

#### **Executive Summary for Action**

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2022

#### Agenda Item

Item 4. E. – Reimburse Appletree Condominiums for 2021 Cost Share Project

#### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### **Summary**

At the September 2021 the Board of Managers approved a cost share application from Appletree Condominiums. The project proposed restoration of an area of the Condominium property on the bluff side of the building. The project proposed removal of a temporary roadway that was used when maintenance was done to the Condominium building and restoring the area to prevent erosion of the steep slope. Young Environmental reviewed the cost share application because of the proximity of the project to the LMRWD steep slope zone.

The project is complete, and the condo association is requesting reimbursement. Appletree Condominium Association has submitted its final report and receipts. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, I visited the site. Hantho Outdoor Services was hired for the project. Hantho had difficulty completing the project because they were unable to hire staff necessary to complete the project in a timely manner. The contract was terminated by mutual agreement and the Condominium Association completed the work. Appletree applied for and received a grading drainage and erosion control permit form the City of Bloomington. The City has inspected the project and is satisfied with the project. The contractor recommended that some of the erosion control fence stay in place until vegetation is more established. Young Environmental was asked to visit the site, since they had reviewed the plans on behalf of the LMRWD. Its report is attached.

Appletree is continuing work to stabilize the steep slope. Monitoring their efforts to stabilize the slope will be a good test case for what kind of practices can be used to stabilize steep slopes.

#### **Attachments**

Excerpt from September 15, 2021, meeting minutes

Cost Share grant agreement between LMRWD and Appletree Condominium Association.

Email from Appletree requesting reimbursement

Final Report from Appletree Condominium Association

Hantho Erosion Invoice

**Grass Seed Receipt** 

Grading permit receipt and communication record

Project expense receipts

Technical Memorandum – Appletree Condominium Association Cost Share Project inspection dates October 14, 2022 Agreement between Appletree Condominium Association and Hantho Outdoor Services

#### **Recommended Action**

Motion to receive and file Cost Share report from Appletree Condominium Association and authorize reimbursement of \$7,500

#### B. Request from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

Administrator Loomis reminded the Board that Scott Sparlin requested \$10,000 over the course of two years to help get legislation passed at the State level for funding of water storage projects in the Upper Minnesota River Basin. Mr. Sparlin was successful this legislative session, but the legislature diluted it as it is not just specific to the Minnesota River and the amount of funding allocated was not what had been hoped for. Now Mr. Sparlin would like to ask the federal government for assistance with the same task because much of the sediment and nutrients from the erosion in the Minnesota River are contributing to the anoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Manager Raby would like to know what the overall effort over the next two years will be and the funding effort for that.

Mr. Sparlin clarified they got the program established, it is for the Minnesota River basin and the Upper Mississippi River. The legislature did not include the kinds of funds needed to bring this to scale which is what they will be working on over the next couple of years. The money he is asking the LMRWD for is to continue down the path of seeking a federal partnership. The overall budget is dependent upon the work that other organizations are doing so he cannot give a good answer to the question at this time. They are looking at a \$30,000 per year (total of \$60,000) overall budget and will seek a match for the funds.

President Hartmann made a motion to approve the fund request as a match per the previous time. The motion was seconded by Manager Mraz. Upon a vote being taken the motion carried unanimously.

#### C. Appletree Condominium Cost Share Application

Administrator Loomis stated this is a condominium building in Bloomington; they are in a steep slope overlay zone and have been having issues with erosion behind the building. They have done quite a bit of work to put in drain tile and drain water away from the building to the City storm water system and are looking at landscaping to further ameliorate the erosion issues. They sent in an application for a cost-share project and Young Environmental reviewed the application and made some recommendations.

Ms. Schall-Young noted it is a good application and they are recommending approval. The Board should keep in mind that the project will need a permit so perhaps a portion of the money should go towards that permit application to ensure that they come back and do due diligence.

Administrator Loomis noted \$7,500 is the maximum amount for a condominium-type of request.

Manager Raby made a motion to approve the cost-share application subject to the applicant applying for and obtaining a permit from the LMRWD. The motion was seconded by Manager Mraz. Upon a vote being taken the motion carried unanimously.

#### D. Modification to LMRWD Board of Managers meeting schedule

Administrator Loomis noted in April, Staff asked that the Board consider adding a second meeting every month to the schedule to make it a regular meeting and eliminate emergency meeting notices, and now that Ms. Schall-Young's team has a better handle on applications they no longer feel they need the second meeting. They are asking to modify that meeting schedule and eliminate the first Wednesday meeting.

### LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT 2021 COST SHARE INCENTIVE AND WATER QUALITY RESTORATION PROGRAM Cost Share Grant Agreement

The parties to this Agreement, made this \_14\_ day of \_October\_ 2022, are the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, a Minnesota Watershed District ("LMRWD") a public body with purposes and powers set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D and Appletree Condominium Association ("APPLICANT"). The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for the installation and maintenance of a project designed to protect and improve natural resources within the District. by managing storm water and said project to be located at: 8121 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55425.

- 1. <u>Scope of Work.</u> APPLICANT will install the Project in accordance with the Application submitted to the LMRWD, attached as Exhibit A. A final report must be presented to the LMRWD at the time a request is made for reimbursement of expenses as specified in Section 2 of this Agreement.
- 2. <u>Reimbursement.</u> When the installation of the project is complete in accordance with Exhibit A, the LMRWD, on receipt of adequate documentation, will reimburse the APPLICANT up to 50% of the APPLICANT's cost to install the Project, including materials, equipment rental, delivery of materials and labor, in an amount not to exceed \$7,500. APPLICANT will document with receipts all direct expenditures. At the time reimbursement is requested, APPLICANT will provide the LMRWD copies of all documents concerning the work.
- 3. Public Access. LMRWD may enter APPLICANT's property at reasonable times to inspect the work to ensure compliance with this Agreement and monitor or take samples for the purpose of assessing the performance of the Project. APPLICANT will permit the LMRWD, at its cost and discretion, to place reasonable signage on APPLICANTs property informing the general public about the Project and the LMRWD's Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program. The LMRWD may request APPLICANT's permission to allow members of the public periodically to enter APPLICANT's property to view the Project in the company of a LMRWD representative. This paragraph does not create any right of public entry onto APPLICANT's property except as coordinated with APPLICANT and accompanied by a LMRWD representative.
- 4. <u>Maintenance.</u> APPLICANT will maintain the Project for at least ten **(10)** years from the date installation is complete. If APPLICANT does not do so, the LMRWD will have a right to reimbursement of all amounts paid to APPLICANT, unless:
  - a. The LMRWD determines that the failure to maintain the Project was caused by reasons beyond the APPLICANT's control; or
  - b. APPLICANT has conveyed the underlying property, provided APPLICANT notifies the LMRWD at least 30 days before the property is conveyed and facilitates communication between the LMRWD and the prospective owner regarding continued maintenance of the project.
- 5. <u>Agreement Void.</u> This Agreement is void if the project installation in not complete by November 30, 2022. This Agreement may not be modified in any way except in writing and signed by both parties.

- 6. <u>Indemnification</u>. The LMRWD will be held harmless against all liability and loss in connection with the installation of the Project.
- 7. <u>Compliance with Laws.</u> APPLICANT is responsible to comply with any permits or other legal requirements applicable to the work.
- 8. <u>Notices.</u> Any notice or demand, authorized or required under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the other party as follows:

#### To LMRWD:

Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 East Fifth Street, Suite 102 Chaska, MN 55318

#### To APPLICANT:

Tom Fahey, Primary Contact Appletree Condominium Association 8121 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Unit 201 Bloomington, MN 55425

The parties being in agreement to be signed as follows:

APPLICANT: APPLETREE CONDOMINIUM ASSOC.	LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:
By:Tom Fahey	Ву:
lts:Vice-President	Its: <u>President</u>
Date:14 October 2022	Date:



#### Final Report/Reimbursement Request to LMRWD for Erosion Control & Maintenance Project

thfahey@comcast.net <thfahey@comcast.net> To: Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com> Cc: distribution <thfahey@comcast.net>

Mon, Oct 3, 2022 at 11:54 AM

Linda,

Attached is the completed Final Report regarding the Appletree Condominium Association Erosion Control & Maintenance Project. The File

Final-Report-to\_LMRWD\_by Appletree rep T.Fahey-03Oct2022

A reimbursement of \$7500 is being requested.

There are also 4 additional files containing receipts and paid invoices documentation:

\$18	5,850.33	TOTAL
<u>\$</u>	101.86	File Name: Grass Seed Receipt_Comms_and_reimbursement_Sep2022
\$	126.50	File Name: Grading Permit Receipt_and CommunicationsRecord_July2022
\$	714.39	File Name: Erosion Control Project-Expenses 29July-11Aug2022_for LMRWD
\$14	1,907.58	File Name: Hantho Erosion Invoice 9.22.22pdf

Tom

Mobile: 651-503-8903 thfahey@comcast.net

PS: I talked with Jack Distel at City of Bloomington this morning and notified him that the majority of the silt fence was removed this last weekend as he and I had agreed.

