



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

May 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

2020 Financial Audit

Redpath is preparing to write the final audit report. A few loose ends were tied up this past week.

River Resource Forum

The River Resource Forum is a regular meeting held by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This group discusses issues with the Mississippi River system ranging from navigation to habitat protection and restoration. The most recent meeting was held April 20, 2021. Projects happening within the USACE St. Paul District were discussed and updates provided by Corps and its partners. Partners include Natural Resource Departments, Departments of Transportation and Pollution Control Agencies from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Upper Mississippi River Basin Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, National Park Service, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance and several other organizations that have interest in the River. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for August.

Meetings with LMRWD Cities

LMRWD staff has been meeting with City officials. So far meetings have been held with Eden Prairie, Burnsville, Shakopee, Savage, Bloomington, Carver and Chanhassen. Meetings with Mendota Heights and Eagan have been scheduled. Meetings with Chaska, Lilydale and Mendota are yet to be scheduled.

The meetings all follow the same basic format: discussion of permitting process, (individual and municipal permits), recent and upcoming projects and programs within the LMRWD and/or the City, gullies and ravines identified in LMRWD gully assessment, MN River Corridor Management Plan and other projects. The meetings held so far have gone very well and have been well received by the cities.

Follow up meetings will be scheduled in the fall.

Hydrogeology Discussion/Workshop

On May 5, 2021, the LMRWD hosted a Hydrogeology Discussion/Workshop. Officials from the Met Council, the MN DNR and County Soil & Water Conservation Districts were invited to be part of the discussion. John Dustman of Summit Envirosolutions, Inc. was also invited to the workshop.

The goal of the discussion was to confer with groundwater experts about effective ways to understand available groundwater quantities and recharge areas and to identify approaches to improve our understanding of hydrogeology supporting fens and trout waters in the LMRWD.

Staff is preparing a summary of the meeting.

One Watershed One Plan Lower Minnesota River East

The planning committee for the Lower Minnesota River East 1W1P met on May 6, 2021. The meeting was spent reviewing the application for a planning grant. They are scheduled to meet again on May 27, 2021 for the final review of the application before it is sent to BWSR. The planners were notified that the LMRWD Board appointed Manager Raby as its representative to the policy committee.

Watershed Plan Projects

Gully Inventory and condition assessment: Work continues on this project. This has been a topic of discussion with the cities as we meet with them. In cities where the assessment is complete, we have asked if the city concurs with the priority assigned to the gullies and if they have plans to address any of the gullies. In cities where the assessment is being done this year, cities have been asked to validate locations and if they are aware of others that should be assessed.

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

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: An update for this project is in the May 19, 2021 meeting packet.

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

Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project: No new information to report since last update.

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

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): An update for project is in the May 19, 2021 meeting packet.

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

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): 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): 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): This project is also called Ridge Creek Park. 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 (HHCI) (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): A meeting was held for this project on May 4, 2021. A "Barriers" report was developed and can be shared with anyone who might be interested in the findings. A small group was formed to develop specific recommendations on creating educational materials for property managers as the next HCCI endeavor.

BWSR staff reported that grant funds cannot be used specifically for the development of cheat sheets/fact cards related to the limited liability protection where the intended audience includes legislators. However, materials created for local boards (watershed, city, county) are different and could be used to inform local policies and regulations. The group discussed the possibility of using grant funds to pay for MPCA Smart Salting trainings. The group decided to request an extension of the grant period.

Organizations are encouraged to arrange for Smart Salting trainings on their own. Another meeting of this group has not been scheduled.

In addition to the Hennepin County-wide Chloride grant, the Watershed Management Organizations within the Minnesota River Watershed portion of Hennepin County, 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. There is no new information to report on

this project. Grant 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 continues to work on this plan.

Project Reviews

Burnsville Cemetery Expansion: - City of Burnsville - This project will expand the area available for burial plots by tree removal and re-grading. The Cemetery is located at 400 State Hwy 13 E.

Capstone 35: - City of Burnsville - This project proposes to construct two office/warehouse buildings at 12501 DuPont Avenue. Approval of this permit is on the May meeting agenda.

Jefferson Court: - City of Shakopee - This project will construction approximately 8 single family homes at the corner of 10th Avenue and Adams Street. Staff is reviewing the application.

Spirit of Truth Church: - City of Burnsville - This project proposes to build a church on a vacant parcel of property located 12215 Nicollet Avenue. Staff is reviewing the application.

TH 41/CSAH 61: - City of Chaska - This project is for transportation improvements to TH 61 in downtown Chaska. No new information to report since last update.

CSAH 61 Drainage Channel Extension:- Carver County - The LMRWD received an application for this project which will alter the course of a channel that runs underneath CASH 61. This channel is the one that has been filling the box culvert with sediment. We have not had any further communication from the County.

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

Watermark in Savage: City of Savage - This project is for 24 acre residential development that will be located at the intersection of McColl Drive and Dakota Avenue. No new information to report since last update.

Southbridge Crossing 6th Addition/Core Crossing: - City of Shakopee - The LMRWD received an application for a permit on this project in August 2020. A wetland delineation review for this property has been scheduled for May 20, 2021. The project is for a mixed use development that includes a 61 unit apartment building, a free-standing retail use building, a mutli-tenant retail building and a grocery store.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/southbridge-crossings>

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

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/Whispering Waters: City of Shakopee - The LMRWD received notice of an application to the MN DNR for a public waters work permit. This project will impact the Prior Lake Outlet Channel. Staff is reviewing the public waters work permit application and will submit comments if needed.

Hentges Industrial park: City Shakopee - A portion of this property is being developed as Southwest Logistics Center. A permit for the SLC was approved at the March 2021 meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers. Additional developments are planned for this property.

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: 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: No new information report since 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: Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) assigned maintenance of this trail to Carver County. The assignment of the maintenance agreement was approved by the LMRWD Board of Managers at the March 2021 meeting.

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.

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: MNDOT has scheduled a meeting to discuss changes to stormwater ponds associated with this project. The meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2021.

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/>

Upcoming meetings/events

- 2021 USACE River Resource Forums -August & December 2021
- Metro MAWD, Tuesday, July 20, 2021 and October 19, 2021
- UMWA monthly meeting- Thursday, May 20, 2021, 12:30 pm; contact District Administrator to join