



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 8. A. – MN Watersheds Membership

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

MN Watersheds has asked that the Board of Managers consider rejoining MN Watersheds. They have sent an information packet for the Board to review.

There are six Watershed Districts that are not members of MN Watersheds. The organization has opened membership to Watershed Management Organizations (WMO) and three WMOs are currently members. WMOs are located in the Metro Area. In 1982, the Minnesota Legislature created the Metropolitan Area Surface Water Management Act, which requires local units of government in the seven-county Metro Area to prepare and implement comprehensive surface water management plans through membership in a Watershed Management Organization (WMO). The act provides three options to organize WMOs:

- As a joint powers agreement between the cities and townships within the watershed;
- As a watershed district (a special unit of local government operating under [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B](#), and concurrently operating under [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D](#));
- As a function of county government, usually administered by the county planning department.

Obviously, the LMRWD pre-dates the Metropolitan Area Surface Water Management Act, as do many other Metro-area and WMOs organized as joint powers organizations and county government organizations like the Carver County WMO and the Scott County WMO.

The Board should affirm its decision to not join MN Watersheds or if it determines to rejoin, make such a motion.

Attachments

Information packet from MN Watershed

Recommended Action

No action recommended



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 29, 2024
TO: Watershed District and Watershed Management Organization Administrators
FROM: Jan Voit, Executive Director
CC: Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors
 Angie Obremski, Accountant
RE: 2025 Membership Invitation

PRESIDENT
 Linda Vavra (Region 1)
 Bois de Sioux WD
lvavra@fedtel.net
 320-760-1774 | Term 2023

VICE PRESIDENT
 Peter Fjestad (Region 1)
 Buffalo Red River WD
pfjestad@prtel.com
 218-731-4630 | Term 2025

SECRETARY
 Wanda Holker (Region 2)
 Upper Minnesota WD
ewholker@fedtel.net
 320-760-6093 | Term 2024

TREASURER
 David Ziegler (Region 3)
 Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD
david_ziegler@outlook.com
 952-905-1889 | Term 2025

DIRECTORS
 Gene Tiedemann (Region 1)
 Red Lake WD
gtiedemann@rrv.net
 218-289-3511 | Term 2024

Jeff Gertgen (Region 2)
 Middle Fork Crow River WD
jlalaison@gmail.com
 608-370-3934 | Term 2023

Brad Kramer (Region 2)
 Shell Rock River WD
brad@provenioconsulting.com
 507-369-6050 | Term 2025

Mary Texer (Region 3)
 Capitol Region WD
metexer@gmail.com
 651-224-2919 | Term 2023

Don Pereira (Region 3)
 Valley Branch WD
dpereira@vbwd.org
 651-968-9788 | Term 2023

Jan Voit
 Executive Director
jvoit@mnwatersheds.com
 507-822-0921

As a non-profit organization that serves local governments, both rural and urban, that focus on water management on watershed boundaries, Minnesota Watersheds is a membership-driven organization. We would greatly appreciate your membership in our organization.

Member services include regular communication regarding Minnesota Watersheds activities, as well as education and training opportunities at workshops, our legislative event, our summer tour, and our annual conference and trade show. We also provide lobbying services and are working with the Lockridge Grindal Nauen lobbying firm for the 2025 legislative session and beyond.

Please find attached a 2025 membership dues invoice and a spreadsheet that shows the amount due from each watershed district or watershed management organization in 2024. **The dues formula remains the same as in 2024.** Our bylaws state that the dues payable date is January 31 each year.

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues Calculation = Estimated Market Value (EMV) x 0.00048 x 0.005, not to exceed cap

103D rural member	Cap = \$5,000
103D rural member with additional tax revenue options	Cap = \$7,500
103B metro WD member (EMV ≤ \$10B)	Cap = \$7,500
103B metro WD member (EMV ≥ \$10B)	Cap = \$12,500

**Minnesota Watersheds
 c/o Obremski Ltd.
 1005 Mainstreet
 Hopkins, MN 55343**

PLEASE SEND PAYMENT DIRECTLY TO OUR ACCOUNTANT.

We cannot be successful without our members. We would greatly appreciate your support. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 507-822-0921 or jvoit@mnwatersheds.com.

We are stronger TOGETHER!

