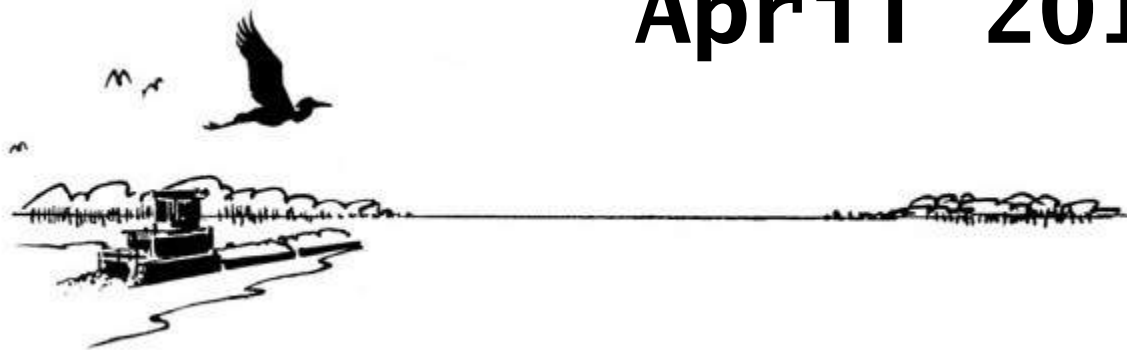


LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

2015 Annual Report



April 2015



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District 2014 Annual Report

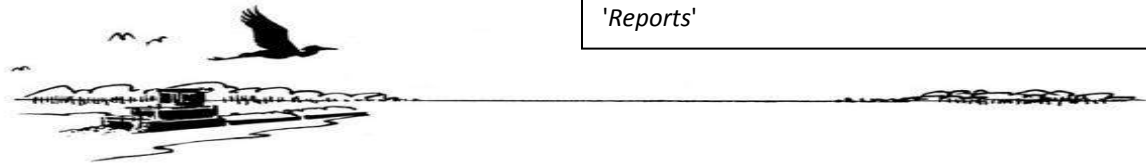
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Note: Monitoring Reports can be found and downloaded off the LMRWD web site at: <http://www.watersheddistrict.org> click on 'Reports'





Executive Summary



Executive Summary: 2014 Annual Report

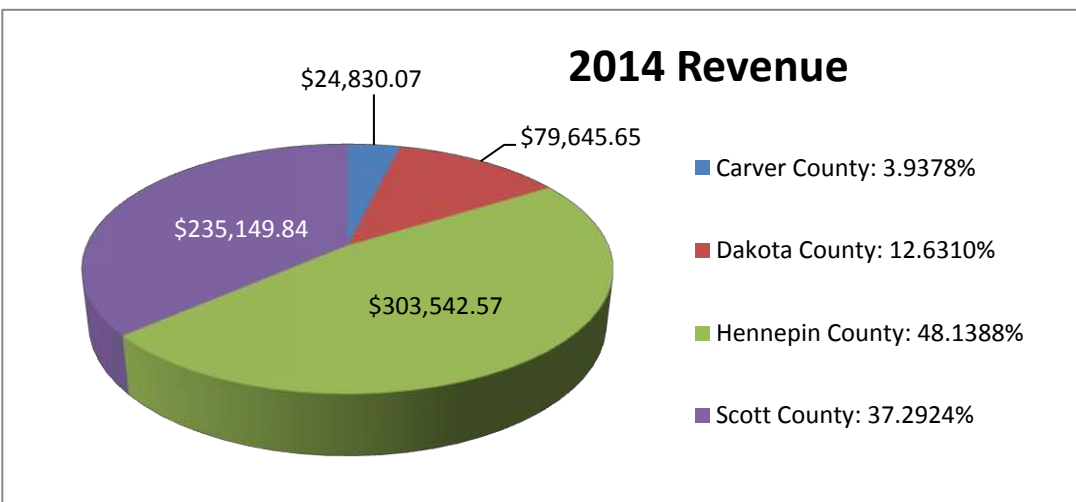
2014 Activities & Achievements

This Executive Summary highlights the Lower Minnesota River Watershed's District's (LMRWD) work and accomplishments during its fiscal year 2014 (January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014) in the following areas: Nine-foot Channel, Plan Implementation Activities, water quality activities, and education activities. The LMRWD activities and projects are guided by its *Watershed Management Plan* (Plan), which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in December of 2011, subject to the condition "that the LMRWD amend the implementation program of the Plan by the end of 2014 to incorporate the results of the *Strategic Resource Evaluation and Management Process* (SRE) that is to be completed in 2012 and 2013." The SRE was finalized and adopted by the LMRWD in 2014. A petition to amend the Plan was submitted to BWSR in December of 2014.

Nine-foot Channel Achievements

The LMRWD continued its role as the local sponsor for maintenance of the Nine-foot Navigation Channel. In 2014, we successfully:

- Investigated two possible locations for a second dredge-material management site downstream of Interstate 35W;
- Amended our dredge-material-management permit with the city of Savage, to allow additional trips into and out of the site at 12020 Vernon Avenue in order to remove dredge material cost effectively;
- Lobbied the Minnesota Legislature for funding to develop a second dredge material management location;
- Secured a commitment from a local contractor to purchase the existing stockpile of dredge material over the course of the next three years and find reuses for it;
- Licensed local industry to place material dredged from private barge slips temporarily at the Vernon Avenue dredge material management site; and
- Retained services of LS Marine to manage the dredge materials at 12020 Vernon Avenue in Savage.



In FY 2014, levy revenues totaled \$630,557, divided among the four counties as shown by the chart at left. For more information on the LMRWD's FY 2014 revenue, see the Financial Information in Appendix A of the Annual Report

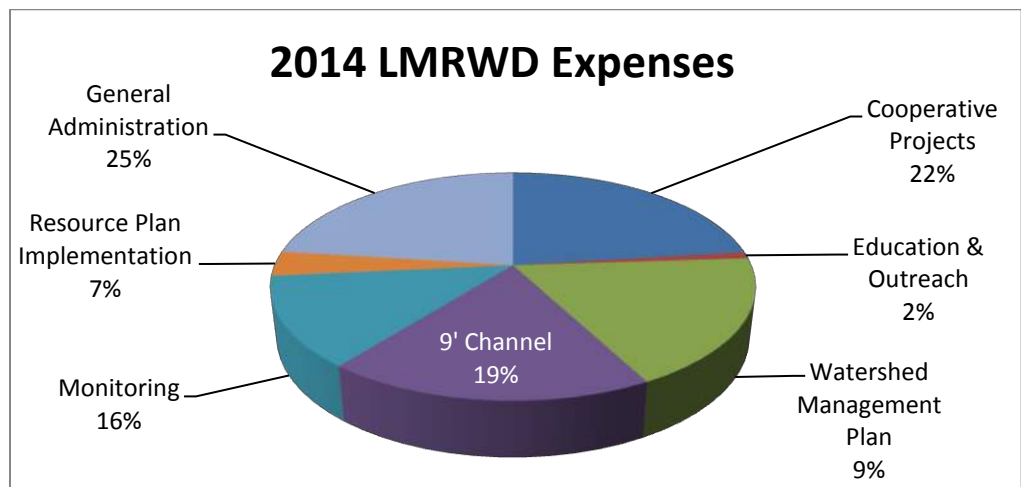
Watershed Plan Activities

The LMRWD continued to implement the goals of its Plan. The SRE, begun in 2012 to identify and evaluate each resource within the District, was finalized in early 2014 and adopted by the Board later that year. After completion of the SRE, the LMRWD prepared an amendment to the Plan, which would incorporate into the Plan the 2012 Governance Study, the 2013 Dredge Material Site Management Plan, and the SRE. The Capital Improvement Program was updated for the Plan Amendment. A petition to amend the Plan was submitted to BWSR in December, 2014.

Additionally, the LMRWD:

- Continued work to restore a ravine tributary to Seminary Fen in Chaska (partially funded by Clean Water Fund Grant of \$220,000), preparing a project design in 2014 and then, in XXXX, acquiring a Clean Water Fund Grant of \$220,000 from the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources and, later, an additional \$175,000 from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; and
- Was selected by BSWR, in 2014, to undergo a Level II evaluation under the Performance Review and Assistance Program. (This report can be found in Appendix D of the Annual Report.)

In FY 2014, the LMRWD spent a total of \$152,025 on its capital improvement program and approximately \$160,091 on its other activities. For an itemization or more information on the LMRWD's FY 2014 expenditures, see the Financial Information in Appendix A of the Annual Report



Water Quality Activities

In 2014 the LMRWD addressed water-quality issues by

- Performing continuous stream monitoring for water quality on Eagle Creek (WOMP station), in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services and the Scott SWCD;
- Monitoring water levels in observation wells in Savage Fen and Seminary Fens;
- Conducting thermal monitoring of Eagle Creek in Scott County, a designated trout stream;
- Monitoring East & West Chaska creeks for occurrence and concentration of nutrients;
- Monitoring Dean Lake inlet channel for nutrients;
- Monitoring water quality of Courthouse, Firemen's and Brickyard lakes through the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP);
- Sampled bedload, loads, and sediment transport in the Minnesota River through a partnership with the USGS and the US Army Corps of Engineers; and
- Partnered with Scott WMO and St. Croix research station to undertake a paleolimnology study of Dean Lake, in Scott County, to better understand the trophic and sedimentation history of the lake.

Education Activities

In 2014, the LMRWD pursued its education goals as it

- Provided an opportunity for four classes of students from the LMRWD to attend the Children's Water Festival;
- Approved funding of five projects under the LMRWD's Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program;
- Published educational/informational articles to educate homeowners on ways to maintain yardscapes to help improve water quality; and
- Posted agendas and minutes of Board of Managers meetings on the LMRWD website



I. Annual Activity Report



I. Annual Activity Report

This report covers the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's (LMRWD) activities for fiscal year 2014 (January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014). The LMRWD Annual Report was prepared to meet the Annual Reporting Requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes Annotated 103D.351 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.0150 subparts 1,2 and 3.

The LMRWD changed Administrative leadership in December 2013. The LMRWD did not prepare an Annual Report in either FY 2012 or FY 2013. Therefore, this report will include activities for 2013, although not in the same detail as the 2014 activities. LMRWD records are not organized in an easily accessible manner and this report represents best efforts to present the work of the District prior to 2014. This report will be used as a template for future reports, as the LMRWD works to rebuild the capacity of the organization and implement the goals of the LMRWD Watershed Management Plan.

A. BOARD OF MANAGERS

The LMRWD is governed by a Board of Managers appointed by the County Commissioners of each respective County, for a term of three years. Managers can be reappointed. Each County is entitled to appoint one Manager. Hennepin County appoints two. It is the job of the Board of Managers to preside over the business of the LMRWD as it pursues the goals of the Watershed Management Plan. The following reflects the Managers appointed and officers elected at the meeting held on September 17, 2014:

KENT FRANCIS
Secretary/Treasurer
Carver County

(resigned 12-31-2014)

YVONNE SHIRK
Vice President
Dakota County

LEN KREMER
President
Hennepin County

Vacant since November 2012
Hennepin County

Vacant since January 2014
Scott County

Term Expires: 2-28-2017

Phone:

Email:

Address: 623 GRIFFIN STREET
CARVER, MN 55315

Term Expires: 4-2015

Phone: 612-860-6680

Email: yshirk@msn.com

Address: 11000 TERRITORIAL DR.
BURNSVILLE, MN 55337

Term Expires: 2-28-2015

Phone: (w) 952-832-2600

Email: lkremer@barr.com

Address: 6111 AUTO CLUB ROAD
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55438

Term Expires: 2-28-2015

Term Expires: 4-2017

B. LMRWD Staff and Consultants

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mwahl@co.carver.mn.us

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 Minneapolis, MN 55402
 612-344-1111
bruce.malkerson@mgmlp.com

C. LMRWD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Brad Wozney, and Steve Christopher, Board of Soil and Water Resources	Brooke Asleson and Chris Zadak, MN Pollution Control Agency
Mark Nemeth and Jennie Skancke, MN Department of Natural Resources	Nick Tiedeken and Beth Neuendorf, MN Department of Transportation
Paul Machajewski, US Army Corps of Engineers	Greg Genz, Upper Mississippi Waterway Association
James Fallon, US Geological Survey	Joe Mulcahy, Metropolitan Council
Allen Dye, MN Airport Commission	Paul Nelson, Scott WMO
Paul Moline and Charlie Sawdey, Carver WMO	Randy Anhorn, Hennepin County
Troy Kuphal, Scott SWCD	Mike Wanous, Carver SWCD
Brain Watson and Jessica Van der Werff, Dakota SWCD	Bryan Gruidl, City of Bloomington and Richfield/Bloomington WMO
Daryl Jacobson, City of Burnsville	Terry Jeffery, City of Chanhassen
Bill Monk, City of Chaska	Leslie Stovring, City of Eden Prairie
Eric Macbeth, City of Eagan and Eagan/InverGrove Heights WMO	Bruce Loney and Joe Swentek, City of Shakopee
Sam Lucido, City of Savage	Diane Lynch, Prior Lake/Spring Lake WD
Kevin Bigalke, Nine Mile Creek WD	Claire Bleser, Riley/Purgatory/Bluff Creek WD

D. LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

There currently is not a standing Citizen Advisory Committee.

E. LMRWD Goals

Description of Overall Goals

The LMRWD's general goals fall under the categories of water quality, flood control, erosion and sediment control, stream restoration, wetland management, groundwater, public ditches and public involvement and information. Unlike other water management programs in the state subject to M.S. 103B, the LMRWD has an additional purpose which is to assist and facilitate the efforts of state and federal agencies to maintain the Minnesota River 9-foot navigation channel. The goals identified in the *Watershed Management Plan* (December 2011) are to:

- Manage the different roles of the District;
- Protect, improve and restore surface water quality;
- Protect and promote groundwater quality and quantity;
- Protect and manage unique natural resource;
- Protect and preserve wetlands;
- Manage floodplains and mitigate flooding;
- Manage erosion and control sediment discharge;
- Maintain and improve navigation and recreational use of the Lower Minnesota River; and
- Increase public participation and awareness of the unique natural resources and the Minnesota River

F. 2014 Work Activities Completed

The LMRWD conducted the following activities in 2014. Work related to water quality monitoring is addressed in Section H.

Capital Improvement Program - The LMRWD continued to implement its capital improvement program. In 2014, achievements included:

1. The following CIP projects were underway in 2014:
 - Seminary Fen - Cost estimates provided by the preliminary design of a project to restore a ravine, located in the city of Chaska, to reduce sediment inputs to Seminary Fen exceeded estimates determined at the time the LMRWD applied for and received a Clean Water Fund Grant from BWSR. The LMRWD was not able to secure a second grant to cover the shortfall. The project was redesigned to fit within the original cost estimates. The LMRWD was in the process of securing BWSR concurrence with the redesign, when the city and the LMRWD

were able to secure a commitment from the MNDNR to participate in the project. Thus the project continued along the original design plan. It is anticipated that construction will begin in 2015. Completion of the project may run into 2016. The LMRWD will work with BWSR to extend the expiration date of the Grant was expires 12/31/2016.

2. BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant Administration:

- Submitting project updates, reports, etc. for the BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant for the Seminary Fen/Chaska Ravine projects (2013 Grant)

The LMRWD's capital improvements plan and potential future water quality capital improvement are included in the LMRWD Watershed Management Plan (December 2011). The table listing the LMRWD's capital improvement projects has been updated as part of the Plan Amendment.

Watershed Management Plan - In 2014, the LMRWD undertook a major plan amendment as conditioned by the Board of Water and Soil Resource in its approval of the Plan, in December 2011.

The 2011 Plan identified several studies the LMRWD was planning to undertake, which were finalized and adopted in 2014: the Strategic Resource Evaluation and Management Process, the Governance Study, and the Dredge Material Management Plan for the Vernon Avenue dredge material management site.

In December 2014, a petition to amend the Plan, along with the amended Plan, was submitted to BWSR and other agencies as required by M.S. 103B.231. The proposed amendment to the plan includes the following:

- Adding the January 2013 Dredge Management Plan to the Plan;
- Adding the January 2014 Strategic Resource Evaluation of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to the Plan;
- Adding the 2012 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Governance Study to the Plan;
- Amending the LMRWD Capital Improvement Program as follows:
 - Remove Minnesota River Study Area 3 Bluff Stabilization project from the CIP;
 - Change the year for the Dean Lake project from 2014 to 2016;
 - Adding a project for 2015 to cooperate with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to stabilize and restore an eroded portion of Bluff Creek and stabilize the stream bank to help meet the Bluff Creek TMDL turbidity goals and to construct a fish passage adjacent to the restoration, which continues through the culvert under the Minnesota River Bluff Regional Trail, to help meet the Bluff Creek TMDL biota goals. The estimated cost of this project to the District is \$50,000;
 - Adding a project for 2014-2015 to cooperate with the City of Bloomington to rehabilitate or reconstruct an existing storm sewer outfall to Long Meadow Lake from the Bloomington Central Station area incorporating water quality best management

practices to provide additional treatment. The estimated cost of this project to the District is \$100,000;

- Adding an Assessment of Wetlands and Fens for 2016, which includes completing a floristic quality assessment that provides a replicable picture in time of the fens, to be used as a baseline indicator of fen condition to be compared against in the future. Update the MLCCS and MnRAM to provide a complete, accurate baseline dataset of wetland plant communities found in the marshes. Include quality control of existing data and addition of new information. The estimated cost of this project to the Watershed District is \$45,000;
- Adding a project for 2016 to stabilize gullies along the northern bluff of Brickyard Clayhole Lake to deter sedimentation in the lake. The estimated cost of this project to the District is \$100,000;
- Adding a project for 2016-2017 to remove debris jams in the channel of East Chaska Creek, to help reduce localized erosion. This project includes restoration of the creek, stabilizing and re-vegetating portions of the stream bank, removing sediment deposits and constructing structures to control steep grades in the channel, and control stream bank grade and provide toe protection along portions the creek channel. The estimated cost of this project to the District is \$301,000.
- Adding a project for 2018-2019 to stabilize outer bends with toe protection, grade banks to more stable slopes and stabilize gullies on Carver Creek. The estimated cost of this project to the District is \$93,500; and
- Adding a project for 2018-2019 to construct an energy dissipation structure on Riley Creek below CSAH 61 and redirect flows away from outside creek meanders. The estimated cost of this project to the District is \$168,500.

Nine Foot Channel - The LMRWD is the local sponsor for the nine foot navigation channel (the Channel), which extends from the confluence of the Minnesota River with the Mississippi River upstream to River Mile Post 14.7. As the local sponsor for Channel the LMRWD must provide locations for the storage and disposal of material dredged from the River in order to maintain navigation. To this end, the LMRWD owns and operates a dredge material management facility at 12020 Vernon Avenue South, in Savage, MN.

In 2014, the LMRWD conducted the following activities in its role as local sponsor to maintain the Channel:

- Investigated two possible sites for the development of an additional dredge material management site below I-35W, as requested by the US Army Corps of Engineers and prepared a cost estimate for development of a site on Metropolitan Airport Commission property
- Lobbied at the MN Legislature for funds to develop an additional dredge material management site. The LMRWD was unable to secure funding from the State. The US Army Corps of Engineers was asked to re-evaluate the need for an additional dredge material management site.

- Secured a commitment from a local contractor to purchase the existing stockpile of dredge material, estimated at 110,000 cubic yards, for beneficial reuse.
- Requested and received from the city of Savage, an amendment to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The CUP now allows for unlimited truck traffic into and out of the Vernon Avenue facility. This effort required the LMRWD to have a traffic study prepared.
- Retained the service of LS Marine to manage the Vernon Avenue dredge material management site.
- Entered into license agreements with several local industries to temporarily place material dredged from private barge slips on the LMRWD's Vernon Avenue site.

Technical Advisory Committee - Technical Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. The LMRWD directed its Technical Advisory Committee to meet twice during FY 2014 (February 17 and June 19) to review and work on the following items:

- Review of the final draft of the Strategic Resource Evaluation and Management Process and affirm the prioritization of the resource identified in the SRE; and
- Develop a decision tree as a guide for stakeholders to determine when LMRWD would consider assisting in implementing projects.

Annual Report from the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) - In April, Mr. Al Dye, Airside Project Manager - Airport Development and Mr. Chad Leque, Director of the Environmental Department reported to the Board of Managers activities planned for 2014 at the MSP Airport. The report included activities related to pavement joint repair/replacement, gate pavement improvements, storm sewer rehabilitation, improvements to bituminous pavement, rearranging deicing areas, lighting improvements, charging stations for ground service equipments, terminal upgrades and the glycol recovery system program.

The LMRWD discussed use of a parcel of land owned by MAC for dredge material management with MAC management. MAC was provided with the preliminary report prepared for the LMRWD, by its engineer, HDR and the response from the US Army Corps of Engineers to the report.

Annual Report on Flying Cloud Landfill Closure - In April, Mr. David Parenteau, from Wenck Associates, reported to the Board of Managers progress on the closure of the Flying Cloud Landfill. About 60% of the waste that was proposed to be relocated has been moved. 2014 work will include installation of a plastic liner and permanent stormwater management features. One half of the site is scheduled to be closed in 2014. The second half of the site is scheduled to be closed in 2016.

Review of Adjacent WD/WMO Plans/Plan Amendments - In 2014, the LMRWD did not receive any requests to review plans or plan amendments for any adjacent WDs/WMOs.

Commented on the MPCA Sediment Reduction Strategy for the Minnesota River Basin - In April of 2014, the LMRWD commented on the MPCA's proposed *Sediment Reduction strategy for the Minnesota River Basin*. This document came as a surprise to the LMRWD, as the District had not received any response to detailed comments on total maximum daily load studies for the

Minnesota River and the South Metro Mississippi River. The LMRWD was encouraged by the MPCA's approach to implementation identified in the *Sediment Reduction strategy for the Minnesota River Basin*. The LMRWD has a huge stake in the success of efforts to reduce peak flows and sediment loads from upstream and takes great interest in system-wide framework the this document represents.

Commented on South Metro Mississippi - In 2012, the MPCA released the *South Metro Mississippi River Total Suspended Solids Total Maximum Daily Load (South Metro Mississippi TSS TMDL)* study and asked for comments. The LMRWD responded to the request for comments and requested a contested case hearing for the Study. In August of 2014, the MPCA provided the LMRWD with a revised copy of the *South Metro Mississippi River TSS TMDL* document, with a request that we review the revisions and withdraw the District's request for a contested case hearing.

The LMRWD reviewed the revised document, but did not withdraw the request for a contested case hearing. In October 2014, a comment letter on the revised *South Metro Mississippi TSS TMDL* was sent to the MPCA. While the revisions made to the required reductions for urban storm water runoff, satisfied the LMRWD concerns, the LMRWD did not withdraw its request for a contested case hearing regarding the assignment of non-point source load allocations. The LMRWD is concerned whether or not non-point source sediment will be "identified with sufficient specificity to prioritize and geographically locate watershed restoration and protection actions," as the Clean Water Legacy Act requires.

With responsibility for maintaining a navigation channel in the lower Minnesota River and protecting unique natural resources within its boundaries, the District has a huge stake in the successful implementation of the *South Metro Mississippi TSS TMDL*, as well as the *Sediment Reduction strategy for the Minnesota River Basin*.

Comment on MNDOT Statewide Ports and Waterways Plan - In February 2014, the LMRWD commented on the *Statewide Ports and Waterways Plan* produced by the MN Department of Transportation. Comments provided by the LMRWD included: 1.) the plan should point out the unique nature of the LMRWD as the only Watershed District with authority for maintaining a navigation channel (and that is not a Port Authority); and 2.) The document indicates that the LMRWD is not eligible to participate in the Port Development Assistance Program. According to MN State Law the LMRWD is eligible to participate in the program.

LMRWD Policy Development - At the September 17, 2014 meeting, the Board of Managers of the LMRWD adopted a Data Practices Policy and Procedures, as required by Minnesota Statutes Sections 10.03, subdivision 2 and 13.05, subdivision 5 and 8.

Resolutions - The LMRWD passed 19 resolutions in 2014. Copies of the resolutions are included in Appendix B

Impaired Waters and Total Daily Maximum Loads (TMDL) Studies - The following water bodies in the Lower Minnesota River Watershed are listed in the MN Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Draft 2-14 *Inventory of Impaired Waters*. The inventory includes listings of (1) impaired waters that require the development of a TMDL study, (2) impaired waters that have an approved TMDL study, but are not yet meeting water quality standards, and (3) impaired waters from natural causes that do not require a TMDL study. The inventory is available at the MPCA's Impaired Waters website: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdls/impaired-waters-list.html>

Water Body (Lake/River ID#)	Pollutant or Stressor (Year of Listing)
Bluff Creek from Headwaters to Rice Lake (07020012-710)	Turbidity(2002) Fishes Bioassessments (2004)
Carver Creek from Headwaters to MN River (07020012-516)	Fecal Coliform (2002) Turbidity (2002)
Chaska Creek from Headwaters to MN River (07020012-512)	Fecal Coliform (2006)
Dean Lake (70-0074-00)	Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators (2006)
Nine Mile Creek from Headwaters to MN River (07020012-518)	Turbidity/TSS (2002) Fishes Bioassessments (2004) Chloride (2004) ¹
Riley Creek from Riley Lake to MN River (07020012-511)	Turbidity (2002)
Minnesota River from RM 22 to Mississippi (07020012-501,505,506 &532)	Dissolved Oxygen (1998) Turbidity Fecal Coliform PCB in fish tissue (1998) ² Mercury in fish tissue (1998) ³ Mercury in Water Column (1998) ³
Snelling Lake (27-0001-00)	Mercury in fish tissue (1998) ³

¹ MPCA proposed several new impairment listings for chloride in September, 2013. Following responses to comments, these listings remained on the 2014 Proposed Impaired Waters List (updated 4/15/2014).

² Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are regulated by the *Toxic Substances Control Act*, that includes among other things, prohibitions on the manufacture, processing and distribution in commerce of PCBs, which led to "cradle to grave" management of PCBs.

³ The MPCA completed a statewide mercury TMDL that was approved in 2007. Permit limits and monitoring requirements are required to be in accordance with the Mercury Permit.

- **Bluff Creek, Carver Creek, Chaska Creek, Riley Creek and Nine Mile Creek** - The majority of the watersheds, as well as the main channel of these water bodies lie outside the boundaries of the LMRWD. Only the final reach, before it reaches the Minnesota River, of each creek lies within the LMRWD.

- **Dean Lake** - Dean Lake lies wholly within the boundaries of the LMRWD. Dean Lake is eligible for a TMDL to be completed as part of the *Lower Minnesota River WRAP*. The LMRWD will hold a meeting of Dean Lake Stakeholders in 2015 to get a recommendation for next steps.
- **Minnesota River** - The lower 22 miles of the Minnesota River is impaired for dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform bacteria, turbidity, PCBs, and mercury. The Minnesota River is a major source of phosphorus and sediment in the Mississippi River, especially Lake Pepin. The *Lower Minnesota River Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Report* was prepared and approved by the EPA in September 2004. The *Minnesota River Basin General Phosphorus Permit* was developed in response to address the reductions necessary from point sources identified in the TMDL. A draft TMDL has not been completed to address the fecal coliform impairment. A TMDL study for turbidity was begun in 2005 and is still underway.
- **Lower Minnesota River WRAP** - In 2014, the MPCA began the WRAP process for the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) identified as the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. This WRAP has been split in to two tracks; one addressing the rural area of the HUC 8 and one addressing the urban/suburban area. It is expected to be complete in 2018.

G. 2014 LMRWD Project reviews

It is the policy of the LMRWD that regulation is more properly performed by local units of governmental rather than by the District. The LMRWD has agreements in place with all local governmental units, with the exception of the city of Chanhassen. The cities perform review and permitting procedures necessary to implement the goals and policies of the LMRWD.

If the District finds that an LGU has failed to enforce LMRWD standards and policies, then the District will adopt regulations after taking the appropriate steps to enforce its standards and policies.

H. 2014 Water Quality Monitoring Data and Studies

The following water quality monitoring and water quality studies were performed:

- Stream monitoring at Eagle Creek WOMP station - Stream monitoring was performed in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) as part of the stream monitoring and watershed outlet monitoring program (WOMP). The LMRWD contracts with Scott Soil and Water Conservation District to perform monitoring activities at this station.
- The LMRWD approved an agreement with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District to conduct thermal monitoring in Eagle Creek, Water level monitoring in the Savage Fen.
- The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District also performed monitoring of Dean Lake for water quality and monitored the inlet channel.
- Scott County WMO contracted with the Science Museum of Minnesota and the St. Croix Research Station on behalf of the LMRWD to undertake a paleolimnology study of Dean Lake to determine the historical characteristics of the lake.

- Carver WMO conducts water quality monitoring of the Courthouse, Brickyard and Fireman's Lakes in Chaska, and of East and West Chaska Creek. Water level at five nested shallow **wells** and four deep wells within Seminary Fen and 3 stream sites on Assumption Creek in Seminary Fen are monitored by Carver WMO as well.
- Agreed to fund the installation of additional monitoring wells within Seminary Fen Scientific and Natural Area.
- The LMRWD funded sediment and bedload monitoring by the USGS with participation of the US Army Corps of Engineers
- In 2010, inclinometers were installed southwest of the intersection of Riverview Road and Mooer Lane in Eden Prairie in an area where the LMRWD commissioned Wenck, Inc. to conduct a study to investigate the meander movement of the river channel and various factors influencing the erosion of the bluff. The LMRWD monitors the inclinometers annually for movement in the bluff. Monitoring results in 2014 indicate there has been no movement in the bluff.

I. Local Plan Adoption

The LMRWD records are not up to date with local plan information. Since the LMRWD is amending its plan and all municipalities within the District will be required to update its plan to conform with the LMRWD Plan, the table below will be completed as plan updates are received and reviewed by the LMRWD.

Municipality	Local Plan Status	Comments
Bloomington		The LMRWD received an amendment in 2015
Burnsville		
Carver		An adopted Plan was received from the city of Carver in February 2014. The LMRWD reviewed the plan and provided comments, which the LMRWD recommended be incorporated into the Plan whenever the plan is next amended or updated.
Chanhassen		
Chaska		The LMRWD received an amendment in 2015
Eagan		
Eden Prairie		
Lilydale		An adopted Plan was received from the city of Lilydale in December 2013. The LMRWD reviewed the plan and provided comments, which the LMRWD recommended be incorporated into the Plan whenever the plan is next amended or updated.
Mendota		
Mendota Heights		
Minneapolis		
Savage		
Shakopee		
Metropolitan Airport Commission		

J. Watershed Communication/Public Education

In accordance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8410.0100, Subpart 4, the Lower Minnesota River utilized the following information sources for providing information to the general public:

- **Website** - The LMRWD maintained information on its website during 2014. In 2014, there were approximately 3,000 total visits, or 8.22 per day. A copy of the website Usage Report from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, is included in Appendix E. The LMRWD meeting agendas, meeting minutes, meeting notices, and monitoring reports are among continually updated information on the website. Educational articles are posted on the home page, as are notices of education meetings for residents of the LMRWD, such as raingarden workshops. There is also a whole skein of education pages, providing historical and environmental information about the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. The address for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District website is <http://www.watersheddistrict.org/>
- **LMRWD Meeting Packet** - Each month in 2014, the LMRWD emailed meeting agendas and minutes from each meeting to approximately 50 individuals.
- **Publications** - The LMRWD published its public hearing notices in a variety of Twin Cities metro-area publications including the Shakopee Valley News, the Savage Pacer, Sun Current, Sun ThisWeek, Sun Sailor, Chaska Herald and the Chanhassen Villager.
- **Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Grant Program** - The LMRWD provides a program for residents, businesses, neighborhoods and communities to apply for matching funds for projects intended to improve water quality and provide education. The match is 50/50. The deadline for applications is May 15 and awards for funding are made at the June Board of Managers meeting. The expiration date for grants awarded is November 1st. In 2014, \$25,000 was budgeted for this program. The LMRWD received 4 applications for 10 projects for a total of \$8,793.25. In all projects the County SWCD provided technical assistance to the applicants. 2014 Awards are listed below:
 - The Scott SWCD applied for \$1,750 to fund seven projects. The SSWCD would pass through funds to residential property owners who attended one of their rain garden workshops. These projects were not constructed in 2014, so the expiration date of the grant was extended until November 1, 2015. By granting an extension, the timing for projects will work better with the timing of rain garden workshops.
 - The SW Metro Educational Cooperative applied for two grants. The first grant was to construct a rain garden on the campus of the school in Chaska, that would accept rain water from a portion of the roof of the building. This project is tributary to East Chaska Creek which runs behind the school building. The grant awarded for this project
 - The second project constructed by the SW Metro Educational Cooperative was a rain garden on the campus of the Carver County Government building. The grant awarded for this project was for \$3,610 and accepted rain water from a portion of the roof of the government building, that was pooling in a low area and undermining the foundation of the building.

- The final project was in the city of Savage, A local business, Continental Machines, located at the corner of T.H. 13 and Quentin Avenue. This project planned to restore 9.7 acres of manicured lawn to native prairie. The grant awarded for this project was \$2,255.25. Due to the timing of this grant cycle, this project was not able to be constructed in 2014. An extension of the grant agreement was agreed to by both parties. The property is now for sale and the project is not likely to be completed
- **Metro Children's Water Festival** - The LMRWD financially sponsored four classes of fourth-grade students from the watershed to attend the 2014 Metro Children's Water Festival on September 24. Students spent a day at the MN State Fair grounds learning about water resources and ways to protect and manage them wisely.

K. Professional Services Proposal

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.227 Subdivision 5, the LMRWD solicited proposals for legal and engineering services in February/March 2015. Proposals were considered in May 2014. Long time Attorney for the LMRWD announced his intent to retire, so the firm of Rinke Noonan and Attorney John Kolb were retained as legal counsel. Three firms were chosen to interview for engineering services. In July 2014, the firm of Burns & McDonnell was chosen to provide engineering services to the District.

L. Assessment of Changes in Fund Balance

A discussion of the fund balance is included in the LMRWD's annual financial audit report. A copy of the annual audit report is included in Appendix A and is available in the Reports section of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's website at: <http://www.watersheddistrict.org/>

M. Wetland Conservation Act/Wetland Banking Program

1991 Wetland Conservation Act - Wetlands are an abundant resource within the LMRWD. The interim program of the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act was effective through December 31, 1993. On January 1, 1994, the permanent program of the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act became effective. Each municipality was required to designate the local government unit (LGU) responsible for administrating the interim program and the permanent program of the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act. The LMRWD Plan strategy 5.1.2, requires each city within the LMRWD to "evaluate the function and value of wetlands either through development of a comprehensive wetland management plan or on a case by case basis. In 2015, the LMRWD intends to assess compliance with this strategy and document findings in the 2015 Annual Report.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District 2013 Activities Summary

The following is a list of 2013 activities of the LMPWD:

January

- Contracted with Carver County to provide financial services to the LMRWD

February

- Agreed to sponsor Metro Blooms Rain Garden Workshops in Chanhassen and Eden Prairie in May
- Applied for a CWP Grant with Scott County as a partner for a diagnostic study of Dean Lake
- Hired a Lobbyist to work at the State Legislature to secure bonding for the LMRWD in order to acquire and develop an additional dredge disposal site below I 35W
- Adopted the RMP14.2 Dredge Material Management Plan

March

- Continued Lobby activities at the State Legislature
- Directed District Engineer, HDR, to prepare a presentation for legislators and others that show the increase in the amount of dredging needed to maintain the navigation channel and how the material that requires the dredging of the channel comes from sources far outside the boundaries of the LMRWD

April

- Funded a restoration project performed by the MN DNR on Eagle Creek, in Scott County
- Entered into an agreement with the Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District for Education services
- Developed an RFP for Management of the RMP 14.2 Dredge Material Management site
- Was able to get legislation introduced to fund \$4,000,000 for an additional Dredge Site
- Agreed to partially fund a Preliminary Design and Cost Estimate for the Seminary Fen Ravine project

May

- Listened to the annual presentation from the Metropolitan Airport Commission of activities at the airport
- Listened to a presentation from Chris Ellison of the USGS on the results of sediment and bedload monitoring the USGS has been doing in the Minnesota River
- Listened to a presentation from Ron Leaf of SEH on the MNDOT proposed T.H. 101/CSAH 61 project and the process for the preparation of an EAW
- Entered into an agreement with the Dakota SWCD to monitor fens in Dakota County
- Received two proposals for Management of the RMP 14.2 Dredge Material Management Site

June

- Listened to a presentation from Steven Tapp of the USACE on the need for an additional dredge disposal site below I35W and a discussion of possible options
- Approved replacement of a thermal monitoring sensor at the Eagle Creek monitoring station by the Scott SWCD
- Authorized Scott WMO to proceed with study of Dean Lake at a cost not to exceed of \$35,000

July

- Approved \$3,500 to the Carver County Education Cooperative for a rain garden project on its Chaska Campus

August

- Approved a budget for 2014 of \$682,983, with a levy of \$625,000

September 2013

- Hosted a river tour for area legislators and others
- Met with the USACE to develop a right of entry agreement for the Corps to place dredge material on the RMP 14.2 site
- Authorized certification of the 2014 levy of *\$625,000 to the counties
- Listened to a presentation by Terry Schultz of the City of Burnsville about plans for a section of a regional trail along the south bank of the Minnesota River

October 2013

- Authorized having District Attorney Malkerson look at the ability of watershed districts to annually assess benefitted properties of projects on a sub watershed basis

November 2013

- Listened to a presentation by Ron Leaf of SEH, updating the Board on the MNDoT T.H. 101 River Crossing/CSAH 61 project
- Appointed delegates to the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual Meeting
- Applied for an additional grant to complete the Seminary Fen Ravine project
- Approved a contract for Administration Services with Naiad Consulting
- Adopted the final 2014 budget and certification of levies
- Funded \$19,750 for the Green Streets for Blue Water Project with the city of Bloomington

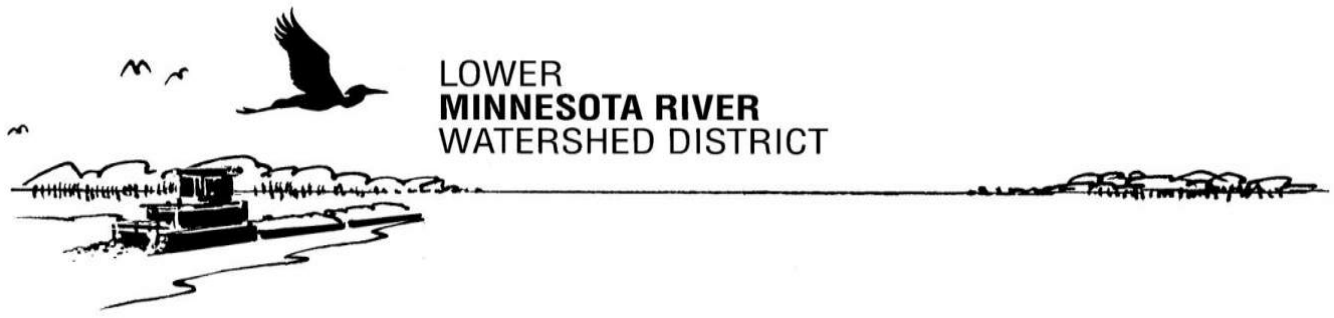
December 2013

- Adopted a Resolution authorizing new Administrator to order payment of LMRWD bills
- Listened to a presentation by Bryan Gruidl of the City of Bloomington and approved participation in the Long Meadow Outfall project
- Listened to a presentation by Bill Monk, of the City of Chaska, providing an update on the Seminary Fen project
- Directed staff to negotiate an agreement with LS Marine, Inc. to manage the Vernon Avenue Dredge Material site
- Granted conditional approval for an easement to the city of Burnsville for the Black Dog Regional Trail
- Authorized Investigation of additional sites for Dredge Material placement

- Authorized retaining the service of Ron Harnack to lobby for funding to develop an additional dredge material management site
- Authorized review of the City of Lilydale's local surface water management plan by Momentum Engineering, LLC
- Authorized HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd, to prepare FY2013 financial audit.
- Authorized cancellation of Worker's Compensation insurance and Auto Insurance for the LMRWD



II. 2015 Projected Work Activities



II. 2015 Projected Work Activities

Following is a list of tasks to be completed during 2015:

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)** - The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District will continue to implement its capital improvements program. In 2015, this work will include:
 1. Capital Improvement Program and Prioritization - The LMRWD will review and update its capital improvement program and its water resource prioritization. The CIP is included in the Appendix C.
 2. Progress on CIP projects
 - Seminary Fen/Chaska Ravine Project - Work with partners (City of Chaska, Carver County, MNDNR) to restore a ravine that is contributing sediment into Seminary Fen in Chaska - the total estimated cost of this project is \$528,957 and construction is scheduled to be complete in 2015/2016.
 - Bluff Creek Cooperative Project - Partner with Riley/Purgatory/Bluff Creek Watershed District, City of Chanhassen and the Hennepin County Rail Authority, to create a passage for fish and to restore and stabilize a portion of the stream bank as it enters the District from a tunnel underneath the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail - the estimated cost to the LMRWD to participate in this project is \$50,000.
 - Dean Lake - The LMRWD will continue to partner with the Scott WMO to develop and evaluate relevant information concerning appropriate restoration action for Dean Lake. The LMRWD expects to receive the results of the paleolimnology study in 2015 and will work with the MPCA and others to determine if a TMDL study should be prepared as part of the MPCA's WRAP process currently underway in the Watershed.
 - Riley Creek Cooperative Project - Partner with Riley/Purgatory/ Bluff Creek Watershed District to prepare a feasibility study on a project to restore and stabilize eroded streambank on Riley Creek. This project could include constructing energy dissipation structures below CSAH 61 and/or redirecting flows from outside creek meanders to prevent future erosion - the estimated cost to the LMRWD for this project is \$43,100
 - Dred Scott stormwater reuse project - Prepare a feasibility study to determine the potential of a stormwater reuse project for irrigation of Dred Scott Park in the city of Bloomington - the estimated cost of a feasibility study is \$21,000

- East Chaska Creek Restoration - Partner with the City of Chaska to prepare a feasibility study and cost estimate to restore and stabilize East Chaska Creek from Engler Boulevard to Courthouse Lake Trail - the estimated total cost to prepare a cost estimate and preliminary design is \$20,000.
3. Analyze Dakota County fens monitoring data. - The LMRWD has collected a large amount of water level data from fens in Dakota County beginning in 2008. In 2015, the District will work with partners (MCES, Dakota County, MNDNR) to use that data to prepare a comprehensive assessment to convert the data into information the decision makers can use - the estimated cost to the LMRWD for Phase 1 of this assessment is \$20,000.
 4. Completing and submitting to BWSR a Biennial Budget Request (BBR) detailing the projects for which the LMRWD will likely request state funding in the next biennium.
 5. Submitting project updates, reports etc for the BWSR Clean Water Fund Grants for the following LMRWD CIP projects:
 - Seminary Fen/Chaska Ravine
- **Watershed Management Plan** - In 2015, the LMRWD will implement its Capital Improvements Program and its annual water quality and flood control programs as described in the LMRWD *Watershed Manager Plan*, as amended.
 - **Strategic Resource Evaluation-** In 2014, the LMRWD completed and adopted the *Strategic Resource Evaluation and Management Process* (SRE). In 2015, the LMRWD will begin implementation of the SRE, by incorporating recommendations of the SRE into the LMRWD's *Watershed Management Plan* through the amendment process initiated in 2014.
 - **Municipal Plan Review** - This item includes LMRWD review of local water management plans and plan amendments of cities within its boundaries and review of adjacent WD/WMO plans and amendments. All cities within the LMRWD will be required to update plans to incorporate the LMRWD Plan Amendment. The LMRWD will review these plans as they are updated.
 - **Water Quantity** - The LMRWD will perform water level monitoring in Seminary Fen, Savage Fen and the fens located in Dakota County - Fort Snelling, Quarry Island and Nicols. Dakota SWCD, Scott SWCD and Carver WMO will assist the LMRWD in collecting this data. In 2015, the LMRWD is planning to assess data collected in the Dakota County fens, as explained in number 4, under Capital Improvement Plan.
 - **Water Quality** - Proposed water quality tasks for 2015 include performance of the following:
 1. Water Quality Monitoring: The LMRWD will continue to monitor resources with the assistance of Scott SWCD and Carver WMO. Resources monitored for water quality include: Dean Lake, Eagle Creek, West Chaska Creek, East Chaska Creek, Courthouse, Firemen's and Brickyard lakes.

2. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): this program is managed by the LMRWD. The metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) will provide up to \$5,000 in financial support.

The LMRWD plans to work with its TAC to assess monitoring needs within the District. Plans are to identify current monitoring within the District performed by others, identify gaps and duplication in monitoring. The TAC will then discuss whether or not additional monitoring would be useful in making informed management and then develop a monitoring plans accordingly.

- **Nine foot Channel** - The LMRWD will continue to explore outlets for beneficial reuse of material dredged from the main channel of the Minnesota River in order to maintain navigation and to work with industries who may need to temporarily store dredge material from private barge slips. The District will continue to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) on navigation channel maintenance by following the COE *Dredged Material Management Plan* for reaches of the of the Minnesota River upstream of the I-35W Bridge. The District will continue discussion with the COE regarding the need for an additional placement site below I-35W and will work cooperatively in developing a comprehensive dredge material management plan for the dredged reaches on the Minnesota River downstream of the I-35W Bridge.

The LMRWD will continue to negotiate a Right of Entry for the COE to place material on the Vernon Avenue dredge material placement site, owned by the LMRWD. The LMRWD will continue to look at funding options for the navigation channel maintenance and will discuss the issue with affected property owners.

- **Development Reviews** - The LMRWD does not wish to duplicate existing regulatory authority of other agencies. The Managers believe that regulation is better performed at the local level (cities, townships, counties), rather than by the LMRWD. The LMRWD plans to develop an audit process to ensure LGU's are enforcing LMRWD standards and policies. If the LMRWD finds that an LGU has failed to enforce its standards and policies, the LMRWD will consider adopting regulations, after taking appropriate statutory steps to enforce its standards and policies.
- **Citizen Involvement** - The LMRWD encourages citizen participation at the monthly meetings of its Board of Managers and intends to organize a Citizen Advisory Committee, however currently its efforts are focused on filling out the Board of Managers. The meetings are noticed to the public on the LMRWD's web site.
- **Minnesota River Basin Commission** - A large portion of the Minnesota River Watershed lies outside of the LMRWD's boundaries. A gap was identified by the LMRWD when preparing its *Watershed Management Plan* related to both point and non-point source water quality management. Most urbanizing areas have adopted and enforced water quality standards and practices to address non-point sources, while agricultural stormwater quality has gone relatively unregulated. Additionally, point source pollution upstream of the LMRWD comes

from approximately 20,000 individual septic systems which flow untreated to surface water in the basin. Although special efforts are being taken throughout the Minnesota River Basin to improve water quality, the lack of a regulatory body with leverage and financial capability necessary to address Basin-wide issues, both point and non-point sources, is critical. Because the gap encompasses many more entities than just the LMRWD, it must be addressed at a higher level. Therefore, the LMRWD will continue to seek to regulate the water quality of the Minnesota River by collaborating with stakeholders and the state Legislature to create a Minnesota River Basin Commission and by employing recommendations set forth in the Minnesota River Basin Sediment Reduction Strategy, the Lower Minnesota River Dissolved Oxygen and Minnesota River Turbidity TMDLs.

The LMRWD plans to hold a Minnesota River Tour in the summer of 2015, with the Freshwater Society as a partner. The Tour will focus on the Minnesota River as a working river that provides a vital link to Minnesota farmers to reach world markets and to the Metropolitan region to bring commodities to Minnesota, such as concrete and road salt. The LMRWD intends to highlight the costs, both financial and environmental, associated with high sediment loads coming from upstream, outside the District.

- **Gully Erosion** - In 2006/2007, the LMRWD hired the Minnesota Civilian Conservation Corps (MCCC) to inventory gullies in the District. The inventory identified gullies with current and potential erosion and pollution issues. Cities then reviewed the information and chose the top 3-4 public sites that needed immediate attention. Feasibility analyses were completed by the Cities. as a result, four cooperative projects with the cities of Eden Prairie and Bloomington were completed: Bloomington Parkers Picnic Area, Bloomington Minnesota River Valley Washout, Eden Prairie, Area 4 and a feasibility study was prepared for Eden Prairie Area 3, River Bank failure. Three additional areas were identified for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program: Mounds Springs gully (Bloomington), Heritage Hill Park gully (Bloomington) and Seminary Fen Ravine (Chaska). Other areas of severe gully erosion will be reviewed annually with the Cities. The LMRWD will use funding set aside in its Gully Erosion Projects contingency fund to implement projects if the City where the potential repair exists has funding or other resources available to work with the District to implement a repair project.
- **Education and Outreach** - The LMRWD will engage and educate residents through information displays through opportunities provided by community festivals and expositions. It will cooperate and provide financial assistance to various educational organizations and programs including County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Freshwater Society, Blue Thumb, Children's Water Festival.

The LMRWD has been working with neighboring Watershed Districts and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide water related education to residents of the LMRWD. Seasonally appropriate articles on actions individuals can take to help improve water quality posted on the LMRWD website. The LMRWD shares educational opportunities offered by the LMRWD and other agencies and neighboring watershed districts and WMOs on its website.

The LMRWD has provided a Cost Share Program Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program to residents of the District. This program is a cost share program to provide educational, technical and financial assistance to landowners to implement projects that have water quality, water quantity, channel maintenance, trout stream, fen or wetland restoration, aquatic habitat benefit or carry out studies which will aid in protecting and improving water resources within the District to help achieve the goals of the Plan. In 2015, the LMRWD budget has \$20,000 set aside for this program. The Managers review this program annually and adopt guidelines in October.

The LMRWD will continue to partner with other agencies and local governments to provide educational opportunities for residents of the LMRWD. In 2015, the LMRWD will sponsor a series of Blue Thumb raingarden workshops along with the Prior/Spring Lake Watershed District, the cities of Savage and Prior Lake, the Scott Water Management Organization, the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District and the Vermillion River Watershed. The program will be presented by the Scott SWCD.

Work has begun on a comprehensive public education and outreach plan. This plan is scheduled to be ready for Managers review in 2015. It will be reviewed by the Citizen Advisory Committee when one is established.

- **Annual Report** - The LMRWD will prepare an annual report, submit the report to BWSR, cities and counties within the District and post it on the LMRWD's website.
- **Lower Minnesota River WRAP**- The MPCA is in the second year of a Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) study for the Hydrological Unit Code (HUC) within which the LMRWD is located. The LMRWD will work with the MPCA to complete the WRAP and provide assistance.
- **LMRWD Policy Development**- The LMRWD will continue to develop and adopt policies for operation of the District. Policies expected in 2015 include;
 1. River Bank Restoration Policy
 2. Records Retention Policy and Schedule
 3. Surety Policy
 4. Out of State Travel Policy



III. Annual Financial Report



III. Annual Financial Report

The 2014 fiscal year for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) commenced on January 1, 2014 and ended December 31, 2014.

