



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

April 2020 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

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

Other Work

Notice from Hennepin County

The District received a notice from Hennepin County regarding payment of tax levies. The message received from Hennepin County is attached. No communications have been received from other counties as yet.

Staff assumes that other counties will follow Hennepin County's lead and will evaluate how this may impact activities for the LMRWD.

Minnesota River Elevation

On Wednesday, March 13, 2020 the Minnesota River peaked at 702.62 feet. The elevation then dropped to 699.66 on March 22nd. The elevation hovered around the 699 foot until March 29th when the river again began to rise. It peaked at 705.04 feet on April 6th and has been on a downward trend since then. It is at 702.64 on April 12th. Commercial navigation activities cease at 702 feet.

2019 Audit

The 2019 financial audit for the LMRWD began the week of March 16th. Staff has not had any word from the auditors.

Old Cedar Avenue Bridge opening celebration

The City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge are planning a celebration commemorating the renovation of the Old Cedar Avenue Pedestrian Bridge and the surrounding amenities (nature play area, restrooms, parking lot, road work, etc). The celebration is planned for Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 2-6 PM. It will include opening remarks, food trucks, activities, and a chance to check out the new nature play area and augmented reality tour on the bridge. The LMRWD was invited to be a part of the event. The Water Resource department for the city of Bloomington contacted me to work together on planning for this event, which I agreed to. I will keep the Board updated as we get further into planning. If Board members have any key messages or ideas, please let me know. Here is a link to the city's website for the event:

<https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/pl/events/old-cedar-avenue-bridge-celebration-2020-09-26>

Watershed Base Funding

At the March Board meeting, the Metropolitan-area Watershed Based Funding program was discussed. The Board asked how much funding was being allocated under the new program. Minnesota River Metro North will be allocated \$673,699 and Minnesota River Metro South will be allocated \$829,075. It is difficult to gauge how this compares with the Pilot Program, because there are now 10 areas in the Metro Area as opposed to the previous program which was divided among the seven counties. The

total amount allocated to the Metro Area under the Pilot Program was \$5,590,000. This program has allocated \$5,999,000 to the Metro-area.

The Meadows in Carver

At the last meeting, staff informed the Board that an NPDES inspection report on a residential development in the City of Carver had been received. Staff followed up on this report with the inspector, who was from the Carver County SWCD. Mike Wanous, Carver SWCD District Manager, said they do inspections for the Carver County WMO and did an inspection of the "Meadows" residential development even though it isn't in the WMO.

Staff has discussed how inspections should proceed for the LMRWD and plans to hold a work session this summer for Managers.

One Watershed One Plan - Planning Area 56

The Resolution drafted by legal counsel and adopted by the LMRWD Board at the March meeting is being routed for signature. Once all signatures have been obtained, it will be sent to BWSR and the LeSueur County SWCD.

Watershed Plan Projects

Update LMRWD Gully Inventory: In 2006, the LMRWD worked with the Conservation Corps to conduct inventory of gullies within the LMRWD. Several Gullies have been stabilized, other have not. Since it has been 15 years staff felt it is time to conduct an update. This project is in the District's CIP for 2020. It is listed as the Minnesota River Corridor Management Project. In addition, the LMRWD set aside funds for several years to be used for Gully Restoration that could be directed to this project. The work plan for this project can be found on the LMRWD website:

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization - Notices have been sent to property owners and staff will schedule field inspections when weather permits.

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

Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project: Staff is hoping to get legislation included in whatever bill gets passed this session.

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

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): The LMRWD has submitted an application to the DNR for this project. The City of Chaska has evaluated the wetland impacts. The District has received approval from the Corps of Engineers for this project. Once approval has been received from the DNR, the project will be ready for the City to approve. Project website:

<http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/east-chaska-creek-bank-stabilization>

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): No new information since last update.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/schroeder-acres-parkeagle-creek-sub-watershed-stormwater-study>

Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): No new information to report since last update. FYI, the city has retained Barr Engineering to complete this study. The [scope for the feasibility assessment](#) prepared by Barr can be found on the LMRWD website. Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/targeted-bmps-downtown-shakopee>

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The city is working on this project and has been working on getting wetland permits from the Corps of Engineers.

The City extended the deadline for the Notice of Decision because of permitting issues. Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/prior-lake-outlet-channel-realignmentwetland-restoration>

Dakota County Fen Gap Analysis and Conceptual Model (Dakota County Watershed Based Funding): LMRWD staff released the draft report and sought input from LMRWD partners. The final report should be issued shortly. The [draft report](#) is posted on the LMRWD website.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/dakota-county-fen-study-management-plan>

Hennepin County Chloride Project (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): No new information since last update.

