



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Agenda Item

Item 5. F. – Update to Legal Services Agreement

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

From time to time the LMRWD receives notices from vendors and service providers of increases in fees it is charged for services in between agreements for services. Agreements for services are executed every two years as part of the biennial solicitation for letters of interest. The LMRWD received notice from its legal counsel November 21, 2023, that fees will be increased beginning in 2024.

The notification which includes a fee schedule is attached for the Board's information.

Attachments

November 21, 2023, notification from Rinke Noonan re: Hourly Rates

Recommended Action

Motion to receive and file notification



November 21, 2023

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
c/o Ms. Linda Loomis, District Administrator
112 – 5th Street East, Suite 102
Chaska, MN 55318

SENT VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL TO:
NAIADCONSULTING@GMAIL.COM

Re: 2024 Hourly Rates
Our File No. 25226-0001

Dear Linda:

Thank you for placing your continued confidence in Rinke Noonan Law Firm to provide legal counsel to Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the “District”) for the purpose of advising it on matters related to its governance duties, authorities, and responsibilities as a Watershed District and unit of local government pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D. Rinke Noonan’s terms of representation for the District are detailed in our 2022 Legal Services Agreement (“Agreement”).

As noted in our 2022 Legal Services Agreement, from time to time, it is necessary to adjust our hourly rates to compensate for increased experience factors or for inflationary cost increases in our economy. Our Agreement with the District notes that we will notify the District of such adjustments which are reviewed on a yearly basis. In order to meet the unique needs of our public-sector, government clients, Rinke Noonan continues to provide a reasonable discount in billing rates when compared to representation of our private clients. For 2024, we have endeavored to keep our rate increase below the composite inflation rate for our government clients. Our rates for our government clients for 2024 are as follows:

Senior Attorneys (7+ Years Experience):	\$415/hour
Associate Attorneys (4-7 Years Experience):	\$330/hour
Associate Attorneys (0-3 Years Experience):	\$290/hour
Paralegals & Legal Technicians:	\$145-\$255/hour
Clerical Staff:	No Charge

The remaining terms of our representation can be found in the Agreement approved by the District

Suite 300 US Bank Plaza
1015 W. St. Germain St.
P.O. Box 1497
St. Cloud, MN 56302
320.251.6700

www.rinkenoonan.com

tmp1A76
11/18/2022 1:02 PM

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

November 21, 2023

Page 2

in 2022. If you have any questions regarding these rates or the terms of our representation, do not hesitate to contact me. On behalf of Rinke Noonan Law Firm, we appreciate the opportunity to continue representing the District and to work with it and its staff.

Sincerely,

/s/ John C. Kolb

John C. Kolb

JCK/cmt