



Please note the meeting will be held in person at the Carver County Government Center on the Wednesday, January 15, 2025. The meeting will also be available virtually using this [link](#).

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

7:00 PM - Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Carver County Government Center

602 East Fourth Street, Chaska, MN 55318

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Call to order	A. Roll Call
2. Citizen Forum	<i>Citizens may address the Board of Managers about any item not contained on the regular agenda. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for the Forum. If the full 15 So are not needed for the Forum, the Board will continue with the agenda. The Board will take no official action on items discussed at the Forum, with the exception of referral to staff or a Board Committee for a recommendation to be brought back to the Board for discussion or action at a future meeting.</i>
3. Approval of Agenda	A. Additions, Corrections, and Deletions to Agenda
4. Public Hearings & Presentations	A. 4 th Quarter update on 2024 workplan
5. Consent Agenda	<p><i>All items listed under the consent agenda are routine by the Board of Managers and will be enacted by one motion and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board Member or citizen request, in which event, the items will be removed from the consent agenda and considered as a separate item in its normal sequence on the agenda.</i></p> <p>A. Approve Minutes December 11, 2024 and December 11, 2024 Board Workshop</p> <p>B. Receive and file December 2024 Financial report</p> <p>C. Presentation of Invoices for payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) – Financial services December 2024 ii. Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law –November 2024 general services iii. Daniel Hron –January 2025 office rent iv. US Bank Equipment Finance – January 2025 copier lease payment v. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC –December 2024 technical, and Education & Outreach services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. Naiad Consulting, LLC – November & December 2024 administrative services, mileage & expenses vii. I & S Group, Inc. – Engineering & project management for Spring Creek viii. I & S Group, Inc. – Engineering & project management for Spring Creek through December 31, 2024 ix. HDR Engineering, Inc. – Website management services through November 30, 2024 x. Star Tribune – invoice for publication of public hearing for final levy certification xi. Bolton & Menk, Inc. – Surveying services related to Area #3 xii. Redpath and Company – Installment payment for 2022 Financial Audit xiii. Sunram Construction – payment #1 for Spring Creek xiv. 106 Group – Final 2024 Invoice for Area #3 services xv. Minnesota Community Network – A/V Services for Listening Session xvi. Dakota County SWCD – Q 4 2024 monitoring, technical and education services xvii. Park Street Public – January 2025 Government Relations Services xviii. 4M Fund – November 2024 fund service charges D. Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee E. Minutes of Board Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Personnel Committee –, 2025 F. ‘Landscaping for Clean Water’ Report from Dakota SWCD G. Designation of 2025 Official Newspaper H. Designation of Official Depository I. Designation of Data Practices Compliance Official J. Authorize execution of JPA between Dakota County SWCD and the LMRWD for educational and technical assistance services
6. Permits	A. No permit approvals this month
7. Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. 2025 Legislative Agenda B. Administrative Services Update C. Select date for 2025 Minnesota River Tour
8. Board Discussion Items	A. State of the Minnesota River Listening Session
9. Information Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Study Area #3 Update B. LMRWD Permit Program Summary
10. Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Administrator Report B. President C. Managers D. Committees E. Legal Counsel F. Engineer
11. Adjourn	Next meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers is Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

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.

- [Minnesota River Chapter of Sustainable Farming Association Annual meeting](#) – Wednesday, January 15, 2025 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, The Wooden Spoon, 515 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato, MN
- Q & A Session for Administrator Permission – Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 7:00 PM virtual on Webex
- [Winter Salt Week 2025](#) – January 27-31, 2025, various Live Stream events
- [20th Annual Soil Management Summit](#) – January 29-30, 2025, Mayo Event Center, Mankato, MN
- LMRWD Personnel Committee Meeting – Monday, February 3, 2025, 7:00 PM Chaska Community Center
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 6:00 PM, [virtual on Webex](#)
- AMC Drainage Conference February 7-8 Arrowwood Resort
- LMRWD Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 7:00 PM, Savage Public Library, 13090 Alabama Avenue South, Savage, MN
- LMRWD Personnel Committee Meeting – Thursday, February 6, 2025, 7:00 PM Chaska Community Center
- [Sustainable Farming Association Annual Conference](#) – Saturday, February 8, 2025, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

For Information Only

- **WCA Notices**
 - County of Scott, City of Savage – Notice of Decision – Eagle Creek Wetland delineation for stream restoration project
- **DNR Public Waters Work permits**
 - Scott County, City of Savage – Request for comments, Eagle Creek Stream Restoration project
- **DNR Water Appropriation permits**
 - Hennepin County, City of Bloomington – Termination of Permit – Permit for temporary construction dewatering. 2022 MBL Nicollet River Crossing (segment 1 of 2)
 - Dakota County, City of Burnsville - Termination of Permit – Permit for temporary construction dewatering. 2022 MBL Nicollet River Crossing (segment 2 of 2)
- **Well Head Protection Plans**
 - None



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 4. A. – 4th Quarter Update on 2024 Workplan

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

Della Young of Young Environmental Consulting Group will attend the meeting to provide the Board with an update on the 2024 Workplan activities.

The Workplan approved and adopted by the Board each year outlines how the LMRWD intends to implement its [Watershed Management Plan](#). The Workplans have been posted on the Watershed Management Plan webpage (accessible via the link provided above).

Attachments

Technical Memorandum – Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – Projects and Programs Quarter 4 Progress Report

Recommended Action

Motion to receive and file report

Technical Memorandum

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

From: Della Schall Young, CTF, CPESC, PMP, Principal Scientist
Jennifer Mocol-Johnson, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager

Date: January 8, 2025

Re: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District—Projects and Programs Quarter 4
Progress Report

This report presents the fourth quarter status update of LMRWD projects and programs that Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC (Young Environmental) completed in 2024. This report includes performance metrics or key performance indicators, which show the effectiveness of programs and the progress of projects against budget and timeline.

PROGRAMS

Individual Project Permit Program

The LMRWD reviews permit applications for individual projects in cities without their local government unit (LGU) permits, for Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) projects, and for LGUs that have opted to have the LMRWD maintain specific rules through 2024. This quarter, we have 33 active permits, issued two permits, and have successfully closed three projects.

Young Environmental revised the permit fee schedule, effective September 1, 2024, based on suggested changes by Rinke Noonan (LMRWD legal counsel) and LMRWD Board President Barisonzi. The new permit fee schedule, effective December 1, 2024 was approved at the November 2024 Board meeting. In addition to this approved schedule, cover sheets for each LMRWD rule were created to help applicants submit thorough and complete permit applications. All materials were posted to the LMRWD website in December 2024.

Performance metric and assessment: Young Environmental has two criteria for measuring its work:

1. finishing and suggesting the next step for permit applications that are complete within the legally mandated time frame, and
2. performing a yearly inspection of the permitted project.

We are completing reviews within the mandated time frame as well as performing inspections of project sites. Effective October 1, 2024, Young Environmental has transferred all active projects to a new system for tracking expenses by project and whether they are public or private entities.

LGU Permits

The LMRWD recognizes that LGUs are responsible for land use decisions and regulations. The LMRWD municipal permit empowers municipalities to issue permits and oversee activities as the primary permitting authority, provided they have adopted the necessary official controls to align local water management with the LMRWD's rules. The LGU must establish these official controls and request a municipal permit from the LMRWD. Municipal permits have a validity of five years from the approval date. Currently, there are two pending municipal permits: those from the cities of Chanhassen and Savage.

The Minneapolis Airports Commission (MAC) submitted an LGU permit application to the LMRWD in the second quarter. The application was deemed complete on September 23, 2024, and was conditionally approved by the Board of Managers on October 9, 2024. A municipal (LGU) permit was issued to the MAC in December 2024 following submittal of conditional approval items. The City of Chanhassen is updating its codes and aims to address municipal permits early in 2025. During the municipal coordination meeting with Chanhassen, city staff indicated a desire for the LMRWD to retain permitting authority. The LMRWD asked Chanhassen to provide a written request, describing the desired path forward. The City of Savage has indicated it is in the process of updating its codes and plans to submit ordinances to the LMRWD for review in spring 2025.

The municipal (LGU) coordination meetings began on December 10. A total of 13 meetings were held, with the final meeting occurring on January 15 with the MAC. The intent of the meetings is to continue the established collaboration and information sharing framework, review recent and upcoming LMRWD and City projects and programs, and assess resources and discuss opportunities for partnership.

The municipal (LGU) auditing process was initiated in December 2024, with the intention of hosting a kickoff meeting with the municipalities in Quarter 1 (January–March) of 2025. Municipalities to be audited include Burnsville, Carver, Lilydale, and the MAC. The auditing process will be completed by the end of Quarter 3 (July–September) of 2025.

Performance metric and assessment: Young Environmental has one criterion for measuring its work: permitting all LGUs or quasi-governmental organizations. Of the 10 entities eligible for LGU permits, Young Environmental has completed the permitting process for all but the two mentioned above.

Education and Outreach Program

In Quarter 4, Young Environmental focused on two core initiatives:

1. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) onboarding and realignment
2. Public Listening Session event

In addition to these initiatives, we continued regular activities surrounding CAC meeting facilitation, social media posts and website updates, coordination for outreach tabling events, and recommendations for the fall mini-grants. For this quarterly update, we have focused our reporting on the two primary initiatives, both of which are nearing completion.

CAC Onboarding and Realignment

Following an active campaign in the summer of 2024 to increase the roster of the CAC, our team

focused Q4 efforts on onboarding new CAC members, team building and recognition, and aligning the CAC function with the direction of the Board of Managers. Each of these activities is introduced below:

- **CAC Onboarding:** Following an in-person October welcome event, monthly meetings have focused on onboarding through an orientation of the LMRWD's organization and mission, reintroduction of the CAC bylaws, a renewed focus on attendance and participation, and background information necessary to better understand the work of the District and the environmental issues faced. In Q4, we focused on electing officials (chair, vice-chair, and secretary) who will help the committee self-direct. We also discussed various structures, such as subcommittees, which could help members actively engage in priority work that interests them and aligns with their skills.
- **Team Building and Recognition:** To allow the committee to work well together, we have created space for getting to know other members and recognizing the contributions that volunteers are making to have an impact on water and natural resources in their community. We have regularly thanked members for their participation through opportunities such as an end-of-year holiday card.
- **CAC Function and Alignment with Board Direction:** Following the increased membership, our staff worked to align CAC functionality with the vision of the Board of Managers. This includes scheduling CAC members to attend Board meetings in 2025 to engage with the Board and give updates on priorities. It also includes contributing to meaningful work and actively engaging in tasks that support the LMRWD's mission. In Q4, CAC members reviewed and approved the fall educator mini-grants as well as identified improvements for outreach surrounding the grant. CAC members also volunteered to participate in the January 8 Public Listening Session, representing the public through testimony that helps meet the goal of the event.

Public Listening Session—Event Planning and Staffing (January 8, 2025)

Another primary focus for the Education and Outreach team in Q4 was the event planning for the Public Listening Session. Guided by the vision of the Board of Managers, our team helped execute the session by releasing a call for testimony, hosting a Q&A session for interested participants, promoting the event through both broad messaging and targeted outreach, designing the agenda and coordinating with speakers, and staffing the session in coordination with the District Administrator.

The Public Listening Session is designed to cover six key themes of interest for the LMRWD in 2025: (1) Scientific Causes of Flooding, (2) Climate Change, (3) Water Storage Along the Minnesota River, (4) Natural Mitigation Strategies, (5) Financial Costs of Flooding, and (6) Costs and Benefits of Proposed Solutions.

