



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

December 2021 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, the following District projects and issues were addressed during the month:

Other Work

Eminent Domain Action

The LMRWD received notice of an action of eminent domain against the building where the LMRWD office is located. Papers were forwarded to the LMRWD legal counsel. We are not exactly sure what the implications are for the LMRWD yet. The worst case is that the District would need to find new office space or best case there are some limitations to access to the building during construction of the TH 41/Chestnut transportation improvement project. The City of Chaska was reminded that this project will require a permit from the LMRWD.

MPCA Draft PFAS Monitoring Plan

MPCA is extending the public input period for the draft PFAS monitoring plan until Friday, January 21, 2022. This new deadline will allow interested parties more time to review the MPCA PFAS sampling guidance (a document with recommendations to ensure data quality while collecting samples) and the revised PFAS analytical guidance (a document with recommendations for chemists and technicians analyzing PFAS samples in laboratories).

MPCA is also adding a public listening session — on January 4, 2022, from 2 - 3 p.m. — on the remediation monitoring plan, which will include updates on guidance development and the stakeholder advisory group. The meeting information will be available on the [MPCA PFAS monitoring plan page](#), and a reminder email will be circulated through the Remediation (REM) GovDelivery list.

City of Shakopee

The City of Shakopee requested a meeting with the LMRWD to clarify the implications of Quarry Lake being classified as a High Value Resource Area in the LMRWD Plan. LMRWD staff met with Shakopee city staff and discussed this issue. It was just a misunderstanding as to what exactly it would mean to the City for Quarry Lake to be classified as a High Value Resource. The City is good with the categorization of Quarry Lake in the LMRWD Watershed Management Plan.

MAWD Annual Conference

I was able to attend the MAWD Annual Conference. The conference was held virtually again this year. I joined the business meeting and all of the resolutions submitted and recommended for approval were amended from the floor before being approved, so it was difficult to say exactly what the final language was. It was a rather lengthy meeting.

The Executive Summary included in the December meeting materials included a report on the Mississippi River Restoration and Rehabilitation Initiative and the fact that MAWD has signed on as a supporter.

Two other watershed districts have not paid dues this year; Sauk River Watershed District and Prior Lake/ Spring Lake Watershed District.

River Resource Forum

I joined the River Resource Forum December 7th. There are many personnel changes at the St. Paul District, due to retirements. Most notably Steven Tapp Channel and Harbors Chief, who will be retiring at the end of 2021. The National Park Service (NPS) also announced that Tucker Blythe will replace John Anfinson as superintendent of the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area. John has retired too.

NPS has been conducting a number of studies, one of which may affect the Minnesota River; a study of beaver populations along the 72 mile stretch of the Mississippi River and the first 4 miles of the Minnesota River that fall within the NPS boundaries. Initial findings are that there are a lot of beaver. They are looking for additional funding from the LCCMR to expand the study, looking at cottonwood regeneration and beaver impacts, and beaver impacts on other floodplain species.

The last tow out was November 28th.

Metro Children's Water Festival

I received a thank you from the organizers of the Metro Children's Water Festival, which is attached. The organizers collected enough money in 2020 that they were able to pay for the 2021 Festival as well. The letter of thanks is attached.

Watershed Plan Projects

Gully Inventory and condition assessment: The final report is complete. An update of this project is included in the meeting packet under the Item 8. F. – Watershed Management Plan.

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

Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization: This item is on the December meeting agenda.

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

Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project: An update of this project is included in the meeting packet under the Item 8. F. – Watershed Management Plan.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/bwsr-clean-water-fund-grant-administration>

East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding): An update of this project is included in the meeting packet under the Item 8. F. – Watershed Management Plan. In addition, Staff has prepared a report on the site conditions of this project observed during the October 2, 2021, tour. The report is attached.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/east-chaska-creek-bank-stabilization>

Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The LMRWD applied for an extension of the grant received for this project. The grant was extended for one year.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/schroeder-acres-parkeagle-creek-sub-watershed-stormwater-study>

Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): The LMRWD applied for an extension of the grant received for this project. The grant was extended for one year.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/targeted-bmps-downtown-shakopee>

PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding): This project is also called Ridge Creek Park. This project is complete. The LMRWD has received a request from the City of Shakopee for payment of the grant. The LMRWD is reviewing the documentation. The LMRWD applied for an extension of the grant received for this project. The grant was extended for one year. Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/prior-lake-outlet-channel-realignmentwetland-restoration>

Hennepin County Chloride Project (HHCI) (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding): A meeting of the partners for this project met November 29, 2021. A contract was offered to MP+G Marketing Solutions to develop a campaign targeting boards and committees with homeowners/town home associations and faith-based organizations. The City of Minneapolis made a presentation on its on-line [Salt mini-course program](#). This program is to educate homeowners about best practices on de-icing salt. The Mississippi WMO made a presentation about a project they funded: Columbia Heights City Hall Snowmelt System. An update on the Parkers Lake Chloride Project was made and the dates for the 2022 Salt Symposium was announced: August 2nd and 3rd.

