



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Agenda Item

Item 5. C. - Metropolitan Area Watershed Based Funding

Prepared By

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Summary

Two years ago BWSR established a Watershed Based Funding Program (WBF) for water management organizations within the seven county Metropolitan Area. The goal for WBF is to distribute money to pay for projects and studies that work to improve water quality. The Pilot Program distributed money to organizations based on counties. Since the Pilot Program, BWSR convened a work group to determine a more equitable way to distribute funds.

In the last round of funding, in Carver, Dakota and Scott County money was allocated using a formula based on area of the watershed and the value of taxable property or population within a given county. Within Hennepin County funds were similarly allocated, however the organizations in the Minnesota River Watershed pooled funds to pay for a chloride project.

Scott County and Hennepin County reserved a portion of the total funds available to those counties to address chlorides.

LMRWD projects funded in part by WBF money are:

- Carver County: East Chaska Creek
- Dakota County: Fen Gaps analysis and management strategy
- Hennepin County: MN River Chloride project
- Scott County: Prior Lake Outlet Channel Realignment, Downtown Shakopee stormwater BMP feasibility study; and Schroeder's Acres Park stormwater analysis.

The distribution of funds will now be based on watersheds. For the LMRWD this means that rather than being part of 4 distribution groups (Carver, Dakota, Hennepin and Scott Counties), it will now be part of 2 groups (Lower Minnesota River North and Lower Minnesota River South).

What this means for the LMRWD is that it will participate meetings with eligible organizations within the two areas to determine how the funds will be spent. BWSR has asked that the Board appoint a representative to each group.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

Motion to appoint LMRWD representative to WBF Lower Minnesota River North and South planning groups