



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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February 2022 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**

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### **Conversation with BWSR Board Conservationist**

On February 4, 2022, I met virtually with Steve Christopher, board conservationist for BWSR, to discuss LMRWD elink reporting and other business. I asked about charging a portion of overhead expenses, such as office rent, copier lease and maintenance, manager expenses, etc. to the state funding for dredge material management. He didn't see a problem with that, so the amount of District overhead reflected in the annual audit will be charged to the appropriation from the State. We also discussed how to reflect the transfer of the portion of that funding to the Seminary Fen grant funding that was not paid. He is checking on that and will get back to me.

### **2022 Watershed Based Implementation Funding**

At the October 2021 meeting, the BWSR Board approved the next round of funding for the Watershed Based Implementation Funding program. The round of funding has been allocated according to Metro Watershed Planning Areas. The planning areas basically correspond to watershed district boundaries. \$127,068 has been allocated to the Lower Minnesota River WPA. The LMRWD will convene all the eligible LGUs to determine how the funds should be allocated. The LMRWD Technical Advisory Committee is comprised of eligible LGUs. I have contacted the LMRWD BWSR Board Conservationist and the BWSR Clean Water Specialist for our area to assist with facilitation of the meeting.

### **Seminary Fen Work Group**

The Seminary Fen work group met on February 7, 2022. The DNR organized the meeting and discussed the status of the wells used for monitoring. Some of the wells are flooded during wet periods and sealing of those wells has been discussed in the past. The wells are owned by the LMRWD, but are on private property. The property owners have never objected to representatives for the LMRWD entering the property to collect water levels. The LMRWD was informed by the Carver WMO that some of the loggers are 'dead' and that equipment has been removed from some of the wells by the DNR to be used at other wells. The LMRWD is planning a follow-up meeting with Carver County, who monitors the fen wells on behalf of the LMRWD to discuss options for continued monitoring.

### **Bloomington Green Sheet**

The City of Bloomington recently included an article in its city newsletter about cost share grants available for homeowners. The LMRWD has received several inquiries about the Cost Share Program in response to the City's article. They have also featured watershed district cost share programs on its rain garden web page, which can view using this link:

<https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/eng/rain-gardens>

### **MN Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA)**

It was reported in the January 2022 Administrator Report that I had reached out to the administrator of the Shell Rock River Watershed District, Andy Henschel, to find out the concerns that District had with MAWD. I did have a conversation with Mr. Henschel and the concerns are that it is difficult for MAWD members to discern what the Board is doing. They are not sure what it is that MAWD provides to its members (Shell Rock uses a consultant legislative liaison), but they are working to try to get MAWD improve.

### **Lower Minnesota River West One Watershed One Plan**

The last meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was January 13, 2022. This meeting discussed the issues surrounding groundwater quality, soil health, groundwater supply and fish & Wildlife habitat. Previous meetings discussed altered hydrology, excessive flooding, accelerated erosion & sedimentation, and degraded surface water quality. Worksheets regarding the have been sent to the TAG for additional comments which are due by February 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Watershed Plan Projects**

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**Gully Inventory and condition assessment:** No new information to report since last update.

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

**Eden Prairie Area #3 Stabilization:** Work continues on this project. There is an estimate that has been prepared by Inter-Fluve for use in drafting legislation to request funding for the project. The rough estimate is \$4.6 million and includes addressing the problem posed by the Eden Prairie Storm Water Pond. The MPCA met with city staff from Eden Prairie to let the city know that the MPCA wants to solve the best in a way that is best for the Minnesota River. LMRWD staff met with Eden Prairie city staff to present the latest work the LMRWD has on this Project. The change in scope of this project was also discussed with the BWSR Board Conservationist, who feels that the this new work still fits the intent of the work to be funded with the grant.

