

**2016-04**

**COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF UNUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Pharmaceuticals with known and suspected endocrine active chemicals are being found in Minnesota's surface water (see <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/endocrine-active-compounds> and <http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc>). Some endocrine disruptors are coming from prescription and over-the-counter medications, personal care products and veterinary medications that get flushed down toilets, sinks and drains. Municipal sewage treatment plants and personal septic tank systems are not equipped to remove all of the active chemicals before they reach our groundwater.

Safe drinking water is the essence of life. The abuse of prescription and over-the-counter medication is an epidemic in the U.S. and has been shown to lead to heroin addiction. It is the responsibility of every citizen to do their part to keep potentially dangerous chemicals out of our ground water and away from drug abusers by disposing of unwanted and unused medications properly by taking them to a collection site and not flushing them down a toilet, sink or drain.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League:

1. Encourages pharmaceutical producers to design and fund a stewardship program for the collection and disposal of unwanted prescription and nonprescription drugs, as allowed by law, and provide for free mail-back services through the distribution of prepaid, pre-addressed envelopes as being proposed in other states.
2. Supports legislation being proposed in Minnesota allowing retail pharmacies to serve as drop-off sites for unused prescription and nonprescription medications (House File 1503 and Senate File 1425).

*Submitted by Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter*