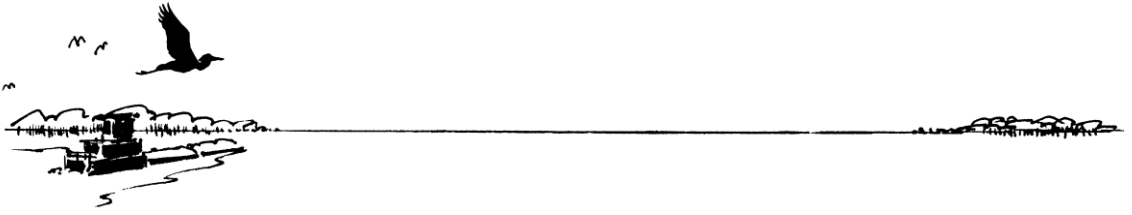


Lower Minnesota River Watershed District



2007 Annual Report



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

www.watersheddistrict.org

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Attachments*

- 2007 Monitoring Summary Reports
 - Scott County: Eagle Creek Station
 - Dakota County: Willow Creek WOMP Report
Fen Well Monitoring Report:
 - Quarry Island
 - Snelling
 - Nichols
 - Assumption Creek/Seminary
 - Carver County: East Chaska Creek Station – EC1 site
East Chaska Creek Station – EC2 site
East Chaska Creek Station – EC3 site
West Chaska Creek Station – CH 1.0 site

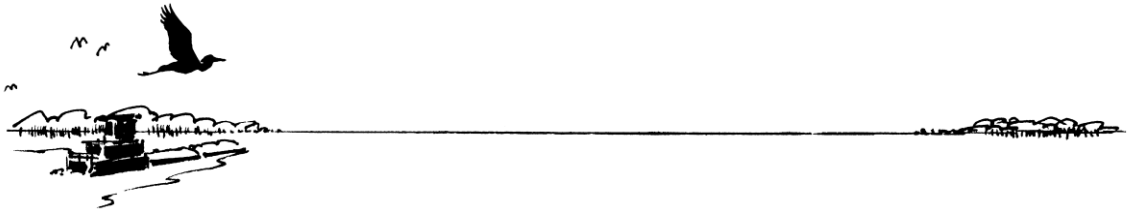
Note: Color copies are available on the web site: www.watersheddistrict.org

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- Resolution #2007-01: Interstate Highway 494 – Penn Avenue to Minnesota River
- Education Articles:
 - “Mrs. White’s Shakopee Fourth Graders Storm the Storm Drains”
 - “Fishing in the Minnesota River”
 - “The Kelzers Continue Contour Farming in Chaska”
 - “Farming on the Contour in South Metro”

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Lower Minnesota River Watershed District



ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007

The LMRW D was principally established to be a legal entity for providing local participation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) to construct a navigation channel within the Minnesota River. With this purpose in mind, a nine-foot channel was developed in cooperation with the USACOE. Today, the LMRWD is still actively involved in the maintenance of the channel.

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.

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

- The District will implement a data collection, assessment and planning program for its resources
- 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 methods/strategies in the watershed.
- The District will expand its project inspection program to verify that projects are meeting specific standards.
- 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.
- 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.
- The District has entered into cooperative agreements with the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the MN Department of Transportation, and will seek to enter into similar cooperative agreements with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and the federal agencies to establish a project review and permitting program for the areas that were included in the “2000 Boundary Change Area” order.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

Also, quoting directly from the original petition: “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...”.

The LMRWD is located in the southwest part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area along the Minnesota River. The boundaries encompass an area of 64 square miles including portions of Carver, Hennepin, Dakota, and Scott counties. This area includes the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, upstream to Carver, Minnesota. The width of the District extends to the bluffs on both sides of the Minnesota River within this reach of the river.

The District’s river and valley floodplain receives storm water 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.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

2007 Annual Report BOARD OF MANAGER'S and STAFF

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Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S WORK PLAN

Minneapolis Airport Commission (MAC)

The District signed a Joint Powers Agreement with Carver County SWCD to inspect a MAC project for the reconstruction of Runway 12R-30L for a not to exceed \$2,000.

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)

Resolution 2007-02 Interstate 494 to Penn Avenue was passed by the Board of Managers (appendix).

T.H. 13/CSAH5 Interchange Project, City of Burnsville

Preliminary approval for the preliminary plan was given on this project and the board will review again for approval when 70% of the plans are completed with the District comments incorporated.