#### 5 attachments



Final-Report-to\_LMRWD\_by Appletree rep T.Fahey-03Oct2022.pdf 5563K



Hantho Erosion Invoice 9.22.22pdf.pdf



Erosion Control Project-Expenses 29July-11Aug2022 for LMRWD.xlsx



Grading Permit Receipt\_and CommunicationsRecord\_July2022.docx

1171K

Grass Seed Receipt\_Comms\_and\_reimbursement\_Sep2022.docx

## LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

#### **Lower Minnesota River Watershed District**

112 East Fifth Street, Suite #102 Chaska, MN 55318

(763) 545-4659

lowermnriverwd.org

#### **Cost Share Final Report**

#### **Overview**

The Final Report documents the entire grant period and must be within 30 days of project completion. The report should be no longer than six pages. Upon staff approval of the report, you will receive the final reimbursement for your grant. Please note, checks are only issued once per month by the District.

Email your report to Linda Loomis, District Administrator, at <a href="mailto:naiadconsulting@gmail.com">naiadconsulting@gmail.com</a>. Contact Linda with questions at 763-545-4659 or by email.

# Cost Share Grant Final Report Project title: Year grant was awarded: Project location: Project manager's name: Project manager's contact information: Time period addressed in the final report: How much is the reimbursement request? Who should the reimbursement check be made out to? Where should reimbursement check be mailed?

	1.	Summary	of	Mai	or A	ctiv	itie	28
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Provide a short overview of Cost Share activities. Include dates and time periods during which activities were completed and who was involved.

#### 2. Project Goals

Describe how the project addressed one or more of the goals of the Cost Share Program:

- Improve water quality or increase the capacity of the watershed to store water
- Preserve, protect, and restore native plant and wildlife habitats
- Protect and preserve groundwater quality and quantity

#### 3. Educational Value

Describe how the project provided education value regarding the project's environmental benefits. What education and outreach was done about the project and what were the impacts? How were the results of the project shared and with whom?

#### 4. Project Outcomes

- Describe the outcomes of the project.
- Describe what makes you most proud about the project.

#### 5. Project Challenges

- Describe any changes that had to be made to original plans due to site conditions, regulatory processes, etc. and any challenges with implementing the project.
- Indicate any ways in which Nine Mile Creek staff could have better assisted you in addressing the challenges.

#### 6. Project Longevity

- What will the long-term impact of the project be?
- Describe any follow-up projects that will occur because of the Cost Share grant.

7	Dh	otos
7.	rn	otos

•	Provide at least three high resolution photos of the project. If you include the pictures in
	the document file, <b>also</b> email the photos as separate jpg files.

•	Include a	photo of $\epsilon$	each phase	of the p	roject, if	applicable (	(before,	during, a	after).
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#### 8. Reimbursement

- How much is the reimbursement request?
- What is the total amount of match?

Submit receipts and/or paid invoices for the reimbursement request and match documentation. Project expenditures without receipts will not be eligible for reimbursement. Copies of paid checks may be asked for with reimbursement requests.

#### HANTHO OUTDOOR SERVICES

2230 Edgewood Ave S Ste 4 St Louis Park, MN 55426 763-477-5011 robyn@hanthofarms.com

#### Invoice



#### **BILL TO**

AppleTree Square Condos 8121 34th Avenue South Bloomington, MN 55425

#### SHIP TO

AppleTree Square Condos First Service Residential PO Box 35627 Charlotte, NC 28235

INVOICE #	DATE	TOTAL DUE	DUE DATE	TERMS	ENCLOSED
17001	09/09/2022	\$14,907.58	09/24/2022	Net 15	

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
09/09/2022	Debris Removal - Remove Gravel and apply Herbicide as agreed	Debris Removal	1	4,253.00	4,253.00T
09/09/2022	Brush Removal	Brush Removal	1	6,832.00	6,832.00T
09/09/2022	Irrigation Services -Quote as approved and completed	Irrigation Services	1	2,988.43	2,988.43
		SUBTOTAL			14,073.43
		TAX (7.525%)			834.15
		TOTAL			14,907.58
		BALANCE DUE		\$14	.907.58

#### **Grading Permit Receipt**



#### Grading Permit

Permit No: PRGR202112356 Date Issued: July 19, 2022

Contractor:

#### Applicant: Tom Fahey 8121 34th Ave. S., Unit 201 Bloomington, MN 55425 Appletree Condo Association <NO STREET ADDRESS>

MN

Property Address: 8121 34TH AVE S, Unit:102, BLOOMINGTON, MN 55425

Tenant: Appletree Condo Suite: N/A

Work Description: A grading permit is being requested for the Appletree Condominium Association's Erosion Control and Maintenance Project located at 8121–34th Ave. S., Bloomington 55425.

The Project area is also located within the LMRWD Steep Slopes Overlay District (SSOD). This Project proposes to remove an existing gravel surface that surrounds the back of the condominium and plant the area with a mesic prairie seed mix on the south side and a shade-tolerant fescue seed on the east side.

Grading Permit Fee	\$89.50
Grading Plan Check Fee	\$37.00
Total P	aid \$126.50

#### Conditions of Issuance:

- Erosion control and site access must be maintained until restoration is complete.
- All construction and post-construction parking and storage of equipment and materials must be on-site. Use of public streets for private construction parking, loading/unloading, and storage will not be allowed.
- Call for all required inspections
- 4) Permit card and any approved plans must be printed out and on site prior to starting any work. Failure to have the card on site may result in a re-inspection and additional fees.

Plan Approved by: Kelly Beyer

#### When ready for inspection, call (952) 563-8930 at least 48 hours in advance.

This permit is conditioned upon compliance with: (1) specific conditions mentioned elsewhere on this permit; (2) the approved plans and specifications; (3) the applicable City approvals, Ordinances and Codes; and (4) the Minnesota State Building/Health Codes.









#### **ACCOUNT ACTIVITY**

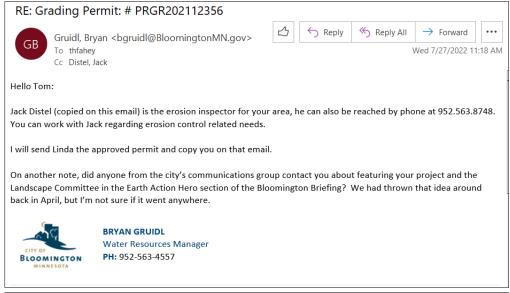
Date of Transaction

Merchant Name or Transaction Description

\$ Amount

#### Record of Communications regarding Grading Permit Inspection with Bloomington in July 2022

Thursday 28 July Jack Distel inspected & signed-off on the Grading Permit. I called & confirmed with Dick Fri 29July.



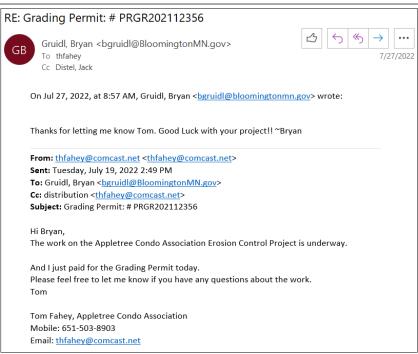
From: thfahey <thfahey@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Gruidl, Bryan <br/>
| Cc: Tom Fahey <thfahey@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Grading Permit: # PRGR202112356

Hi Bryan,
Hope all going well for you.

Do you know if there is someone at City of Bloomington I should contact to find out whether or not I have to schedule an inspection for the grading permit?

Also, do you know who at City of Bloomington will be contacting Linda Loomis at Lower MN River Watershed District (LMRWD) to let her know that Grading Permit had been finalized. This was one of the requirements before our Appletree Condominium Association could receive the LMRWD grant funds for our erosion control work.

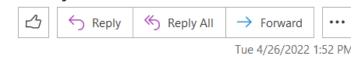
Tom
Mobile: 651-503-8903
thfahey@comcast.net



#### Record of Communications with Andy Marchant on 26 April 2022 including Grading Permit issue

#### RE: Appletree Condo Association, Erosion Control Project





#### Andy,

Good to talk with you on the phone again this morning.

I was happy to report: scaffolding that had been erected on the flat surface of the south side of the building was removed late last week. We look forward to having Hantho remove the gravel, whenever you determine the weather conditions are favorable.

Also, FYI, the grading permit (Application # PRGR202112356) that Hantho applied for at the City of Bloomington on 16 September 2021 must be issued before grading can start.

