



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

February 2021 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 Solicitation

Dakota County has informed me that they have received four (4) applications for the Lower Minnesota River Board of Managers. We should have a new Manager once the County process is complete. This will complete the full complement of Managers. We plan to ask the County to refer applicants that are not appointed to the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Watershed Based Funding

Lower MN River North has been allocated \$673,699 in total for FY 2020/2021. The LMRWD will receive funding for Study Area #3 from this pool of money. The application for the grant was submitted to BWSR and notification has been received that the LMRWD has been approved for a grant of \$127,732 and authorization to execute the grant agreement is on the February agenda.

Lower MN River South has been allocated \$829,075 for FY 2020/2021. The LMRWD did not receive any funds through this allocation.

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

All grants the LMRWD has received through BWSR must have an annual report filed through elink by February 1st. Reporting on all LMRWD grants is complete.

On February 2, 2021, watershed district administrators from the Metro Area met with BWSR staff to discuss the way that Clean Water Funds are allocated to the Metro Area. Concern was expressed by more than one administrator with the way BWSR has required the funds to be allocated. The general point was made that outside the Metro Area allocations are made to the Joint Powers Organizations that are responsible for implementation of the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Metro Area Administrators felt allocations within the Metro Area should be distributed to fund the Water Management Organization's (WMO) Plans, rather than set up arbitrary boundaries and ask all governmental units within those boundaries to decide how to distribute funds.

The rationale is that WMOs have State approved water management plans and that is what should be funded. BWSR's counter to that argument is that WMOs do not have enough buy-in from other governmental units. That is why BWSR has invited counties, cities and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to the table. BWSR will likely have similar conversations with counties, cities and SWCDs before the next distribution of funds.

Planning Area 56 One Watershed One Plan

The planning committee met with BWSR staff. The next step in this process will be to submit a request for funding to BWSR.

Sediment Monitoring with USGS

The final report has been released for the sediment monitoring the LMRWD was participating in with the Corps of Engineers and US Geological Survey (USGS). The report can be found using this link <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20211005>.

Joel Groten, who prepared the report also sent a link (<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2014/3038/pdf/fs2014-3038.pdf>) to information about the acoustic samplers that were used in the project.

James Fallon from USGS contacted the LMRWD to inform the district that the Met Council and the MPCA are interested in finding a better location for a streamgauge on the MN River now that Fort Snelling is gone. Managers may recall that the Fort Snelling location was damaged during the 2019 flood and Met Council decided not to replace it because it was too expensive to maintain. USGS has done some pretty extensive research on better flood hardened locations between Chaska and Fort Snelling. They are looking for other partners and want to know if the LMRWD is interested in becoming a partner should a location be found.

Watershed Plan Projects

Gully Inventory and condition assessment: Work continues on this project. There is no new information to report since last update.

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

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: This item is on the February 2021 agenda.

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

Riley Creek Cooperative project/Lower Riley Creek restoration: This project is complete. Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) will monitor the project area this spring and conducting maintenance over the course of the next two years. RPBCWD is working on submitting a request to the LMRWD for reimbursement. Project website: <http://www.rpbcwd.org/whats-happening/projects/lower-riley-creek-ecological-restoration>

Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project: The LMRWD legislative agenda is seeking to replace the grant that was lost on this project with other state funding. Legislators and BWSR support LMRWD efforts.

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

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): Construction began on this project. Utility locates were completed and initial tree clearing began. The project is currently on hold because of the extremely cold weather. The scheduled completion date has been extended to February 26th and may need to be extended further.

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

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The signed agreement was sent to the City of Savage. The City plans to have the feasibility and modeling complete in March and a final draft report complete in April. The City is planning to schedule a kick off meeting for this project shortly.

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

Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The City entered into an agreement with Barr Engineering to complete a study of the stormwater drainage in downtown Shakopee. The study was completed and a list of projects were identified and the City is currently reviewing the projects to narrow down the list

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

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The design and water quality evaluation that was part of this project is complete and construction is currently

underway.

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):

The LMRWD is continuing work with Dakota County SWCD to close out the grant on this project.

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

Hennepin County Chloride Project (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): The Countywide group held a meeting January 27, 2021. There was discussion about using funds on a Chloride reduction project at Parker's Lake in Plymouth. The group looked at a proposal from Fortin Consulting to provide a template Winter Maintenance Plan that would be targeted to property managers, commercial property owners and others. Finally, the group discussed a program that Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has been using to engage residents. It is a nation-wide program sponsored by the Izaak Walton League called Citizen Salt Watch. There was some discussion about the future of this project and whether or not there is a possibility to emulate this program locally, if the Izaak Walton League discontinues the program.

