



September 24, 2017

Board of Managers
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 E. 5th Street, #102
Chaska, Minnesota 55318

RE: Nine Foot Channel Permanent Disposal Sites Acquisition and Development Basic Water Management Project

Dear Chairman Hartmann,

As a river terminal owner, CHS is directly impacted by the proposed dredge site cost analysis, special benefit study, project plan and proposed 2018 dredge project. CHS is concerned about the process leading up to, and including, the September 17 hearing notice. More specifically, property owners were not consulted about project information and rationale for the site cost analysis, special benefit analysis and the proposed project plan prior to the Monday, September 17 public hearing.

CHS appreciates the action by the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWRD) Board of Managers at the Monday, September 17 meeting to direct staff to informally present the dredge site cost analysis, special benefit study and project plan to benefitted property owners.

CHS respectfully requests:

- The LMWRD Board of Managers explore all potential infrastructure funding options for costs estimated in the dredge site cost analysis (e.g., dredge funding from the Army Corps of Engineers, dredge and/or road funding through the [Minnesota Department of Transportation Port Development Assistance Program](#)). These funding options were not listed or referenced in the dredge site cost analysis;
- The LMWRD Board of Managers or staff provide CHS, and all affected property owners, the history and resolution establishing the LMWRD authority to administer the channel and disposal site referenced by Mr. Kolb at the public hearing;
- A more definitive cost estimate based on the project plan and prior to any action by the LMWRD Board of Managers. The dredge site cost analysis explicitly states that *any designs, plans, etc., used to estimate costs were highly conceptual in nature*. The estimated annual cost range for the dredge project as listed in the hearing notice is not predictable for owners of benefitted properties, particularly in a very constrained economic and capital environment.

Sincerely,

Greg Oberle
Terminal Manager
CHS Savage Grain Terminal

Cc: Linda Loomis, LMRWD Administrator