



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 2021 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

Dakota County Manager Solicitation

A mailing to all residential addresses in Dakota County was mailed December 17th. LMRWD Managers were added to the mailing list. I have received communications from two individuals that have expressed interest in the position.

60th Anniversary Video

A start-up committee of Eden Prairie journalists and community leaders formed by the Eden Prairie Community Foundation plans to fill the local news gap prompted by the closure of the *Eden Prairie News* last April. The committee named the initiative *Eden Prairie Local News* (EPLN) and is being incorporated as a non-profit, on-line, local news center with social media adjuncts. A website for EPLN and a Facebook site has been started and they have covered a story about the LMRWD.

<https://www.eplocalnews.org/2021/01/01/minnesota-river-watershed-district-celebrates-60th-year/>.

The reporter, Jeff Strate, who wrote the story about the LMRWD has been able to get play times on local cable access in several communities within the LMRWD. I have attached an email from Mr. Strate with air times in the different communities that are playing the video.

I have added Mr. Strate to the LMRWD agenda distribution list.

Watershed Based Funding

The Minnesota River North group met on Monday, December 21, 2020. The group determined that the LMRWD would receive \$100,000 for the Area #3 Project. I am working to get the application to BWSR by January 31, 2021. The District will have until March 31, 2021 to prepare the work plan. Lower MN River North has been allocated \$673,699 in total for FY 2020/2021.

In the Minnesota River South, BWSR determined that one of the projects approved by this group at its November 20, 2020 meeting did not qualify for funding. The group was asked to reconvene to decide which project should receive the funding allocated to the ineligible project. The amount of funding to be re-allocated was \$15,000. The group determined to fund a feasibility study of stormwater in the Credit River Watershed. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Credit River project would be eligible, since it was not currently in the Scott County WMO capital project program. If the project was ineligible because it was not in the Scott WMO Plan, the groups decided funds would go to the Scott County SWCD Lower Minnesota River Watershed Targeted TMDL Practice installations. Lower MN River South has been allocated \$829,075 for FY 2020/2021.

I did speak with the City of Shakopee about asking for the \$15,000 for downtown Shakopee BMPs, but we decided that \$15,000 amount was not sufficient cost benefit, with the additional reporting that is required with the grant.

Meeting notes and allocations are available (for both groups) if Managers wish to see them.

Data Management

The scope of work on the original proposal has been completed. There is still a balance on the contract and DRB Consulting will stay on this project to set up a file structure for LMRWD files to be transferred to Sharepoint. Della Young and I have talked about once the file system has been set up how we intend to transfer the files. We have discussed how an intern might be able to do this.

Ike's Creek Chloride Monitoring

The LMRWD received an agreement from MCES (Metropolitan Council Environmental Services) to begin taking sample of Ike's Creek for Chloride. MCES will be taking samples and testing them and the LMRWD will pay for the work provided by MCES. The LMRWD will receive funds from the Friends of the Minnesota Valley Refuge to pay for the work provided by MCES. The Friends of the Refuge will receive funds from Cargill to pay for the sampling and testing. The Agreement has been sent to legal counsel for review. Staff is working on an agreement between the Friends of the Refuge and the LMRWD. This will allow for regular sampling of the Ike's Creek. Previous sampling was done whenever USFWS staff had time to collect samples and send them for testing. The LMRWD paid for the cost of the testing.

Seminary Fen monitoring

The Seminary Fen Work Group met on December 22, 2020. The item that was discussed was sealing some wells that are prone to flooding and are owned by the LMRWD and located on private property. The private property owner has never had issues with the Carver WMO checking the water levels in the wells, however there had been some discussion that the LMRWD might want to get easements over the wells.

Carver WMO has observed that the area where these wells are located is prone to flooding and that consideration should be given to sealing them. It may be possible to use DNR equipment to save money, but the well owner (LMRWD) would be responsible for the cost of sealing.

The group also noted that the LMRWD has been collecting data from all of the observation wells within the fens in the District. The data collected has been entered into the State's STORET system; however no one has been analyzing the data that has been collected to determine trends.

