



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

May 2019 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:

Other Work

River Resource Forum

On April 22nd and 23rd, the Corps of Engineers held the River Resource Forum. The Corp holds these meetings three times a year, in December, April and August. The meeting was held at the US Fish & Wildlife Headquarters in Bloomington. The meetings are open to the public and it is usually attended by the Corp and its partners, which includes other federal agencies like US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Coast Guard, US National Park Service and US EPA and state agencies from Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin, including the DNR, MNDOT, and MPCA.

They provide updates on projects and issues facing all agencies managing the Mississippi River system. One issue that was raised surrounded the funding of 9 foot Channel Maintenance. The funding for maintenance of the Minnesota River Navigation Channel has been moved from the Corp operations budget and placed in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The Trust Fund funds projects on a competitive basis. The St. Paul District of the Corps of Engineers is concerned that the Minnesota River will not compete well in this program, since it is competing with deep harbor ports and one of the criteria looked at is the tonnage shipped to and from the port. Tonnage on the Minnesota River is nowhere near the tonnage on coastal deep water ports.

I have notified our Lobbyist, Lisa Frenette, as well as the Lobbyists for CHS and Cargill. We will be setting up a meeting between the Corp and appropriate members of Congress to see if funding for the Minnesota River can be moved back to the operations budget of the St. Paul District.

Scott WMO Planning Committee

On April 22, I made a presentation to the Scott County Water Management Planning Committee. I have attached the PowerPoint presentation for the Board's information. One of the committee members is on the Blakely Township Board. He asked for a copy of the presentation so that he could present it to the Township Board.

2018 Financial Audit

The 2018 financial audit is wrapping up. The final exit meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks. I will ask the Auditor to attend the June Board meeting to present the final report to the Board and answer any questions the Board may have.

MN River Congress

Scott Sparlin has reported that Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Area 5 has adopted a resolution regarding making water storage a priority. Area 6 is considering doing the same.

Scott has asked if the Watershed District would consider adopting a similar resolution. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Remote Meeting Participation

Tierney Brothers, Inc. provided a quote to design a system for the Board to be able to participate in Board meetings remotely. The quote is attached for manager's information.

Watershed Plan Projects

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: No new information to report since last update.

Riley Creek Cooperative project/Lower Riley Creek restoration - The cooperative has been prepared and is being sent to the LMRWD for approval and authorization.

Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project: The LMRWD was notified that BWSR will not be making the final payment of the grant. I have spoken to Kevin Bigalke at BWSR to see if there is an appeal process, and was informed that there is not. The city of Chaska has not been notified that the final payment will not be made. The amount of final payment was \$110,400. The agreement between the LMRWD and the city agreed the each would pay for one half of any cost overages. This will come before the Board for approval at a future meeting. A copy of the letter notifying the LMRWD of the decision by BWSR is attached. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/bwsr-clean-water-fund-grant-administration>

East Chaska Creek (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): Staff conducted a field visit to begin wetland delineation. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/east-chaska-creek-bank-stabilization>

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This project has not begun and staff developing a cooperative agreement between the city and the LMRWD. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/schroeder-acres-parkeagle-creek-sub-watershed-stormwater-study>

Shakopee Downtown BMO Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This project has not begun and staff developing a cooperative agreement between the city and the LMRWD. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/targeted-bmps-downtown-shakopee>

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This project has not begun and staff developing a cooperative agreement between the city and the LMRWD. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/prior-lake-outlet-channel-realignmentwetland-restoration>

Dakota County Fen Gap Analysis and Conceptual Model (Dakota County Watershed Based Funding): Staff will be meeting with the stakeholders for this project: Dakota County, DNR, and BWSR in the next few weeks. Project website: <http://lowermriverwd.org/projects/dakota-county-fen-study-management-plan>

Hennepin County Chloride Project (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): No new information to report since last update.

Vegetation Management Plan: This project is currently on hold while staff works on other projects.

Sustainable Lake Management Plan - Trout Lakes: This project is currently on hold while staff works on other projects.

Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams: A presentation for this project is scheduled for the May Board meeting.

