



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

October 2021 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, the following District projects and issues were addressed during the month:

Other Work

Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

At the September 2021 LMRWD Board of Managers meeting, managers asked if there was a list of contributors to the work the LMRWD has helped fund to create a program for water storage. I have attached the lists of funding that Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River raised to match the LMRWD funding.

Nichols Fen

I participated in a discussion of Nichols Fen with the DNR. Nichols Fen is located in Dakota County. The Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plant is located in Eagan, near Nichols Fen. The Seneca Plant dewateres the area around the plant to reduce the hydrostatic pressure that could force underground tank up out of the ground. The DNR has determined that the groundwater pumping done by the WWTP is having a negative impact to Nichols Fen and is planning a mitigation plan. The plan, according to the DNR will be in the form of a financial mitigation.

Limbo Creek

The Board was asked about one year ago to join other organizations to request and Environmental Assessment (EAW) be prepared for a drainage project in Renville County. The Board declined to join others making that request. The issue involved a creek known locally as Limbo Creek. Normally, an EAW would be required for a drainage project of the type proposed, however, Renville County maintained an EAW was not required because Limbo Creek was not listed as a public water by the DNR. The DNR said that even though Limbo Creek was not on the public waters inventory, it still is a public water and should be treated as such. The issue has been litigated and the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the DNR and said Renville County must prepare an EAW. Renville County plans to appeal the appellate court decision to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Lake Data on LMRWD website

Jen Dullum has been working on information about waterbodies in the LMRWD for the website. The first reports have been posted on the site for [Brickyard Clayhole](#), [Courthouse Clayhole](#), [Quarry \(Shakopee\)](#) and [Gifford Lakes](#). The reports can be accessed by clicking on reports in the drop down menu under Resources, then going to Lakes.

Watershed Plan Projects

Gully Inventory and condition assessment: The final report is complete and final review is complete. The report will be available with the November 2021 meeting.

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

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: No new information to report since last update. The CAC observed the area on the boat tour. Young Environmental Consulting Group has talked about visiting the area by boat and inviting Eden Prairie city staff to come along.

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): This project was visited during the October tour by the Board. Staff observed a significant amount of sediment at the upstream end of the project area; enough sediment that staff is concerned. The city and Carver County WMO will be consulted to discuss the situation. Signage is planned for this area. Staff will finalize reporting to BWSR, since a Clean Water Fund grant was received for this project under the Watershed Based Funding Program Pilot Program.

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

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): LMRWD staff met with the city of Savage regarding this project. The LMRWD will contact BWSR to make sure the scope of the project as identified through the city's agreement with WSB fits the workplan that was reported to BWSR and to request a 6 month extension for the grant period.

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): BWSR has accepted the final report and the LMRWD has received payment from the Dakota SWCD.

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

Hennepin County Chloride Project (HHCI) (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): There are two projects funded under the Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Funding Pilot Program. One project is funds that have been pooled together by Watershed Districts in the Lower Minnesota River watershed. This project will fund winter maintenance equipment for local governmental units within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. To date only Chaska has applied for funds under this program. Grant details for the Lower Minnesota River project can be found on the LMRWD website using this link <http://lowermnriverwd.org/news/chloride-reduction-grants-available>.

The second program is a county wide program that is working to educate those that manage winter maintenance. This group has funded a demonstration project in the City of Plymouth, and they have prepared a winter maintenance management plan template for property managers. They are also working to develop a marketing plan and toolkit for targeting education for property managers. They also applied for an extension of the grant period until December 31, 2022.

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: Staff expects the report on the hydrology of Spring Creek to be complete by the end of October.

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. The survey was sent to LMRWD stakeholders. Responses have begun to come in.

Project Reviews

CenterPoint Energy Nicollet River Crossing Segment 1 and CenterPoint Energy Nicollet River Crossing Segment 2: – Cities of Bloomington and Burnsville – CenterPoint Energy is planning to replace its pipeline that extends under the Minnesota River. This permit application is on the October agenda.

