



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

December 2019 Administrator report

From: Linda Loomis, Administrator

To: LMRWD Board of Managers

The current LMRWD laptop computer runs on Windows 7. Microsoft will not support Windows 7 after January 2020. Therefore I have purchased a new laptop for the District.

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, work continues on the following District projects and issues:

Other Work

US Army Corp of Engineers - River Resource Forum

I attended the River Resource Forum on December 3rd. I was not able to attend the second day of the Forum, because it conflicted with the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators. There was a lot of discussion about the condition of the river and locks and dams in 2019 (because of the flooding) and lots of uncertainty about 2020.

MAWD Annual Conference

The LMRWD presented the geomorphic assessment of trout streams at the conference. Attendance was moderate. The session was scheduled at the same time as some other topics that may have been of more interest, such as the Hennepin County presentation in the slope failure inventory. I spoke with Carrie Jennings and she said that final report on that project should be released soon. Managers may remember that the LMRWD participated in funding that work.

2019 Financial Audit

I had a conference call with Redpath and Company to get ready for the 2019 financial audit.

Watershed Plan Projects

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: A meeting of LMRWD staff and technical consultants has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 10:00am. I have asked Carrie Jennings if the landslide inventory recently completed by Hennepin County has found any slope failures near this area.

Riley Creek Cooperative project/Lower Riley Creek restoration - No new information has been received since the last update. Project website: <http://www.rpbcwd.org/whats-happening/projects/lower-riley-creek-ecological-restoration>

Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project: - Staff is drafting a letter to the BWSR board as suggested by Representative Hansen. I have also spoken with Jill Crafton, a manager at Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District and a member of the BWSR Board.

Project website: <http://lowermnrriverwd.org/projects/bwsr-clean-water-fund-grant-administration>

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): - This is an action item on the December 2019 agenda. Project website: <http://lowermnrriverwd.org/projects/east-chaska-creek-bank-stabilization>

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Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): No new information to report since last update. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/schroeder-acres-parkeagle-creek-sub-watershed-stormwater-study>

Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The LMRWD sent the signed Cooperative Agreement to the City. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/targeted-bmps-downtown-shakopee>

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The LMRWD sent the signed Cooperative Agreement to the City. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/prior-lake-outlet-channel-realignmentwetland-restoration>

Dakota County Fen Gap Analysis and Conceptual Model (Dakota County Watershed Based Funding): The meeting with stakeholders to discuss the Draft Gaps Analysis has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th at 9:30am at the DNR. We have received more information since the Draft Gaps Analysis was sent out. Additional information has been received from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services and the DNR. The [Draft Gaps Analysis](#) has been posted to the LMRWD website.

Project update: MLRWD staff met with Staff from the DNR, MCES and Dakota SWCD. The topic of discussion was the Draft Gaps Analysis. The discussion was very productive and the LMRWD will allow everyone until January 30 to give the District additional data and comments. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/dakota-county-fen-study-management-plan>

Hennepin County Chloride Project (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): A meeting for the stakeholders is scheduled for 2:30pm December 17, 2019, at Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. A manual for private property winter maintenance contractors is being developed as a separate project. This manual will be used with the training sessions for winter maintenance.

Update: the Hennepin Chloride meeting provided information about the status of the project. The survey of private salt applicators is complete. Over 100 applicators responded to the survey. Applicators said the main reason that they use the amount of salt that they use is due to customer expectations. A booth will be set up at the MN Landscaper Association winter conference in January in order to speak with more winter maintenance contractors. The group also discussed ways to educate the public about winter expectations. Opportunities were identified to do education and outreach, such as at the city home remodeling fairs, and newsletters.

Vegetation Management Plan: No new information since last update.

Sustainable Lake Management Plan: Trout Lakes: The Gaps analysis for this project is nearing completion.

Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams: A presentation of this project was made at MAWD and was well received. The next steps for this project will be to prepare a gap analysis.

Spring Creek Cost Share: No new information to report since last update.

West Chaska Creek Re-meander: No new information to report since last update.

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: This is an action item on this month's agenda.