As was noted in the previous administrator's report on this topic, new data loggers are needed at several of the wells. Options for logger replacements was discussed. It was noted that the more expensive option, around \$1,000 a piece, required significantly less time to collect and manage data.

Additional discussion included a prescribed burn to manage invasive species and the drain tile field in the peat dome. The DNR said there was a project that removed woody invasive and there are piles waiting to be burned this winter. There is additional removal that needs to occur before a prescribed burn can occur. The DNR staff agreed to talk about coordinating a burn.

LMRWD updated the group about the study of the fens the District has been doing and talked about the plan to study groundwater in the area. There was some discussion about the information about geology of the area found with the gaps analysis. The group discussed what each agencies is doing that may be a duplication of work that others are doing. The group determined to meet again in 3 to 4 months and to look at what is needed to fill in the gaps identified in the gaps analysis.

Watershed Plan Projects

Gully Inventory and condition assessment: Work continues on this project. There is no new information to report since last update.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: This item is on the January 2021 agenda.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

Riley Creek Cooperative project/Lower Riley Creek restoration: No new information since last update.
Project website: <http://www.rpbcwd.org/whats-happening/projects/lower-riley-creek-ecological-restoration>

Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project: There is no new information to report since the last update.
Project website: <http://lowermnrivewd.org/projects/bwsr-clean-water-fund-grant-administration>

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): The District is ready to proceed with this project and is making sure all permits and contractual documents are in order. It is anticipated that construction will commence January 18, 2021. Notice has been sent to owners of all properties adjacent to the project area and sign will be posted Monday, January 18, 2021.
Project website: <http://lowermnrivewd.org/projects/east-chaska-creek-bank-stabilization>

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This item is on the January agenda.
Project website: <http://lowermnrivewd.org/projects/schroeder-acres-parkeagle-creek-sub-watershed-stormwater-study>

Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): There is no new information to report since the last update.
Project website: <http://lowermnrivewd.org/projects/targeted-bmps-downtown-shakopee>

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): There is no new information to report since the last update.
Project website: <http://lowermnrivewd.org/projects/prior-lake-outlet-channel-realignmentwetland-restoration>

Dakota County Fen Gap Analysis and Conceptual Model (Dakota County Watershed Based Funding):
The LMRWD is working with Dakota County SWCD to close out the grant on this project.
Project website: <http://lowermnrivewd.org/projects/dakota-county-fen-study-management-plan>

Hennepin County Chloride Project (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): Work is continuing on this project. There is no new information to report since the last update. Notice has been posted to the [LMRWD website](#).

Vegetation Management Plan: No new information since last update.

Sustainable Lake Management Plan: Trout Lakes: No new information to report since last update.

Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams: No new information to report since last update.
Project website: <http://lowermnrivewd.org/projects/geomorphic-assessment-trout-streams>

Spring Creek Cost Share: There is no new information to report since the last update..

West Chaska Creek Re-meander: No new information to report since last update.
Project website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1695a2cf90b44ddba730aad399196405>

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: No new information to report since last update.

Project Reviews

Canterbury Crossing: - City of Shakopee - A permit for this project was approved at the December 2020 Board meeting
Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/canterbury-commons/canterbury-crossing>

Credit River Outfall Repair: - City of Savage - This project is to repair the Credit River outfall where it daylight after going under TH 13 in Savage. Staff reviewed this project and submitted comments to the DNR. The LMRWD requested to review the no-rise evaluation that should have been done at the time of

original construction. The City did not have a no-rise. LMRWD staff is meeting with the City and the DRN on Thursday, January 21, 2021 to discuss the project.

Watermark in Savage: City of Savage - No new information to report since last update.

Shakopee Flats: City of Shakopee - There is no new information to report since the last update..

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/river-bluff-development>

Southbridge Crossing 6th Addition: - City of Shakopee - No new information to report since last update.

Veterans Memorial Bridge: City of Shakopee - No new information to report since last update.

Quarry Lake Park Improvements: City of Shakopee - No new information to report since last update.

Prairie Heights: City of Eden Prairie - No new information to report since the last update.