As we discussed on the 7th and again today:

- All trees and brush will be cut on the embankment down to the level where the berm of cut brush has already been laid down.
- 2. No need to haul the brush & cut trees out. Laying brush and manageable sized sections of the cut trees on or near the existing berm of brush that runs most of the embankment will be sufficient.
- 3. I will be your primary Appletree Condo Association contact for the project.
- 4. You will notify me (via text to my Mobile: 651-503-8903) at least the day before the crew is scheduled to come out, & then confirm early the morning of, so all 45 owners can be notified.

As we discussed today, and because I will be out of town until 11 May:

Please also notify Jarrod Lien (Property Manager via text to his Mobile: 843-422-8531) at least a day before crew is scheduled to come out, at the same time when you text me.

Lastly as we discussed today:

- Trunks of all cut trees and brush on the southside will be will be left in the ground to reduce chance of erosion.
- 7. Stumps of all cut brush and trees on the southside will be painted with herbicide after a fresh cut has been made on the stumps.
- 8. The branches trimmed from the 2 Maples of east side of the building can also be left on site to extend the berm on the south embankment eastward.
- 9. Seeding will be done with mesic prairie seed mix on the southside of the building along the flat surface and seeding will extend down the embankment to the berm of cut brush.

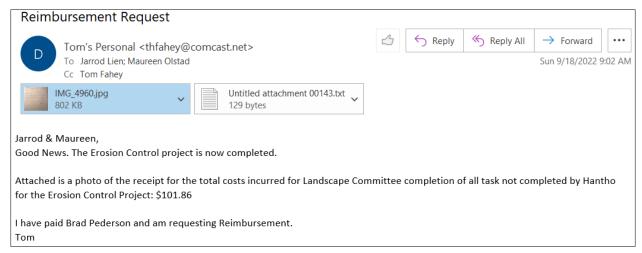
Thanks again & hoping the weather cooperates so you can start the project, Tom

Tom Fahey, Appletree Condominium Association Board & Chair Landscape Committee.

thfahey@comcast.net Mobile: 651-503-8903

#### Grass Seed Receipt, Communication and reimbursement Sept 2022

Bloomington Garden Center Landscape Co. 9407 Old Cedar Avenue South Bloomington, NN 55425 (952) 854-8148 Fax (952) 854-9272  SOLD TO Five Appletive Sq.	Order No
SALESMAN SHIP VIA WHEN	TERMS: NET DUE ON FINAL BILL.
Real Caderson	MATERIAL LABOR
	MACHAL DOOR
9 lbs Shody Geass Lead	6,00 5400
9 lbs Shody Geass Lead	
10 lls Sunny Geors Leed	40 95
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#### Erosion Control Project Test Area #1 & #2 expenses

Vendor	Date	Amount	Description		
Home Depot	29-Jul-22	\$ 3.42	Wood strips 2" X 2" - 8 ft (3 for silt fence repair stakes - 70% off).		
			Straw erosion blankets (4); Biodegradeable stakes (12);		
			Mycorrhizal Fungi (for roots); Short Prairie seed (for under 4 of		
Gerten's	5-Aug-22	\$ 210.95	the erosion blankets - 2 in each test area).		
			Prairie Grass & Flowers (5 flats, 160 plants 3"X3" containers - 2 o		
Natural Shore	10-Aug-22	\$ 344.08	5 flats, 27% off).		
Spike's	10-Aug-22	\$ 10.74	Straw (1 cubic ft, loose for filing in near erosion blanket).		
			Perenials (5 one gallon containers, 3 Prairie Dropseed & 2 Liatris		
Garden City	11-Aug-22	\$ 48.81	Blazingstar, 30% off) - needed for very steep test area #2.		
			Straw Erosion blankets (2); Sideoats Grama (25 plants, needed for		
Gerten's	11-Aug-22	\$ 96.39	very steep test area #2, 20% off).		
		\$714.39	Total Reimbursement requested		

Inver G	YOU FOR SHI Gertens 500 Blaine A rove Heights (651) 450-1	venue , MN 550	76
08/05/22 7:	08PM 310	302	SALE
34363306 ONE-SIDED STR 83250008 AMTURF BIODEGI 70048977 MYKE 390Z TREE T400600 JRK SHORT NATI	4 EA AN BLANKET 2 EA RADABLE STAK 1 EA E/SHRUB MYCO 1 EA VE WILDFLOW	\$24.99 4'X50 \$5.99 KES \$44.99 RRHI \$39.99 JER M	\$99.96 EA \$11.98 EA \$44.99 EA \$39.99
SUB-TOTAL:\$	196.92 TOT BC AMT:	AX: \$ FAL: \$	14.03 210.95 210.95
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Aug 10, 2022	GOPHER ACE	,	Repair & maintenance 🗸	\$63.41
	SPIKE'S - MAPLE PLAIN		Repair & maintenance 🗸	\$10.74
	SQ *NATURAL SHORE TECH. I	(4453)	Merchandise & inventory ∨	\$344.08

Tools I bought but will keep & not requesting reimbursement

Home Depot 4-Aug-22 \$ 37.61 5 lbs Pick Matlock (1 for removing roots).

