



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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September 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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### **Minnesota River Dredging**

On August 26, 2024, the LMRWD received notice that dredging will occur in the Minnesota River.

We were able to see dredging in action during the River Cruise. The LMRWD made a sale of material at the end of 2023. So far between 11,000 and 12,000 CY has been removed from the site.

### **FY 2022 Financial Audit**

Redpath has begun work on the 2022 Financial Audit. I have been making sure that Redpath has all the documents necessary to complete the audit. We hope to have it completed in October and ready for the Board to review in November.

### **Other work ordered by the Board of Managers**

President Barisonzi asked about several items the Board has requested or provided direction to staff that were not on the September meeting agenda. Here are updates on each of the items:

- The status of the standing meetings.  
**Update:** This will be brought to the Board at the October meeting. This item is related to the List of Committees/Board for Board representation listed below.
- Followup on our Board orientation re: Open meeting law  
**Update:** A meeting will be arranged for October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Permits option Review  
**Update:** Staff has met to discuss the suggestions made by President Barisonzi at the August Board of Managers meeting. Legal Counsel is reviewing MN Statute to see how the LMRWD can structure some of these items. A plan will be brought to the Board for approval once it has been developed
- Education/Outreach contractor request to change/plan/meeting/rebid. We had a clear motion on this in July, but I guess they don't want to or don't know how to implement?

**Update:** Workplans for 2025 are being developed for presentation to the Board at the October Board meeting. The motion made at the July meeting was intended to be incorporated in the 2025 workplan.

- List of Committees/Board for Board representation

**Update:** This item will come back to the Board at the October meeting with more information about specific committees such as developing a charter for each of the committees, so that Board members understand the work of each committee. This item is related to the Status of Standing Committees listed above.

A personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am, Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- By-laws w/ Conflict of Interest policy?

**Update:** This item was set aside pending a staff rewrite. It will be at the November Board of Managers meeting

- There are items that were requested that just seem to have been dropped -- like my recommendation to contact MN-IWLA re: IKEs Creek signage. Have I ever signed the agreement re: MN River Congress? Or the Legal Agreement?

**Update:** Once we have a bid for the cost of the signs, a letter will be drafted to the Izaak Walton League asking to share in the cost of the fabrication of the signs. The agreement with the MN River Congress is with Legal Counsel. The extension of the PSA between the LMRWD and Rinke Noonan is with legal counsel.

- I had requested to speak at the first CAC meeting where the new members came, and I have yet to receive communications of when that will be.

**Update:** Agendas for the CAC meetings are not sent out until about two weeks before the CAC meeting, however all CAC meetings are listed on the monthly Board meeting agenda and the monthly Administrator Report, with as much information as is known at the time of the monthly Board meeting. These are standing meetings that occur on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm. Staff is working on a calendar subscription so that Managers can receive automatic notification when meetings are scheduled.

- Do you have a running list of these items?

**Update:** Staff does keep a list of all these items. Previous Boards had requested that all items appear on the monthly agenda, until they were resolved. President Barisonzi said that he did not feel that practice should be continued, so unless Board action is necessary the items do not appear on the agenda. However, I will begin to keep a list on the monthly Administrator report to advise the Board of activities regarding each of these items.

- I am assuming that the third quarter update at the October meeting?

**Update:** Q3 Workplan update will be presented at the October 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

## Watershed Plan Projects

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

**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 September 18, 2024 Board of Managers meeting agenda.

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

**Gully Inventory and Assessment:** There is no new information report on this project since the last update.

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 September 18, 2024, Board of Managers meeting agenda.

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

**Minnesota River Floodplain Modeling** No new information to report since the last update.

**Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management:** An update on this project is on the September 18, 2024, 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 October.

**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:** There is no new information to report since the last update.

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.*

- 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
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting – Tuesday, October 1, 2024 4:30 pm, Schram Haus Brewery, 3700 Chaska Boulevard, Chaska, MN
- Metro Watersheds – Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 7:00 pm, Capitol Region Watershed District, 595 Aldine, St. Paul, MN
- [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 Cragun’s Drive, Brainerd, MN
- [MN Watershed Annual Conference](#) – December 4 through December 6, 2024, Grandview Lodge, 23521 Nokomis Avenue, Nisswa, MN