Carver County CSAH 10: City of Chaska - No new information to report since the last update..

Project website: <https://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/public-works/projects-studies/highway-10-study-victoria-chaska-area>

Keyland Development: City of Shakopee - No new information to report since the last update.

Hentges Industrial park: City Shakopee - The LMRWD received an EAW on this project. Staff is reviewing the EAW.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/hentges-industrial-park>

9960 Deerbrook, Chanhassen: No new information to report since last update.

Summerland Place Residential Development EAW: Shakopee - No new information since last update.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/summerland-place>

Timber Creek Residential Development EAW: Carver - No new information to report since last update.

Project website: <https://www.cityofcarver.com/timber-creek/>

MNDOT TH13 Improvement Study: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy13savageburnsville/index.html>

Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization: No new information to report since last update.

Project website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/upperpost/index.html>

HCRRR MN River Bluffs Regional Trail: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.hennepin.us/riverbluffstrail>

MNDOT ADA Trail improvements in Mendota: No new information since last update.

MNDOT trail drainage improvements in Lilydale: No new information since last update.

MNDOT Trail - 494: No new information to report since last update.

City of Chanhassen - Moon Valley Gravel Pit: No new information to report since last update.

City of Carver - Levee rehabilitation: This item is on the January 2021 Board meeting agenda.

City of Carver - Jonathan Parkway upgrades (CSAH 11) - A permit was approved for this project at the December 2020 Board meeting.

Project website: <https://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/public-works/projects-studies/jonathan-carver-parkway-highway-11-improvements>

Dakota County - MN River Greenway: No new information to report since last update.

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

City of Burnsville - Freeway Dump and Landfill: No new information to report since last update.

Project website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/freeway-landfill-and-dump>

City of Eden Prairie - Peterson Wetland Bank: The District received the Notice of Application for the Wetland Delineation was received November 20, 2020. A map of the area that will become wetland bank is attached.

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.highway101improvements.com/>

Cities of Richfield/Bloomington - TH 77 & 77th Street underpass: A permit was approved for this project at the December 2020 Board meeting.

City of Bloomington - MN Valley State Trail: No new information to report since last update.

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

MNDOT - I35W Bridge Replacement: No new information to report since last update.

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.

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

USACOE/USFWS - Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/Projects/Article/1467604/upper-mississippi-river-restoration-program-bass-ponds-marsh-wetland-habitat-re/>

Upcoming meetings/events

- UMWA Annual meeting- Thursday, January 21, 2021, 12:30 pm; contact District Administrator to join
- Metro MAWD, Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 7:00 pm.
- 2020 USACE River Resource Forums - April, August & December 2021, the April meeting is planned to be virtual



Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>

Playback Times & article

Jeff Strate <jstrate@earthlink.net>
Reply-To: Jeff Strate <jstrate@earthlink.net>
To: Linda Loomis LMNRWD <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 11:24 AM

Good morning Linda,

This is a link to my *Eden Prairie Local News* story on your WD Anniversary here
<https://www.eplocalnews.org/2021/01/01/minnesota-river-watershed-district-celebrates-60th-year/>

If WD people like the article, it is a good idea to leave a comment about the article on its webpage.

CABLE TELEVISION

These are the scheduled playback times for the LMRWD 60th Anniversary Video. The video will play for a few months.

1) SWTV Comcast Ch 15 in Edina, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Richfield

Sunday 2:30 p.m.

Monday 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 3:30 p.m.

2) EAGAN TV - Comcast Channel 15 plus various streams via its website -

- Tuesdays at 6:30am
- Wednesdays at 10:30am
- Thursdays at 6:30pm
- Sundays at 3:30pm

3) BCAT - Bloomington Community Access Television - Comcast Ch 16 plus its stream on BCAT website.

Random playbacktimes but this week today and tomorrow.

Today Friday January 15 - 6:47 pm

Saturday January 16 4:46am & 11:46:58 AM

Next week, the video will be rescheduled for many more plays over the coming months.

With warmest regards,

Jeff Strate

Eden Prairie Local News reporter, SWTV, BCAT TV producer