



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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March 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

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### **Dakota County Manager Solicitation**

Dakota County has chosen a new manager for the LMRWD Board of Managers. A formal announcement has not been made. The candidate has asked to meet with myself and County staff. A meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Planning Area 56 One Watershed One Plan**

The planning committee for this initiative has continued to meet to develop a grant proposal to begin work developing 1W1P.

### **Sutton Lake Outlet Project**

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District provided information about a water storage project they completed. A fact sheet for the project is attached.

## Watershed Plan Projects

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

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

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

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

**Riley Creek Cooperative project/Lower Riley Creek restoration:** This project is on the March 2021 agenda. Project website: <http://www.rpbcwd.org/whats-happening/projects/lower-riley-creek-ecological-restoration>

**Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project:** HF1621/SF2306 had a hearing before the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance & Policy committee on March 2, 2021 and was laid over for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill. Representative Greg Boe is the chief author on this bill in the house. We have not yet received a date for a hearing in the Senate. Senator Pratt is carrying the bill for the LMRWD in the Senate.

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

**East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding):** Construction continued once the weather warmed up. A change order was signed to extend the completion date. An additional complication was found when the contractor began work on the plunge pool at Crosstown Boulevard. A natural gas pipeline crosses the project area at that point. It was determined that the ground was frozen to a depth below the pipeline. The contractor did not want to continue with work in the area until the ground thaws, for safety reasons. The City of Chaska concurred and agreed to the delay. The

project manager for the LMRWD provided and update on the work, which is attached.

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

**Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding):** Work has begun on this project. There is no new information to report 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):** Work continues on this project. There is no new information to report since last update.

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

**PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding):** Work continues on this project. There is no new information to report 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):**

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 Hennepin County Chloride partnership met on March 3, 2021. The group approved a demonstration project in the Bassett Creek Watershed that will look to reduce Chloride entering Parkers Lake in Plymouth. There was a lot of discussion as to whether or not the project will reduce Chloride by capturing the Chloride or just divert it to another water body. It was made clear to the City of Plymouth that the goal of this demonstration is to reduce the amount of Chloride entering the environment and to capture as much of the Chlorides as possible and not to divert it to another water body.

The remainder of the discussion was about how to use the funds remaining. The group decided the remaining funds would be used to pay for training sessions. It costs i\$2,000 per session for an instructor.

The Watershed Management Organizations within 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. On Thursday, February 18, 2021, the Minnesota River WMOs met to review an application that was received under this program. The project was submitted by the City of Chaska to retrofit a snow plow with a segmented blade. The amount of the request was \$9,784. The request was approved. 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:** No new information to report since last update.

**MN River Corridor Plan:** Staff has been working on this plan for several months.

## Project Reviews

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**TH 41/CSAH 61 - City of Chaska** - The City of Chaska is ready to move forward with this project. LMRWD staff joined a meeting with City and County staff and consultants for the project on February 24, 2021.

**Mallard Farms - City of Eden Prairie** - This project is an application for construction of a Barn and Tool Room at 1635 Flying Cloud Drive. Staff has reviewed the necessary plans and specifications of this project to determine that there will not be any disturbance of the floodplain and the project does not lie within a High Value Resource Area. The total area disturbed by the project is below the threshold that will require a LMRWD permit.

**CSAH 61 - Carver County** - LMRWD staff met with Carver County on Thursday, February 18, 2021, to discuss this project. The County was asked to submit a permit for the project, which was done. The County has received approval from the USACE and US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS owns land that will be impacted by this project). The City of Chanhassen has issued a No-loss decision for wetland impacts.

The County submitted an application for a permit to the LMRWD.



**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. No new information to report since last update.

**Credit River Outfall Repair:** - City of Savage - This project is to repair the Credit River outfall where it daylight after going under TH 13 in Savage. The LMRWD met with the City of Savage and the DNR regarding this project. The LMRWD asked the City to consider some changes to the plans presented and to evaluate the impact this project may have on the floodplain and flood elevation.

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

**Shakopee Flats:** The permit for construction of this project was approved at the February 2021 Board of Managers meeting..

