steps that will be taken to prevent nonpoint source pollution discharging from a construction site."

An approved SWPPP comes with a permit that outlines the specific requirements of the plan. One requirement is that the owner of the project (MLEC) retain a trained individual



Sarah Cron
CEO

to oversee the implementation of the SWPPP. Landwehr Construction Inc. has been our "trained individual" to oversee the testing of the SWPPP. While working on site prep, they have assured us that the double silt fence (sediment control device) has been appropriately placed around the entire construction site and we have passed our initial testing requirements.

Braun Intertec is an employee-owned company in Minnesota that we have used for other environmental assessments. They have been to our site multiple times to make sure that all work is being done correctly and responsibly.

We will continue to monitor the construction process and keep you all updated as to the progress. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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