Vegetation Management Plan: No new information since last update.

Sustainable Lake Management Plan: Trout Lakes: Staff is waiting to hear from the City of Shakopee before finalizing this report. In follow up with the City, they have prepared a report on Quarry Lake. The City will provide the LMRWD with its report and plans to meet with the LMRWD to discuss management plans for the Lake.

Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams: No New Information to report since last update.

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

West Chaska Creek Re-meander: Staff has been working with Carver County WMO to draft a cost share agreement. The draft agreement is on the April Agenda for approval.

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: No new information to report since last update.

Project Reviews

International Outreach Church: Burnsville - Conditional Use Permit 1512 Woodhill Road. The LMRWD has reviewed the plans provided and has no comments or concerns.

Beech Street Bridge replacement: Chaska - The LMRWD offered comments on this project through the DNR's permit process. The city addressed the comments. The DNR approved the permit for the project. One of the comments the LMRWD had to the city was in regards to missed opportunities because the city did not include the LMRWD sooner in the process.

Summerland Place Residential Development EAW: Shakopee - No new information to report since last update.

Pine Ridge Capital, LLC - River Ridge Club house: Burnsville Conditional Use Permit - 12901 County Road 5 - No new information to report since last update.

Timber Creek Residential Development EAW: Carver - The city addressed comments and issued a negative declaration for this project. For some reason comments from the LMRWD were not addressed in the City's response to comments. Staff sent a notice to the city that our comments were not addressed and also sent the comment letter. None of the comments from the LMRWD were concerned whether or not and Environmental Impact Statement was needed, so staff is not concerned with the decision of the City. The LMRWD comments requested that the SWPPP (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan) be provided to the LMRWD for review and that the City amend its Comprehensive Plan to reflect changes to project reviews for properties within the LMRWD because of the recently adopted rules.

MNDOT TH13 Improvement Study: Staff has a meeting scheduled to meet with MNDOT April 15, 2020. Project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy13savageburnsville/index.html>

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>

HCRRRA MN River Bluffs Regional Trail: Staff received the maintenance agreement for this project and sent it to legal counsel for review. The agreement was returned to the proponent along with edits recommended by LMRWD legal counsel..

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: This project began April 8. Update can be viewed on the MNDOT website:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy5mpls-stpaul/index.html>.

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.

City of Carver - Levee rehabilitation - Staff has a meeting schedule for Friday, April 17, 2020 with the city. An update was included as part of the April meeting packet.

City of Carver - Jonathan Parkway upgrades - Information on this project was made available online. Neither, the city, county, or project manager has communicated any information on this project to the LMRWD. Staff therefore contacted the project manager. At the time of the last communication 6 different options were on the table for this project. In the time since, the options have been narrowed down and the option chosen was a new trunk storm sewer parallel to the roadway that outlets to Carver Creek. The preferred option, a treatment basin in Community Park, was abandoned due to strong opposition from the neighboring residents. Water quality treatment will be done where feasible within the right-of-way. The project is currently in final design. WSB is the design lead on the project and they have been informed of and provided the District's rules. Staff has asked WSB to inform the LMRWD how they will comply with the rules.

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.

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

Dakota County - MN River Greenway: No new information to report since last update. 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: No new information to report since last update.

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

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: This project has begun. Preliminary observation by the LMRWD caused staff concerns. An inspection was made of the project in order to establish a baseline. Staff is preparing a report from the inspection, which will be included in the next Administrator report. Project website: <https://www.highway101improvements.com/>

Cities of Richfield/Bloomington - TH 77 & 77th Street underpass: No new information to report since last update. There is a bill pending in the legislature asking for funding for this project.

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: No new information to report since last update. 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.

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: No new information since last update. The DNR's website for this project is <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/upperpost/index.html>.

