



# 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. K. – Approve Dakota County SWCD Monitoring & Education Services Workplan & Budget**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

Since 2011, the LMRWD has retained the services of the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to monitor well levels in the Calcareous fens in Dakota County and to provide education services as well as technical and cost share assistance.

Young Environmental and I have spoken about the scope of work and recommend approval of the scope of work and budget. Once the Work Plan is approved an agreement will be provided to the LMRWD for execution.

The LMRWD was recently informed that the Met Council has retained the services of Barr Engineering to develop a fen management plan for Nichols Fen, which is impacted by the Seneca Wastewater Treatment Plan. The MnDNR, Met Council and LMRWD have spoken about the redundancy of monitoring certain wells and have discussed that the LMRWD discontinue monitoring those wells that are being monitored by Met Council as part of its water appropriation permit. It is possible that the LMRWD will discontinue monitoring if it is determined that the LMRWD is not necessary. Dakota SWCD is aware of the discussion, and we have agreed that it will be easier to drop services in the work plan than it is to add services after the fact.

### **Attachments**

2024 Work Plan and Budget

### **Recommended Action**

Motion to approve 2024 Work Plan and Budget

**2024 Work Plan and Budget**  
**Lower Minnesota River Watershed District**

Task	Calculation			Sub-total
<b>Education and Community Engagement</b>				
	Hours	Rate	Fees	
<b>Landscaping for Clean Water</b>	15	\$90.00		\$1,350.00
Create promotional materials for classes in partnership with Dakota County cities and watershed organizations, organize course materials, and coordinate with partners.				
<b>Education and Outreach Total</b>				<b>\$1,350.00</b>
<b>Technical Assistance</b>				
	Hours	Rate	Fees	
<b>Fen Well Monitoring</b>	100	\$90.00	\$150.00	\$9,150.00
Staff time for groundwater monitoring in Fort Snelling, Nichols, and Quarry Island fens from March 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 - 10 monitoring trips at 5 hours/trip. Also includes data management, reporting and site maintenance as needed.				
<b>Landscaping for Clean Water</b>			\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
SWCD staff time for technical assistance on Landscaping for Clean Water projects.				
		\$500 x 3 projects		
<b>Conservation Projects</b>	75	\$90.00		\$6,750.00
Technical assistance for potential projects. <i>Only as requested by Lower Minnesota River WD.</i>				
<b>Technical Assistance Total</b>				<b>\$17,400.00</b>
<b>Cost Share</b>				
	Hours	Rate	Fees	
<b>Landscaping for Clean Water</b>			\$750.00	\$750.00
Provide cost share to landowners for projects including raingardens, native plantings and shoreline stabilization projects consistent with Dakota SWCD cost share policies.				
		\$250 X 3 projects		
<b>Cost Share Total</b>				<b>\$750.00</b>
<b>Total Agreement Not-to Exceed</b>				<b>\$19,500.00</b>