



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 5. F. – Authorize reimbursement for Educator Mini-grant for Redtail Ridge Elementary School

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

At its November 15, 2023, meeting, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District approved an Educator Mini-grant application submitted by Redtail Ridge Elementary School. The application proposed the school purchase microscope attachments for document cameras or individual microscopic document cameras for student iPads. After discussing the purchase with the School District's tech team, it was determined that the District would not support digital plug-in microscope attachments to the school's iPads for a variety of reasons. The tech team suggested that digital microscopes would be better. Ms. Hudak, the Junior Naturalist Advisor and 4th Teacher, who submitted the application, contacted the LMRWD to see if this changed the approval of the grant. The LMRWD staff approved the change to the grant and Ms. Hudak is now requesting reimbursement.

She has submitted receipts and pictures, but we are waiting on the actual final report, as well as a signed grant agreement. It is recommended that the Board authorize reimbursement, subject to receipt of the final report and the signed grant agreement.

Attachments

Educator Mini-grant application from Redtail Ridge Elementary School
November 15, 2023 LMRWD meeting minutes excerpt
Educator Mini-grant agreement (unsigned)
Receipt for purchase of digital microscopes
Pictures of student using purchased equipment

Recommended Action

Motion to authorize reimbursement of Educator Mini-grant for Redtail Ridge Elementary School subject to receipt of final report and signed Cost Share Agreement



Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

Name of School/Organization:

Redtail Ridge Elementary

First Name:

Caren

Last Name:

Hudak

Email:

chudak@plsas.org

Phone:

952-226-8042

Describe your current role?

Junior Naturalist Advisor - 4th Grade Teacher

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

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

15200 Hampshire Ave. S

Address line 2:

City:

Savage

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55378

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:

100

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.

Our school would like to purchase microscope document cameras for students to utilize on site which would be useful and fun for students in exploring the microscopic world. We have several wetland areas on our school site and we could use this equipment to help students understanding of the health our our local wetlands and natural envionment.

I will work with our IT department to find the best option for our technology and make sure that it fits our students needs.

If there is any additional funds from the purchase of microscope document cameras, I would like to purchase specific lesson materials which would help students understand our Minnesota watershed and wetlands.

When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?

We will use this equipment throughout the school year.

Total requested amount (maximum \$500):

\$500

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

Microscope attachment for document camera or individual microscopic document cameras for student l pads at approximately \$40-50 dollars each.

Lesson materials such as slides, books on Minnesota Watershed.

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:

10/20/2023

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
2022 Educator Mini-Grant Program
Cost Share Grant Agreement

This grant agreement made this 16th day of November, 2022 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 Caren Hudak, ("GRANTEE"), Junior Naturalist Advisor and 4th grade teacher at Redtail Ridge Elementary School. The GRANTEE's address is Redtail Ridge Elementary School, 15200 Hampshire Avenue South, Savage, MN 55378.

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 \$500. At the time reimbursement is requested, GRANTEE will provide the LMRWD a reimbursement and reporting request form and receipts for all direct purchases.
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:

Caren Hudak
Redtail Ridge Elementary School
15200 Hampshire Avenue South
Savage, MN 55378

The parties agreeing to be signed as follows:

GRANTEE:

By: _____

Its: Junior Naturalist Advisor - 4th Grade Teacher

Date: _____

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

By: _____

Its: President

Date: _____

Final Details for Order #112-6243928-2654661

Print this page for your records.

Order Placed: May 28, 2024

Amazon.com order number: 112-6243928-2654661

Order Total: \$511.52

Shipped on May 29, 2024

Items Ordered

2 of: *BEAVERLAB Handheld Digital Microscope with 4.3" 1080P IPS Screen, Lightweight and Portable, 20-800x Mag, Mini Microscopes for Kids Ages 8-12, Compatible with iPhone Android Computer*

Price

\$59.00

Sold by: Bsonic US ([seller profile](#))

Supplied by: Bsonic US ([seller profile](#))

Condition: New

Shipping Address:

Caren Hudak
6668 CASEY PKWY
PRIOR LAKE, MN 55372-2603
United States

Shipping Speed:

One-Day Shipping

Shipped on May 29, 2024

Items Ordered

3 of: *BEAVERLAB Handheld Digital Microscope with 4.3" 1080P IPS Screen, Lightweight and Portable, 20-800x Mag, Mini Microscopes for Kids Ages 8-12, Compatible with iPhone Android Computer*

Price

\$59.00

Sold by: Bsonic US ([seller profile](#))

Supplied by: Bsonic US ([seller profile](#))

Condition: New

Shipping Address:

Caren Hudak
6668 CASEY PKWY
PRIOR LAKE, MN 55372-2603
United States

Shipping Speed:

One-Day Shipping

Shipped on May 30, 2024

Items Ordered

3 of: *BEAVERLAB Handheld Digital Microscope with 4.3" 1080P IPS Screen, Lightweight and Portable, 20-800x Mag, Mini Microscopes for Kids Ages 8-12, Compatible with iPhone Android Computer*

Price

\$59.00

Sold by: Bsonic US ([seller profile](#))

Supplied by: Bsonic US ([seller profile](#))

Condition: New

Shipping Address:

Caren Hudak
6668 CASEY PKWY
PRIOR LAKE, MN 55372-2603
United States

Shipping Speed:

One-Day Shipping

Payment information

Payment Method:

Mastercard ending in 2971

Billing address

Caren Hudak
6668 CASEY PKWY
PRIOR LAKE, MN 55372-2603
United States

Credit Card transactions

Item(s) Subtotal:	\$472.00
Shipping & Handling:	\$0.00

Total before tax:	\$472.00
Estimated tax to be collected:	\$39.52

Grand Total:	\$511.52

MasterCard ending in 2971: May 30, 2024: \$511.52

To view the status of your order, return to [Order Summary](#).

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