USACOE/USFWS - Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland: I am hoping to get an update on this project at the river resource forum. Project website: <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/1865/Bass-Ponds-EAW>

Upcoming meetings/events

- UMWA - Thursday, April 16, 2020, 12:30pm to 1:30pm, check with District Administrator to join
- USACE River Resource Forum #116 - April 21-22, National Eagle Center, Wabasha, MN - This event has been changed to a one day online event
- Metro MAWD - Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 7:00 - 9:00pm, Capitol Region WD 595 Aldine Street, St. Paul - **CANCELLED**
- Freshwater Society Ice Out/Loon In - **CANCELLED**
- [State of Water Conference](#) - April 30-May 1, 2020, Grand Casino Mille Lacs - **CANCELLED**

- USACE River Resource Forum #117 - August 25-26, Savage City Hall
- USACE River Resource Forum #118 - December 1-2, MN Valley US Fish & Wildlife Service Visitor's Center, Bloomington, MN



Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>

Property tax relief proposal: response needed by Monday, April 13

David Hough, County Administrator

<david_hough_county_administrator@service.govdelivery.com>

Reply-To: david_hough_county_administrator@service.govdelivery.com

To: naiadconsulting@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 9, 2020 at 3:28 PM



HENNEPIN COUNTY MINNESOTA

Attached please find a policy proposal related to property tax relief to those taxpayers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 related matters.

Many Minnesota counties have attempted to work with the Minnesota Legislature on this issue, however at this time, the legislature has not expressed an interest in changing the current property tax payment due dates. We have been informed that counties as taxing authorities have the tools to accommodate and will need to use their delegated statutory powers.

The attached proposed policy incorporates a strategy in which Hennepin County will abate penalties normally associated with late payments if first-half 2020 property tax payments due by May 15, 2020 are made on or before July 15, 2020. This automatic penalty abatement will only apply to taxpayers whose annual total tax bill (single or multiple properties) is less than \$100,000. The policy also provides a process by which taxpayers exceeding the \$100,000 may seek an exception which is within the discretion of the county.

Fundamental to this policy is the need to ensure that government has the revenues necessary to carry on services. It is critical that all taxpayers who are able to do so pay their first-half payments by May 15, 2020 to support continuity of government. With receipt of tax payments, Hennepin County will disburse collected funds to taxing districts as soon as possible.

The policy also provides that the county may consider requests from taxing districts for advances of levied, but uncollected taxes, on an emergency basis for limited situations such as payroll and debt service payments. We will do our best to assist you.

We are asking that you review this proposal and provide your feedback and concerns to David Lawless, Hennepin County Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Lawless may be reached by email at David.lawless@hennepin.us or by calling 612-348-4860.

There is an urgency to your response as the county is under significant time constraints to implement these changes. We ask that you respond by end of business on Monday, April 13, 2020. I will be advancing a resolution to the county board for consideration at its committee meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

I want to thank each of you for your understanding and willingness to support our efforts in assisting those taxpayers who have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours truly,

David

David J. Hough

Hennepin County Administrator

- [FINAL.3 Proposed property tax relief for taxpayers of Hennepin County - DRAFT 4-9-2020.pdf](#)

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 **FINAL.3_Proposed_property_tax_relief_for_taxpayers_of_Hennepin_County_-_DRAFT_4-9-2020.pdf**
152K



Memorandum

DATE: April 8, 2020 *(Email transmittal)*

TO: Linda Loomis, Administrator, LMRWD

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

SUBJECT: Stormwater Visit Summary
April 3, 2020, 7:50–8:40 a.m.
CSAH 61—Flying Cloud Drive
Owner: Hennepin County and Contractor: Ames Construction

WEATHER: 30°F, cloudy per AccuWeather

SITE CONDITIONS/PHASE

The majority of road construction is complete, and the site is now open to all traffic. There was no active construction at the time of inspection.

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 in Carver and Hennepin counties.

GENERAL NOTES/OBSERVATIONS

Following the site visit, Nathan Bren was contacted to discuss the areas of concern listed below. The areas addressed include the box culvert located just to the east of Erie Lane and the culvert located just to the west of the Richard T. Anderson Conservatory. Sediment levels at the inlets of these culverts are increasing, and Nathan was contacted to determine whether plans are in place for these areas. Nathan noted that Ames has not received word from Hennepin County or the Technical Evaluation Panel on how to address these areas. Nathan also noted that these areas are affected by off-site erosion issues to the north.

- Photos were taken documenting drainage in critical areas throughout the project. Critical areas include the following:
 - Culvert near entrance to JMH Automotive
 - Erosion is occurring near the inlet of the culvert (photos 3–5).
 - A small sediment delta is forming at the outlet of the culvert (photo 10).