I will be meeting on December 14th with other watershed districts in the Hennepin County portion of the Minnesota River Watershed to discuss the grant projects that is being done jointly. Grant details for this project can be found on the LMRWD website using this link <http://lowermnriverwd.org/news/chloride-reduction-grants-available>.

Vegetation Management Plan: No new information to report since the last update.

Sustainable Lake Management Plan: Trout Lakes: An update of this project is included in the meeting packet under the Item 8. F. – Watershed Management Plan.

Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams: An update of this project is included in the meeting packet under the Item 8. F. – Watershed Management Plan.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/geomorphic-assessment-trout-streams>

Spring Creek Cost Share: An update of this project is included in the meeting packet under the Item 8. F. – Watershed Management Plan.

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.

MN River Corridor Plan: An update of this project is included in the meeting packet under the Item 8. F. – Watershed Management Plan.

Project Reviews

Shakopee Dental Office: - City of Shakopee – Permit approval for this project is on the December LMRWD Board meeting agenda.

Kraemer Quarry/Cemstone: - City of Burnsville – The LMRWD received notice from the DNR of this project in the way of a request for comments on groundwater appropriation. A report is included in the December meeting packet.

Blue Lake Siphon Landscape Restoration: - City of Eden Prairie – 10510 West Riverview Drive – This is a project of the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to perform vegetation removal, site preparation activities and site restoration activities (native habitat seeding) within the project area as part of their overall Interceptor Sites Landscape Restoration Project. The LMRWD reviewed the application and determined that a permit was not necessary.

I 494 River Crossing Improvement Project: - This project is part of a MNDOT improvement project for I-494. The project proposes to the 494 bridge over the MN River. It will widen and reconstruct the existing trail, replace lighting and deteriorated concrete median, repair concrete pavement and reconstruct bituminous shoulder.

A meeting between the LMRWD, MnDOT and the DNR was held December 2nd to discuss this project. MnDOT will be making repairs to the I 494 Bridge and wanted to discuss impacts from the project. The LMRWD has concerns about the impact of temporary fill in the floodplain and with the impacts from a maintenance road that will be placed. The LMRWD has not received an application for a permit for this project yet.

CenterPoint Energy Nicollet River Crossing Segment 1 and CenterPoint Energy Nicollet River Crossing Segment 2: – Cities of Bloomington and Burnsville – The District informed CenterPoint that it appears the project will require a permit from the LMRWD. The District offered an opportunity to meet but has not received a response.

Excel Energy Line 0832: - City of Burnsville – A permit for this project was approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

Lone Oak Signal: - City of Eagan – The permit application for this project is on the October agenda.

Canterbury Senior Living Center: - City of Shakopee – A permit for this project was approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

MN Mash: - City of Savage – Staff is still working with the applicant on this project.

Circle K/Holiday Station Store: - City of Savage – A permit for this project was conditionally approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting. The fen management plan has been received and approved by the DNR.

South Park Jeep: - City of Burnsville – A permit for this project was approved at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

Trunk Highway (TH) 55: - MNDOT - Bloomington Road to TH 52, Mendota Heights - The LMRWD received an application for a permit to resurface the roadway, improve drainage, make pedestrian accessibility improvements and rehabilitate bridges on MN 55 from the east end of bridge over Bloomington Road in Minneapolis to junction US 52 in Inver Grove Heights. There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy55mpls-invergroveheights/>

Burnsville Sanitary Landfill (BSL): - City of Burnsville –The MPCA sent out the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Comments on the FEIS are due December 24, 2021.

Project website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/regulations/burnsville-sanitary-landfill-expansion-project>

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

4905 TH Highway 13: - City of Savage – A permit for this project was issued at the August Board of Managers meeting.

TH 169 Pedestrian Bridge: - City of Shakopee – No new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/recreation/parks-trails-projects/highway-169-pedestrian-bridge>

2021 Safety & Security Center Phase 1: - Metropolitan Airport Commission – A permit for this project was approved at the November 2021 Board meeting.

106th Street Transportation Improvement Project: - City of Bloomington – This project was conditionally approved at the June 2, 2021 Board meeting.

Burnsville Cemetery Expansion: - City of Burnsville – A permit for this project was approved at the October 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

Capstone 35: - City of Burnsville – This project was approved at the May 19, 2021 Board meeting.

Jefferson Court: - City of Shakopee – This project was approved at the June 2, 2021 Board meeting.

