



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Agenda Item

Item 5. B. – FY 2022-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)

Prepared By

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Summary

In October 2021, The Board of Water and Soil Resources Board approved the FY 2022-23 WBIF Program. This round of WBIF was allocated along Watershed Planning Areas (WPAs). The Lower Minnesota River WPA coincides with the boundaries of the LMRWD. The LMRWD therefore convened the group of stakeholders. In accordance with WBIF guidelines, each watershed management organization, each county with an approved groundwater plan, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are entitled to representation on the convene group. Additionally, municipalities are entitled to representation and elect two city representatives. The municipalities that fall within the Lower MN River WPA elected Bloomington and Savage as representatives.

The first convene meeting was held March 15, 2022. At this meeting the group determined who would represent the municipalities and that voting would be by consensus of the group. They looked at the priorities for ranking projects to be funded that were used during the last round of WBIF. At the second meeting, held May 18, 2022, it was determined to use the priorities for ranking projects that were developed by the group that was convened to allocate funds within the FY 2021-22 Lower Minnesota River South WBIF area. The priorities were tweaked and a spreadsheet that was used to submit projects for funding was revised.

Projects were to be submitted using the shared spreadsheet by June 22, 2022, so the BWSR could determine eligibility under the program. The convene group then met on June 29, 2022 to review and rank projects.

Four projects were submitted: one from the City of Shakopee and three from the City of Savage. All the project submitted were identified in feasibility studies that were undertaken with a grant to the LMRWD under the 2019 WBIF Program. The Shakopee projects was one identified in the Targeted BMP Study for Shakopee Downtown Sub-watershed. The Savage projects were identified in the Eagle Creek Sub-watershed Assessment.

It was decided that two of the Savage projects would not be done within the time frame for the grant, so those two were dropped from consideration. That left two projects: 1) Shakopee Stormwater BMP at Lewis Street West/2nd Avenue West Parking Lot and 2) Eagle Creek Bank Stabilization.

The Shakopee Stormwater BMP has a total estimated cost of \$2,000,000. The City requested \$127,000 of grant funding. (The total amount of grant funding available is \$127,068.) The Eagle Creek Bank Stabilization has an estimated cost of \$106,000. The City of Savage requested \$95,400 and proposed a 10% match of \$10,600 (which is required under WBIF guidelines established by BWSR).

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The Convene group felt that both projects were worthwhile. Both scored well using the agreed upon criteria, however the Eagle Creek project scored higher because it, “provides protection for unimpaired waters close to the water quality standard (e.g. lakes/streams), drinking water, or unique resources (e.g. fens, trout streams)”.

The Convene group asked that the Board of Managers determine the merits of the projects and if the LMRWD would be interested in contributing funds to either project.

Staff has reviewed both projects and makes the following observations.

Eagle Creek Bank Stabilization: The LMRWD has an Eagle Creek project identified in its implementation plan at this location. It has been in the plan since 2017 and the LMRWD has included the project in its budget in 2017 (\$12,000) and 20219 (\$10,000). The Board of Managers could assist with funding of this project.

Shakopee Stormwater BMP: This project is not currently in the LMRWD implementation plan. It will be included in the plan amendment that is underway. The LMRWD included \$50,000 in its 2022 budget for the Downtown Targeted BMP Study. The City did not request funds from the LMRWD above the amount of the WBIF grant it received for this project, so the LMRWD has \$50,000 to contribute to this project.

If the Board determined to contribute money from the LMRWD fund balance toward each of these projects, there will still be a funding gap. In addition, Shakopee will likely ask the LMRWD for an additional contribution. The same should be assumed with the Savage project. LMRWD staff makes the following recommendation for the Board to consider:

Recommendations:

Allocate all the WBIF to the Shakopee Stormwater BMP project. The Board should consider assisting the City of Shakopee with the project, by using the \$50,000 already in the budget and an additional \$50,000 in the 2023 budget, for a total contribution of \$100,000. This would be consistent with funding the LMRWD has contributed to other partner’s projects

The Eagle Creek Project could then be funded using LMRWD funds already set aside for Eagle Creek and approach the MN Department of Natural Resources and Trout Unlimited for additional money. The City of Savage has indicated it will contribute up to \$10,600 (as the 10% match). The City could be asked to match the LMRWD contribution of \$22,000.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

Motion to approve staff recommendations provided above