Memorandum *(cont'd)*

Page 2 of 5

- Box culvert near Erie Lane
 - Sediment levels at the inlet and outlet of the culvert are approaching the top of the culvert (photos 17–23).
- Culvert near Moon Valley gravel pit
 - Some sediment is collecting near the inlet (photos 34–35).
 - Erosion is occurring near culverts located adjacent to the entrance of the Moon Valley gravel pit (photos 27–30, 36).
- Culvert near Richard T. Anderson Conservatory
 - Sediment delta has formed at the outlet of the culvert (photos 49 and 51).
- Box culvert near Dell Road
 - Signs of erosion are visible near the inlet to the box culvert (photos 71–73).
- Water flowing through the above-listed areas appeared clear at the time of inspection.
- Erosion and sluffing occurring outside of the project limits, near the entrance to the Richard T. Anderson Conservatory (photos 57–59)

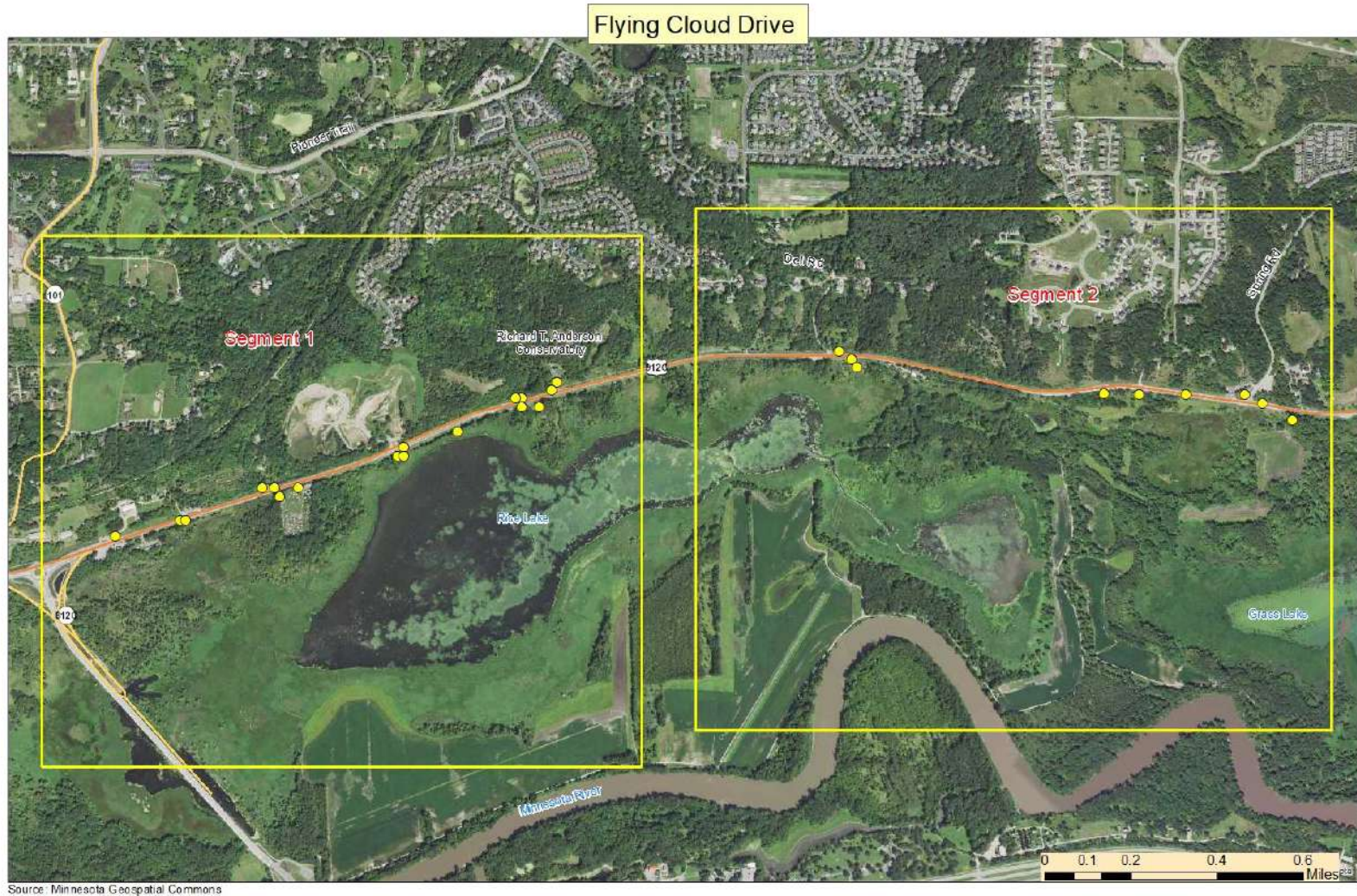
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to monitor the sediment levels at the outlets of the five culverts listed above throughout the site. Maintain as necessary to ensure that the hydraulic features and BMPs function as designed.
- Remove sediment from the box culvert adjacent to Erie Lane (photos 17–23).
- Stabilize eroding slope near box culvert (photos 71–73).
- Continue every-other-week site visits. The next scheduled inspection is April 17, 2020.

