



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 2024 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, the following District projects and issues were addressed during the month:

Other Work

Lower Minnesota River East One Watershed One Plan

There is no new information to report on this item and it has become a standing item on the agenda.

Project website: [website](#).

Year End Reporting

In addition to activities reported throughout the meeting packet (such as paying claims against the LMRWD, work on the 2022 financial audit, invoicing for private dredge placement, and invoicing for sale of dredge material), the following additional activities were completed.

- Final Certification of Levies were reported to Carver, Dakota, Hennepin and Scott Counties before the December 28, 2023 (the required due date for certification). The annual Reports of Outstanding Indebtedness have been filed with each County.
- The annual Eagle Creek WOMP (Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program) report was filed with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services before the December 31, 2023 due date and the final grant payment was received January 10, 2024.
- A new grant agreement for the Eagle Creek WOMP program has been received and executed by President Barisonzi.
- Annual reporting to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are due February 1, 2024. The report for the 2021 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant the LMRWD received for Area #3 was filed January 6, 2024. This report was submitted as a final report and payment of the final portion of the grant (\$63,866) has been requested. The report on the dredge management will be filed by the end of the month.
- Signatories at all LMRWD depositories have been updated; Manager Hartmann has been removed and President Barisonzi has been added.
- 1099s will be issued by the end of the month.

Peterson Wetland Bank

All erosion control measures were installed and inspected by the City of Eden Prairie. All conditions of the LMRWD permit have been met and a permit has been issued.

MN Greenway Temporary Bridge – Fort Snelling

The Stewardship & Education Program Director at Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR), Natalie Warren has reached out to the LMRWD. Ms. Warren is planning to pilot on-water educational experiences on the Lower Minnesota River for participants in FMR youth program to learn about agriculture, erosion and water quality.

Ms. Warren was previously with Wild River Academy. In 2015, the LMRWD supported Wild River Academies Paddle Forward program, which provided scholarships for students to participate in an expedition that paddled the entire length of the MN River. Students that participated journaled the expedition by meeting with youth groups and others along the way, creating video journals which were shared through social media and providing presentations at events such as the Minnesota River Congress. The paddlers also stopped in at the [Vernon Avenue dredge placement](#) site to learn about the maintenance of the navigation channel and the difficulties posed by increased sediment loads to the river.

Ms. Warren would like to request the LMRWD assist with funding this summer's experiences. She has asked to meet with me sometime this month.

MN Greenway Temporary Bridge – Fort Snelling

The LMRWD was informed by the MN DNR that a contractor for Dakota County building the MN Greenway bike trail in Ft. Snelling State Park ([location](#)) installed a temporary bridge to use during construction. This bridge was not considered in the original plan but needs a DNR permit due to excavation of the stream bank. The contractor has applied for a DNR public waters work permit after-the-fact. It is located within the MN River floodway. The contractor said they will remove the bridge if there is spring flooding but have also said they plan on using the bridge until Oct. 2025. The DNR sent the permit application out for comment (permit 2023-3321) and asked if LMRWD rules required additional actions.

The LMRWD issued a permit on this project but was unaware of the temporary bridges (there are additional bridges that will be needed for construction). Young Environmental Consulting Group summarized the review completed by the LMRWD for the DNR and requested that the contractor provide more information to the LMRWD so that hydraulic capacity/floodplain impacts of the temporary crossings versus the final boardwalk crossings can be assessed. Depending on the information we gather from the contractor/engineer, the LMRWD may require a permit amendment to be issued to move forward with the project. The DNR intends to require modeling for the temporary impacts. A permit amendment, if required, must be approved by the Board of Managers.

Invasive Carp in the news

(this report is from the December Administrator Report – it has been left in because of the community action meetings scheduled for January)

December 1, 2023, the DNR announced the largest single capture of invasive carp in Minnesota. More invasive carp were captured a few days after the initial capture, bringing the total capture to over 400 individual fish. More information about the capture can be found using this link - [Largest single capture in Minnesota/Wisconsin waters](#).

