

The Illinois Paddling Council

www.illinoispadding.org

Representing Illinois' Paddlers since 1963

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January 21, 2008

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: Rule Making R08-009

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board:

As The Vice President of the Illinois Paddling Council, I am writing to express my support for the recommended water quality standard improvements proposed by the Illinois EPA for the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River as rule making R08-009.

These changes are long overdue and recommended only after five years of study on the CAWS and seven on the Lower Des Plaines. We should all support the Illinois EPA's effort and approve the changes.

Over the last 15 or twenty years, I have paddled most reaches of the CAWS as well as the Lower DesPlaines, and am probably one of the few people who has done so. I think it is critical that other paddlers and boaters have the opportunity to experience these waters in a safe manner and that we provide for healthy fish populations which in turn will support a healthy ecosystem. I believe that it is critical that:

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District disinfect sewage treatment plant effluent to kill bacteria and protect public health and Temperature and dissolved oxygen standards be implemented to protect fish and help them flourish.

I have seen incredible changes in the system over the years. Things have improved dramatically, from the days when one would routinely encounter floating feces in the Chicago River and wildlife was rare. We are seeing the return of a river system, but much remains to be done.

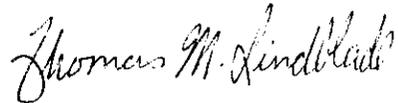
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Pollution Control Board

Because a review like this only comes along every 20 years, right now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue our momentum by supporting the Illinois EPA recommendations so we can make the next quantum leap forward in water quality. Disinfection and the rest of the Illinois EPA's recommendations are essential. We have an obligation to pass on healthy waters to our children and grandchildren

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas M. Lindblade".

Thomas M Lindblade
Vice President
Illinois Paddling council
2138 Clinton St.
Rockford, IL 61103