Project Reviews

Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization: No new information to report since the last update. project website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/upperpost/index.html>

HCRRA MN River Bluffs Regional Trail: The LMRWD received plans from the Hennepin County Railroad Authority to repair the wash out of the trail that occurred in 2014. Staff is reviewing the files provided.

MNDOT ADA Trail improvements in Mendota: No new information since last update.

MNDOT trail drainage improvements in Lilydale: No new information since last update.

MNDOT Trail - 494: No new information to report since last update.

MNDOT - TH5: No new information to report since last update.

City of Chanhassen - Moon Valley Gravel Pit: No new information to report since last update.

City of Carver - Hawthorne Ridge: No new information to report since last update.

Metropolitan Airport Commission - Environmental Assessment Worksheet for MSP Concourse G Infill -
No new information since last update.

City of Burnsville - Quarry Property, LLC - No new information on this project since last update. I have asked for an update from the City of Burnsville for all the projects located in Burnsville.

City of Carver - Levee rehabilitation - No new information on this project since last update.

City of Carver - Jonathan Parkway upgrades - No new information on this project since last update.

City of Burnsville - CenterPoint Energy Training Facility - No new information on this project since last update.

City of Burnsville -5337 Properties, LLC: No new information on this project since last update.

City of Burnsville - Freedom Enterprises, LLC: No new information on this project since last update.

City of Burnsville - Industrial Equities - 250 River Ridge Circle North: - No new information on this project since last update.

City of Burnsville - United Properties - 12400 Dupont Avenue North: No new information on this project since last update.

CenterPoint Energy - sign replacement: No new information to report since last update.

City of Burnsville - Kraemer Mining: No new information to report since last update.

Dakota County - MN River Greenway: The LMRWD received a Notice of Application for wetland impacts for this project. The LMRWD did not have any comments. Project website:
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/About/TrailPlanning/Pages/minnesota-river.aspx>

City of Shakopee - Jackson Township AUAR: No new information to report since last update.

City of Burnsville - CenterPoint Energy Lyndale Valve Replacement Project: No new information to report since last update.

City of Eden Prairie - C. H. Robinson: No new information to report since last update.

City of Burnsville - Burnsville Sanitary Landfill: The MPCA has been preparing the final closure plan for Freeway Dump and Landfill located on the south side of the MN River-35W in Burnsville for the last several years. The LMRWD was recently informed that the Barr Engineering is a consultant for the MPCA and they are closing in on the 30% design for the project. The MPCA has requested a meeting with the Watershed District to understand LMRWD needs and approval. Tentative plans are to have the project out for bids next winter and start construction late summer of 2021. The MPCA is still considering two options - close Freeway landfill on site or remove waste to another landfill. LMRWD staff is in the process of scheduling a meeting.

City of Eden Prairie - Peterson Wetland Bank: No new information to report since last update.

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: The Project engineers were notified the LMRWD approved the Maintenance agreement at the November Board meeting. Project website:
<https://www.highway101improvements.com/>

Cities of Richfield/Bloomington - TH 77 & 77th Street underpass: No new information to report since last update.

MPCA - MN River TSS TMDL: No new information to report since last update.

MPCA - Watonwan River Watershed Maximum Daily Load Study Draft Report and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy: No new information to report since last update.

MPCA - Middle Minnesota River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load Study Draft Report and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy: No new information to report since last update.

MPCA - Lower Minnesota River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load Study Draft Report and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy: No new information to report since last update.

City of Bloomington - MN Valley State Trail: The LMRWD received notice that a water appropriation permit was issued to this project to allow for installation of pile caps for pedestrian bridges crossing small tributaries to the Minnesota River. Project website:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/minnesota_valley/plans.html

Hennepin County - CSAH 61/Flying Cloud Drive: The most recent inspection report is attached. The box culvert that was mentioned in the last report flows into Bluff Creek south of the roadway. The area is in right-of-way managed by Carver County. The County plans direct the flow from the dissipation pool below the culvert to Bluff Creek by excavating a channel from the pool to Bluff Creek. Carver County has surveyed the area and feels rerouting the stream to the south is a viable options.