Gopher Ace Hdwr 10-Aug-22 \$ 63.41 Earth Augers (2 for digging planting holes). Hand trowl (1).

\$101.02



#### **Technical Memorandum**

**To:** Linda Loomis, Administrator

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

From: Erica Bock, Water Resources Scientist

Hannah LeClaire, PE

**Date:** October 14, 2022

Re: Appletree Condominium Association Project Cost Share | Project

Inspection

#### **Background**

In August 2021, the Appletree Condominium Association (Association) requested a cost-share grant from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) for an erosion control and maintenance project (Project) in the amount of \$7,500.

The Project is located at 8121 34th Avenue South Bloomington, Minnesota; the condominium building is built on the top of the Minnesota River bluff, and runoff from the Project site enters Long Meadow Lake and ultimately the Minnesota River. The Project area is also located within the LMRWD Steep Slopes Overlay District. The \$21,673 Project proposed to remove an existing gravel surface that surrounds the back of the condominium and plant the area with a mesic prairie seed mix on the south side and a shade-tolerant fescue seed on the east side (Figure 1).

The Association has been working to manage surface water runoff and erosion on the south side of the building since 1997. The goals of this project are to maintain the stability of the steep slope behind the building and protect the water quality downstream in Long Meadow Lake and the Minnesota River by reducing erosion and sediment inputs. The Project will improve vegetation and infiltration, which will reduce peak stormwater runoff rates and therefore prevent further erosion of the steep slope on the south side of the building. The cost-share review from 2021 is included as Attachment 1.

Because the Project proposed to address issues and goals outlined in the District's

Watershed Management Plan, the cost-share project was approved at the September 15, 2021, board meeting. Linda Loomis asked Young Environmental to complete a site inspection for the completed cost-share project at Appletree Condominiums. Young Environmental notified the grantee Tom Fahey of the upcoming inspection and requested the construction plans, which were received on October 7, 2022, and are included in Attachment 2. Following a review of the application documents and construction plans, Erica Bock and Karina Weelborg inspected the site on October 12, 2022.

#### **Summary**

<u>Project Name</u>: Appletree Condominium Association Project Cost

Share

<u>Project Purpose</u>: Maintain the stability of the steep slope behind the

building and protect the water quality downstream of

the Minnesota River

Project Size: 8,600 square feet

<u>Location</u>: 8121 34th Avenue, Bloomington, MN 55425

<u>Applicable LMRWD Rules</u>: Rule F—Steep Slopes Rule (Permitted by the City of

Bloomington)

Grantee: Name: Tom Fahey

Email: <a href="mailto:thfahey@comcast.net">thfahey@comcast.net</a>

Phone: 651-503-8903

Project Manager: Hantho Outdoor Services

Name: Andy Marchant

Email: andy@hanthofarms.com

Phone: 763-477-5011

#### **Inspection Summary**

No steep slope or erosion issues were found at the Project site. The gravel area that surrounds the back of the condominium was removed and replaced with prairie grasses, shown in Image 1. Because of the timing of stabilization, the steep slope on the south side was planted with mesic prairie seed mix as well as a Canadian oat cover crop. The prairie mix showed some evidence of growth but is not expected to be fully established until next summer. In the meantime, the Canadian oat cover crop is at 90 percent vegetative cover, as shown in Image 1, and will provide proper stabilization throughout the winter and spring. The east side of the property was seeded with fescue and shows 70 percent vegetative cover (Image 2). The Project had properly maintained erosion

#### Page 3 of 6

and sediment control BMPs in place including a silt fence and log berm at the bottom of the proposed project location (Image 3). The Project complies with Rule F. Based on the Project inspection, a follow-up inspection is recommended for summer 2023 to confirm that the mesic prairie vegetation and fescue are fully established.

#### **Attachments**

- Images 1, 2, and 3
- Figure 1— Project Location Map
- Attachment 1—Appletree Condominium Association Project Cost-Share Review
- Attachment 2—Appletree Erosion Control & Maintenance Project Agreement



Image 1: South side of building with mesic prairie seeding and Canadian oat cover crop

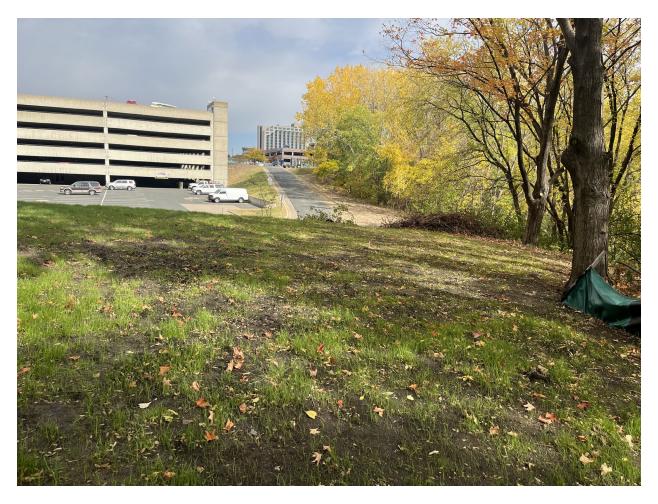
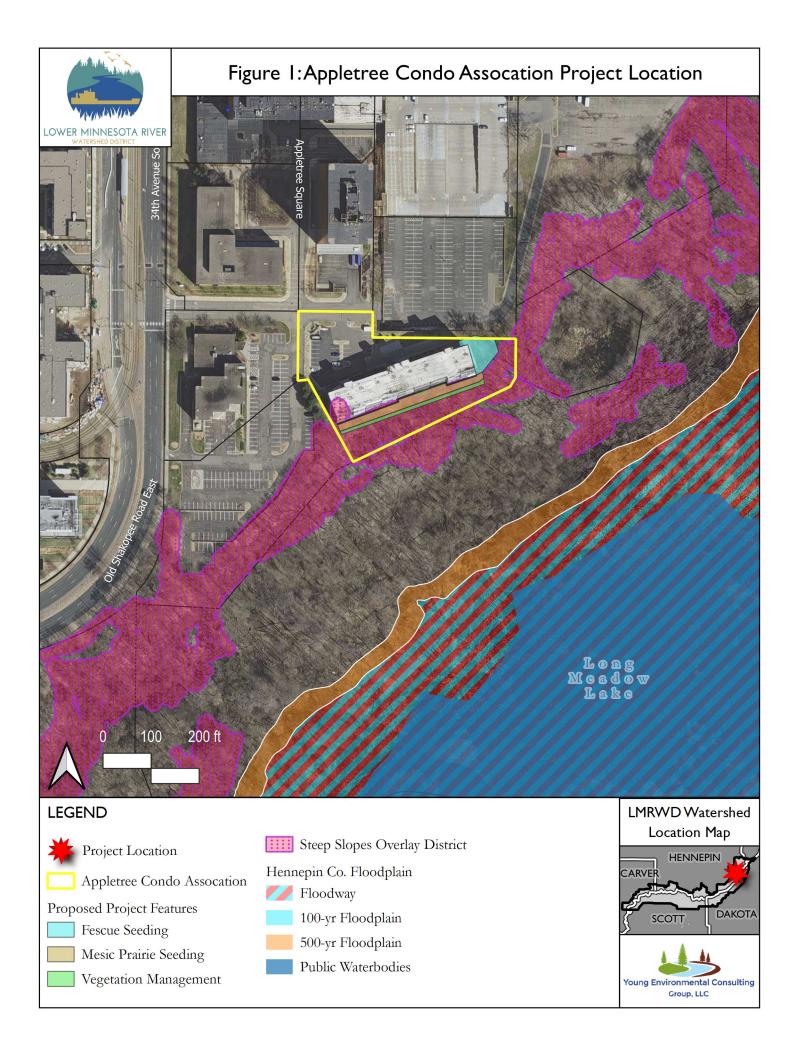


Image 2: Fescue seeding on east side of building



Image 3: Silt fence below Canadian oat cover crop and log berm behind silt fence.





#### **Technical Memorandum**

**To:** Linda Loomis, Administrator

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

From: Katy Thompson, PE, CFM

Della Schall Young, CPESC

Date: September 13, 2021

Re: Appletree Condominium Association Project Cost-Share Review

The Appletree Condominium Association (Association) is requesting a cost-share grant from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) for an erosion control and maintenance project (Project) in the amount of \$7,500. A summary of the Project and Young Environmental Consulting Group's (Young Environmental) recommendation is presented below.