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

**Seminary Fen ravine stabilization project:** This project was discussed with the BWSR Board Conservationist. The question is how to report the transfer of funds from the appropriation the LMRWD receives for dredge management to fill the gap created by the loss of the second half of the grant for this project. (For new managers: In 2014, the LMRWD received a grant for a project to stabilize a ravine that was contributing sediment to the Seminary Fen wetland complex. The project was troubled from the very beginning and by the time everything was completed it was 2018 and BWSR was not able to fund the second half of the grant. The project was constructed by the City and the LMRWD reimbursed the City of Chaska for the grant, which was \$110,400. BWSR suggested that the LMRWD approach the Legislature about using funds from the dredge material management appropriation to replace the grant. The LMRWD was successful getting permission to do this and has been waiting for direction from BWSR as to how to account for the transfer.

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

**East Chaska Creek: (Carver County Watershed Based Funding):** This project has been updated in elink. This project was part of the discussion held with the BWSR Board Conservationist for the LMRWD.

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

**Schroeder Acres Park (Scott County Watershed Based Funding):** The LMRWD received a grant to assist funding this project that was set to expire 12/31.2021. An extension of the grant was received. There is no new information to report since the last update.

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

**Shakopee Downtown BMP Retrofit (Scott County Watershed Based Funding):** The LMRWD received a grant to assist funding this project that was set to expire 12/31.2021. An extension of the grant was received. There is no new information to report since the last update.

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

**PLOC (Prior Lake Outlet Channel) Restoration (Scott County Watershed Based Funding):** The LMRWD received a grant to assist funding this project that was set to expire 12/31.2021. An extension of the grant was received. This project is complete and the City has requested reimbursement of the grant and payment of the LMRWD Cost Share. The Board authorized payment to the city for this grant and also payment of the LMRWD contribution to the project. This project was discussed with the BWSR Board conservationist and final payment BWSR said the LMRWD can request the remaining grant money this project is eligible to receive.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/prior-lake-outlet-channel-realignmentwetland-restorationhis>

**Hennepin County Chloride Project (HCCI) (Hennepin County Watershed Based Funding):** The next meeting of this group is scheduled for March 1, 2022. MP+G Marketing Solutions is gathering market research data from HOA boards and faith based organization, whose contact information was provided by members of the working group. MP+G Marketing Solutions plan to present the results of their research at a full HCCI meeting to gather consensus on the findings before moving on to campaign development..

Eden Prairie School District submitted a grant request for \$20,000 under the MN River watershed Chloride money. The grant would pay for new equipment to better remove snow and ice and also new spreader to better distribute salt more efficiently. Another grant was received from the City of Edina, to purchase new snow removal equipment at Braemar Arena. This grant request is for \$16,709.37. In addition, the MPCA has posted notice of this grant program on its [Statewide Chloride Resources page](#).

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:** There is no new information to report since the last update.

**Geomorphic Assessment of Trout Streams:** There is no new information to report since the last update.

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

**Spring Creek Cost Share:** At the January 19, 2022 Board meeting the Board authorized staff to move ahead with Items 1, 2, and 7 of the work plan presented at the meeting and then report back to the Board before proceeding with the plan. A project page has been added to the LMRWD website.

Project website: <http://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/spring-creek>

**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:** The next meeting of stakeholders is scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. The meeting will be virtual.

## Project Reviews

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**RSI Marine:** Chanhassen – 10500 & 10520 Great Plains Boulevard -Consider a request for Conceptual PUD approval for a mixed-use Planned Unit Development (PUD) which would permit the construction of four 20,000 square-foot storage buildings on approximately 8.3 acres with a land use designation of

Mixed. The LMRWD has not yet received an application for this project, but has notified the city that the applicant must apply for a permit, because the City of Chanhassen does not yet have its Municipal Permit from the LMRWD.

**CHS Savage Terminal:** City of Savage -6400 West Highway 13 – CHS is proposing the renovation of the truck staging area, unloading area and access to the terminal and scale. The construction increase the efficiency of the terminal to process and unload semi-trucks delivering grain to the terminal and reduce back-ups.