The County's plan is to excavate the old channel of Bluff Creek and connect it up to the dissipation pool. The stream would then flow to the south instead of turning to go to the west (outside Carver County right-of-way). This will involve some tree clearing within the right of way. The County feels that with the stream flowing south (within the County right-of-way) they will be better able to manage the sedimentation that occurs before it backs up into the culvert. The County is concerned that sediment filling the culvert is a serious safety concern as there could be water flowing over/washing out the roadway.

LMRWD staff has discussed searching the upstream area for sources of the sediment in the spring after the snow melts.

MNDOT - I494/TH 5/TH 55 Mill & Overlay project: No new information to report since last update. Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494invergroveheights/>

MNDOT - I35W Bridge Replacement: No new information to report since last update. Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wbloomington/index.html>

MNDOT - I494 from TH169 to Minnesota River: No new information to report since last update.

Scott County - TH 41/169/78 Interchange: No new information to report since last update. Project website <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/1778/Highways-1694178-Interchange?PREVIEW=YES&PREVIEW=YES&PREVIEW=YES&PREVIEW=YES>

City of Shakopee - Amazon Fulfillment Center drainage: no new information to report since last update.

MAC/LMRWD/MCWD boundary realignment: No new information to report since last update.

Fort Snelling - Dominion Housing: The LMRWD received a Record of Decision from the DNR regarding this project. The DNR's website for this project is

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/upperpost/index.html>.

Managers may have seen an article in the Star Tribune about this project and the cost. The article can be found by following this link - <http://www.startribune.com/affordable-housing-project-at-fort-snelling-stalls/566195591/>

USACOE/USFWS - Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland: This project was discussed at the River Resource Forum on December 3rd, however I was not able to attend the Forum that day. Project website: <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/1865/Bass-Ponds-EAW>

Upcoming meetings/events

- Upper Mississippi Waterway Association - Thursday, December 19, 2019 4:30 to 6:30pm, Lilydale Pool & Yacht Club
- Metro MAWD - Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 7:00 - 9:00pm, Capitol Region WD 595 Aldine Street, St. Paul
- [Watershed Specialist Training](#) - Jan 21-May 3 2020, MN Water Resources Center, Online
- [MAWD Legislative Reception & Day at the Capitol](#) - March 18 & 19, 2020, Doubletree Hotel, St. Paul

Memorandum



DATE: December 13, 2019

TO: Linda Loomis – Administrator, LMRWD

FROM: Shane Soukup, Water Resources Scientist
Della Schall Young, PMP, CPESC

SUBJECT: Stormwater Visit Summary
December 2, 2019, 8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.
CSAH 61 – Flying Cloud Drive
Owner – Hennepin County
Contractor – Ames Construction

(Email transmittal)

WEATHER: 25°F, clear, per AccuWeather

SITE CONDITIONS/PHASE

Road construction is largely completed and open to all traffic. Some work has yet to be done in areas adjacent to the roadway, but construction activities have ceased for the winter months.

PRESENT

Shane Soukup – Young Environmental Consulting Group

PURPOSE

To observe stormwater management/erosion control techniques being implemented by Ames Construction on the reconstruction of Flying Cloud Drive/County State Aide Highway (CSAH) 61 from Highway 101 to Charlson Road in the cities of Eden Prairie and Chanhassen (Hennepin and Carver counties, respectively)

GENERAL NOTES/OBSERVATIONS

- Construction activities have ceased due to frozen ground conditions.
- Traffic and snow limited inspection to areas where it was safe to pull over.
- Guardrails have now been installed along the southern shoulder of designated sections of the road.
- Feeder route construction appears to be completed, with lines painted on each of the roads.
- Photos are attached below; however, the site was snow-covered, limiting the usefulness of photos for determining the extent of the work completed.

