



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting  
Wednesday November 20, 2019

### **Agenda Item**

**Item 4. H. - Receive and file letter from BWSR dated September 27, 2019**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

The LMRWD received a formal response from BWSR regarding the decision not to fund the second half of the 2013 CWF for the Seminary Fen ravine stabilization. The Board should receive and file the letter.

### **Attachments**

Letter from BWSR dated September 27, 2019

### **Recommended Action**

Motion to receive and file letter from BWSR

September 27, 2019

Jesse Hartmann – President  
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District  
112 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, #102  
Chaska, MN 55318

Linda Loomis - Administrator  
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District  
112 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, #102  
Chaska, MN 55318

Dear Mr. Hartmann and Ms. Loomis:

This letter is a follow up to your letter dated July 9, 2019 and your telephone call on August 16, 2019 with Kevin Bigalke, Assistant Director for Regional Operations regarding to the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Clean Water Assistance Grant for Bluff Stabilization at the Seminary Fen.

This FY13 grant was originally issued with an expiration date of December 31, 2015. Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (District) staff worked with BWSR staff to amend the grant to extend the expiration date of the grant to June 30, 2016 due to weather conditions limiting site access delaying construction.

As was communicated to you in a letter dated June 30, 2019, the final payments on the grant were not paid and the grant was closed out. The reasons for this decision are due to the lack of annual reporting and the fact that the grant, as clearly stated on the Grant Agreement Amendment, expired on June 30, 2016. The final progress report was not completed until June 22, 2018. The grant agreement states that the grantee will submit a final progress report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) by July 31, 2016 or within 30 days of completion of the project, whichever occurs sooner. This final report was submitted well past the expiration date of the grant amendment.

While communication over the course of this grant could have been better via more regular messages, Board staff did communicate through an e-mail on May 12, 2016 requesting a progress report on the grant with no response. Additionally, Board staff had periodic telephone calls and in-person conversations at District board meetings over the course of the grant period discussing the status of the grant.

The Board recognizes the value of the Seminary Fen Project however, because the annual reporting and other the requirements of the grant agreement were not met, the Board was not able to make the final payment.

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District currently has other active grants from the Board of Water and Soil Resources and we are committed to working with you to avoid this from happening again.

Sincerely,



John Jaschke  
Executive Director

c: Kevin Bigalke, BWSR  
Steve Christopher, BWSR