Enclosures:

- Dues invoice
- Member Services
- 2025 dues spreadsheet
- BWSR memo dated July 24, 2024 re: 2024 Estimated Market Values





INVOICE

Minnesota Watersheds
1005 Mainstreet
Hopkins, MN 55343
507-822-0921
jvoit@mnwatersheds.com

Invoice No : 100
Date : 10/29/2024

Name
Lower Minnesota Watershed

2025	Minnesota Watersheds	Dues	Line Total
Amount due			\$ 12,500.00



Subtotal	\$ 12,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 12,500.00

Make all checks payable to Minnesota Watersheds.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Member Services



**MINNESOTA
WATERSHEDS**
Connecting People. Protecting Water.

What is Minnesota Watersheds?

Minnesota Watersheds is a 501c(4) non-profit and membership based organization serving local governments that manage water on watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries. Members benefit from having an organization that **supports and advocates for leaders in watershed management** and works diligently to maximize the availability of tools and resources to **establish excellence and innovation** in member organizations.

Fortify the infrastructure to ensure reliable delivery of services



We maintain regular communication with our members to ensure they are informed of the latest watershed news including trainings they may find useful, changes to legislation that may impact them, and information to help them stay in compliance with governmental regulations and laws. **Strategic Plan efforts:** continued commitment to communication through newsletters and distributing meeting information, maintaining an up-to-date website, and consistently engaging committees.

Serve as a liaison to collaborate with statewide agencies and associations



We continue to maximize relationships with state agencies and associations as the best way to advance initiatives, especially with the legislature. **Strategic Plan efforts:** met regularly with Board of Water and Soil Resources and Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators leadership and attended meetings with Local Government Water Roundtable staff.

Ensure strong legislative policies are in place for watershed management



Members drive the organization's policies through an annual resolutions process. From these resolutions, our Board of Directors sets each year's priorities. Our lobbyist works to influence political decisions on our behalf. **Strategic Plan efforts:** developed a legislative platform, secured legislative modernization of M.S. Chapter 103D, and hired a new lobbying team.

Enhance the skills of watershed district and watershed management organization boards



Every year, we provide members with opportunities to learn from other members and industry experts at our events. Training topics include watershed planning, permitting, flood control, education and outreach programs, innovative technologies, public relations, data collection and analysis, aquatic invasive species, drainage, governance, and leadership. **Strategic Plan efforts:** maintain our watershed handbook and provide training at events.

Build a watershed community that supports one another



The Board of Directors appreciates your watershed's support through attendance at the Legislative Day at the Capitol, Summer Tour, and Annual Conference. We value the opportunity to work with board members and staff at these events. We welcome your involvement in the Board of Directors and on our committees. This is **YOUR** organization. We look forward to serving you in the coming year. **Strategic Plan efforts:** share member services information and increase interaction with member organizations.

Coming together is a **beginning**; keeping together is **progress**; working together is **SUCCESS**.

- Henry Ford

Member Services



**MINNESOTA
WATERSHEDS**

Connecting People. Protecting Water.



Our Members

Region I		
Bois de Sioux	Buffalo-Red River	Cormorant Lakes
Joe River	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers	Pelican River
Red Lake	Roseau River	Sand Hill River
Two Rivers	Warroad	Wild Rice
Region II		
Buffalo Creek	Cedar River	Clearwater River
Crooked Creek	Heron Lake	High Island Creek
Kanaranzi-Little Rock	Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank	Middle Fork Crow River
North Fork Crow River	Okabena-Ocheda	Shell Rock River
Turtle Creek	Upper Minnesota River	Yellow Medicine River
Region III		
Bassett Creek WMC	Brown's Creek	Capitol Region
Carnelian Marine St. Croix	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake	Coon Creek
Minnehaha Creek	Mississippi WMO	Nine Mile Creek
Prior Lake Spring Lake	Ramsey-Washington Metro	Rice Creek
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek	South Washington	Vadnais Lake Area WMO
Valley Branch		

Minnesota Watersheds offers opportunities to increase watershed management skills, build relationships, and develop partnerships with like-minded groups and organizations.