TH 41/CSAH 61: - City of Chaska - This project is for transportation improvements to TH 41 in downtown Chaska, including the intersection of TH 41 with CSAH 61. The LMRWD received a stormwater management plan for this project. The City was reminded that they will need to apply for a permit from the LMRWD.

CSAH 61 Drainage Channel Extension: - Carver County – A permit for this project was approved at the October Board of Managers meeting.

Credit River Outfall Repair: - City of Savage - This project is to repair the Credit River outfall where it daylights after going under TH 13 in Savage. The city has applied for a public waters work permit for this project. There is no new information to report since the last update.

Southbridge Crossing 6th Addition/Core Crossing: - City of Shakopee – A permit for this project was approved at the July 21, 2021 Board of Managers meeting.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/business-development/current-development/southbridge-crossings>

Quarry Lake Park Improvements: City of Shakopee – The City has informed the LMRWD that they have abandoned its plans to construct an outlet to Quarry Lake. They went out for bids and all bids were for more than the city was willing to spend. Because of dry conditions in 2021 the lake level has fallen to a more manageable level and if we experience a wet summer, such as in 2019, the city will pump water out of the lake. They have an area of erosion that they will repair. Other components to this project are: 1) a mountain bike trail in the southern portion of the site, 2) improvements to the park area and changes to accommodate the water-ski club and 3) an outlet of the lake to the Prior Lake Outlet Channel (PLOC). A permit for the Quarry Lake outlet was approved at the October Board of Managers meeting.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/recreation/parks-trails/parks-trails-projects/quarry-lake-park>.

Prairie Heights: City of Eden Prairie - This project is a residential housing development in Eden Prairie that is partially in the LMRWD and partially in Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD). It is not in a High Value Resource Area or the Steep Slope Overlay zone. Permitting authority was given to RPBCWD. No new information to report since the last update.

Carver County CSAH 10: City of Chaska – This project is 92% complete. There is 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/Whispering Waters: - City of Shakopee – This permit was approved at the June 16, 2021 Board meeting.

Hentges Industrial park: City of Shakopee - A portion of this property is being developed as Southwest Logistics Center (SLC). A permit for SLC was approved at the March 2021 meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers. Additional developments are planned for this property. There is no new information to report since the last update.

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: 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: The LMRWD is waiting for a maintenance agreement between MNDOT and the City of Savage for the stormwater management features required by this project. The LMRWD reached out to MnDOT for the status of the maintenance agreement but has not received a response yet.

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>

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

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

Dakota County - MN River Greenway: There are two components to this project the extension of the trail and a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad. A permit for the trail was approved by the Board of Managers at the November 2021 meeting.

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: No new information to report since last update.

City of Chanhassen - TH 101 Improvements: The LMRWD has asked Carver SWCD if they have been inspecting this project and if so, could the LMRWD receive a status report. No response has been received yet.

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

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

Project website: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/index.html>

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

USACOE/USFWS - Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland: This project is complete. The Corps of Engineers is planning to hold its August River Resource Forum in Savage and touring this project.

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 monthly meeting – Thursday, December 16, 2021, meeting will be virtual, contact District Administrator to attend
- Lower Minnesota River East 1W1P Informational Policy Committee – Thursday, December 16, 2021, 2:00 – 4:00 PM – LeSueur County Justice Center or virtual, contact District Administrator for more information
- MPCA Listening Session – Tuesday, January 4, 2021, 2:00 to 3:00 pm, virtual access to the meeting can be found using this link [MPCA PFAS monitoring plan page](#).



December 2021

Dear Metro Children's Water Festival Partner,

Thank you for sponsoring the Metro Children's Water Festival (MCWF). When it was determined that the 2020 festival would go online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we weren't sure we would have the support of our valued partners, but thankfully we have been humbled by your generosity and commitment to the festival. A list of sponsorship is found on the new website:

<https://metrocwf.org/sponsors/>

A special thank-you to the Metro Conservation Districts, who is the fiscal agent for the MCWF. In 2021 the MCWF website was hacked and a replacement needed to be developed or the festival would have been cancelled. Thanks to the quick action of the MCD, the MCWF work plan was amended so that a new website could be funded. The new secure website, including a new logo, was constructed for the cost of \$8,615.00.

Traditionally, the MCWF takes place each September at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds and provides engaging, hands-on water education to about 1,800 fourth grade students free of charge. Going online for the 2020 festival was uncharted territory for us, but we exceeded attendance goals with 1892 students participating in 2021 alone. Additional highlights are listed below:

Festival week was September 27 – October 1, 2021

- The virtual festival went live Sept. 27 and will remain open all school year.
- Registration was requested but not required. Festival page is open and available to all.
- 55 registrations were received with 1892 students. Most registrations were teachers.
- Social media was the highest method for directing traffic to our new festival website.
- The most popular sessions were: Wastewater Treatment for Kids, Rainfall Simulator, Mystery of a Disappearing Waterfall, Youth Help Solve the Global Water Crises, and Make it Rain.
- All teachers who registered their classes during festival week were sent "Every Kid Outdoors" National Parks passes for all 4th grade students. Passes were mailed to classrooms.
- Full program summary will not be completed until May/June 2022 to account for additional uses of material throughout the school year.
- Registrations are still being collected. Registrants receive a link to order a "Every Kid Outdoors" National Parks pass, but we are not sending physical parks passes beyond festival week.

