



## Testimony Guidelines

### Purpose of the Testimonies:

The LMRWD is seeking concrete recommendations for actions the board can take, including but not limited to:

- **Policy changes** that should be implemented by the LMRWD
- **Legislative initiatives** to be lobbied by the LMRWD legislative advisor
- **Specific projects** to support through fundraising
- **Programs** to be funded, developed, and implemented

The emphasis of your testimony should be on actionable steps that the LMRWD can take to address flooding and its impacts within the watershed district.

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### Testimony Themes:

Please focus your testimony on one or more of the following themes:

1. **Scientific Causes of Flooding**
  - Analysis of historical rainfall data and flood events
  - Changes to the landscape that affect flooding
  - Impact of recent developments in river management
2. **Climate Change**
  - Contribution of climate change to increased rainfall and flooding
  - Projections for future climate impacts on the region
3. **Water Storage along the Minnesota River**
  - Current capacities for natural and constructed water storage
  - Analysis of gaps and potential improvements
4. **Natural Mitigation Strategies**
  - Recommendations for nature-based solutions (e.g., wetland restoration, reforestation, floodplain management)
  - Exploration of alternative cropping practices and soil health as mitigation strategies
5. **Financial Costs of Flooding**
  - Data related to the total financial impacts on property, infrastructure, and public utilities caused by flooding
  - Identification of the financial burden on various stakeholders
6. **Costs and Benefits of Proposed Solutions**
  - Estimation of costs for implementing solutions
  - Highlighting of long-term benefits
  - Analysis of target water flow for the river and watershed allocation

## Written Testimony Format:

We recommend that written testimony follow this **problem-solution-outcome** format:

1. **Problem:** Present the flooding issue you are addressing, supported by data or research. Identify the relevant testimony theme, noting multiple where appropriate.
2. **Solution:** Offer a concrete, actionable solution that the LMRWD can implement.
3. **Outcome:** Explain the expected impact of this solution in mitigating flooding and improving the watershed.

Written testimonies will be part of the public record and thoroughly reviewed by the LMRWD team. Be sure to reference credible sources where possible. Please limit testimony to 10,000 characters max, not including attachments or supplemental information.

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## Oral Testimonies:

If selected to present orally during the session, you will have **five minutes** to deliver your testimony. We encourage speakers to focus their time on **solutions** that can be directly implemented by the LMRWD board. Please prepare a clear and concise presentation, supported by evidence or research where applicable.

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## Hybrid Participation Details:

- **Virtual Access:** While we encourage in-person testimony for selected speakers, those wishing to observe the session remotely must register in advance.
  - **No Virtual Testimony:** Please note that we will not be accepting testimony from virtual participants, but you are welcome to submit written testimony.
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## Next Steps:

1. **Prepare Your Testimony:** Thoughtfully plan your testimony, building on these guidelines and emphasizing solutions.
  2. **Submit Written Testimony:** Please submit your written testimony by November 20, 2024, 4pm to [lowerminnriverwd@gmail.com](mailto:lowerminnriverwd@gmail.com).
  3. **RSVP:** Accepted presenters will be notified in late November. You will be asked to confirm your participation.
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By focusing on actionable, solution-oriented testimonies, you will play a crucial role in helping the LMRWD take steps toward creating a safer, more resilient future for our watershed. We look forward to hearing your valuable insights.