2025 Minnesota Watersheds Membership Dues

WATERSHED DISTRICT	2024 Estimated Market Values (EMV)	.048% EMV	x 0.005	2025 Dues
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER	15,305,048,900	7,346,423	36,732	12,500
RILEY-PURGATORY-BLUFF CREEK	20,710,259,500	9,940,925	49,705	12,500
SOUTH WASHINGTON	21,029,559,100	10,094,188	50,471	12,500
RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO	23,891,815,500	11,468,071	57,340	12,500
COON CREEK	24,424,365,800	11,723,696	58,618	12,500
NINE MILE CREEK	27,882,559,300	13,383,628	66,918	12,500
CAPITOL REGION	30,814,875,600	14,791,140	73,956	12,500
RICE CREEK	34,854,778,600	16,730,294	83,651	12,500
MINNEHAHA CREEK	76,039,742,300	36,499,076	182,495	12,500
CARNELIAN MARINE ST. CROIX	2,584,685,300	1,240,649	6,203	6,203
BROWN'S CREEK	3,004,131,300	1,441,983	7,210	7,210
COMFORT LAKE - FOREST LAKE	3,214,087,500	1,542,762	7,714	7,500
PRIOR LAKE - SPRING LAKE	6,345,112,700	3,045,654	15,228	7,500
VALLEY BRANCH	8,158,601,700	3,916,129	19,581	7,500
JOE RIVER	282,902,600	135,793	679	679
ROSEAU RIVER	1,186,753,200	569,642	2,848	2,848
THE TWO RIVERS	2,135,949,900	1,025,256	5,126	5,126
SHELL ROCK RIVER	2,941,346,200	1,411,846	7,059	7,059
MIDDLE SNAKE TAMARAC RIVERS	3,886,126,100	1,865,341	9,327	7,500
WILD RICE	5,656,472,500	2,715,107	13,576	7,500
BOIS DE SIOUX	5,741,851,600	2,756,089	13,780	7,500
RED LAKE	11,749,264,400	5,639,647	28,198	7,500
SAUK RIVER	12,683,604,400	6,088,130	30,441	7,500
BEAR VALLEY	311,473,200	149,507	748	748
CROOKED CREEK	515,086,800	247,242	1,236	1,236
BELLE CREEK	542,064,100	260,191	1,301	1,301
WARROAD	616,404,100	295,874	1,479	1,479
STOCKTON-ROLLINGSTONE WS	719,615,200	345,415	1,727	1,727
CORMORANT LAKES	987,758,700	474,124	2,371	2,371
OKABENA-OCHEDEA	1,476,416,800	708,680	3,543	3,543
SAND HILL RIVER	1,613,634,300	774,544	3,873	3,873
TURTLE CREEK	1,785,764,200	857,167	4,286	4,286
HIGH ISLAND	1,863,578,300	894,518	4,473	4,473
UPPER MINNESOTA RIVER	1,889,315,500	906,871	4,534	4,534
NORTH FORK CROW RIVER	2,187,673,000	1,050,083	5,250	5,000
MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER	2,681,271,500	1,287,010	6,435	5,000
CLEARWATER RIVER	2,684,990,500	1,288,795	6,444	5,000
KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK	2,697,762,200	1,294,926	6,475	5,000
PELICAN RIVER	3,411,723,800	1,637,627	8,188	5,000
BUFFALO CREEK	3,677,321,700	1,765,114	8,826	5,000
HERON LAKE	3,817,492,200	1,832,396	9,162	5,000
YELLOW MEDICINE RIVER	3,978,668,000	1,909,761	9,549	5,000
LAC QUI PARLE-YELLOW BANK	4,193,572,200	2,012,915	10,065	5,000
CEDAR RIVER	4,728,314,400	2,269,591	11,348	5,000
BUFFALO-RED RIVER	12,253,917,100	5,881,880	29,409	5,000
Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs)				
Bassett Creek WMC	14,409,438,000	6,916,530	34,583	7,500
Mississippi WMO	34,094,634,023	16,365,424	81,827	7,500
Vadnais Lakes Area WMO	5,568,461,800	2,672,862	13,364	7,500
New WMO members - 1st year \$500	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	457,230,245,623	219,470,518	1,097,353	308,697

Notes:

Dues Calculation = Estimated Market Values x 0.00048 x 0.005, not to exceed cap
 For Greater MN; x 0.00096 x 0.005, not to exceed cap

103B metro WD member (EMV≥\$10B): Cap = \$12,500
103B metro WD member (EMV≤\$10B): Cap = \$7,500
103D rural member with additional tax revenue options: Cap = \$7,500
103D rural member: Cap = \$5,000
WMO dues remain unchanged from the 2024 rate



