



# 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 9. E. – Request from Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

On February 7, 2024, I received an email from Karen Galles, Hennepin County Environment and Energy, with a request from Commissioner Debbie Goettel. Commissioner Goettel is interested in advocating on behalf of the Minnesota River.

Ms. Galles made some suggestions, which would be appropriate for the Commissioner to assist with, such as finding individuals to appoint to the Board, advocating for additional Area #3 funding.

The LMRWD is not intending to ask for legislation this session but will follow legislation introduced by others (see Legislative Agenda), so advocacy as the legislature is somewhat unknown at this point. Advocacy on behalf of limited liability legislation is always welcome. It might be helpful to discuss the Commissioner's relationship with upstream County Board's and if advocacy in the counties upstream is appropriate.

The Board should discuss how offers to advocate on behalf of the Minnesota River can be directed.

### **Attachments**

Email message from Karen Galles

### **Recommended Action**

Motion providing direction to staff



Linda Loomis &lt;naiadconsulting@gmail.com&gt;

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## LMRWD needs/interests; MN River basin legislative priorities?

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Karen Galles &lt;Karen.Galles@hennepin.us&gt;

Wed, Feb 7, 2024 at 2:39 PM

To: "naiadconsulting@gmail.com" &lt;naiadconsulting@gmail.com&gt;, Della Young &lt;della@youngecg.com&gt;

Linda and Della,

We've been hearing from Commissioner Goettel that she'd really like to get more involved in advocating for the Minnesota River and we're trying to figure out how to help her channel that interest in a way that best supports the river and the various groups (such as LMRWD) that are out there working away on doing just that!

I'm interested in your thoughts at both a very local-scale as well as from a broader perspective:

- Are there program/project/operationally-specific things that LMRWD wants or needs that a county commissioner's advocacy/amplification/interest could help you achieve?
  - A few things that come to mind for me just off the top of my head are things like: a full board, engaging county commissioners in Dakota/Scott/Carver, engaging city electeds, etc.; advocating for additional Area 3 project funding (if necessary)... Are there other things that come to mind for you?
- Do you engage with partners throughout the rest of the Minnesota River Basin on river-related legislative/policy priorities? Is there a champion or an advocate for the river basinwide these days?

I'm also going to be reaching out to Nine Mile and Riley-Purg, since I know partnering with those tributary stream watershed jurisdictions is a really important part of addressing pollution before it reaches the river. I know that this is core the way LMRWD works, and it's something that we'll communicating to the commissioner too. Just for your awareness, I've also floated the idea internally of putting together a project tour day for her in May or June just to help us get a better sense of what's on her mind.

Happy to chat about this too – I'm just in exploratory mode trying to understand what's out there and how/if it might align with the commissioner's goals and interests. I certainly appreciate any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions you might be able to throw my way!

Thanks – hope you're both well!

Karen

[Karen Galles](#)

[Hennepin County Environment and Energy](#)

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