



**Lower Minnesota River Watershed District  
Annual Report for Year Ending December 31, 2009**



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\* Water monitoring reports can be found and downloaded from the District web site at <http://www.watersheddistrict.org/reports.html>.

## HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) was established principally as a legal entity for enabling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) to construct a navigation channel within the Minnesota River.

As the original petition for establishing the District suggests,

That the formation and establishment of the proposed District is necessary and would be conducive to the public health and public welfare in and upon its formation, the District shall cooperate with, aid, and assist the State or Federal Government and all subdivisions of agencies thereof in carrying out the purposes of the District; that the timely establishment of said Watershed District will allow the immediate inception of the plans of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the diversion and improvement of the watercourse of the Minnesota River within the District so as to provide water capacity for barges and heavy commercial river transportation on said river throughout the District, thus providing a water route for incoming and outgoing commodities of trade to serve the general agricultural and industrial areas adjacent to and within the trade area tributary to the District, all of which are of great benefit to the vast area of this State ....

Beginning in 1960 the LMRWD and USACOE cooperated in developing a nine-foot channel. Today the District continues to be involved in actively maintaining the channel.

The LMRWD is located in the southwest part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area along the Minnesota River. The boundaries encompass an area of 70 square miles in the Minnesota River Valley, bluff to bluff, from Fort Snelling, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, upstream to Carver, Minnesota (portions of Carver, Hennepin, Dakota, and Scott counties).

The District's river and valley floodplain receives stormwater runoff from highly developed communities above the river bluffs. Yet most of these communities on the river bluffs are not within the LMRWD boundaries. This unique characteristic requires that the LMRWD work cooperatively with adjacent communities and watershed districts to protect the quality of the Minnesota River and its natural and cultural resources.

The statutes and rules affecting watershed districts and watershed management organizations have changed since the inception of the LMRWD. These changes have broadened the role that watershed districts play in water resource management beyond our initial goal of channel maintenance.

As a result of these changes, the Managers focus their efforts on the following six goals and activities:

1. The District will implement a data collection, assessment and planning program for its resources.
2. The District will expand its project review (developments, government projects, etc.), making the process more consistent and obtaining more cooperation from the cities. The proposed joint resolutions will be amended as resource assessments are completed to set specific limits and/or require special resource protection

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methods/strategies in the watershed. The District will expand its project inspection program to verify that projects are meeting specific standards.

3. The District intends to change its role regarding LMRWD funding of projects that generally benefit the District. As resource plans are developed, the District will either independently or jointly with other entities in response to petitions enter into projects identified in resource plans that benefit these resources. This is a new role and purpose.
4. The District will expand its commercial navigation initiatives; in addition to acquiring dredge material disposal sites, the District will obtain easements to access the sites and enter into other projects that benefit navigation and water quality in the river, such as bank stabilization control.
5. The District has entered into cooperative agreements with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and will seek to enter into similar cooperative agreements with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and federal agencies to establish a project review and permitting program for the areas that were included in the “2000 Boundary Change Area” order.

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**BOARD OF MANAGERS, STAFF, AND CONSULTANTS**