T.H. 41 River Crossing Proposed Alternatives

The District continues to work on an advisory team toward a goal of efficiency and water and Seminary Fen protection. The Board of Managers approved hiring an attorney to produce a letter of comment to the MNDOT on the highway alternatives and our concerns of impacts to the Seminary Fen having no choice but to litigate any choice that goes over the Seminary Fen in order to protect the resource at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 for that letter and additional technical assistance not to exceed \$10,000 to develop the technical information to MN/Dot with the board additionally agreeing that all six alternatives are not acceptable.

A letter was prepared at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 to Scott County with a copy to MNDOT asking them to raise funds to acquire and preserve and restore the parts of the fens that are needing restoration as well as the preservation of the pristine parts of the fen that are there to bring good to the whole process.

I35W Lane Addition in the Cities of Bloomington and Burnsville

The board approved the engineering report and approved writing a letter to MNDOT stating the District thinks a water quality ponding be a part of the additional lane project.

Hennepin County CSAH 1 Reconstruction Project

The board approved this project but requested a maintenance program be implemented as part of the project.

Dredge Sites

The District approved beginning negotiation with the USACOE and the Air Force for using the power line site as a dredge material temporary storage site.

The District approved sending a letter to federal senators and representatives expressing concern that they are not providing funding for the USACOE to maintain the Minnesota River Nine-Foot Channel and copy all affected commercial owners along the Minnesota River.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

As a result Representative Oberstar fought for and won \$130,000 funding current and \$70,000 in the future for the USACOE to continue to maintain the Nine-Foot Channel.

Due to purchasing the Cargill dredge material site in 2006, the District chose to end their \$18,000 annual contract with Edmund Kraemer & Sons for placement of dredge materials.

Representative Michael Beard sponsored a bill for bonding funds for the District's dredging operations and the City of Savage put in writing their support for petitioning the special assessment.

Minnesota River Basin Commission Establishment

The board approved hiring a lobbyist to work on this project.

The District sent a resolution (appendix) to MAWD requesting their support for the establishment, by statute, of a Minnesota River Basin which 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; and facilitate resolution of water resources conflicts and 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.

Gully Inventory

The general approach taken for this program was as follows:

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 resources in terms of their current condition and restoration potential.
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.

Finally, prepare a report that summarizes those findings and estimates the cost of the recommended effort. (The final strategy report was submitted to BWSR in 2006) As part of the implementation costs of the Groundwater Monitoring Program the board approved applying for a \$25,000 BWSR Challenge Grant or Metro Greenways Grant. The grant application was successful.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

The District contracted with the Minnesota Conservation Corp to complete the bluff areas north and south of the Minnesota River. The cities of Bloomington, Carver, Chaska, Chanhassen and Eden Prairie

were shown as having the worst erosion sites within the District. Maps and photographs were provided to those cities to have them determine whether these sites are on private property or city property. Once determined the District could partner with the cities to take of the problem, not through restoration, but through fixing the problem so it no longer causes erosion. The District could also partner with cities in doing feasibility studies by funding the study at a not to exceed \$15,000 of the total costs up to two to three of their worst sites to figure out what it is going to cost to fix the drainage situation. Once costs are determined, the District would partner with the cities in the actual construction work. Goal would be to have repairs underway in 2008. It was also a goal to have the cities do the studies and the work with the District as a partner in reviewing their plans for repairs to solve the problem. As a result of repairs and phosphorus reductions, they can receive credit for repairing from the MPCA as part of TMDLs. The goal in all cases is to limit further damage.

The cities of Bloomington Eden Prairie and Carver were interested in cost sharing as a partner with the District. Eden Prairie identified four areas to conduct feasibility studies on and the District funded a not to exceed amount of \$50,000 for all four areas.

The City of Chanhassen indicated they would be interested in 2008.

The District's engineering firm, Bonestroo, put the Minnesota Conservation Corp's north and south of the Minnesota River gully erosion data on maps, then onto CDs for the District and the cities at a not to exceed cost of \$2,500.

Bluff Creek

BWSR brought a severe erosion issue at Bluff Creek coming out of Riley-Purgatory Watershed District to the District's attention. MNDOT was concerned about the sediment load clogging their four box culverts at Highways 101 and 212. Annual maintenance costs were \$45,000 a year to clean the culverts out. The District is a recipient of the settled out sediment.

