



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

February 2024 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, the following District projects and issues were addressed during the month:

Other Work

Ike's Creek Restoration Plan

On February 5, 2024, I met with USFWS, Inter-Fluve, MnDNR, and the City of Bloomington to review the 10% design submittal for the restoration of Ike's Creek. Inter-Fluve later provided cost estimates of the project and USFWS will need to find additional money for the project or scale back the scope.

Friends of the Mississippi

This is a continuation of the report in the January 2024 Administrator report.

On January 30, 2024, I met with Natalie Warren, Stewardship and Education Program Director, with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR). She wanted to inquire about funding for education projects planned by FMR. They are beginning to focus on the Minnesota River as one of the largest tributaries to the Mississippi River. FMR is targeting BIPOC students for their water education projects and students attending school in the MN River Watershed. She is working with students from the Minnesota Country New School in Henderson to teach about Agriculture, Erosion and Water Quality.

She has applied for an LMRWD Educator mini-grant to pay for transportation for their education program. She indicated that Friends of the Mississippi would like to expand its education work into the Minnesota River basin

Lower Minnesota River East One Watershed One Plan

This item has become a standing item on the LMRWD Board agenda.

Designing to reduce the need for salt – pilot cities

At the January 17, 2024, Board of Managers meeting, I reported that pilot cities have been identified to begin looking at design as a way to reduce the need to use winter de-icing agents such as salt. Manager Amundson asked for more information about this. Bloomington and Eden Prairie are two cities that have signed on to be pilot cities. Here is a [link to an article from MRP](#) that offers more information about the project. The LMRWD can make sure other cities in the watershed are aware of this program.

Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District Soil Health

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, the LMRWD was invited to be part of the Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District's Soil Health event on February 29, 2024 (flyer attached). The LMRWD logo will be added to the flyer.

Eden Prairie Local News

On Wednesday, February 7, 2024, I was interviewed by Jeff Strate of Eden Prairie Local News (EPLN) about the 2024 MPCA Impaired Waters list. The questions he asked about what watershed districts do when a water is determined impaired and who pays the bill to clean for the clean-up. No story has been posted yet, but here is a link to the LMRWD [story about the retirement of Manager Hartmann](#).

Carver County Board Room Media Improvements

On February 1, 2024, Carver County informed me that the County will be making improvements to the A/V systems in the County's Board Room. The Board Room will be unavailable while the improvements are being made. This should not impact the LMRWD monthly Board meetings, as the work is scheduled to fall between the February and March meeting dates.

Water Quality and Storage Grants

On February 12, 2024, BWSR announced that it is accepting water storage grants. The news release can be found using this [link](#). Details about the program and the grant application can be accessed from the BWSR Grants page and specific information about the program can be found using this link: [FY24 Water Quality and Storage Program RFP](#).

Chaska Seminary Fen Ravine C-2 Construction Funding Request

On Thursday February 8, 2024, I met with Brent Alcott, Chaska Water Resource Coordinator, to discuss funding of a construction project to stabilize Ravine C-2. Ravine C-2 was identified as an area that generates a significant amount of sediment to the north section of Seminary Fen. The City of Chaska and the LMRWD prepared a feasibility study to determine how to reduce the amount of sediment from this ravine. The study was completed February 2022.

The City is now prepared to move forward with stabilizing the ravine. Chaska has received a Projects and Practices Grant from the Clean Water Fund, in the amount of \$615,000. Since receiving the grant, the City has done more investigation of construction costs and will need an additional \$400,000 to complete the project. They are looking for partners to make up the funding gap. This project is in the LMRWD Implementation Program, along with two other ravines. We discussed other possibilities to fill the funding gap and Chaska will ask for Watershed Based Implementation funding from both the LMRWD Watershed Planning Area (WPA) and the Carver WMO WPA. Chaska will also touch base with the DNR to see if it is possible to get funding from the DNR's fen mitigation program. Here is a link to the feasibility report:

https://lowermnriverwd.org/download_file/2568/0

Year End Reporting

In addition to activities reported throughout the meeting packet (such as paying claims against the LMRWD, work on the 2022 financial audit, invoicing for private dredge placement, and invoicing for sale of dredge material), the following additional activities were completed.

- Annual reporting to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for all open grants has been completed. The LMRWD should receive the remaining grant money from the 2021 Watershed Based Implementation Funding for Area #3.
- 1099s have been issued and Managers should have received them in the mail.

2024/2025 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)

On February 6, 2024, Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District held a kick-off meeting for the WBIF Scott County Watershed Planning Area (WPA) convene process. The decision made that will

have the biggest impact was that funding provided under WBIF could be spent on projects outside the WPA if all the voting members agree to spend the funding that way. The LMRWD plans to convene a meeting to discuss allocation of the funds awarded to the Lower Minnesota River Watershed Planning Area. Awards to areas that may direct funds to the LMRWD are in the table below:

56	Lower Minnesota River East	\$538,396	2024
Metro	Carver County WPA	\$721,325	2025
Metro	Lower Minnesota River WPA	\$217,485	2025
Metro	Scott County WPA	\$646,054	2025

Upper Mississippi River Basin Association – How Clean is the River?

The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMBRA) has released a report titled “How Clean is the River -A 30-year evaluation of the water quality in the Upper Mississippi River System”. The Report can be viewed using this [link](#). Manager Salvato works at UMBRA. Manager Amundson requested that a link to this report be sent out ahead of the Board of Managers meeting.

MN Greenway Temporary Bridge – Fort Snelling

On January 5, 2024, the MnDNR provided information to the LMRWD that the contractor for the MN River Greenway Project (LMRWD No. 2023-007) installed a temporary bridge to use during construction to cross Kennaley’s Creek. This temporary bridge crossing was not permitted by the MnDNR Public Waters Permit. The contractor has now applied for a permit for the temporary bridge crossing to be included. The temporary bridge crossing was also not permitted by the LMRWD.

A meeting with Dakota County (Permittee), S.M. Henteges (Project Contractor), Taylor Huinker (MnDNR), Young Environmental Staff, and me was held on January 17, 2024. Attendees discussed the temporary bridge over Kennaley’s Creek and 3 additional temporary crossings for the project. It was decided that the temporary bridge crossing for Kennaley’s Creek would require modeling and additional review by the LMRWD and the MnDNR. The other temporary crossings will not require additional review because they resemble the boardwalks (same elevation and cross section) that had already been reviewed and approved by the LMRWD. The contractor sent typical sections of the temporary crossings and provided additional information that these temporary crossings can be removed in less than three hours if flooding is anticipated.

Once the modeling and additional information for the Kennaley’s Creek temporary bridge crossing have been provided, a review and recommendation will be provided to the LMRWD Board of Managers for decision.

Invasive Carp Community Action meetings

On January 30, 2024, I virtually attended the Invasive Carp Community Action meeting. Manager Kuplic and Citizen Advisory Committee members Greg Genz and Patti Thomsen attended the meeting in person. The DNR has released the [Invasive Carp Management Plan](#).

A recording of the meeting is available using this [link](#).

Peterson Wetland Bank

All erosion control measures were installed and inspected by the City of Eden Prairie. All conditions of the LMRWD permit have been met and a permit has been issued.

MPCA – Lower Minnesota River Watershed Assessment

This item has been moved to the discussion section of the February 21, 2024 Board of Manager meeting agenda.

Information for the previous round of assessments can be found by visiting the MPCA website using this link: [Lower Minnesota River Watershed](#). The last assessment was completed in 2015.

Watershed Plan Projects

MAC Boundary Adjustment: The LMRWD received the documentation necessary to petition for the boundary change and the petition has been sent to the Board of Water & Soil Resources. BWSR has acknowledged receipt of the petition.

West Chaska Creek Re-meander: Final payment for this project was authorized at the January 2024 LMRWD Board of Managers meeting. This item will be removed from this report.

Project website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1695a2cf90b44ddba730aad399196405>

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: An update on this item is provided above.

Here is a link to the [feasibility report](#) Area C-2.

Spring Creek: The status of this project has not changed since the January update.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/spring-creek>

Gully Inventory and Assessment: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

Minnesota River Study Area #3: The LMRWD is coordinating with the USACE, MPCA, MnDNR, and WCA LGU (Eden Prairie) to finalize wetland impacts and a potential mitigation plan. Once we have concurrence from the agencies, we can execute the 90% plans, which will take 2 to 3 months to complete.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/study-area-3-eden-prairie>

Minnesota River Floodplain Modeling: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management: An update for this project is in the February meeting materials.

Upcoming meetings/events

Managers are invited to attend any of these meetings. Most are free of charge and if not the LMRWD will reimburse registration fees. Please contact LMRWD administrator if you have any questions.

- Lower MN River East 1W1P Advisory Committee meeting – No February meeting
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Steering Committee meeting – Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – virtual only
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Policy Committee – No February meeting.
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, March 5, 2023, 4:30pm, virtual
- UMWA (Upper Mississippi Waterway Association) monthly meeting – Thursday, March 21, 2024, virtual only via Zoom



SODAS AND SOIL HEALTH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

1:00PM - 3:00PM



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St. Patrick's Tavern & Restaurant
24436 Old Highway 13 Blvd
New Prague, MN 56071




FEBRUARY 29

1:00PM - 3:00PM

Join us for free sodas and a roundtable discussion on soil health and financial incentives available in 2024.



scottswcd.org • 952-492-5425 • info@scottswcd.org

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 DVosejpka@scottswcd.org

RSVP not required but requested

RSVP!

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