



LOWER
MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

March 2018 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, work continues on the following District projects and issues:

Ike's Creek Monitoring

USFWS hosted a meeting at which monitoring of Ike's Creek was discussed. There are several studies going on, however many of them are program being conducted by graduate students at the University of Minnesota and are not long term efforts. This first meeting was for everyone to present what parameters are being monitored. There will be a second meeting to discuss whether current monitoring can continue and are there parameters that are not being monitored but should be.

The creek was stocked with brook trout in 2007 and has not been stocked since. The number of fish has been monitored ever since. The population of fish has double from the number of fish stocked. There may be additional stocking of fish in order to increase the genetic diversity.

There was discussion about monitoring ground water in the area and a location for a well to monitor groundwater was agreed upon and the location will be investigated. TSS has been monitored, but there has been no monitoring of the bedload. There was also discussion of monitoring continuous stream flow. Those responsible for monitoring noted that was an area of active erosion near the stream and thought some investigation should be done how that could be stabilized.

MPCA Sediment Reduction Strategy

Len Kremer called me to ask for some information from the District. Len is working with David Minge and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA). MCEA is looking to address sediment in the Minnesota River by working through drainage authorities upstream that permit drain tile connections. They are hoping to be able to manage the flow of water and the resulting sediment that comes from extreme

Watershed Based Funding Pilot Program meeting

Hennepin County held the second of its WBF meetings to determine how to allocate the pilot program funds. There was some agreement that money should be spent to try to reduce the use of salt in the winter, however it was not definitively agreed upon. It appears that at the very least money will be allocated by major watershed; Crow River, Mississippi River and Minnesota River. The eligible authorities in the Minnesota River watershed agreed in principal that funds should be used to reduce chlorides, by help large users of salt retro-fit equipment or cost share to allow them to purchase new equipment.

Carver County held a meeting and invited all Carver County cities. Possible projects were discuss. The cities all supported the idea of distributing money 50% based on Market Value and 50% on area of the county within the Watershed.

Scott County held a meeting and invited all the cities within Scott County. Only Shakopee and Savage attended. Possible projects were discussed and chlorides came up here too. Neither Savage nor Shakopee has begun to address its use of salt and supported using some of the money to begin to address chlorides. I pointed out that both of them had staff people attend the Smart Salting Workshop and they said they send people, but they do not have the equipment needed for them to apply what they learn.

The counties have to notify BWSR by June 30 how they intend to distribute the money within each county. Everyone at each of the county meetings agreed that how money is allocated now may not be how it would be allocated in the future. Each county would continue to look to see if there was a better way to distribute money to ensure that money is being spent on projects that will get the greatest results.

Level 2 Smart Salting Workshop

The LMRWD along with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District co-sponsored a level 2 Smart Salting Workshop on March 1, at the Chaska Community Center. The training is paid for by a grant from the MPCA. The LMRWD paid for the use of the coffee and facility and Nine Mile Creek paid for lunch and snacks. Fourteen people were pre-registered and 13 thirteen actually attended. Attendees were from Mendota Heights, Savage, Shakopee, and Eden Prairie. A student from the U of M who is researching the use of salt also attended

MAWD Day at the Capitol

I attended the MN Association of Watershed Administrator meeting on Wednesday, March 7th as part of MAWD day at the Capitol. There was a lot of discussion about MAWD dues. Watershed districts with small budgets, but larger tax capacities are being charged a greater percentage to support MAWD. There is some feeling that the \$7,500 cap is too high for Watershed Districts with smaller annual budgets and is not high enough for some Watershed Districts with very large budgets.

MAWD Summer Tour

Managers should be aware that MAWD Summer Tour will be in the southwest Metro in June. We have contacted Upper River Services to arrange a barge tour on Wednesday, June 20th. We have contacted Carrie Jennings, Xcel Energy, USFWS and Cargill to speak. Cling Gergen has been invited to speak. The St. Paul Port Authority is also interested in being part of this tour.

MAWD will charge for the event, but RPBCWD and the LMRWD have talked about paying for local elected official, city, county and state that we want to invite. I believe the St. Port Authority would also contribute.

In addition to the barge tour, the conference will offer a bus tour of different projects in the southwest Metro area. There are several projects in Carver County and we are planning to visit the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community compost site.