Memorandum

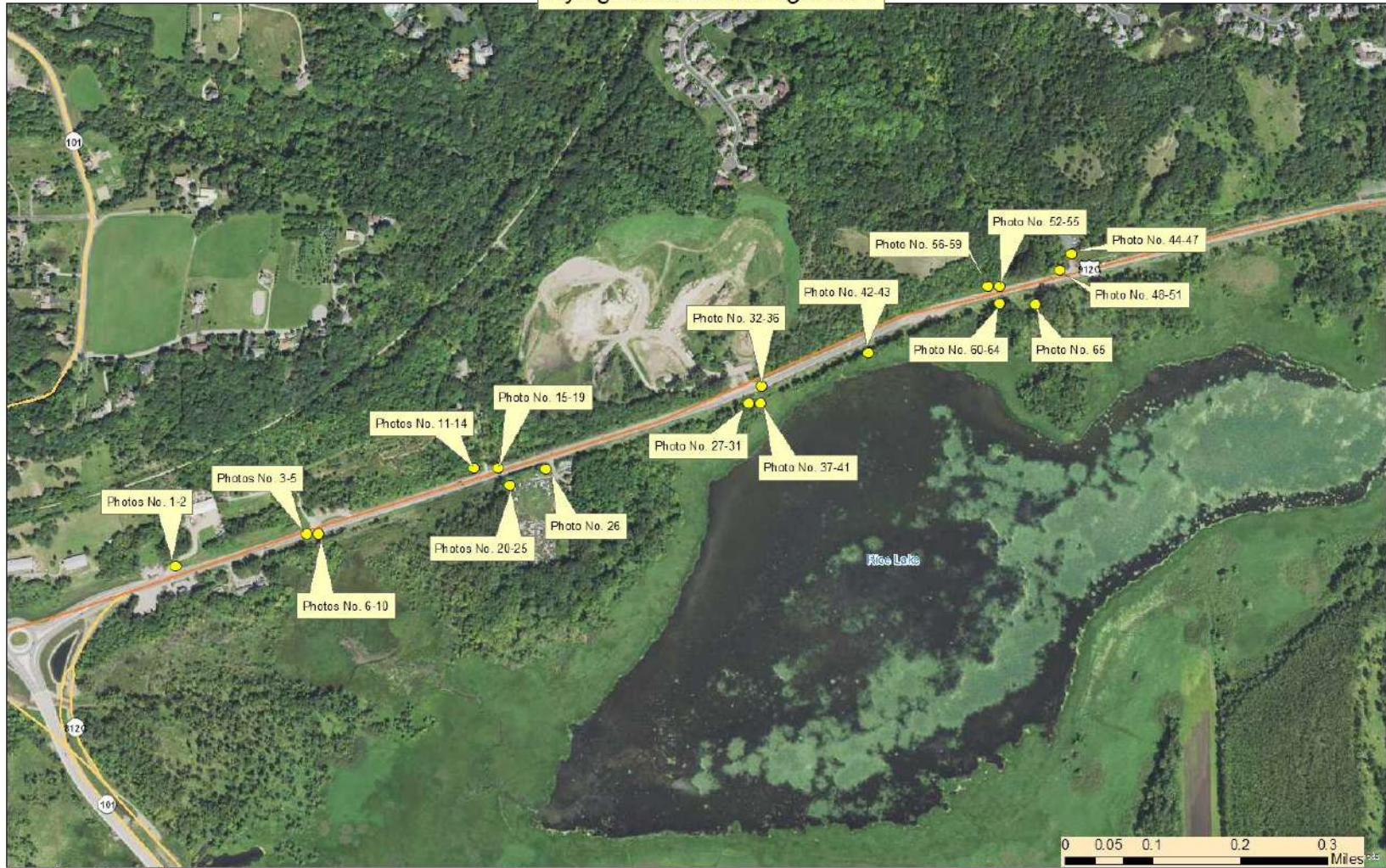


Below is a map indicating where photos were taken. Photos include observations, coordinates, a white arrow indicating north, and a yellow arrow indicating flow direction.