	<i>Person</i>	<i>Street</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Phone 1</i>	<i>Phone 2</i>	<i>Email</i>
<b>Managers</b>	<i>County</i>					
	Hennepin	Edward Schlampp, Treasurer	10901 Riverview Rd	Eden Prairie, MN 55347	952-941-9576	952-221-1089 <a href="mailto:ed@schlampp.com">ed@schlampp.com</a>
	Hennepin	Len Kremer	6111 Auto Club Rd	Bloomington, MN	952-832-2600	952-832-2601 (fax) <a href="mailto:lkremer@barr.com">lkremer@barr.com</a>
	Carver	Kent Francis	623 Griffin St	Carver, MN 55315	763-551-2644	<a href="mailto:ryremark@earthlink.net">ryremark@earthlink.net</a>
	Scott	Larry Samstad, President	1342 10 Ave E	Shakopee, MN 55379	952-445-7993	952-445-2106 (fax) <a href="mailto:lsamstad@popp.net">lsamstad@popp.net</a>
	Dakota	Don McCready†	1212 W Woodhill Rd	Burnsville, MN 55337	952-890-4325	<a href="mailto:sarahemack@comcast.com">sarahemack@comcast.com</a>
<b>Staff</b>						
		Terry L. Schwalbe, Administrator	112 E 5 St #102	Chaska, MN 55318	952-856-5880	952-221-1089 (cell) <a href="mailto:terrys@lowermn.com">terrys@lowermn.com</a>
		Joan E. Ellis, Assistant Administrator	112 E 5 St #102	Chaska, MN 55318	952-856-5875	952-856-6067 (fax) <a href="mailto:joane@lowermn.com">joane@lowermn.com</a>
<b>Consultants</b>	<i>Type</i>					
	Engineer	Bonestroo Engineers	2335 W Hwy 36	St. Paul, MN 55113		
	Engineer	Wenck Associates	PO Box 249	Maple Plain, MN 55359		
	Engineer	HDR	701 Xenia Ave S #600	Minneapolis, MN 55416		
	Lawyer	Malkerson, Gilliland, Martin, LLP	220 6 <sup>th</sup> St S #1900	Minneapolis, MN 55402		
	Accountant	HLB Tautges Redpath	4810 White Bear Pkwy	White Bear Lake, MN 55110		

† Became manager on 4/1/2009.  
March 2010

## ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S WORK PLAN

### **Minneapolis Airport Commission (MAC)**

#### *Annual Report*

MAC staff gave the Board its annual report as well as a map of 2009 Mpls.-St.Paul airport projects. MAC informed us of the start of Flying Cloud Airport's second phase earthwork. The District had reviewed and approved Flying Cloud's stormwater plan in 2008.

#### *Boundary Change*

MAC is interested in having all MAC property within the District. The District informed MAC that all it has to do is petition the District. As of this writing MAC has not petitioned the District.

### **Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)**

#### *T.H. 101 & T.H. 13 Intersection Reconstruction Project Review*

MnDOT proposes to reconstruct this intersection in Shakopee. The agency and the City of Shakopee are addressing temporary dewatering and floodplain issues, as this roadway is in the floodplain. The District requested and received answers on how MnDOT plans to address any drainage to Eagle Creek and the pond, effects of their temporary dewatering including a detailed evaluation, plus a detailed evaluation of floodplain fringe issues.

#### *MnDOT I-35W/62 Stormwater Project Review*

With Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) approval, this project has routed 35W and 62 to Wood Lake, then to I-494, then into our District. The Board recommended we look at re-defining our boundaries to incorporate this area into our District. The Next Generation Plan currently being developed will address boundary change issues.

#### *I-35W and Cliff Road Drainage, MnDOT, Maps Review*

This project is located just south of Cliff Road at I-35W. The board sent a letter to MnDOT recommending that dry ponds be created that drain down slowly to the Black Dog fen area, removing 90% of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and 60% of phosphorus.

### **Nine-Foot Channel and Dredge Site Issues**

The District was in attendance at the Mississippi River Forum to find out what to do if contaminated-dredge-material clean-up must be funded. The Board directed staff to talk with USACOE and county administrators about funding opportunities. USACOE is still working on setting federal funding for the nine-foot channel through the Mississippi River funding program.

The District wants USACOE to steer the language of federal legislation to include not only the nine-foot channel but also the four-foot channel close to the City of Shakopee as State Representative Mike Beard, for economic reasons upstream, is interested in addressing the four-foot channel to improve economic conditions upstream, giving recreational boaters access to parks.

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The District's lobbyist is seeking funding for the nine-foot channel of \$40,000 from the Port Authority Assistance Program of \$4 million.

The District is looking at various funding opportunities at the federal level for acquiring and/or leasing dredge material sites and maintaining those sites.

The District is working according to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) guidelines to determine when soils need to be removed from the dredge site. MPCA dredge guidelines say that if 93% of a sample does not pass through a No. 200 sieve it does not have to be tested. USACOE samples soils before it dredges. The District determined we needed to pay for an independent soil testing, which was completed in October with good results.