Upcoming meetings/events

- Savage Public Information meeting - April 3, 2018, 5:30pm -7:00pm, location to be announced
- Freshwater Society's [State of Water Conference](#) - April 12-14, Breezy Point
- Metro MAWD - Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - Capitol Region Watershed District
- [Minnesota Water Action Day at the Capitol](#) - Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 8:00am-4:00pm State Capitol
- MN River Congress - Thursday, May 17, 2018, Mankato (venue to be announced)
- Metro Blooms Workshops - various dates - see attached



Media Alert

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Bly, john@metroblooms.org, 651-699-2426

Learn How to Create a Resilient Yard

2018 Blue Thumb workshops hosted by Metro Blooms

<p>What?</p>	<p>Unseasonably warm weather, long periods of drought, and flooding rains are the new normal in Minnesota. Metro Blooms is offering two types of resilient yard presentations this year: <i>Resilient Yard Workshops</i> and <i>Turf Alternative</i> workshops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resilient Yard Workshops (2.5 hours)</i>: Provide a framework to understand the importance of resilience and how it can be fostered in your yard through a variety of practices, including how to install your own raingarden. Following presentation, attendees receive one-on-one design assistance from Blue Thumb Landscape Designers, Hennepin County Master Gardeners, and Master Water Stewards to create a plan for your own yard. • <i>Turf Alternative Workshops (1.5 hours)</i>: Your guide to a low-maintenance lawn. This 1-hour presentation overviews the benefits and options before providing step-by-step instructions to establishing water- and pollinator-friendly perennial ground covers. Suggested turf alternatives minimize the need for irrigation and chemical inputs while maintaining a useable lawn. The presentation is followed by a group discussion to identify and overcome common obstacles faced by homeowners. <p>All workshops attendees receive information about installation cost share programs and Blue Thumb resources to help get a project in the ground.</p>
<p>When?</p>	<p>March-June 2018</p>
<p>Where?</p>	<p>11 Twin Cities metro locations + 1 workshop in Prescott, Wisconsin</p>
<p>How to Register?</p>	<p>Visit metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426 Cost: \$15 per household unless otherwise noted. Register soon, some locations fill up fast. You can also mail your registration to Workshop Registration, P.O. Box 17099, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Enclose a check payable</p>

	to Metro Blooms, and include the workshop location, your name, address, phone number and email address.
Why?	Increasingly severe changes in Minnesota's weather patterns are impacting all of us, but these changes are felt most strongly in our cities. Impermeable surfaces (roads, roofs, parking lots, and unhealthy compacted soils) excel at soaking up and retaining heat from the sun, and also contribute to huge amounts of runoff, carrying pollution into our waters. Resilient yards do the opposite: shed and shade the sun's heat, but soak up and infiltrate stormwater, cleaning and using it to help cool the surrounding landscape. A resilient yard not only survives extreme weather—it also helps us thrive in spite of it.
	<p>Workshops presented by Metro Blooms, sponsored by the Cities of Minneapolis, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, New Hope, St. Louis Park, and Edina, Hennepin County Master Gardeners, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission, Rice Creek Watershed District, Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, and Friends of Freedom Park.</p> <p>Metro Blooms, a local non-profit organization, works to strengthen communities by promoting environmentally-sound landscaping that beautifies neighborhoods and protects our environment. Metro Blooms coordinates the Blue Thumb partnership – a network of public and private partners working towards planting for clean water.</p>

Register now. Some locations fill up fast. The \$15 workshops are offered March - June:

Date	Day	Time	Workshop Location	Workshop Type
<i>March 28</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>12:30-2:30PM</i>	<i>Prescott, WI; exactly location TBD (Free)</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>
<i>March 29</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>St. Louis Park City Hall (Free to residents)</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>April 4</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6:30-9 PM</i>	<i>Champlin City Hall</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>April 4</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6:30-8 PM</i>	<i>Armatage Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>
<i>April 10</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Longfellow Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>April 12</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6:30-8 PM</i>	<i>St. Louis Park City Hall (Free to residents)</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>St. Barnabas Church, Plymouth (Free to residents)</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Edina, exact location TBD</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>
<i>April 19</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Nokomis Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>

<i>April 24</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Edina, exact location TBD</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>April 24</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6:30-8 PM</i>	<i>Longfellow Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>
<i>April 28</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11-1:30 PM</i>	<i>North Regional Library, Minneapolis (Free)</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>May 3</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6:30-8 PM</i>	<i>Nokomis Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>
<i>May 10</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Crystal Community Center</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Brooklyn Center Community Center</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>May 19</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11-12:30PM</i>	<i>North Regional Library, Minneapolis (Free)</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>
<i>May 23</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Armatage Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>May 31</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-8:30 PM</i>	<i>Audubon Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Resilient Yards</i>
<i>June 7</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6:30-8 PM</i>	<i>Audubon Recreation Center, Minneapolis</i>	<i>Turf Alternatives</i>