Thanks again for your generous support!

Sincerely,

Ann White Eagle, Metro Children's Water Festival Planning Committee Member



**sponsor of
the 2020**



Metro Children's Water Festival

presented to

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

The planning committee extends heartfelt appreciation of your generous support to the Metro Children's Water Festival. Together, we are teaching children about water resources and how they can help ensure a future where both the quantity and quality of water resources are protected and managed wisely.

Technical Memorandum

To: Linda Loomis, Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

From: Katy Thompson, PE, CFM
Della Schall Young, CPESC, PMP

Date: December 10, 2021

Re: East Chaska Creek Restoration—Sedimentation Update

As part of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) 2021 Fall Tour on October 2, 2021, the managers and Young Environmental staff walked through the recently completed East Chaska Creek Restoration Project. In May 2021, the creek was freshly restored with predominantly flat channel bottoms and very little diversity in stream habitat or established vegetation (Attachment 1). During the October site visit, Young Environmental staff noted that significant sedimentation was occurring within the channel and documented the conditions (Attachment 2).

No major issues were noticed during the fall tour, and the creek is now showing signs of establishing a new equilibrium, with a new low-flow meandering channel developing in the lower reach (Area 1, Attachment 2); more diverse in-stream habitat development, including pool development from intentional scour (Area 2, Attachment 2); and sediment accumulation in the reaches between the in-creek structures (Areas 3, 5, and 6, Attachment 2).

One location, outside the restoration work, is showing signs of channel erosion from an unofficial creek crossing (Area 8, Attachment 2). Sediment is also accumulating in this reach, and the system may find equilibrium. However, the system should be evaluated again in the spring during the final warranty inspection. This information will also be shared with the City of Chaska to inform it of the erosion surrounding the creek crossing.

Attachments

Attachment 1—July 6, 2021, East Chaska Creek Restoration—Final Walk-Through Memorandum

Attachment 2—October 2, 2021, Site Photos

October 2021 Walk Through–Area I



May 28, 2021—Looking upstream at additional grading and erosion control measures placed on right bank.



October 2, 2021—Looking upstream at restored right bank, note the undercut bank and beginnings of a meandering channel as the creek is finding its new equilibrium.

October 2021 Walk Through–Area I



May 28, 2021–Spoils pile removed and erosion control blanket and seeding provided on right bank



October 2, 2021–Heavy vegetation now covering erosion control blanket and right bank.

October 2021 Walk Through–Area I



May 6, 2021—Looking downstream at right bank spoils pile before final grading.



October 2, 2021—Spoils pile was removed in May 2021 and vegetation has since established on right bank. Note the sediment accumulation within the channel, creating pools and instream habitat diversity.

October 2021 Walk Through–Area 2



May 28, 2021–Right bank re-graded and additional stabilization/erosion control measures installed. Trees planted on upper right bank.



October 2, 2021–Right bank rootwad structure and pool development under rootwad creating a more diverse in-stream habitat.

October 2021 Walk Through–Area 3



May 28, 2021–Looking upstream toward Area 8 from second rootwad structure on right bank.



October 2, 2021–Looking upstream toward Area 8 from second rootwad structure on right bank. Note the accumulation of sediment and gravel in the channel since May 2021.

October 2021 Walk Through–Area 5



May 28, 2021—Additional riprap placed on both banks, as well as erosion control blanket; upstream cross vane boulders lowered allowing water to flow more freely.



October 2, 2021—Sediment accumulation upstream and downstream of cross vane structure.

October 2021 Walk Through–Area 5



May 28, 2021–Looking upstream from cross-vane structure at left bank toe protection.



October 2, 2021–Looking upstream at left bank toe protection and established vegetation. Similar amount of erosion is present on the right bank as seen in May 2021.

October 2021 Walk Through–Area 6



May 28, 2021–Final constructed riprap flume and plunge pool downstream of Crosstown Blvd; fallen trees removed from channel.



October 2, 2021–Dry conditions in channel, sediment accumulation downstream plunge pool.

October 2021 Walk Through—Area 8



May 28, 2021—Additional riprap placed at area of left bank scour. Existing trail cuts through channel.



October 2, 2021—Scour within channel at unofficial trail crossing; some slumping of rock material on left bank.