



November 27, 2024

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 5th Street East, Suite 102
Chaska, MN 55318

Re: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – Testimony for 2025 Legislative Agenda and Contribute to Actionable Solutions.

Watershed Board and Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the 2025 legislative agenda and contribute to actionable solutions request. Thank you for your partnership to the city on several past and current projects including the Shakopee Minnesota Riverbank Stabilization project, Lewis Street Parking Lot Underground Infiltration project, Ridge Creek Park Stream Restoration project, Downtown Shakopee Water Quality Study, and chloride reduction initiatives including a brine system and weather station. On behalf of the City of Shakopee, please accept the following comments.

Problem 1: There is significant erosion along the Minnesota River streambanks and within the watershed along tributary streams, gullies and steep slopes/bluffs. Erosion causes damage to property and infrastructure and is a sediment source which carries pollutants impacting water quality and the need to dredge the Minnesota River.

Solution 1: Work with community partners on projects to stabilize erosion along the Minnesota River streambanks, tributary streams, gullies, and steep slopes/bluffs. Continue project support for the Shakopee Minnesota Riverbank Stabilization project through partnership and funding from the Lower Minnesota River watershed cost share program, grants and bonding. Policy is in place within urbanized areas to mitigate impacts from new development that may cause erosion issues. There are many unique situations that can lead to erosion issues within the watershed, however continued support of projects through partnerships and funding from bonding, grants and/or cost share programs is recommended. Advocate for policy changes in the greater Minnesota River Basin at the state level to reduce Minnesota River flooding and corresponding river velocities that lead to local Minnesota River streambank erosion.

Outcome 1: Minnesota River streambanks are stabilized and protect public infrastructure. Improved water quality from stabilized streambanks, gullies and steep slopes/bluffs. Reduction in river dredging activities.

Problem 2: Flooding causes damage to city infrastructure and impacts access of infrastructure during and after flood events. Major flooding can have significant financial costs to repair damage and to restore infrastructure during and after floods. There are significant impacts on traffic when there are road closures, including river crossings, which result in increased traffic delays along US HWY 169.

Solution 2: To reduce regional flooding issues (Minnesota River flooding), advocate for regional solutions in the greater Minnesota River Basin like flood storage reduction projects and policy changes at the state level to reduce Minnesota River flooding. Policy is in place

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within urbanized areas to mitigate impacts of flooding from new development. To reduce flooding along tributary streams within the watershed, support community partners in addressing these issues. Support through partnerships and funding from bonding, grants and/or cost share programs.

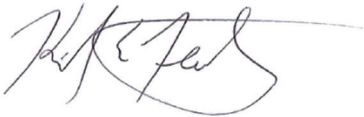
Outcome 2: Reduction in flood frequency/severity and decrease of impacts to infrastructure and traffic.

Problem 3: There are water quality impairments to the Minnesota River, tributary streams, lakes and wetlands throughout the watershed. Many of the impairments are from nutrients, turbidity, bacteria and chloride.

Solution 3: There is policy in place within urbanized areas to mitigate impacts from new development that may cause impairments. Where impairments exist, work with community partners on projects to reduce pollutants and work towards achieving any state required reduction goals. The city of Shakopee partnered with Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to complete a water quality feasibility study of the Downtown Shakopee area. Several projects were identified in the study to reduce sediment and nutrients of which two projects have been constructed and a third is planned. Support erosion stabilization projects which reduce sediment and initiatives to reduce bacteria and chloride. Continue support for implementation of water quality improvements through partnerships and funding from bonding, grants and/or cost share programs.

Outcome 3: Water quality is improved to the Minnesota River, tributary streams, lakes and wetlands throughout the watershed.

Regards,



Kirby Templin, PE
Water Resource – Environmental Manager

C: William H. Reynolds, City Administrator
Alex Jordan, City Engineer