



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 5. D. - Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) cancelled its regular January meeting and instead joined the Board at the Workshop on January 11th.

The CAC met virtually on December 5, 2023. The CAC recommends that the LMRWD consider creating a You-Tube Channel where videos can be shared. LMRWD staff had hoped to discuss this recommendation at the January 11th Board Workshop, but no discussion ever took place on this topic.

Here is a link to a video that was shot and edited by CAC member Patti Thomsen during the Boat ride the CAC took last summer. This is an example of videos that would be shared. Several other watershed districts have You Tube Channels

- [Mississippi Watershed Management Organization](#)
- [Shell Rock Watershed District](#)
- [Capitol Region Watershed District](#)
- [Nine Mile Creek Watershed District](#)
- [Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District](#)

Anoka SWCD has even used clean water funds to create a series of animated videos.

- <https://www.youtube.com/@AnokaSWCD>

You-Tube channels are free to create. However, there will be expenses incurred to produce content. The LMRWD has some content that could populate the channel initially, and then the cost to produce content could be added to future LMRWD budgets. No decision needs to be made at this time.

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CAC meeting minutes from the December 5, 2023, meeting were included in the December 20, 2023 LMRWD Board of Manager meeting materials and are attached to this Executive Summary for the Board's information. The handout included with the December 5, 2023, CAC meeting minutes was approved by the Board at the December 20, 2023, Board of Managers meeting.

Attachments

December CAC meeting materials (including draft trifold handout)

[Video from Summer 2023 boat trip from Carver down the Minnesota River](#)

Recommended Action

No action recommended



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Agenda

Citizen Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 | 4:30 p.m.

Virtual via WebEx

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the December Agenda
 - b. Approval of the October Minutes
3. Citizen Input on Non-agenda Items
4. New Business
 - a. 2024 calendar planning for CAC meetings
 - b. Identify 2024 outreach events
5. Old Business
 - a. Approve the fall newsletter
 - b. Winter salt use video review
 - c. Update on MN River Journey video
6. Communications
 - a. Update on watershed activities
 - b. Update on Texas A&M audience engagement
7. Adjournment

****Please RSVP to confirm a quorum****



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Dred Scott Playfield

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Berglund called the meeting to order. The following CAC members were present: Judy Berglund, Tom Hartle, and Patty Thomsen. The following individuals also attended the meeting: Theresa Kuplic (Lower Minnesota River Watershed District [LMRWD] Board Manager), Linda Loomis (Naiad Consulting, LLC, and the LMRWD Administrator) and Jen Dullum (representing Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC).

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the October Agenda and September Minutes

Thomsen moved to approve the consent agenda, and Berglund seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

There was no input.

4. New Business

a. LMRWD budget review

Loomis gave a brief overview of the LMRWD budget. This is the largest budget in LMRWD history due to the amount of projects. This year, for the first time, the LMRWD is raising matching funds for Project Area #3. The LMRWD levy is \$1,175,000 and proposed expenses for 2024 are \$2,110, 338. The LMRWD Board is considering more projects in the future especially after the recent gully inventories. A question was asked about the size of the LMRWD in comparison to other watersheds in the metro. The LMRWD is an average size watershed. Information about watershed sizes can be found in the packet.

b. Review summer tabling events. Plan for 2024.

Overall, CAC members enjoyed the tabling events. They found it a positive experience with meaningful conversations with residents. They feel like they should attend the same or similar events going forward into 2024. They are interested in hearing more about the County Fair program and the outcomes from that project. Going forward the CAC would like to have a watershed map showcasing the different watershed boundaries. Loomis and Dullum will bring back a list of events for the group to decide their 2024 events at a future meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Bi-annual newsletter

A draft newsletter from CAC member Kevin Kedrowski was reviewed.

Suggestions include:

- Designing the handout as a trifold pamphlet with no dates so it can be handed out at any time,
- Making the back page about the cost share and mini grant programs,
- Including more photos,
- Rewording the salt paragraph to be less positive towards salt, and
- Revising the storm drain section so that flooding is mentioned before polluting the river. This may catch more attention.

Jen will create a shared document so the CAC members can edit online for all to see. This will then be mocked up in a trifold and brought back to the group.

b. Video storyboard update

Hartle shared his video storyboard mock-up on salt application. It is suggested that the video be no longer than two minutes. Thomsen volunteered to create the do-it-yourself salt spreader. The next step will be to gather images and video clips with a similar look to stitch together for the video. CAC members should send Tom any images and video clips of salt application or salt on sidewalks and roads they may have. Then Tom will film the video and send it out to the group. The hope is that this video will have a link on the LMRWD website and be posted to the LMRWD Instagram account.

c. Minnesota River journey video update

Thomsen looked for more suggestions on the Minnesota River Journey video. She will come back to the group with the video after suggestions are taken into consideration.

6. Communications

a. Update on watershed activities

Loomis mentioned that watershed project updates are listed in the projects notes in the budget document in the packet. She also noted that Manager Salvato, who works for the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, is working with a professor from Texas A & M on water quality messaging. This messaging may be able to be used for the LMRWD since the LMRWD is a tributary to the Upper Mississippi River. Loomis will keep us informed on this work. The CAC is interested in this and how it could be utilized for tabling events.

b. Dullum gave a quick update on the Educator Mini-Grant Program and the application scoring sheets. Grant applications are due October 20. This this quick turnaround time for the CAC to complete scoring, Loomis will create a fillable form to make the scoring easier. Once scoring is complete, applications will go to the Board of Managers in November for consideration.

7. Adjournment

Thomsen moved to adjourn the meeting, and Hartle seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting: November 7, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. Black Dog Power Plant, 1410 E Black Dog Rd, Burnsville, MN 55337.

City	Event_1	Event_2	Event_3	Event_4
Bloomington	Public Works Open House	Farmers Market		
Burnsville	Native Plant Market	Farmers Market		
Carver	Public Works Open House	Farmers Market		
Chanhassen	Farmers Market			
Chaska	Native Plant Workshop/Walk (fall) with Carver SWCD	Farmers Market		
Eagan	Eagan Garden Club Plant Sale	Arbor Day Celebration	LakeFest	Farmers Market
Eden Prairie	Chamber of Commerce Spring Expo	Eco Expo - Rotary (2024)	Arbor Day Walk and Green Fair	
Mendota Heights	Tree Sale	Resident Tree Pickup & Rain Barrel/Compost Bin Pickup		
Savage	Arbor Day Celebration	Farmers Market		
Shakopee	Tree Sale			
Carver County	Carver County Fair			
Dakota County	Dakota County Fair			
Hennepin County	Hennepin County Fair			
Scott County	Scott County Fair			
Scott SWCD	Outdoor Education Days			
Carver County WMO	Metro Children's Water Festival			

FALL

WATERSHED NEWS



THREE EASY STEPS TO A CLEANER MINNESOTA RIVER

1

Keep Storm Drains Clear

Keep Storm Drains Clear

As less rain and more snow accumulates, it may be easy to forget the importance of keeping storm drains clear. Storm drains help divert rainwater and melting snow from the streets in the Minnesota River. However, if they are clogged with leaves or debris, it can lead to spring flooding if the snow melt has no place to go! It can also cause excess nutrients and pollutants to enter the river, polluting the water.

Avoid Using Salt for Deicing Sidewalks and Driveways

Salt is a permanent pollutant that builds up in concentrations in soils near where it's used. Salty soil kills plants, leading to soil erosion and sediment in our waterways. It only takes one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water with chloride, which is harmful to local fish and other aquatic life. To avoid oversalting:

- Shovel and scrape more often to prevent ice
- Consider wearing shoe traction devices
- Sprinkle sand on icy areas instead
- Install hand rails
- Remember that salt only works effectively when it's warmer than 15 degrees

2

Avoid Using Salt for Deicing

Clean Up After Your Pets

Pet waste is not only unsightly when left on the side of a trail, it's also harmful to local rivers and lakes. As snow and rain wash the pet waste into local bodies of water, it decays in the water, depleting the oxygen and raising ammonium levels, harming fish and other organisms. These conditions also contribute to an environment for algae and weeds to grow and thrive. **Try biodegradable pet waste bags to avoid using plastic!**

3

Clean Up After Your Pets



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT



EDUCATOR MINI GRANTS



Promoting Environmental Education

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District offers an Educator Mini Grant Program, allowing up to 10 grants per school year to help cover the cost of materials and programming that focus on water resources. Past projects have provided learning equipment like microscopes and waders for science projects and field trips along the Minnesota River.

To learn more about the program and see when to apply, visit:
<https://lowermnriverwd.org/makeadifference/educator-mini-grants>



COST-SHARE GRANTS



Protecting Water Resources Close to Home

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District offers Cost-Share Grants for small residential projects to larger commercial/government projects ranging from rain gardens to shoreline restoration to invasive species removal.

Visit our website to see if your project applies and how much funding you may be eligible to receive!

<https://lowermnriverwd.org/makeadifference/cost-share-grants>

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