



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

August 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

LMRWD website accessibility

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) final rule on the accessibility of state and local government websites and mobile apps went into effect on June 24, 2024. The rule requires that digital content conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA, which is a technical standard developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The rule aims to ensure that web content and mobile apps are accessible to people with disabilities.

The LMRWD authorized HDR Engineering to review and update the LMRWD website for compliance. LMRWD staff will begin to review all documents posted to the website for accessibility.

Final report on Trout Stream Assessment project

The final written report on the trout stream assessment project conducted by interns that was presented to the Board at the July 17, 2024, Board of Managers will be in the September Board meeting materials to be received, filed and posted to the LMRWD website.

Several questions came up at the July meeting regarding trout streams. The DNR conducted electro-fishing at Ike's Creek and Eagle Creek in fall 2023. Trout were found at both creeks. The reports are not yet finalized and the DNR has said that the reports will be shared with the LMRWD when they are final.

US Fish & Wildlife Services is working toward working on the project to stabilize the ravines at Ike's Creek that are contributing sediment to the creek. The project will remove the structure obstructing the creek just above the gravel trail. It will also look to replace the culvert under the trail with a bridge that will allow the creek to reconnect with its floodplain in that reach of the creek. They plan to restore the meanders in the creek below the culvert. They are currently working to permit the project and will apply to the LMRWD for a permit soon.

2024 Salt Symposium

On August 6th and 7th, I attended the 2024 Salt Symposium. Overall, the presentations were very good. It was interesting to hear from the City of Bloomington about the efforts they are making to eliminate the use of salt altogether.

River Resource Forum

On August 13th and 14th, the US Army Corps of Engineers held its quarterly River Resource Forum in Redwing, Minnesota. I joined the meeting virtually. Some of the topics discussed were the problems dams posed to fish passage. In the past, the USACE focused on making sure fish could

pass lock and dams, however with the introduction of invasive fish species, the USACE is now being asked to block fish passage. The USACE is planning to build spawning reefs for lake sturgeon at Robinson Lake, near Wabasha, MN. Experience with similar projects has proven that reefs are beneficial to other species such walleye, redbtail and mussels.

They were able to tour the Pierce County Islands during the afternoon of the 13th. Pierce County Islands are at the head of Lake Pepin and are within the National Wildlife Refuge.

Reports were provided by the various work groups. Most notable was the report on channel maintenance and dredge materials placement sites. The USACE is managing much more sediment than was envisioned at the time the Channel Maintenance Management Plan (CMMP) was developed in the 1990s. They are dredging twice the amount of sediment in about half the time. This creates problems for the placement of dredge material. Dredge placement sites have more material than was envisioned and the material is being stacked higher than was planned for in the Dredge Materials Management Plans (DMMP).

The Channel Maintenance group walked through the 2024 dredge schedule. No dredging is planned for the Minnesota River in 2024. The nature of river elevations in 2024 was discussed. There was no snow melt to contend with, however highwater events occurred in June, July and August. There was consensus that the Mississippi River has not received a significant load of sediment from the Minnesota River, it is expected that the Minnesota River flush its load sometime in the future.

Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance

I reported at the July meeting that I met with the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, the MPCA, and BWSR about a public education plan to be developed by the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance. They are planning to apply for an NGO grant through BWSR and plan to invite the Prairie Island Tribe (a Mdewakanton Sioux Community) to participate in the project with them.

FY 2022 Financial Audit

I have spoken with Redpath recently. They are scheduling our 2022 audit, and I should hear from them soon about the schedule. They did inform me that they have increased their fees since they agreed to conduct the 2022 audit. I will share the increased cost with the Board once I know what the increase will be.

Lewis Street Water Quality Improvement Project in Downtown Shakopee

This project is a result of a feasibility study the City Shakopee developed in partnership with the LMRWD. All stormwater from downtown Shakopee ran directly to the Minnesota River and the City retained the services of Barr Engineering to recommend BMPs that could be implemented to treat stormwater before it enters the River. This project will collect stormwater in chambers under a reconstructed parking lot. The chambers were installed the week of August 15th. Picture of the chamber installation follow:



Watershed Plan Projects

LMRWD Water Resource Restoration Fund: There is no new information to report since the last update.

MAC Boundary Adjustment: The LMRWD has received notice that the boundary change has been approved. Notice of this is on the August 21, 2024, Board agenda. The project is now considered complete and will not appear on future reports.

Eagle Creek Bank Restoration at Town & Country RV Facility: No new information to report on this project since last update.

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

Spring Creek: A report on this project is on the August agenda.

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

Gully Inventory and Assessment: An update on this project was included in the workplan update presented to the Board of Managers at the July Board of Managers meeting.

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 project is on the August 21, 2024, Board of Managers meeting agenda.

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

Minnesota River Floodplain Modeling An update on this project was included in the workplan update presented to the Board of Managers at the July Board of Managers meeting.

Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management: An update on this project is on the August Board of Managers meeting agenda.

Geomorphic Assessments (Trout Streams): A presentation on the 2024 trout stream assessment was made at the July Board of Managers meeting. The final report will be presented to the Board in September.

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: There is no new information to report on this project since the last update.

Here is a link to the [feasibility report](#) Area C-2.

Shakopee Riverbank Stabilization: There is no new information to report on this project since the last update.

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>

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.

- ~~LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 4:30 pm - cancelled~~
- [Minnesota Stormwater Seminar Series](#) – Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 9:30 to 11:30 am, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, 2 SE 3rd Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55414 and [virtual on Zoom](#)
- LMRWD Riverboat Cruise – loading begins at 2:30 pm, departure 3:00 pm, CHS terminal, 6200 State Highway 13, Savage, MN. Buses will return guests to CHS after arrival in St. Paul
- [Water Connects Us - Freshwater](#) – September 12, 2024. 5:00 pm, Forgotten Star Brewing, 38 Northern Stacks Drive, Fridley, MN
- UMWA (Upper Mississippi Waterway Association) monthly meeting – Thursday, September 19, 2024, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm virtual
- Scott County Outdoor Education Day – Monday September 23, 2024, through Thursday September 26, 2024, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Cedar Lake Regional Park, 25875 Juniper Avenue, New Prague, MN
- [Metro Children’s Water Festival](#), September 25, 2024, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, MN State Fair Grounds
- [MAISRC Showcase](#) (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) – Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, St. Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota. St. Paul Campus
- [Water Resource Conference](#) – October 15 & 16, 2024, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, St. Paul River Centre, 175 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN
- [BWSR Academy](#) – October 29 through October 31, 2024, Cragun’s Conference Center, 11000 Craguns Drive, Brainerd, MN
- [MN Watershed Annual Conference](#) – December 4 through December 6, 2024, Grandview Lodge, 23521 Nokomis Avenue, Nisswa, MN