



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

September 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

Dakota County Manager

Manager vacancy has been posted to the LMRWD website. A mailing was sent to all residential addresses in Dakota County. I have asked Dakota County to post the vacancy on its Citizens Advisory page.

Watershed Based Funding

The Minnesota River North group met on August 17, 2020 and agreed to work on priorities for determining which projects to fund. The group is planning to meet again in September; however a date has not been scheduled. The addition of the Bank Stabilization for Study Area #3 was acknowledged. The City of Eden Prairie is a voting member of the group and is supporting this project. Lower MN River North has been allocated \$673,699 for FY 2020/2021.

The Minnesota River South group held its 4th meeting July 23, 2020. Its 5th meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2020. There was discussion about allocating percentages of funding into "buckets", such as 70-80% for projects, 5-20% for education and 10-20% for studies. Lower MN River South has been allocated \$829,075 for FY 2020/2021. Meeting notes are available (for Lower Minnesota River South) if Managers wish to see them

One Watershed One Plan - Planning Area 56

The next meeting of this group has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm. The group has been asked to come with ideas about the priorities and goals for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed.

US Army Corps of Engineers River Resource Forum

On August 25th, I joined the virtual River Resource Forum. There was some discussion about the amount of invasive carp species that have been found recently in the upper regions of the Mississippi River. They don't believe that a breeding population has moved upstream. The reason for the number of invasive carp that have been found is because of the high water. Carp are able to circumvent the barriers during floods.

There was a discussion of sediment monitoring by the USGS in partnership with other agencies. The Corps talked about the value of the sediment data. I pointed out that the monitoring location the LMRWD was using with the USGS will not be replaced. I also pointed out the flow data was also collected from the Fort Snelling location. The Corps mentioned that there is still a gauge in Savage, however there is no sediment monitoring equipment at that location.

Technical Assistance for Residents in Hennepin County

I have been working with Karen Galles of Hennepin County Environment and Energy about providing technical services to LMRWD residents that live in Hennepin County. This would be similar to agreements the LMRWD has with the SWCDs in Carver, Dakota and Scott Counties. An agreement has been provided to the District and will come to the Board for approval after legal Counsel has reviewed it.

Eden Prairie Oak Savannah

At the August Board meeting Manager Raby expressed concern with damage to the natural area below Flying Cloud Airport due to the public creating pathways. The Board asked that the City be contacted to see if there is anything the LMRWD can to help protect the area. I contacted the City but have not been successful in getting a response. I will continue to communicate with the City until I get a response.

Watershed Plan Projects

Gully Inventory and condition assessment: No new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: No new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

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: There is no new information to report since the last update.

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

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): The LMRWD has received a list of property owners the City would like notified. Signage about the project will be posted once construction starts. We are still waiting for written permission from the City.

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 the last update.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/targeted-bmps-downtown-shakopee>

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): No new information since last update.

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):

No new information to report since the last update.

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: No new information to report since last update.

Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams: Work on the gap analysis is continuing on this project.

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

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

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

Project Reviews

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community: - No new information to report since the last update.

Greystone Development/ Canterbury Park: - This project is on the September agenda for approval.

Veterans Memorial Bridge: City of Shakopee - The City has placed this project on hold temporarily

Quarry Lake Park Improvements: City of Shakopee - The LMRWD received notice that only the mountain bike trail portion of this project will be moving forward.

Prairie Heights: City of Eden Prairie - No new information to report since the last update.

Carver County CSAH 10: City of Chaska - No new information to report since the last update..

Project website: <https://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/public-works/projects-studies/highway-10-study-victoria-chaska-area>

Water Treatment Expansion Project: City of Carver - Staff has reviewed this project and determined that it does not trigger the District's rules.

Keyland Development: City of Shakopee - No new information to report since the last update.

Hentges Industrial park: City Shakopee - No new information to report since the last update.

9960 Deerbrook, Chanhassen: No new information to report since last update.

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

Timber Creek Residential Development EAW: Carver - No new information to report since last update.

MNDOT TH13 Improvement Study: The LMRWD has not received any updates on this project.

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>

HCRRR MN River Bluffs Regional Trail: Construction on this project began. The LMRWD is waiting for the amended documents to determine whether the changed will meet the District's rules.

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: The District received notification from MNDOT that they want to meet with the District to discuss this project. Previous work was temporary and MNDOT is preparing for the permanent project. Staff is working to schedule a meeting.

