



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday July 17, 2019

Agenda Item

Item 4. D. - 2018 Audit Report Update

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

According to [MN Statutes 103D.355](#) Watershed Districts, are required to prepare financial audits. [MN Statute 6.756](#) requires that audits must be completed, presented to the district's governing board, and filed with the state auditor within 180 days after the end of the district's fiscal year. The 2018 audit of the LMRWD books and accounts is complete, however the auditor does not want to issue the final report until the denial of payment of the final portion of Seminary Fen grant is resolved.

The office of the State Auditor has granted an extension for filing the audit report with them until August 15, 2019. BWSR has also been notified and granted an extension. BWSR has been notified of the extension granted by the State Auditor.

LMRWD staff has been in touch with Redpath and Company to discuss possible options moving forward.

Attachments

Letter to BWSR Board requesting reconsideration of denial of payment of fianl portion of 2013 Seminary Fen grant.

Recommended Action

No action recommended



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Carver

Vacant

Dakota

Vacant

Hennepin

David Raby
Secretary/Treasurer

Adam Frey
Vice President

Scott

Jesse Hartmann
President

July 9, 2019

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear BWSR Board;

The Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed is writing to you because the District was recently informed of a decision by BWSR to not fund the second half of a 2013 grant to the LMRWD to stabilize a ravine that, over the years, has contributed large amounts of sediment to the Seminary Fen wetland complex. We are writing you today to let you know of our extreme disappointment at this decision.

The District was told the reason for the decision was due to the length of time it took the LMRWD and its partner, the City of Chaska, to complete the project and get final reporting completed through BWSR's elink reporting. While the District agrees that reporting was outside the time frames of the grant agreement, LMRWD staff was in touch with its BWSR representatives. The reasons for the delay are many and varied; changes in staff at the LMRWD after the grant was awarded, unexpected cost increases, the need to secure additional funding, weather, lack of understanding of requirements for elink reporting and miscommunication between the project partners and BWSR staff. It was not just lack of attention to completing the reporting.

The LMRWD partnered with the City of Chaska, who was responsible for the actual construction of the project. Agreements between the LMRWD and the City agreed to split the cost of the project that was not covered by the grant. Because of the decision by BWSR, \$110,400 was not funded. That is a sizable amount of money; almost 5% of the LMRWD's annual budget (and over 15% of the LMRWD's annual levy).

The Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District respectfully requests reconsideration of this decision and would be happy to meet with you to discuss the District's request.

Sincerely

Jesse Hartmann
President
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

c: Matt Clark, Chaska City Engineer
Matt Podhradsky, Chaska City Administrator

Linda Loomis, Administrator
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