The event provides a platform for partners and the public to share solutions to known problems and build partnerships to address large-scale issues. It convened a combination of subject-matter experts, municipal partners, and community members focused on contributing to the LMRWD's mission. Input from the Public Listening Session will be summarized immediately after the event and used to shape the legislative agenda, inform the Watershed Management Plan update, and establish priorities for the LMRWD's direction in 2025.

Performance metric and assessment: The budget and timeline are the criteria for evaluating performance against how well the approved activities are completed after the comprehensive action plan is accepted. We have gone through four quarters of the year and used up around 95 percent of the budget. Working under the direction of the Board of Managers to focus on strategic priorities, Young Environmental made key progress on the education and outreach mission by facilitating CAC growth, retention, and expansion and planning a Public Listening Session event, envisioned by the Board of Managers.

Fen Stewardship Program

Fen Stewardship plans are completed for four fens. These plans include identified actions to protect and improve, such as collecting groundwater data, surveying vegetation, removing invasive plants, educating and reaching out to the public, and working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) to acquire land around the fen. Priority action items are identified throughout the plans for each fen using a matrix document.

In October, Young Environmental completed and distributed calcareous fen groundwater recharge memos for Gun Club Lake, Nicols Meadow, and Savage fens. Each memo provides a description of location, site geology, hydrology, ground-water watershed, recharge, and groundwater use from permitted wells and dug pits, and general recommendations.

We actively organized and facilitated a fen working meeting on December 13. The meeting was attended by 26 individuals representing local, state, and federal government. Topics included fen stewardship, groundwater recharge, the Gun Club Lake incision, invasive species management, tile line inventories, land acquisition, and an agency and staff round robin to provide an opportunity for future collaboration and teamwork.

Young Environmental actively engaged with the MnDNR and is developing an acquisition memo for Seminary Fen. The memo includes a review of priority parcels and several options to consider to reduce the potential for development on parcels adjacent to the fen and protect the valuable resource.

In 2025, Young Environmental will provide additional assistance and focus on invasive species management. During the fen workshop, this item was identified as a high priority by both local and state government staff. Young Environmental will continue collaborating and working with partners to determine the best and most efficient methods to remove buckthorn in Savage Fen and Seminary Fen.

Performance metric and assessment: A total of 60 percent of the budget has been spent in 2024, leaving approximately 40 percent. The remainder of the budget was not spent due to the determination that Tasks 4-2 and 4-3 (related to the development of technical memorandums) were not needed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIPS)

Area 3 Minnesota Riverbank and Bluff Stabilization Project

The 106 Group completed the Phase 1 Archaeological Survey and provided the report to the LMRWD at the end of November. The additional survey resulted in negative shovel tests, and the associated bucket auger borings yielded no archaeological material. Therefore, the 106 Group recommends that no further archaeological work is necessary for the project. Young Environmental

submitted the report to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on December 9, 2024, and we are awaiting a response. Bolton & Menk completed the boundary survey and are in the process of drawing up the legal survey documents.

Performance metric and assessment: We have used about 42 percent of the project budget for 40 percent of the project tasks. This is mainly because of complex permitting and helping with the property acquisitions process, which we did not anticipate. The project design is on hold at 60 percent until we receive approval from the USACE for Section 404.

Floodplain Modeling Project

In Quarter 4 we continued updating the effective FEMA model that was originally built in 2004. Updates include adjusting the geometrics of the model to reflect current land cover conditions and current elevations, adjusting the alignment of cross sections, and updating bridge structure information. These updates will help us better understand flooding along the Lower Minnesota River and make more informed decisions when it comes to evaluating and regulating the cumulative impacts of floodplain development. The updated model will be completed in January, followed by a review by the MnDNR in February. Based on feedback from LMRWD municipalities and the MnDNR, Young Environmental will develop recommendations for future modeling updates. The projected completion of this project is expected in Quarter 1 2025.

Performance metric and assessment: About 48 percent of the project budget has been spent on 60 percent of the tasks. This seems to be in line with the plan, but this project was supposed to be finished a year ago and has been postponed due to working with USACE and the availability of resources.

Gully Feasibility Study

For the 2023 Gully Inventory project, four gullies that needed further study in 2024 were evaluated to research the cause of erosion and find ways to stabilize, restore, or reduce further erosion. Three gullies are in Shakopee, and one is in Burnsville. The City of Shakopee has a planned riverbank stabilization project near Huber Park that will address two of the Shakopee gullies. Following discussions with the City of Burnsville and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Burnsville gully, it became apparent that there was limited interest in restoration due to the gully system's size, complexity, and connection to Unnamed Creek 5/6—a designated trout stream.

In Quarter 4, using the engineering pool, Young Environmental brought on Geosyntec Consultants, Inc (Geosyntec) to complete the feasibility study for a gully in Shakopee (SHK16) near the Wills Riverview Campground. The focus of efforts will include evaluating alternatives for stabilizing the gully and repairing the asphalt bike path. The projected completion of this task is expected in Quarter 1 2025. Geosyntec has completed a team kickoff meeting, site inspection, and data review and anticipates completing conceptual design in early January 2025.

Performance metric and assessment: In Quarter 4, the project progressed to approximately 30 percent complete, and we spent 37 percent of the budget.

Spring Creek Site Stabilizations

The Spring Creek Site Stabilization project was awarded to Sunram Construction, Inc. with a base bid of \$91,443.00. Young Environmental and the LMRWD administrator worked together to obtain

all landowner agreements before the start of construction. A preconstruction meeting was held on-site with several landowners present. Construction began on November 20, 2024, and was completed on November 27, 2024. Young Environmental coordinated with the on-site engineer and landowners to ensure the project was completed to plan and would accomplish the proposed stabilization. Sunram Construction temporarily stabilized the site and will complete final restoration and vegetation in the spring. The final completion date is set for May 15, 2025.

Performance metric and assessment: The project is progressing as planned, with construction completed as of Q4 2024, and a final completion date in Q2 2025. The project is approximately 95 percent complete with about 15 percent of the project budget left.

Trout Stream Geomorphic Assessment

This project is effectively complete—the final report was submitted to the LMRWD administrator on September 18, 2024. This project provided valuable education and experiences to the interns and would not have been possible without the internship program. This collaboration not only benefits the next generation of water resource professionals but also allows the LMRWD to tackle large-scale projects that require extensive fieldwork and data analysis.

Performance metric and assessment: The project is 100 percent complete with 97 percent of the budget spent.

Vernon Avenue Road Improvement

Bids for the Vernon Avenue Road Improvement project were opened on October 24, 2024. The project was awarded to GMH Asphalt Corporation with a base bid of \$680,229.85. The signed contract documents from GMH Asphalt were received on December 17, 2024, and will be executed by the LMRWD at the January 2025 board meeting. GMH plans to begin construction once the ground thaws, depending on snow melt and flooding. The final completion date is set for June 28, 2025.

Performance metric and assessment: The project is 90 percent complete with nine percent of the budget left. The remaining budget will be used for construction administration tasks.



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Board of Managers

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, MN 7:00 p.m.

Approved _____, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

On Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 7:00 PM CST, in the Board Room of the Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, Minnesota, President Barisonzi called to order the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD). [The meeting date was a departure from the usual third Wednesday of the month, because more than one manager had a conflict with the regular meeting date]

President Barisonzi asked for the roll call to be taken. The following Managers were present: President Barisonzi, Manager Theresa Kuplic, Manager Apollo Lammers, Manager Lauren Salvato and Manager Vinatha Viswanathan.

In addition, the following attended the meeting in-person: Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrator; Della Schall Young, Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC, LMRWD Technical Consultant; Tom Crawford, Friends of the MN Valley; Carver County Commissioner Gayle Degler, Scott County Commissioner Jodi Brennan; Nick Koltavy, Assistant Carver County Administrator; and Vanessa Strong, Water resource Supervisor, Scott County Water Management Organization. John Kolb, Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law, LMRWD Legal Counsel; and Lindsey Albright, monitoring and outreach coordinator, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District; attended the meeting virtually.

2. CITIZEN FORUM

No one present wished to address the Board of Managers.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A. Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda

Administrator Loomis asked to move item 9. C. - State of the Minnesota River Listening Session to 8.A. for discussion. She also asked to add an invoice received 12-11-2024 from Bolton & Menk and one from the Minnesota Star Tribune to the consent agenda for approval.

President Barisonzi asked to move Item 7.C. - Administrative Services Update to Item 4.C. on the agenda.

Manager Lammers made a motion to approve the agenda with the revisions to the order of items and the addition of the invoices. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the motion was carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATION

A. Public Hearing - 2025 Budget final adoption and Certification of Levy

President Barisonzi introduced this item and opened the public hearing at 7: 04 p.m.

No one present wished to address the Board of Managers.

President Barisonzi closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Manager Lammers made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-25 Final Certification of Property Tax Levies for Taxes Payable 2025 and Final Approval of 2025 Budget and Authorize Certification to Counties. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.

B. Report from River Watch

Tom Crawford, River Watch Program Coordinator with the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, came forward and gave the Board a report on the River Watch Program in which the Board financially supports. He shared how the River Watch Program has been able to use the funding received from the LMRWD, including being able to increase the number of student samplings by 15% and provide support for the quality of equipment.

Manager Salvato stated the report was wonderful and it was great to see the impact that was made due to this additional funding.

President Barisonzi asked how the data they gather is currently being used. Mr. Crawford explained that all of the data collected by River Watch students is submitted to the MPCA to be housed in their surface water database. He added that they also use this data for the 10-year assessments. He noted that the Izaak Walton League has a public database called the Clean Water Hub that specifically tracks chloride pollution.

President Barisonzi shared that he is no longer on the Board for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley so there is no conflict of interest with his involvement. He shared his appreciation for the work done in the River Watch Program and how much time is spent making sure they are targeting the schools in the Lower Minnesota River area.

Mr. Crawford added that as they expand their winter programs, they are looking at targeting elementary schools and present on how soil and water interact.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to receive and file the annual report from River Watch and to authorize final payment to Friends of the MN Valley. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Administrative Services Update

President Barisonzi introduced this item and shared that the Personnel Committee met to discuss filling the Administrative Services position.

Jodi Brennan, Scott County Commissioner, came forward and requested that the Board put a pause on this agenda item to allow more time to assess options before beginning the search and hiring for a new Administrator. She explained that Scott County is interested in exploring options to streamline the administration of water management. She added that Scott County plans to sit down with leadership from Savage and Shakopee to explore these options. She noted that Scott and Carver County leadership has expressed interest in exploring the option of

terminating the LMRWD and transferring watershed management jurisdiction to adjacent watershed districts or WMOs. She stated that time is very limited due to the succession timeline present in the agenda packet. She said they are committed to bringing the appropriate stakeholders together in a timely manner to see if there is any consensus on the boundary changes or termination options.

Gayle Degler, Carver County Commissioner, came forward and reiterated the request of Ms. Brennan to put a pause on the recruitment process for a new administrator. He shared that they would like to explore a district boundary change and transfer some of the watershed management jurisdiction to the Carver County WMO. He added that they would also like to have conversations with the other counties in the district to explore the potential for a governance change. He shared that Attorney Kolb is a wonderful attorney and a great asset to the LMRWD.

Manager Lammers asked about the timeline Ms. Brennan and Mr. Degler had in mind for their conversations they are hoping to have. Ms. Brennan acknowledged that it will need to be done as quickly as possible; however, there are other jurisdictions that have to weigh in on this. She said they are trying to get these conversations organized right now.

Nick Koltavy, Assistant Carver County Administrator, shared that they do not have a defined timeline as they are still early in these conversations. He noted that he understands that the LMRWD needs to determine a path forward and they are trying to move as quickly as possible.

Manager Lammers asked if any steps are being taken with BSWR. Ms. Brennan said there currently is not; however, they realize that this is a process that they will have to go through.

