



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Agenda Item

Item 7. B. – Scott County LiDAR Funding Request

Prepared By

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Summary

Scott County will be part of a collaborative LiDAR data collection project. The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the State of Minnesota are heading up the project and is asking Counties in project areas to contribute \$58,000 to the project. Scott County has asked the LMRWD to contribute \$5,000 to the project. They have commitments from the Scott County WMO for \$20,000 and the Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed for \$5,000. The County is reaching to cities to partner, but so far has no commitments.

This will be high resolution LiDAR and data would be available to the LMRWD through the State and the County's GIS site. The cost for the entire project is roughly \$3.4 million. USGS will contribute about 40% of the cost. The State will pick up half of the remaining 60% and the counties will evenly split up the rest of the cost; which is \$58,000.

Here is a [link](#) to additional information about the project. LiDAR is a valuable tool for flood hazard planning and assessing slope characteristics. If the Board determines to fund the project, funding could come from the Watershed Resource Fund line in the budget. Carver, Dakota and Hennepin Counties are all part of this effort, however, my contacts at those counties did not have any information or any idea whether or not those counties would ask for contributions. I suspect I would need to contact GIS Specialists rather than the Natural/Water resources divisions.

Since portions of the LMRWD lie within four counties, it may be possible that they will ask for contributions too. The Board could set aside similar funds for other counties, and/or reduce the amount for Scott County. It is possible that other counties will not ask for contributions.

In addition to the link already provided there is additional information on the USGS's [3D Elevation Program website](#) and the State's [Minnesota LiDAR Hub](#).

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

Provide direction to staff