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 - A bill was introduced this session ([SF 1132](#)) by Senator Eric Pratt to stabilize Minnesota River bank in Shakopee. The City of Shakopee is requesting \$13 million in bonding money for this project. A similar request was introduced in the 2020 session. The LMRWD has contacted the City of Shakopee to discuss the City's plans; no response has been received.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/recreation/parks-trails/parks-trails-projects/memorial-park-bridge>

**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 - A portion of this property is being developed as Southwest Logistics and is on the March 2021 agenda.

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:** On March 4, 2021, at a meeting of the business advisory group, a preferred alternative has been chosen; a tight diamond grade separated interchange. The next step for the project will be to complete the environmental approvals for the improvements. Commencement of construction is planned for 2022. Topics discussed at the meeting of the business advisory group included truck access to Cargill, CHS. Savage Riverport and Superior Minerals, the impact of rail on the function of the design and traffic detour options during construction.

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>

**HCRRRA MN River Bluffs Regional Trail:** This project is on the March agenda.

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 March 2021 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:** Legislation([HF 1091/SF 579](#)) has been introduced this session to request funding for remediation of the dump and landfill.

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](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:** No new information to report since last update.

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

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### Upcoming meetings/events

- UMWA monthly meeting- Thursday, March 18, 2021, 12:30 pm; contact District Administrator to join
- 2020 USACE River Resource Forums - April 20, 2021, August & December 2021, the April meeting is planned to be virtual, contact District Administrator to join
- Metro MAWD, Tuesday, July 20, 2021 and October 19, 2021
- [US Army Corps of Engineers](#) - Seeking comments on Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, 5 stakeholder sessions will be held. Final comments are due by May 7, 2021.

Here is information about an educational meeting to be held April 5. The meeting will present roadway sustainability measures. The speaker will be Bryan Wagner, Environmental Policy Program Manager for the Illinois Tollway system. Mr. Wagner is in charge of improving stormwater quality of the Illinois Tollway system. The work being done in Illinois has application in highway construction and maintenance across the Upper Mississippi River basin. This presentation is being offered by the Upper Mississippi River Region Leagues of Women Voters. You can join the presentation at 1:00pm, April 5, 2021. [Click here to join the Zoom.](#)



**PRIOR LAKE  
SPRING LAKE  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

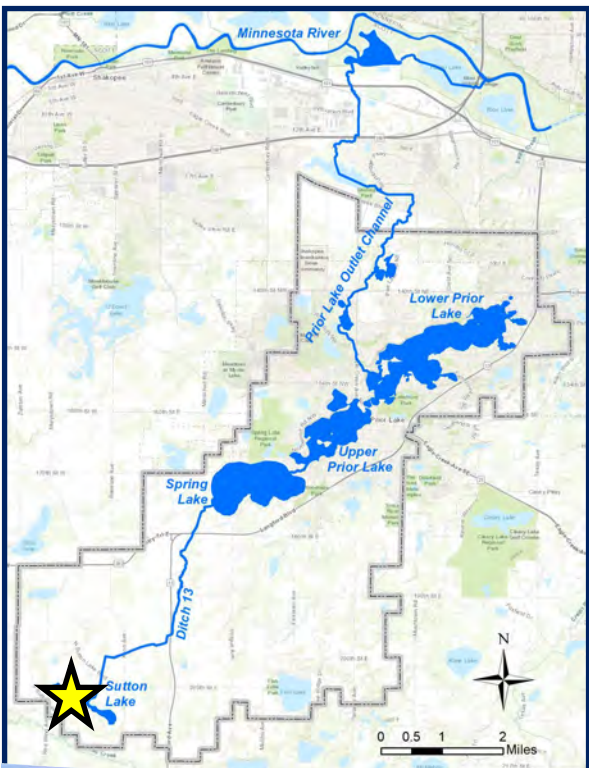
# SUTTON LAKE OUTLET PROJECT



## 2021 District Mini-Tour

### Chain of Lakes: Improving the Connected System

The project is located on Sutton Lake within the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD). Sutton Lake is at the headwaters of the Ditch 13 channel that flows northeast into Spring Lake which then outlets into Upper Prior Lake and then into Lower Prior Lakes, eventually making its way into Pike Lake via the Prior Lake Outlet Channel and then down to the Minnesota River. Water quality improvements and flood storage at this headwaters location on Sutton Lake can have positive, lasting impacts to all of the chain of lakes downstream of it.