A. Approved Budget

The approved operating budget for fiscal year 2014 was \$682,983. The annual budget is funded through an ad valorem tax across all the properties within the boundaries of the LMRWD. In 2014 the total of this tax was \$625,000. The tax was apportioned to each county within the LMRWD based on the taxable value of property in each county. A copy of the 2014 budget is located in Appendix A

B. Report of Revenues

See the Financial Audit Report in Appendix A.

C. Report of Expenditures

See the Financial Audit Report in Appendix A.

D. Financial Audit Report

The annual audit report for the year ended December 31, 2014, was performed by Redpath and Company, Ltd. A copy of the annual audit report is included in Appendix A and is also available on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's website at: www.watersheddistrict.org



LOWER
MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Appendix A

Financial Information

FY 2014 Communication with Those Charged with Governance
FY 2014 Financial Audit
FY 2014 Budget



COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

To the Honorable Managers of the
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Chaska, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the District) for the year ended December 31, 2014. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated January 21, 2015. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Results

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the District are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most significant estimate affecting the District's financial statements was the accrued dredging material receivable. Management's estimate is based on an initial survey determining the total amount of the material to be sold. There will be another survey done during 2015 to calculate the actual amount of material to be sold. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accrued dredging material receivable in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no uncorrected misstatements that have an effect on our opinion on the financial statements. There were no corrected misstatements identified during the audit.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated May 20, 2015.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

The fund balance in the Nine Foot Channel Fund was (\$227,131) at December 31, 2013 and grew to (\$252,689) at December 31, 2014. We recommend that the District determine a funding source to eliminate the deficit fund balance in this fund.

We applied certain limited procedures to the budgetary comparison schedule, which is required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the individual fund financial statements and supplementary financial information, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory and other information sections, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Other Reports

Various reports on compliance and internal controls are contained in the other reports section of the audited financial statements document.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of management and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's Board of Managers, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.
St. Paul, Minnesota

May 20, 2015

**LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2014

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LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

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LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

ORGANIZATION

December 31, 2014

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Board of Managers:	
Leonard Kremer, President	March 2015
Yvonne Shirk, Vice-President	March 2015
Manager - Vacant	
Manager - Vacant	
Kent Francis, Treasurer and Secretary	March 2017
Attorney - Bruce D. Malkerson	
Administrator - Linda Loomis	

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FINANCIAL SECTION

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Managers of the
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Chaska, Minnesota

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, as of December 31, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's 2013 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the respective financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund in our report dated April 25, 2014. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013 is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information on pages 32 and 33, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's basic financial statements. The introductory section, individual fund financial statements, supplementary financial information, and other information are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The individual fund financial statements and supplementary financial information are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the individual fund financial statements and supplementary financial information are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory section and other information section have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.
St. Paul, Minnesota

May 20, 2015

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION****Statement 1**

December 31, 2014

With Comparative Amounts For December 31, 2013

	Primary Government	
	Governmental Activities	
	2014	2013
Assets:		
Cash and investments	\$944,543	\$707,518
Property taxes receivable:		
Delinquent	26,726	10,279
Due from county	8,800	5,717
Accounts receivable	54,249	-
Due from other governments	1,000	-
Prepaid items	6,511	6,650
Capital assets - nondepreciable	256,167	256,167
Total assets	<u>1,297,996</u>	<u>986,331</u>
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	52,421	13,172
Due to other governments	21,446	36,727
Compensated absences:		
Due within one year	15,802	38,965
Unearned revenue	109,388	114,360
Total liabilities	<u>199,057</u>	<u>203,224</u>
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	256,167	256,167
Unrestricted	842,772	526,940
Total net position	<u>\$1,098,939</u>	<u>\$783,107</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Statement 2

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

With Comparative Totals For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position	
		Charges For Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Primary Government Totals	
					2014	2013
Primary government:						
Governmental activities:						
General government	\$233,340	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	(\$233,340)	(\$266,647)
Projects	152,025	54,249	10,472	-	(87,304)	(85,390)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$385,365</u>	<u>\$54,249</u>	<u>\$10,472</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(320,644)</u>	<u>(352,037)</u>
General revenues:						
Property taxes					630,557	521,466
Unrestricted investment earnings					5,135	770
Miscellaneous					784	1,818
Total general revenues					<u>636,476</u>	<u>524,054</u>
Change in net position					315,832	172,017
Net position - January 1					<u>783,107</u>	<u>611,090</u>
Net position - December 31					<u>\$1,098,939</u>	<u>\$783,107</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

BALANCE SHEET

Statement 3

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

December 31, 2014

With Comparative Totals For December 31, 2013

	General Fund	Capital Project Fund	Total Governmental Funds	
		Nine Foot Channel Fund	2014	2013
Assets				
Cash and investments	\$1,193,771	\$ -	\$1,193,771	\$934,649
Taxes receivable:				
Delinquent	26,726	-	26,726	10,279
Due from county	8,800	-	8,800	5,717
Accounts receivable	-	54,249	54,249	-
Due from other governments	1,000	-	1,000	-
Prepaid items	6,511	-	6,511	6,650
Total assets	\$1,236,808	\$54,249	\$1,291,057	\$957,295
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balance				
Liabilities:				
Cash overdraft	\$ -	\$249,228	\$249,228	\$227,131
Accounts payable	47,213	5,208	52,421	13,172
Due to other governments	21,446	-	21,446	36,727
Unearned revenue	109,388	-	109,388	114,360
Compensated absences:				
Due within one year	15,802	-	15,802	38,965
Total liabilities	193,849	254,436	448,285	430,355
Deferred inflows of resources:				
Unavailable revenue	26,726	52,502	79,228	10,279
Total inflows of resources	26,726	52,502	79,228	10,279
Fund balance:				
Nonspendable	6,511	-	6,511	6,650
Assigned	253,571	-	253,571	-
Unassigned	756,151	(252,689)	503,462	510,011
Total fund balance	1,016,233	(252,689)	763,544	516,661
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balance	\$1,236,808	\$54,249	\$1,291,057	\$957,295
Fund balance reported above			\$763,544	\$516,661
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:				
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are reported as unavailable in the funds.			79,228	10,279
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.			256,167	256,167
Net position of governmental activities			\$1,098,939	\$783,107

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Totals For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 4

	General Fund	Capital Project Fund	Total Governmental Funds	
		Nine Foot Channel Fund	2014	2013
Revenues:				
Property taxes - current and delinquent	\$568,166	\$45,944	\$614,110	\$518,922
Intergovernmental:				
Grants	10,472	-	10,472	540
Investment income	5,135	-	5,135	770
Dredge site income	-	1,747	1,747	-
Miscellaneous	784	-	784	1,818
Total revenues	<u>584,557</u>	<u>47,691</u>	<u>632,248</u>	<u>522,050</u>
Expenditures:				
Engineering services	7,674	1,248	8,922	1,754
Salaries, payroll taxes and personnel expenses	17,481	419	17,900	160,839
Professional services	99,038	56,871	155,909	43,527
Insurance	8,151	2,038	10,189	10,279
Mileage and travel expenses	2,350	587	2,937	3,646
Office expense	21,287	5,178	26,465	29,699
Managers meeting expenses	4,110	1,258	5,368	5,096
509 planning/projects	60,461	-	60,461	67,790
Newsletter	-	-	-	2,100
Cooperative projects	91,564	-	91,564	18,140
Lobbying for funding	-	5,650	5,650	15,730
Total expenditures	<u>312,116</u>	<u>73,249</u>	<u>385,365</u>	<u>358,600</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	272,441	(25,558)	246,883	163,450
Fund balance (deficit) - January 1	<u>743,792</u>	<u>(227,131)</u>	<u>516,661</u>	<u>353,211</u>
Fund balance (deficit) - December 31	<u>\$1,016,233</u>	<u>(\$252,689)</u>	<u>\$763,544</u>	<u>\$516,661</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Statement 5

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

With Comparative Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities (Statement 2) are different because:		
Net changes in fund balance - total governmental funds (Statement 4)	\$246,883	\$163,450
Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds:		
Compensated absences	-	6,023
Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.	<u>68,949</u>	<u>2,544</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities (Statement 2)	<u><u>\$315,832</u></u>	<u><u>\$172,017</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the District) conform to generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governmental units. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies:

A. REPORTING ENTITY

The District was established in 1960 under the Minnesota Watershed Act as amended by the Minnesota Water Resources Board. The District covers areas within the following four counties: Carver, Dakota, Hennepin and Scott. The District is operated by a five-member Board of Managers appointed by the respective County boards for staggered three year terms. In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements and generally accepted accounting principles, the financial statements of the reporting entity should include the primary government and its component units. The District does not have any component units.

B. GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. *Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. The District does not have any business-type activities.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or business-type activity and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or business type activity. Taxes and other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers all revenues, except reimbursement grants, to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Reimbursement grants are considered available if they are collected within one year of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes, intergovernmental revenues and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund - is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources of the District not directly relating to the Nine Foot Channel Fund. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103D, the District may levy up to \$250,000 for General Fund operations.

Nine Foot Channel Fund (Capital Project Fund) - is used to account for financial resources to be used for the maintenance of a nine foot channel depth. A designated distance of the Minnesota River within the District's boundaries has been established.

As a general rule the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are transactions that would be treated as revenues, expenditures or expenses if they involved external organizations, such as buying goods and services or payments in lieu of taxes, are similarly treated when they involve other funds of the District. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as *general revenues* rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for an allowable use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. BUDGETARY DATA

The Board of Managers adopts an annual budget for the General Fund of the District. During the budget year, supplemental appropriations and deletions are or may be authorized by the Board. The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by the District for budgeting data. All appropriations end with the fiscal year for which they were made.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

The District monitors budget performances on the fund basis. All amounts over budget have been approved by the Board through the disbursement approval process.

The District prepares revenue and expenditure budgets for the District's General Fund. Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by the District.

E. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash and investment balances from all funds are pooled and invested to the extent available in authorized investments. Investment income is allocated to individual funds on the basis of the fund's equity in the cash and investment pool.

In accordance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 31, the District reports investments at fair value, based upon quoted market prices, in the financial statements. Also in accordance with the provisions of GASB No. 31, the District has reported all investment income, including changes in fair value of investments, as revenue in the operating statements.

F. INVENTORIES

The original cost of materials and supplies has been recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase. The District does not maintain material amounts of inventories of goods and supplies.

G. PROPERTY TAX REVENUE RECOGNITION

The Board of Managers annually adopts a tax levy and certifies it to the County in October (levy/assessment date) of each year for collection in the following year. The County is responsible for billing and collecting all property taxes for itself, the City, the local School District and other taxing authorities. Such taxes become a lien on January 1 and are recorded as receivables by the District at that date. Real property taxes are payable (by property owners) on May 15 and October 15 of each calendar year. Personal property taxes are payable by taxpayers on February 28 and June 30 of each year. These taxes are collected by the County and remitted to the District on or before July 7 and December 2 of the same year. Delinquent collections for November and December are received the following January. The District has no ability to enforce payment of property taxes by property owners. The County possesses this authority.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District recognizes property tax revenue in the period for which the taxes were levied. Uncollectible property taxes are not material and have not been reported.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

GOVERNMENTAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District recognizes property tax revenue when it becomes both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. In practice, current and delinquent taxes and State credits received by the District in July, December and January are recognized as revenue for the current year. Taxes collected by the County by December 31 (remitted to the District the following January) and taxes and credits not received at year end are classified as delinquent and due from County taxes receivable. The portion of delinquent taxes not collected by the District in January is fully offset by deferred inflows of resources because they are not available to finance current expenditures.

H. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets (e.g., storm sewers, manholes, control structures, and similar items), and intangible assets such as easements and computer software, are reported in the governmental activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

GASB Statement No. 34 required the District to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the beginning of the 2004 calendar year. Infrastructure assets include lake improvements, dams and drainage systems. Neither their historical cost nor related depreciation had historically been reported in the financial statements. For governmental entities with total annual revenues of less than \$10 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999 the retroactive reporting of infrastructure is not required under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34. The District elected to implement the general provisions of GASB Statement No. 34 in 2004 and elected not to report infrastructure assets acquired in years prior to 2003. Land is the only capital asset and is not being depreciated.

The District implemented GASB Statement No. 51, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Intangible Assets* effective January 1, 2010 which required the District to capitalize and amortize intangible assets. For governmental entities with total annual revenues of less than \$10 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999, the retroactive reporting of intangible assets is not required under the provision of GASB Statement No. 51. The District did not acquire any intangible assets since implementing GASB No. 51.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

I. FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report fund balance in classifications that disclose constraints for which amounts in those funds can be spent. These classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - consists of amounts that are not in spendable form, such as prepaid items.

Restricted - consists of amounts related to externally imposed constraints established by creditors, grantors or contributors; or constraints imposed by state statutory provisions.

Committed - consists of internally imposed constraints. These constraints are established by Resolution of the Board.

Assigned - consists of internally imposed constraints. These constraints reflect the specific purpose for which it is the Board's intended use. These constraints are established by the District's Board.

Unassigned - is the residual classification for the general fund and also reflects negative residual amounts in other funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Board's policy to first use restricted resources, and then use unrestricted resources as they are needed.

When committed, assigned or unassigned resources are available for use, it is the Board's policy to use resources in the following order; 1) committed 2) assigned and 3) unassigned.

J. INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

Interfund services provided and used are accounted for as revenues, expenditures or expenses. Transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures/expenses initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund, are recorded as expenditures/expenses in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures/expenses in the fund that is reimbursed. All other interfund transactions are reported as transfers.

K. USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) requires management to make estimates that affect amounts reported in the financial statements during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from such estimates.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

L. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

It is the District's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation pay benefits. All vacation pay benefits that are vested as severance pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements. In accordance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, no liability is recorded for nonvesting accumulating rights to receive sick pay benefits.

M. PREPAID ITEMS

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements. Prepaid items are reported using the consumption method and recorded as expenditures/expenses at the time of consumption.

N. COMPARATIVE TOTALS

The basic financial statements, required supplementary information, and individual fund financial statements and supplementary financial information include certain prior year summarized comparative information in total but not at the level of detail required for a presentation in conformity with GAAP. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the District's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, from which the summarized information was derived.

O. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has no items that qualify for reporting in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has one type of item, which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting, that qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental fund balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from property taxes and from the sale of dredging materials.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

P. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The governmental fund statement of revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balance includes a reconciliation between *net changes in fund balance – total governmental funds and changes in net position of governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide statement of activities. One element of that reconciliation states that “revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds”. The details of this \$68,949 difference are as follows:

Unavailable revenue - general property taxes:	
At December 31, 2013	(\$10,279)
At December 31, 2014	26,726
Unavailable revenue - dredging material:	
At December 31, 2013	-
At December 31, 2014	<u>52,502</u>
Net adjustments to increase net changes in fund balance - total governmental funds to arrive at changes in net position of governmental activities	<u><u>\$68,949</u></u>

Note 2 DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

A. DEPOSITS

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, the District maintains deposits at those depository banks authorized by the District Board, all of which are members of the Federal Reserve System.

Minnesota Statutes require that all District deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110% of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds.

Minnesota Statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping by the District Board or in a financial institution other than that furnishing the collateral. Authorized collateral includes the following:

- a) United States government treasury bills, treasury notes and treasury bonds;
- b) Issues of United States government agencies and instrumentalities as quoted by a recognized industry quotation service available to the government entity;
- c) General obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated “A” or better by a national bond rating service, or revenue obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated “AA” or better by a national bond rating service;
- d) Unrated general obligation securities of a local government with taxing powers may be pledged as collateral against funds deposited by that same local government entity;

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

- e) Irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by Federal Home Loan Banks to a municipality accompanied by written evidence that the bank's public debt is rated "AA" or better by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Standard & Poor's Corporation; and
- f) Time deposits that are fully insured by any federal agency.

The District does not have deposits at December 31, 2014.

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits: Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the District's deposits may not be returned to it. State statutes require that insurance, surety bonds or collateral protect all District deposits. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110% of deposits not covered by insurance or bonds. The District has no additional policies addressing custodial credit risk.

B. INVESTMENTS

Minnesota Statutes authorize the District to invest in the following:

- a) Direct obligations or obligations guaranteed by the United States or its agencies, its instrumentalities or organizations created by an act of congress, excluding mortgage-backed securities defined as high risk.
- b) Shares of investment companies registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940 and whose only investments are in securities described in (a) above, general obligation tax-exempt securities, or repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements.
- c) Obligations of the State of Minnesota or any of its municipalities as follows:
 - 1) any security which is a general obligation of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "A" or better by a national bond rating service;
 - 2) any security which is a revenue obligation of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "AA" or better by a national bond rating service; and
 - 3) a general obligation of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency which is a moral obligation of the State of Minnesota and is rated "A" or better by a national bond rating agency.
- d) Bankers acceptances of United States banks eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve system.
- e) Commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries, of the highest quality, and maturing in 270 days or less.
- f) Repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements with banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System with capitalization exceeding \$10,000,000; a primary reporting dealer in U.S. government securities to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; certain Minnesota securities broker-dealers; or, a bank qualified as a depositor.
- g) General obligation temporary bonds of the same governmental entity issued under section 429.091, subdivision 7; 469.178, subdivision 5; or 475.61, subdivision 6.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

As of December 31, 2014, the District had the following investments and maturities:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Pooled Investments	N/A	\$944,543

C. INVESTMENT RISK

Credit Risk. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will be unable to fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. State law limits investments to commercial paper to those rated in the highest quality category by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies; in any security of the State of Minnesota or any of its municipalities which is rated “A” or better by a national bond rating service for general obligation and rated “AA” or better for a revenue obligation; a general obligation of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to those rated “A” or better by a national bond rating agency; mutual funds or money market funds whose investments are restricted to securities described in MS 118A.04. The District does not have an investment policy which further limits its investment choices.

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Rating Organization</u>
Pooled with Carver County	N/A	Not rated

Interest Rate Risk. Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in the interest rates of debt investments could adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The District does not have an investment policy which limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Concentration of Credit Risk. Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss that may be attributed to the magnitude of the District’s investment in a single issuer. The District does not have an investment policy which addresses the amount the District may invest in any one issuer.

Custodial Credit Risk. For investments in securities, custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investment securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of December 31, 2014, all of the District’s investments were pooled with Carver County.

Note 3 RECEIVABLES

Significant receivables balances not expected to be collected within one year of December 31, 2014 are as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Capital Project Fund</u>
Delinquent property taxes	\$20,200	\$ -
Dredging material receivable	-	24,000
Total	<u>\$20,200</u>	<u>\$24,000</u>

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 4 UNAVAILABLE REVENUE

Governmental funds report deferred inflows of resources in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. At the end of the current fiscal year, the various components of unavailable revenue reported in the governmental funds were as follows:

	<u>Property Taxes</u>	<u>Dredge Site Income</u>
General Fund	\$26,726	\$ -
Capital Projects Fund	-	52,502
Total	<u>\$26,726</u>	<u>\$52,502</u>

Note 5 CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2014 was as follows:

	<u>Balance 12/31/2013</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2014</u>
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets, not being depreciated:				
Land	<u>\$256,167</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$256,167</u>

Note 6 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - STATEWIDE

A. PLAN DESCRIPTION

All full-time and certain part-time employees of the District are covered by defined benefit plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA administers the General Employees Retirement Fund (GERF) which is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plan. This plan is established and administered in accordance with Minnesota Statute, Chapters 353 and 356.

GERF members belong to either the Coordinated Plan or the Basic Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security and Basic Plan members are not. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan.

PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members, and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefits are established by State Statute, and vest after five years of credited service. The defined retirement benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for GERF. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org, by writing to PERA, 60 Empire Drive #200, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55103-2088 or by calling (651)296-7460 or 1-800-652-9026.

B. FUNDING POLICY

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. These statutes are established and amended by the state legislature. The District makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. GERF Basic Plan members and Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 9.10% and 6.25%, respectively, of their annual covered salary in 2014. The District is required to contribute the following percentages of annual covered payroll in 2014: 11.78% for Basic Plan GERF members and 7.25% for Coordinated Plan GERF members. The District's contribution to the Public Employees Retirement Fund for the years ending December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were \$1,804, \$6,296, and \$8,792, respectively. The District's contributions were equal to the contractually required contributions for the years as set by state statute. Contribution rates will increase on January 1, 2015 in the Coordinated Plan (6.5% for members and 7.5% for employers).

Note 7 LONG-TERM DEBT

CHANGES IN LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2014, was as follow:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2013</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2014</u>	<u>Due Within</u> <u>One Year</u>
Governmental activities:					
Compensated absences payable	\$38,965	\$15,802	(\$38,965)	\$15,802	\$15,802

Compensated absences payable are generally liquidated by the General Fund.

Note 8 OPERATING LEASES

The District was obligated under a long-term operating lease for office equipment from Ricoh starting October 16, 2012, expiring October 16, 2017. The lease requires minimum monthly payments of \$216. In 2014, \$2,592 was paid under this lease agreement.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

The following is a schedule of future minimum lease payments under operating leases:

Year Ended December 31,	Office Equipment
2015	\$2,592
2016	2,592
2017	2,159
Total Minimum Future Lease Payments	<u>\$7,343</u>

Note 9 CONTINGENCIES

The District’s Administrator resigned as of November 30, 2013. The severance agreement called for payment of three months’ salary and benefits plus 100% of his accrued sick and vacation hours. The District maintains that a maximum of 280 sick hours can be paid out at termination, as this is the maximum sick leave that could be accrued. The former Administrator maintains that the severance agreement also included the accrual sick leave hours in the “sick leave bank” and has obtained an attorney as a result. The account of the claim is \$15,802 (351.6 hours). Management has determined that it is probable that this action will result in a loss to the District and that the loss amount is reasonably measureable within a range of potential losses. The estimated potential loss ranges from \$0 to \$15,802 at December 31, 2014. The District reported additional compensated absences payable of \$15,802, representing the estimated maximum exposure, at December 31, 2014.

Note 10 FUND BALANCE

CLASSIFICATIONS

At December 31, 2014, a summary of the governmental fund balance classifications are as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Nine Foot Channel Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nonspendable:			
Prepaid items	\$6,511	\$ -	\$6,511
Assigned:			
Seminary Ren Restoration	78,642	-	78,642
Resource Plan Implementation	96,197	-	96,197
Long Meadow Outfall	78,732	-	78,732
Unassigned	<u>756,151</u>	<u>(252,689)</u>	<u>503,462</u>
Total	<u>\$1,016,233</u>	<u>(\$252,689)</u>	<u>\$763,544</u>

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 11 RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, errors and omissions and natural disasters for which the District carries insurance policies. The District retains risk for the deductible portions of the insurance policies. The amount of these deductibles is considered immaterial to the financial statements.

There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the previous year or settlements in excess of insurance coverage for any of the previous three fiscal years.

Note 12 RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The Governmental Accounting Standards Boards (GASB) recently approved the following statements which were not implemented for these financial statements:

Statement No. 68 *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an amendment of GASB Statement 27.* The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2014. Statement No. 68 requires governments providing defined benefit pensions to recognize their long-term obligation for pension benefits as a liability for the first time.

Statement No. 71 *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68.* The provisions of this Statement should be applied simultaneously with the provisions of Statement 68.

Statement No. 72 *Fair Value Measurement and Application.* The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2015.

The effect these standards may have on future financial statements is not determinable at this time, but it is expected that Statements 68 and 71 will not have a material impact.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND

Statement 6

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

With Comparative Actual Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

	2014		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)	2013 Actual Amounts
	Budgeted Amounts				
	Original	Final			
Revenue:					
Property taxes - current and delinquent	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$568,166	(\$6,834)	\$506,566
Intergovernmental:					
Grants	-	-	10,472	10,472	540
Investment income	-	-	5,135	5,135	770
Miscellaneous	-	-	784	784	1,818
Total revenue	<u>575,000</u>	<u>575,000</u>	<u>584,557</u>	<u>9,557</u>	<u>509,694</u>
Expenditures:					
Engineering services	4,000	4,000	7,674	(3,674)	1,403
Salaries, payroll taxes and personnel expenses	93,386	93,386	17,481	75,905	138,064
Professional services	19,200	19,200	99,038	(79,838)	22,751
Insurance	8,080	8,080	8,151	(71)	8,223
Mileage and travel expenses	4,000	4,000	2,350	1,650	2,930
Office expense	25,320	25,320	21,287	4,033	24,395
Managers meeting expenses	4,800	4,800	4,110	690	4,077
509 planning/projects	260,000	260,000	60,461	199,539	67,790
Newsletter	1,200	1,200	-	1,200	1,680
Cooperative projects	208,000	208,000	91,564	116,436	18,140
Total expenditures	<u>627,986</u>	<u>627,986</u>	<u>312,116</u>	<u>315,870</u>	<u>289,453</u>
Revenue over (under) expenditures	<u>(\$52,986)</u>	<u>(\$52,986)</u>	272,441	<u>\$325,427</u>	220,241
Fund balance - January 1			<u>743,792</u>		<u>523,551</u>
Fund balance - December 31			<u>\$1,016,233</u>		<u>\$743,792</u>

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
NOTE TO RSI
December 31, 2014

Note A BUDGETS

The General Fund budget is legally adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level for the General Fund.

