



# 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. G. – Reimbursement for Chaska High School Educator mini-grant**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

At the November 15, 2023, meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers, an educator mini-grant was approved for Chaska High School. This project is complete and educator Kelly Dreier is requesting reimbursement. The original grant amount was \$500. Reimbursement being requested is \$475.00. Ms. Dreier has submitted a report on the project with pictures. Receipts were not submitted with the final report; however, they have been requested. The original grant request is attached for the Board's information.

### **Attachments**

Chaska High School Educator Mini-grant application

Excerpt from November 15, 2023, meeting minutes approving the Educator Mini-grant for Chaska High School

Final report from Chaska High School Educator Mini-grant

Cost Share Grant Agreement

### **Recommended Action**

Motion to authorize reimbursement to Chaska High School subject to receipt of expenses



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

Name of School/Organization:

Chaska High School

First Name:

Kelly

Last Name:

Dreier

Email:

dreierk@district112.org

Phone:

(952) 556-7100

Describe your current role?

AP Environmental Science Teacher

If you are a student, please provide the name and email of your supervising educator.

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

545 Pioneer Trail

Address line 2:

City:

Chaska

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55318

Name and Address Where Activity Will Take Place (if Different from Above)

Street Address:

Address line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

What age(s) are the participants?

K-5<sup>th</sup> grade

6-12<sup>th</sup> grade

18+ years

Senior

Estimated number of participants:

250 students

Describe your proposed activity or project and how it relates to water resources and wildlife habitat education. Include project goals and learning objectives for participants.

We currently conduct stream study tests of East Chaska Creek with our AP environmental Science students. We would like to add in turbidity testing by adding turbidity tubes and we would like to add a portable dissolved oxygen sensors so we are not having to bring computers down to the stream with us.

The goals of this lab is for students to understand the various test scientiest do to determine the health of a stream. We also discuss factors that influence changes in these tests and what the human impacts are.

When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?

Every year during the fall

Total requested amount (maximum \$500):

\$500

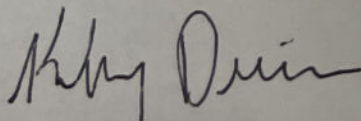
Specify how funds will be allocated (e.g. supplies, materials, and transportation):

4 turbidity tubes -  $\$54.44 \times 4 = 217.76$

1 portable dissolved oxygen probe - \$280

**I understand that if my funding request is approved, I must complete and submit the Program Project Reporting and Reimbursement form to receive payment. Any photos submitted may be used by the LMRWD in future communications.**

Signature:



Date:

10/17/2023

President Barisonzi noted sometimes the public that provides feedback may not be the public that uses the river, such as those that are fishing for sustenance. He said the LMRWD should address barriers to participation in planning. He suggested that the LMRWD make sure that when they are looking at their work plan at the workshop next year that this becomes one of the issues that they want to talk about. He added that they should also discuss the coordination of the feedback letter to make sure it solicits the feedback from the different managers with technical support as needed.

Manager Salvato added that in the recreation survey for the Upper Mississippi River they included fishing for sustenance as an environmental justice tie-in. President Barisonzi reiterated his desire to have this addressed in LMRWD workplans.

**C. City of Carver Levee**

President Barisonzi introduced this item and shared that the City of Carver will be at the December Board Meeting and asked if there was additional information that needed to be brought to the attention of the Board.

**D. Dredge Management**

President Barisonzi introduced this item and said that the Board received good information in the meeting materials. Administrator Loomis noted that there are a lot of project going on in this corridor. She stated that the Corp. of Engineers is having to re-bid the Continental Grain Marsh Repair project. She added that if the Corp. of Engineers couldn't get into the site when they were conducting reconnaissance for the Continental Marsh project. They contacted the LMRWD about accessing the site, to deliver material for the Continental Marsh Project. It was not clear why access to the site was closed. Administrator Loomis coordinated contacts for all the projects planned in this corridor; MnDOT, USACE and Lureka Fiber Optic and the LMRWD.

**i. Dredging at mouth of MN River**

No update on this item.

**ii. Sale of Dredge Material**

No update on this item.

**iii. Private Dredge Material Placement**

No update on this item.

**iv. Vernon Avenue reconstruction and culvert replacement project**

No update on this item.

**E. Watershed Management Plan**

No new information to report since the last update.

**F. 2023 Legislative Action**

No new information to report since the last update.

**G. Education and Outreach Plan**

President Barisonzi introduced this item. He noted that the \$500 for Redtail Ridge Elementary School was for water testing equipment which Friends of the Minnesota Valley has and is part of what the Board paid for their program. He added that the school could use this equipment for free.

Manager Hartmann made a motion to approve the recommendations of the CAC and awards educator mini-grants as follows: Nicollet Middle School Green Team - \$500; Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School - \$300; Chaska High School - \$500; and Redtail Ridge Elementary School - \$500. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

#### H. LMRWD Projects

*(Only projects that require Board action will appear on the agenda. Informational updates will appear on the Administrator Report)*

##### i. Area #3

President Barisonzi introduced and asked Administrator Loomis to walk them through the information. She noted that the LMRWD received an appraisal for the property at Area #3 necessary to construct the project. The LMRWD is interested in securing a portion of the property, either by easement or property ownership. She noted that the Board was provided with hard copies of the information received.

Attorney Kolb noted that the information was just received the day of the meeting. He stated that there are options and prices associated with a partial fee purchase in the package. He added that there is also the price associated with just an acquisition of an easement over this property. He noted that they are in the process of posturing the LMRWD for a voluntary acquisition. He noted that he had not seen the information yet. He added that he is not sure if there will be additional costs with land use or governance restrictions on subdividing this parcel to facilitate the partial acquisition. He shared that this is a pre-decisional, information document and is not yet public information. He said the LMRWD will need the City to determine if there are additional costs to be considered to comply with the City's land use requirements. He added that when they revisit this they will need to discuss if an easement or a fee acquisition makes more sense then decide how they want to approach this landowner. He noted that it was the landowner's suggestion that they consider an easement as opposed to a fee purchase.

Manager Amundson asked why they would buy this land. Attorney Kolb shared that he had this discussion with the acquisition consultant and Young Environmental. He stated that it comes down to the level of control and the risk to the project if the LMRWD only has an easement versus ownership, as ownership would give them much greater control of the property. He stated that they should be able to get everything done that they need to under an easement, but future access for maintenance must be considered.

##### i. Spring Creek

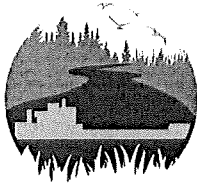
No update on this item.

#### I. Permits and Project Reviews

##### i. ACE Rent a Car (LMRWD No. 2022-022) – After the Fact Permit

President Barisonzi introduced and asked for a motion before discussion. He then asked Administrator Loomis to provide background on this item. She stated that Manager Salvato had asked why a stop work order was not placed on this project by the LMRWD. She explained that the intent of the owner was not to circumvent the rules, ACE Rent a Car just did not understand and were very cooperative once they were notified. She added that they also notified the airport as they owned the land that this was being built on.

Manager Salvato stated that she was trying to understand the coordination that led to this permit. Ms. Young explained that they have been in contact with ACE quite a bit and they



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Educator Mini-Grant Program Reimbursement and Reporting Request Form

Name of School/Organization:

Chaksa High School

First Name:

Kelly

Last Name:

Dreier

Email:

[dreierk@district112.org](mailto:dreierk@district112.org)

Phone:

3205100712

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

545 Pioneer Trail

Address line 2:

City:

Chaska

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55387

When and where did the activity/project take place?

Chaska Hight School - East Chaska Creek

Describe how your activity or project engaged participants?

Students went down to East Chaska Creek and sampled water, including turbidity. We analyzed the health of the stream including the turbidity using the turbidity tubes purchased with the grant. Students were engaged in learning more about our local environment and the factors that impact our local environment.

Total number of participants:

120 students

List your relevant expenses:

5 Turbidity tubes (120cm) = \$87.00 each (purchased from Carolina Biological)  
\$40 in shipping

= \$475 total

Refund amount (cannot be more than the original award amount):

\$ 475

Please provide information for the check recipient:

First Name:

Last Name:

Chaska High School

Science Department

Street Address:

545 Pioneer Trail

Address line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Chaska

MN

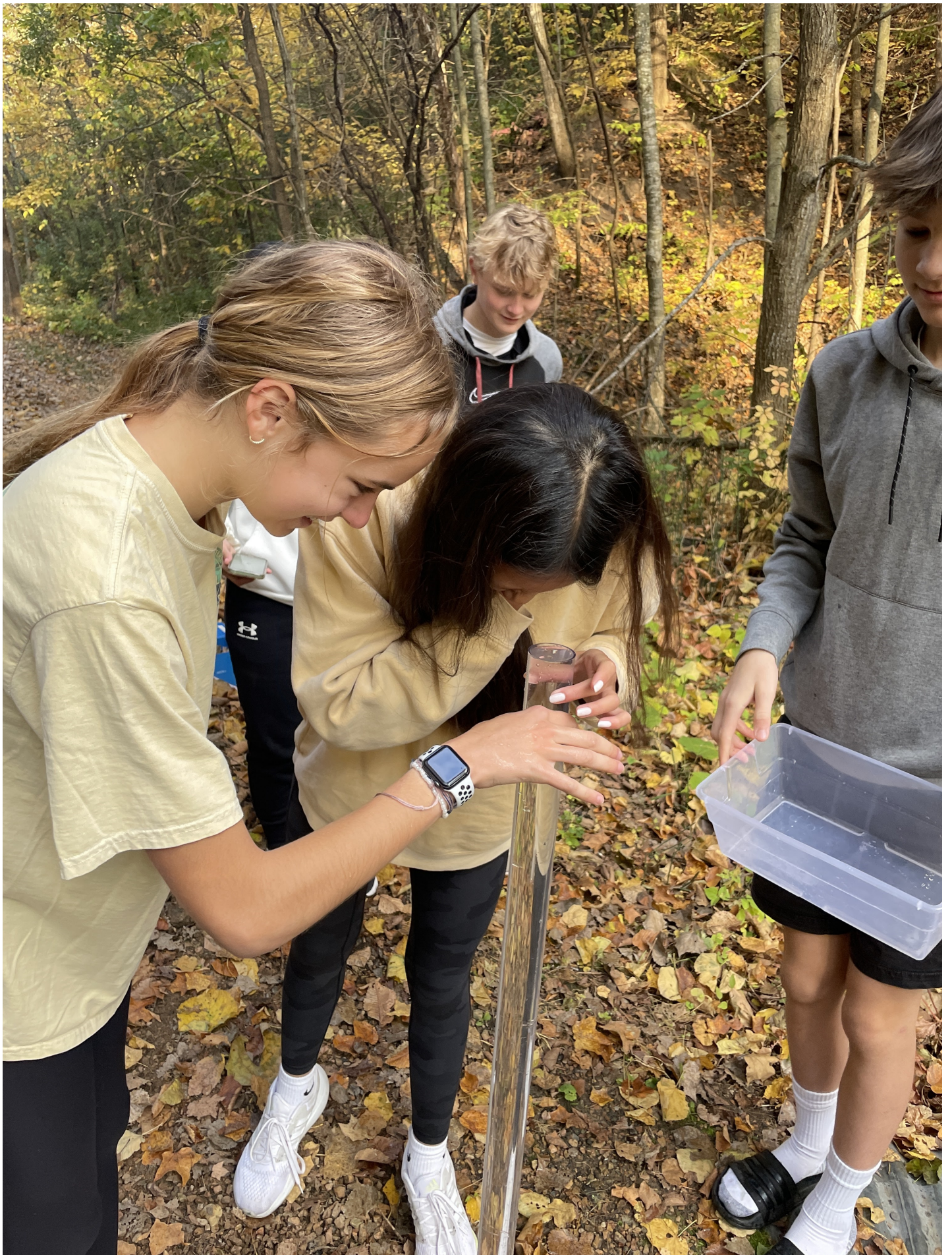
55318

Please submit photos of your activity or project in action. Include the photographer's name in the photo file name and email to [admin@lowermnrivewd.org](mailto:admin@lowermnrivewd.org).













LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
2023 Educator Mini-Grant Program  
Cost Share Grant Agreement

This grant agreement made this 29 day of Jan 2023 is between the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, a Minnesota Watershed District ("LMRWD") a public body with purposes and powers set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D, and Kelly Dreier, ("GRANTEE"), a teacher at Chaska High School. The GRANTEE's address is Chaska High School, 545 Pioneer Trail, Chaska, MN 55318.

1. Scope of Work. GRANTEE will use funds for the purposes identified in the Educator Mini-Grant Program Application, attached to this Agreement as Exhibit 1.
2. Grant Agreement Period. The GRANTEE will have until the end of the current school year to complete the project.
3. Reimbursement. The GRANTEE may request reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$500. At the time reimbursement is requested, GRANTEE will provide the LMRWD a reimbursement and reporting request form, receipts for all direct purchases, and project photos.
4. Indemnification. The LMRWD will be held harmless against all liability and loss in connection with the Project.
5. Notices. Any notice or demand, authorized or required under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the other party as follows:

To LMRWD:

Administrator  
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District  
112 East Fifth Street, Suite 102 Chaska, MN 55318

To GRANTEE:

Kelly Dreier  
Chaska High School  
545 Pioneer Trail  
Chaska, MN 55318

The parties agreeing to be signed as follows:

GRANTEE:

By: Kelly Dreier

Its: Teacher - Grantee

Date: 1-29-24

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_