Memorandum (cont'd)

Flying Cloud Drive Segment 1



Source: Minnesota Geospatial Commons

Memorandum (cont'd)

Flying Cloud Drive Segment 2



Source: Minnesota Geospatial Commons



1



2



3



4



5



6

Outlet of culvert near JMH Automotive. Silt fence is being utilized to trap sediment on site but may be impeding water flow. Site appears generally stable and water appears clear.



44°48'50.0"N 93°31'55.0"W

7



44°48'50.0"N 93°31'55.0"W

8



44°48'50.0"N 93°31'55.0"W

9

Outlet of culvert near JMH Automotive. Silt fence is being utilized to trap sediment on site but may be impeding water flow. Site appears generally stable and water appears clear.



Small sediment delta

44°48'50.0"N 93°31'55.0"W

10

Slope near Erie Lane. Appears generally stable



44°48'54.0"N 93°31'42.0"W

11

Slope near Erie Lane. Appears generally stable



44°48'54.0"N 93°31'42.0"W

12



13



14



15



16



17



18

Sediment collecting in the inlet of the box culvert near Erie Lane



19

44°48'54.1"N 93°31'40.7"W

Sediment collecting in the outlet of the box culvert near Erie Lane



20

44°48'53.8"N 93°31'39.6"W

Sediment collecting in the outlet of the box culvert near Erie Lane



21

44°48'53.8"N 93°31'39.6"W

Sediment collecting in the outlet of the box culvert near Erie Lane



22

44°48'53.8"N 93°31'39.6"W

Sediment collecting in the outlet of the box culvert near Erie Lane



23

44°48'53.8"N 93°31'39.6"W



24

44°48'53.8"N 93°31'39.6"W



25



26



27



28



29



30

Inlet of culvert near Moon Valley gravel pit.



44°48'58.8"N 93°31'19.9"W

31

Outlet of culvert under the entrance to Moon Valley Gravel Pit



44°48'59.4"N 93°31'18.2"W

32

Straw blanket near the entrance to Moon Valley Gravel Pit



44°48'59.4"N 93°31'18.2"W

33

Inlet of culvert near Moon Valley gravel pit. Some sediment collecting in front of the inlet



44°48'59.4"N 93°31'18.2"W

34

Inlet of culvert near Moon Valley gravel pit. Some sediment collecting in front of the inlet



44°48'59.4"N 93°31'18.2"W

35

Minor erosion occurring near the entrance to Moon Valley Gravel Pit



44°48'59.4"N 93°31'18.2"W

36

Rock applied to slope adjacent to Rice Lake



37

Rock applied to slope adjacent to Rice Lake



38



39



40



41



42



43



44



45



46



47



48

Outlet of culvert near Richard T. Anderson Conservatory. Water flowing appeared to be clear. Small sediment delta forming



49



50

Outlet of culvert near Richard T. Anderson Conservatory. Water flowing appeared to be clear. Small sediment delta forming



51



52



53



54



55



56



57



58



59



60



61



62



63



64



65



66

Minor erosion on sideslope near Dell Road



67



68

Inlet of box culvert near Dell Road



69



70

Erosion near inlet to box culvert adjacent to Dell Road



71

Erosion near inlet to box culvert adjacent to Dell Road



72

Erosion near inlet to box culvert adjacent to Dell Road



73

Inlet to box culvert adjacent to Dell Road. Water flowing through appeared to be clear



74

Outlet of box culvert near Dell Road. Minor erosion



75



76

Outlet of box culvert near Dell Road.



77

Outlet of box culvert near Dell Road.



78



79



80



81



82



83



84

Stormwater pond adjacent to Eden Prairie Road. Site appears stable



85

44°49'06.9"N 93°29'19.3"W

Infiltration area adjacent to Eden Prairie Road



86

44°49'06.0"N 93°29'13.1"W

Infiltration area adjacent to Eden Prairie Road



87

44°49'06.0"N 93°29'13.1"W



88

44°49'06.0"N 93°29'13.1"W



89

44°49'06.1"N 93°29'05.4"W



90

44°49'06.1"N 93°29'05.4"W



91



92



93



94



95



96

Stormwater pond adjacent to Spring Road



97