



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

### **Agenda Item**

#### **Item 5. B. - 2020 Metro Children's Water Festival**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

The LMRWD has supported the Metro Children's Water Festival for many years. The Festival has always been held the last Wednesday in September at the State Fairgrounds. It has been a very popular event and every year there is a waiting list for classes that want to attend. Last year they doubled the number of classrooms that could be accommodated at the Festival by setting up duplicate stations. Stations are set up and manned by the MPCA, DNR, Met Council, NRCS, and more. It targets fourth grade students.

This year because of COVID-19 the in-person Festival has been cancelled. The Metro Conservation Districts, who organize the event have decided to make the Festival virtual this year. In the past, the LMRWD has paid for transportation to the event for schools from the LMRWD. This year the Festival organizers have asked if the LMRWD would consider contributing to the event to help offset costs incurred in developing the virtual event. They plan to have professionally produced events which. A letter requesting sponsorship is attached. The 2020 LMRWD budget include \$1,650 for the Festival.

### **Attachments**

2020 Metro Children's Water Festival Sponsorship Letter

2020 Metro Children's Water Festival Sponsor form

### **Recommended Action**

Motion to authorize sponsorship of Virtual 2020 Metro Children's Water Festival

June 2020

Dear Metro Area Children's Water Festival Partner,

The **Metro Area Children's Water Festival (CWF)** planning committee decided to cancel the 2020 in-person festival due to the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver the 23<sup>rd</sup> festival via online platforms – providing the ability the opportunity to educate even more 4<sup>th</sup> graders about our water resources!

We hope that you will join us by being a sponsor for this unusual year. Since 1998, this festival has educated and inspired nearly 30,000 students and over 1,000 teachers. We are proud to continue this education collaboration to celebrate and protect our most precious resource—water.

### **What is the Children's Water Festival?**

Traditionally, the CWF takes place each September at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds and provides engaging, hands-on water education to about 1,800 fourth grade students free of charge. With scores of stations, students learn about many aspects of water: measuring water quality, where the water goes when the toilet gets flushed, how tiny bugs serve as indicators of water quality, the importance of wetlands, and basic water science and much more. The Children's Water Festival strives to not only increase knowledge about our essential water resources, but also to connect youth to water, and inspire them to take action in conserving and protecting water. In 2020, we hope to offer the same engaging presentations in September, but the delivery will be online. Many presenters are interested in delivering their learning station in one or more format: live on the festival day (September 30), video, lesson plan, or other creative delivery method.

### **Why sponsor the Children's Water Festival**

- Help educate metro-area (and beyond) 4<sup>th</sup> graders on water resources
- Inspire students (and teachers) to increase their water literacy and protect water for the future
- Assist schools in meeting state science standards with fun and engaging content
- Be part of the largest and longest-running water education program in Minnesota
- Be recognized as an entity that supports water and environmental learning. Sponsors will be recognized at the online festival, in the festival booklet, on [www.metrocwf.org](http://www.metrocwf.org), and through press releases and promotion. Sponsors will also receive a certificate of sponsorship and can use the CWF logo on their website.

### **How will funds be used?**

Funds are needed to create virtual content and general program expenses, such as the CWF website. We hope to keep the cost to a minimum, but we want to offer a high-quality virtual festival to engage students. Any unused funds will be carried over to the 2021 event.

### **How to sponsor**

Please fill out and return the enclosed sponsor form. Thank you for supporting this event that gives so much to the children of Minnesota and identifies the metro area as a national leader in environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ann White Eagle

Metro Children's Water Festival

651-266-7271 or [ann.whiteeagle@ramseycounty.us](mailto:ann.whiteeagle@ramseycounty.us)

# Metropolitan Conservation Districts



## 2020 METRO CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL SPONSOR FORM

Sponsors will be recognized on the website, in promotional materials and will receive a certificate of sponsorship.

\_\_\_\_\_ We would like to be a Festival sponsor by funding educational materials, presenters and facility rental: *(Please circle one.)*

\$250

\$500

\$1000

\$2000

Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about the Children's Water Festival, or where your contribution may best fit, please call: Ann White Eagle (651-266-7271)

-----  
**Please make check payable to: Metro Conservation Districts**

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print this exactly as you wish it to appear in the program.)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, City or Town, Zip)

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Ann White Eagle  
Ramsey County Parks & Recreation  
2015 Van Dyke Street  
Maplewood, MN 55109

*"Water Connects Everyone  
and Everything on Earth!"*



[www.metrocwf.org](http://www.metrocwf.org)