Manager Salvato asked if they are anticipating having any dialogue with the Board or if there is any insight that the Board has that the Counties may not be seeing in the current governance structure. Mr. Degler said they would have to have dialogue and conversation with the Board as they are the Board that is currently governing the operation. He explained that although his term is ending in January, he is confident that the Board will still be heavily involved in these discussions moving forward.

Manager Kuplic said this feels out of left field and is wondering the reasoning behind this. Mr. Koltavy explained that this has been on the Carver County radar for quite some time to review the boundaries. He noted that with the pending retirement of Administrator Loomis it seemed like a good time to explore this. Ms. Brennan added that any opportunity to lessen government is always a good opportunity to take. She noted that there are other WMOs that are doing the same work, and it makes sense to expand the WMO.

Vanessa Strong, Water Resource Supervisor, Scott County Water Management Organization, shared that the County previously did a similar watershed management study with Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District after their administrator announced retirement and it is generally the perspective of the County that if they can align watershed management to make it more efficient, they will do so. She explained that they do not want to reduce the effectiveness of their entities; however, they want to make sure that they are applying the best governance structure possible.

President Barisonzi shared his appreciation for the feedback and ideas presented to the Board. He stated it would be fiduciarily irresponsible of the Board to put a pause on this process as they have a responsibility to the taxpayers for the projects that are in the process of being implemented and they cannot just leave the administrator position open. He said they can still

have conversations about the governance structure while the hiring process moves forward. He added that they designed the posting of the position to be flexible about what type of hire they get, whether it be an individual, or a County unit that applies for the position. He explained that this body is unique in that it is the only watershed district on the Minnesota River that has the river as its footprint while the Counties have the river as their boundary. He noted that they have partnered with the Cities and the Counties to minimize a layer of government and make it easy for everyone to work together. He explained that the process of dismantling or changing the governance of the Board would take State action and this would not happen in any kind of timely way.

Manager Lammers asked if the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Administrator retired prior to the end of the review process. Ms. Strong said yes and explained that the retirement started the watershed management plan governance study, and the Watershed District did hire a new administrator during the process of completing the study.

Manager Lammers asked how long this timeline was. Ms. Strong said it took around three years.

President Barisonzi shared that the Personnel Committee met and created a timeline for hiring of a new Administrator that is in line with Administrator Loomis' retirement plans.

Manager Lammers shared that considering how long the similar process took with Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed Management District, he thinks the LMRWD needs to continue with the process of hiring a new administrator.

Manager Kuplic asked if all the Counties in the LMRWD are on board with this. Ms. Brennan shared that they have been in conversation with all the Counties in the district.

Manager Salvato made a motion to authorize release of advertisements for recruitment and to authorize the personnel committee to oversee recruitment process, including assembling recruitment team, scheduling a Q & A forum during recruitment period, screen candidates, conduct interviews and assessments of candidates, and select a suitable candidate and extend a formal offer. Manager Kuplic seconded. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.

D. Spring Creek Update

Administrator Loomis introduced and gave a brief background of this item. She shared that the bank stabilization project on Spring Creek in Carver has been completed. She reviewed photos of the completed project with the Board.

Manager Salvato said they have been talking about this project for a long time and it is great to see this completed.

President Barisonzi asked what kind of press they could do to tell this story in the context of the essential role of the LMRWD. Administrator Loomis shared that they a press release can be prepared and shared on Facebook with the photos of the project.

Manager Salvato suggested getting quotes or interviews from residents who are pleased with the outcome of this project.

Ms. Young shared that this spring, the bank will be vegetated so they will be able to have a progression of coverage from the before, to now, to the future.

President Barisonzi shared that he would like the LMRWD to own the writing and presentation of the narrative themselves. He suggested they reach out to a local environmental reporter to tell this story. He thanked all of those who were involved in the project.

Manager Kuplic added that they can convey in their story how the increase in water in the watershed district has impacted this site and how the LMRWD is needed to protect these kinds of things from potential environmental consequences.

President Barisonzi shared that it will be critical for them to understand how many projects like this will become necessary based on the current projections around climate change. He noted that the LMRWD is essential for things like this as there is someone who is looking out for the watershed and not just the boundary of the river.

Administrator Loomis added that this also speaks to the significance of the gully assessment and inventory that they have been doing. She noted that the LMRWD also has a steep slope overlay in their rules which none of the other cities or watershed districts have.

Informational only, no action required.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

- A. Approve Minutes October 9, 2024, and November 6, 2024, Regular Meetings and November 6, 2024, Workshop**
- B. Receive and file November 2024 Financial Report**
- C. Approval of Invoices for payment**
 - i. Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) - Financial services through November 2024**
 - ii. TimeSavers Off Site Secretarial – Preparation of October 2024, meeting minutes**
 - iii. TimeSavers Off Site Secretarial – Preparation of November 2024 meeting minutes**
 - iv. Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law - October 2024 legal services for permit fee development, Area #3, Lakota Lane and general services**
 - v. Daniel Hron - December 2024 office rent**
 - vi. US Bank Equipment Finance – December 2024 copier lease payment**
 - vii. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC –November 2024 technical, and Education and Outreach services**
 - viii. Naiad Consulting, LLC – October 2024 administrative services, mileage, and expenses**
 - ix. 106 Group - Archeological survey work for Area #3 (#3193-3036-3)**
 - x. 106 Group - Archeological Field work for Area #3 (#3193-2883-14)**
 - xi. Bolton & Menk – Engineering Services, related to Vernon Avenue**
 - xii. Frenette Legislative Advisors – October November & December government relations services**
 - xiii. Minnesota Star Tribune – Vernon Avenue bid advertisement**
 - xiv. 4M Fund – October 2024 fund service charges**
- D. Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee**
- E. Minutes of Board Committees**
 - Personnel Committee – November 13, 2024
- F. Approve Government Relations Service Agreement with Park Street Public**
- G. Letter to MPCA regarding MS4 designation**
- H. Authorize scope of work from Dakota County SWCD for 2025 monitoring, TACS and Education services**
- I. Authorize preparation of the 2024 Annual Report**

Manager Salvato made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of two invoices one from Bolton & Menk Inc. and one from the Minnesota Star Tribune. Manager Lammers seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.

6. PERMITS

A. LMRWD Permit Renewals

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Manager Lammers made a motion to approve renewals of the permits listed in Table 1. of the Technical Memorandum – December 2024 Permit Renewal Requests, dated December 4, 2024. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the motion was carried unanimously.

B. LTS MSP Lateral 2 (LMRWD No. 2024-014)

President Barisonzi introduced this item and provided a brief background.

Manager Salvato stated this is not the first time a permit of this type has come up. She shared that she had an individual conversation with Administrator Loomis, and it made her think about what they are doing to protect the groundwater resources and if there is any kind of district-level rule about protecting groundwater resources.

Administrator Loomis shared that groundwater protection has long been a concern of the LMRWD. There has been a concern about appropriation permits that the Minnesota DNR approves in the watershed district as well as the impact of underground activities that could potentially adversely impact groundwater. She said this is certainly an area that they can look at in more depth during the development of the next generation of the watershed plan.

Ms. Young explained that in the past the main concern looked at was pumping in the recharge areas and the specific impacts on the fens. She noted that what was discussed was more related to the potential impacts to quantity. She said quality was not something that has been looked into, but they can definitely start looking into this in partnership with the DNR and others. She noted counties typically deal more with groundwater.

Administrator Loomis added that Scott and Hennepin Counties do not currently have groundwater plans.

President Barisonzi shared that when this was originally brought to him, he was concerned with the proliferation to the integrity of the river itself. He noted that these projects (pipelines under the river) in the past were being approved on a one-off basis based on whether there was proper remediation of the immediate potential concerns without any kind of look at the realistic, aggregated impact of multiple projects and what the ramifications are for these projects.

Administrator Loomis shared that this project will not run under the river but will run parallel to Trunk Highway 13.

Ms. Young noted that the LMRWD has the ability to implement any kind of requirement with a permit like this. She explained that they may need to look through their rules to see what requirements are needed.

President Barisonzi stated he would like direction from Ms. Young on how this work plan can be adjusted to add initial analysis before they ask legal counsel what rules need to be changed.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to approve a permit for LTS MSP Lateral 2 (LMRWD No. 2024-014) with the special stipulation that the contractor contact the LMRWD immediately upon the discovery of disturbed ground water or the release of lubricant fluid. Manager Lammers seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the motion was carried unanimously.

7. ACTIONS ITEMS

A. 2025 Legislative Agenda

President Barisonzi introduced this item and shared the request to move this item to the January meeting.

The Board suggested laying this item over to the January 15, 2025 Board of Managers meeting. Hearing no objections, the item was laid over.

B. Education & Outreach

o Approve Educator mini-grants

President Barisonzi introduced this item. He explained that the last time they approved mini-grants, he identified an issue that they were approving of the purchase of things that had been paid for elsewhere. He asked to what degree all the organizations that they invest in are communicating with each other for sharing resources.

Administrator Loomis shared that they do not necessarily know what River Watch is using their funding for. She also noted that once a school has the equipment it can be re-used year after year. She questioned whether it was reasonable to expect schools to borrow equipment from River Watch. She some of the schools have chosen to connect with River Watch in the past to share resources and they the LMRWD will continue to try make the connection.

President Barisonzi stated he is uncomfortable with the mini-grant; however, he will not be voting against it as it is a relatively small amount and he does not want to undermine the CAC process.

Manager Lammers made a motion to approve Educator Mini-Grants as recommended by the Citizen Advisory Committee: Shakopee High School for \$449.95; Chaska High School for \$500; Minnesota Valley refuge Friends for \$500; and Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School for \$479.84. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the motion was carried unanimously.

C. Administrative Services Update

This item was moved to 4. C. on the agenda.

D. Authorize payment to US Army Corps of Engineers for dredging at mouth

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Administrator Loomis shared that Manager Salvato asked her why they are paying for this and asked if they had paid for other dredging in the past. She said they have never paid for dredging in the past and the explanation is that dredging in the mouth of the river occurs once every 25

years and the Corp of Engineers was concerned about the distance between the dredge placement site they have. She shared that when she first started with the Board, the Corp had asked them to provide a placement site closer to the mouth of the river. She added that they identified a parcel that they could lease from the airport to use for placing dredge material. She shared that they did some initial studies of this area and the cost to develop it came to over \$1,000,000. She explained that they took this plan to the Corp of Engineers who were worried that they would not approve this site because of all of the utilities that were under the property. She then asked them if it would be cheaper for them to just pay the difference in the transportation costs, which is why they are now paying for this.

President Barisonzi noted that one of the misunderstandings about the LMRWD is that the cost of dredging is largely incurred by State dollars rather than what they levy. He asked what percentage of dredging costs are covered by State dollars. Administrator Loomis said it is covered 100% by State dollars. President Barisonzi noted that the taxpayers are not paying for this dredging through the levy.

Administrator Loomis shared that they went to the State to request this funding as they did not think it was appropriate for the taxpayers in an 80-square-mile area to have to pay for the maintenance of this navigation channel and it should be done across a broader base.

President Barisonzi asked if these dredge costs will not be covered by the State. Administrator Loomis said it will be covered by the State.

President Barisonzi asked if they have a forecast or projects based on the climate modeling for the period in which this dredging will be required. Administrator Loomis shared that the Corp of Engineers just held their River Resource Forum and she missed the discussion around channel maintenance; however, she did see in their presentation that there was a closure in the channel in September and that they are still assessing the impacts of this. She added that they also shared the 20- and 35-year averages in the dredging for the St. Paul district. She said there is an upward trend in the amount of sediment that they are removing from navigation channels everywhere.

Manager Lammers made a motion to authorize payment to the US Army Corps of Engineers not to exceed \$152,019.63. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.

E. Funding Request from Dakota County SWCD for Winter Salt Week

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Lindsey Albright, Monitoring and Outreach Coordinator, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District, shared that this is a project that the Dakota County SWCD put together rather quickly and it is a great initiative that has a series of webinars throughout the week in regard to winter salt. She noted that they are looking at the Thursday of this Winter Salt Week as doing a local focus day. She said she is working with Dakota County on this Dakota County-focused event in partnership with the Dakota County Library. She shared that they will have resources available at the library throughout the week.

President Barisonzi shared that the River Watch Program is a local partner with the Izaak Walton League. He suggested that they reach out to Mr. Crawford as they have a lot of kits and printed materials that could be utilized for this. He added that they also have a youth program that could be tapped into.

Manager Salvato shared that her organization is doing work for Winter Salt Week and she thinks this is a great opportunity.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to authorize a contribution to the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District to support its Winter Salt Week program. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.

F. 2025 Personnel and Finance Committee meeting schedule

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Manager Lammers made a motion to set the meeting schedule for the personal and finance committee meetings holding Personnel Committee meetings on the first Wednesday of the month and Finance Committee meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.

8. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. State of the Minnesota River Listening Session

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Administrator Loomis shared that they have been trying to figure out how to best manage this Listening Session. She stated they approached Steve Woods, who has agreed to facilitate this meeting. She added that they have also been looking at audio and visual components for the meeting. She asked for feedback on the agenda that was set.

President Barisonzi asked about the possibility of doing some direct testimony from speakers. Ms. Young shared that the speakers are people that they have heard from before and they would like their presentation materials submitted before the event so they can present at the event.

President Barisonzi noted that this is the Board's next big event and the Managers' personal outreach is essential.

Manager Salvato suggested having some organization between the Board for how they will all dress for the event and how the event will flow overall. Ms. Young said they discussed today what the expectation of the Board would be for this event.

Manager Salvato asked if the Managers can have access to the invitation list so she can see who they have invited and she can follow up with those who they have not gotten a response from. Ms. Young said they can make this information available.

Manager Salvato made a motion to authorize Staff to expend resources as necessary for audio and visual equipment and other needs for the event. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.

9. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

A. Study Area #3

Administrator Loomis introduced this item. She shared that they are currently hung up on waiting for to get all the items requested by the City to get the property purchased by the LMRWD re-platted and rezoned. She said they are hopeful to get the survey to the City soon.

For information only – no action required.

B. Seminary Fen Ravine Stabilization update

Administrator Loomis introduced this item. She shared that funding from the LMRWD is no longer needed for this project and that resolution for reallocation of the funding within the LMRWD budget will be brought to the Board later in the year.

For information only – no action required.

C. LMRWD Permit Program Summary

No action required.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **Administrator Report:** Administrator Loomis shared that US Fish and Wildlife is proposing to add the Monarch Butterfly to the list for endangered species protection. She added that MnDOT is proposing to replace the culvert on Truck Highway 13 that goes over Credit River. She shared that she received a request from the Scott County SWCD that the City of Shakopee has requested some additional monitoring of Eagle Creek with the amount of development going on in this area. She added that the City of Savage has also asked for additional monitoring of chloride in Credit River.

President Barisonzi shared that US Fish and Wildlife released a period of comment on protected land for the rusty patched bumble bee. He noted that this area covers the LMRWD area. He stated that when he looks at the map it appears as though they took advantage of any property under the US Fish and Wildlife and put this into the area. He will personally be writing some comments on this.

Administrator Loomis continued her report and shared that MPCA surface water monitoring will be taking place and Carver County was planning on applying for a surface water assessment grant. She said they were able to work out how this funding will be applied. She added that at the November meeting, Manager Salvato asked her how many members there are in the Soil Health Coalition. The Coalition reported there are currently around 100 members, but they are always looking for more. She noted that Winter Salt Awareness Week will be January 27-31.

- B. **President:** No report.
C. **Managers:** No report
D. **Committees:** No report
E. **Legal Counsel:** No report.
F. **Engineer:** No report

11. ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, President Barisonzi adjourned the meeting at 8:43 PM.

The next regular meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers will be at 7:00, Wednesday, January 15, 2025, in the Board Room at the Carver County Government Center.

Lauren Salvato, Secretary

Attest:

Linda Loomis, Administrator

UNAPPROVED



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

5:30 PM, Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, MN 7:00 PM

Approved _____, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

On Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. CST, in the County Board Room of the Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, Minnesota, President Joseph Barisonzi called to order the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) Board workshop.

The following Managers were present: President Barisonzi, Manager Theresa Kuplic, Manager Apollo Lammers, Manager Lauren Salvato and Manager Vinatha Viswanathan. In addition, the following attended the meeting in-person: Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrator; and Joe Birkholz and Molly Jansen, Park Street Public, LMRWD Government Relations Consultant.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2025 LMRWD legislative agenda and priorities.

2. 2025 Legislative agenda

- The Board discussed 2025 legislative priorities. First and foremost was continuing funding for the dredge operations. Second was to ensure funding for Area #3 was secure.
- The Board discussed other issues that might possibly arise during the upcoming session.

Joe and Molly said they would pull together a legislative agenda based on the discussion and get it to the Administrator in time to be placed on the January Board meeting agenda.

3. ADJOURN

President Barisonzi adjourned the workshop at 6:36 p.m.

Attest:

Lauren Salvato, Secretary

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Item 5.B.
LMRWD 1-15-2025

BEGINNING BALANCE	30-Nov-24	\$ 1,242,054.19
ADD:		
General Fund Revenue:		
December 2024 Interest	\$ 6,184.38	
Tax Settlement 2nd half 2024:		
Hennepin County	\$ 218,826.90	
Carver County	\$ 35,620.88	
Scott County	\$ 246,300.77	
Payment in Lieu		
Agricultural Credit	\$ 21.12	
Total Revenue and Transfers In		\$ 506,954.05
DEDUCT:		
Debits/Reductions		
MN Soil Health Coalition	Sponsorship of Annual Soil Health Event	\$ 500.00
Young Environmental Consulting Group		\$ 5,080.70
US Army Corps of Engineers	Transport of 2023 dredge material from mouth to 14.2	\$ 152,079.54
Frenette Legislative Advisors	Oct. Nov. & Dec. 2024 government relation services	\$ 5,000.01
106 Group	Area #3 historical review services	\$ 5,869.50
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	2024 services for Vernon Avenue Improvements	\$ 4,921.00
Clifton Larson Allen LLP	November 2024 financial services	\$ 1,183.00
Dakota County SWCD	Support for Winter Salt Week Activities	\$ 300.00
Daniel Hron	December 2024 office rent	\$ 650.00
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	final payment for 2023/2024 River Watch program	\$ 10,000.00
Naiad Consulting, LLC	October 2024 Admin services, mileage and expenses	\$ 15,525.06
Rinke Noonan, Attorney at Law	October 2024 Legal Services related to Area #3	\$ 264.00
Rinke Noonan, Attorney at Law	October 2024 general legal services-review tech contract	\$ 290.50
Rinke Noonan, Attorney at Law	October 2024 legal services to develop permit fee schedule	\$ 1,203.50
Rinke Noonan, Attorney at Law	October 2024 legal services for Lakota Lane enforcement	\$ 1,755.50
Rinke Noonan, Attorney at Law	October 2024 general legal services	\$ 2,241.00
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial Service	Preparation of November 2024 meeting minutes	\$ 167.00
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial Service	Preparation of October 2024 meeting minutes	\$ 246.00
US Bank Equipment Finance	December 2024 copier lease payment	\$ 208.38
Young Environmental Consulting Group	November 2024 Education & Outreach, and Technical services	\$ 51,191.35
Star Tribune	Publication of Vernon Avenue bid requests for proposals	\$ 201.60
4M Fund	November 2024 bank service fee	\$ 40.00
Total Debits/Reductions		\$ 258,917.64
ENDING BALANCE	31-Dec-24	\$ 1,490,090.60

1,292,153.70

	2024 Budget	December Actuals	YTD 2024	Over (Under) Budget
Administrative expenses	\$ 377,838.00	\$ 30,277.70	\$ 353,679.11	\$ (24,158.89)
Cooperative Projects				
Eden Prairie Bank Stabilization Area #3	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 16,631.10	\$ 145,599.23	\$ 45,599.23
Gully Erosion Contingency Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration site A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration site C-2	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (90,000.00)
Eagle Creek Bank Restoration: Town & Country R	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (30,000.00)
Shakopee River Bank Stabilization	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)
509 Plan Budget				
<i>Resource Plan Implementation</i>				
Watershed Resource Restoration Fund	\$ 82,500.00	\$ 1,086.00	\$ 8,586.00	\$ (73,914.00)
Fen Private Land acquisition study	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)
Gully Inventory	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 27,806.00	\$ (122,194.00)
MN River Floodplain Model Feasibility Study	\$ -	\$ 10,500.50	\$ 38,415.44	\$ 38,415.44
Downtown Shakopee Stormwater BMPs	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)
Spring Creek stabilization project	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 646.00	\$ 16,422.51	\$ (83,577.49)
Sustainable Lakes Mgmt. Plan (Trout Lakes)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (50,000.00)
Geomorphic Assessments (Trout Streams)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 97,243.03	\$ (2,756.97)
Fen Stewardship Program	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 4,843.75	\$ 87,681.07	\$ 12,681.07
District Boundary Modification	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local Water Management Plan reviews	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,000.00)
Project Reviews	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 14,494.25	\$ 110,284.24	\$ 60,284.24
Project inspections	\$ -	\$ 918.00	\$ 31,205.43	\$ 31,205.43
<i>Monitoring</i>	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,305.50	\$ (44,694.50)
<i>Watershed Management Plan</i>	\$ -	\$ 6,959.50	\$ 31,263.70	\$ 31,263.70
<i>Public Education/CAC/Outreach Program</i>	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 15,108.50	\$ 111,252.88	\$ (3,747.12)
<i>Cost Share Program</i>	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,481.22	\$ (9,518.78)
Nine Foot Channel				
Return of unused state funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dredge Site Improvements	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 157,452.34	\$ 191,593.32	\$ (48,406.68)
Bonded Debt Levy				
Scheduled Area #3 Bond payments	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (300,000.00)
Total:	\$ 2,110,338.00	\$ 258,917.64	\$ 1,291,818.68	\$ (818,519.32)



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 20th 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
Boiling Springs tour	Recommend avoiding Boiling Springs as sacred ground.
Ike's Creek or other trout stream tour	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.
CHS or Cargill tour	Linda has connections to pursue a tour. Goal for spring 2024. Action Item: Linda supply contacts to arrange tour.
Water treatment plant tour	Back-burner tour based on number of ideas. Action Item: Research potential partners for tour in late 2024.
Waterfowl migration outing on the Minnesota River (Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) mentioned as potential partners)	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. Action Item: Research potential partners/events through either the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or the Saint Paul Audubon Society.
LMRWD cost-share project tours	June should be a good time of year to tour cost-share projects.
Conservation farming presentation demonstrating farming along the Minnesota River (Sever Peterson mentioned as a potential partner)	Action Item: Research potential partners and discuss whether an in-person site visit or web-based presentation is the best method.
Wetland bank tour	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>Presentation from an engineer about how water and natural resources issues are identified and solved</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Action Item: Schedule and confirm a volunteer speaker to discuss the topic virtually.</p>
<p>Additional Recommendations from Staff:</p>	
<p>Minnesota River Boat Tour</p>	<p>This has been successful in the past. Increase connection to the Minnesota River. Action Item: Inquire with Greg Genz about whether he could provide the boat for a tour.</p>
<p>Annual Report</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>

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Board of Manager's Personnel Committee
7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2025
County Board Room – Carver County Government Center
602 East 4th Street, Chaska, MN
Approved _____, 2024**

In attendance: In-person: Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrator. Della Young, Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC; President Joseph Barisonzi, Manager Theresa Kuplic and Manager Lauren Salvato attended virtually.