Invasive carp species are a concern for the Minnesota River. There are no dams or other barriers to fish movement on the Minnesota River between Lock & Dam #2 in Hasting/Prescott and Granite Falls, MN. This represents one of the longest reaches of river in Minnesota, over 250 miles, without impediments to restrict fish movement.

The DNR expects to have an update to its MN Invasive Carp Action Plan completed by the end of 2023. More information about invasive carp in Minnesota can be found on the [MN DNR website](#).

Invasive Carp Community Action meetings

(this report is from the December Administrator Report – it has been left in because of the community action meetings scheduled for January)

Friends of the Mississippi River plans to hold public meetings to engage people in efforts to protect rivers, lakes, and streams from invasive carp. Meetings are scheduled from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm January 24, 2024, in Redwing; January 30, 2024, in St. Paul (the St. Paul meeting will be live streamed); and February 1, 2024, in Winona. Meetings are free and open to the public; however, registration is requested. You can learn more about the meetings using this [link](#).

MPCA – Lower Minnesota River Watershed Assessment

The kick-off meeting for this item was held October 31, 2023. This item is reported in the January 17, 2024, meeting agenda. The MPCA has a meeting scheduled for 2:00 pm, Wednesday, January 31, 2024. The meeting is virtual and can be joined using this [link](#).

A recording of the October 31st meeting is available on You Tube and can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SVGKnKRhJw>

Information for the previous round of assessments can be found by visiting the MPCA website using this link: [Lower Minnesota River Watershed](#). The last assessment was completed in 2015.

Watershed Plan Projects

MAC Boundary Adjustment: The LMRWD received a letter of concurrence from the MAC and is waiting to receive a Resolution from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

West Chaska Creek Re-meander: This project is complete and authorization of the final payment to the Carver County WMO is on the January 24, 2024 agenda.

Project website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1695a2cf90b44ddba730aad399196405>

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: There is no new information to report since the last update. Here is a link to the [feasibility report](#) Area C-2.

Spring Creek: The last communication with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was at the end of October. They received the initial wetland delineation but requested updated impact quantities to continue the permit review.

Project status follows:

- ISG completed 60% plans in September and responded to LMRWD review comments on September 11, 2023.
- Young Environmental Consulting Group coordinated with the USACE to determine permit requirements, specifically for cultural resources. It was determined a wetland delineation would be needed.
- After a discussion about permitting, further design was put on hold.
- ISG completed a [Level 2 Wetland Delineation](#) and received concurrence from the City of Carver (WCA LGU) on November 21, 2023.
- Next steps: provide wetland impact quantities to USACE so they can make the determination whether a cultural resources review is necessary. If a cultural resources review is necessary, YE will coordinate this and design may be delayed further. If not, design may be able to continue.

ISG has said they will be able to get potential impact quantities to the LMRWD by January 26th. This will allow the LMRWD to continue coordination with the USACE.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/spring-creek>

Gully Inventory and Assessment: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

Minnesota River Study Area #3: An update on this project will be made verbally at the January 17, 2024 Board meeting.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/study-area-3-eden-prairie>

Minnesota River Floodplain Modeling: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management: An update for this project is in the January meeting materials.

Upcoming meetings/events

Managers are invited to attend any of these meetings. Most are free of charge and if not the LMRWD will reimburse registration fees. Please contact LMRWD administrator if you have any questions.

- Metro MN Watersheds – Tuesday, January 16, 2024, via Zoom
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Advisory Committee meeting – cancelled
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Steering Committee meeting – Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm – [virtual only \(MS Teams\)](#)
- UMWA (Upper Mississippi Waterway Association) monthly meeting – Thursday, January 18, 2024, 11:30 pm - [virtual only \(Zoom\)](#)
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Policy Committee – Thursday, January 17, 2024, 3:00pm to 5:00pm, hybrid, in-person at LeSueur County SWCD offices, 181 W Minnesota Street, Le Center, MN, or [virtual \(MS Teams\)](#)
- Lower Minnesota River Watershed Assessment – Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 2:00 to 4:00, [virtual \(MS Teams\)](#)
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, February 2, 2023, 4:30pm, virtual
- [County Drainage Conference](#) – February 7 & 8, Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN