



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 5. F. - Reimburse Pilot Knob STEM School for 2023 educator mini-grant

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

At the November 15, 2023, meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers, the Board approved an educator mini-grant of \$300 for the Pilot Knob STEM School.

The Grant was to bring the MN Zoo's Zoomobile to the School's STEM Fair. The School held its Fair and has provided the LMRWD with a report on the event, that included receipts and pictures. The Board should authorize reimbursement to the Pilot Knob STEM School as requested in the final report.

Attachments

Educator mini-grant application
November 15, 2023 meeting minutes excerpt
Educator Mini-grant agreement
Pilot Knob STEM School final report with pictures

Recommended Action

Motion to authorize reimbursement of Educator Mini-grant for Pilot Knob STEM School



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
A Partnership for the Future

Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

Name of School/Organization:

Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School

First Name:

Michele

Last Name:

Link-Valenstein

Email:

michele.linkvalenstein@isd197.c

Phone:

651-428-1634

Describe your current role?

STEM Teacher/ Magnet Facilitator

.org

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

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

1436 Lone Oak Road

Address line 2:

City:

Eagan

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55121

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-5th grade

6-12th grade

18+ years

Senior

Estimated number of participants:

200-300

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.

One of the large scale events we host at Pilot Knob is a STEM Fair. In the past, this event has focused on Engineering. Our goal is to reconfigure this event to represent all components of STEM. Students must understand that science is in the natural world all around us and that we can use STEM to become stewards of the land and animals. As a district, we are located two miles from the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. We want to honor the heritage that comes with this location and incorporate that into our STEM programming.

Many of our Earth and Life Sciences standards revolve around wildlife habitats. We would like to represent that at our STEM fair by inviting the Minnesota Zoomobile Booth to present. A Zoomobile booth would provide a naturalist and animals with a connection to a local conservation theme. This addition would allow us to educate students and families about wildlife animals that live in the Watershed District alongside us.

When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?

March 2024

Total requested amount (maximum \$500):

\$300

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

\$300 to bring the Zoomobile to Pilot Knob for two hours.

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:

09/25/2023

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 Eureka 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 Cities 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
2023 Educator Mini-Grant Program
Cost Share Grant Agreement

This grant agreement made this 30 day of January 2024 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 Michele Link-Valenstein, ("GRANTEE"), a teacher at Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School. The GRANTEE's address is Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School, 1436 Lone Oak Rd., Eagan, MN 55121.

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 \$300. 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:

Michele Link-Valenstein
Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School
1436 Lone Oak Road
Eagan, MN 55121

The parties agreeing to be signed as follows:

GRANTEE:

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

By: Michele Link-Valenstein

By: _____

Its: _____

Its: President

Date: 1/30/2024

Date: _____



Educator Mini-Grant Program Reimbursement and Reporting Request Form

Name of School/Organization:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

Address line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

When and where did the activity/project take place?

Describe how your activity or project engaged participants?

Total number of participants:

List your relevant expenses:

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

\$

Please provide information for the check recipient:

First Name:

Last Name:

Street Address:

Address line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Please submit photos of your activity or project in action. Include the photographer's name in the photo file name and email to admin@lowermnriverwd.org.



Detailed Receipt

(401736)
Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School
Michele Link-Valenstein
1436 Lone Oak Rd
Eagan MN 55121-1199

Order Number: 5336009
Amount Paid: \$300.00

VISIT DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Quantity	Description	Price	Amount
1	ZM:Zoomobile Program	\$300.00	\$ 300.00

Total Amount: \$300.00

Payment Description & Payment Amount:
W:Visa \$300.00

Thank you for visiting the Minnesota Zoo. If you have any questions contact the Zoo at 952.431.9200.