MNDOT - TH5: Work continues on this project.

Project 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: This project is complete and they are working on the punch list.

City of Burnsville - Quarry Property, LLC - No new information on this project since last update.

City of Carver - Levee rehabilitation: Staff is meeting with the City on Monday, September 14, 2020.

City of Carver - Jonathan Parkway upgrades - Comments have been provided to WSB, the consulting Engineers for this project. The LMRWD is recommending deferring authority for Rules B - Erosion and Sediment Control and D - Stormwater Management, but that the LMRWD retain permitting authority for Rule F - Steep Slopes. The LMRWD Comments are attached for your review.

Project website: <https://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/public-works/projects-studies/jonathan-carver-parkway-highway-11-improvements>

Dakota County - MN River Greenway: A field inspection to review wetland boundaries with respect to the pedestrian bridge is scheduled for Thursday August 27, 2020 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm. A report from the inspection is attached. Project website:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/About/TrailPlanning/Pages/minnesota-river.aspx>

City of Burnsville - Freeway Dump and Landfill: The LMRWD received the following notice from the MPCA about this project:

This is a follow up to the public comment period process regarding the cleanup process at Freeway Landfill and Dump. The following information will be shared publicly soon, and we wanted to make sure all of you were given the information in advance. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Update on public comment period process

In June, MPCA completed the public comment process for redesign of the Freeway Landfill and Dump. Public comment was requested on the three variations of the dig and line option, which is a process to dig up the waste to allow a new modern landfill to be constructed at the same location to contain the dug up waste. During this process, MPCA received 23 responses from citizens and interested parties including comments from the three adjacent cities of Burnsville, Bloomington, and Savage. A few consistent themes emerged from the submitted comments:

1. Concerns about final landfill height and/or placement.
2. Cost as the most important factor. These commenters prefer lowest cost options and do not want taxpayers to finance a private redevelopment.
3. A position that the only option is dig and haul, which removes the waste from the landfill and transports it to a new permanent site. These commenters insisted that the dig and line option is not viable and did not want to suggest that it was an option by commenting on the design variations.

MPCA provided responses to all comments that included specific questions pertinent to the project.

Next steps

After an evaluation of the design options and a review of all public comments, the MPCA is recommending variation c for the dig and line option. This "hybrid" variation balances the waste footprint size and the landfill height and offers a few notable benefits: It preserves the natural landscape of the Minnesota River Valley, provides area for redevelopment along the Interstate 35W corridor, and offers greater flexibility if waste quantities vary during construction. The dig and haul option will also move forward as planned.

Update on project timing

Due to various project setbacks, the project schedule has been delayed for approximately one year. The MPCA intends to offer two options for bid in the fall of 2021: a dig and line (variation c) option and a dig and haul option. The MPCA plans to present the bid results to the Legislature at the start of its session in January 2022. This schedule is contingent on the MPCA obtaining sufficient access to the property in order to prepare bid documents, proceed with the bid process, and for construction work for both options.

Project website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/freeway-landfill-and-dump>

Note: *This project was previously reported as the Burnsville Sanitary Landfill. There are two landfill projects going on in Burnsville. The one reported on this month is a cleanup of a super fund site - Freeway Dump and Landfill. The second landfill project is a request from the Burnsville Sanitary Landfill (owned by Water Management) to expand the amount of waste that it can bring to the site.*

City of Eden Prairie - Peterson Wetland Bank: A new application under the Wetland Conservation Act has been made for this project. A Technical Evaluation Panel was convened and met September 10th to walk through the application. The City of Eden Prairie is the LGU for this project and the majority of the Wetland is located in that City.

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: No new information to report since the last update. (Based on observation it appears this project is nearly complete.

Project website: <https://www.highway101improvements.com/>

Cities of Richfield/Bloomington - TH 77 & 77th Street underpass: 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: There are still some items that the LMRWD considers incomplete. Staff will have to contact the County to see who will be responsible for these items.

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>

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

USACOE/USFWS - Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland: I received an update on this item at the River Resource Forum. The bid was awarded to S. M. Hentges. The project was delayed because a portion of the project is on private property (Cargill) and an easement had to be worked out. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for September 15th and construction is expected to start in October.