The Watershed Management Organizations with the Hennepin County portion of the Minnesota River Watershed pooled money allocated to them under the 2018 Metro-area Watershed Based Funding Program. This partnership includes the LMRWD, Riley/Purgatory/Bluff Creek Watershed District, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the Richfield/Bloomington Watershed Management Organization. Funding is used to provide cost share to private businesses and governmental units to purchase or upgrade equipment to reduce salt usage. An application has been received for the cost share program. Partners are scheduled to review the application on Thursday, February 18, 2021. The program details can be found on the LMRWD website using this link <http://lowermnriverwd.org/news/chloride-reduction-grants-available>

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

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

Project website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1695a2cf90b44ddba730aad399196405>

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: The City of Chaska notified the LMRWD that they plan to move ahead with this work this spring after snow melt and before leaf out.

Project Reviews

The LMRWD received notice of three developments two residential projects in Chanhassen and one commercial development in Bloomington. None of these projects met the threshold to trigger LMRWD rules

Mallard Farms - City of Eden Prairie - On January 30, 2021, the LMRWD received an application for construction of a Barn and Tool Room at 1635 Flying Cloud Drive. There is a question about whether or not any portion of the construction will impact the flood plain.

CSAH 61 - Carver County - This project is downstream of the area drained by the box culvert under Flying Cloud Drive that has been plagued by sediment (see picture below). The goal of the project is to redirect the flow of water downstream of the culvert to allow for the movement of sediment so that it does not block the culvert. This project first came to the attention of the LMRWD in December 2019.

Carver County has worked with US Fish & Wildlife Service (whose property is impacted by the channel) and has received permits necessary for the project. The County is ready to begin construction and was informed that a LMRWD permit is required for this project.

The concern the LMRWD has with this project is that the project treats a symptom but does not sure the disease - which is where is the sediment coming from. When the County and the DNR were informed of the LMRWD's concern, the response the LMRWD received was that addressing the sediment source is outside the scope of the project. LMRWD staff has identified several steep slopes and gullies that are possible sources for the sediment. LMRWD is reviewing the planned project and plans to meet with the City to look at possible sources of sediment (that have been identified through the gully inventory).



494 River Bridge - 494 & MN River - This project is part of a MNDOT improvement project for 494. The project proposes to repairs bridges from 34th Avenue to TH 13 (including the 494 bridge over the MN River). It will widen and reconstruct the existing trail, replace lighting and deteriorated concrete median, repair concrete pavement and reconstruct bituminous shoulder. Staff had a preliminary meeting with MNDOT on January 22, 2021 to discuss the project and its impacts to the water resources in the LMRWD.

Credit River Outfall Repair: - City of Savage - This project is to repair the Credit River outfall where it daylights after going under TH 13 in Savage. LMRWD staff met with the City of Savage, the DNR and Staff reviewed this project and submitted comments to the DNR. The LMRWD requested to review the no-rise evaluation that should have been done at the time of original construction. The City did not have a no-rise. LMRWD staff is meeting with the City and the DRN on Thursday, January 21, 2021 to discuss the project.

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

Shakopee Flats: City of Shakopee - This project is on the February agenda.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/river-bluff-development>

Southbridge Crossing 6th Addition: - City of Shakopee - No new information to report since last update.

Veterans Memorial Bridge: City of Shakopee - No new information to report since last update.

Quarry Lake Park Improvements: City of Shakopee - No new information to report since last update.

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 Shakopee - LMRWD commented on the EAW. A project is being planned for a large portion of the site. The LMRWD had an initial meeting with consultants on this project and has received an application for a permit, which is currently under review.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/hentges-industrial-park>

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

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

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/summerland-place>

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

Project website: <https://www.cityofcarver.com/timber-creek/>

MNDOT TH13 Improvement Study: There is no new information to report since the last update.

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

Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization: No new information to report since last update.

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

HCRRA MN River Bluffs Regional Trail: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.hennepin.us/riverbluffstrail>

MNDOT ADA Trail improvements in Mendota: No new information since last update.

MNDOT trail drainage improvements in Lilydale: No new information since last update.

City of Chanhassen - Moon Valley Gravel Pit: No new information to report since last update.

City of Carver - Levee rehabilitation: This item is on the January 2021 Board meeting agenda.

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>

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

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: There is no new information to report since the last update.

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

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 - 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: The Corps of Engineers has been posting updates on this project to its [Facebook](#) page .

Project website: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/Projects/Article/1467604/upper-mississippi-river-restoration-program-bass-ponds-marsh-wetland-habitat-re/>

Upcoming meetings/events

- UMWA monthly meeting- Thursday, February 18, 2021, 12:30 pm; contact District Administrator to join
- 2020 USACE River Resource Forums - April, August & December 2021, the April meeting is planned to be virtual
- Metro MAWD, Tuesday, July 20, 2021 and October 19, 2021