



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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May 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

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### 2023 Annual Report

Revisions to the Annual Report that were received from Managers were made to the 2023 Annual Report. The Report has been posted to the LMRWD website. In accordance with MN Statutes Chapter 103D.351, copies of the report have been sent to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and the director of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources of the Department of Natural Resources. Here is a link to the 2023 Annual Report on the LMRWD website:

[https://lowermnrivewd.org/application/files/1217/1443/1564/LMRWD\\_2023\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](https://lowermnrivewd.org/application/files/1217/1443/1564/LMRWD_2023_Annual_Report.pdf)

### Permits

LMRWD staff is developing a new policy for conditional approval within the LMRWD permit program. Typically, permit applications request a permit for all the rules required to complete a construction project. However, some applications have been incomplete or lacked necessary documentation, leading to delays in permit issuance. As a result, applicants often request phased approval. The LMRWD staff believes this practice is not ideal and is working on a policy proposal to present to the Board at a future meeting.

### 2024/2025 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)

A convene meeting for the Lower Minnesota River Planning Area was held May 1, 2024. A second meeting will be scheduled for May 29, 2024. Municipalities have been asked to add projects to a shared spreadsheet for funding consideration.

Here are the funding allocations for specific planning areas:

Planning Area 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

Scott County met on April 26, 2024, and agreed to provide a project in Shakopee with a level of funding. Shakopee intends to leverage the amount provide by the Scott County WPA with funds from the LMR WPA. The City of Chaska is hoping to do the same with its project to stabilize Ravine C-2; use Carver

County WPA funding and LMR WPA to fill a funding gap they have for the project (Chaska has obtained a Clean Water Fund competitive grant for this project)

### **FY 2022 Financial Audit**

The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has inquired about the status of the FY 2022 Audit. The OSA was informed that we are waiting for Redpath and Clifton Larson Allen to complete the audit. Hopefully this will get wrapped up in the next month or two, after Redpath completes its obligations to other entities that it performs audit services for.

### **Hennepin County After the Fact Permit**

Young Environmental Consulting Group, on behalf of the LMRWD, has been working with Hennepin County to get the necessary information to issue an after the fact permit for a project Hennepin County completed. This project is in the City of Bloomington, which has a municipal permit from the LMRWD, except for projects in the floodplain which include drainage alterations. It is not yet clear whether any fill was placed in the floodplain. If fill was placed in the floodplain, Hennepin County will need to apply to the LMRWD for a permit. If no fill was placed as part of the project, then the City of Bloomington will manage permitting.

### **Minnesota Watershed Summer Tour**

Minnesota Watersheds has announced its 2024 Summer Tour. A flyer for the Tour is attached. The tour will take place in the Metro Area, allowing Managers to participate without incurring lodging expenses.

### **Minnesota River Public Outfalls**

The LMRWD has been discussing mapping and monitoring of outfalls along the Minnesota River. Young Environmental Consulting Group, on behalf of the LMRWD, is currently collecting this information from the cities. Once we have outfalls mapped, the LMRWD will be able to verify the information and identify outfalls that are currently unknown. Monitoring water from these outfalls will provide the LMRWD with a better understanding of the water entering the Minnesota River within its boundaries.

### **LMRWD Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program**

The Board of Managers has expressed concerns about implementation of the LMRWD Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program. Cost Share programs are a valuable tool for education and outreach. The LMRWD Administrator and Young Environmental will evaluate the LMRWD Program, address concerns raised by Managers and compare it to programs offered by adjacent watershed districts and water management organizations. Any recommended changes will be incorporated into the program starting in 2025.

### **elink Reporting**

BWSR recently filled the position of Board Conservation for the LMRWD. Jen Dullum replaced Steve Christopher in this role. Jen, who was previously with Young Environmental Consulting Group, served as the Education & Outreach Specialist for the LMRWD. She informed the LMRWD that elink reporting for the 2021 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant was incomplete. Additional information was needed for the Dredge Material Management funding as well. The reporting has now been completed for the WBIF grant and BWSR notified the LMRWD that the second half of funding for that grant will be forthcoming. Dredge Material Management reporting will be completed shortly.

### **River Resource Forum #128**

River Resource Forum #128 took place on April 26, 2024, at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum in Winona. I attended the meeting virtually, but there was no information of interest to the LMRWD to share.