The District sent a letter of support to USACOE and Congress for USACOE's proposal to bring the Minnesota River into their annual funding program so that USACOE can pay ongoing dredging needs.

USACOE mobilized and completed dredging in July and August 2009. The second dredging at Peterson Bar brought 60,000 cubic yards to the District's new dredge site. However, the Corps's contractor did not leave the site in good condition. The District met with USACOE and its contractor on site immediately, after which the contractor went to the site and fixed the land so that the soil will flow inland and not into the Minnesota River. USACOE is looking at a better way to unload materials at the site.

The MPCA and Minnesota Soils met with District staff about the type of dredge materials the District has at the Cargill site, and all came away with a positive feeling about the materials. Metropolitan Council is working with our engineering consultant Wenck Associates to come up with a protocol for dredge materials and to find an insurance company that will insure materials. The District hired Braun/Intec to take soil samples at the Cargill site from H1,2,3 2008 dredge materials and HA 4,5,6, 2009 dredge materials. The results were good.

Staff met with the District's insurance company and found it would cost \$20,000 a year for Dredge Pollution Liability Insurance for minimum coverage.

The District determined it needs to finalize a management plan to present to the legislature. The District's lobbyist will carry the bill. Mitigation amounts and capital cost development will be a part of the management plan.

The District's lobbyist and administrator met with several legislators in an effort to receive funding from the State of Minnesota.

## **Minnesota River Basin Commission Establishment**

The District sent a resolution (appendix) to the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) requesting its support for the establishment, by statute, of a Minnesota River Basin that would be able to

1. Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
2. Maximize benefits of public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
3. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
4. Establish more uniform policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
5. Prevent erosion of soil and associated pollutants into surface water systems;
6. Promote groundwater recharge;
7. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat;
8. Secure other benefits associated with the sustainable use and management of surface and groundwater resources;
9. Promote coordination and cooperation among basin water management organizations; facilitate resolution of water resources conflicts; to coordinate basin water management activities, implement projects and programs of common benefit to the basin; and monitor performance of local water management entities related to the above purposes.

MAWD passed a resolution for establishing a Minnesota River Basin Commission in 2008. It remains on the legislative list.

Representative Morrie Lanning (H.R. 1734) and Senator John Doll (S.F. 2085) are sponsoring the bill for the House and Senate. Co-authors are Carol McFarlane in the House and, in the Senate, Satveer S. Chauohray, Keith Lanseth, Steve Murphy, and Tarryl L. Clark.

The District continues to work with the Minnesota River Board to gain support for a Minnesota River Valley Basin Commission. In 2009 staff and District lobbyist met with many senators and representatives several times and attended a multitude of conference committees in efforts to garner support for a basin commission.

Staff has also met with MAWD and the Minnesota River Board for the same reasons. The District has formally supported Representative Lanning's bill (H.R. 1734). The District has one staff representative on Representative Lanning's work group.

## **Gully Inventory**

The general approach taken for the gully inventory program was to

1. Identify and locate groundwater-dependent resources such as trout streams and fens.
2. With the help of other knowledgeable resource management professionals, evaluate the current condition and restoration potential of the resources.



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3. Identify what, if any, groundwater monitoring efforts have been or are currently being carried out for these resources and summarize the results of those efforts.
4. Identify opportunities for involvement in effective and useful groundwater monitoring efforts, including partnering opportunities.
5. Finally, prepare a report that summarizes those findings and estimates the cost of the recommended effort. (A final strategy report was submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources [BWSR] in 2006.)

### *City of Eden Prairie's Gully Inventory Final Plan for Four Study Areas*

The Board of Managers approved partner-funding 50% of a not-to-exceed amount of \$59,440 for Study Areas 1 & 2.

### *City of Bloomington's Parkers Picnic Gully Inventory Project*

Two catch basins were at a low point in the road and take on water rather quickly, which goes out a 12" pipe and causes severe erosion. The Board of Managers approved partner-funding 50% (\$22,264.75) to stop the erosion.

### *City of Bloomington's Lower Minnesota River Washout Gully Inventory Project*

The project aims to protect lower flow in the District at this location. The Board of Managers approved partner-funding up to \$92,933.50 of the total \$185,867 construction cost.

## **Bluff Creek**

BWSR notified the District of a severe erosion issue where Bluff Creek comes out of Riley-Purgatory Watershed District. MnDOT, concerned about the sediment load clogging its four box culverts at Highways 101 and 212, was paying \$45,000 a year to clean the culverts out. The settled out sediment comes into the District.

Meetings have been held periodically on this Bluff Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollution issue. The District has met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and looks forward to their helping stop the erosion.

## **City Visits**

Mr. Terry Schwalbe, Administrator, conducted his annual city and county visits in 2009 and solicited partnership projects for 2010 under the District's Gully Inventory Program.

## **2009 Education**

### *Metro Blooms Rainwater Garden Workshops*

In 2009 three cities partnered with Metro Blooms and the District to conduct rain garden workshops — Bloomington, Savage, and Chanhassen. The District funded the workshops for \$6,850.00 and promoted them on the web site and in local newspaper articles. Metro Blooms partially funded and promoted the workshops. The cities participated with in-kind

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promotion and hosting of the workshop locations. Bloomington had 159 attendees, Savage 23, and Chanhassen 31 for a total of 213 overall.

Two rain barrels were given away in drawings at Savage and Bloomington. One hundred *Rain Garden Workbooks* by Rusty Schmidt were donated to the attendees by the District.

### *Metro Watershed Partners*

The District again joined Metro Watershed Partners at a membership cost of \$200 and requested the funds go toward the Clean Water Minnesota advertising program.

### *Chanhassen / Chaska Seminary Fen*

The District recruited 10 volunteers for the Friends of the Seminary Fen. The volunteers will work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to remove invasive plants and to help educate the public about protecting the fen.

### *Blue Thumb Planting for Clean Water*

The District continued as a member of Blue Thumb, “an outreach program [designed] to meet water quality goals identified in [Rice Creek Watershed District’s] strategic plan and to help their cities meet their federal Clean Water Act mandates.”<sup>‡</sup> We also helped promote Blue Thumb on our web site.

### *2009 Carver County Environmental Children’s Water Festival*

The District authorized \$500 transporting children by bus from Carver County to the State Fair Grounds for this important educational event. The goal to begin to participate with other environmental organization continues with Carver County.

### *Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)*

The District formed a seven-member Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to help update the Next Generation Plan, develop an education plan (2010), and assess or measure projects and programs as requested.

## **Cities**

### *City of Eden Prairie*

#### Floodplain and Coleman Lakes

Because of deteriorating water quality, Coleman Lake has filled in with silt and boulders, but the District wants to reclaim the lake. We will partner with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District because the fill and boulders derive from Nine Mile Creek and our 1999 Water Resource Plan specifies that all the floodplain lakes be restored eventually. Nine Mile Creek empties into Coleman Lake, and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has done bank stabilization in the past. However, DNR Waters and Ecological Services determined that the existence of a rare frog in the lake must halt the project for now.

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<sup>‡</sup> <http://www.bluethumb.org/>

Study Area Three: Riverview Road Bank Erosion on the Minnesota River

The City of Eden Prairie approached the District to lead this project, showing us pictures where severe and significant sloughing has occurred at two separate places on the banks of the Minnesota River near Riverview Road. The city has not formally petitioned the District for financial assistance as we're in the early stages of the study now. About one-third of a stormwater pond located on the left of the picture has sloughed, disappearing into the river.

The District met with BWSR, the DNR, and Hennepin County on site at the Minnesota River in Eden Prairie, and it was determined by the parties present to consult a senior geotechnical engineer who would determine all the problems associated with the bank erosion at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. It was also agreed by the parties present that the erosion of the Minnesota River bank extends 1,000 to 1,500 feet beyond Eden Prairie's Study Area Three.

A letter was sent to the affected residents at the top of the bluff developed by Eden Prairie, approved by the District, and signed by both entities explained the studies that would be conducted on the bank.

