



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Agenda Item

Item 5. E. - Authorize support for Metro Children's Water Festival

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

Since 1998, the [Metro Children's Water Festival](#) has brought together 4th grade students from around the Metropolitan area, for a fun and educational day focused on the importance of water. Organized annually by the Metro Conservation Districts, the Festival traditionally takes place on the last Wednesday of September. This year, it will be held on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025**, at the **Minnesota State Fairgrounds**. The event runs all day and offers hands-on learning experiences designed to inspire the next generation of water stewards.

In response to COVID-19, a virtual version of the Metro Children's Water Festival was developed and remains accessible to teachers and students today. The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) has been a long-time financial supporter of the Festival, and funding for the 2025 event is included in the current LMRWD budget.

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) has traditionally supported student transportation to the Festival by funding six buses. The 2025 budget includes an allocation of **\$1,650**, based on previous years' costs. However, transportation expenses have increased in 2025. To maintain support for six buses, the LMRWD would need to increase its contribution to **\$2,700**.

The Board is asked to consider whether it wishes to continue supporting the Festival, and if so, to determine the appropriate level of financial support.

Attachments

Letter from Metro Children's Water Festival requesting support dated June 5, 2025

2025 Metro Children's Water Festival Sponsor Form

Recommended Action

Motion to support Metro Children's Water Festival at level determined by the Board and authorize execution of Sponsor Form and payment of support



June 5, 2025

Dear Linda Loomis,

We are kicking off the fund-raising campaign for the **28th annual Metro Children's Water Festival (MCWF)**. We are excited again this year to be inviting around 1,900 4th graders!

What is the Metro Children's Water Festival?

The festival is an interactive, hands-on, educational outreach program. The festival educates, motivates and challenges children to understand, conserve and protect water resources. It is one of the premier K-12 education events in the metro area and helps teachers achieve state and school district science standards for 4th grade. The festival is one of the largest education collaborations in the metro area and has been increasing awareness of water issues and solutions in students and adults for more than 25 years. Since it began in 1998 over 30,000 students have attended the in-person festivals.

Why sponsor the Children's Water Festival?

- It provides free education on water resources to 4th graders in the metro area.
- It inspires students to learn more about water resources and protect clean water for future generations.
- It provides science enrichment that helps teachers meet state education standards.
- It creates enthusiasm and awareness around one of our most precious resources.
- Be recognized as a business or entity that supports water and environmental learning. Sponsors are recognized at the festival, in the festival booklet, on <https://metrocwf.org/sponsors/>, through press releases and articles, and receive a certificate of sponsorship. We can provide the CWF logo to put on your website.

How will funds be used?

The festival is provided free to students. Sponsored funds cover rental charges for the State Fair Grounds where it's hosted, presenter fees, food & beverages for volunteers and presenters, materials for certain activities, and website hosting and maintenance. Sponsorship also covers some busing costs for schools that cannot afford transportation. Most organizers and the planning committee members are from public and private agencies that volunteer their time and expertise.

How to sponsor

Fill out and return the enclosed sponsor form. Thank you for supporting this event that gives so much to the children of Minnesota and identifies the metro area as a national leader in environmental stewardship.

Learn more at <https://metrocwf.org/>

Thank you,

Adriana Atcheson
Metro Children's Water Festival Planning Committee
651-430-6716 or adriana.atcheson@washingtontcountymn.gov

Metropolitan Conservation Districts



2025 METRO CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL SPONSOR FORM

Sponsors will be recognized in the Festival Program, at Festival site, in press releases, on the website and will receive a certificate of sponsorship. The Festival Program will be distributed to all participants (teachers, presenters, sponsors and volunteers) at and after the Festival.

_____ We would like to be a Festival sponsor by funding educational materials, presenters and facility rental:
(Please circle one.)

\$250

\$500

\$1000

\$2000

Other \$ _____

_____ We would like to donate materials (e.g. t-shirts, food, etc.), services or volunteers. Please ask a Festival organizer to call _____ at _____
(contact person) (phone number)

_____ We would like to sponsor a school(s) by paying for transportation costs: (approx. \$450/bus.)

_____ We would be interested in having a company representative help the day of the event.

Please make check payable to: Metro Conservation Districts

CONTACT NAME _____ **DATE** _____

COMPANY _____
(Please print this exactly as you wish it to appear in the program.)

ADDRESS _____
(Street, City or Town, Zip)

PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Adriana Atcheson
Washington County
Department of Public Health & Environment
14949 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082