### **Minnesota Soil Health Coalition**

The [Minnesota Soil Health Coalition](#) is a producer-led organization that the Board may find valuable. The Coalition offers producer-to-producer education about the importance of soil health for the environment. They are planning to hold an event on June 18<sup>th</sup> about Low Carbon Farming. A flyer for this event is attached.

### **MPCA – Lower Minnesota River Watershed Assessment**

There is no new information to report on this item, since the last update.

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**

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**LMRWD Water Resource Restoration Fund:** An application from the City of Eden Prairie was approved by the Board at its April 17, 2024, Board of Managers meeting. Staff is developing a cooperative agreement between the LMRWD and the City.

**MAC Boundary Adjustment:** A new petition was submitted to BWSR (Board of Water & Soil Resources). The LMRWD is waiting to hear from BWSR.

**Eagle Creek Bank Restoration at Town & Country RV Facility:** This project is included in the LMRWD 2024 workplan. Work has not started on this project yet.

**Fen Private Land Acquisition Study:** There is no new information to report since the last update on this project.

**Spring Creek:** The LMRWD was informed that an investigation of cultural and historical resources was not needed. LMRWD staff met with engineers from Bolton & Menk, Inc. to discuss next steps, which includes bringing the project to final design and developing bid documents.

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

**Gully Inventory and Assessment:** An update on the LMRWD gully inventory and assessment is included in the work plan update that in on the April 17, 2024, Board of Managers meeting agenda.

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

**Minnesota River Study Area #3:** An update on the Minnesota River Study Area #3 will be provided to the Board at the May 15, 2024, Board of Managers meeting agenda.

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

**Minnesota River Floodplain Modeling:** There is no new information to provide to the Board since the workplan update provided at the April 17, 2024, Board of Managers meeting.

**Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management:** LMRWD funding of this project needs to be determined before the project can go out for bid. The LMRWD is still waiting to hear back from BWSR about the use of state funding for dredge management to make payments on bonds or certificates of indebtedness.

**Geomorphic Assessments (Trout Streams):** There is no new information to report to the Board since the workplan update provided at the April 17, 2024, Board of Managers meeting.

**The following projects are projects that are planned by LMRWD partners. LMRWD partners are leading these projects, the LMRWD has agreed to contribute to the projects:**

**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.

**Shakopee Riverbank Stabilization:** This project did not receive additional funding this legislative session. The project the City of Shakopee has submitted under the WBIF program is part of this project.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/living-here/street-infrastructure-projects/minnesota-riverbank-stabilization>

**Carver Levee:** This project did not receive additional funding this legislative session.

Project website: <https://www.cityofcarver.com/276/Levee-Certification>

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## 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 – May 15, 2024, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, in-person, Scott SWCD office, 7151 W 190th St, Jordan, Minnesota 55352
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Steering Committee meeting – Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 10:00 pm to 3:00 pm – in-person, Scott SWCD office, 7151 W 190th St, Jordan, Minnesota 55352
- UMWA (Upper Mississippi Waterway Association) monthly meeting – Thursday, May 16, 2024, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm, Lilydale Pool & Yacht Club, 1600 Lilydale Rd, St Paul
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Policy Committee meeting – Thursday, May 16, 2024, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, in-person at Le Sueur County SWCD office located at 181 W. Minnesota St. Le Center, MN 56056 and [virtual on MS Teams](#)
- Public Hearing for Lower Minnesota River East 1W1P – Thursday, May 30, 2024, at the Giesenbräu Bier Co. located at 1306 1<sup>st</sup> St NE, New Prague, MN 56071. At 4:30pm the public will be able to come in early and ask any questions about the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. At 5:00pm we will have a short presentation that summarizes this planning effort and next steps. The Public Hearing will start at 5:30pm
- [Agricultural Drainage and the Future of Water Quality – 2024 Spring Field Tour](#), Thursday, May 30, 2024, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Bus Tour from the Golden Bubble in Wells, MN, Registration is required
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 4:30pm, tour of LMRWD Cost Share Projects
- [16<sup>th</sup> Minnesota River Congress](#) – Thursday, June 13, 2024, 6:00pm, Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut Street, Mankato, MN
- [Minnesota Watershed Summer Tour](#) – June 25-26, hosted by Capitol Region Watershed District at the Essence Center, 1217 Bandana Boulevard, St. Paul