The District drafted a resolution to USACOE similar to one that the City of Eden Prairie had drafted, requesting their assistance on the erosion issues, but USACOE ultimately declined because there was no funding mechanism yet in place.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was subsequently developed by the District to engineering firms to investigate Study Area Three to determine the problems and whether there is a risk to homeowners and potential failure of the bank and recommendation for solving the problems.

The District hired Wenck & Associates plus the Stanley Group to study Phase I of bank stabilization for Riverview Road Study Area 3 and the immediately surrounding area in the City of Eden Prairie. The contract might include soil borings and inclinometers. Total cost for the bank stabilization project is estimated at between one and two million dollars.

Potential Funding Opportunities determined by the District include:

1. Stimulus Package through USACOE was investigated and declined.
2. Indicating that channel restoration of Study Area 3 should be part of the bonding bill, the Board arranged to have the legislative committee look at the site in August or September. The Board agreed that the City of Eden Prairie needs to reach out to its legislators.
3. The Hennepin County Riparian Restoration and Stream Bank Stabilization Program applied to Hennepin County for \$100,000 with a \$10,000 match from the District.
4. The BWSR Clean Water Legacy Funds applied for \$100,000 out of the state's Clean Water Act funds and hired Wenck Associates at \$2,500 to complete the application. The District approved a State of Minnesota Resolution requesting that the State of Minnesota Fund a Study to Stabilize the North Bank of the Minnesota River in Sections 34 & 35 T116 R22, Hennepin County, Minnesota.
5. We will submit a letter asking Hennepin County to lend support for the Capitol Bonding Bill monies on the county's legislative list.

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### Eden Prairie's Storm Pond Repair Plans (Phillippi Property)

As the Local Governmental Unit (LGU), the City of Eden Prairie is responsible for resolving this issue. Through the District's engineer, the board reviewed the overall maintenance plan for cleaning out various invasive species. The District reviewed and commented on the city's preliminary drawing for the repair of the storm basin, the original work on which failed almost immediately after two rainfalls in 2002. The City of Eden Prairie or a developer built the pond, which eroded into the Minnesota River.

### *City of Bloomington*

#### City of Bloomington Gully Inventory Projects Funded by the District

Parker's Picnic Project — \$22,264.75.

The Minnesota River Valley Washout project — \$92,933.50.

The city developed a maintenance agreement for each project.

### Martin Luther Care Center, Bloomington, Stormwater Design

The District approved this commercial project as it conforms to our policies and criteria. The only recommendation was that the developer use either infiltration or a dry pond to provide the same level of removal but not make it mandatory because this type of infiltration recommended might not fit this site.

### *City of Chanhassen*

#### Seminary Fen / Assumption Creek

The DNR purchased a portion of Seminary Fen in 2008. The District has been working with surrounding property owners to purchase easements so restoration can take place. Because Seminary Fen is a Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), it is governed by state statute.

### *City of Chaska*

#### Courthouse Lake

Emergency diving teams swimming in Courthouse Lake observed many dead trout. Working with Carver County Environmental Services, the DNR indicated that the oxygen levels in the lake drop in winter months. The DNR is going to purchase and place an aeration machine in the lake just before freeze-up. Carver County and the City of Chaska will extend electric service to the lake. The District may partner on a project to use an alum treatment of the lake but not until 2010.

## **Watershed Districts**

### *Prior Lake / Spring Lake Watershed District*

#### Outlet Channel Restoration

This project was approved as recommended by District engineers.

### Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD Third Generation Water Resource Management Plan

The plan meets our standards, with these comments:

1. When the district's rules are revised, the board should address rate control for 5-, 10-, and 100-year storm events and provide a permanent pool volume of runoff from a 2.5-inch or 2.0-inch 24-hour storm, as appropriate to the water resource being protected

2. In addition or alternatively, the board should come up with an acceptable best management practice to reach further fluid reductions.

## **Other Projects / Efforts**

### *Next Generation Water Resource Plan*

The District must update its Water Resource plan every 10 years. The plan process began in January 2009 after we hired HDR as the engineering firm.

Three Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) workshops were held. Participants included cities, counties, professional engineers, environmental organizations, and agencies including MPCA, DNR, USACOE, MAC, BWSR, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES).

