



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

November 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

Seminary Fen Ravine Stabilization

When LMRWD staff conducted a field inspection near Seminary Fen to kick-off the gully inventory, we noticed that silt fence installed for the ravine stabilization project in 2016 had not been removed. The city of Chaska was informed that the fence was still in place. The District received notice on November 6th that the silt fence has been removed.

Watershed Based Funding

The Minnesota River North group met on November 4, 2020. Discussion centered on how projects would be ranked and what criteria should be in order to rank projects. Variables for criteria are to be edited by November 20, 2020. The total amount requested is 4X the amount available. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 9:30am, December 21, 2020. Lower MN River North has been allocated \$673,699 for FY 2020/2021.

The Minnesota River South group held its 5th meeting September 18, 2020. Its 6th meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2020. The group agreed to allocate 15% to feasibility studies, 10% to education & outreach and 75% to on-the-ground projects. They also agreed that percentages be flexible so that they could be shifted depending on the projects that are submitted. Lower MN River South has been allocated \$829,075 for FY 2020/2021.

Meeting notes are available (for both groups) if Managers wish to see them.

One Watershed One Plan - Planning Area 56

The last meeting of this group was September 15, 2020. The next meeting of this group has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 24th from 11:00 am to 1:00pm. There has been no agreement as to the boundaries of the planning area (Managers may remember there were a few different options). It is likely that the area will be those areas that do not currently have a watershed management plan, since many of the entities in the area want to be on an advisory group rather than on the planning committee.

Data Management

The date of completion for this project has been extended. The person assigned this project by the contractor has had some health issues, so a new person, Mariah Helgeson, has been assigned to the project. Mariah and I met virtually to discuss how to organize the District's data. We now have a list of meta-tags by which to categorize documents as they are stored. The next step is to determine a file structure and then determine which cloud service will work the best for the District. Board members should think about whether or not Managers want access to the database and what they would want access to. Mariah and I met on Tuesday, November 17, to discuss different options for cloud storage. The next step is to consult with Young Environmental to discuss how they will work with the LMRWD system.

2020 Financial Audit

On November 10, 2020, Redpath, (auditors for the LMRWD), Carver County Finance, (LMRWD financial services provider) and I met to discuss the 2020 audit of LMRWD finances. The audit is scheduled to be conducted the week of March 22, 2021.

Ike's Creek Chloride Monitoring

The US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has a "Friends of the Refuge" group that has been able to get funding from Cargill to support Chloride monitoring of Ike's Creek. USFWS has been discussing monitoring goals for Ike' Creek with the LMRWD and Chloride has been identified as the most urgent because of the plans the City of Bloomington has to develop that headwaters area of the Creek. LMRWD and USFWS have sporadically collected and tested samples, but sampling has not been consistent. The Metropolitan Council has agreed to collect and test samples regularly this winter. Since the Met Council and the LMRWD already have an agreement for monitoring Eagle Creek, it has been determined that an agreement for sampling and testing Ike's Creek between the LMRWD and the Met Council would be the easiest path forward. The LMRWD will then invoice USFWS Friends of the Refuge for reimbursement.

How's My Waterway

I joined a virtual meeting on November 17, 2020 to learn about a new portal the EPA has for the public to learn about quality around the country. The portal can be used to look up water quality in any neighborhood in the country. The portal can be found using this [link](#). The information provided comes from various sources, but is mostly from the MPCA.

Watershed Plan Projects

Gully Inventory and condition assessment:

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

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: This item is on the November 2020 agenda.

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.rpbcwd.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 City Manager was contacted November 4, 2020. The District has not received a response

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

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The Savage City Council approved the cooperative agreement between the City and the LMRWD. The City has been authorized to go ahead with the feasibility work outlined in the [scope of work](#). (Approval of the scope of work will be on the December agenda).

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

Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This report has been completed and the City is evaluating and prioritizing projects.

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

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This project is also called Ridge Creek. The Board approved a permit for this project at the October 21, 2020 meeting.

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 last update.

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

Hennepin County Chloride Project (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): A meeting for the County-wide Chloride project is scheduled for 1:00pm Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

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: No new information to report since last update.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/geomorphic-assessment-trout-streams>

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

Credit River Outfall Repair: City of Savage - The LMRWD received a notice from the MN Department of Natural Resources that the City of Savage is planning dredging and repairs to the outfall of Credit River as it passes under Trunk Highway 13. Staff reviewed the proposed plans and submitted comments to the DNR. Comments can be viewed using this [link](#).

Watermark in Savage: City of Savage - No new information to report since last update.

Texas Roadhouse: City of Shakopee - This project is on the November 2020 agenda.

Southbridge Crossing 6th Addition: City of Shakopee - A permit was approved on this project at the September 2020 Board meeting. The project developer has come back for a permit to begin construction of the footings and foundation. An amendment to the permit is on the November 2020 agenda

Veterans Memorial Bridge: City of Shakopee - A permit was granted for this project at the October 2020 Board meeting.

Quarry Lake Park Improvements: City of Shakopee - The LMRWD received a Notice of Application for wetland delineation on Monday, November 16, 2020.

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>

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

Hentges Industrial park: City of 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: A field inspection of the project area to review the wetland delineation is scheduled for 9:30am, Thursday, November 19, 2020. Young Environmental will be sending staff to the inspection.

Project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy13savageburnsville/index.html>

Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization: The LMRWD received a query from a representative for this project. MnDOT has requested verification from the LMRWD that this project has approval from the LMRWD. This project was reviewed before the rules were adopted, so the District did not issue a permit. The representative for the project was requested to submit a permit for the project if the project has changed since it was last reviewed by the District.

Project website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/upperpost/index.html>

HCRRRA MN River Bluffs Regional Trail: Staff has reviewed changes made to this project and has determined that the permit does not need to be amended. An amendment will be made to the maintenance agreement to cover the additional work.

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: MnDOT has indicated that this project is complete and all ramps and roadways are open. The project will no longer appear on the monthly updates.

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 although the LMRWD had issues with some of the stormwater design, staff has decided to not pursue those issues. This project will no longer appear on the monthly updates.

City of Carver - Levee rehabilitation: The City was informed the Resolution of Support was adopted by the Board at the October 2020 meeting. The will be sent a copy of the executed resolution.

City of Carver - Jonathan Parkway upgrades (CSAH 11) - The LMRWD received additional information and has completed its review, which is attached. An on-line open house can be found on the project website link below. No action by the Board of Managers is needed at this time.

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

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 Burnsville - Freeway Dump and Landfill: No new information to report since last update.

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: No new information to report since last update.

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: The roadway was scheduled to open on November 9th.

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

Cities of Richfield/Bloomington - TH 77 & 77th Street underpass: This project is on the November 2020 agenda.

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

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.

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

USACOE/USFWS - Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland: Ribbon cutting for this project occurred virtually on November 6th.

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

Upcoming meetings/events

- UMWA - Thursday, November 19, 2020, 12:30pm to 1:30pm, contact District Administrator to join
- USACE River Resource Forum #118 - December 1, this meeting will be held virtually and has gone from a two day event to a one day meeting.
- [MAWD Annual Conference](#) - December 1st - 4th, 2020, Virtual conference
- Metro MAWD - Tuesday, January 19, 2020 7:00pm to 9:00pm