Excel Energy Line 0832: - City of Burnsville – A permit for this project was approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

Lone Oak Signal: - City of Eagan – The permit application for this project is on the October agenda.

Canterbury Senior Living Center: - City of Shakopee – A permit for this project was approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

MN Mash: - City of Savage – This project impacts both a High Value Resource Area (Savage Fen) and the Steep Slope Overlay Zone. LMRWD staff met with the city, DNR, the proponent and consultants for the project, Tuesday, October 19th. The group discussed wetland mitigation for the site and then mitigation of impacts to Savage Fen.

Circle K/Holiday Station Store: - City of Savage – A permit for this project was conditionally approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting. The LMRWD requested the proponent post a bond to assure final design of the stormwater management model met the District's requirements. Since the September meeting, staff has worked with the proponent and is satisfied that the stormwater management approach is acceptable. Staff plans to release the financial assurance.

South Park Jeep: - City of Burnsville – A permit for this project was approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

Trunk Highway (TH) 55: - MNDOT - Bloomington Road to TH 52, Mendota Heights - The LMRWD received an application for a permit to resurface the roadway, improve drainage, make pedestrian accessibility improvements and rehabilitate bridges on MN 55 from the east end of bridge over Bloomington Road in Minneapolis to junction US 52 in Inver Grove Heights. There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy55mpls-invergroveheights/>

Burnsville Sanitary Landfill (BSL): - City of Burnsville –The MPCA has recommended expansion of the Burnsville Sanitary landfill. A public meeting was held on June 23, 2021. A recording of the meeting can be viewed on YouTube using this [link](#).

Project website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/regulations/burnsville-sanitary-landfill-expansion-project>

DEM-CON Landfill: - City of Shakopee - There is no new information to report since the last update.

4905 TH Highway 13: - City of Savage – A permit for this project was issued at the August Board of Managers meeting.

TH 169 Pedestrian Bridge: - City of Shakopee – No new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/recreation/parks-trails-projects/highway-169-pedestrian-bridge>

2021 Safety & Security Center Phase 1: - Metropolitan Airport Commission – The LMRWD received the plans for this project October 19, 2021.

106th Street Transportation Improvement Project: - City of Bloomington – This project was conditionally approved at the June 2, 2021 Board meeting. The approval was for the improvements planned by the City of Bloomington. There are additional improvements being planned by MNDOT. The District is working to schedule a meeting with MNDOT to address the proposed drainage plan.

Burnsville Cemetery Expansion: - City of Burnsville – The permit application for this project is on the October 2021 agenda.

Capstone 35: - City of Burnsville – This project was approved at the May 19, 2021 Board meeting.

Jefferson Court: - City of Shakopee – This project was approved at the June 2, 2021 Board meeting.

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

CSAH 61 Drainage Channel Extension: - Carver County – The permit application for this project is on the October 2021 Board of Manager meeting agenda.

494 River Bridge: - 494 & MN River - This project is part of a MNDOT improvement project for I- 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 city has applied for a public waters work permit for this project.

Southbridge Crossing 6th Addition/Core Crossing: - City of Shakopee – A permit for this project was approved at the July 21, 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

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

Veterans Memorial Bridge: City of Shakopee – This project is complete.

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

Quarry Lake Park Improvements: City of Shakopee – There are three components to this project; 1) a mountain bike trail in the southern portion of the site, 2) improvements to the park area and changes to accommodate the water-ski club and 3) an outlet of the lake to the Prior Lake Outlet Channel (PLOC). The permit application for the Quarry Lake outlet is on the October 2021 agenda.

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

Prairie Heights: City of Eden Prairie - This project is a residential housing development in Eden Prairie that is partially in the LMRWD and partially in Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD). It is not in a High Value Resource Area or the Steep Slope Overlay zone. Permitting authority was given to RPBCWD. No new information to report since the last update.