#### **Project Background**

The proposed Project is located at 8121 34th Avenue in Bloomington; the condominium building is built on the top of the Minnesota River bluff, and runoff from the Project site enters Long Meadow Lake and ultimately the Minnesota River. The Project area is also located within the LMRWD Steep Slopes Overlay District (SSOD). The \$21,673 Project proposes to remove an existing gravel surface that surrounds the back of the condominium and plant the area with a mesic prairie seed mix on the south side and a shade-tolerant fescue seed on the east side (Figure 1).

The Association has been working to manage surface water runoff and erosion on the south side of the building since 1997. The goals of this project are to maintain the stability of the steep slope behind the building and protect the water quality downstream in Long Meadow Lake and the Minnesota River by reducing erosion and sediment inputs. The Project will improve vegetation and infiltration in an area of approximately 8,600 square feet and is assumed to reduce stormwater runoff by 50 percent. The Association also intends to develop an outreach plan for the project to

- identify similar projects that could be initiated within the SSOD and in partnership with the LMRWD,
- foster water resource stewardship,
- increase awareness of the vulnerability of watershed resources, and
- increase familiarity with and acceptance of solutions to improve water quality.

The Association proposes to reach out to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Bloomington, and Roers Companies to inform them of this Project and preventative work as well as other restoration opportunities the Association has identified.

#### **Discussion**

#### **Design Evaluation**

In review of the proposed Project, Young Environmental performed a simple analysis to evaluate the applicant's claims in the change in stormwater runoff and developed a HydroCAD model of the Project area to consider the runoff from existing and proposed conditions from the condominium rooftop and surrounding areas shown in Figure 1. The results of this preliminary analysis indicate that for the smaller, more frequent events, such as the two-year design storm, the project will likely exceed the assumed 50 percent reduction in peak runoff rates. In fact, for a one-inch rainfall event, the change in landcover may allow 94 percent of the rainfall to infiltrate. However, for the larger and more infrequent events, such as a 100-year design storm, the peak reduction is reduced to approximately 20 percent. It should be noted that the change in runoff is negligible for spring snowmelt events because the ground is frozen, which prevents infiltration.

The Association expects the Project to help protect the steep slope and prevent erosion within the SSOD. Because the Project will reduce peak stormwater runoff rates, it is reasonable to assume it would also prevent further erosion of the steep slope on the south side of the building.

We also reviewed the change in landcover to quantify the water quality benefits that may result from the project. Replacing the existing gravel surfaces with prairie and turf is estimated to provide approximately 28 percent reduction in both total phosphorus and total suspended solids leaving the Association property and entering Long Meadow Lake and the Minnesota River.

From our analysis, it appears that the Project would provide rate control, volume reduction, water quality, and erosion prevention benefits to the District.

#### Cost Summary

The Association has requested \$7,500 from the LMRWD to help fund the total Project. In the cost-share grant applicate, the Association presents quotes obtained from Hantho

Outdoor Services, a landscaping and ground maintenance company located in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. The total cost for the Project is expected to be \$21,673, which includes three years of professional maintenance services. The Project is expected to be constructed in late fall 2021 through spring 2022.

#### <u>District Permit Requirement</u>

The Project is located within the SSOD and will likely disturb more than 5,000 square feet of surface area and include more than 50 cubic yards of earthwork, triggering LMRWD Rule F—Steep Slopes Rule. A LMRWD permit will be required for the Project before construction activities may commence.

#### **Summary and Recommendations**

The Project addresses the following issues and goals outlined in the District's Watershed Management Plan:

- Issue 3: Water Quality
- Issue 5: Erosion and Sediment Control
- Issue 8: Public Education and Outreach
- Goal 2: Surface Water Management—to protect, improve, and restore surface water quality
- Goal 7: Erosion and Sediment Control—to manage erosion and control sediment discharge
- Goal 9: Public Education and Outreach—to increase public participation and awareness of the Minnesota River and its unique natural resources.

The Project embodies the District's strategy to provide educational, technical, and financial assistance to landowners to implement projects that have water quality and water quantity benefits to the District and help the District achieve the goals of its Watershed Management Plan.

Because the Project goals align with those of the District and the construction will be completed by a qualified contractor, Hantho Outdoor Services, Young Environmental recommends approving the Appletree Condominium Association's request for \$7,500. The project will require a permit from the LMRWD before any construction activities may commence. We recommend the Association apply for the permit as soon as possible to reduce the risk of construction delays.

#### **Attachments**

Figure 1 – Appletree Condominium Association Project Location Map