In 2007 the District met with representatives from Metropolitan Council, MPCA, MNDOT, the City of Chanhassen, BWSR, DNR and two board members from Riley Purgatory Watershed District to discuss the Bluff Creek erosion problems. Ongoing discussions were held in 2007 and will continue into 2008 with the City of Chanhassen taking the lead on this project.

City Visits

Mr. Terry Schwalbe, Administrator, visited the eleven cities and two townships in the District and solicited projects that the District could partner with in 2008.

Education

Three news articles were published on the web site:

- Mrs. White's Shakopee Fourth Graders Storm the Storm Drains (attached)
- The Kelzers Continue Contour Farming in Chaska (attached)
- Farming on the Contour in the South Metro (attached)

The anticipated goal was for two articles a year.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

Louisville Township Education Project

The District partnered with the township, Jackson Township, City of Shakopee and Scott County SWCD to develop a power point presentation, handout materials and to conduct one workshop for 6th-9th graders. The presentation educated about what is a watershed district, stormwater, its causes and effects. This was followed by a field trip to the Minnesota River in Shakopee to see stormwater impacts by conducting water quality sampling to see sediment collected. The goal to partner with District cities in educating the public continues. The District contributed \$600 towards this project.

Blue Thumb Planting for Clean Water

The District continued and participated in membership with this organization to help promote this organization. The goal to begin to participate with other environmental organizations is being achieved.

Metro Blooms

The District partnered with Metro Blooms in late 2007 to conduct one test Workshop A rain water garden workshop in 2008 with Rusty Schmidt as presenter. The goal to begin to participate with other environmental organizations is being achieved.

Carver County Environmental Children's Water Festival

The District authorized \$500.00 towards bus transportation 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.

PROJECTED WORK PLAN

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 which were identified in the gully inventory.

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.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

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. The District will work on completion of its Fifth Generation Water Resource Plan.

10. EDUCATION

Metro Blooms

In 2007 the District received education about this organization and attended one of their workshops to observe. If possible, the District will partner in 2009 with Metro Blooms and four cities to conduct four rain water garden Workshops. It is anticipated that at least four workshops will be held. The combination of whether or not it will be A or B workshops has not been determined. A description of Metro Blooms is attached. The goal is to have at least 40 participants at each workshop.

Blue Thumb Planting for Clean Water

The District will continue supporting this education organization. Goal is to ensure that all cities and townships are aware of this organization to gain access to educational materials and events.

Educational articles

The District will continue to do interesting and educational articles. Goal is to complete three articles in 2008.

Supporting partners in educating the public 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 collection and other important reports, articles, public involvement to improve water quality, etc.

PERMITS/VARIANCES/ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The cities within the District are the LGU on our behalf. We do not permit projects, 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 with the District. Summary reports have been supplied as an attachment to this report.

EVALUATION OF STATUS OF LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

The following plans were brought before the Board of Managers and reviewed, commented upon and eventually approved in 2007:

- 2007 City of Savage's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Chaska's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Bloomington's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Shakopee's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Eagan's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Shakopee's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Eagan's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 Scott County's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Bloomington's Water Resource Plan
- 2007 City of Lilydale's Water Resource Management Plan
- 2007 City of Burnsville's Loading Assessment and Non-degradation Report
- 2007 City of Bloomington's Non-degradation Plan
- 2007 City of Shakopee's Non-degradation Plan
- 2007 City of Eagan's Water Resource Plan

COPY OF PUBLISHED COMMUNICATION REQUIRED BY PART 8410.010 SUBPART 4

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

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

We are to solicit for legal and engineering services in 2008. We also will be soliciting for engineering services to update our 10-year 5th Generation Water Resource Plan in 2008.

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 of 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 which they felt receive direct benefit from the project. When the preliminary results were presented to the board two of the managers were no longer supportive of the special assessment and since a special assessment takes a unanimous vote the special assessment failed to move forward. As a result of the failure of the special assessment the board directed staff to pursue other means of funding the Nine-Foot Channel. As a result staff researched and prepared a resolution to MAWD for the establishment of river basins throughout the state. The District also pursued funding from MNDOT and the Port Authority Association.

STATUS OF ANY LOCALLY ADOPTED WETLAND BANKING PROGRAM

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

There is no activity under this heading.

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