The purpose of this meeting was to confirm logistics for the Q & A Session and finalize the process and criteria for applicant screening.

1. Set date and time for Q & A session for interested parties

The committee has scheduled a Q&A session for individuals interested in applying for the position. This anonymous, virtual session will take place at 7:00 PM on January 21, 2025.

2. Detail structure of Q & A session

The Committee deliberated on the setup and format of the Q&A session. Interested parties will need to register with the current Administrator to receive participation details, including the virtual link and sign-in instructions. Della Young will facilitate the session.

3. Establish process for screening applicants including criteria to evaluate applicants

Applications are due by January 30th. The committee will convene at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 3rd to review applications and select candidates for interviews. In-person interviews will be scheduled for 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 6th, and may continue on Friday, February 7th, depending on the number of interviews.

DUE OUTS:

Linda will post announcement of Q & A session on LMRWD website, Facebook and Linked In; set-up Webex for Q & A session; accept registrations for Q & A; share the annual work plan with applicants; invite CAC to review applications and join the interviews.

Della will discuss with Linda the role of CAC in the hiring process; prepare a list of frequently asked questions for the Q & A session.

Manager Salvato will promote the Q & A session through her networks

President Barisonzi will prepare a slide deck template for the q & A session; update the timelines in the proposed plan for recruitment; create an aggregate document with sample q & A's and send it to the group for editing and commenting

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next Personnel Committee meeting: the next meeting of the personnel committee is planned for 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 3, 2025.



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. F. – ‘Landscaping for Clean Water’ Report from Dakota SWCD

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

Dakota County has provided a year-end report for its 2024 ‘Landscaping for Clean Water’ program. You do not have to live in Dakota County to take the class, so classes are open to all residents of the LMRWD. The LMRWD asks that all applicants for its Cost Share program attend a class. The report provides a

Attachments

- 2024 Landscaping for Clean Water Program Summary
- 2025 Landscaping for Clean Water Program Flier
- 2025 Landscaping for Clean Water Program 2 page Flier
- 2025 Landscaping for Clean Water Grant Factsheet

Recommended Action

No action recommended for information only

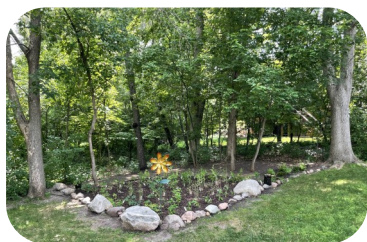
2024 LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER PROGRAM SUMMARY

Providing landowners the skills & resources to improve water quality and provide habitat for pollinators with raingardens, native gardens, and native shoreline plantings.

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER



Dakota County Soil and
Water Conservation District



2024 BY THE NUMBERS

197	INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN INTRODUCTION CLASSES
127	PROJECTS DESIGNED THROUGH THE DESIGN COURSE
44	RAINGARDENS & NATIVE GARDENS & SHORELINES INSTALLED
22	INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN THE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP
23	INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED THE NATURAL SHORELINE WORKSHOP



"The Intro class opened my eyes to so many possibilities. I left excited to take the next step with a planting at my house!"

"Thank you Dakota SWCD for a wonderful program. I appreciate the support and guidance. Can't wait to do another project next year!"

LCW Participants



The Landscaping for Clean Water program Introduction class, Design course, Maintenance workshop, and Natural Shoreline workshop, were offered both *in-person* and *virtually* in 2024.

2024 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS



2024

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER PROGRAM SUMMARY

Thank you to everyone who helped to reduce pollution, improve water quality, and increase pollinator habitat on your property this year! Participation at any level - attending the Introduction to Clean Water Class, installing a project with the Design Course, picking up tips at the Maintenance Workshop, or learned how native plantings along a shoreline benefit both terrestrial and aquatic habitat, helps to spread interest and know-how to all corners of Dakota County.

Summary of the 2024 Participants by City

Apple Valley

Introduction class attendees	27
Projects designed	22
Installed raingardens	3
Installed native gardens	6
Installed shoreline planting	1

Burnsville

Introduction class attendees	35
Projects designed	28
Installed raingardens	4
Installed native gardens	8
Installed shoreline planting	1

Eagan

Introduction class attendees	18
Projects designed	10
Installed raingardens	1
Installed native gardens	2

Farmington

Introduction class attendees	10
Projects designed	6
Installed raingardens	1

Hastings

Introduction class attendees	2
Projects designed	1

Inver Grove Heights

Introduction class attendees	14
Projects designed	8
Installed raingardens	3
Installed native gardens	2

Lakeville

Introduction class attendees	18
Projects designed	12
Installed raingardens	2
Installed native gardens	1

Mendota Heights

Introduction class attendees	2
Projects designed	2

Northfield

Introduction class attendees	5
Projects designed	4
Installed raingardens	1

Rosemount

Introduction class attendees	38
Projects designed	19
Installed raingardens	5

South Saint Paul

Introduction class attendees	6
Projects designed	3
Installed raingardens	1

West Saint Paul

Introduction class attendees	8
Projects designed	7
Installed native gardens	2



2024 PARTNERS

Dakota County Ramsey County Cities

- Apple Valley
- Burnsville
- Eagan
- Farmington
- Hastings
- Inver Grove Heights
- Lakeville
- Saint Paul
- South St Paul
- Rosemount
- West St Paul



EIGHTEEN YEARS OF CLEAN WATER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Program Participants
2007-2024 **5,940**

Projects Completed
2007-2024 **810**

CREATE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TO KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN

DESIGN A NATIVE GARDEN



Native gardens are beautiful, save water, reduce need for fertilizer, and provide wildlife & pollinator habitat.

CREATE A RAINGARDEN



Raingardens filter storm water runoff from streets and rooftops before it enters streams, ponds, and lakes, keeping waterways clean!

STABILIZE SHORELINES



Native plants have long roots that reduce erosion, filter out pollutants, and discourage geese from gathering.

Join us for a **FREE** Landscaping for Clean Water presentation!

See dozens of beautiful, affordable garden designs, learn about the benefits they provide, and get an introduction to how you can get started on your own project.

After attending, you are eligible to attend a Design Course, where you'll receive expert 1-on-1 help to design your own project and apply for a grant of **\$250 & on-site assistance**.



LANDSCAPING FOR
CLEAN WATER



Dakota County Soil and
Water Conservation District

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER CLASSES

DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS FOR 2025

All hour-long classes will start at **6:00 p.m.**
at the following locations or on Zoom:



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th
Burnsville City Hall
100 Civic Center Pkwy, Burnsville



MONDAY, MARCH 10th
Apple Valley Municipal Center
7100 147th St W, Apple Valley



MONDAY APRIL 7th
Dakota Lodge
1200 Stassen Ln, West St Paul



MONDAY, May 6TH
Via Zoom



MONDAY, JUNE 2ND
Farmington Library
508 3rd St, Farmington

SCAN TO REGISTER

Classes are
free, but
pre-registration
is requested!



Thanks to our many watershed
and city partners!



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights
Watershed Management Organization



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT



From Past Participants:

“Very good class! Made the project seem very do-able. With **expert help**, it makes it **much easier.**”

“It was excellent! I left there with **more knowledge and interest about our water.** The instructor was **super engaging!**”



Questions? Contact Dakota SWCD at (651) 480 - 7777 or LCW@co.dakota.mn.us
www.dakotawcd.org/classes/landscaping-for-clean-water

CREATE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TO KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN

DESIGN A NATIVE GARDEN



Native gardens are beautiful, save water, reduce need for fertilizer, and provide wildlife & pollinator habitat.

CREATE A RAINGARDEN



Raingardens filter storm water runoff from streets and rooftops before it enters streams, ponds, and lakes, keeping waterways clean!

STABILIZE SHORELINES



Native plants have long roots that reduce erosion, filter out pollutants, and discourage geese from gathering.

Join us for a **FREE** Landscaping for Clean Water presentation!

See dozens of beautiful, affordable garden designs, learn about the benefits they provide, and get an introduction to how you can get started on your own project.

After attending, you'll become eligible to attend a Design Course (where you'll receive expert assistance on designing your own project) and apply for a grant of **\$250 & on-site assistance**.

The Introduction to Clean Water class begins at **6 pm** and will be presented **in-person** with one class online via Zoom.

Date	Location
Thursday, Feb 20	Burnsville
Monday, March 10	Apple Valley
Monday, April 7	West St. Paul
Tuesday, May 6	Online via Zoom
Monday, June 2	Farmington

REGISTER TODAY!



**LANDSCAPING FOR
CLEAN WATER**



Dakota County Soil and
Water Conservation District

www.dakotaswcd.org/classes/landscaping-for-clean-water



LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER GRANT

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER GRANT PROCESS

The Landscaping for Clean Water Grant program makes it easy for Dakota County residents to plan and install native gardens, raingardens, and native shoreline plantings.

Just follow the steps below!

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER



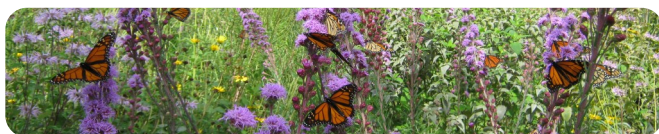
Dakota County Soil and
Water Conservation District

- 1. LEARN** Attend a FREE Landscaping for Clean Water Introduction class to learn what you can do to improve our water resources and provide pollinator habitat.
- 2. DESIGN** In the Design Course (online or in-person) you will plan a garden for your own yard with expert assistance. A \$25 registration fee includes a Raingarden Book, property maps, learning materials, technical assistance, & more!
- 3. APPLY** Submit an application for consideration to receive a \$250 Landscaping for Clean Water grant.
- 4. INSTALL** Install your project per approved plan with onsite guidance from Dakota SWCD's expert staff.
- 5. RECEIVE** You will be awarded a \$250 grant from Dakota SWCD upon project completion.

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER GRANT DEADLINES

	Application	Project Completion*
Round 1	April 30, 2025	July 11, 2025
Round 2	June 4, 2025	August 22, 2025
Round 3	July 16, 2025	October 3, 2025

* Grant automatically expires if the project is not completed by this date



Visit www.DAKOTASWCD.org for additional information or scan the QR Code --->



Raingarden



Native Garden



Native Shoreline
Planting

**18 YEARS OF CLEAN WATER
ACCOMPLISHMENTS!**

Workshop Participants 5,940

Projects Completed 810



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. G. – Designation of 2024 Official Newspaper

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, the LMRWD must designate a newspaper of general circulation in each county of the District as the general newspaper in which all hearing notices, advertising for bids, etc. are required to be published.

Since 2016, the LMRWD has used the Star Tribune as its official newspaper. The Star Tribune is qualified to serve as the legal and official newspaper under Minnesota Statutes Section 331A.02 Subd. 1. This designation is recommended for 2025. The Board should adopt Resolution 25-01 Designation of the 2025 Official District Newspaper.