Project website: <https://www.scottcountymn.gov/1865/Bass-Ponds-EAW>

Upcoming meetings/events

- UMWA - Thursday, September 17, 2020, 12:30pm to 1:30pm, contact District Administrator to join
- [Cycling, Stormwater and Suds](#) - Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:00pm to 5:30pm, Broken Clock Brewing Cooperative, 3134 California Street NE, Minneapolis
- [Virtual MS4 permit chloride discussion](#) - Monday, October 5, 2020, 8:30am to 12:00 noon
- [Metro MAWD](#) - Tuesday, October 20, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
- [Water Resource Conference](#) - October 20-21, virtual conference, registration can be accessed through link provided.
- [BWSR Academy](#) - October 27th - 29, 2020, Virtual, no charge

- USACE River Resource Forum #118 - December 1-2, MN Valley US Fish & Wildlife Service Visitor's Center, Bloomington, MN
- [MAWD Annual Conference](#) - December 1st - 4th, 2020, Virtual



Young Environmental Consulting
Group, LLC

Technical Memorandum

To: Linda Loomis, Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

From: Madison Jeseritz, QCIS
Katy Thompson, PE, CFM
Della Schall Young, CPESC, PMP

Date: September 4, 2020

Re: Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian Bridge—Notice of Application

Dakota County and Bolton & Menk, Inc. have applied for a Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act wetland delineation with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) Parks & Trails Division is the local government unit for the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and has provided the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (District or LMRWD) with the Notice of Application and wetland delineation report for review for the proposed Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian Bridge.

The Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) representatives from BWSR, the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), MnDNR, LMRWD (represented by the district administrator and Young Environmental Consulting Group [Young Environmental]), and Bolton & Menk, Inc. met on-site on August 27, 2020, to review the wetland delineation report conclusions completed on July 7, 2020, by Bolton & Menk, Inc. Dakota County and Bolton & Menk, Inc. have been in discussion with the District regarding the upcoming Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian Bridge project but have not yet applied for an Individual Project Permit from the District. As detailed in the wetland delineation report, Bolton & Menk, Inc. performed a field investigation to identify any boundary changes or new natural resources as well as reassess the 2013 delineations. Bolton & Menk, Inc. reviewed three sample points in the field and found the hydrology of the study area to be similar to 2013.

Summary

<u>Project Name:</u>	Minnesota River Greenway Pedestrian Bridge
<u>Purpose:</u>	WCA Notice of Application
<u>Project Size:</u>	7.72 acres
<u>Location:</u>	North of the MN River Greenway Trailhead, south side of the MN River, between MN Trunk Highway (TH) 77 and Interstate 494
<u>Recommended Board Action:</u>	None, information only

Wetland Delineation Report Summary

The original delineation was performed in 2013; in 2020, Bolton & Menk, Inc. completed a delineation to determine potential wetland locations on the property for any changes to the 2013 delineation boundary as well as any new aquatic resources. Four wetlands and one tributary stream were found to exist.

The District manages stormwater runoff into calcareous fens through the implementation of the high value resource area overlay district, and the proposed project encroaches upon the Gun Club Lake South Fen high value resource area. In 1993, the report by Midwest Natural Resources identified calcareous fens along the study corridor. In the 2013 field investigation, one calcareous fen was found, which is 1,500 feet north of the 2020 proposed Project.

Site Visit Findings

The TEP Committee met on-site with Bolton & Menk, Inc. on August 27, 2020, to verify the conclusions from the report in the field.

- Sample point 1 (Wetland 12) was reviewed in the field (**Figure 1**); however, it was preapproved, and no activity has been proposed here. The MnDNR questioned whether the proposed activity would affect Wetland 12. No answer was provided. However, Bolton & Menk, Inc. will research and incorporate the response in the upcoming environmental assessment worksheet.
- Sample point 2 (Wetland 13) has groundwater seepage, causing pools and floods across the trail (Figure 2).
- Sample point 3 (Wetland 10) reviewed in the field is a Type 7 woody swamp (Figure 3).
- Bolton & Menk, Inc. will complete a hydrologic study to prevent impacts to the project area and surrounding locations, and they will also be working on a fen

avoidance plan.

- The bridge and certain aspects of the project will impact floodplain areas. However, it is unclear how piling would impact the project. A no-rise evaluation for floodplain impacts will be completed by another party.

Figure 1. Sample Point 1 Location (August 27, 2020)



Figure 2. Sample Point 2 Location (August 27, 2020)



Figure 3. Sample Point 3 Location (August 27, 2020)



Recommendations

No Board action is required at this time.