**Ivy Brook Parking:** City of Burnsville – 2100 Frontage Road N. – This is a proposal for a paved parking lot for outdoor storage.

**Merriam Junction Trail:** Scott County – Scott County is proposing a trail with a river crossing to the City of Carver. The alignment of the proposed trail is in the vicinity of the old Carver Railroad Bridge. LMRWD staff has had preliminary meetings with Scott County and its consultants.

**West Creek Apartments:** City of Chaska – 401 Hickory Lane N. – This application is for an apartment building and parking lot in the City of Chaska.

**I-35W Trail Realignment:** City of Burnsville – A permit for this project was conditionally approved by the Board at the January 19, 2022, Board of Managers meeting.

**Cliff Road Ramps:** City of Burnsville – A permit for this project was conditionally approved by the Board at the January 19, 2022, Board of Managers meeting.

**MAC 2022 Perimeter Gate Security Improvements:** MSP Airport – A permit for this project was conditionally approved by the Board at the January 19, 2022, Board of Managers meeting.

**Shakopee Dental Office:** City of Shakopee – A permit for this project was approved by the Board at the December 15, 2021 Board meeting.

**Kraemer Quarry/Cemstone:** - City of Burnsville – There is no new information to report since the last update.

**I 494 River Crossing Improvement Project:** - MnDOT: SP 2785-433 - This project proposes improvements 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. The LMRWD has had several meetings with MnDOT, however the application for a LMRWD permit has not been received.

**CenterPoint Energy Nicollet River Crossing Segment 1 and CenterPoint Energy Nicollet River Crossing Segment 2:** – Cities of Bloomington and Burnsville – Xcel Energy has provided comments on this project. CenterPoint Energy issued responses to the comment from Excel and the City of Burnsville. CenterPoint has applied to the City for a Conditional Use Permit. The LMRWD received an application for this project on January 18, 2022.

**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 – This project has been renamed Omry. Conditional approval of a permit for this project was given at the September 2021 Board of Managers meeting. The LMRWD has received the additional documentation requested and the permit will be issued.

**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. The LMRWD is still working with the proponent to complete the documentation requested.

**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. Construction is scheduled for Spring 2022 through fall 2022.

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

**Burnsville Sanitary Landfill (BSL):** - City of Burnsville – There is no new information to report since the last update.

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.

**106<sup>th</sup> 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 conditionally approved at the May 19, 2021 Board meeting. The LMRWD has received the requested additional documentation and the permit has been issued.

**Jefferson Court:** - City of Shakopee – A permit for 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. On January 6, 2022, Staff met with Engineers for this project to discuss the documentation the LMRWD will require in order to issue a permit. There is no new information to report since the last update.

**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 daylight 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 –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). The City has removed (3) from the project. There is no new information to report since the last update.

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 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 received the unexecuted maintenance agreement for the stormwater features associated with this project and the permit application is on the February 16, 2022 agenda.

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>

**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. A meeting of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) has been scheduled for February 23, 2022, for the remaining portion of this project.

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:** No new information to report since the last update. The LMRWD has not received any response as to whether or not Carver County has been inspecting the



project,

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/>

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### Upcoming meetings/events

*Managers are invited to attend any of these meetings. Most are free of charge and if not the LMRWD will reimburse registration fees.*

- UMWA monthly meeting – Thursday, February 17, 2022, meeting will be virtual, contact District Administrator to attend
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Policy Committee – Thursday, February 17, 3:00 to 5:00, LeSueur and virtual
- [MPCA Smart Salting for Local Leaders Workshop](#) – Thursday, February 24, 2022, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9:00 am, meeting will be virtual, use this link to join
- LMRWD Corridor Management Plan Focus Group Session #2 – Thursday, March 3, 2022, 10:00 PM – 12:00 noon – Virtual
- [Water Connects Us](#) – Freshwater virtual benefit – Tuesday April 26, 2022, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
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