



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

October 2018 Administrator report

From: Linda Loomis, Administrator

To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, work continues on the following District projects and issues:

Heron Lake Letter to MAWD Board

In the September 28, 2018 highlights from the MAWD Board meeting, it was noted that the MAWD Board received a letter from the Heron Lake Watershed District, requesting the MAWD to follow up with speakers at the Minnesota River Boat Tour. I sent a message to MAWD Executive Director, Emily Javens, requesting a copy of the letter from Heron Lake. I did not receive a response to my request, so I made a follow up phone call to Emily. I believe the Board was copied on the email responses I received from Emily. If not, please let me know.

Watonwan River

Paul Davis, from the MPCA, shared information with me about work being done in the Watonwan River Basin. Work being done by the Watonwan River Alliance was shared with the audience at the recent Minnesota Water Resource Conference at the Wednesday morning keynote address. Links to the information shared with me follow:

<http://watonwanriver.org/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZRN3gg-u0Lu4sLVbDjMYw2pglwPhQDmi/view>

http://watonwanriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ww-leverage-points_2-18.pdf

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17lviV59Fr-cnEoWCTOuGGPCF3sqj77Lj/view>

MPCA MN River TSS TMDL

I want to update the Board with the Status of this study. The draft MN River TSS (Total Suspended Solids) TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study is with the US EPA. The MPCA is planning to release the study for public comment some time in November.

Bloomington Comprehensive Plan

Karen Galles, of Hennepin County, notified me of comments she intended to submit to the city of Bloomington's after she had reviewed the Bloomington Comprehensive plan. The reason she notified the LMRWD was because of comments she intended to make regarding Ike's Creek and the future development of the James C. O'Neill property (aka Kelly Farm) south of the Mall of America. The exact language the County included in its comments follows:

"Rather than develop the James C O'Neill property south of the Mall of America parking lot, Hennepin County recommends considering the ecological significance of the area and preserving the property that drains to and encompasses Ike's Creek. Consider selling it to the U.S. Fish/Wildlife Service for expansion of the adjacent 14,000 acre Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, or contact Karen Galles (612.348.2027) or karen.galles@hennepin.us) to discuss placing a conservation easement on all or part

of the property. Hennepin County would be excited to work with the City and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to find a way to protect this unique resource. Because this stream is groundwater dependent, any water appropriations to support development of this parcel, or dewatering activities to allow construction on or near this parcel could have significant impacts on on-going efforts to restore and protect Ike's Creek and efforts to promote a reproducing population of brown trout. In the event that development of this parcel proceeds, consider seeking a developer/land use that is willing to meaningfully incorporate and consider stewardship of adjacent resources"

Metro Children's Water Festival

This event was held on September 26th at the State Fair Grounds. The LMRWD supports this event financially. I volunteered for the day. The weather was cool but sunny. The festival allows the kids the opportunity for hands on learning about water. It is very interesting seeing all the presenters with the different activities.

Upcoming meetings/events

- [Fresh water Society 50th Anniversary](#) - Thursday, October 25, 2018, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Minnesota History Center, 345 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN
- [BWSR Academy](#) - October 29 to October 31, Breezy Point Conference Center
- [11th Minnesota River Congress](#) - Thursday, November 8, 2018, 4:30pm to 9:00pm, Turner Hall, 102 South State Street, New Ulm
- [Climate Adaption Conference](#) - November 14, 2018, University of Minnesota, Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN
- [Upper Mississippi Waterway Association](#) - Thursday, November 15, 2018, 11:30am to 1:30pm, Lilydale Pool & Yacht Club
- [MAWD 2018 Annual Conference](#) - November 29 to December 1, 2018; Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN
- USACE River Resource Forum - December 2018, US Fish & Wildlife Center, Bloomington, MN