Spring Creek Cost Share: Staff is working with the consultants for the County's Jonathan Parkway project to see if improvements to Spring Creek can be included as part of this project. The opportunity for this will depend upon which option the County chooses to address the storm water.

West Chaska Creek Re-meander: This is a project outside the boundaries of the LMRWD. Carver County WMO (Watershed Management Organization) asked the LMRWD to share in the cost of the project as it is expected to improve the water quality of West Chaska Creek as it flows through the LMRWD on its way to the Minnesota River. The LMRWD has asked the County for a cooperative agreement between the Carver County WMO and the LMRWD. I have attached information from the CCWMO.

Project Reviews

City of Burnsville - Industrial Equities - 250 River Ridge Circle North: No new information to report since last update.

City of Burnsville - United Properties - 12400 Dupont Avenue North: No new information to report since last update.

CenterPoint Energy - sign replacement: No new information to report since last update.

City of Burnsville - Kraemer Mining: No new information to report since last update.

Dakota County - MN River Greenway: Dakota County called a stakeholder meeting to provide an update regarding the options for crossing the Union Pacific Railroad. There are three options being looked at. Two that cross under the track and one that goes over the tracks. One of the options for crossing under the tracks would use an already existing bridge. The over the tracks option calls for construction of a bridge to cross over the tracks. All three options would require the closing of the trail in during flood events. Preliminary design work estimates that the trail will require over 4 acres of floodplain mitigation. 2:1 mitigation is planned, but no work has been done to designate mitigation credits. Project website:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/About/TrailPlanning/Pages/minnesota-river.aspx>

City of Shakopee - Jackson Township AUAR: No new information to report since last update.

City of Burnsville - CenterPoint Energy Lyndale Valve Replacement Project: No new information to report since last update.

City of Eden Prairie - C. H. Robinson: No new information to report since last update.

City of Burnsville - Burnsville Sanitary Landfill: No new information to report since last update.

City of Eden Prairie - Peterson Wetland Bank: No new information to report since last update.

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: The City is working on wetland delineation for areas of the project. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14 to discuss the wetland mitigation. LMRWD staff will not be able to attend, since that is the same date as the LMRWD TAC meeting and the times overlap. Project website: <https://www.highway101improvements.com/>

City of Savage - 12113 Lynn Avenue: No new information to report since last update.

Cities of Richfield/Bloomington - TH 77 & 77th Street underpass: No new information to report since last update.

MNDOT - I494 Brush removal: Removal of brush on west bound I-494 Right-of-Way between the Minnesota River and Trunk Highway 13 was complete April 4th. East bound was complete on April 2nd. There may be some stump removal yet to be done.

MNDOT - TH 5 Signage projects: The contractor is currently working on fabrication of the large overhead sign structures. Contract provisions show a start date around July 15, 2019.

MPCA - MN River TSS TMDL: No new information to report since last update.

City of Bloomington - MN Valley State Trail: The city issued a Notice of Decision approving 1.34 acres of wetland mitigation on April 12, 2019. Project website:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/minnesota_valley/plans.html

Hennepin County - CSAH 61/Flying Cloud Drive: LMRWD staff conducted inspections of the project April 19th and May 3rd. Staff is inspecting the site every two weeks. The contractor appears to have implemented appropriate protection BMPs.

MNDOT - I494/TH 5/TH 55 Mill & Overlay project: No new information to report since last update.

Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494invergroveheights/>

MNDOT - I35W Bridge Replacement: MNDOT requested a modification to its permit for work in the public waters to The I-35W Bridge Replacement project is now proposing riprap along both shores in order to protect the new piers from scour during large flood events. This riprap is proposed to be placed on top of the existing shoreline, with a total 3.6 ft depth (1ft fabric geobag layer and 2.5 ft of Class IV riprap). Above the normal water transition elevation, the base layer will not be in geobags, and the top voids will be filled with class I riprap to prevent species entrapment and aesthetically match existing river bank conditions. See the attachment on file for details. This work qualifies for authorization under the already issued permit. Project website:

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wbloomington/index.html>

MNDOT - I494 from TH169 to Minnesota River: No new information to report since last update.