An alternative to the Star Tribune would be *Finance and Commerce*. Designation of local newspapers in individual cities, such as the *Chaska Herald*, *Chanhassen Villager*, *Savage Pacer*, *Shakopee Valley News*, *Sun Current Newspaper* (Bloomington and Eden Prairie), *Sun Patriot* (Carver), *Sun This Week* (Eagan and Burnsville), is not a viable alternative, as many of these papers have ceased publication. There are no local newspapers similar in nature to serve the Cities of Mendota and Mendota Heights. The official newspaper for the City of Mendota Heights is the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

Attachments

Resolution 25-01 Designation of the 2025 Official District Newspaper

Recommended Action

Motion to adopt Resolution 25-01 Designation of the 2025 Official District Newspaper

RESOLUTION 25-01

RESOLUTION OF THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS

DESIGNATION OF THE 2025 OFFICAL DISTRICT NEWSPAPER

Manager _____ offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 103B and 103D require the publication of various official notices in a newspaper of general circulation within the District; and

WHEREAS, many of the local newspapers with circulation within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD), have local or limited circulation throughout the LMRWD or have ceased publication; and

WHEREAS, one newspaper of general circulation throughout the entire District is the Minnesota Star Tribune.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers hereby names the Minneapolis Star Tribune as the official newspaper of the District for 2025.

The question on the adoption of the Resolution was seconded by Manager _____ and upon a vote being taken 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"/>

Upon vote being taken, the President declared Resolution 25-01 adopted.

ATTEST:

Joseph Barisonzi, President

Lauren Salvato, Vice President

I, Lauren Salvato, Secretary of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, do hereby certify that I have compared the above Resolution with the original thereof as the same appears of record and on file with the District and find the same to be a true and correct transcript thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 15th day of January 2025.

Lauren Salvato, Vice President



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. H. – Designation of Official Depositories

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

In accordance with MN Statute § 118A.02, each government entity's governing body must designate one or more financial institutions as depositories for its funds. Carver County managed the financial services for the LMRWD up until 2022, with LMRWD funds being co-mingled and administered as part of the county's funds. In 2021, Carver County notified the LMRWD that it could no longer manage their funds, prompting the LMRWD to seek a new accountant and a new depository for its funds.

In 2022, the LMRWD appointed Clifton Larson Allen, LLC (CLA) as its accountant and transferred its funds to the Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund (4M Fund). Additionally, depository accounts were established with US Bank to manage payment of claims against the LMRWD.

The 4M Fund, tailored to meet the financial needs of Minnesota cities, special districts, and other public entities, is a cash management and investment program. Since 1987, it has been sponsored and governed by the League of Minnesota Cities and complies with all Minnesota statutes regarding the investment of public funds.

It is recommended that the LMRWD continue its engagement with CLA and the 4M Fund in 2025, and that the Board adopt Resolution 25-02.

Attachments

Resolution 25-02 Designating Depositories for Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Funds

Recommended Action

Motion to adopt Resolution 25-02 Designating Depositories for Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Funds

Manager _____ offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION 25-02

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT FUNDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) that the following are named as depositories for funds: **4M Fund; and U.S. Bank**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a sweep account will be used for nightly balances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following signatories or their designees are authorized to be signatories on checks drawn on funds deposited: President, Treasurer or Administrator of the LMRWD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following shall be authorized to make investments of the LMRWD and shall be authorized to deposit the principal of said investments in the above depositories as necessary and beneficial to the LMRWD: President, Treasurer, or Administrator of the LMRWD or Financial Firm contracted by the Board of Managers of the LMRWD.

The LMRWD Treasurer or Administrator will supply each of the depositories with certified copies of this resolution with such signature documentation as is required by the depository and the authorizations set forth above.

The question on the adoption of the Resolution was seconded by Manager _____ .
Upon a vote being taken there were ___ yeas and ___ nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
AMUNDSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BARISONZI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DULL	<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"/>
SALVATO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(signatures on following page)

Upon a vote, the President declared the Resolution adopted.

ATTEST:

Joseph Barisonzi, President

Lauren Salvato, Secretary

I, Lauren Salvato, Secretary of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, do hereby certify that I have compared the above Resolution with the original thereof as the same appears of record and on file with the LMRWD and find the same to be a true and correct transcript thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 15th day of January 2025.

Lauren Salvato, Secretary



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. I. - Designation of Data Practices Compliance Official

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The Minnesota's Government Data Practices Act requires that all government entities in Minnesota adopt policies regarding access to government data. The policies explain how members of the public can access government data and provide contact information for the City staff members responsible for receiving and processing data practices requests. The District must update these policies by August 1 each year. Also, Minnesota Statutes require the District to appoint an individual as the Data Practices Compliance Officer and Responsible Authority.

The LMRWD Data Practices was adopted in 2014 and revised August 21, 2024, can be found on the LMRWD website using this [link](#).

In accordance with MN Statutes and the LMRWD's Data Practices Policy, the Managers should annually designate a Data Practice Compliance Official, who is responsible to respond to public requests for LMRWD Data.

In the past the LMRWD Administrator has served as the Data Practices Compliance Official. It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached Resolution 2025-03 Appointing 2025 Data Practices Compliance Official and Responsible Authority.

Attachments

Resolution 25-03 Appointing 2025 Data Practices Compliance Official and Responsible Authority

Recommended Action

Motion to adopt Resolution 25-03 Appointing 2025 Data Practices Compliance Official and Responsible Authority

RESOLUTION 25-03

**RESOLUTION OF THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS
APPOINTING 2025 DATA PRACTICES RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY**

Manager _____ offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the "LMRWD") Board of Managers is the official governing body of the LMRWD; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (the "Act"), requires that the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (the "LMRWD") prepare a written data access policy; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD Board of Managers adopted the LMRWD Data Practices Procedures, September 17, 2014 and revised said procedures August 21, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Act and the LMRWD Data Practices Procedures, require that the LMRWD Board of Managers appoint a Data Practices Compliance Official and Responsible Authority that is the individual responsible for the collection, use, and dissemination of any set of data on individuals, government data, or summary data, unless otherwise provided by state law; and

WHEREAS, the LMRWD Board of Managers shares the concern regarding the responsible use of all LMRWD data and wishes to satisfy this concern by appointing an administratively qualified Data Practices Compliance Official and Responsible Authority as required under statute.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers, appoints District Administrator, Linda Loomis, as the Data Practices Compliance Official and Responsible Authority for the purposes of meeting all requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13.

The question on the adoption of the Resolution was seconded by Manager _____ and upon a vote being taken 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 vote, the President declared the Resolution adopted.

Joseph Barisonzi, President

ATTEST:

Lauren Salvato, Secretary

I, Lauren Salvato, Secretary of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, do hereby certify that I have compared the above Resolution with the original thereof as the same appears of record and on file with the District and find the same to be a true and correct transcript thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 15th day of January 2025.

Lauren Salvato, Secretary



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. J. – Authorize Execution of Joint Power Agreement between Dakota County SWCD and LMRWD for monitoring, educational and technical assistance services

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

At the December 11, 2024 Board of Manager meeting, the Board approved the scope of work to be performed in 2025 by the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) on behalf of the LMRWD. The agreement is attached and it is recommended that the Board authorize the President to sign the agreement.

Attachments

Joint Power Agreement Between the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District for monitoring, Educational and Technical Assistance Services

Recommended Action

Motion to authorize execution of the above referenced agreement

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND
THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
FOR EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT are the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD), both political subdivisions of the State of Minnesota and “governmental units” as that term is defined in Minn. Stat. § 471.59. This Agreement is made pursuant to the authority conferred upon the parties by Minn. Stat. § 471.59.

NOW THEREFORE, the parties, in joint and mutual exercise of their powers, agree as follows:

1. **PURPOSE.** This Agreement will define the responsibilities and obligations of the SWCD and the LMRWD for educational and technical assistance services to be provided by the SWCD to the LMRWD as more fully described herein and LMRWD’s contributions toward SWCD cost share projects.
2. **TERM.** Notwithstanding the dates of signatures of the parties, this Agreement shall be in effect as of January 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2025, or until completion by the parties of their respective obligations under this Agreement, whichever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Agreement.
3. **SCOPE OF SERVICES.** SWCD agrees to provide LMRWD with educational and technical assistance as expressed in the *2025 Dakota County SWCD Work Plan and Budget for Lower Minnesota River Watershed District* attached and incorporated into this Agreement as **Exhibit 1**. LMRWD agrees to pay the SWCD for all services provided pursuant to this Agreement and contribute to cost share projects as expressed in **Exhibit 1** up to the not to exceed amount identified in Section 4 herein.

In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and **Exhibit 1**, the terms of this Agreement shall govern.

4. **TOTAL COST.** The total amount to be paid by the LMRWD for all services provided and cost share project contributions pursuant to this Agreement shall not exceed \$22,000.00 (Not-to-Exceed Amount). The LMRWD shall pay SWCD for purchased services and cost share contributions at the rates set out in **Exhibit 1**.
5. **TIME OF PAYMENT.** The LMRWD shall make payment to the SWCD within 45 days of the date on which an itemized invoice is received. If an invoice is incorrect, defective, or otherwise improper, the LMRWD shall notify the SWCD within 10 days of receiving the incorrect invoice. Upon receiving the corrected invoice, the LMRWD shall make payment within 45 days.
6. **PAYMENT FOR UNAUTHORIZED CLAIMS.** The LMRWD may refuse to pay any claim for services or cost share contribution that is not specifically authorized by this Agreement. Payment of a claim shall not preclude the LMRWD from questioning the propriety of the claim. The LMRWD reserves the right to offset any overpayment or disallowance of claim by reducing future payments.
7. **PAYMENT UPON EARLY TERMINATION.** In the event this Agreement is terminated before the completion of services or the end of the term identified in Section 2, the LMRWD shall pay the SWCD for services provided in a satisfactory manner, in a pro-rated sum of the rates set forth in **Exhibit 1** based upon actual time spent, plus the cost share contributions for projects that have already been approved by the SWCD at the time of termination. In no case shall such payments exceed the Not-to-Exceed Amount.
8. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS/STANDARDS.** SWCD shall abide by all federal, state or local statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations now in effect or hereafter adopted pertaining to this Agreement or to the facilities, programs and staff for which SWCD is responsible.

9. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as creating the relationship of a partnership, joint venture or employer-employee relationship between the parties. Officers, employees or agents of one party shall not be considered officers, employees or agents of the other party.
10. SUBCONTRACTING. The parties understand and agree that one or more of the scope of services set forth in **Exhibit 1** to this Agreement may be performed through another agent or subcontractor and that the subcontracting party is responsible for the performance of its subcontractors, unless otherwise agreed. It is the responsibility of each party to ensure its subcontractor(s) has adequate and appropriate insurance coverage.
11. ASSIGNMENT. A party shall not assign any interest it has in this Agreement without prior written consent of the other party. Said consent may be subject to conditions. The assigning party shall be responsible for the performance of its assignee unless otherwise agreed.
12. LIABLE FOR OWN ACTS. Each party to this Agreement shall be liable for the acts of their own officers, employees, volunteers and/or agents and the results thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall not be responsible for the acts of the other party, its officers, employees, volunteers and/or agents. The Municipal Tort Claims Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 466, and other applicable laws govern liability arising from a party's acts or omissions. In the event of any claims or actions filed against either party, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to allow a claimant to obtain separate judgments or separate liability caps from the individual parties.
13. INSURANCE. Each party warrants that it has an insurance or self-insurance program and that it has minimum coverage consistent with the liability limits contained in Minn. Stat. Ch. 466.
14. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. The following named persons are designated the authorized representatives of parties for purposes of this Agreement. These persons have authority to bind the party they represent and to consent to modifications and subcontracts, except that, the authorized representatives shall have only the authority specifically or generally granted by its respective Board. Notification required to be provided pursuant to this Agreement shall be provided to the following named persons and addresses unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, or in a modification of this Agreement.

To SWCD:

Kevin Chamberlain or successor, Chair
 Dakota County SWCD
 4100 220th Street West, Suite 102
 Farmington, MN 55024

To LMRWD:

Linda Loomis or successor, District Administrator
 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
 112 E. 5th St.
 Chaska, MN 55318

In addition, notification to the LMRWD or the SWCD regarding termination of this Agreement by the other party shall also be provided to the Office of the Dakota County Attorney, Civil Division, 1560 Highway 55, Hastings, Minnesota 55033.

15. LIAISONS. To assist the parties in the day-to-day performance of this Agreement and to develop service, ensure compliance and provide ongoing consultation, a liaison shall be designated by SWCD and the LMRWD. The parties shall keep each other continually informed, in writing, of any change in the designated liaison. At the time of execution of this Agreement, the following persons are the designated liaisons:

SWCD Liaison:	Ashley Gallagher, or successor, Director
Telephone:	(651) 480-7781
Email:	ashley.gallagher@co.dakota.mn.us

LMRWD Liaison:	Linda Loomis or successor, District Administrator
Telephone:	(763) 545-4659
Email:	niadconsulting@gmail.com

16. DEFAULT: FORCE MAJEURE. Neither party shall be liable to the other party for any loss or damage resulting from a delay or failure to perform due to unforeseeable acts or events outside the defaulting party's reasonable control, providing the defaulting party gives notice to the other party as soon as possible. Acts and events may include acts of God, acts of terrorism, war, fire, flood, epidemic, acts of civil or military authority, and natural disasters.

17. DATA PRIVACY. All data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated in the performance of this Agreement is subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 and the Minnesota Rules implementing the Act now in force or hereafter adopted as well as the federal laws on data privacy. The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act also applies to subcontractors providing services under this Agreement. If public data is available from the LMRWD, the SWCD may direct the public to the LMRWD for access to the data.

The LMRWD may give the SWCD access to, or the SWCD may become aware of, private or confidential information in performing services under this Agreement. Private and confidential information is data that is not public under the Minnesota Data Practices Act (Minn. Stats. Ch. 13). The SWCD may keep the private and confidential information only for use in performing services under this Agreement. The SWCD must impose procedures as are necessary to assure nondisclosure of private and confidential information directly or indirectly to third parties.

18. OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT. If SWCD uses LMRWD's copyrighted material in performing work for this Agreement, SWCD will protect LMRWD's right, title and interest in the copyrighted material. Before using a third party's copyrighted material SWCD will get permission from the third-party. Where applicable, work products created by SWCD under this Agreement are "works made for hire" as defined in the U.S. Copyright Act. LMRWD owns the copyright interests in the work product. LMRWD may use, copy and make derivative works of the same, with no duty for an accounting to SWCD. SWCD may use portions or excerpts from the materials prepared under this Agreement.

19. RECORDS DISCLOSURE/RETENTION. Bonds, records, documents, papers, accounting procedures and practices, and other evidences relevant to this Agreement are subject to the examination, duplication, transcription and audit by each party to this Agreement and either the Legislative or State Auditor, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, Subd. 5. Such evidences are also subject to review by the Comptroller General of the United States, or a duly authorized representative, if federal funds are used for any work under this Agreement. Each governmental unit agrees to maintain such evidences for a period of six years from the date services or payment were last provided or made or longer if any audit in progress requires a longer retention period.

20. TERMINATION. Either party may terminate this Agreement for cause by giving seven days' written notice or without cause by giving 30 days' written notice, of its intent to terminate, to the other party. Such notice to terminate for cause shall specify the circumstances warranting termination of this Agreement. Cause shall mean a material breach of this Agreement and any supplemental agreements or amendments thereto. Notice of Termination shall be made by certified mail or personal delivery to the authorized representative of the other party. Termination of this Agreement shall not discharge any liability, responsibility or other right of any party, which arises from the performance of or failure to adequately perform the terms of this Agreement prior to the effective date of termination.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, either party may immediately terminate this Agreement if it does not obtain funding from the Minnesota Legislature, Minnesota Agencies, or other funding source, or if its funding cannot be continued at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due under this Agreement.

21. MODIFICATIONS. Any alterations, variations, modifications, or waivers of the provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the parties.

22. MINNESOTA LAW TO GOVERN. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive and procedural laws of the State of Minnesota, without giving effect to the principles

of conflict of laws. All proceedings related to this Agreement shall be venued in the County of Dakota, State of Minnesota.

- 23. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed severable. If any part of this Agreement is rendered void, invalid, or unenforceable, such rendering shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Agreement unless the part or parts that are void, invalid or otherwise unenforceable shall substantially impair the value of the entire Agreement with respect to either party.
- 24. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY. Any property purchased with LMRWD money to perform services under this Agreement is owned by LMRWD and will be returned by the SWCD to LMRWD at the termination of this Agreement.
- 25. FINAL AGREEMENT. This Agreement is the final expression of the agreement of the parties and the complete and exclusive statement of the terms agreed upon, and shall supersede all prior negotiations, understandings or agreements. There are no representations, warranties, or stipulations, either oral or written, not contained in this Agreement.
- 26. SURVIVORSHIP. The following provisions under this Agreement survive after the termination date of this Agreement: Sections 12 (Liable for Own Acts), 17 (Data Privacy), 18 (Ownership of Work Product), 19 (Records Disclosure/Retention), 22 (Minnesota Law to Govern), and 24 (Disposition of Property).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the date(s) indicated below.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

By _____
Joseph Barisonzi or successor, President
Date of Signature _____

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By _____
Kevin Chamberlain or successor, Chair
Date of Signature _____

Approved as to Form:

/s/ Brian J. Wisdorf 1/10/2025
Assistant Dakota County Attorney/Date
KS-25-25
SWCD Board Motion No.25-011

**2025 Dakota County SWCD Work Plan and Budget
for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District**

EXHIBIT 1

Task	Calculation			Sub-total
Education and Community Engagement				
	Hours	Rate	Fees	
Landscaping for Clean Water			\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Provide access to the Landscaping for Clean Water Program: Introduction Class & Design Course Materials (Includes online registration, partner coordination, presentation creation and updates, creation of education and outreach materials, participant tracking, one-on-one design assistance)		Introduction Class = \$600 Design Course = \$1,200		
Education and Outreach Total				\$1,800.00
Technical Assistance				
	Hours	Rate	Fees	
Fen Well Monitoring	100	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$10,150.00
Staff time for groundwater monitoring in Fort Snelling, Nichols, and Quarry Island fens from March 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 - 10 monitoring trips at 5 hours/trip. Includes data management, reporting and site maintenance as needed.		Fee is for monitoring supplies such as chalk, rags, batteries, tools, etc.		
Landscaping for Clean Water			\$2,000.00	\$1,800.00
SWCD staff time for technical assistance on Landscaping for Clean Water projects.		\$600 x 3 projects		
Conservation Projects	75	\$100.00		\$7,500.00
Technical assistance for potential projects. <i>Only as requested by Lower Minnesota River WD.</i>				
Technical Assistance Total				\$19,450.00
Cost Share				
	Hours	Rate	Fees	
Landscaping for Clean Water			\$750.00	\$750.00
Provide cost share to landowners for projects including raingardens, native plantings and shoreline stabilization projects consistent with Dakota SWCD cost share policies.		\$250 X 3 projects		
Cost Share Total				\$750.00
Total Agreement Not-to Exceed				\$22,000.00

Note: Additional items may be required of the SWCD during the workplan timeframe and individual budget amounts may change as the year progresses. If proposed changes are to exceed the total agreed amount, this work plan can be amended as jointly approved by the LMRWD and SWCD.



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 7. A. – 2025 Legislative Agenda

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

On December 11, 2024, the Board met with its Government Relations Consultant, Park Street Public. During the meeting, the Board shared their desired legislative agenda with Joe Birkholz and Molly Jansen. Subsequently, Mr. Birkholz and Ms. Jansen prepared a formal document outlining the 2025 legislative goals for the Board to review and approve, which is attached.

Mr. Birkholz and/or Ms. Jansen will virtually join the January Board meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.

Attachments

2025 LMRWD Legislative Agenda

Recommended Action

Motion to approve 2025 LMRWD Legislative Agenda

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

Legislative Agenda

- **Base Funding:** Maintain base appropriation of \$240,000 per year for cost of operating and maintaining dredge spoil sites.

Background: The Minnesota River 9-foot navigation channel contributes significantly to regional and statewide economies. For this reason, the Board of Managers of the LMRWD maintain that the State of Minnesota should continue to share in the cost of managing the material dredged from the River in order to maintain the channel.

- **Bonding:** Protect 2023 \$2.75 million capital investment appropriation

Background: In the 2023 legislative session, \$2.75 million was appropriated to the LMRWD for final design and construction of capital improvements that are necessary to stabilize the riverbank, prevent erosion, and prevent future degradation of the Minnesota River in Eden Prairie.

- **Water Storage:** Protect 2023 Investments

Background: In 2023, the Legislature appropriated \$17 million for water quality and storage in the Minnesota River Basin. The purpose of the program is to protect infrastructure, improve water quality, and mitigate climate impacts. BWSR has been able to use this appropriation to leverage \$21 million in federal funds. This program and funding is critical for water quality, erosion control, and climate mitigation in the Minnesota River Basin and should be protected.

Items to Monitor/Support

- Voluntary Certification with Limited Liability for Commercial Winter Maintenance Applicators and other legislation to reduce salt entering the natural environment
- State policy and legislation around Calcareous Fens
- Monitor legislation coming out of the Drainage Work Group and other drainage policy/programs
- DNR and drainage conversation
- Support actions to control the movement of invasive carp species and implementation of 2024 LSOHC funding for an invasive carp control structure at Lock and Dam 5 on the Mississippi River.





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 7. B. Administrative Services Update

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

At the December 11, 2024, Board of Managers meeting, the Board authorized the Personnel Committee to proceed with the search for a new Administrator to replace the current Administrator, Linda Loomis, who is planning to retire in 2025.

An advertisement for the position has been posted on the LMRWD website and Facebook page, as well as on a newly created LinkedIn page.

The deadline to receive applications is January 30th.

On January 9th, the Personnel Committee met to organize a Q&A Session for those interested in applying for the position. The session has been scheduled for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. It will be held virtually, allowing participants to remain anonymous. Interested parties are asked to register with the current Administrator. A notice of the Q&A Session has also been posted on the LMRWD website, Facebook page, and LinkedIn.

President Barisonzi drafted a set of 'Frequently Asked Questions' for the Q&A Session, which was shared with the Board. The Citizen Advisory Committee will also be invited to participate in the Q&A and the selection process.

The Committee also deliberated on the criteria to evaluate applicants. The Personnel Committee will meet at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 3, 2025, to review the applications received and determine which applicants will be invited for interviews. Interviews will be conducted in person, starting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 6, 2025, and continuing at 7:00 PM on Friday, February 7, 2025, if necessary. The interviews will be held at the Chaska Community Center.

Young Environmental Consulting Group has raised concerns for the Board's consideration. Manager Kuplic has requested that the Board discuss the letter received from Young Environmental, since it was not addressed by the Personnel Committee.

Item 7. B. Administrative Services Update

Executive Summary

January 15, 2025

Page 2

Attachments

Letter from Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC, Dated January 2, 2025, Re: District Administrator Position Information Request

Recommended Action

No action recommended



Young Environmental
Consulting Group, LLC

January 2, 2025

Linda Loomis, Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD)
naiadconsulting@gmail.com

Personnel Committee
LMRWD
Personnel@LowerMNRiverWD.org

Re: District Administrator Job Position Information Request

Dear Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Personnel Committee:

We understand that the LMRWD is actively recruiting an Administrator to lead watershed management efforts. This role is critical not only for day-to-day operations and project and program management, but also integral to strategic initiatives such as the Watershed Management Plan update, legislative agenda, and relationships with a wide variety of partners. After reviewing the request, we've noted that the Personnel Committee has structured recruitment efforts to consider qualified individuals as well as independent contractors, firm principals, and firms/consulting groups.