A town hall meeting was held for the public participation component of the process.

A Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was developed to help review the plan and work with the District on various issues.

Several board workshops were conducted to work on developing the plan based on various committee recommendations for the plan.

The HDR contract began at \$177,581. The District budget for developing the plan through an engineering firm is for \$150,000 in 2009. A Change Order for \$16,823.37 in addition was approved by the Board in September 2009. At the end of 2009, the District and HDR were still progressing on the plan.

### *Carver County Government Center Paver Project*

The District funded this project for \$10,000 which placed pavers in the government center front area.

### *Scott County 2009 Bike Ride Funding Request*

The District donated \$400 to promote citizen involvement in the Minnesota River and had a display at the bike event on May 16, 9–11 a.m.

### *USGS 2009–2011 Joint Funding Agreement*

The District approved an agreement with USGS for a stream gauge on the Minnesota River at Ft. Snelling. The new agreement funded the agency's purchase and installation of the gauge; it also funded USGS's exploration of the tributaries to the Minnesota River in other watershed districts, determination of the loads, and what loads are coming into the river.

### *USGS Proposed Clean Water Grants for Suspended Solids and Bed Loading in the Minnesota River*

The USGS contacted the District to participate as a funding partner in these two projects. The board decided to postpone this opportunity until 2010 for financial reasons.

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### *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Discussions*

Staff met with the new director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We discussed the following:

- 1) The joint stormwater retrofit signage at the Visitor Center parking lot,
- 2) The continued erosion of Bluff Creek,
- 3) The maintenance of the MnDOT box culvert at T.H. 101 in Chanhassen,
- 4) The operation of the discharge gates at Rice and Long Meadow Lakes,
- 5) The potential for canoe and small boat access to the floodplain lakes,
- 6) The potential trout stream designation for the unnamed stream in Bloomington that has its headwaters near the Mall of America, and
- 7) Partnering opportunities and Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP) ponds.

### *Monitoring*

#### Scott County 2009 SWCD Agreement

The District approved a monitoring agreement with Scott County Soil and Water District (SWCD).

#### Carver County 2009 Agreement

The District approved a monitoring agreement with Carver County for 2009.

#### Dakota County 2009 Agreement

The District approved a monitoring agreement with Dakota County for 2009.

**PROJECTED WORK PLAN FOR 2010**

1. River Basin Bill  
The District will continue to pursue the establishment of a Minnesota River Basin Commission through lobbying efforts at the legislature.
2. The District will continue to pursue alternative opportunities for the funding of the nine-foot channel.
3. The District will continue its extensive monitoring programs.
4. The District will continue to cooperate with local partners on potential gully repair projects identified in the gully inventory. The following projects were brought by cities within the District for work in 2009:
  - City of Carver — 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Street gully erosion
  - City of Chaska — Assumption Creek wetland enhancement
  - City of Chaska — Hazeltine Bluff ravine stabilization
  - City of Chanhassen — Bluff Creek erosion stabilization
  - City of Eden Prairie — Site 1 and 2 erosion stabilization
  - City of Bloomington — Lower Minnesota River valley washout
5. The District will continue to work with other local units of government on groundwater, wetland, lake and stream protection.
6. The District will continue to work on development and implementation of TMDLs.
7. The District will continue to cooperate with the cities, counties and other LGUs on the enforcement of our joint resolutions.
8. The District will continue to secure protection of the unique natural resources and features of the District.
9. Upstream Minnesota River Watersheds affecting sediment and turbidity in the Minnesota River  
In its 2010 plan, the District will begin to address upstream issues affecting the Minnesota River as a BWSR staff member suggested by expanding our District up to and including the Le Sueur River through the BWSR petitioning process. There are major sub-watersheds there. The BWSR staff member said that 90% of the District's sediment in the Minnesota River is coming from that area. That reference would reduce the amount and cost of dredging needed. Approval from the upstream jurisdictions is needed before we go to the BWSR board. Counties affected would be Waseca, Blue Earth, Faribault, Le Sueur, Scott, and Carver. Our letter would state the District is considering expanding its boundaries because we have huge issues with the amount of sediment coming into the District; we would ask the counties if they would be interested in signing a petition to expand the District's boundaries. Le Sueur watershed contributes 25% of the load entering the District.
10. The District will implement its Next Generation Water Resource Plan in 2010.