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INDIVIDUAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For December 31, 2013

Statement 7

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and investments	\$1,193,771	\$934,649
Taxes receivable:		
Delinquent	26,726	10,279
Due from county	8,800	5,717
Due from other governments	1,000	-
Prepaid items	6,511	6,650
	<u>6,511</u>	<u>6,650</u>
	<u>6,511</u>	<u>6,650</u>
Total assets	<u>\$1,236,808</u>	<u>\$957,295</u>
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balance		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$47,213	\$13,172
Due to other governments	21,446	36,727
Unearned revenue	109,388	114,360
Compensated absences:		
Due within one year	15,802	38,965
Total liabilities	<u>193,849</u>	<u>203,224</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Unavailable revenue	26,726	10,279
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>26,726</u>	<u>10,279</u>
Fund balance:		
Nonspendable	6,511	6,650
Assigned	253,571	-
Unassigned	756,151	737,142
Total fund balance	<u>1,016,233</u>	<u>743,792</u>
	<u>1,016,233</u>	<u>743,792</u>
	<u>1,016,233</u>	<u>743,792</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balance	<u>\$1,236,808</u>	<u>\$957,295</u>
	<u>\$1,236,808</u>	<u>\$957,295</u>
	<u>\$1,236,808</u>	<u>\$957,295</u>

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 8

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenue:		
Property taxes - current and delinquent	568,166	\$506,566
Intergovernmental:		
Grants	10,472	540
Investment income	5,135	770
Miscellaneous	784	1,818
Total revenue	<u>584,557</u>	<u>509,694</u>
Expenditures:		
Engineering services	7,674	1,403
Cooperative projects	91,564	18,140
Salaries, payroll taxes and personnel expenses	17,481	138,064
Professional services	99,038	22,751
Insurance	8,151	8,223
Mileage and travel expenses	2,350	2,930
Office expense	21,287	24,395
Managers meeting expenses	4,110	4,077
509 planning/projects	60,461	67,790
Newsletter	-	1,680
Total expenditures	<u>312,116</u>	<u>289,453</u>
Revenue over expenditures	272,441	220,241
Fund balance - January 1	<u>743,792</u>	<u>523,551</u>
Fund balance - December 31	<u><u>\$1,016,233</u></u>	<u><u>\$743,792</u></u>

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND - NINE FOOT CHANNEL FUND
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For December 31, 2013

Statement 9

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Assets		
Current assets:		
Account receivable	<u>\$54,249</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$54,249</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balance		
Liabilities:		
Cash overdraft	\$249,228	\$227,131
Accounts payable	<u>5,208</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities	<u>254,436</u>	<u>227,131</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Unavailable revenue	<u>52,502</u>	<u>-</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>52,502</u>	<u>0</u>
Fund balance:		
Unassigned	<u>(252,689)</u>	<u>(227,131)</u>
Total fund balance	<u>(252,689)</u>	<u>(227,131)</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balance	<u><u>\$54,249</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND - NINE FOOT CHANNEL FUND
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 10

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenues:		
Property taxes current	\$45,944	\$12,356
Dredge site income	1,747	-
Total revenues	<u>47,691</u>	<u>12,356</u>
Expenditures:		
Salaries, payroll taxes and personnel expenses	419	22,775
Engineering services	1,248	351
Professional services	56,871	20,776
Insurance	2,038	2,056
Mileage and travel expenses	587	716
Office expense	5,178	5,304
Managers meeting expenses	1,258	1,019
Newsletter	-	420
Lobbying for funding	5,650	15,730
Total expenditures	<u>73,249</u>	<u>69,147</u>
Revenue over (under) expenditures	(25,558)	(56,791)
Fund balance (deficit) - January 1	<u>(227,131)</u>	<u>(170,340)</u>
Fund balance (deficit) - December 31	<u><u>(\$252,689)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$227,131)</u></u>

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SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF 509 PLANNING/PROJECT EXPENDITURES
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For December 31, 2013

Exhibit 1

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Expenditures:		
Resource plan implementation	\$14,028	\$17,567
Watershed management plan	17,270	-
Public education	-	350
Cost share program	2,180	19,750
Monitoring	<u>26,983</u>	<u>30,123</u>
Total expenditures	<u><u>\$60,461</u></u>	<u><u>\$67,790</u></u>

OTHER INFORMATION - UNAUDITED

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

SCHEDULE OF CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES

December 31, 2014

Table 1

	Cumulative Total Through 2013	2014 Activity	Cumulative Total Through 2014
Expenditures:			
General and administrative expenses	\$7,024,805	\$233,340	\$7,258,145
Special projects:			
Assumption Creek	8,642	-	8,642
Nichols Fen / Harnack / Kennealy Creeks	3,330	-	3,330
City of Burnsville	305	-	305
Chaska	1,231	-	1,231
Seminary Fen	39,547	90	39,637
Met Council	771	-	771
Chaska Creek	56,093	-	56,093
Chaska Lanes	5,219	-	5,219
Willow Creek	37,716	-	37,716
Groundwater monitoring	115,127	26,983	142,110
LMR model	51,105	-	51,105
Savage Fen	21,449	-	21,449
Fort Snelling State Park roadway relocation	60,023	-	60,023
Office of water resource and research	36,200	-	36,200
Mohr Park - Bloomington well project	11,956	-	11,956
Aerial photos	6,100	-	6,100
East Chaska Creek diversion	21,225	-	21,225
Special study	4,968	-	4,968
Legislative committee hearing	7,056	-	7,056
Flood plain - regulations and litigation	15,064	-	15,064
Cooperative projects with municipalities	1,339,258	-	1,339,258
Contingency reserve	10,884	-	10,884
State flood plain analysis	5,150	-	5,150
Savage - Credit River	24,465	-	24,465
Department of Natural Resources - Rice Lake	140	-	140
Off Channel fleeting	9,849	-	9,849
Deans Lake	4,984	-	4,984
Environmental assessment for McGowan Barge	1,357	-	1,357
Scott County - Historical Park	5,000	-	5,000
Scott County - Murphy's Landing	60,430	-	60,430
Prior Lake - Spring Lake	21,167	-	21,167
Casperson landing cooperative project	44,874	-	44,874
River bank stabilization	780	67,681	68,461
General benefit projects	773	-	773
Metro Council gauging station	46,802	-	46,802
55/62 intersection	6,538	-	6,538
Eagle Creek	91,222	8,901	100,123
Data collection	33,700	-	33,700
Resource plan implementation	51,844	14,028	65,872
Eden Prairie SWMP	1,554	-	1,554
Nichols Fen	4,949	-	4,949
Courthouse - firearms - clayhole	32,649	-	32,649
Cooperative project contingency reserve	33,210	-	33,210
Trout stream	904	-	904

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES
December 31, 2014

Table 1

	Cumulative Total Through 2013	2014 Activity	Cumulative Total Through 2014
Expenditures (con't):			
BWSR Challenge Grant engineer	\$6,106	\$ -	\$6,106
Rainwater garden	35,000	-	35,000
Gully erosion inventory	7,000	-	7,000
Dakota County Fen	2,778	-	2,778
Miscellaneous	11,233	-	11,233
509 Plan general	27,641	-	27,641
Local management plans	5,040	-	5,040
Management plan	229,574	17,270	246,844
Chaska Lakes	12,171	-	12,171
Watershed assistance	7,881	-	7,881
Natural resources map	276	-	276
Public education	9,365	-	9,365
Strategic Resource evaluation	79,771	-	79,771
Cost share program	19,750	2,180	21,930
USGS	17,600	14,892	32,492
Nine Foot Channel	42,234	-	42,234
	<u>\$9,873,835</u>	<u>\$385,365</u>	<u>\$10,259,200</u>

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OTHER REPORTS

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

To the Board of Managers and Management
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Chaska, Minnesota

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's internal control.

A *deficiency* in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's Board of Managers and others within the Organization and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.
St. Paul, Minnesota

May 20, 2015

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MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

To the Honorable Managers of the
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Chaska, Minnesota

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014 and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 20, 2015.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 6.65, contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our audit considered all of the above listed categories except we did not test for compliance with the provisions for public indebtedness as Lower Minnesota River Watershed District had no debt.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that Lower Minnesota River Watershed District failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of those charged with governance and management of Lower Minnesota River Watershed District and the State Auditor, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.
St. Paul, Minnesota

May 20, 2015

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**Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
General Fund
2014 Adopted Budget**

Account #	Object code	Formula	Account	2013 Budget	2014 Adopted Budget	Administration @ 29%	Cooperative @ 10%	509 Plan @ 41%	Nine Foot @ 20%
Revenues									
5001			General Property Tax	250,000	250,000	72,500	25,000	102,500	50,000
5701			Interest Revenue		0	0	0	0	0
5899			Miscellaneous Income		0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenues					\$250,000	\$72,500	\$25,000	\$102,500	\$50,000
Expenses									
6125	7715		Manager Per Diem	5,000	5,000	1,450	500	2,050	1,000
6126	7728		Manager Expense (mileage/food/registrations)	1,000	1,000	290	100	410	200
6111			Wages-General	88,572	88,572	25,686	8,857	36,315	17,714
6155			Benefits	14,964	14,964	4,340	1,496	6,135	2,993
6162			PERA Expense	6,421	6,421	1,862	642	2,633	1,284
6155-6162			Payroll Taxes	6,776	6,776	1,965	678	2,778	1,355
6171			Unemployment compensation						
6410	7716		Office Supplies	1,600	1,600	464	160	656	320
6401	7710		Meeting Supplies/Expense	100	100	29	10	41	20
6343	7704		Rent	14,200	14,200	4,118	1,420	5,822	2,840
6360	7708		Cleaning Service	2,750	2,750	798	275	1,128	550
6211	7717		Telecommunications-Cell-Internet/Phone	1,950	1,950	566	195	800	390
6346	7712		Web Expense-Design & Hosting	700	700	203	70	287	140
6242	7702		Dues	3,500	3,500	1,015	350	1,435	700
6243	7711		Publications	50	50	15	5	21	10
6820	7705		Miscellaneous-General	200	200	58	20	82	40
6332	7718		Training & Education	500	500	145	50	205	100
6350	7713		Insurance & Bonds	10,100	10,100	2,929	1,010	4,141	2,020
6212	7719		Postage	500	500	145	50	205	100
6241	7720		Legal Notices-General	500	500	145	50	205	100
6331	7706		Mileage	3,000	3,000	870	300	1,230	600
6330	7721		Taxable meal reimbursement	500	500	145	50	205	100
6338	7722		Lodging/ Staff Travel	1,500	1,500	435	150	615	300
6263	7709		Accounting/Payroll Fees	6,000	6,000	1,740	600	2,460	1,200
6268	7723		Audit Fees	7,000	7,000	2,030	700	2,870	1,400
6260	7701		Professional Services-General	3,000	3,000	870	300	1,230	600
6261	7724		Legal Fees-General	8,000	8,000	2,320	800	3,280	1,600
6266	7725		Engineering-General	5,000	5,000	1,450	500	2,050	1,000
6414	7707		Equipment-General	800	800	232	80	328	160
6314	7726		Equipment-Maintenance	500	500	145	50	205	100
6349	7703		Equipment-Lease	3,800	3,800	1,102	380	1,558	760
6232	7727		Newsletter Expense(Web Articles)	1,500	1,500	435	150	615	300
Total Expenses				199,983	\$199,983	\$57,995	\$19,998	\$81,993	\$39,997

NO CHANGE
DECREASE IN BUDGETED AMOUNT
INCREASE IN BUDGETED AMOUNT

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
General Fund
2014 Adopted Budget**

Account #	Account	2013 Annual Budget	Actual Thru 7/31/13	Projected 8/1/13-12/31/13	Projected 2013 Total	2014 Adopted Budget
Revenues						
5001	General Property Tax	72,500	37,470	32,855	70,325	72,500
	Intergovernmental	0	377	0	377	0
	Interest Revenue	0	13	10	23	0
	Miscellaneous Income	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenues		\$72,500	\$37,861	\$32,864	\$70,725	\$72,500
Formula						
Expenses						
	Wages-General	25,686	15,864	11,332	27,196	25,686
7715	Manager Per Diem	1,450	0	0	0	1,450
7728	Manager Expense (mileage/food/registrati	290	26	19	44	290
	Benefits	4,340	2,621	1,872	4,493	4,340
	Payroll Taxes	1,965	1,214	867	2,081	1,965
	PERA Expense	1,862	1,160	829	1,989	1,862
	Unemployment compensation	0	1,890	1,350	3,240	0
7717	Telecommunications-Cell-Internet/Phone	566	121	86	207	566
7719	Postage	145	59	42	101	145
7727	Newsletter Expense(Web Articles)	435	174	124	298	435
7720	Legal Notices-General	145	0	0	0	145
7702	Dues	1,015	1,015	725	1,740	1,015
7711	Publications	15	49	35	84	15
7701	Professional Services-General	870	24	17	41	870
7724	Legal Fees-General	2,320	150	107	258	2,320
7709	Accounting/Payroll Fees	1,740	2,074	1,482	3,556	1,740
7725	Engineering-General	1,450	708	506	1,214	1,450
7723	Audit Fees	2,030	0	0	0	2,030
7726	Equipment-Maintenance	145	0	0	0	145
7721	Taxable meal reimbursement	145	5	4	8	145
7706	Mileage	870	462	330	792	870
7718	Training & Education	145	12	8	20	145
7722	Lodging/ Staff Travel	435	9	6	15	435
7704	Rent	4,118	1,752	1,252	3,004	4,118
7712	Web Expense-Design & Hosting	203	174	124	298	203
7703	Equipment-Lease	1,102	495	354	849	1,102
7713	Insurance & Bonds	2,929	523	373	896	2,929
	Bank Charges	0	445	318	762	0
7708	Cleaning Service	798	365	261	626	798
7710	Meeting Supplies/Expense	29	49	35	83	29
7716	Office Supplies	464	47	34	81	464
7707	Equipment-General	232	385	275	659	232
7705	Miscellaneous-General	58	216	154	370	58
	Public Education	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses		\$57,997	\$32,088	\$22,920	\$55,008	\$57,995

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
Cooperative Projects
2014 Adopted Budget**

Project #	Account	2013 Annual Budget	Actual Thru 7/31/13	Projected 8/1/13- 12/31/13	Projected 2013 Total	2014 Adopted Budget
Revenues						
10-220	Gully Erosion Inventory-General	25,000	12,921	11,329	24,250	25,000
	Gully Erosion Inventory-Projects	165,313	85,439	74,914	160,354	166,667
	Seminary Fen Restoration	0	110,400	-	110,400	0
	Total Revenues	\$190,313	208,760	\$86,243	\$295,004	\$191,667
 Cooperative Projects/Programs						
10-200	Administration Expense	19,998	10,501	7,501	18,002	19,998
10-220	Bank Stabilization	211,000	8,540	171,000	179,540	208,000
	Total Expenses	\$230,998	19,041	\$178,501	\$197,542	\$227,998

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
Cooperative Projects
2014 Adopted Budget**

Project #	Account	2013 Annual Budget	Actual Thru 7/31/13	Projected 8/1/13- 12/31/13	Projected 2013 Total	2014 Adopted Budget
Cooperative Projects						
Revenue						
77-701-000-0100-5001	Tax Levy - General	25,000	12,921	11,329	24,250	25,000
	Tax Levy - Projects	165,313	85,439	74,914	160,354	166,667
	Seminary Fen Restoration	0	110,400	0	110,400	0
	Total Revenues:	\$190,313	208,760	\$86,243	\$295,004	191,667
Expenses						
10-200	Administration Expense					
	Administration Expense @ 10% of Total	19,998	10,501	7,501	18,002	19,998
	Total Expenses-Administration:	\$19,998	10,501	\$7,501	\$18,002	19,998
10-220	Expenses - Bank Stabilization					
	Eden Prairie Bank Stabilization	-	-	-	-	0
77-701-000-0101-6260	Gully Erosion Contingency	5,000	-	-	-	0
77-701-000-0102-6260	Credit River Buffer Savage/Scott WMO	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	
77-701-000-0115-6260	USGS	-	8,000	-	8,000	8,000
77-701-000-0116-6260	Dakota Ravine Project Savage/Scott WMO	5,000	-	30,000	30,000	0
77-701-000-0118-6260	Seminary Fen Restoration	-	540	-	540	0
77-701-000-0103-6260	Ravine Stabilization at Seminary Fen in Chaska	100,000	-	40,000	40,000	100,000
77-701-000-0117-6260	Long Meadow Outfall (Bloomington)	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
	Total Expenses: Bank Stabilization	\$211,000	8,540	\$171,000	\$179,540	\$208,000

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
General Fund-509 Plan
2014 Adopted Budget**

Project #	Account	2013 Annual Budget	Actual Thru 7/31/13	Projected 8/1/13-12/31/13	Projected 2013 Total	2014 Adopted Budget
Revenues						
77-702-000-0100-5001	Tax Levy - General	140,000	72,357	63,443	135,800	102,500
77-702-000-0100-5094	Tax Levy - Projects	109,687	56,690	49,707	106,396	208,333
77-702-000-0109-5280	Grants	7,200	5,700	-	5,700	0
Total Revenues		\$256,887	\$134,746	\$113,150	\$247,896	\$310,833
509 Plan Implementation						
see admin total allocations	509 Plan Administration	81,993	45,773	32,695	78,468	81,993
77-702-000-0104-6260	Resource Plan Implementation	15,000	4,785	10,215	15,000	140,000
77-702-000-0109-6260	Monitoring	60,000	7,919	52,081	60,000	60,000
77-702-000-0112-6260	Watershed Management Plan	15,000	-	5,000	5,000	15,000
0113 and 0114	Public Education/Cost share	50,000	-	33,000	33,000	45,000
Total Expenses		\$221,993	\$58,477	\$132,991	\$191,468	\$341,993

Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
General Fund-509 Plan
2014 Adopted Budget

Project #	Account	2013 Annual Budget	Actual Thru 7/31/13	Projected 8/1/13- 12/31/13	Projected 2013 Total	2014 Adopted Budget
509 Plan Implementation						
Revenue						
77-702-000-0100-5001	General Property Tax	140,000	72,357	63,443	135,800	102,500
77-702-000-0100-5094	Tax Levy - Projects	109,687	56,690	49,707	106,396	208,333
77-702-000-0109-5280	Grants - Met Co.	7,200	5,700	-	5,700	0
	Total Revenues:	\$256,887	\$134,746	\$113,150	\$247,896	\$310,833
Administration Expense						
see admin total allocations	Administration Expense @ 41% of Total	81,993	45,773	32,695	78,468	81,993
	Total Expenses-Administration:	\$81,993	\$45,773	\$32,695	\$78,468	\$81,993
Expenses						
	Governance Study					0
	Strategic Resource Evaluation and Management					0
	Dean Lake Feasibility Study/Restoration	15,000				100,000
	Data Assessments and Program Review					40,000
77-702-000-0104-6260	Total Expenses-Resource Plan Implementation:	\$15,000	\$4,785	\$10,215	\$15,000	\$140,000
Monitoring						
Expenses						
	Monitoring	50,000			0	50,000
	Monitoring data analysis	5,000			0	5,000
	Technical Assistance	5,000			0	5,000
77-702-000-0109-6260	Total Expenses-Monitoring:	\$60,000	\$7,919	\$52,081	\$60,000	\$60,000
Watershed Management Plan						
Expenses						
	Plan Amendment	5,000				0
	Vegetation Management Standard/Plan	10,000				15,000
77-702-000-0112-6260	Total Expenses:	15,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Public Education/CAC/Outreach Program						
77-702-000-0113-6260	Public Education/CAC/Outreach Program	30,000		30,000	30,000	25,000
Cost Share Program						
77-702-000-0114-6260	Cost Share Program	20,000	-	3,000	-	20,000
	Total Expenses-509 Program	\$50,000	\$0	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$45,000

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
Nine Foot Channel
2014 Adopted Budget**

Project #	Account	2013 Annual Budget	Actual Thru 7/31/13	Projected 8/1/13-12/31/13	Projected 2013 Total	2014 Adopted Budget
Revenues						
	General Tax Levy	12,500	6,460	5,665	12,125	50,000
	Tax Levy - Projects	-	-	-	-	0
	Total Revenues	\$ 12,500	\$6,460	\$5,665	\$12,125	50,000
Expenses						
	Administration Expense	39,997	30,384	21,703	52,086	39,997
	Lobbying for Funding	15,000	10,088	4,912	15,000	15,000
	Other Projects	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Expenses	\$54,997	\$40,471	\$26,615	\$67,086	\$54,997

0

Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
Nine Foot Channel
2014 Adopted Budget

Project #	Account	2013 Annual Budget	Actual Thru 7/31/13	Projected 8/1/13- 12/31/13	Projected 2013 Total	2014 Adopted Budget
Nine Foot Channel						
	Nine Foot Channel					
77-703-000-0100-5001	Tax Levy - General	\$12,500	6,460	5,665	12,125	50,000
	Tax Levy - Projects	-	-	-	-	0
	Total Revenues:	\$12,500	\$6,460	\$5,665	\$12,125	50,000
	Expenses					
see allocations tab	Administration Expense					
	Administration @ 20% of Total	\$39,997	30,384	21,703	52,086	39,997
	Total Expenses-Administration:	\$39,997	\$30,384	\$21,703	\$52,086	39,997
77-703-000-0100-6347	Lobbying for Funding	15,000	10,088	4,912	15,000	15,000
	Total Expenses - Other Projects:	\$15,000	10,088	4,912	15,000	15,000
	Other Projects	-	-	-	-	0
	Total Expenses :	\$54,997	\$40,471	\$26,615	\$67,086	\$54,997



Appendix B

2014 Resolutions

President Francis introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption,

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO CARLA SCHUTROP
FOR HER SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Carla Shutrop is a lifelong resident of the City of Shakopee and Scott County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Carla Shutrop has served as the Scott County Manager for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District from March 2011 until her resignation in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Carla Shutrop has been a valued member of the Lower Minnesota River Board of Managers, who has brought outstanding leadership and new perspectives to the Board of Managers; and

WHEREAS, Carla Shutrop is recognized by her peers for being professional, hardworking, dependable and enthusiastic, and has consistently been recognized as a team player with a positive attitude and exceptional work ethic; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District wishes to publicly acknowledge Carla Shutrop and thank her for her years of service as Scott County Manager

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to Carla Shutrop for her service to the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, and wishes her continued success in all her future endeavors.



Kent Francis, President

Attested:



Linda Loomis, Administrator

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Kremer and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis, Kremer and Shirk and the following voted against the same: None; whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted, signed by the President and his signature attested by the Administrator.

President Francis introduced the following resolution and Manager Kremer moved its adoption

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL
BY THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

WHEREAS the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District generally supports the activities of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Bloomington in their management of the Minnesota River flood plain between the Bloomington Ferry Bridge and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in East Bloomington to increase opportunities for recreation in the Minnesota River Valley.

WHEREAS the Minnesota Valley State Trail, a cooperative project of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the City of Bloomington, is proposed to traverse through the floodplain of the Minnesota River between said Bloomington Ferry Bridge and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and then ultimately to Fort Snelling State Park

WHEREAS it has been a long-term goal to establish a continuous corridor from Fort Snelling to the city of LeSueur that is accessible by a variety of users and currently the portion of the Trail between said Bloomington Ferry Bridge to the I-494 Bridge is either an undeveloped natural surface that is not designated or developed for public use and/or is not continuous.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District supports efforts by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and/or the City of Bloomington to construct and maintain said trail for hiking and biking purposes .



Kent Francis, President

Attested:


Linda Loomis, Administrator

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Shirk and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis, Kremer and Shirk; the following voted against the same: None; whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted, signed by the President and his signature attested by the Administrator.

President Francis introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ELECTING TO DROP WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE COVERAGE
AND AUTO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") Managers each maintain individual private insurance coverage, and

WHEREAS, all staff of the LMRWD are now professional consultants who maintain insurance on their own basis and the LMRWD no longer has any direct employees as of December 1, 2013, and

WHEREAS, Worker's Compensation Insurance and Auto Insurance Coverage now apply solely to the Managers, and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD Board of Managers determine this is an expense that is no longer necessary for the LMRWD to incur.

BE IT RESOLVED by the LMRWD Board of Managers elects to drop Worker's Compensation Insurance and Auto Insurance Coverage as of December 1, 2013.

Adopted by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District this

23rd day of April 2014.



Kent Francis, President

Attested:



Len Kremer, Secretary

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Manager Shirk and seconded by Manager Kremer and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis, Kremer and Shirk; and the following voted against the same: None; whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted, signed by the President and his signature attested by the Secretary.

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ELECTING TO TERMINATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INSURANCE PROGRAM ("PEIP") PARTICIPATION
FOR THE
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") Board of Managers has determined it will no longer engage employees to carry on the business of the LMRWD, and

WHEREAS, all staff of the LMRWD are now professional consultants and the LMRWD no longer has any direct employees as of December 1, 2013, and

WHEREAS, with no direct employees it is no longer necessary to be able to provide insurance benefits for employees, and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD Board of Managers determines being able to provide insurance benefits is an expense that is no longer necessary for the LMRWD to incur.

BE IT RESOLVED by the LMRWD Board of Managers elects to not renew coverage through PEIP and terminates participation in PEIP.

Adopted by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District this 17th day of June 2014.



Kent Francis, President

Attested:



Linda Loomis, Administrator

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was made by Manager Kremer and seconded by Manager Shirk and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Kremer, Shirk; and the following voted against the same: None; whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted, signed by the President and his signature attested by the Administrator.

RESOLUTION 14-05

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROJECT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
AND THE CITY OF CHASKA
FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
OF SEMINARY FEN RAVINE RESTORATION PROJECT

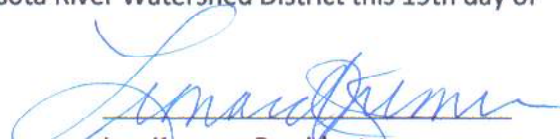
WHEREAS, LMRWD has entered into a grant agreement with the State of Minnesota, by and through its Board of Water and Soil Resources, "BWSR", to receive a Clean Water Fund Grant in the amount of \$220,800 for the reconstruction and restoration of a ravine that drains to Seminary Fen; and

WHEREAS, LMRWD and the City of Chaska desire to work cooperatively on the project with the City performing the technical work of design engineering, construction and maintenance and LMRWD providing funding from Clean Water Fund Grant; and

WHEREAS, LMRWD and the City desire to enter into a Project Agreement outlining the Parties' individual and joint roles in the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Managers that the proposed Project Agreement for the Design and Construction of the Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Project is hereby approved and the President and Secretary are directed to execute the agreement on behalf of LMRWD.

