



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

### **Agenda Item**

#### **Item 6. F. - 2021 Legislative Action**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

On January 5, 2021, Lisa Frenette and I joined a virtual meeting with Kevin Bigalke of BWSR. It was the first day of the current legislative session and Lisa provided Kevin and me with an update on the complexity of this year's session, especially getting bills jacketed, introduced and heard. We discussed options for the LMRWD to pursue and what might be the best chance for success.

Last session, the LMRWD worked get a bill passed to revise the language in the appropriation of state funds to the District for dredge management. The language revision did not succeed because the Senate and the House could not come to agreement on an Environmental bill. Lisa, Kevin and I discussed revising the language to broaden the LMRWD's use of the funds to include funding of projects to reduce the sediment reaching the navigation channel. We discussed whether or not the LMRWD should submit two bills one to allow the District to use a portion of the funds to fill the gap created by the loss of the Clean Water Fund Grant for the Seminary Fen Ravine and a second to broaden the language to allow other uses of the funds (e.g. for sediment reduction projects). Lisa believes that two bills might be more problematic to introduce and get a hearing as there are already a lot of bills that are being introduced and getting a hearing may be difficult.

We discussed to potential impact COVID will have on revenues to the State moving forward and what affect that might have on the LMRWD appropriation. So far, there has been no impact; however, no one is able to say that there will not be an impact to the LMRWD appropriation. The Board should think about how it wants to proceed. Lisa will join the meeting to provide an update for the Board and discuss possible options for legislative action.

### **Attachments**

No attachments

### **Recommended Action**

No recommended action