11. Education

• Metro Blooms

In 2010 the District will partner with Metro Blooms and the cities of Chanhassen, Chaska, Savage Bloomington, and Eden Prairie to conduct five A workshops (introductions) and five B workshops (design) for a total District contribution of \$9,268 out of the total of \$16,428 agreement shared with the cities and Metro Blooms.

• Blue Thumb Planting for Clean Water

The District will continue supporting this education organization. We wish to ensure that all cities and townships are aware of this organization and can gain access to educational materials and events. The District contributes to Blue thumb through Metro Blooms and city partnerships.

• Supporting Partners in Educating the Public, Including Children, and Cleanup Projects

The District will continue to support both types of projects. The goal is to support two projects per year.

• District Web Site

The District continues to utilize the web site to post monitoring data and other important reports, articles, public involvement to improve water quality, etc. The web site will take on a new look in 2010, becoming more organized and more contemporary.

• Education Plan

The District will develop a five-year education plan in 2010 with the assistance of the CAC.

*NOTE: Many of our 2010+ work projects will depend on the approval of the District's Next Generation Water Resource Plan.*

OK, if the following two parts – elections and audit -- are not part of the Projected Work Plan, [why are they here?](#) Everything must fit under one of the headings in the TOC, so where do these following things fit? Are they really sections? They're little items, not nearly as long as the 4 previous parts.

**Officer Elections**

Board officer elections were held in September 2009. The following officers were elected:

- President ..... Lawrence Samstad
- Vice-President ..... Don McCready
- Secretary ..... Kent Francis
- Treasurer.....Edward Schlampp

**Audit**

The Board approved the 2008 audit with no changes and a 2009 audit fee not to exceed \$6,975.



**PERMITS / VARIANCES / ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

The cities within the District are the Local Governmental Units (LGUs) on our behalf. We do not permit projects the cities do, but depending on the project the cities will ask us to review a particular project alongside their review.

**SUMMARY OF WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA**

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District has several monitoring locations within the District. 2009 Summary Reports have been placed on the web site and can be downloaded.

**EVALUATION OF STATUS OF LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Prior Lake / Spring Lake Watershed District ten-year plan review was conducted.

**COPY OF PUBLISHED COMMUNICATION REQUIRED BY PART 8410.010, SUBPART 4**

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's web site ([www.watersheddistrict.org](http://www.watersheddistrict.org)) contains all the requirements of Minnesota Rules 8410.0100 and is available all year.

**ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BIENNIAL SOLICITATION FOR LEGAL, PROFESSIONAL, OR TECHNICAL CONSULTING SERVICES UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES 103B.227, SUBDIVION 5**

We solicited for legal and engineering services in 2008. We will solicit again in 2010. We also solicited for engineering services to update our 10-year, fifth-generation Water Resource Plan in 2008 and chose HDR Engineering to assist the District in completing our update in 2009/2010.

**ASSESSMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM COSTS WITH RESPECT TO OVERALL ANNUAL BUDGET**

With the purchase of the Minnesota River Mile 13.2 dredge site in July 2006, the District depleted the balance of funds in the nine-foot channel fund and actually had to borrow funds from the general fund to complete the purchase of the site. As a result, the board directed staff to research the properties which could be special assessed for the nine-foot channel project. Staff determined there were six property owners who, they felt, receive direct benefit from the project as they are the users of the river. When the preliminary results were presented to the Board, two of the managers no longer supported the special assessment; and since a special assessment takes a unanimous vote, the special assessment failed to move forward. As a result, the board directed staff to pursue other means of

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funding the nine-foot channel. The District also pursued funding from MnDOT and the Port Authority Association. No funds were available for the nine-foot channel in 2009.

**STATUS OF ANY LOCALLY ADOPTED WETLAND BANKING PROGRAM**

There was no activity under this heading.

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