Adopted by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District this 19th day of November 2014.


Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:


Linda Loomis, Administrator

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Francis and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof, Kremer and Shirk: and the following voted against the same: None whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Manager Kremer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 14-06

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

RESOLUTION AMENDING COST SHARE GRANT AGREEMENT

SW METRO EDUCATION COOPERATIVE CAMPUS: PROJECT #1 - SW METRO CAMPUS

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") approved a Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Grant ("Grant Agreement") to the SW Metro Education Cooperative at its meeting on June 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD executed a Grant Agreement with the SW Metro Educational Cooperative to construction of a project at 401 4th Street in the City of Chaska, Minnesota on July 9, 2014; and


WHEREAS, said Grant Agreement provided for reimbursement to the SW Metro Educational Cooperative in an amount not to exceed Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00); and


WHEREAS, the parties wish to amend the Cost Share Grant Agreement to increase the amount of the reimbursement an additional Two Thousand Eight Hundred One Dollars (\$2,801.00) for a total reimbursement of Three Thousand Six Hundred One Dollars (\$3,601.00), to cover the actual cost of the plant material needed for the completion of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District as follows:

The Grant Agreement is hereby amended to increase the amount of reimbursement to Three Thousand Six Hundred One Dollars (\$3,601.00), to reflect the increase in the cost of plant material.

Adopted by the Board of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission this 20th day of August, 2014.


President
Date: 8/20/14

ATTEST:

Secretary
Date: 8/20/14

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager _____ and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis, Kremer and Shirk; and the following voted against the same: None; whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-07

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ADOPTING WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the "LMRWD") is responsible for the preparation of a watershed management plan for Lower Minnesota River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 103D.401 and 103B.231; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD has prepared a watershed management plan, and revised such plan as required by Minnesota Statutes § 103D.405 which is entitled "Lower Minnesota River Watershed District; Third Generation Watershed Management Plan 2011-2020" (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been reviewed in accordance with Minnesota Statutes § 103D.405, subd. 3 and 103B.231, subd. 7; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2011, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the Plan, conditionally and issued a Board Order that same date; and

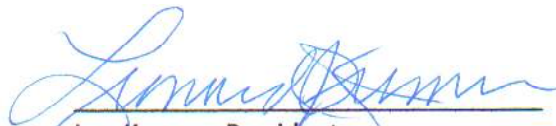
WHEREAS, the LMRWD was obligated to adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD failed to adopt the plan within the 120 days, however the failure to adopt the Plan was unintentional and the LMRWD began implementation of the Plan, as soon as the Order was received; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the LMRWD is in the process of amending the Plan's implementation program, as well as detailing the implementation table for the years 2017-2020, that specifies activities and costs by year, as required by the Order; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers finds that the adoption of the Plan is in accordance with the requirements of law and in the best interests of the public.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District adopts the plan in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 103B.231, subdivision 10.



Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:



Yvonne Shirk, Vice President

President Francis introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:


RESOLUTION 14-08
RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2015 LMRWD BUDGET AND
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR CARVER COUNTY
FOR TAXES PAYABLE 2015

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") has proposed a total budget of Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$620,000) for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget requires monies to be raised from an ad valorem tax levy on taxable property in the LMRWD located within Carver County, for the purpose of paying administrative expenses (Minnesota Statutes § 103D.905 Subd. 3) of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) and providing for a planning and implementation fund (Minnesota Statutes § 103B.241) of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000).


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a mill rate sufficient to produce Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Four and 10/100 Dollars (\$25,454.10) be levied upon all taxable property in the LMRWD located within Carver County, State of Minnesota, for taxes payable in 2015, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103D.911 and 103D.915;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the LMRWD that the 2015 Budget is hereby approved and adopted.



Kent Francis, President

ATTEST:



Len Kremer, Secretary

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Shirk and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis and Shirk; and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 10th day of September, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Secretary

Francis

Manager ~~Shirk~~ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-09

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2015 LMRWD BUDGET AND
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR DAKOTA COUNTY
FOR TAXES PAYABLE 2015

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") has proposed a total budget of Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$620,000) for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget requires monies to be raised from an ad valorem tax levy on taxable property in the LMRWD located within Dakota County, for the purpose of paying administrative expenses (Minnesota Statutes § 103D.905 Subd. 3) of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) and providing for a planning and implementation fund (Minnesota Statutes § 103B.241) of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a mill rate sufficient to produce Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Six and 92/100 Dollars (\$77,726.92) be levied upon all taxable property in the LMRWD located within Dakota County, State of Minnesota, for taxes payable in 2015, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103D.911 and 103D.915;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the LMRWD that the 2015 Budget is hereby approved and adopted.



Kent Francis, President

ATTEST:


Len Kremer, Secretary

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by ~~President Francis~~ ^{Manager Shirk} and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis and Shirk, and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 10th day of September, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Secretary

President
Manager Francis

introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-10

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2015 LMRWD BUDGET AND
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR HENNEPIN COUNTY
FOR TAXES PAYABLE 2015

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") has proposed a total budget of Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$620,000) for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget requires monies to be raised from an ad valorem tax levy on taxable property in the LMRWD located within Hennepin County, for the purpose of paying administrative expenses (Minnesota Statutes § 103D.905 Subd. 3) of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) and providing for a planning and implementation fund (Minnesota Statutes § 103B.241) of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a mill rate sufficient to produce Two Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Four and 12/100 Dollars (\$279,574.12) be levied upon all taxable property in the LMRWD located within Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, for taxes payable in 2015, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103D.911 and 103D.915;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the LMRWD that the 2015 Budget is hereby approved and adopted.



Kent Francis, President

ATTEST:



Len Kremer, Secretary

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Shirk and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis and Shirk and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 10th day of September, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Secretary

~~Manager~~ ^{President} Francis introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-11

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2015 LMRWD BUDGET AND
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR SCOTT COUNTY
FOR TAXES PAYABLE 2015

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") has proposed a total budget of Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$620,000) for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget requires monies to be raised from an ad valorem tax levy on taxable property in the LMRWD located within Scott County, for the purpose of paying administrative expenses (Minnesota Statutes § 103D.905 Subd. 3) of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) and providing for a planning and implementation fund (Minnesota Statutes § 103B.241) of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a mill rate sufficient to produce Two Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four and 86/100 Dollars (\$237,244.86) be levied upon all taxable property in the LMRWD located within Scott County, State of Minnesota, for taxes payable in 2015, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103D.911 and 103D.915;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the LMRWD that the 2015 Budget is hereby approved and adopted.



Kent Francis, President

ATTEST:


Len Kremer, Secretary

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Shirk and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis and Shirk, and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 10th day of September, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Secretary

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-12

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EARLY SEASON

AQUATIC PLANT SAMPLING STUDY OF DEAN LAKE AND

EXTENDING DEAN LAKE 2013 WATER QUALITY STUDIES PROJECT MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") and Scott County ("County") entered into an agreement to improve the understanding of the condition of Dean Lake ("the Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD's Water Resources Management Plan includes funding a diagnostic study of Dean Lake in 2013 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, the County has completed an historic data review, which included an aquatic plant survey, but did not include early season aquatic plant sampling; and

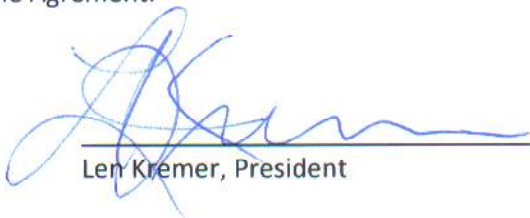
WHEREAS, additional monitoring by the MPCA and Scott SWCD of the inflow and outflow of Dean Lake is currently underway; and

WHEREAS, a study of historic phytoplankton in core samples taken by the Science Museum is currently underway; and

WHEREAS, the County recommended an early season study of aquatic vegetation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the LMRWD that said Agreement is amended to extend the term of the Agreement to include 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the LMRWD that an early season aquatic plant sampling is authorized under the terms of the Agreement.



Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:



Yvonne Shirk, Vice President

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by President Kremer and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Kremer and Shirk and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 14th day of October, 2014 signed by the President and signature attested by the Secretary/Treasurer.

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 14-13

RESOLUTION AMENDING COST SHARE GRANT AGREEMENT

WITH CONTINENTAL MACHINES, INC.

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") approved a Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Grant ("Grant Agreement") to Continental Machines, Inc., at its meeting on June 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2014 the LMRWD executed a Grant Agreement with the Continental Machines, Inc. to construct a project at 5505 West 123rd Street, Savage, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, said Grant Agreement provided for reimbursement to the Continental Machines, Inc. in an amount not to exceed Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five and 25/100 Dollars (\$2,255.25); and

WHEREAS, said Grant Agreement is void if the project installation is not complete by November 1, 2014; and

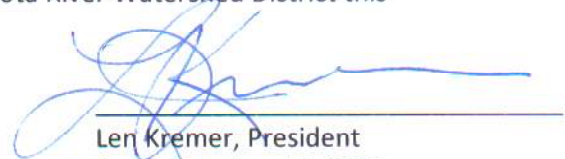
WHEREAS, in order to establish a prairie planting successfully in Minnesota timing of seeding of the project will extend beyond November 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to amend the Cost Share Grant Agreement to extend the term of the agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District as follows:


The Grant Agreement is hereby amended to extend the time Continental Machines, Inc. has to complete the project. The new date is July 15, 2015.

Adopted by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District this 14th day of October, 2014.



Len Kremer, President
Date: October 14, 2014

ATTEST:



Yvonne Shirk, Vice President
Date: October 14, 2014

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by President Kremer and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Kremer and Shirk; and the following voted against the same: None; whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-14

RESOLUTION REVISING BYLAWS OF

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") has considered proposed revisions to its Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws are revised to reflect the current address of the LMRWD office; and

WHEREAS, additional revisions to clean up the language of the Bylaws, have been recommended by the Attorney for the District; and

WHEREAS, because the proposed revisions to the Bylaws are minor in nature, the Managers opt to waive the thirty (30) days written notice of the proposed changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Board of Managers as follows:

1. The LMRWD's Bylaws are revised to change Article III, Section 1 to change the LMRWD office address to 112 East 5th Street, Suite 112, Chaska, MN 55318.
2. Additional revisions to the LMRWD Bylaws are made to clean up the language of the Bylaws in the following paragraphs:

Article IV, Section 4: Article V, Sections 3, 5, 6 and 7: Article VI, Sections 8 and 9: and Article VII, Section 2.

3. This revision constitutes the review of the Bylaws required by Article X11 of the Bylaws.



Kent Francis, President

ATTEST:



Len Kremer, Secretary

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by President Francis and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Francis, Kremer and Shirk and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 17th day of September, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Secretary.

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-15

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ADOPTING STRATEGIC RESOURCE EVALUATION

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the "LMRWD") is responsible for the preparation of a watershed management plan for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103 B and 103D; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD has prepared its watershed management plan, titled "Lower Minnesota River Watershed District; Third Generation Watershed Management Plan 2011-2020" (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2011, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the Plan, conditionally; and

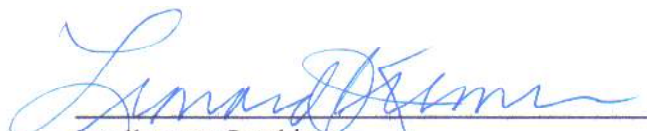
WHEREAS, the Implementation Program 4.3.1 calls for Strategic Resource Evaluation and Management to implement Strategy 1.3.1 of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2012, the LMRWD commissioned its Engineer, HDR, to prepare a Strategic Resource Evaluation of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed (the "SRE"); and

WHEREAS, the SRE was completed and received by the LMRWD in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers finds that the adoption of the SRE is in accordance with the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District adopts the Strategic Resource Evaluation.



Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:



Yvonne Shirk, Vice President

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Member Francis and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Managers Kremer and Shirk and the following voted against the same: None whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted, this 19th day of November, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Vice President.

Manager Kremer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-16

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE OF KENT FRANCIS
TO THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the "District") is a special purpose unit of government established in accordance with Minnesota State Statute 103D; and

WHEREAS, under said Statute, the District is charged with the responsibility for the management of storm water within the Lower Minnesota River watershed, to protect persons and property from flooding and to protect and preserve the water quality of lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands of the Watershed and downstream receiving waters; and

WHEREAS, Kent Francis has served as a Manager of the District from 2005 to the present in representation of Carver County and as the Board's Secretary from 2006 to 2011 and President from 2011 to present; and

WHEREAS, Kent Francis has generously given of his time and talents, to serve and educate the public and to protect the environment; and

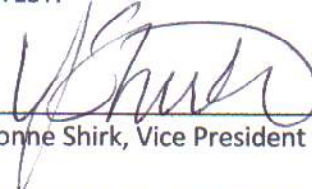
WHEREAS, Kent Francis has been a strong advocate for the sound management of the public interest and an efficient and organized leader in the District's work as put forth in the its *Watershed Management Plan*, committed to the improved health of the waters of the Lower Minnesota River and has devoted many hours to implementing the goals and policies of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District that the Board of Managers on behalf of the District and the public hereby express their sincere and grateful appreciation to Kent Francis for his distinguished service and wish him success in all his future endeavors.



Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:



Yvonne Shirk, Vice President

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Shirk and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Managers Kremer and Shirk and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 19th day of November, 2014, signed by the President and his signature attested by the Vice President.

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-17

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ADOPTING GOVERNANCE STUDY

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the "LMRWD") is responsible for the preparation of a watershed management plan for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103 B and 103D; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD has prepared its watershed management plan, titled "Lower Minnesota River Watershed District; Third Generation Watershed Management Plan 2011-2020" (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2011, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the Plan, conditionally; and

WHEREAS, the Implementation Program 4.3.2 calls for a Governance Study to implement Strategy 1.3.2 of the Plan - "Research the Options of Expanding, Contracting, or Maintaining the District's Boundary"; and

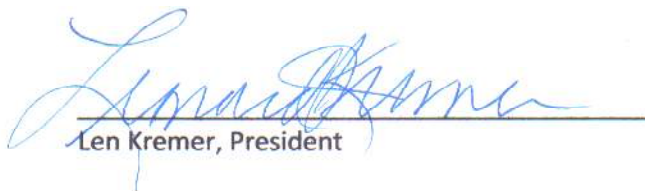
WHEREAS, on January 18, 2012, the LMRWD commissioned the Humphrey Institute to prepare the Governance Study; and

WHEREAS, the Governance Study was completed and received by the LMRWD in 2012; and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities within the LMRWD boundaries were notified of the Governance Study; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers finds that the adoption of the Governance study is in accordance with the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District adopts the 2012 Governance Study.



Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:



Yvonne Shirk, Vice President

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Francis and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Kremer and Shirk and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 19th day of November, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Vice President.

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-18

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ADOPTING DREDGE MATERIAL SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the River and Harbor Act of 1958, Public Law 85-500 (July 3, 1958), authorized the Secretary of the Army to construct and maintain a nine foot channel on the Lower Minnesota River (the "Channel"), subject to the provision of local cooperation, which includes the provision of necessary dredged material placement sites when and as required by the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, by resolution passed and adopted by the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the "LMRWD") on August 22, 1962, the LMRWD, as the authorized public body of the state of Minnesota to give the required assurances of local cooperation of the Channel, resolved and agreed to provide the required elements of local cooperation for the Channel; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD is the owner of certain real estate located in Section 9, Township 115 North, Range 21 West, (the "Premises"), which was acquired for purpose of providing a site for necessary dredged material placement; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD has prepared its watershed management plan, titled "Lower Minnesota River Watershed District; Third Generation Watershed Management Plan 2011-2020" (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2011, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the Plan, conditionally; and


WHEREAS, the Implementation Program 4.3.7 and 4.3.8 calls for a Dredged Material Management Plan to implement Strategy 8.2.1 and 8.2.2; and

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2012, the LMRWD commissioned its Engineer, HDR, to prepare a Dredge Material Site Management Plan (the "DMMP"), to review options for managing the Premises and deposited material and to review the financial liability of the local sponsor on the LMRWD; and

WHEREAS, the DMMP was completed and received by the LMRWD in January 2013: and

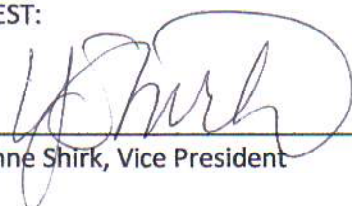
WHEREAS, the Board of Managers finds that the adoption of the DMMP is in accordance with the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District adopts the January 2013 Dredge Material Site Management Plan.



Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:



Yvonne Shirk, Vice President

Manager Shirk introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 14-19

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2015 BUDGET AND
FINAL CERTIFICATION OF LEVY PAYABLE 2015

WHEREAS, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") Board of Managers adopted resolutions 14-08 through 14-11 September 10, 2014 approving 2015 Budget and the preliminary levy for taxes payable 2015; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD has been asked by the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District ("RPBCWD") to participate in a project on Bluff Creek that is located partially in within the boundaries of the LMRWD that was not included in the approved 2015 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers wishes to amend the 2015 budget to include funding for this project, by replacing the MN River Bank Protection/Stabilization (Carver) project with the Bluff Creek project; and

WHEREAS, the amendment does not change to 2015 levy amount and does no compromise the LMRWD's fund balance or future operations.

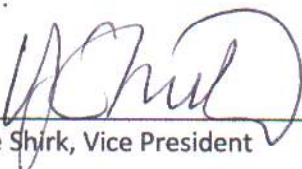
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District hereby adopts the amended 2015 LMRWD Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District that the sums of money be raised by property tax on taxable property within the boundaries of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed for taxes payable in 2015 as set out in the 2015 adopted LMRWD Budget, apportioned as follows:

County	Apportioned Payable 2015 Levy
Carver	25,454.10
Dakota	77,726.92
Hennepin	279,574.12
Scott	<u>237,244.86</u>
TOTAL LEVY	\$620,000.00


Len Kremer, President

ATTEST:


Yvonne Shirk, Vice President

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Manager Francis and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Kremer, Shirk and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted, this 19th day of November, 2014 signed by the President and his signature attested by the Secretary



Appendix C

Capital Improvement Program

Project Name	Description	Project Partner	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeline
	would discharge to the Bass Ponds area, keeping in mind the trout stream currently being stocked in the Bass Ponds area. Rehabilitate or reconstruct existing storm sewer outfall to Long Meadow Lake from the Bloomington Central Station area incorporating water quality best management practices to provide additional treatment.			
Chaska Downtown Old 212 at East Creek Water Quality Treatment Site – South Side of 212	This project is proposed in a portion of downtown Chaska that currently does not have treatment. Due to a lack of space for storm water ponds the goal of this project is to treat the small to medium size precipitation events, between 1 and 1.5 inches of precipitation. Due to the lack of space for ponding In-Manhole treatment (V2B1, EcoStorm, etc.) or other below ground treatment techniques will be utilized. The goal of the treatment is to have a 50 - 70% reduction in suspended solids and 60 – 80% reduction in phosphates to East Creek and the Minnesota River.	City of Chaska	\$90,000	2015
Chaska Downtown Beech Street at East Creek Water Quality Treatment Site – North Side	The proposed treatment location Downtown where Stoughton Avenue drainage discharges into east creek–This project is proposed in a portion of downtown that currently does not have treatment. Due to a lack of space for storm water ponds the goal of this project is to treat the small to medium size precipitation events, between 1 and 1.5 inches of precipitation. Due to the lack of space for ponding in downtown Chaska In-Manhole treatment (V2B1, EcoStorm, etc.) or other below ground treatment techniques will be utilized. This goal of the treatment is to have a 50 - 70% reduction in suspended solids and 60 – 80% reduction in phosphates to East Creek and the Minnesota River.	City of Chaska	\$60,000	2015
Chaska Downtown Old 212 at East Creek Water Quality Treatment Site – North Side of 212	The proposed treatment location is in downtown Chaska along old 212 where highway drainage discharges into East Creek. This project is proposed in a portion of downtown that currently does not have treatment. Due to a lack of space for storm water ponds the goal of this project is to treat the small to medium size precipitation events, between 1 and 1.5 inches of precipitation. Due to the lack of space for ponding In-Manhole treatment (V2B1, EcoStorm, etc.) or other below ground treatment techniques will be utilized. This goal of the treatment is to have a 50 - 70% reduction in suspended solids and 60 – 80% reduction in phosphates to East Creek and the Minnesota River.	City of Chaska	\$90,000	2015
Chaska Downtown Beech Street at East Creek Water Quality Treatment Site – South Side	The proposed treatment location is in downtown Chaska where Beech street drainage discharges into east creek–This project is proposed in a portion of downtown that currently does not have treatment. Due to a lack of space for storm water ponds the goal of this project is to treat the small to medium size precipitation events, between 1 and 1.5 inches of precipitation. Due to the lack of space for ponding in downtown Chaska In-Manhole treatment (V2B1, EcoStorm, etc.) or other below ground treatment techniques will be utilized. This goal of the treatment is to have a 50 - 70% reduction in suspended solids and 60 – 80% reduction in phosphates to East Creek and the Minnesota River.	City of Chaska	\$40,000	2016
Chaska Downtown Walnut & 1 st Street Water Quality Treatment Site	The proposed treatment location is in downtown Chaska. This project is proposed in a portion of downtown that currently does not have treatment. Due to a lack of space for storm water ponds the goal of this project is to treat the small to medium size precipitation events, between 1 and 1.5 inches of precipitation. In-Manhole treatment (V2B1, EcoStorm, etc.) or other below ground treatment techniques will be utilized. This goal of the treatment is to have a 50 - 70% reduction in suspended solids and 60 – 80% reduction in phosphates to the Minnesota River	City of Chaska	\$50,000	2016
Non-Degradation Volume Reduction	The City of Bloomington was one of 30 municipalities required to meet non-degradation requirements as part of the NPDES MS4 Permit. The non-degradation report evaluated changes in runoff quantity and quality from 1988 to the present, and projected changes from the present to the year 2020. Where significant increases in stormwater runoff occurred or were projected to occur, options to keep pollutant loading of receiving waters at the 1988 levels were discussed. This project would involve a volume reduction to meet the non-degradation requirements and return pollutant loading to 1988 levels.	City of Bloomington	\$125,000	2016-2017
Chaska Downtown Sixth Street at East Creek Water Quality Treatment Site	The proposed treatment location is in downtown Chaska where Sixth Street intersects east creek. This project is proposed in a portion of downtown that currently does not have treatment. Due to a lack of space for storm water ponds the goal of this project is to treat the small to medium size precipitation events, between 1 and 1.5 inches of precipitation. Due to the lack of space for ponding in downtown Chaska In-Manhole treatment (V2B1, EcoStorm, etc.) or other below ground treatment techniques will be utilized. This goal of the treatment is to have a 50 - 70% reduction in suspended solids and 60 – 80% reduction in phosphates to East Creek and the Minnesota River.	City of Chaska	\$65,000	2017
BMP Retrofits at Valley Fair and Port of Savage	This project is to be completed in cooperation with Scott County and consists of BMP retrofits to increase pervious surfaces and infiltration at Valley Fair and the Port of Savage.	City of Savage	\$25,000	2018

Table 4-4: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – Capital Improvement Projects

Project Name	Description	Project Partner	Estimated Cost	Estimated Timeline
Capital Improvement Projects				
Gully Erosion Projects	The District has set aside a contingency fund to finance projects which consist of constructing bluff stabilization projects with cooperating partners in those areas identified in the District's gully inventory as having severe erosion that have yet to be constructed or identified specifically in the CIP for this Plan.	LGUs	\$125,000	2012-2016
Mound Springs Gully Project	Mound Springs is an erosion area identified in the District's gully inventory. The site needs to balance the perennial groundwater stream and the stormwater discharge through the area to prevent erosion to Long Meadow Lake. The gully also includes a trail off 11th Avenue South that is identified in the City of Bloomington Park Master Plan as a trail access point to Mound Springs Park and the Minnesota River Valley Trails. The design may require accommodating unpaved trail access. The primary project sponsor is the City of Bloomington.	City of Bloomington	\$250,000	2013-2014
Seminary Fen Restoration at Engler	This 6-acre portion of the Seminary Fen is a formerly farmed wetland that has been ditched and tiled. This project proposes to restore the natural hydrologic regime by rendering the tile and ditch ineffective in draining the wetland by partial removal and blocking of tile and ditch modifications to eliminate the man made hydrologic scope and affect on the wetland. In addition to an altered hydrologic system, the natural plant community in this wetland has been choked out by the invasive species reed canary grass. The project will restore the native plant community by controlling reed canary grass and re-introducing native plant species. Collection of seed for this project will be from City owned land adjacent to the project site to insure local ecotype seed is utilized. Restoring native vegetation will offer further vegetative buffering protection to the Seminary Fen, protecting the Fen's native plant diversity.	City of Chaska	\$35,500	2012
Ravine Stabilization at Seminary Fen	Ravine erosion is causing a large area of sedimentation along the north half of the fen. This project is phase 2 of a project that was completed in 2009 by the City of Chaska that involved restoration of a wetland outlet for rate control to the ravine. Stabilization of the ravine is still necessary to reduce the transport of sediment to the Seminary Fen. Annualized sediment transport was modeled using a 1-D bedload sediment transport model by Meyer-Peter and Muller (1948). Under existing conditions sediment transport to the Seminary Fen is estimated at 1.85 million tons per year. The goal of this project is to complete ravine stabilization improvements that are estimated to reduce the transport rate of sediment to 0.68 million tons per year. This represents a 63% reduction in sediment load to Seminary Fen.	City of Chaska	\$400,000	2012-2013
Heritage Hills Park and Gully Restoration Project	A small stream connecting Ancel Glen Pond to South Glen Pond (that flows through Heritage Hills Pond – Middle between the two ponds) is experiencing significant erosion. The area has several small woodchip trails and is surrounded by private residences on both sides. The project would involve stream restoration of the eroded gully area, erosion prevention, and maintenance or replacing the woodchip trail system. The primary project sponsor is the City of Bloomington.	City of Bloomington	\$100,000	2015
Dean Lake Restoration Project	This project will implement the results of the Dean Lake Feasibility Study. This project will consist of financing adjacent septic system connection to city sanitary sewer, construction of sedimentation basins, water quality treatment BMPs in the upstream watershed, improvements to the inlet or outlet, shoreline restoration, and/or in-lake management such as dredging and chemical treatment.		\$200,000	2014- 2015
Minnesota River Study Area 3 Bluff Stabilization	This project consists of analysis, design, and construction of Minnesota River at Study Area 3 project in Eden Prairie to address the river bank erosion. An October 2008 study of the area was completed for the city of Eden Prairie in cooperation with the District. This project expands the 2008 study with additional data collection and analysis and extends it to final design, permitting, and construction.	City of Eden Prairie	\$250,000	2016
Potential Unfunded Projects				
West 3 rd Street Ditch – Creek	Currently this is a ditch that conveys water from an existing residential area in downtown Chaska to the the West Creek flood control diversion. The existing channel is in disrepair and has unnatural amounts of sedimentation. Currently the turf of back and side yards are directly adjacent to the channel. The proposed project would be to replace the existing channel with a storm sewer pipe conveyance system. The channel would be filled in to create a swale to collect local drainage. This swale will allow for infiltration features (rain water gardens) to be installed along the corridor. This project will provide 5 – 10 lbs of phosphorous removal per year for this portion of downtown that currently does not have treatment.	City of Chaska	\$330,000	2013
Clay Hole North Slope Erosion – Site 3	Substantial gullies have begun to form on the hillside located north of the Clayhole and directly east of Trunk Highway 41. These gullies are approximately 1000 feet long. The City of Chaska has completed some work to control erosion in this area include rock check dams and erosion mats. Additional work is necessary to control other erosion areas. This project will reduce erosion entering Clay Hole Lake and remove an existing sediment plume from the lake.		\$100,000	2014
Long Meadow Outfall Project	This project consists of implementing, in cooperation with the City of Bloomington, one of two alternatives to address water quality improvement downstream of Long Meadow Lake. The two alternatives include: Abandon storm sewer outfall to Long Meadow Lake from Bloomington Central Station area and reroute through a regional infiltration basin likely on the Kelley Farm property during redevelopment. From the Kelley property the storm sewer	City of Bloomington	\$100,000	2014-2015



Appendix D

Level II Performance Review and Assistance Program Evaluation



Level II Performance Review

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

Local Government Unit Final Report

December 22, 2014

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North

St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-0768

www.bwsr.state.mn.us

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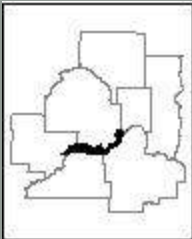
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This report has been prepared for the **Lower Minnesota Watershed District** by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in partial fulfillment of the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.102, Subd.3.