As the LMRWD Technical Consultant/District Engineer and Education and Outreach consultant, Young Environmental is committed to supporting the LMRWD in this recruitment initiative. Our team has been appointed to serve in this position for a two-year period, contracted through July 31, 2026, and we understand the critical need to have an excellent working relationship with the District Administrator. This working partnership is critical to making the Board of Managers' vision a reality and driving key actions that protect water and natural resources. To serve the LMRWD during this transition, we would like to submit the following questions for your consideration. Your response will help us understand how we can best continue to serve you and how our position will be structured in relation to the new Administrator role.

Please consider providing a response to the following questions. Your replies will help us best serve the LMRWD:

1. Will there be any organizational checkpoints placed between the Administrator, the consultant team¹, and the engineering consulting pool?
 - o For example, if a consulting firm is selected to serve as the Administrator, will they be ineligible to serve as part of the engineering pool or as Technical Consultant/District Engineer?
 - o Are there examples you can provide about what these checkpoints will be?
2. As the LMRWD Technical Consultant/District Engineer, is Young Environmental restricted from applying for the Administrator position? If permitted to apply, what benefits and challenges would need to be considered as part of this appointment?
3. What expectations do you have from the Young Environmental team to ensure the District Administrator recruitment process is successful? How can we support you during this transition?

We welcome your response in whatever format is easiest, whether that be a written reply or an in-person meeting. If you would like us to schedule a time to meet, please contact me at della@youngecg.com or (651) 249-6974. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the LMRWD. We remain fervently committed to the organization's success and are striving to adapt to your needs and expectations as they evolve.

Sincerely,

Della Nyondi Shall Young, PMP, OES, CTF
Chief Executive Officer
Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC

¹ The job summary notes the consultant team will include District Engineer, Counsel, and Lobby Firm. Additional vendors include Accounting, Auditor, and Dredge Site Operations. Additional staff include the Education and Outreach Coordinator, staffed by Young Environmental.



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 7. C. – Select date for 2025 Minnesota River Tour

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

At the October 9, 2024, meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers, the Board asked that planning begin for a 2025 Minnesota River boat tour.

The Padelford Packet Boat Company has the following dates available:

- August: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th
- September: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th, and 12th

In 2024, the counties had a conflict with a meeting scheduled by the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). As of today, AMC has nothing scheduled on its calendar for August or September. This does not mean that something will not be scheduled between now and any date selected. Labor day in 2025 falls on September 1st, so most schools will start on September 2nd.

If the Board has program ideas, they should share them with Administrator Loomis.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

Motion to select a date for the 2025 Minnesota River boat tour



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 8. A. – State of the Minnesota River Listening Session

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The Listening Session was held on January 8th. Time has been set aside on the January agenda to discuss what the manager heard from those that testified. There has not been time to pull together details in time to post with the meeting materials for the Board of Managers meeting. We hope to have materials for the Board to react to at the meeting.

The live stream of the meeting has been posted to the LMRWD Facebook page.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

No actions recommended



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 9. A. Study Area #3 Update

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is currently reviewing the report prepared by the 106 Group, which has been submitted to the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Once the LMRWD receives approval from the USACE, the 90% design phase will commence..

During a property survey conducted by Bolton & Menk, it was discovered that the Eden Prairie Right of Way lacks an official legal description. The LMRWD will need to meet with the City and Bolton & Menk to discuss how to address this issue.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

For information only – no action recommended

LMRWD Permit Program Summary



Permit Number	Project Name	Owner	Status	Pre-Permit Meeting	Date Received	Date Considered Complete	Board Actions			Permit Issued	Permit Expiration Date
							Information Only	Conditional Approval	Approval		
2021-016	Whispering Waters	Keyland Homes	Active		4/14/2021	6/4/2021		6/16/2021		7/13/2021	7/14/2025
2021-025	TH13/Dakota Ave Improvement	MnDOT	Construction Complete		6/11/2021	6/15/2021		2/16/2022		5/20/2022	5/20/2025
2021-030	Building Renovation Park Jeep	Park Chrysler Jeep	Construction Complete		7/9/2021	7/16/2021		9/15/2021		6/21/2022	8/15/2025
2022-005	Chaska West Creek Apt	Hickory Investments LLC	Construction Complete		2/8/2022	3/29/2023		4/19/2023		6/6/2023	6/6/2025
2022-010	Quarry Lake Trail and Ped Bridge	City of Shakopee	Construction Complete		2/24/2022	3/18/2022		4/20/2022		3/1/2023	3/1/2025
2022-015	Xcel Driveway	Xcel Energy	Construction Complete	5/25/2023	6/21/2023	7/31/2023		8/16/2023		9/21/2023	9/21/2025
2022-016	ORF Relocation	SMSC	Active		4/20/2022	6/30/2023		7/19/2023		7/20/2023	7/20/2025
2022-019	I494 SP 2785-433	MnDOT	Active		4/21/2022	6/24/2022		7/20/2022		4/10/2023	4/10/2025
2022-022	Ace Rent A Car	Walser	Construction Complete		5/10/2022	11/3/2023			11/15/2023	11/16/2023	11/16/2025
2022-031	RSI Marine	RSI Marine	Conditional Approval		9/20/2023	1/24/2024	8/17/2022	2/21/2024			
2022-039	Former Knox Site	Beton LLC	Construction Complete		11/3/2022	12/19/2022		1/18/2023		6/6/2023	6/6/2025
2022-040	Burnsville Sanitary Landfill	Waste Management	Active		11/21/2022	2/15/2023		3/15/2023	8/16/2023	8/17/2023	8/17/2025
2022-042	3rd Street Bridge Replacement	City of Carver	Active		12/16/2022	2/2/2023		2/15/2023		5/22/2024	5/22/2025
2023-001	Lakota Lane After-the-Fact	Andrew Polski	Conditional Approval		1/10/2023	5/30/2024		6/20/2024			
2023-007	MN River Greenway Trail	Dakota County	Active		3/1/2023	3/15/2023		4/19/2023	11/6/2024	11/6/2023	11/7/2025
2023-008	Chaska Tech Center Amendment	Lariat Companies Inc.	Construction Complete		3/4/2023	4/11/2023		4/19/2023	7/19/2023	5/15/2023	5/15/2025
2023-009	AT&T Bloomington to Eureka Fiber	AT&T	Active		3/31/2023	5/19/2023		6/21/2023		6/26/2023	6/26/2025
2023-010	MN River Greenway RR Bridge	Dakota County	Conditional Approval	4/5/2023	5/17/2024	9/10/2024		10/9/2024			
2023-013	Merriam Junction Trail	Scott County	Active	4/5/2023	5/8/2023	5/31/2024		6/20/2024		11/5/2024	11/5/2025
2023-015	City of Bloomington Storm Sewer Maintenance	City of Bloomington	Construction Complete		5/24/2023	6/15/2023		7/19/2023		8/23/2023	8/23/2025
2023-017	MN Bluffs Regional Trail	City of Chaska	Active	6/14/2023	12/28/2023	2/26/2024		3/20/2024		11/6/2024	11/6/2025
2023-019	Dean Lake Wetland Fill	Ryan Klingenberg	Active		8/27/2023	9/10/2023		9/20/2023		10/4/2023	10/4/2025
2023-020	Tramore Heights Addition	Larry Hassler	Active	9/1/2023	8/21/2023	1/24/2024		2/21/2024	10/18/2023	10/20/2023	5/2/2025
2023-022	Safety and Security Center Phase II	MAC	Active		10/2/2023	4/3/2024		5/15/2024	5/15/2024	5/28/2024	5/25/2025

Permit Number	Project Name	Owner	Status	Pre-Permit Meeting	Date Received	Date Considered Complete	Board Actions			Permit Issued	Permit Expiration Date
							Information Only	Conditional Approval	Approval		
2023-023	Vernon Avenue Road Improvements	LMRWD	Conditional Approval		10/6/2023			11/15/2023			
2023-024	Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements	Carmeuse	Active		10/11/2023	12/1/2023		12/20/2023		7/8/2024	7/8/2025
2023-025	35W SP1987-140	MnDOT	Under Review	10/31/2023	1/24/2024						
2023-026	CenterPoint Pipeline Abandonment	CenterPoint Energy	Active		1/5/2024	1/24/2024	1/20/2024	2/21/2024		5/29/2024	5/29/2025
2023-027	TH 41 ORF Intersection Reconstruction	SMSC	Active	11/6/2023	12/12/2023	5/13/2024	1/17/2024	6/20/2024		6/20/2024	6/20/2025
2023-029	Tarnhill Pond	City of Bloomington	Construction Complete		11/15/2023	11/22/2023		12/20/2023		12/27/2023	12/27/2025
2024-002	MnDOT Pond Maintenance	MnDOT	Active		3/20/2024	4/26/2024		5/15/2024		11/18/2024	11/18/2025
2024-004	35W Early Release	MnDOT	Active		2/20/2024	4/3/2024		4/17/2024		10/3/2024	10/3/2025
2024-006	T2 North Expansion	MAC	Active		2/28/2024	6/4/2024		8/21/2024		8/22/2024	8/22/2025
2024-009	FWTEC	Minneapolis Parks & Recreation	Active		3/28/2024	6/21/2024		7/17/2024		7/25/2024	7/24/2025
2024-010	Lyndale Road	City of Bloomington	Active		3/29/2024	5/28/2024		6/20/2024		8/27/2024	8/27/2025
2024-012	Concourse G Infill Pods Phase 2	MAC	Conditional Approval		5/29/2024	9/3/2024		9/18/2024			
2024-013	MnDNR Trail 1B	MnDNR	Upcoming								
2024-014	LTS MSP Lateral 2	LTS Telecommunications	Active		6/3/2024	10/31/2024			12/11/2024	12/12/2024	12/12/2025
2024-016	Flying Cloud Airport	Metropolitan Airports	Construction Complete	7/11/2024	7/23/2024	8/2/2024		8/21/2024		9/26/2024	9/26/2025
2024-018	CPE Xenwood and 125th St.	Center Point Energy	Active		8/23/2024	9/11/2024		10/9/2024		10/10/2024	10/10/2025
2024-019	MCImetro 2407AFCI - 31282	MCImetro	Under Review		11/12/2024						
2024-020	Ike's Creek Restoration	USFWS	Under Review		11/21/2024						
2024-021	Metro Pond Maintenance Group A2	MnDOT	Under Review		12/11/2024						
2024-022	Dell Road Reconstruction	City of Eden Prairie	Under Review		12/27/2024						

*Staff recommendation only, has not yet been presented to the Board for action

STATUS DEFINITIONS:

Active Permit: Applicant has a valid permit issued by LMRWD

Conditional Approval: LMRWD managers conditionally approved the permit application, pending receipt of additional information from applicant

Expired: Applicant either obtained conditional approval, approval, and/or was issued a permit and the expiration date has passed

Under Review: Permit application is complete and under review by LMRWD staff

Construction Complete: project construction is complete but permit is not closed

Upcoming: Applicant has requested pre-permit application reviews or meetings, but has not yet applied for a permit from LMRWD



Permit Number	Project Name	Owner	Status	Pre-Permit Meeting	Date Received	Date Considered Complete	Board Actions			Permit Issued	Permit Expiration Date
							Information Only	Conditional Approval	Approval		