



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

### Agenda Item

#### Item 5. B. Sponsorship of 14<sup>th</sup> Minnesota River Congress

#### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### Summary.

The [Minnesota River Congress](#) is a citizen led group that was formed after the Minnesota River Board disbanded in 2014. It is comprised of NGOs, Local Government officials, such as Soil & Water Conservation Districts, State Agency representatives, and citizens that are focused on the natural resource and economic health of the Minnesota River Basin.

The mission of the group is to promote citizen participation from all communities of interest and take cooperative action to protect, conserve and improve the Minnesota River System. The LMRWD has supported the group since its inception.

The LMRWD has sponsored meetings of the Congress and provided matching grants for its work influencing public policy. The Executive Director is Scott Sparlin. The LMRWD has presented at meetings of the Congress and provided volunteers to serve on different teams. Former Manager Yvonne Shirk served on the Action Team for several years.

The Congress has not met since the COVID-19 Health Emergency and is now planning to meet in-person June 15, 2022, at the Kato Ballroom in Mankato. They have asked the LMRWD to sponsor the event with a donation of \$100.

#### Attachments

Flyer for 14<sup>th</sup> Minnesota River Congress

Invoice for sponsorship of 14<sup>th</sup> Minnesota River Congress

#### Recommended Action

Motion to approve sponsorship of 14<sup>th</sup> Minnesota River Congress and authorize payment of \$100.

# 14th MINNESOTA RIVER CONGRESS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

6:30-9:00 PM

Kato Ballroom - 200 Chestnut St., Mankato, MN



**WHO:** Everyone who cares about the Minnesota River Basin and is willing to help improve watershed conditions.

**WHAT:** The 14th Minnesota River Congress will focus on water storage. Water storage is a top priority way forward to improve water quality.

**WHERE:** Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut St., Mankato, MN

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 6:30 PM Doors open - Refreshments and cash bar
- 6:45 Introductions and Agenda Overview - Scott Sparlin  
Minnesota River Congress Water Storage Initiative, Co-Sponsor IWLA  
Scott Sparlin, Dave Zentner & David Minge IWLA, UMRI
- 7:10 Water Storage and the Minnesota River - Governor Tim Walz
- 7:20 Importance of Water Storage - John Jaschke, BWSR  
Water Storage Program Overview - Rita Weaver, BWSR
- 7:50 Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Soil and Water Conservation Districts - Mark Schnobrich
- 8:35 Questionnaire and Planning Next Steps - Scott Sparlin
- 9:00 Adjourn



Governor Tim Walz

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Scott Sparlin, 507-276-2280, [sesparlin@gmail.com](mailto:sesparlin@gmail.com)



**\*\*\*Invoice\*\*\***

To: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District  
112 East Fifth Street #102  
Chaska MN 55318

From: The Minnesota River Congress  
P.O. Box 488  
New Ulm, MN 56073

For: Event Sponsorship for the **14th Minnesota River Congress** \$100.00

On 6-15-22  
Kato Ballroom, Mankato, MN

Total Due: \$100.00

Make Checks Payable to  
The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River