



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

December 2022 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

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

Other Work

Hennepin County Open Appointment

An email was sent to all Hennepin County contacts that I have accumulated through work with the watershed district; Cost Share Applicants and people that attended public hearings for the 2018 Plan Amendment Process. The Citizen Advisory Committee was informed, and they requested a map of the Hennepin County section of the LMRWD. The County will accept applications until December 31, 2022. If you know of anyone that you think would be a good addition to the Board of Managers and that lives in the Hennepin County portion of the LMRWD.

Lower Minnesota River East One Watershed One Plan

The Steering Committee was scheduled to meet at 1:00 pm November 16, 2022. I was only able to attend a short time, as there was a conflict with a municipal meeting. The Policy Committee met November 17, 2022, at 3:00 pm. Manager Amundson and I both attended virtually. Minutes from the meeting are not available. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2022 and the next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am, Wednesday, December 21, 2022 and the Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for the same day at 1:30 pm.

Information is still being assembled.

Project website: [website](#).

Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA)

I attended the November 20, 2022, meeting of MAWA. Administrators were updated on the changes to the strategic plan and membership dues. This was the same information that was sent to the LMRWD asking to consider re-joining. The biggest take away from the meeting is that many of the watershed districts in agricultural areas are concerned with the DNR's position regarding drainage system improvements. The DNR has proposed additional requirements to be met before improvements can be approved.

Evaluation of Hydrologic Changes in the Minnesota River

The LMRWD received the above titled report November 29, 2022. The report was shared with all the municipalities that are part of the LMRWD. The report can be viewed using this [link](#). The findings in this report validate the LMRWD position regarding the floodplain within the LMRWD.

Len Kremer

On Friday, December 2nd, I received a phone call from former Manager Len Kremer, who informed me that the group he is working with intends to introduce several pieces of legislation during the 2023 legislative session. He said he will share the legislation once it has been drafted. He also

asked that the LMRWD Board consider supporting the legislation. I told him I would share the legislation with the Board, but that it would be up to the Board whether to support it.

The proposed legislation would require EAWs on all drainage projects, require all petitions, and other materials for drainage projects be made public and available for review and ask that the public waters inventory be updated. It is likely that the LMRWD will not see these bills until after the legislative session begins.

CenterPoint Energy MLB Nicollet Line mud release

The LMRWD was notified on November 30th that the contractor for the Nicollet Line for CenterPoint had an accidental mud release. Drilling stopped immediately and the mud was contained cleaned up as best as possible. All regulatory parties were notified. The report from the incident is attached. This is the second release that has occurred on this project. The mud did not surface in the first release. The contractor will use this area again should another release occur.

City of Shakopee – Minnesota Riverbank Stabilization Study

On November 30th the LMRWD received the above referenced feasibility study from the City of Shakopee. On December 5th, the City held a preliminary meeting with interested parties; the US Army Corps of Engineers, MN DNR, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the LMRWD. The City intends to proceed with this project in phases as they are able to raise funds for the project. You may recall that the City received \$3.5 million for this project earlier in 2022.

The City has a project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/living-here/street-infrastructure-projects/minnesota-riverbank-stabilization>

River Resource Forum

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) held River Resource Forum #124, December 6th & 7th. I was able to join virtually. A presentation was made regarding water level management that was interesting. There was discussion about the amount of sediment in Pool 2, that is concerning because of the expense involved to maintain the channel and the difficulty in dredge material placement. The area of greatest concern in Pool 2 is known as Boulanger Bend, in downtown St. Paul.

The River Resource Forum is a partnership between the USACE and the States that are part of the USACE St. Paul District; Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa, that meets to discuss channel maintenance and other USACE projects. This partnership is unique to the USACE; partnerships like this do not exist in many other USACE Districts. Other partners and agencies participate in these meetings, such as the US Coast Guard, and state agencies such as the DNR, MPCA and MnDOT in MN and corresponding agencies from Iowa and Wisconsin.

Moos Family Lecture Series – What is the Critical Zone?

I mentioned this event in the November Administrator Report. It has now been posted on-line and can be viewed on You Tube using this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9ozF2A98xk>.

Watershed Plan Projects

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: Work on this project continues. The LMRWD is still working to obtain the signature of the owners of the property where we would like to take soil borings.

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

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): This project is complete. The final payment on this project is on the December Board agenda.

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

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The LMRWD is still waiting for the report from the City of Savage. This is the last project under the 2019 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant to be completed.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/schroeder-acres-parkeagle-creek-sub-watershed-stormwater-study>

Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This project is complete, and the grant funds have been released. The final report has been posted to the LMRWD website.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/targeted-bmps-downtown-shakopee>

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This project is complete, and the grant funding has been released. There are additional projects funded under this grant. Once all the reports have been received the grant will be closed out. Project website:

<http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/prior-lake-outlet-channel-realignmentwetland-restorationhis>

Hennepin County Chloride Project (HHCl) (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): No new information to report since the last update.

Minnesota River Watershed Chloride Project: No new information to report since the last update.

Vegetation Management Plan: No new information to report since the last update.

Sustainable Lake Management Plan: Trout Lakes: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Spring Creek Cost Share: There is no new information to share since the last report.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/spring-creek>

West Chaska Creek Re-meander: No new information to report since the update.

Project website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1695a2cf90b44ddba730aad399196405>

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: There is no new information on this project since the last update. The LMRWD is waiting for the City to take the next step. Here is a link to the [feasibility report](#).

MN River Corridor Plan: This item is on the December Board meeting agenda.

Upcoming meetings/events

Managers are invited to attend any of these meetings. Most are free of charge and if not the LMRWD will reimburse registration fees.

- UMWA monthly meeting – Thursday, December 15, 2022, 12:00 noon Lilydale Pool & Yacht Club
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting, Thursday, December 15, 2022, 3:00 pm
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 10:00 am
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Steering Committee Meeting – Wednesday, December 12, 2022, 1:00 pm
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 9:00 am



Date: November 30, 2022

Weather: Sunny, Cold, High of 16°F

Activity/Communication Description:

November 30

11:40

- The Michels crew was advancing the pilot hole from the north side of Black Dog Lake and was within 90 to 100 feet of intersecting the drill head when an inadvertent release of approximately 150 to 200 gallons of drilling fluid was observed. At the time of the inadvertent release, minimal drilling fluids were being used to push through the soft substrate towards the transition to fractured bedrock.
- The Michels crew immediately stopped the drill and notified Chris LaNasa, in accordance with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) License No. UWAT012624.
- The inadvertent release was located approximately 30 feet north of the edge of Black Dog Lake, within a wetland area south of Black Dog Road. The inadvertent release occurred within the pipeline alignment and permitted project workspace. Refer to figure 1 for the inadvertent release location and approximate extent of the release.

12:00

- Chris LaNasa notified the Minnesota State Duty Officer (Report No. 209919) and Martha Vickery (DNR) of the release, including the estimated volume and approximate location.
- The Michels crew began implementing containment and cleanup efforts consistent with General Permit Condition 29 of U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Permit No. MVP-2021-00108-SSC and the Inadvertent Release Plan in Appendix E of the project Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- The Michels crew used an extended hose from a vac truck to clean the drilling fluid from the area while minimizing impacts to the wetland area.

14:30 – 15:00

- Based on observations at the time of the release and throughout the afternoon, the drilling fluid was contained to the wetland area and did not enter Black Dog Lake.
- ERM notified Samantha Coungeris (USACE) of the inadvertent release, and left a voicemail message for Linda Loomis (Lower Minnesota River Watershed District).
- Chris LaNasa notified Faye Healy and Eric Mruz (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Jason Moran (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) of the inadvertent return.
- Upon receipt of authorization from the USFWS and DNR, drilling will proceed. Final containment measures will include installing certified noxious-free straw bales and sand bags in rows between the release location and Black Dog Lake to prevent any fluid from migrating to the waterbody. The containment measures around the inadvertent release location will remain in place until the conclusion of HDD operations.

Follow-up Actions Required:

- The Environmental Inspector (EI) will continue to monitor the inadvertent release location and functionality of installed containment measures when drilling is authorized to proceed.
- The EI will continue to monitor for inadvertent discharges to surface waters, per the HDD Inadvertent Discharge Observation Plan.

Photo 1 (Lat: 44.80393 Long: -93.27467)

Site Status: Inadvertent discharge at first discovery. View looking south towards Black Dog Lake.



Photo 2 (Lat: 44.80393 Long: -93.27467)

Site Status: Inadvertent discharge at first discovery.



Photo 3 (Lat: 44.80393 Long: -93.27467)

Site Status: Inadvertent discharge at first discovery. View looking south towards Black Dog Lake.



Photo 4 (Lat: 44.80393 Long: -93.27467)

Site Status: Inadvertent discharge during clean up. Michels HDD crews strung black hose and staged silt fence.



Photo 5 (Lat: 44.80383 Long: -93.27458)

Site Status: Inadvertent discharge during clean up. Taken from southern extent of discharge looking north. Flag/stake indicating centerline of pipeline alignment.



Photo 6 (Lat: 44.80383 Long: -93.27458)

Site Status: Michels used an extended hose connected to a vac truck to clean up the drilling fluid.



Photo 7 (Lat: 44.80393 Long: -93.27467)

Site Status: Michels installed a double row of silt fence with biologs at the bottom of the fencing. Flag/stake indicating centerline of pipeline alignment.



Photo 8 (Lat: 44.80393 Long: -93.27467)

Site Status: Michels installed a double row of silt fence with biologs at the bottom of the fencing.





Legend

- Proposed 24" Pipeline
- Approximate Discharge Location



Figure 1

**Inadvertent Release Location
2022 MBL Nicollet River Crossing
Project**

Burnsville and Bloomington, Dakota and
Hennepin County, MN

November 30, 2022