# 2024 East Metro SUMMERTOUR

Hosted by

**MINNESOTA  
WATERSHEDS**

*Connecting People. Protecting Water.*



## Tuesday, June 25

**Location: The Essence Event Center**  
1217 Bandana Blvd N #203, St Paul, MN

**9:00a - 12:00p Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) Meeting**  
**12:00p - 1:00p Lunch**  
**1:00p - 5:00p Hear from the local experts**

### **1:00p Legislative Update**

Jess Lindeen, MW Lobbyist

### **1:15p Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Study**

Laura Jester, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization  
Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering

BCWMO studied the feasibility of removing chloride-laden water from the bottom of Parkers Lake and removing the chloride using reverse osmosis or ion exchange and putting the water back into the lake. The study results include the efficacy of extracting or diluting chloride in Parkers Lake.

### **2:00p Developing the MWMO Equity Strategic Action Plan**

Abby Moore, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

The MWMO will present on a planning effort begun in 2022 to initiate the process of institutionalizing principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) into our work across all programs and projects. The presentation will provide a snapshot of the organization as well as the watershed and the people who live, work and play within its boundaries. It will provide an overview of the reasoning, process, outcomes and outlook as we continue to strive to meet our mission while reflecting and serving all of the people and places within the watershed. We will share the MWMO Equity Strategic Action Plan and highlight our accomplishments thus far.

### **2:45p RCWD Common Carp Management Program**

Matt Kocian, Rice Creek Watershed District

The invasive common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are detrimental to water quality and lake ecology. The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) has implemented an innovative, multi-year program to manage common carp in the Long Lake / Lino Chain of Lakes system. Pre-project carp density was very high (670 kg/ha) – nearly seven times the ecological damage threshold. Water quality in Long Lake and the Lino Chain was poor, with frequent algae blooms. The RCWD and Carp Solutions embarked on a multi-year comprehensive program to reduce carp density. New and innovative tools and technologies were developed. A consistent, but flexible management approach was used, paying close attention to changing efficiencies of various management tools. Over 400,000 pounds of carp were removed from the system, and density was reduced by 88% to 80 kg/ha. In 2022, phosphorus concentrations in Long Lake were the lowest on record (38 yrs.). We will present details on program methods and water quality improvements to this successful, long-term carp management program.

### 3:30p Morningside Flood Infrastructure Project

Ross Bitner, City of Edina

City of Edina sought to improve community resilience with the creation of 100 ac-ft of flood storage in a dense urban area by using active and adaptive control of 40 ac-ft with predictive pumping for clean water and flood purposes. The City used the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) model for community engagement and public participation. Along with creating flood infrastructure, natural resource restoration and park development were key parts of the project that will be discussed in this talk.

### 5:00p - 8:00p Welcome Reception, Dinner and Bus Tour Overview

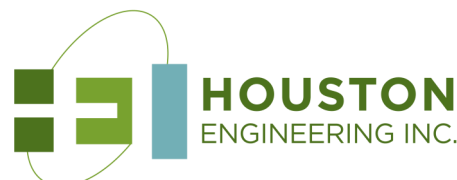
## Wednesday, June 26

**Bus Tour Day** - departing at 8:00a from the Best Western Plus Como Park Hotel, 1010 Bandana Blvd W, St Paul, MN

*Stop locations include*



*Thank you to our Sponsors!*





# Getting Paid for Low Carbon Farming

## Learn How You Can Take Soil Health to the Bank

Join us for a **free** lunch and workshop to learn what “carbon intensity score” means, how the soil health principles reduce your carbon intensity score, and how you can be ready to sell low-carbon grain for a premium. Panels of ethanol and biofuel industry representatives and Minnesota Soil Health Coalition farmers will discuss this fast approaching opportunity for agriculture. Attend this workshop and get your farm’s baseline carbon intensity score for FREE.

### Guest Presenter Mitchell Hora

Tuesday- June 18th, 2024  
9:00am - 2:30pm

Jackpot Junction Casino and Hotel  
39375 County Rd 24, Morton, MN 56270

Scan the QR Code to register or:  
[bit.ly/3QhO5h3](https://bit.ly/3QhO5h3)

CEU Credits Available!

### Who should attend?

- Farmers
- Agronomists
- Ag Consultants
- Ag Lenders
- Biofuel Industry
- Ethanol Industry
- Coop managers
- Ag Educators



## Getting Paid for Low Carbon Farming Workshop

"\*" indicates required fields

