



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

### Agenda Item

#### Item 5. D. – Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee

#### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### Summary

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met on January 7, 2025. The new time for the meeting, 6:00 PM seemed to improve attendance, as a quorum was able to join the virtual meeting.

Elections for CAC officers was held. Lee Peterson was elected as Chair and Patti Thomsen was elected Vice-chair.

The CAC did calendar planning for 2025. They intend to continue to table at community events, such as the Eden Prairie Green Fair and Arbor Day Walk, the Egan Native Plant Market and Farmers Markets. They will plan to meet virtually in February, March, November and December. They plan to visit LMRWD Cost Share Projects and would like to visit Ike's Creek and/or Boiling Spring.

They plan to prepare articles for local publication and the goal is to write four articles per year. They also discussed attending Board of Manager meetings at least four times per year.

Some CAC members attended the Listening Session.

The Administrator updated the CAC on watershed activities and answered questions.

#### Attachments

CAC tentative Calendar

#### Recommended Action

No action recommended.

# 2025 Citizen Advisory Monthly Meeting Calendar

## Events, Tours, Topics, and Talks



Jan 7, 2025

### Standard Virtual Meeting

Focus on confirming 2025 calendar, electoral roles, Board meeting attendance, and article assignments.

Feb 4, 2025

### Standard Virtual Meeting

**GUEST SPEAKER**

March 4, 2025

### Standard Virtual Meeting

Review Annual Report Draft. Informative presentation by author of Spring Article.

April 1, 2025

### Ike's Creek Ephemeral Tour

Tour Ike's Creek to view forest floor early blooms. **Review Spring educator mini-grant applications.**

May 6, 2025

### Standard In-Person Meeting (Location: TBD)

**GUEST SPEAKER**

June 3, 2025

### Cost-Share Tour

Visit cost-share sites in the LMRWD to see dollars at work for the environment.



Spring Article Due:



Board Mtg: July



Summer Article Due:



Board Mtg:

July 1, 2025

### Standard In-Person Meeting (Location: TBD)

Informative presentation by author of Summer Article

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Aug 5, 2025

### Boiling Springs Tour

Tour Boiling Springs and learn more about its history as a sacred site and as a tourist destination of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Sept 2, 2025

### Minnesota River Boat Tour (Tentative)

Watch the leaves change as you enjoy the Minnesota River.

Oct 7, 2025

### Standard In-Person Meeting (Location: TBD)

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Nov 3, 2025

### Standard Virtual Meeting

Informative presentation by author of Fall Article. Review and score Fall educator mini-grant applications.

Dec 2, 2025

### Standard Virtual Meeting

End-of-year recap, celebration, and recognition of CAC. Informative presentation by author of Winter Article.



Fall Article Due: July



Board Mtg:



Winter Article Due:



Board Mtg:

In December 2023, the group discussed tours and presentations they would like to participate in during 2024. Below is a list of potential opportunities and recommendations:

CAC Brainstorm	Staff Recommendations
<b>Boiling Springs tour</b>	Recommend avoiding Boiling Springs as sacred ground.
<b>Ike's Creek or other trout stream tour</b>	Ike's Creek is a good site visit: the Citizen Advisory Committee could do a joint tour with the summer interns in July/August following their geomorphic assessment work.
<b>CHS or Cargill tour</b>	Linda has connections to pursue a tour. Goal for spring 2024. <b>Action Item: Linda supply contacts to arrange tour.</b>
<b>Water treatment plant tour</b>	Back-burner tour based on number of ideas. <b>Action Item: Research potential partners for tour in late 2024.</b>
<b>Waterfowl migration outing on the Minnesota River (Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) mentioned as potential partners)</b>	The Minnesota River at the Old Cedar Bridge is noted as an ideal place for wildlife viewing. Goal for late April or May 2024 to do a bird-watching activity along the river. <b>Action Item: Research potential partners/events through either the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or the Saint Paul Audubon Society.</b>
<b>LMRWD cost-share project tours</b>	June should be a good time of year to tour cost-share projects.
<b>Conservation farming presentation demonstrating farming along the Minnesota River (Sever Peterson mentioned as a potential partner)</b>	<b>Action Item: Research potential partners and discuss whether an in-person site visit or web-based presentation is the best method.</b>
<b>Wetland bank tour</b>	We recommend this is not the best fit with the LMRWD's work. Could consider fens as a resource to visit at another time in the future.

<p><b>Presentation from an engineer about how water and natural resources issues are identified and solved</b></p>	<p><b>Action Item: Schedule and confirm an engineer/scientist speaker from the technical consultant pool to present on the process of taking a project from start to finish.</b></p>
<p><b>Minnesota River water quality and monitoring presentation Presentations on other resources monitored in the LMRWD (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) mentioned as potential partners)</b></p>	<p><b>Action Item: Schedule and confirm a volunteer speaker to discuss the topic virtually.</b></p>
<p><b>Additional Recommendations from Staff:</b></p>	
<p><b>Minnesota River Boat Tour</b></p>	<p>This has been successful in the past. Increase connection to the Minnesota River. <b>Action Item: Inquire with Greg Genz about whether he could provide the boat for a tour.</b></p>
<p><b>Annual Report</b></p>	<p>Staff can present the draft 2023 Annual Report before it is finalized and sent to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). This will give the CAC an understanding of the report and a chance to provide any feedback.</p>