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This report is available in alternative formats upon request.

<p>PRAP Level II Report Summary</p>	<p>Lower Minnesota River Watershed District</p>
<p>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p>Key Findings and Conclusions</p> <p>This performance review reveals a watershed district that is making the effort to emerge from its historical single purpose as a dredged material management agency. Based on their report of accomplishments the LMRWD is seeking to broaden its scope as a local resource management entity with the publication of the 2014 Strategic Resources Evaluation. This document is an excellent first step in providing some strategic direction for district activities and sets the district up well for expanding partnerships with other neighboring or conterminous local, state and federal resource management entities.</p> <p>The district shows reasonable progress in the implementation of planned goals and strategies. One noteworthy feature of the watershed management plan is the list of metrics the district has adopted to track both short- and long-term progress toward plan goals. While the district has not given much attention to reporting results for these metrics, they have indicated that that action item will receive increased attention as a result of this performance review.</p> <p>The performance standards assessment shows that the district has struggled with their compliance with some basic reporting requirements.</p> <p>Finally, the district has evidently turned a corner with regard to both board member dynamics and administrative services. What remains to be addressed in this regard is for the district to fill out the vacancies in the board to achieve a full complement of five managers and to increase staff capacity.</p> <p>Resource Outcomes</p> <p>As noted above, the LMRWD plan contains a list of “metrics” which include long-term measures of resource outcomes. These include, for example, trends in water quality parameters and number and acreage of wetlands protected, restored, and enhanced. However, the district has not yet begun to report on these metrics but plans to do so in conjunction with a biannual review.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the lead in pursuing projects and priorities identified in the 2014 SRE and the district watershed management plan. • Address Action Items • Fill board vacancies. <p>Action Items</p> <p>The LMRWD needs to address two action items: submit annual activity and audit reports on-time.</p> <p>Commendations</p> <p>The LMRWD is commended for meeting 8 of 15 benchmark performance standards.</p> 

Introduction

This is an information document prepared by the staff of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District. It reports the results of a routine performance review of that organization's watershed management plan implementation and overall organizational effectiveness in delivery of land and water conservation projects and programs.

BWSR has reviewed the district's reported accomplishments of their management plan action items, determined the organization's compliance with BWSR's Level I and II performance standards, and surveyed members of the organization and their partner organizations.

This review is neither a financial audit nor investigation and it does not replace or supersede other types of governmental review of local government unit operations.

While the performance review reported herein has been conducted under the authority granted to BWSR by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.102, this is a staff report and has not been reviewed or approved by the BWSR board members.

What is PRAP?

PRAP is an acronym for BWSR's Performance Review and Assistance Program. Authorized by the 2007 Minnesota legislature, the PRAP purpose is to support local delivery of land conservation and water management by periodically reviewing and assessing the performance of local units of government that deliver those services. These include soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and the local water management functions of counties.

BWSR has developed four levels of review, from routine to specialized, depending on the program mandates and the needs of the local governmental unit. A Level I review annually tabulates all local governmental units' compliance with basic planning and reporting requirements. In Level II, conducted by BWSR once every ten years for each local governmental unit, the focus is on the degree to which the organization is accomplishing its watershed management plan. A Level II review includes determination of compliance with BWSR's Level I and II statewide performance standards, a tabulation of progress on planned goals and objectives, a survey of board or water plan task force members and staff of the factors affecting plan implementation, a survey of LGU partners about their impressions of working with the LGU, and a BWSR staff report to the organization with findings, conclusions and recommendations. BWSR's actions in Levels III and IV include elements of Levels I and II and then emphasize assistance to address the local governmental unit's specific needs.

Findings

This section describes what BWSR learned about the performance of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD).

The LMRWD was established in 1960 to be a local sponsor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACOE) construction of a navigation channel within the lower Minnesota River. With this purpose in mind, a nine-foot channel was developed in cooperation with the USACOE. Today, the LMRWD is still actively involved in the maintenance of the channel.

The LMRWD is located in the southwest part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area along the Minnesota River. The boundaries encompass an area of 70 square miles including portions of Carver, Hennepin, Dakota, and Scott counties. This area includes the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, upstream to Carver, Minnesota. The width of the District extends to the bluffs on both sides of the Minnesota River within this reach. While the District's river and valley floodplain receives storm water runoff from highly developed communities above the river bluffs, most of these communities on the river bluffs are not within the LMRWD boundaries.

The LMRWD is governed by a five-member board of managers appointed by the four counties—one from each county except Hennepin, which has two. Currently, two board positions are vacant. The managers contract for the services of a part-time district administrator.

Findings Part 1: Planning

The current watershed management plan is in effect from 2011-2020. The plan contains eight overall goals with associated policies and strategies to guide the activities of the district

This part of the performance review assesses the district's progress in accomplishing the specific action items in the plan. This assessment is based on the report of accomplishments for each of those actions as described by district staff. BWSR then applied a progress rating to each action. This information is contained in Appendix A of this report (pages 7-24.)

There are 56 identified actions included in this assessment. Based on the BWSR rating, the district has completed 6 actions, they are making progress on 46, and they have yet to start 4 actions. Several of the

actions identified as completed are based on the district's Comprehensive Strategic Resource Evaluation, which was recently completed. The actions listed as not yet started address a variety of issues, primarily having to do with education efforts that require coordination with other entities.

Resource Outcomes

The LMRWD plan contains a list of "metrics" which include long-term measures of resource outcomes. These include, for example, trends in water quality parameters being monitored, number and acreage of wetlands protected, restored, enhanced, and acreage of unique natural resources protected, restored or enhanced. However, the district has not yet begun to report on these metric but plans to do so in conjunction with a biannual review. (See Objective 1.3.4 in Appendix A.)

Findings Part 2: Performance Standards

BWSR has developed a set of performance standards that describe both **basic** and **benchmark** best management practices related to overall operation of the organization. The standards address four areas of operation: administration, planning, execution, and communication/coordination. The **basic** standards describe practices that are either legally required or fundamental to watershed district operations. The **benchmark** standards describe practices that reflect a high level of performance. While all watershed districts should be meeting the basic standards, only the more ambitious ones will meet many benchmark standards. Performance standards provide a consistent measure of how a watershed district conducts the routine business of running a local water management organization.

Each year BWSR tracks all 14 metro area watershed districts' compliance with four of the basic standards. This Level I performance review is reported in a publically accessible database on the BWSR website (bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html). During the past five years the LMRWD shows mixed compliance with the three Level I metro watershed district performance standards that apply. In 2009 and 2010 the district met two of the three standards but did not meet the standard for having an up-to-date watershed management plan because the district's plan was overdue for revision. Since 2011 the district has not met the performance standards for submitting their

2013 and 2012 annual activity reports and submitted a late 2012 annual audit report.

For this Level II review the evaluation includes a report of compliance with all 14 basic and 15 benchmark standards for metro area watershed districts. The results for the LMRWD are listed in Appendix B, page 25.

The report shows that the district meets 12 of the 14 basic standards and 8 of the 15 benchmark standards. The district has recently been out of compliance with the basic standard for submitting an on-time annual activity report and having a website that contains basic information about the district. On the other hand, the district meets the benchmark standards for having an administrator under contract, for having a strategic plan, reporting hydrologic data and meeting several of the information and coordination standards.

Findings Part 3: LGU Self-Assessment

The information in this part and the next is based on responses to surveys developed by BWSR to obtain the opinions of both board members and staff and the district's partner organizations about district performance. At BWSR's request, district staff identified their current managers and staff and representatives from those partner organizations with which they have an on-going working relationship. BWSR invited those people to take the on-line survey and their responses were received and analyzed by BWSR staff. The identity of survey respondents is unknown to both BWSR and the local governmental unit.

Part 3 summarizes the results from the survey of managers and staff regarding the accomplishments of the organization over the past several years. A total 5 board members and staff were invited to take the survey and 4 (80%) responded, a good responses rate. However, one of the four respondents declined to answer several of the questions. The full responses are reported in Appendix C, pages 26-28, and summarized here.

When asked to list the districts successes, managers and staff mentioned dredge spoil disposal management most frequently. Other successes listed were the Savage Fen acquisition, bluff erosion restoration, and reorganizing delivery to stakeholders, among others. Two factors listed to account for these successes included a change in the philosophy of the

managers and the new administrator. The programs and projects that have been more difficult to implement are the reduction of sediment loads in the Minnesota River, acquisition of additional dredged material disposal sites, the Chaska Ravine improvements, and protection/restoration of floodplain lakes. A variety of factors were identified as contributing to slow starts for these programs: lack of an overall Minnesota River basin plan, funding issues and cost discrepancies, and insufficient interest in the potential for additional recreation in the National Wildlife Refuge and park areas.

Managers and staff identified good working relationships with the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, Scott County, Carver County and the City of Chaska. One respondent thought better relations with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency and the federal Environmental Protection Agency would potentially benefit the district. Finally, managers and staff had ideas for improving district performance. One idea is to obtain legislative approval for a river basin assessment of threats to the river's resources. Another, with an internal focus, is to conduct bi-annual reviews of progress on plan goals and strategies.

Findings Part 4: Partners' Assessment

For the survey of partner organization representatives, a total of 55 were identified by district staff and invited by BWSR to take the survey. Twenty-one (21) responded (38%), a relatively low response rate for these surveys. The partners were asked questions that focused on their working relationship with the LMRWD and their rating of the work done by the district. These responses are reported in Appendix C, pages 28-30, and summarized here.

The first observation from the partners' responses is that they do not have much interaction with the district. All but two report interactions several times a year or less. About 40 percent think there is more opportunity for partnership with the district, and 60 percent think the amount of collaboration is about right.

In rating their opinions about the district's performance in four key areas the partners had a wide

range of responses. These are shown in the following table.

Performance Area	Partner Ratings (percent)				
	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Don't Know
Communication	5	29	29	38	0
Quality of Work	5	19	19	38	19
Relations with Customers	5	19	24	29	24
Timelines/Follow through	14	14	24	29	19

The responses tend to be skewed toward the less favorable ratings or the “I don’t know” choice. In rating their working relationship with the district, partners again skewed their responses to the less favorable choices, with 80 percent suggesting there is room for improvement in their relationship with the district. Some of the extra comments offered indicate that respondents do not have a lot of interaction with the district because only a small part of their jurisdiction is within the district’s boundary. One respondent indicated that their organization’s partnership with the district has improved with the advent of the new district administrator.

General Conclusions

This performance review reveals a watershed district that is making the effort to emerge from its historical single purpose as a dredged material management agency. Based on their report of accomplishments the LMRWD is seeking to broaden its scope as a local resource management entity with the publication of the 2014 Strategic Resources Evaluation. This document is an excellent first step in providing some strategic direction for district activities and sets the district up well for expanding partnerships with other neighboring or conterminous local, state and federal resource management entities.

The district shows reasonable progress in the implementation of planned goals and strategies. One noteworthy feature of the watershed management plan is the list of metrics the district has adopted to track both short- and long-term progress toward plan goals. These metrics include both level of effort and resource outcome measures. While the district has not given much attention to reporting results for these metrics, they have indicated that this action item will receive increased attention as a result of this performance review. (See Recommendation 1, page 6.)

The performance standards assessment shows that the district has struggled with their compliance with some basic reporting requirements. In recent years the district has not met the deadlines for annual activity reports and has submitted at least one late audit report. With the completion of the updated watershed plan in 2011, they erased their non-compliance with the current management plan standard. (See Recommendation 2.)

Finally, the district has evidently turned a corner with regard to both board member dynamics and administrative services. The Parts 3 and 4 survey responses indicate that the new district administrator is an improvement over the previous one. In addition, managers reported a new sense of shared mission on the part of the board. What remains to be addressed in this regard is for the district to fill out the vacancies in the board to achieve a full complement of five managers. (See Recommendation 3.)

Action Items

Action Items are based on those Part 2 Basic Practice performance standards for which the district is out of compliance. Action Items need to be addressed within

a reasonably short timeframe. There are two Action Items for the LMRWD.

- Submit annual, on-time Activity Report
- Submit annual, on-time audit report.

See Recommendation 2.

Commendations

Commendations are based on the district's compliance with the Part 2 Benchmark performance standards. As explained above, these standards describe management practices that are over-and-above basic performance. The LMRWD is commended for meeting these benchmark performance standards:

- Administrator on staff
- Strategic plan identifies short-term priorities
- Water quality trends tracked for priority water bodies
- Functioning advisory committee
- Website contains meeting notices, agendas and minutes, updated after each board meeting, additional content
- Obtained stakeholder input within last 5 years
- Coordination with county boards and city/township officials
- Partnerships: cooperative projects/tasks with neighboring districts, counties, soil and water conservation district, non-governmental organizations.

Recommendations

This section contains recommendations offered by BWSR to the LMRWD board of managers and staff to enhance the organization's service to the residents of the district and its delivery of effective water and related land resource management.

Recommendation 1: Take the lead in pursuing projects and priorities identified in the 2014 SRE and management plan.

The Strategic Resources Evaluation provides the district with an excellent tool to guide future activities. In order to accomplish the recommended projects and programs and fully implement the district's capital improvement program the district needs to increase capacity. At a minimum, the district administrator position should be upgraded to full-time. Beyond that, the need to develop strong partnerships with the district in a coordination role is warranted. As the dredged material disposal issue takes up a lot of district time and resources, the managers should at least reconsider the option of a port authority to handle that issue. Finally, the district needs to follow through with its intent to begin reporting on progress toward the short- and long-term metrics listed in their management plan.

Recommendation 2: Address Action Items

The district needs to do a better job of preparing and submitting the required annual activity report on-time and content compliant. In addition, the audit report must meet the deadline for submittal. By addressing these two report requirements, it should take care of a third item which has to do with the content on the district website, which currently lacks current activity reports.

Recommendation 3: Fill board vacancies.

Part of expanding district capacity involves having a full, active board of managers. Managers play several key roles in the success and effectiveness of a district. The LMRWD needs all five board positions filled. One potential source of new managers is the citizens' advisory committee. An active, engaged advisory committee that meets frequently and develops a strong familiarity with district issues and products not only helps the mission of the organization but grooms citizens for possible appointment as managers. So the district should also pay attention to keeping advisory committee members informed and engaged.

LGU Comments and BWSR Responses

The LMRWD submitted a December 15, 2014 letter stating that they had no comments on the draft version of this report. The full text of this letter is reproduced in Appendix D, page 31.

Appendix A. Plan Accomplishments

LGU Name: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
 Type of Management Plan: 509 Watershed Management Plan
 Date of Last Plan Revision: Approved December 2011

Date of This Assessment: October 2014

GOAL No. 1: Organizational Management to Manage the Different Roles of the District

Policy 1.1: To Serve as a Facilitator

Objective 1.1.1: Work cooperatively with local, state, and Federal forms of government; other agencies; and non-government organizations on issues affecting the District's resources.

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Collaborate with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to inventory and assess resources	2014	2014	A comprehensive Strategic Resource Evaluation (SRE) of all the District's lakes, streams, wetlands and fens was completed by the District in 2014 with collaboration with the DNR, cities and counties within the District.	✦	Continue implementation of the recommended actions in the SRE.
2. Lobby the Minnesota State Legislature and the United States Congress to ensure the fiscal resources are available	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District has hired a lobbyist and worked with SCALE to lobby the legislature on an annual basis since 2011 to fund its dredging responsibilities. In 2013 the Board of Managers prepared a presentation at the MN Senate bonding bill senate hearing.	○	Continue to lobby and present annually for state bond bill money to finance the 9' channel fund.
3. Continue efforts at the Minnesota State Legislature to facilitate the formation of a Minnesota River Basin Commission	Ongoing	Ongoing	Although the Minnesota River Board disbanded in December 2013, in 2014 the board has allocated increased resources to lobby for a basin-wide authority.	○	Continue to advocate for a basin-wide authority.

Progress rating key: ✦=completed or target met; ○=on-going progress; □=not started or dropped

Policy 1.1: To Serve as an Educator**Objective 1.2.1: Provide public information services**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Develop a proactive, focused education and information program around the resources in the District and navigation in the lower Minnesota Valley	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District has funded several educational initiatives including: "Green Streets for Bluewater" in 2011, the "Storm Drain Marker Education Project" in 2012. In 2013, the District funded Scott County SWCD to provide services in Scott County on behalf of the District. The Rainwater Garden Workshops, Minnesota River tour and the PLSWLWD cooperative education effort were funded in 2013. Funded Children's Festival in 2012-present.	○	Develop education plan and decide whether continue funding educational partnerships.

Policy 1.1: To Serve as a Manager**Objective 1.3.1: Provide strategic resource evaluation and management**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Identify and inventory resources	2011	2011	A comprehensive Strategic Resource Evaluation (SRE) of all the District's lakes, streams, wetlands and fens was started in 2012 and completed by the District in 2014 with collaboration with the DNR, cities and counties within the District.	◇	Continue implementation of the recommended actions in the SRE.
2. Assess the condition of resources through inspection and analysis	2011	2011	A comprehensive Strategic Resource Evaluation (SRE) of all the District's lakes, streams, wetlands and fens was started in 2012 and completed by the District in 2011 with collaboration with the DNR, cities and counties within the District.	◇	Continue implementation of the recommended actions in the SRE.
3. Capital Improvement Program Amendment	2014	2014	The Capital Improvement Program is being amended based on information from the SRE.	○	Adopt the Capital Improvement Amendment once complete.

Objective 1.3.2: Research the Options of Expanding, Contracting, or Maintaining the District's Boundary

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Lead the investigatory efforts researching three options of expanding, contracting, or maintaining the District's boundary	2011	2012	The District completed a governance study in 2012 and has implemented recommendations regarding dredge site management.	◇	None

Objective 1.3.3: Perform periodic assessments and program reviews

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Conduct regular program reviews and assessments	Ongoing.	Ongoing.	The District continues to perform reviews of Local Water Plans as they are completed and continues to perform annual financial audits and annual reports. Continues to fund production of water quality monitoring reports.	○	Annual reports or meetings with LGUs to track and document local water plan implementation. Bi-annual program review that benchmarks outcomes articulated in the Plan. Complete trend analysis of monitoring.

Objective 1.3.4: Use short-term and long-term metrics to measure progress

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Use of short-term and long-term metrics to measure plan progress	Bi-annually	2014-2015	As an outcome of the 2014 BWSR performance review process, the District will implement an internal biennial review.	○	Incorporate short and long-term metrics in the biennial review.

GOAL No. 2: Surface Water Management - To Protect, Improve, and Restore Surface Water Quality

Policy 2.1: To Use Classification Categories to Manage Water Resources

Objective 2.1.1: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District - Water Resources Classification Categories

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Managing water resource projects within the District based on classification categories	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District continues to use the results of the SRE to manage water resource projects.	○	Develop resource management plan.

Policy 2.2: To Prevent Further Degradation of Water Quality

Objective 2.2.1: Watershed management standards

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Require LGU's to implement watershed management standards	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District continues to ensure implementation through local water plan review.	○	Develop a schedule to track progress and completion of local water plans. Ensure all LGUs have adopted District standards. Develop a plan to perform LGU compliance reviews.

Objective 2.2.2: Promote disconnected stormwater management and low impact development

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Incorporate low impact development (LID) practices that can be used for credits by project proposers	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District continues to promote LID practices through local water plan and development review.	○	Discuss feasibility of a formal LID credit program with LGUs.

Progress rating key: ✦=completed or target met; ○=on-going progress; □=not started or dropped

Objective 2.2.3-4: Cost Share and Water Quality Incentive Program

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Provide educational, technical and financial assistance to landowners (residential, commercial, industrial...etc). Provide financial assistance to non-government organizations and LGUs with in the District to implement BMPs or carry out studies which will aide in protecting and improving water resources within the District	Ongoing	Ongoing	In 2011, the District finalized the goals and scoring criteria for the cost share incentive program. In 2013 and 2014, the District began promoting the cost share and water quality incentive program and funded 5 projects.	○	The District will continue to promote the cost share and water quality incentive program and review and fund applicable projects.

Objective 2.2.5: Dean Lake Feasibility/Diagnostic Study

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Conduct a Feasibility/Diagnostic Study of Dean Lake to assess the overall health of the lake and to develop and evaluate relevant information concerning appropriate restoration action for the lake	2013-2018	2013-2018	The District has partnered with Scott County WMO and the MPCA to begin data analysis, a paleo-limnology study and inflow monitoring into Dean Lake as part of a TMDL study. In 2014, The District extended the agreement with Scott County to fund early season plant sampling.	○	Continue to fund the Scott County WMO to fund data analysis and collection.

Policy 2.3: Enable Informed Decisions**Objective 2.3.1: Modify and Continue the Monitoring Program.**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
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<p>1. Continue the cooperative relationship with MCES, CAMP, cities, counties, and SWCDs, as described in Section 1.6 (Surface Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The District continues to partner with those entities collecting water quality and quantity data within the District. The SRE completed by the District in 2014 will inform future modification of the monitoring program. Recommendations for Category 1 and will be part of plan amendment.</p>	<p>○</p>	<p>Use the monitoring recommendations for those Category 1 resources identified in the SRE and incorporate in the plan amendment. Add the MCES' Quality Assurance (QA) objectives to the monitoring program and incorporate regular data analysis to identify trend.</p>
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Objective 2.3.2: Complete Detailed Assessments of Data

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
<p>1. Conduct periodic evaluations of data collected to convert it into information that decision makers can use</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>2014, Ongoing</p>	<p>The District completed the SRE in 2014 which has informed a plan amendment to modify the District's monitoring program.</p>	<p>○</p>	<p>See Objective 2.3.1 above.</p>

Objective 2.3.3: Coordinate with Other Agencies and Water Quality Programs

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
<p>1. Coordinate with the MDA, MPCA, and Metropolitan Council to stay informed and to collaborate on changes to state standards and best practices for addressing impairments to water on the 303(d) listings</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The District has continued to partner with municipalities and regulatory agencies on various projects and studies that address 303(d) listings. In 2011, the District reviewed Bevens Creek and Carver Creek TMDLs.</p>	<p>○</p>	<p>None.</p>

GOAL No. 3: Groundwater Management - To Protect and Promote Groundwater Quality and Quantity

Policy 3.1: To Support and Assist in Intercommunity Management of Groundwater

Objective 3.1.1: Support Wellhead Protection Efforts

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
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1. Support wellhead protection planning efforts with staff time and technical assistance or District consultant, when requested by LGUs	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District stays informed of wellhead protection efforts by accepting receipt of well head protection plans.	○	Provide assistance as requested.
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Policy 3.2: To Promote Groundwater Recharge

Objective 3.2.1: Adopt Infiltration Standards

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Establish criteria as described previously to protect the quality of groundwater when infiltration practices are used to control stormwater runoff volumes	2011, Ongoing	2011, Ongoing	The District has incorporated the infiltration standards in the 3 rd Gen. Plan and reviews local water plans as they are amended to ensure these criteria are included.	○	Continue review of local water plans.

Objective 3.2.2: Promote Conservation and Wise Use of Groundwater

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Incorporate messaging of conservation and wise use of groundwater through information sharing and education initiatives	Ongoing	Ongoing	Nothing specific to date.	□	Discuss with Managers how to incorporate groundwater conservation use in education initiatives.

Policy 3.3: To Protect and Improve Groundwater Sensitive Water Resources

Objective 3.3.1: Groundwater Monitoring

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Continue and improve groundwater monitoring in the District	Ongoing	Ongoing	Completed the SRE which informs the District of groundwater monitoring necessary to protect and preserve the health of fens within the District. Added monitoring wells to Seminary Fen in 2014 in cooperation with DNR.	○	Incorporate groundwater monitoring recommendations specific to fen evaluation as described in the SRE.

2. Implement the recommendations of the District's 2005 Guidance to Implementation.	2014	2014	The District incorporated the recommendations of the 2005 monitoring plan in its assessment of groundwater monitoring needs required to assess fens.	✧	None.
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Objective 3.3.2: Regional Modeling

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Work with the Metropolitan Council on uses of the Metro Model 2 - groundwater model	Ongoing	Ongoing	None.	☐	The District will consider the recommendations of the Carver County Groundwater Study which was based on the Metro Model 2.

GOAL No. 4: Unique Natural Resources Management - To protect and manage unique natural resources

Policy 4.1: To Maintain or Improve the Quality and Quantity of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Objective 4.1.1: Encourage Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Work with the DNR, local governments, and NGOs to implement practices that will protect fish and wildlife habitat	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District contributed funds to the DNR in 2011 for the Eagle Creek Restoration project and to the City of Bloomington in 2014 for the Long Meadow Outfall Project. The District is also working with the DNR on the Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project. Bluff Creek plan; got grant to do improvements where it goes under Hennepin County trail/fish ladder through culvert, separate channel through TH 101 replacing with bridges, restoring and realigning channel. 2 fish passage projects also completed on Bluff Creek—CSAH 61 and TH 101 and MN River Bluff Regional Trail (HCRRA).	○	Continue to implement those projects in the Plan that protect fish and wildlife habitat. Work with USFWS to identify areas of concern.

Policy 4.2: Advocate for Protection, Education and Monitoring of Unique Natural Resources**Objective 4.2.1: A Data Acquisition and Management**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Provide technical and financial support for data acquisition and management	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District completed its SRE in 2014 which will inform the direction it will proceed regarding data acquisition and management.	○	Continue to work with the USGS, Dakota County, Scott County and others to implement the recommendations in the SRE.

Objective 4.2.2: Provide Technical Assistance

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Provide District staff time to assist LGUs, NGOs, and landowners interested in preserving unique natural resources	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District contributed staff time to apply for grant funding for the Bluff Ravine Stabilization at Seminary Fen project and under the cost share and water quality restoration projects. Funds Scott SWCD to provide technical assistance to landowners in Scott County. Refers landowners to Carver SWCD for technical assistance.	○	Continue to provide District staff time.

Objective 4.2.3: Provide Educational Opportunities

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Provide educational opportunities in resources areas such as signage and kiosks for the public	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District requires signage as part of cost share program. Educational info specific to unique natural resources is included on its website.	○	Continue to require signage as part of cost share program.

Policy 4.3: Coordinate with LGUs to Identify and Develop Critical Trails and Green Space Corridors for Improvement and Protection**Objective 4.3.1: Develop a Mechanism for Identifying and Acquiring High Value Conservation Easements**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Review studies in an effort to protect, preserve and enhance resource connectivity and identify prime areas for conservation easements	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District is working with the City of Burnsville for an easement for the Black Dog Regional Trail.	○	Potential easements to be identified as part of wetland restoration efforts outlined in the SRE.

Policy 4.4: Protect, Preserve, and Enhance the Connectivity of Wildlife Habitat

Objective 4.4.1: Encourage Wildlife Connectivity Projects which Achieve Multiple Goals, Such as Water Quality Improvements, and Fen and Bluff Protection

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Promote projects that incorporates connectivity of wildlife resources - during review of projects, evaluate the potential each has to fragment or maintain/preserve/ restore resource connectivity	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District continues to use wildlife connectivity as a criterion to review and implement projects. 2 fish passage projects were also completed on Bluff Ck–CSAH 61 and TH 101 and MN River Bluff Regional Trail (HCRRA).	○	Continue to promote projects that incorporate wildlife connectivity.

GOAL No. 5: Wetland Management - To protect and Preserve Wetlands

Policy 5.1: To Preserve Wetlands for Water Retention, Recharge, Soil Conservation, Wildlife Habitat, Aesthetics, and Natural Water Quality

Objective 5.1.1: Delegate Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) to LGUs.

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. LGUs continuing, or taking on, the role of local regulatory authority responsible for administering the WCA and MN Rules 8420	2011	2011	The District continues to require LGUs to take on the WCA and MN Rules 8420 authority.	○	None.

Objective 5.1.2: Require LGUs to Conduct Wetland Inventories and Complete Wetland Management Plans

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
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1. Require LGUs to evaluate the function and value of wetlands either through development of a comprehensive wetland management plan or on a case by case basis, in accordance with MN Rules 8410.0060	2011, Ongoing	2011, Ongoing	The District continues to require LGUs to evaluate the function and value of wetlands and ensure this is accomplished through local water plan review.	○	Continue local water plan review.
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Objective 5.1.3: Review WCA Notices As Received

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. District staff reviewing WCA notices from state and federal agencies regarding regulation changes. These notices will be evaluated and forwarded to the managers; LGUs within the District; and posted on the District's website.	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District evaluates and forwards WCA notices as received.	○	Continue to evaluate and forward WCA notices as received.

Objective 5.1.4: Wetland Standard

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Require LGUs to implement wetland standards and criteria described in the Plan to protect wetlands from detrimental effects of erosion, sedimentation, and other non-point source pollutants	2011	2011	The District is in the process of completing its Plan amendment as informed by the SRE. Once complete and the 3 rd Gen. Mgmt Plan is officially adopted, the District will require update of local water plans to include these standards.	○	Complete Plan amendment and adopt. Continue to ensure standards and criteria are included through local water plan review.

GOAL No. 6: Floodplain and Flood Management - To Manage Floodplains and Mitigation Flooding**Policy 6.1: To Maintain Natural Water Storage Areas and the Minnesota River Floodway****Objective 6.1.1: Floodplain and Drainage Alteration Standard**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
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1. Require LGUs to implement floodplain and drainage alteration standards and criteria described in the Plan to protect wetlands from detrimental effects of erosion, sedimentation, and other non-point source pollutants	2015	2015	The District is in the process of completing its Plan amendment as informed by the SRE. Once complete and the 3 rd Gen. Mgmt Plan is officially adopted, the District will require update of local water plans to include these standards.	○	Complete Plan amendment and adopt. Continue to ensure standards and criteria are included through local water plan review.
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Objective 6.1.2: Adopt Infiltration and Peak Flow Standards

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Require LGUs to adopt infiltration and peak flow standards and criteria described in the Plan to protect wetlands from detrimental effects of erosion, sedimentation, and other non-point source pollutants	2015	2015	The District is in the process of completing its Plan amendment as informed by the SRE. Once complete and the 3 rd Gen. Mgmt Plan is officially adopted, the District will require update of local water plans to include these standards.	○	Complete Plan amendment and adopt. Continue to ensure standards and criteria are included through local water plan review.

Objective 6.1.3: Manage Localized Flooding

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Require LGUs to address mitigation of localized flooding in their LWPs	2011	2011	The District is in the process of completing its Plan amendment as informed by the SRE. Once complete and the 3 rd Gen. Mgmt Plan is officially adopted, the District will require update of local water plans to address localized flooding.	○	Complete Plan amendment and adopt. Continue to ensure standards and criteria are included through local water plan review.

GOAL No. 7: Erosion and Sediment Control - To Manage Erosion and Control Sediment Discharge

Policy 7.1: Endorse the NPDES General Permit

Objective 7.1.1: Support the NPDES General Permit

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
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1. Require LGUs to incorporate the NPDES General Permit requirements in their respective local water plans	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District has reviewed local water plans as they have been updated to ensure requirements are incorporated.	○	Continue to ensure requirements are incorporated through local water plan review.
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Objective 7.1.2: Erosion and Sediment Control Standard

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Require LGUs to implement erosion and sediment control standards and criteria described in the Plan to protect wetlands from detrimental effects of erosion, sedimentation, and other non-point source pollutants	2011	2011	The District is in the process of completing its Plan amendment as informed by the SRE. Once complete and the 3 rd Gen. Mgmt Plan is officially adopted, the District will require update of local water plans to include these standards.	○	Complete Plan amendment and adopt. Continue to ensure standards and criteria are included through local water plan review.

Policy 7.2: Adopt Vegetation Management Standard

Objective 7.2.1: Develop a Vegetation Management Standard/Plan.

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Undertake an effort, in partnership with the DNR, USFWS, BWSR, NRCS, and NGOs (e.g. Great River Greening), to develop a vegetation management standard/plan for unique natural resources within the District	2013	2016	The Plan amendment is underway which will move this activity to 2016	○	Complete the standard/plan in 2016.

Policy 7.3: Manage Streambank and Mainstem Erosion

Objective 7.3.1: Continue Work of Addressing Gully Erosion

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Continue to work with local partners on repairing gullies that were identified in the gullies inventory project completed in 2006 (Appendix H)	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District continues to work with partners to identify and implement projects. A grant was secured and the ravine stabilization at Seminary Fen project is underway.	○	See below.

2. Implement projects with the City of Bloomington to repair the Mound Springs gully in 2013-2014 and the Heritage Hills Park gully in 2015. Work with City of Chaska to provide ravine stabilization at Seminary Fen in 2012	2012-2015	2012-2015	A grant was secured and the ravine stabilization at Seminary Fen project is underway.	○	Heritage Hills and Mound Springs will be moved in CIP. District will lead the effort for these projects.
3. Set aside funds, as part of the Gully Erosion Projects contingency fund, to implement projects if the LGUs where the potential repair projects exist have funding or other resources available to work with the District to implement a repair project	Ongoing	Ongoing	CIP will be amended to allocate 40K in gully restoration budget from 2015 on.	○	None.

Policy 7.4: To maintain the Integrity of Shorelands

Objective 7.4.1: Promote and Encourage Shoreland Protection

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Require all government entities within the District to identify, rank, and map disturbed shoreland areas and discourage the removal of streambank and lakeshore vegetation during and after construction projects	2011	2011	The District is in the process of completing its Plan amendment as informed by the SRE. Once complete and the 3 rd Gen. Mgmt Plan is officially adopted, the District will require update of local water plans to include these requirements.	○	Complete Plan amendment and adopt. Continue to ensure standards and criteria are included through local water plan review.

Objective 7.4.2: Shoreline and Streambank Standard

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Require LGUs to implement shoreline and streambank standards and criteria described in the Plan to protect wetlands from detrimental effects of erosion, sedimentation, and other non-point source pollutants	2011	2011	The District is in the process of completing its Plan amendment as informed by the SRE. Once complete and the 3 rd Gen. Mgmt Plan is officially adopted, the District will require update of local water plans to include these standards.	○	Complete Plan amendment and adopt. Continue to ensure standards and criteria are included through local water plan review.

GOAL No. 8: Commercial and Recreational Navigation-To maintain and Improve Navigation and Recreational use of the Lower Minnesota River

Policy 8.1: Promote Co-Existence of Commercial and Recreational Navigation on the Lower Minnesota River

Objective 8.1.1: Promote Safety Education

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Undertake a proactive, focused education and information program in collaboration with the DNR, U.S. Coast Guard, and Coast Guard Auxiliaries regarding best practices for safe use of the river	Ongoing	N/A	None.	◻	Incorporate in broader education and outreach program.

Policy 8.2: Manage Dredge Material

Objective 8.2.1: Manage Existing Dredge Sites and Investigate and/or Acquire Additional Dredge Material Sites

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Continue role as the local sponsor required to acquire and manage dredge material sites	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District made a concerted effort in 2013-2014 to secure removal of existing dredge spoils on the 14.2 dredge management site. Modified CUP to remove existing material. The District also set up an agreement with a private operator to manage the site. Received legislative to accept private dredge material and acquired licenses from private slip owners to remove material. Identified a second site on MAC property and unsuccessfully applied for state funding to acquire site.	○	Work with the Corps to determine the need for an additional dredge material disposal site.

Objective 8.2.2: Develop a Beneficial Use Plan for Dredge Materials

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Develop a beneficial use plan for dredge material, which would address the use of the material	2012-2013	2012-2013	The District's Dredge Material Management Plan completed in 2013.	✧	None.

Policy 8.3: Provide Funding For Maintenance and Improvements for the 9-Foot Channel**Objective 8.3.1: Develop a Funding Structure to Ensure Proper Maintenance and Improvement Occurs Along the River**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Develop a strategic plan for funding necessary activities along the 9-Foot channel.	2013	Ongoing	Not yet developed.	□	District Attorney is exploring options to secure funding.

GOAL No. 9: Public Education and Outreach Program - To increase public participation and awareness of unique natural resources and the Minnesota River**Policy 9.1: Encourage Public Participation****Objective 9.1.1: Maintain the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Maintain the CAC as an advisory committee to the managers	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District maintained a functioning CAC during development of the 3 rd Generation Plan.	○	Recruit members for and reinstitute CAC. However, immediate priority is to fill vacancies on Board of Managers.

Objective 9.1.2: Develop an Outreach Program

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Develop an education outreach program to familiarize the LGUs and the public with District activities	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District, through informal annual meetings with the LGUs and the TAC, familiarizes the LGUs with its activities. The District also provides outreach on its web page.	○	Incorporate this activity into a broader, more defined education and outreach program.

Objective 9.1.3: Engage and Utilize Volunteers

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Continue to solicit and empower volunteers to help with water quality monitoring	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District contracts with the Carver WMO who uses CAMP volunteers. Also, used CAMP volunteer to Scott County.	○	Continue to find CAMP volunteers to monitor Lake Snelling.

Objective 9.1.4: Provide Opportunity for Public Input

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Provide opportunities for the public to provide input through open workshops and open house meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District has provided the opportunity for public input during its River Tour and through public hearings.	○	Work with cities at environmental fairs to set up informational booths.

Policy 9.2: Provide Education and Marketing to Foster Sustainable Behavior and Environmental Stewardship**Objective 9.2.1: Produce Scientific Studies and Work Products**

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Collect and/or create specific outreach materials written for the general public; maintains a library of pamphlets and brochures on water quality, lawn fertilizing, septic system care, etc and anticipate the need for additional materials to present the results of scientific studies and of water plan initiatives and strategies	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District posted the Strategic Resource Evaluation completed in 2014 and the dredge material management plan on its website.	○	Continue posting materials as they are completed.

Objective 9.2.2: Promote a Variety of Education Programs

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. use a variety of venues for education	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District has funded several educational initiatives which have utilized a variety of venues (See Obj. 1.1.1).	○	Continue to partner with various organizations to utilize several venues for education. Incorporate in a broader education and outreach.

Objective 9.2.3: Use Multiple Outlets to Distribute Information

Planned Actions or Activities	Proposed Timeframe	Actual Timeframe	Accomplishments to Date	Progress Rating	Next Steps
1. Use multiple outlets to distribute information when possible	Ongoing	Ongoing	The District has funded several educational initiatives which have utilized multiple outlets (See Obj. 1.1.1).	○	Continue to partner with various organizations to utilize multiple outlets for education. Incorporate in a broader education and outreach.

Progress rating key: ◇=completed or target met; ○=on-going progress; □=not started or dropped

Appendix B. Metro Watershed District Performance Standards

LGU Name: LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER

Performance Area	Performance Standard	Level of Review	Rating						
			YES	NO					
	★ Benchmark standard	I Annual Compliance	Yes, No, or Value						
	■ Basic practice or statutory requirement (see instructions for explanation of standards)	II BWSR Staff Review & Assessment							
Administration	■ Activity report: annual, on-time	I		X					
	■ Financial report & audit completed on time	I	X						
	■ Drainage authority buffer strip report submitted on time	I	NA						
	■ eLink Grant Report(s): submitted on time	I	X						
	■ Rules: date of last revision or review	II	NA						
	■ Personnel policy: exists and reviewed/updated within last 5 yrs	II	NA						
	■ Data practices policy: exists and reviewed/updated within last 5 yrs	II	X						
	■ Manager appointments: current and reported	II	X						
	■ Consultant RFP: within 2 yrs for professional services	II	X						
	★ Administrator on staff	II	X						
	★ Board training: orientation & cont. ed. plan and record for each board member	II		X					
	★ Staff training: orientation & cont. ed. plan and record for each staff person	II		X					
	★ Operational guidelines exist and current	II		X					
	★ Public drainage records: meet modernization guidelines	II		X					
Planning	■ Watershed management plan: up-to-date	I	X						
	■ City/twp. local water plans not yet approved	II	0%						
	■ Capital Improvement Program: reviewed every 2 yrs	II	X						
	★ Biennial Budget Request submitted within last 24 months	II		X					
	★ Strategic plan identifies short-term priorities	II	X						
Execution	■ Engineer Reports: submitted for DNR & BWSR review	II	X						
	■ Total expenditures per year (past 10 yrs)	II	see below						
	★ Water quality trends tracked for priority water bodies	II	X						
	★ Watershed hydrologic trends monitored / reported	II	X						
Communication & Coordination	■ Website: contains annual report, financial statement, board members, contact info, grant report(s), watershed mgmt plan	I		X					
	■ Functioning advisory committee(s): recommendations on projects, reports, 2-way communication with Board	II	X						
	■ Communication piece: sent within last 12 months	II	X						
	★ Website: contains meeting notices, agendas & minutes; updated after each board mtg; additional content	II	X						
	★ Obtain stakeholder input: within last 5 yrs	II	X						
	★ Track progress for I & E objectives in Plan	II		X					
	★ Coordination with County Bd and City/Twp officials	II	X						
	★ Partnerships: cooperative projects/tasks with neighboring districts, counties, soil and water districts, non-governmental organizations	II	X						
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
392433	544122	797142	429370	429277	801134	494981	431550	437600	358600

Appendix C. Summary of Survey Results

Survey Overview:

The survey was developed by BWSR staff for the purpose of identifying information about the local government unit’s performance from both board members and staff and from the unit’s partner organizations. The LMRWD identified, at BWSR’s request, their current board members, staff, and partner organizations with which they have an on-going working relationship. BWSR invited those people to take the on-line survey and their responses were received and analyzed by BWSR staff. Board members and staff answered a different set of survey questions than the partners. The identity of survey respondents is unknown to both BWSR and the local governmental unit. In this case, 5 board members and staff and 55 partner organization representatives, were invited to take the survey. Responses were received from 4 board members/staff (80%) and 21 partners (38%), a low response rate. Both sets of responses are summarized below. Some responses were edited for clarity or brevity.

Board Member and Staff Questions and Responses

How often does your organization use some sort of master plan to guide decisions about what you do? (response percent)	
Always	50
Usually	50
Seldom	0
Never	0

Additional Comments:

-Hard to answer because we had an administrator and previous managers following their own agenda; going forward we should be following our plan.

List your organization’s most successful programs and projects during the past 3-5 years.
Bluff erosion restoration; Savage Fen acquisition; initiation of dredge spoil reuse project; detailed review of South Metro Mississippi TSS TMDL raised awareness of impacts of changing hydrology in the Minnesota River Basin; reorganized the delivery of services to stakeholders.
Establishing new dredge materials management program
Even though it’s not done but a lot closer to becoming reality, I would say the dredge site.

What things have helped make these projects and programs successful?
Change in the philosophy of the majority of board members.
New administrator; board members cooperation and shared vision.
Our watershed is a catch basin and collects 99% of the sediment. We need support both monetary and technical from other entities that are discharging into our watershed.

During the past 3-5 years, which of your organization's programs or projects have shown little progress or been on hold?

Reducing TSS loads in the river that are causing increased sedimentation; reducing the hydraulic load of the river, which is causing increased bank scour; acquisition of additional dredge spoil sites; floodplain lakes protection and restoration.

Chaska Ravine improvements and plan update

Some of our projects that we have identified in our plan.

List the reasons why the organization has had such difficulty with these projects and programs.

There is no MN River Basin overall plan or management authority; little interest at state level in the transportation infrastructure provided by navigation channel; insufficient interest in the recreational potential of the National Wildlife Refuge and the parks and open space in the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

Plan update was not previously proactively addressed by former administrator; Chaska Ravine project has been delayed by funding issues and conflicting cost estimates.

Regarding the various organizations and agencies with which you could cooperate on projects or programs...

List the ones with which you work well already

USGA, USACE, BWSR, MAC, MCES, Scott County

City of Chaska, Scott County, Carver County

List the ones with which better collaboration would benefit your organization

MnDOT, MDNR, MPCA, EPA

?

What could your organization do that would make you more effective in accomplishing your plan goals and objectives?

Get legislative authorization to assess the entire MN River Basin for the damages being inflicted on the river and the natural resources of the Lower MN River valley.

Bi-annual plan reviews to confirm compliance and progress with plan's goals.

I think we've taken two big steps: we have let our administrator go and contract this service out. We have found that the previous administrator was not working on the watershed's behalf. We've had a change in managers and it has been for the better.

How long have you been with the organization you currently serve? (percentage)

Less than 5 years	33
5 to 15 years	67
More than 15 years	0

Partner Organization Questions and Responses

**Question: How often have you interacted with this organization during the past three years?
Select the response closest to your experience. (response percent)**

Not at all	5
A few times	29
Several times a year	57
Monthly	5
Almost every week	5
Daily	0

Additional comments:

-At an initial meeting for the most recent update of the watershed management plan.

-I have been in my position for just over a year.

Is the amount of work you do in partnership with this organization...(percent)	
Not enough, there is potential for us to do more together	37
About right	63
Too much, they depend on us for work they should be doing for themselves	0
Too much, we depend on them for work we should be doing ourselves or with others	0

Additional Comments:

- We operate more as an observer. LMRWD doesn't seem to have a good sense of how to partner.
- Generally speaking, there is very little of the City of Eagan within the LMRWD that is not Ft. Snelling State Park or other publicly owned land.
- Only a small part of the watershed district is in Dakota County. The LMRWD does work amongst all counties it falls in.
- We have very little involvement with each other.
- Significantly more good partnership-type work is being done since the new administrator has been hired. My answers to the next question are based on work since the new hire. Prior to that my answers would've been more negative.

Based on your experience working with them, please rate the organization as a partner with you in the following areas:					
Performance Characteristic	Rating (percent of responses)				
	Strong	Good	Acceptable	Poor	I don't know
Communication (they keep us informed; we know their activities; they seek our input)	5	29	29	38	0
Quality of work (they have good projects and programs; good service delivery)	5	19	19	38	19
Relationships with Customers (they work well with landowners and clients)	5	19	24	29	24
Timelines/Follow-through (they are reliable and meet deadlines)	14	14	24	29	19

How is your working relationship with this organization? (percent)	
Powerful, we are more effective working together	5
Strong, we work well together most of the time	16
Good, but it could be better	32
Acceptable, but a struggle at times	26
Poor, there are almost always difficulties	21

Comments from Partners about their working relationship with the LMRWD.

-Adversarial

-They are rarely involved in any meaningful projects. The board has, at best, an adversarial relationship with their staff and their partner organizations. It is unclear as to what their primary goals are.

-It is much better now that Linda Loomis is the contact.

-Since I'm relatively new to my position, I haven't worked with them extensively. With their new administrator, communication has improved.

It is improving with the new Administrator but it is still a challenge to get information and to see what they are up to.

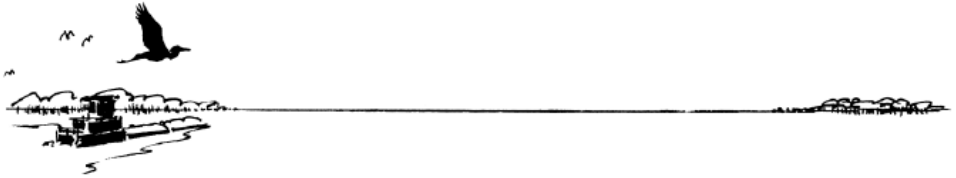
-Seems to be turning around a little bit with Linda. The Board needs to set priorities and start working toward goals related to those priorities.

-Very limited.

How long have you been with the organization you currently serve? (percentage)	
Less than 5 years	19
5 to 15 years	43
More than 15 years	38

Appendix D. LMRWD Comment Letter

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District



Kent Francis, Secretary/Treasurer
Carver County
Len Kremer, President
Hennepin County
Vacant, Manager
Scott County

Yvonne Shirk, Vice President
Dakota County
Vacant, Manager
Hennepin County
Linda Loomis, Administrator
Home/Office (763) 545-4659
Cell (612) 306-5802

December 15, 2014

Donald Buckhout
PRAP Coordinator
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Dear Mr. Buckhout:

On behalf of the Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD), I would like to thank you for attending the November Manager meeting to present the report your findings under BWSR's Performance Review and Assessment Program. The Managers appreciate your spending time inform the Board of your findings and to answer questions,

As was noted in your report, LMRWD is in transition and is working hard to implement changes in the way the District conducts it business, so that it may become more effective. We have no comments to offer at this time. The report accurately reflects the operations of the LMRWD and acknowledges the changes we are working to achieve.

If you have any questions or need further assistance please contact me by email at naiadconsulting@gmail.com or by phone at 763-545-4659.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Loomis".

Linda Loomis
Administrator

112 East Fifth Street, Chaska, MN 55318

Appendix E. Program Data

Time required to complete this review

LMRWD Staff: 54.5 hours

BWSR Staff: 22 hours

Schedule of Level II Review

BWSR PRAP Performance Review Key Dates

- July 11-30, 2014: Survey of Managers, staff and partners
- November 19, 2014: Presentation of Draft Report to Board of Managers and staff
- December 22, 2014: Transmittal of Final Report to LMRWD

NOTE: BWSR uses review time as a surrogate for tracking total program costs. Time required for PRAP performance reviews is aggregated and included in BWSR's annual PRAP report to the Minnesota Legislature.



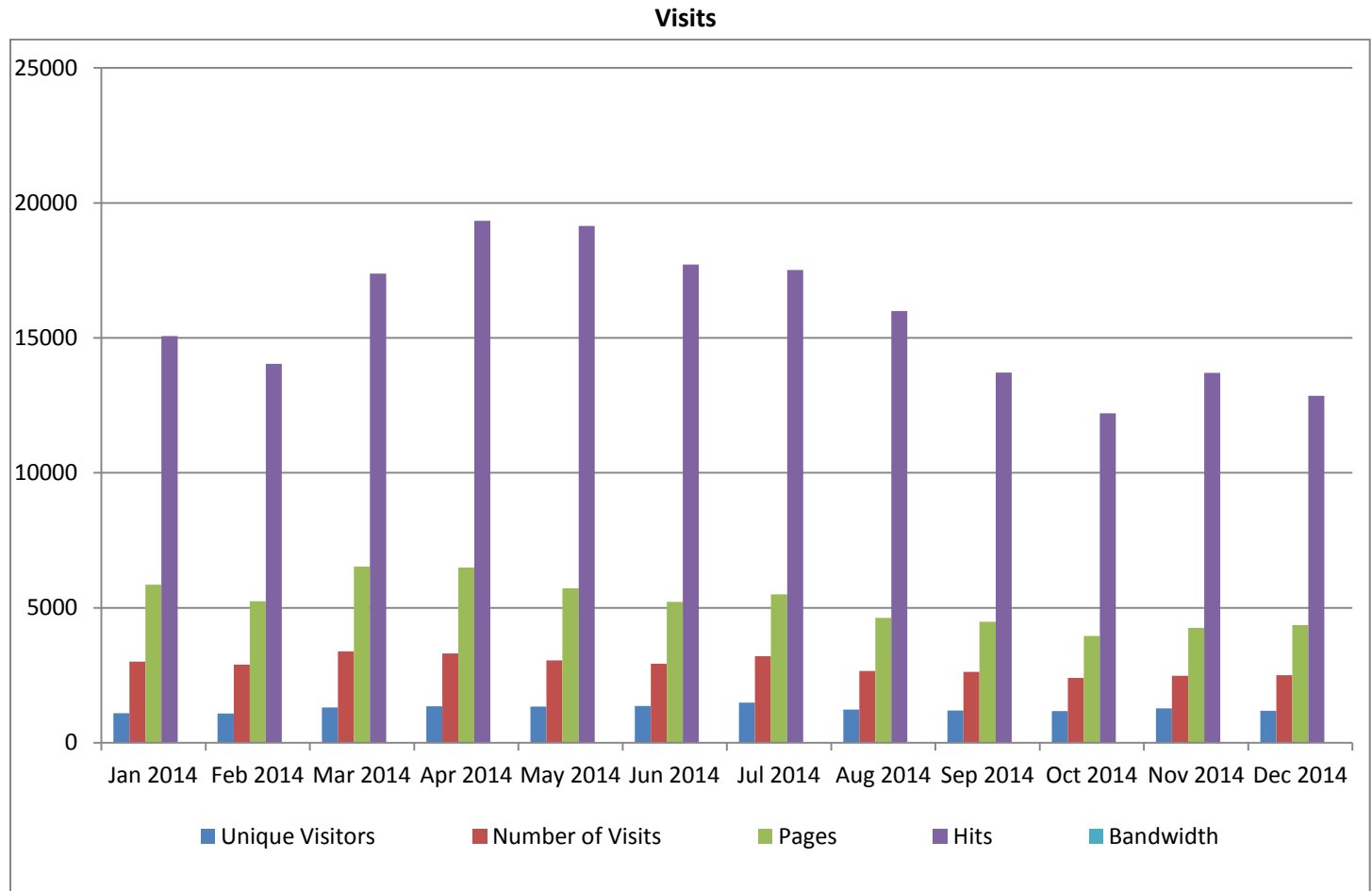
Appendix E

Web Site Usage Report

www.watersheddistrict.org

Below is a synopsis of the monthly analytics on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Web site usage. A sample of the monthly reports the District has is follows the synopsis.

The Visits graph displays the overall number of visits to the LMRWD Web site. The General Statistics table provides an overview of the activity to the LMRWD Web site during the specified time frame.



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2014	1099	3000	5857	15070	5.38 GB
Feb 2014	1085	2893	5238	14036	4.71 GB
Mar 2014	1303	3387	6531	17377	6.14 GB
Apr 2014	1349	3305	6495	19333	6.54 GB
May 2014	1345	3050	5726	19144	5.48 GB
Jun 2014	1363	2922	5214	17712	3.86 GB
Jul 2014	1482	3204	5495	17519	3.46 GB
Aug 2014	1223	2659	4622	16000	1.76 GB
Sep 2014	1192	2628	4484	13716	1.30 GB
Oct 2014	1173	2402	3956	12205	1.48 GB
Nov 2014	1269	2479	4255	13698	1.08 GB
Dec 2014	1186	2500	4361	12853	1.44 GB
Total	15069	34429	62234	188663	42.63 GB

General Statistics

Hits	Entire Site (Successful)	188,663
	Average per Day	517
	Home Page	22,331
Page Views	Page Views	62,234
	Average per Day	171
	Average per unique visitor	4.13
	Document Views	62,534
	Visits	34,429
Visits	Average per Day	94
	Average Visit Length	89 seconds
	Median Visit Length	0-30 seconds
	International Visits	10,858
	Visits of Unknown Origin	49,967
	Visits from the United States	1,409
	Visits Referred by Search Engines	7,077
	Visits from Spiders*	159,488
	Visitors	Unique Visitors

* Robots shown here gave hits or traffic "not verified" by visitors, so they are not included in other totals.

General Statistics - Help Card

Average Hits per Day - Number of successful hits divided by the total number of days in the log.

Average Page Views per Day - Number of page views divided by the total number of days in the log.

Average Page Views per Unique Visitor - Number of page views divided by the total number of unique visitors.

Average Visits per Day - Number of visits divided by the total number of days in the log.

Average Visit Length - Average of non-zero length visits in the log.

Document Views - Number of hits to pages that are considered documents - not dynamic pages or forms - as defined by the system administrator.

Hit - A single action on the Web server as it appears in the log file. A visitor downloading a single file is logged as a single hit, while a visitor requesting a Web Page including two images registers as three hits on the server; one hit is the request for the .html page, and two additional hits are requests for the downloaded image files. While the volume of hits is an indicator of Web server traffic, it is not an accurate reflection of how many pages are being looked at.

Hits: Entire Site (Successful) - Number of hits that had a "success" status code.

Hits: Home Page - Number of times the home page (as defined in the profile) was viewed.

International Visits - Percentage of visitors defined as "international" in Domain Options.

Home Page Hits - Number of times your home page was visited.

Median Visit Length - Median of non-zero length visits in the log. Half the visit lengths are longer than the median, and half are shorter. This number is often closer to the "typical" visit length than the average visit length. Numbers that are wildly atypical can skew the average, but will not skew the median so much.

Page - Any document, dynamic page, or form. Documents are user-defined in Options, but typically include all static content such as complete html pages. Dynamic pages are created with variables and do not exist anywhere in a static form. Forms are scripted pages which get information from a visitor and pass it back to the server.

Page Views: Document Views - Hits to pages that are defined as documents. This entry excludes hits to dynamic pages and forms.

Unique Visitors - Individuals who visited your site during the report period. If someone visits more than once, they are counted only the first time they visit/

Visits - Number of times a visitor came to your site. If a visitor is idle longer than the idle-time limit, it is assumed the visit was voluntarily terminated. If the visitor continues to browse your site after they reach the idle-time limit, a new visit is counted. The default idel-time limit is thirty minutes.

Visits from Spiders - Number of visits from any site classified as a spider.

Visits from Your Country - Percentage of visits from your country. The name of your country and the country code are shown. Your system administrator configures the selection for your country.

Visits of Unknown Origin - Percentage of visitors from an origin that could not be determined.

Visits Referred by Search Engines - Percentage of visitors that began with a referral from any site classified as a search engine.

Visitors Who Visited More Than Once - Number of individual visitors who appear more than once in the log file. Individual can be tracked by IP addresses, domain names and cookies. Cookies provide the most accurate count.

Visitors Who Visited Once - Number of individual visitors who appear only once in the log file. Individuals can be tracked by IP addresses, domain names , and cookies. Cookies provide the most accurate count.

The General Statistics page provides an overview of the LMRWD Web site's performance and visitor behavior and can help you determine which chapters will be most valuable to you.

Log Records for the last second in the log file are not included in this analysis. There is no way to tell if information for that second is complete until the log records following it becomes available The data for the last second will be included when the next analysis is run and additional data is available.

Last Update: 22 Apr 2015 - 09:33 [Update now](#)

Reported period:

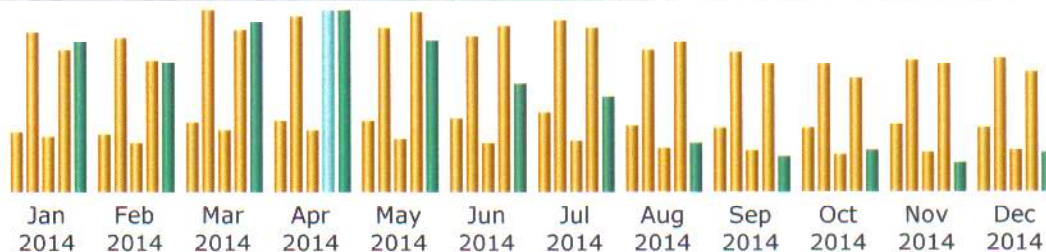


Summary

Reported period	Month Jan 2014				
First visit	01 Jan 2014 - 00:34				
Last visit	31 Jan 2014 - 23:51				
	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	1099	3000 (2.72 visits/visitor)	5857 (1.95 Pages/Visit)	15070 (5.02 Hits/Visit)	5.38 GB (1879.51 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			16819	23492	2.13 GB

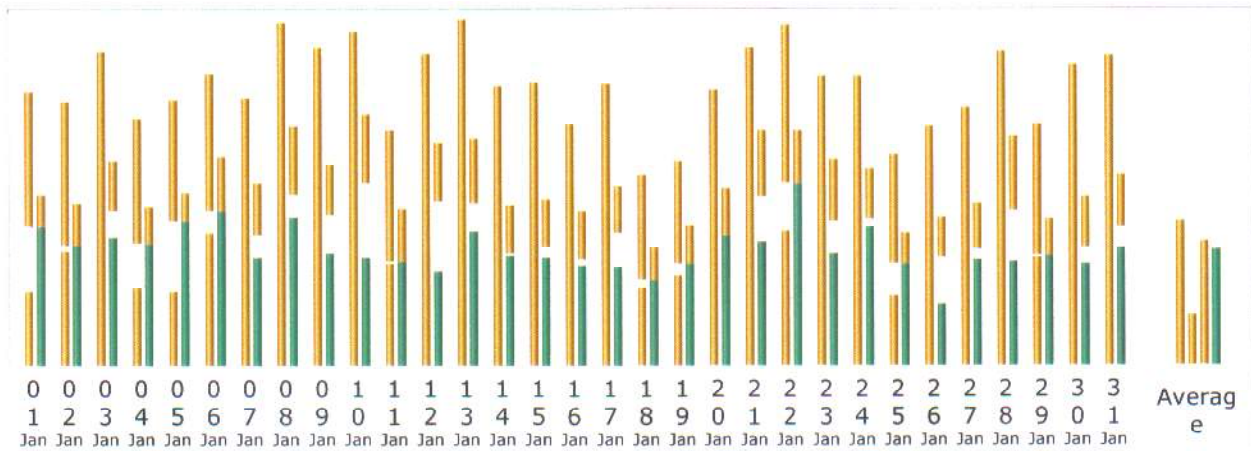
* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2014	1099	3000	5857	15070	5.38 GB
Feb 2014	1085	2893	5238	14036	4.71 GB
Mar 2014	1303	3387	6531	17377	6.14 GB
Apr 2014	1349	3305	6495	19333	6.54 GB
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Dec 2014	1186	2500	4361	12853	1.44 GB
Total	15069	34429	62234	188663	42.63 GB

Days of month



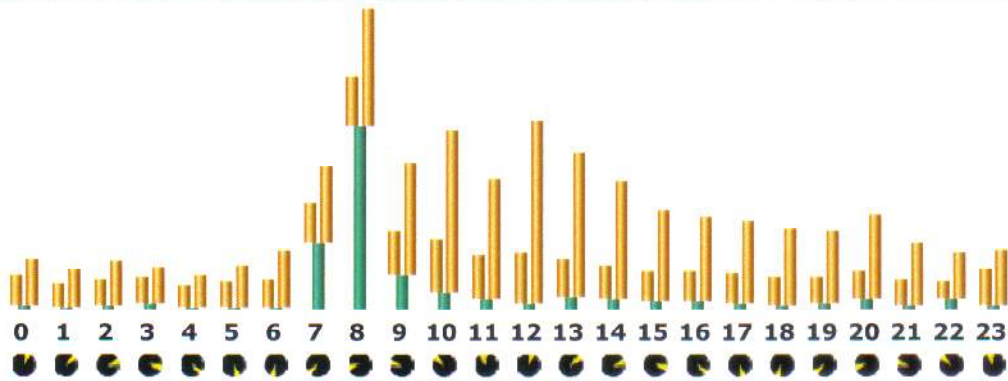
Day	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
01 Jan 2014	90	120	288	211.90 MB
02 Jan 2014	95	163	447	184.49 MB
03 Jan 2014	106	192	605	196.75 MB
04 Jan 2014	83	138	306	187.15 MB
05 Jan 2014	81	105	284	219.42 MB
06 Jan 2014	92	212	518	234.38 MB
07 Jan 2014	92	198	510	164.08 MB
08 Jan 2014	114	266	667	225.12 MB
09 Jan 2014	112	192	585	171.23 MB
10 Jan 2014	101	265	708	164.38 MB
11 Jan 2014	87	204	395	157.84 MB
12 Jan 2014	98	226	641	143.35 MB
13 Jan 2014	122	249	637	206.25 MB
14 Jan 2014	112	181	438	168.55 MB
15 Jan 2014	110	185	463	163.91 MB
16 Jan 2014	90	187	413	153.15 MB
17 Jan 2014	100	178	516	149.67 MB
18 Jan 2014	70	119	304	129.85 MB
19 Jan 2014	68	144	351	155.63 MB
20 Jan 2014	97	176	510	198.04 MB
21 Jan 2014	99	254	656	189.53 MB
22 Jan 2014	105	202	527	277.19 MB
23 Jan 2014	97	242	563	171.84 MB
24 Jan 2014	95	190	572	209.64 MB
25 Jan 2014	73	114	273	155.26 MB
26 Jan 2014	88	153	417	93.36 MB
27 Jan 2014	94	180	456	162.21 MB
28 Jan 2014	107	291	600	160.12 MB
29 Jan 2014	87	136	423	166.61 MB
30 Jan 2014	121	195	457	154.54 MB
31 Jan 2014	114	200	540	180.94 MB
Average	96.77	188.94	486.13	177.63 MB
Total	3000	5857	15070	5.38 GB

Days of week



Day	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Mon	204.25	530.25	200.22 MB
Tue	231	551	170.57 MB
Wed	181.80	473.60	208.95 MB
Thu	195.80	493	167.05 MB
Fri	205	588.20	180.27 MB
Sat	143.75	319.50	157.53 MB
Sun	157	423.25	152.94 MB

Hours



Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
00	219	340	39.34 MB	12	372	1388	80.17 MB
01	171	287	26.02 MB	13	281	1106	140.97 MB
02	196	326	44.58 MB	14	251	909	123.60 MB
03	195	272	57.45 MB	15	228	693	83.94 MB
04	161	237	23.43 MB	16	222	644	96.98 MB
05	186	323	20.33 MB	17	219	623	65.16 MB
06	209	429	15.66 MB	18	212	585	47.95 MB
07	294	585	915.12 MB	19	193	549	75.11 MB
08	375	895	2.46 GB	20	204	636	114.91 MB
09	325	855	466.36 MB	21	188	478	53.86 MB
10	407	1235	199.87 MB	22	137	340	135.87 MB
11	335	919	119.45 MB	23	277	416	42.53 MB

Visitors domains/countries (Top 10) - Full list						
	Domains/Countries	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth		
?	Unknown	ip	1791	3222	2.99 GB	
	Network	net	1619	6088	606.23 MB	
	Commercial	com	1456	3939	1.63 GB	
	China	cn	329	329	2.56 MB	
	Ukraine	ua	175	175	1.33 MB	
	United States	us	94	410	29.27 MB	
	Italy	it	77	82	2.70 MB	
	Russian Federation	ru	36	51	653.95 KB	
?	Unknown	configured	32	61	1.47 MB	
	USA Military	mil	31	82	65.44 MB	
Others			217	631	60.82 MB	

Hosts (Top 10) - Full list - Last visit - Unresolved IP Address				
Hosts : 2399 Known, 675 Unknown (unresolved ip) 1099 Unique visitors	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	Last visit
	208-115-111-69-reverse.wowrack.com	419	419	2.18 MB
208.115.113.85	395	395	2.34 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 21:14
ptr.cnsat.com.cn	319	319	2.41 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 22:05
qualityassurance.siteimprove.com	92	92	705.74 KB	31 Jan 2014 - 10:05
205.203.134.197	79	92	632.67 KB	28 Jan 2014 - 23:08
c-50-148-230-185.hsd1.mn.comcast.net	78	113	12.39 MB	28 Jan 2014 - 10:17
acer.iit.cnr.it	73	73	2.07 MB	10 Jan 2014 - 03:08
ns307835.ovh.net	67	67	463.26 KB	24 Jan 2014 - 11:54
ip70-178-100-9.ks.ks.cox.net	60	208	3.70 MB	28 Jan 2014 - 13:19
119.63.193.131	58	58	447.80 KB	31 Jan 2014 - 10:08
Others	4217	13234	5.35 GB	

Robots/Spiders visitors (Top 10) - Full list - Last visit
















45 different robots*	Hits	Bandwidth	Last visit
Unknown robot (identified by 'bot*')	4174	404.22 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 22:52
Yandex bot	3178	432.13 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 23:57
Unknown robot (identified by 'robot')	2631	101.72 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 23:58
Googlebot	2481	668.59 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 23:59
BaiDuSpider	1526	57.37 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 22:53
MSNBot-media	703	36.29 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 22:45
Unknown robot (identified by 'crawl')	668	20.55 MB	30 Jan 2014 - 07:41
MJ12bot	560	3.03 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 22:22
Mail.ru bot	223	95.19 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 22:50
Unknown robot (identified by empty user agent string)	158	3.83 MB	31 Jan 2014 - 19:25
Others	580	101.13 MB	

* Robots shown here gave hits or traffic "not viewed" by visitors, so they are not included in other charts.

Visits duration

Number of visits: 3000 - Average: 97 s	Number of visits	Percent
0s-30s	2710	90.3 %
30s-2mn	85	2.8 %
2mn-5mn	41	1.3 %
5mn-15mn	67	2.2 %
15mn-30mn	52	1.7 %
30mn-1h	40	1.3 %
1h+	5	0.1 %

File type

File type	Hits	Percent	Bandwidth	Percent
 jpg Image	5153	34.1 %	357.36 MB	6.4 %
 html HTML or XML static page	4023	26.6 %	31.38 MB	0.5 %
 gif Image	1970	13 %	3.93 MB	0 %
 css Cascading Style Sheet file	1061	7 %	2.18 MB	0 %
 htm HTML or XML static page	979	6.4 %	5.19 MB	0 %
 js JavaScript file	869	5.7 %	32.56 MB	0.5 %
 pdf Adobe Acrobat file	584	3.8 %	1.29 GB	23.9 %
 mpg Video file	195	1.2 %	3.59 GB	66.7 %
 png Image	159	1 %	35.20 MB	0.6 %
 doc Document	53	0.3 %	4.71 MB	0 %
 php Dynamic PHP Script file	10	0 %	43.95 KB	0 %
 rtf Document	6	0 %	30.01 MB	0.5 %
 docx	3	0 %	122.58 KB	0 %
 Unknown	2	0 %	23.28 KB	0 %
 xml HTML or XML static page	1	0 %	19.21 KB	0 %

-	info		1	0 %	7.72 KB	0 %
	bmp	Image	1	0 %	11.29 MB	0.2 %

Pages-URL (Top 10) - Full list - Entry - Exit










478 different pages-url	Viewed	Average size	Entry	Exit	
/	1456	7.58 KB	1225	1090	
/lower-minnesota-river-cruise/debarking-1.html	748	7.51 KB	206	206	
/contact.html	130	3.15 KB	20	53	
/fishing%20river.html	116	21.12 KB	102	89	
/meetings.html	106	4.63 KB	7	27	
/plan.html	102	5.67 KB	17	18	
/html-newsletters/2004/june/index.htm	74	2.08 KB	4	31	
/whatsnew.html	67	5.02 KB	12	13	
/images/becki%20stencil.mpg	62	27.65 MB	61	40	
/images/jessica%20stencil.mpg	62	24.79 MB	49	48	
Others	2934	625.33 KB	1297	1385	

Operating Systems (Top 10) - Full list/Versions - Unknown

Operating Systems	Hits	Percent
-------------------	------	---------

 Windows	10496	69.6 %
 Macintosh	1893	12.5 %
? Unknown	1332	8.8 %
 Linux	1267	8.4 %
U Unknown Unix system	56	0.3 %
 Java	18	0.1 %
 BlackBerry	7	0 %
 BSD	1	0 %

Browsers (Top 10) - Full list/Versions - Unknown

	Browsers	Grabber	Hits	Percent
 MS Internet Explorer		No	5335	35.4 %
 Google Chrome		No	2900	19.2 %
 Mozilla		No	2513	16.6 %
 Firefox		No	1857	12.3 %
 Safari		No	1519	10 %
 Android browser (PDA/Phone browser)		No	583	3.8 %
? Unknown		?	168	1.1 %
 Opera		No	78	0.5 %
 Samsung (PDA/Phone browser)		No	40	0.2 %
 LG (PDA/Phone browser)		No	36	0.2 %
Others			41	0.2 %

Connect to site from

Origin	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Direct address / Bookmark / Link in email...	3418	70.5 %	4784	63.9 %
Links from an Internet Search Engine - Full list	475	9.8 %	1605	21.4 %
- Google	373	1258		
- Microsoft Bing	54	248		
- Baidu	20	21		
- Unknown search engines	10	15		
- Ask	8	11		
- Yahoo!	4	46		
- AOL	2	2		
- MyWebSearch	2	2		
- Earth Link	1	1		
- MetaCrawler (Metamoteur)	1	1		
Links from an external page (other web sites except search engines) - Full list	946	19.5 %	1090	14.5 %
- http://www.mnwatershed.org/index.asp	39	39		
- http://www.moi-glazki.ru	33	33		
- http://kochanelli.com	30	30		
- http://gamedev.su	24	24		
- http://narkologiya-voronezh.ru	24	24		
- http://vimax-original.ru	21	21		

- http://snjatie-geroinovoy-lomki.ru	21	21				
- http://kurenje-spajsa.ru	18	18				
- http://moscow-clining.ru	18	18				
- http://avtojur.ru	18	18				
- Others	700	844				
Unknown Origin	6	0.1 %	6		0 %	

Search Keyphrases (Top 10) Full list			Search Keywords (Top 10) Full list		
87 different keyphrases	Search	Percent	164 different keywords	Search	Percent
lowerminnesotariverwatersheddistrict	17	13.8 %	river	37	7.9 %
lower minnesota river watershed district	5	4 %	minnesota	35	7.4 %
lower minnesota watershed	3	2.4 %	watershed	30	6.4 %
minnesota river guide	2	1.6 %	lower	22	4.7 %
minnesota river fish and animals	2	1.6 %	mn	21	4.4 %
chaskafiredepartmentfishingcontest	2	1.6 %	district	18	3.8 %
native plant roots	2	1.6 %	lowerminnesotariverwatersheddistrict	17	3.6 %
brick yard clay hole chaska history	2	1.6 %	in	14	2.9 %
leonard wabasha	2	1.6 %	fishing	13	2.7 %
malkerson island	2	1.6 %	chaska	7	1.4 %
Other phrases	84	68.2 %	Other words	253	54.1 %

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous		
Successful hits on favicon.ico	0 / 1099 Visitors	0 %

HTTP Status codes

HTTP Status codes*		Hits	Percent	Bandwidth
404	Document Not Found (hits on favicon excluded)	4793	80.8 %	1.43 MB
206	Partial Content	968	16.3 %	251.03 MB
401	Unauthorized	131	2.2 %	63.07 KB
400	Bad Request	17	0.2 %	5.28 KB
301	Moved permanently (redirect)	13	0.2 %	2.36 KB
403	Forbidden	5	0 %	1.46 KB
405	Method not allowed	3	0 %	1001 Bytes

* Codes shown here gave hits or traffic "not viewed" by visitors, so they are not included in other charts.