### An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

Following the record-setting 2014 flood on Prior Lake, the PLSLWD completed the Prior Lake Stormwater Management & Flood Mitigation Study. This study identified several potential projects that could reduce the impact of flooding on Prior Lake. The Sutton Lake project was one of the highest ranking project as it had a relatively high flood damage reduction potential and lower costs compared to other options.

Installation of the berm, the controlled outlet weir, and the active management gate structure on Sutton Lake is intended to control high flows and have flood reduction benefits on Spring & Prior Lakes. This project will allow Sutton Lake to bounce periodically, more similar to a natural lake/wetland system that does not have a ditched outlet. The PLSLWD will use an optimization process for management of the outlet system that will achieve an estimated 0.1 - 0.3 feet reduction in the high-water line of Prior Lake during the 100-year, 30-day event, and will not raise the 100-year, 24-hour high-water line on Sutton Lake.

*Funding for the Sutton Lake Outlet Project is provided in part by the State of Minnesota Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program administered by the MN DNR.*



*The local landowners are important partners of this project and the PLSLWD acknowledges their contributions.*

*The innovative design concept and engineering for this projects was completed by the District's engineer, EOR.*









# Next Steps

## SUTTON LAKE OUTLET PROJECT

### Lake Management Plan

In order to maximize the flood reduction potential on Prior Lake and maximize the wildlife habitat benefit on Sutton Lake, the District is currently exploring a comprehensive lake management plan in coordination with the MN DNR that will guide timing and implementation of winter drawdowns on the lake, as well as operation of the gate valve structure. This would likely entail a fall drawdown after hunting season is over by opening the outlet structures to 937.0, keeping them open through winter and then adjusting the structures back to an elevation of 939.0 in the spring. This type of active management, if approved, could improve wildlife habitat and provide increased flood reduction on Prior Lake to as much as 0.3 feet.

### Optimization of the Outlet System

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District is working on modeling different scenarios to determine how to maximize benefits during different rain event activities. The PLSLWD will be exploring these different scenarios with the DNR and the landowner of Sutton Lake to ensure that the project is meeting multiple goals including enhancement of wildlife habitat and improvements to plant diversity.



Please visit us at our website for more information: [www.plslwd.org](http://www.plslwd.org)  
or call us at (952) 447-4166.

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## Construction Update / East Chaska Creek

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Patrick E. Brockamp <PBrockamp@barr.com>

Fri, Mar 5, 2021 at 10:08 AM

To: Katy Thompson <katy@youngceg.com>, Della Schall Young <della@youngceg.com>, "bjung@chaskamn.com" <bjung@chaskamn.com>, Aaron Kuznia <akuznia@chaskamn.com>, Matt Clark <MClark@chaskamn.com>, Brent Alcott <balcott@chaskamn.com>, "naiadconsulting@gmail.com" <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>, "Katie J. Turpin-Nagel" <KTurpin-Nagel@barr.com>, "Joe J. Wain" <JWain@barr.com>, Karen Chandler <KChandler@barr.com>

Folks,

An update from this week's activities on the East Chaska Creek construction project (photos attached):

- All toe protection, rock/cross vanes, and root wads were installed on the downstream portion
- Site has been stabilized with seed and erosion control blankets
- Blackstone is fully demobilized from the site
- Blackstone investigated the conditions near the plunge pool and found the gas main was in the frost layer. They determined it was not safe to perform the work until the creek bed thaws out.

### Work Remaining

- Complete the plunge pool and final cross vane once conditions allow – includes removal of several small trees (approved by City for removal)
- Perform finish grading of areas where frost chunks did not allow smoothing of backfill and material excavated from channel bottom
- Re-seed and re-blanket as needed
- Install plantings
- Final walkthrough and punchlist prior to final completion

Let me know if you have any questions,

Thank You

Patrick E. Brockamp, PE

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