Scott County - TH 41/169/78 Interchange: BWSR received a complaint from the public about soil tracked onto the roadway by the contractor working on this project. They were referred to Scott County, who is responsible for this project. The County is currently working on building an overpass for County Road 14. The County has set up a [website](#) that the public can visit for updates to this project.

City of Shakopee - Amazon Fulfillment Center drainage: The City and LMRWD staff are planning a site visit to the ravine where the City is planning to direct water within the next two weeks.

MAC/LMRWD/MCWD boundary realignment: No new information to report since last update.

Fort Snelling - Dominion Housing: No new information to report since last update.

USACOE/USFWS - Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland: Scott County agreed to be the LGU for this project. The Bass Ponds EAW was released for public comment on April 29th. The US Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to improve habitat within the Wilkie Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is located in northern Shakopee and Savage city limits. The area experiences a lack of seasonal variability in water levels which has resulted in reduced wetland habitat quality, aquatic plant diversity, and quality habitat for migratory waterbirds. Water level management features (stoplog structures, earthen plugs) are proposed to improve habitat. The US Army Corps of Engineers have completed the EAW document and Scott County has published the EAW for public review. The review period will end on May 29, 2019 at 4:30 PM. Project website:

<https://www.scottcountymn.gov/1865/Bass-Ponds-EAW>

Upcoming meetings/events

- Upper Mississippi River Waterway Association - Thursday, May 16, 2019, 11:30am Lilydale Pool & Yacht Club
- 12th MN River Congress - Thursday, May 16, 2019, St. Peter Minnesota (more information will be provided as it becomes available)
- [Bloomington Public Works Open House](#) - Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9:00am - 12:00 noon, Public Works Building, 1700 W. 98th Street, Bloomington
- MAWD Summer Tour - June 26 through June 28 - Red River Valley
- Metro MAWD - Tuesday, July, 16, 7:00pm Cap Region Watershed District, 595 Aldine Street, St. Paul



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District History

- Established 1960
- Local Sponsor to the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Minnesota River 9-Foot Channel
 - Responsibility for disposal of material dredged from the river to maintain the navigation channel
- Managed by 5 managers:
 - 1 from Carver, Dakota, and Scott Counties
 - 2 from Hennepin County

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Characteristics

- Encompasses 80 square miles generally following the Minnesota River up to the bluff line, from the confluence with the Mississippi River upstream to the city of Carver
- Portions of five Counties: Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Scott
- Portions of 12 cities: Bloomington, Burnsville, Carver, Chanhassen, Chaska, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, Savage, and Shakopee
- Portions of two townships: Jackson and Louisville

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Characteristics

The District includes many natural features unique to the Minnesota River:

- Calcareous Fens
- Floodplain wetlands
- Trout Streams
- Minnesota Valley National Refuge
- Over 20,000 acres of regional park and open space



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Characteristics



Home to Black Dog Energy Generation Plant, Blue Lake & Seneca Waste Water Treatments Plants and Flying Cloud & Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airports

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Managing Dredge Material

- Navigation Channel
 - **1892:** Congress established a 4 foot channel on the MN River up to mile 25.6
 - **1930:** Congress charges the Army Corps of Engineers with dredging and maintaining 9 foot navigation channel on the upper Mississippi from St. Louis to Minneapolis
 - **1958:** Congress orders deepening of the 4 foot channel on the Minnesota to 9 feet up to mile 14.7, in Savage, where the grain terminals are situated



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Managing Dredge Material

The LMWRD owns and operates a 20 acre dredge management site in Savage at River Mile Post 14.2



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Dredge Material Management

The US Army Corps of Engineers places an average of 25,000 cy of material on the District's site every year.



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Dredge Material Management

In 2014, the LMRWD arranged with private barge terminal operators to place material dredged from slips on the Vernon Avenue dredge site to dewater. Since then about 30,000 CY of material is place on site every year.

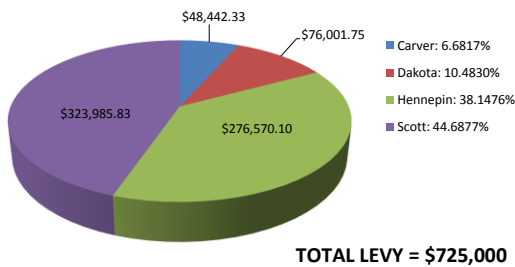


Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Budget

- Levy Payable 2019	=	\$725,000
- Appropriation from the State of MN for improvements to dredge site	=	\$240,000
- Grants (WOMP & Watershed Based Funding)	=	\$187,542
- Revenue from sale of dredge material rental placement of private dredge material	=	\$30,000
- Fund balance	=	<u>\$185,440</u>
2019 Total Budget	=	\$1,367,982

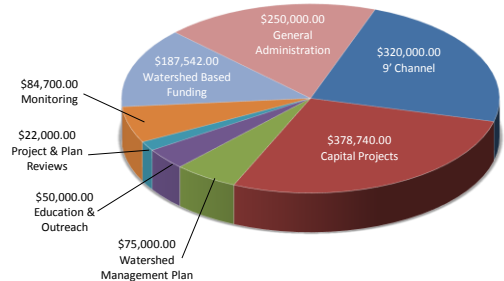
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Budget

Apportioned Payable 2019 Levy



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Budget

2019 Budgeted Expenses



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Watershed Management Plan

In 2018, the LMRWD completed a plan amendment, which was approved by the MN Board of Water & Soil Resource, September 25, 2018 and adopted by the LMRWD Board, October 24, 2018.

The Plan will be in effect until 2028.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District 2018 Activities and projects

In addition to completing the Plan Amendment the LMRWD:

- Completed sediment core study of flood plain lakes
- Completed bank stabilization project on Riley Creek below Flying Cloud Drive
- Launched redesigned website
- Began work on dredge site improvements and gained authority to assess benefitted property owners:
 - Developed No-rise Evaluation
 - Prepared Threatened and Endangered Species Survey
 - Prepared Wetland Delineation
 - Held Public Hearing to establish Dredge Management as a permanent capital project of the LMRWD

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District 2019 Plans and Projects

- Develop and adopt rules to implement LMRWD standards
- Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams:
- Bank Stabilization of East Chaska Creek
- Downtown Shakopee BMP Retrofit study
- Schroeder Acres Park
- Prior Lake Outlet Channel Realignment
- Dakota County Fen Gap Analysis
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Update Monitoring Plan
- Spring Creek sub-watershed study
- Vernon Avenue Dredge Site improvement project

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Questions?



WATER STORAGE SUPPORT

WHEREAS, Area VI SWCD's currently work with landowners and their land on a daily basis, to install conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, water retention and storage is a top priority for most districts within Area VI; and

WHEREAS, every Area VI SWCD district is within the Middle or Lower Minnesota river basin; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Congress, [a citizen-led group focusing on the natural resource and economic health of the Minnesota River Basin] is spearheading an effort to secure significant funding specifically for surface water storage in the Minnesota River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, a mutual initiative for action on major project priority selections could be a benefit to both financially and as a basis for positive citizen support; and

WHEREAS, raising monetary resources (much like the first CREP program) would be a welcome and needed addition to SWCD's.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Area VI:

1. Endorses the initiative of the Minnesota River Congress as it pertains to increasing more water storage on the landscape.
2. Promotes water storage projects within districts.
3. Advocates, along with the Minnesota River Congress, to secure funding targeted specifically for water storage in the Minnesota River Watershed.



Quote

#154740

1771 Energy Park Drive, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55108
 (612) 331-5500 | (800) 933-7337 | Fax (612) 331-3424
 www.tierneybrothers.com

5/6/2019

Bill To

Linda Loomis
 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
 6677 Olson Memorial Highway
 Golden Valley MN 55427

Ship To

Linda Loomis
 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District - Carver County
 Government Center
 600 E 4th St
 Chaska MN 55318

