

Michelle Carroll

Minnesota's approach to managing water resources is lax, to the detriment of taxpaying citizens. Corporations benefit far more than citizens from our shared resources. Examples: Riverview Dairy. Data centers. Pivot irrigation.

In a recent tour of Riverview's Waubun facility, our group was told that the test for whether the dairy was depleting groundwater was to run the facility at average capacity water usage - not peak- and monitor nearby residential wells for 6 days to see if they ran dry. If not, the water use permit would be granted. And while there was ongoing monitoring of water quality on site after operations began, there was no ongoing monitoring of the source water (aquifer) or of surrounding water quality.

Riverview touts the "closed ecosystem" of their facilities - wastewater and solid waste are recycled and pumped underground back to adjacent farms, who serve the dairy. That doesn't support the continuation of the aquifer/water source and landowners that depend on it.

With climate change data the past 30 years we know not expect aquifers to recharge, or for water sources to become more plentiful.

Reduce the amount of water these large facilities are permitted to use. You're supporting big business at the harm of Minnesota's residents.