Memorandum *(cont'd)*

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- Nathan Bren was contacted via email to inquire what activities were undertaken to prepare the site for winter. These activities included the following:
 - Flexterra hydromulch with permanent seed placed in all areas throughout the project
 - Erosion-control blankets placed in all exposed ditchlines
 - Rapid stabilization methods used on certain areas that did not have geotextile in place
 - Turf-reinforcement mats were placed near certain retaining walls
 - All exposed soils were sprayed, including stockpiles
 - Riprap placed sporadically throughout the site

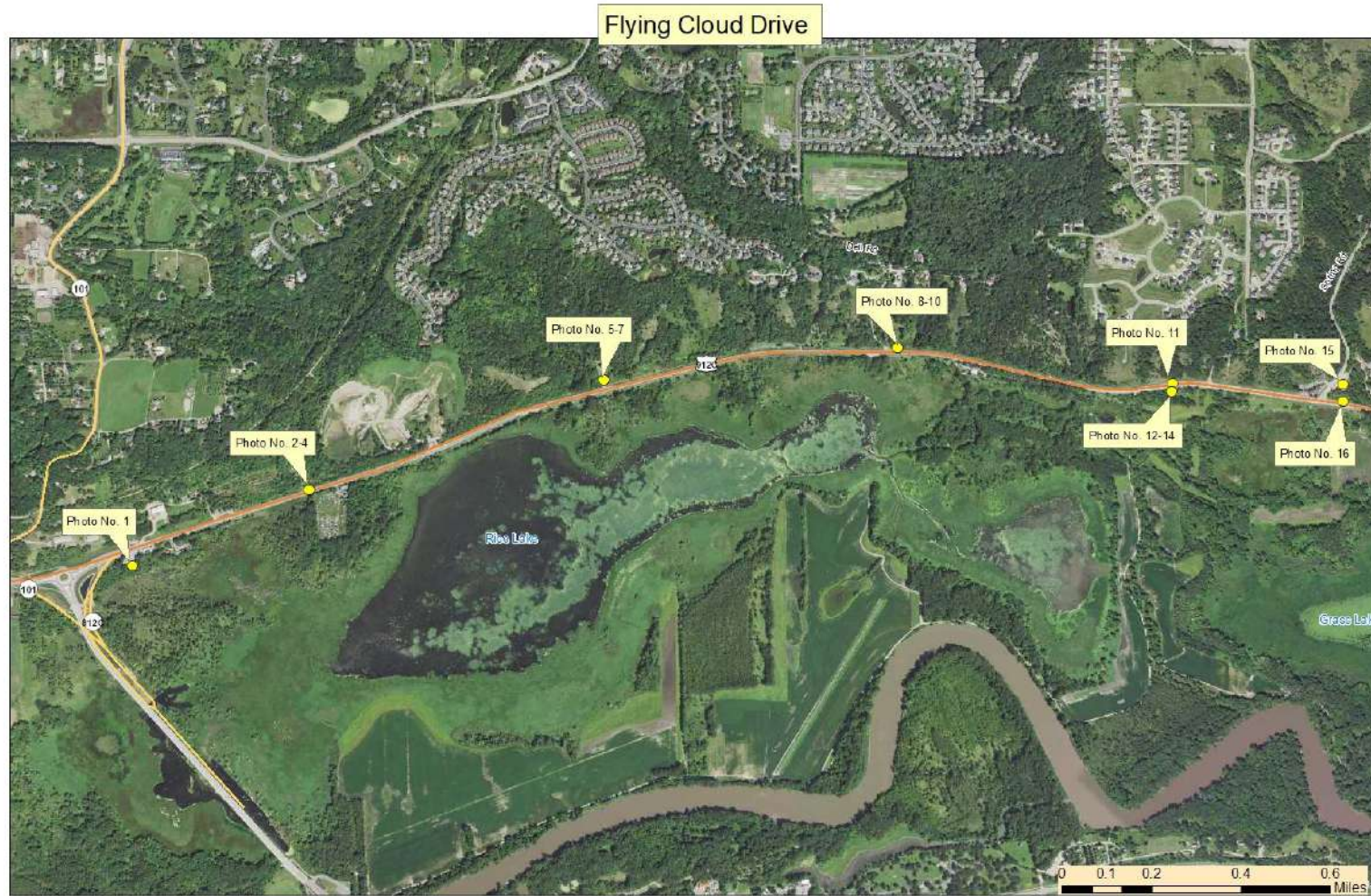
RECOMMENDATIONS

Given winter weather conditions, Young Environmental recommends implementing the winter inspection procedure by reducing inspections to once per month and within 48 hours of rainfall or snowmelt.

Memorandum



Below is a map indicating where photos were taken. Photos include observations, coordinates, and an arrow indicating north (lower right corner).





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