



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting  
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

### **Agenda Item**

#### **Item 7. D. – Education & Outreach**

#### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### **Summary**

The LMRWD sent postcards to reach out to residents that may be interested in joining the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). An area of the LMRWD that was not already represented on the CAC was targeted. Several individuals responded and Young Environmental Consulting Group, on behalf of the LMRWD, had conversations with them and is recommending those individuals be appointed to the CAC.

A summary of the conversations along with recommendations is attached, along with a resolution appointing new members to the CAC.

#### **Attachments**

Technical Memorandum - New Applicants for the LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee dated August 14, 2024

Resolution 24-12 2024 Citizen Advisory Committee Appointments

#### **Recommended Action**

Motion to adopt Resolution 24-12 2024 Citizen Advisory Committee Appointments

# Technical Memorandum



**To:** Linda Loomis, Administrator  
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD)

**From:** Suzy Lindberg, Communications Manager

**Date:** August 14, 2024

**Re:** New Applicants for the LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee

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Following a summer 2024 recruitment push that included community events and a direct-mail postcard campaign, the LMRWD received applications from five community members interested in joining the growing Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Many applicants are from the Shakopee, Minnesota, region, which was a targeted area for the postcard.

## Meet the Applicants

**Karl Disney** is a certified public accountant who lives near Dean's Lake. Karl is interested in serving on the CAC because he believes water management is important in addressing the impacts of climate change. He is a first-time volunteer and is interested in contributing to the conservation of water and natural resources within his community.

**Kati Johngrass** lives in Savage, Minnesota, and has a lifelong passion for volunteering and community service. She has a perpetual curiosity for nature and has been seeking new ways to give back to her community and improve the environment. She stated that the CAC seems like a perfect fit to align with her desire to help conserve local natural resources. She wants to help educate the community and bring a sense of ownership on how the public can support improving and maintaining waterways. Although not formally trained as an educator, Kati has 14 years of experience directly managing and coaching through her roles as customer service manager at Burley Foods and executive team leader at Target. She lives near the Savage Fen and the Rudy Kramer Nature Preserve and believes it is critical to protect these areas for future generations.

**Meah Vogel** is earning a degree in ecology at Normandale Community College. She is interested in the local environment and how she can protect it as a young person. She applied to the CAC to learn more while implementing her own ideas. She brings project experience with the Metropolitan Council, where she used community outreach to bring proposals forward. She is interested in

environmental topics that include gardening and native plants to bring biodiversity to her neighborhood. In addition to her college career, Meah is a store associate at Target.

**John Williams** is a teacher who lives near Dean's Lake. He is passionate about improving and preserving the environment for future generations. As a teacher with South Washington County Schools, he identified the CAC opportunity as a way to model involvement in watershed management to his students. He is interested in learning to implement conservation practice and include these topics in his curriculum. His family has adopted a section of highway in Minnesota to care for, and he volunteers as a water quality monitor for a lake in northern Minnesota. John noted his schedule would allow him to be involved in various capacities to support the LMRWD's mission and goals.

**Kathryn Zebrev** is a self-employed real estate agent who lives near Dean's Lake. Kathryn grew up near the Minnesota River and has a bachelor's degree in science with a wildlife management specialization. She believes water and preservation are key to sustainability, and she is an avid recreational user of the cross-country running trails within the LMRWD. Through her work in real estate, she is dedicated to all members of the community and works to improve access to local water and natural resources.

## Recommendations

All applicants have received communication with a thank-you letter and next steps for approval. We have invited them to attend the August Board meeting, where their applications will be discussed and approved. Following review, we recommend approving all five applicants to join our CAC, bringing our total number to 11 active participants. Based on the success of the direct-mail campaign, we will continue future targeted mailings to drive CAC recruitment. If members are approved, the LMRWD Education and Outreach team will devote an upcoming CAC meeting to onboarding the new members and resetting expectations for how the CAC functions. Young Environmental will lead discussions with the CAC about identifying meaningful work CAC members can complete using their skills and setting direction for continued success in 2025.

RESOLUTION 24-12

RESOLUTION OF THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS

2024 Citizen Advisory Committee Appointments

Manager \_\_\_\_\_ offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103D.331, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) Board of Managers must annually appoint a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), organized to assist the LMRWD Board of Managers on matters affecting the interests of the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, the CAC is organized to assist the LMRWD Board of Managers on matters affecting the interests of the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, statute requires the committee consist of at least five (5) members; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the LMRWD received two applications for the CAC; and

WHEREAS, LMRWD staff has reviewed the applicant's background, experience, community service and geographic representation within the watershed and recommends the appointment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers hereby appoint the following individuals to the 2024 Citizen Advisory Committee:

- Karl Disney
- John Williams
- Kati Johngrass
- Kathryn Zebrev
- Meah Vogel

The question was on the adoption of the Resolution and there were \_\_\_ yeas and \_\_\_ nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
BARISONZI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KUPLIC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LAMMERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SALVATO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VISWANATHAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(signatures on following page)

Upon a vote being taken, the President declared Resolution 24-12 adopted by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District this 21st day of August 2024.

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Joseph Barisonzi, President

ATTEST:

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Lauren Salvato, Secretary