Carver County CSAH 10: City of Chaska – This project is 92% complete.

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 – This permit was approved at the June 16, 2021 Board meeting.

Hentges Industrial park: City Shakopee - A portion of this property is being developed as Southwest Logistics Center (SLC). A permit for 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: A report on this project is included in the October 20, 2021 Board of Managers meeting packet under Dredge Management.

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>

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

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

Dakota County - MN River Greenway: An Environmental Assessment Worksheet was prepared for this project and was reviewed by the LMRWD. LMRWD staff has had several conversations with consultants for this project.

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: This project is complete and will be removed from the list of projects beginning next month.

Project website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/minnesota_valley/plans.html

MNDOT - I35W Bridge Replacement: This project is complete and a celebration of the new bridge is planned by the City of Burnsville for Saturday, October 10, 2021 at 10:00am.

Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wbloomington/index.html>

MNDOT - I494 from TH169 to Minnesota River: MNDOT – A meeting on this project has been scheduled by MnDOT for November 3, 2021.

Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/index.html>

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

- Metro MAWD - Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7:00pm, virtual
- UMWA monthly meeting – Thursday, October 21, 2021, 12:30pm to 1:30pm Lilydale Pool & Yacht Club and virtual, please contact District Administrator to attend
- [Minnesota Water Resources Conference](#) – Virtual conference, October 19 & 20, 2021
- I-35W MN River Bridge Project Celebration – Saturday, October 30, 2021, 10:00am

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)

By Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator Minnesota River Congress/ Ex. Dir. CCMR

Hours specific to **Water Storage Initiative** for Minnesota River Congress @ \$40 hr.

July	20
August	30
September	35
October	35
November	40
December	20
Total	180 hrs. @ \$40 = \$7200

Mileage @ .52 per mile

St. Paul (2) 440, Mankato (3) 210, Henderson (2) 180, St. Peter (3) 180
Nicollet 35, **Total 1045 miles \$543.40**

Room Rental, refreshments, security charges, **\$425**

Total WSI expenses from July thru Dec. 2019 \$8168.40

Money secured and designated for **Water Storage Initiative** to date

Nicollet Conservation Club	1250
New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen	850
Fundraiser American Legion	1115
CURE	200
MnAgWaterResourceCenter	200
Crystal Waters Project	200
Minnesota Wastewater Operators Assn.	200
Friends of Pool 2	300
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Coop.	100
Mankato Paddling and Outing Club	100
Doug Thomas	100
Darby and Geri Nelson	1000
Total as of 11-25-19	\$5615

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
 From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)

By Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator Minnesota River Congress/ Ex. Dir. CCMR

Hours specific to **Water Storage Initiative** for Minnesota River Congress @ \$40 hr.

2020

January	35 hrs.
February	40 hrs.
March	46 hrs.
April	40 hrs.
May	30 hrs.
June	4 hrs.
July	0 hrs.
August	0 hrs.
September	0 hrs.
October	0 hrs.
November	10 hrs.
December	0 hrs.

2021

January	50 hrs.
February	45 hrs.
March	40 hrs.
April	20 hrs.

Total Hrs. 360 = \$14,400

In person meetings

Mileage @ .52 per mile

St. Paul (2) 440, Mankato (2) 140, Henderson (1) 90, St. Peter (3) 180

Nicollet 70,

Total 920 miles = \$478,40

Total WSI expenses from January 2020 thru April 18, 2021 \$14,878.40

Money secured and designated for **Water Storage Initiative** to date

Nicollet Conservation Club	\$1500
New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen	1000
Fundraiser American Legion	970
CCMR	1500
CURE	100
Mn Ag Water Resource Center	100
Crystal Waters Project	100
Minnesota Wastewater Operators Assn.	100
Friends of Pool 2	100
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Coop.	100
Mankato Paddling and Outing Club	100
Doug Thomas	100
Darby and Geri Nelson	500
Total	\$6,270.00