Source of 2024 WD Estimated Market Values: See included BWSR Memorandum, July 24, 2024
 Source of 2024 WMO Estimated Market Values - same values used for 2021 dues calculation
 For more information, contact Jan Voit at 507-822-0921 or jvoit@mnwatersheds.com

Memo

Date: July 24, 2024

To: Watershed District Administrators and Managers

From: Melissa King, Tribal Liaison

Cc: Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds
Rob Sip, Red River Watershed Management Board
BWSR: John Jaschke, Andrea Fish, Justin Hanson, Dave Weirens, Amie Wunderlich, Regional Operations Staff

RE: 2024 Estimated Taxable Market Values for Watershed Districts

Please find attached a table containing the recently released total estimate market values for 2024 from the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Session law changes enacted during the 2023 regular session effected the calculation of and increased the annual maximum general fund tax levy for a watershed district ([Minn. Stat. § 103D.905, Subd. 3](#)). The session law changes are effective beginning with the 2024 assessment year and thereafter. To calculate the annual maximum general fund tax levy for a particular watershed district:

- Multiply the estimated market value listed in the enclosed table for the watershed district by 0.096 percent (0.00096)
- Compare that calculated value to the maximum general fund levy limit of \$500,000
- Use whichever value is less

Please contact me at melissa.king@state.mn.us or 651.350.8845 with any questions.

Attachment: Taxes Payable 2024 Estimated & Taxable Market Values for Watershed Districts in Minnesota

TAXES PAYABLE 2024**ESTIMATED & TAXABLE MARKET VALUES (EMV) FOR WATERSHEDS DISTRICTS IN MINNESOTA**

Watershed Code	Watershed Name	Total EMV
001	Bear Valley Watershed District	\$ 311,473,200
002	Cedar River Watershed District	\$ 4,728,314,400
003	Belle Creek Watershed District	\$ 542,064,100
005	Buffalo Creek Watershed District	\$ 3,677,321,700
007	Buffalo-Red River Watershed District	\$ 12,253,917,100
008	North Fork Crow River Watershed District	\$ 2,187,673,000
009	Clearwater River Watershed District	\$ 2,684,990,500
010	Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District	\$ 2,584,685,300
013	Coon Creek Watershed District	\$ 24,424,365,800
014	South Washington Watershed District	\$ 21,029,559,100
015	Cormorant Lakes Watershed District	\$ 987,758,700
016	Crooked Creek Watershed District	\$ 515,086,800
018	High Island Watershed District	\$ 1,863,578,300
020	Joe River Watershed District	\$ 282,902,600
021	Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District	\$ 2,697,762,200
022	Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District	\$ 4,193,572,200
024	Heron Lake Watershed District	\$ 3,817,492,200
026	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District	\$ 3,886,126,100
028	Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District	\$ 1,476,416,800
030	Pelican River Watershed District	\$ 3,411,723,800
031	Bois De Sioux Watershed District	\$ 5,741,851,600
032	Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District	\$ 6,345,112,700
034	Ramsey-Washington Metropolitan Watershed District	\$ 23,891,815,500
036	Red Lake Watershed District	\$ 11,749,264,400
038	Rice Creek Watershed District	\$ 34,854,778,600
040	Roseau River Watershed District	\$ 1,186,753,200
042	Sand Hill Watershed District	\$ 1,613,634,300
043	Sauk River Watershed District	\$ 12,683,604,400
044	Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City Watershed District	\$ 719,615,200
048	Turtle Creek Watershed District	\$ 1,785,764,200
050	The Two Rivers Watershed District	\$ 2,135,949,900
052	Upper Minnesota River Watershed District	\$ 1,889,315,500
054	Valley Branch Watershed District	\$ 8,158,601,700
056	Warroad Watershed District	\$ 616,404,100
058	Nine Mile Creek Watershed District	\$ 27,882,559,300
060	Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	\$ 15,305,048,900
062	Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	\$ 76,039,742,300
064	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District	\$ 20,710,259,500
066	Wild Rice Watershed District	\$ 5,656,472,500
068	Yellow Medicine River Watershed District	\$ 3,978,668,000
069	Browns Creek Watershed District	\$ 3,004,131,300
070	Capitol Region Watershed District	\$ 30,814,875,600
071	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	\$ 3,214,087,500
073	Shell Rock River Watershed District	\$ 2,941,346,200
074	Middle Fork-Crow River Watershed District	\$ 2,681,271,500

SOURCE: Minnesota Department of Revenue 2024 PRISM SUBMISSION #3 - FINAL ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION