



November 14, 2018

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 dredge project. CHS is concerned about the process leading up to, and including, the September 17 hearing notice and proposed vote at the November 19 meeting.

CHS respectfully requests:

- The LMWRD Board of Managers postpone the vote to assess and determine the percentages assigned to each beneficial member. Minnesota River terminal operators are scheduled to meet with Savage city officials to discuss immediate and long-term river operations;

In September, CHS requested:

- 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 benefited properties, particularly in a very constrained economic and capital environment.

Sincerely,

Greg Oberle
Terminal Manager
CHS Savage Grain Terminal

Cc: Linda Loomis, LMRWD Administrator