



STATE OF  
**MINNESOTA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

PHONE NO. (612)345-4219

Area Fisheries Headquarters  
P.O. Box 69  
Lake City, MN 55041

FILE NO.

June 13, 1985

Mr. Timothy D. Vick, Chairman  
Northfield Environmental Quality Commission  
Geology Department  
Carleton College  
Northfield, MN 55057

Dear Mr. Vick:

We appreciate your interest in the Cannon River and will try to summarize major points from the survey. First, do not be overwhelmed by the variety of fish recovered by the survey as this is typical of the larger warm water surface drainage streams in this region. Second, I believe most of your questions could be answered by rereading the following parts of the survey: pg. 2 - item (20), pg. 12 - item (39b), pg. 13 and 14 - items (40a), (40b), and (42). To further assist you with your understanding of this report, I put together the following summary.

The Cannon is similar to other rivers in this region in terms of past and present problems. Historically, a good smallmouth bass population existed, however, water quality problems severely reduced their numbers. Municipal and industrial pollution along with non-point source agricultural pollution were the major culprits in bringing about the smallmouths' decline. A similar situation exists in the various branches of the Zumbro River. As municipalities upgraded their sewage treatment facilities and effluent standards for industrial operations became more stringent, many water quality parameters began to improve. Some of the improvements measured in your water quality study are probably a result of this. However, the ability of the smallmouth to respond to this improvement is limited by several factors which include: impedence of recolonization from downstream areas by dams, filling in of environmental niches by more tolerant fish species, and continued degradation of water quality by non-point source agricultural pollution. As a result, smallmouth are at a very low level in the portion of stream covered by this recent survey.

In summary, the overall quality of the Cannon River has improved from 20 years ago, but intensive agricultural use of the watershed remains a major limiting factor. For your part, continuing to improve water quality in the Northfield area and ensuring that ecologically beneficial practices are

Mr. Timothy D. Vick  
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followed within your jurisdiction can only benefit the river. It remains though, to clear up the larger problems associated with soil loss, drainage of wetlands, etc. before we will see any massive improvements in the aquatic biota of the Cannon River.

Regarding your question about what can be done within the City of Northfield, with respect to the river, I offer these suggestions.

- 1) Retain undeveloped corridors adjacent to the river where possible. Sechler Park and the Carleton Arboretum and campus are excellent examples. Where this is impossible, such as in downtown Northfield, waterfront development should highlight the Cannon as a recreational and aesthetic resource.
- 2) Recreational use, particularly fishing, in the river from the dam downstream to Carleton Creek is high. Our estimate of angling pressure in this reach from April through September, 1984, was 12,570 man-hours. Future waterfront development plans will have to consider this use and provide parking and areas where anglers will not conflict with other users, such as strollers, picnickers, etc.

We hope this additional information provides you with the insights into the report which you asked for. If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Steven Hirsch

SH/bd



June 5, 1985

## city of northfield minnesota 55057

Mr. Steven Hirsch  
Area Fisheries Headquarters  
P.O. Box 69  
Lake City, Minnesota 55041

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

Reflecting upon your report on the fish in the Cannon River between Faribault and Lake Byllesby which you sent to Dave Miller recently, I realized that we are in a poor position to meaningfully interpret the data which you have compiled.

It looks to me like your data is extremely interesting and says quite a bit about the general condition of the Cannon River, but I know so little about fish and the implications of finding different sizes and species that I would like to request a brief statement from you which draws on your training and experience. How does the Cannon compare to other rivers in this region with respect to the quality of the fish habitat? Is it better or worse than it was 10 or 20 years ago? Since the Northfield Environmental Quality Commission can influence only events inside our city limits, is there anything the city should be addressing or giving special attention to with respect to the river?

We are extremely appreciative of your efforts and do not want to dump an unreasonable burden on you, but I hope that by going a little extra distance at this point we can get a lot more mileage out of the data you have collected. Thanks very much for your help.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Vick, Chairman  
Northfield Environmental Quality  
Commission

Mailing address: Geology Department  
Carleton College  
Northfield, MN 55057

Speed Letter®

To Tim Vick  
913 N LINDEN ST.  
Northfield MN 55057

From DAVE Miller

Subject Attached Report from Mr DNR

-No 9 & 10 FOLD

MESSAGE

I just recieved this report today - have not read it. Regarding the second paragraph of the coverletter - could you take care of that?  
Thanks.

Date 5/12/05 Signed Dave

REPLY

- No 9 FOLD

- No 10 FOLD

Date

Signed



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FILE NO.

May 16, 1985

Mr. David Miller  
Sheldahl Company  
P.O. Box 170  
Northfield, MN 55057

Dear Mr. Miller:

You had contacted me last winter about sending you information on the Cannon River. Enclosed is a copy of our recent biological survey on the Cannon from Faribault to the head of Byllesby Reservoir.

You also indicated that your office had collected some water quality data. We would be interested in seeing the results of any information you have collected.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Steven Hirsch

Sent May 29

SH/bd

Gary Wagenbach to read +  
~~evaluate~~ interpret.