Memo:
 Multi Room Design Fee

Expires	Sales Rep	Contract	Terms
9/2/2019	209 Heidi Harvey		NEW

Qty	Item	MFG	Price	Ext. Price
1	<p>Multi Room Design Fee AV Design to include scope and bill of materials for multi room design (up to three different configurations)</p> <p>When Tierney Brothers, Inc. is awarded the project, the full amount of this design fee will be credited towards the job and will appear as a deduct towards the overall project amount.</p> <p>SEE OPP 21379 for the Rice Creek Watershed Web Conferencing Design</p> <p>Quote includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Site visits to the 2 sites (or RCWD and perhaps for Shoreview) b. Provide initial design for 3 sites (RCWD, Shoreview and remote manager system) with itemized cost estimate for materials and labor for each initial site design. c. Attend 1/28 RCWD Board meeting (1pm) for discussion with the Board of Managers on initial design options d. Revise initial designs per board discussion/ direction and provide recommended site design option with itemized cost estimate for materials and labor for each site design. <p>Also any other "out the door" costs should be included in the recommendation for each site including (but not limited to) service plans, software costs and annual fees, etc?</p> <p>Not to exceed \$1500 total cost for all service listed</p>		\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00





Quote

#154740

1771 Energy Park Drive, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55108
(612) 331-5500 | (800) 933-7337 | Fax (612) 331-3424
www.tierneybrothers.com

5/6/2019

Subtotal	\$1,500.00
Tax (7.375%)	\$110.63
Shipping Cost	\$0.00
Total	\$1,610.63

To accept this quotation, sign here : _____

If accepting this quote via purchase order please reference this quote number on your PO. To order via credit card please contact customer service at 612-331-5500.

This document is subject to the terms and conditions found here: www.tierneybrothers.com/SOTC

Please inspect product upon delivery. All claims for defective merchandise or errors in shipping must be made within five days after receipt of goods. Clients using their own carriers will be responsible for filing their own freight claims if product is damaged in transit. Returns require an authorization number and must be made within 30 days. Custom orders and "Consumables", such as projector lamps, may not be returned. Returns are subject to restocking fees with the exception of out of box failures and replacements under warranty. Restocking fees varying depending on the product line, expect a minimum charge of 25%.



154740

m BOARD OF WATER
AND SOIL RESOURCES

June 30, 2018

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
C/o Linda Loomis, Administrator
112 E. 5th Street, #102
Chaska, MN 55318

Dear Administrator Loomis:

This letter is in regard to the 2013 Clean Water Assistance Grant for Bluff Stabilization at the Seminary Fen. The grant was originally issued with an expiration date of December 31, 2015. Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (District) staff worked with BWSR staff to amend the grant to June 30, 2016 due to weather conditions limiting site access delaying construction.

BWSR grants require reporting to be completed annually by February 1st and within 30 days of completion of the project. The final progress report was not completed until June 22, 2018. Due to extreme delays in reporting and not meeting the grant requirements for reporting, BWSR will not be making a final payment which includes the 40% and 10% payments to the District for the FY13 Clean Water Assistance Grant.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Christopher
Board Conservationist

Chaska Creek Remeander



This project will re-meander approximately 1,100 linear feet of a ditched section of West Chaska Creek. Lengthening the creek's channel will reduce water speeds, lower stress on the banks, reconnect the stream to its floodplain, and reduce the amount of sediment transported downstream. The project will reduce total suspended solids in the creek annually by an estimated 4,400 lbs. Photos below show the section of stream and project site in 1974 (left) and 2017 (right).



LOCATION

The project is in Chaska, southwest of the Engler Blvd. and Hwy 212 intersection.

PROJECT COSTS

Phase 1: \$209,000

Phase 2: \$143,000

YEAR CONSTRUCTED

Year

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Chaska

Lower Minnesota Watershed District

Board of Water and Soil Resources

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- The project will lengthen the stream and reconnect a portion of the original floodplain.
- The project will reduce sediment in the creek by 4,400 lbs. each year.
- The reconnection to the floodplain will reduce water levels in the stream by 0.3 feet for high flows.
- The stress on stream banks and downstream ravines will be reduced due to slower water speeds.



CARVER COUNTY
Remeander Concept



AUG 2017
Figure 1



ABOVE

Concept Design. Overall concept for Chaska Creek Re-meander, includes both phases of the project

LEFT

Chaska Creek. Current condition of the creek (2018).

FRONT

1974 and 2017 Pics of project site. The project area is changing from farmed land to a commercial district.