



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Agenda Item

Item 6. G. Education & Outreach

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

At the September 2022 meeting of the Board of Managers, the Board authorize a mini-grant program for educators. The first round of applications was due October 21, 2022. The LMRWD received two applications. The Citizen Advisory Committee reviewed the applications received and recommends approval of both applications. A list of all the educators who were advised of the grant program is included in the Technical Memorandum from Young Environmental Consulting group, which also includes the applications for the mini-grants.

The approved workplan for the LMRWD Education & Outreach activities include review of potential locations at creek crossings and high value resource areas. An update of this work is attached in Technical Memorandum – LMRWD Creek Crossing and Interpretive Signage Update dated November 7, 2022.

Attachments

Technical Memorandum – LMRWD Educator Mini-Grant Program Award Recommendation, dated November 9, 2022

Technical Memorandum – LMRWD Creek Crossing and Interpretive Signage Update dated November 7, 2022

Draft Educator Mini-Grant Program Agreement

Recommended Action

Motion to award mini-grants for Black Hawk Middle School for \$500 and Thomas Jefferson High School for \$300 and authorize execution of grant agreements.

Technical Memorandum

To: Linda Loomis, Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD)

From: Jen Dullum, Education and Outreach Coordinator
Della Schall Young, PMP, CPESC

Date: November 9, 2022

Re: LMRWD Educator Mini-Grant Program Award Recommendation

At the meeting on September 21, 2022, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) managers approved the Educator Mini-Grant Program. Following approval, the program information was shared with 107 schools, nonprofits, and other educators by email (contact list attached) and via the LMRWD website and social media platforms. We received the attached applications from the two educators listed below before the application process closed on October 21, 2022.

- Shannon Lee, Black Hawk Middle School, Eagan
- Jon Leverenz, Thomas Jefferson High School, Bloomington

The applicants were prescreened per the managers' approved criteria by the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC then reviewed the applications and scored them prior to their November 1, 2022, meeting. During their meeting, the CAC discussed both applications and voted unanimously to forward both applications, as summarized in the table below, to the managers for consideration.

Educator / School	Average Score	Requested Amount	Eligible Expenses
Shannon Lee / Black Hawk Middle School	8	\$500	Water testing supplies, plant and wildlife ID resources, field microscopes for wetland study
Jon Leverenz / Thomas Jefferson High School	7.6	\$300	Funding for transportation and miscellaneous supplies for water quality sampling as part of River Watch

Recommendation

Based on the information presented and the evaluation completed by the CAC, Young Environmental recommends awarding Black Hawk Middle School \$500 and Thomas Jefferson High School \$300.

Attachments:

Applications

Contact List

Organization	City	WD/WMO	Contact Name
Bloomington Living Hope Lutheran Church and School	Bloomington	Prior Lake/Spring Lake	James Brohn - principal
BlueSky Online Charter School	Bloomington	Richfield-Bloomington	general email
Green Crew - IWL- MN River Valley Chapter	Bloomington	LMRWD	Joseph Barisonzi
Hillcrest Community School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Donald Gramenz - principal
Indian Mounds Elementary School	Bloomington	LMRWD	Kelly Killorn - Bloomington public schools student, teacher, and administrator support contact
Kennedy High School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Molly Hollenbeck - principal
Minnesota Valley Fish and Wildlife	Bloomington	LMRWD	Kara Zwickey
Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends	Bloomington	LMRWD	general email
Nativity of Mary School	Bloomington	LMRWD	Ryan Pajak - principal
Normandale Hills Elementary School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Andrew Vollmuth - principal
Oak Grove Elementary	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Brian Cline - principal
Oak Grove Middle School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Brian Ingemann - principal
Olson Elementary School	Bloomington	LMRWD	Kelly Killorn
Olson Middle School	Bloomington	LMRWD	Kelly Killorn
Poplar Bridge Elementary School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Roberto Cantu - principal
Ridgeview Elementary School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Carey Seeley - principal
Success Academy	Bloomington	LMRWD	Thomas Tapper - director
Thomas Jefferson High School	Bloomington	LMRWD	Liz Erdmann Jon Leverenz Kelly Killorn
United Christian Academy	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Evan Dalrymple - executive director
Valley View Elementary School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Kelly Tennison - principal
Valley View Middle School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Daniel Andersen - principal
Washburn Elementary School	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Andrew Wilkins - principal
Westwood Elementary	Bloomington	Nine Mile Creek	Hugh Roberts - principal
Burnsville High School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	William Sommers - principal
Echo Park Elementary School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	Logan Schultz - principal

Edward Neill Elementary School	Burnsville	Vermillion River	Lyle Bomsta - principal
Gateway STEM Academy	Burnsville	Lower Miss River WMO	Edward Fellows - principal
Gideon Pond Elementary School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	Salma Hussein - principal
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	Dave Retzlaff - principal
Nicollet Middle School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	Frances Becquer - principal
Sky Oaks Elementary School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	Renee Brandner
Vista View Elementary School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	Angie Pohl - principal
William Byrne Elementary School	Burnsville	Black Dog Lake	Jon Bonneville - principal
Carver Elementary	Carver	Carver Creek/Carver	Gena Abrahamson - principal
East Union Elementary School	Carver	Carver County	Jay Woller - principal
Bluff Creek Elementary School	Chanhassen	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Beth Holm - principal
Chanhassen Elementary School	Chanhassen	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Greg Lange - principal
Chanhassen High School	Chanhassen	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Doug Bullinger - principal
St. Hubert Catholic School	Chanhassen	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	David Sorkin - head of school
Chaska High School	Chaska	Carver County	Jim Bach - principal
Chaska Middle School East	Chaska	Carver County	Greg Martin - principal
Chaska Middle School West	Chaska	Carver County	Alicia Fischer - principal
Clover Ridge Elementary School	Chaska	Carver County	Nathan Slinde - principal
Jonathan Elementary School	Chaska	Carver County	Pete Morse - principal
La Academia	Chaska	Carver County	Gretchen Kleinsasser - principal
Pioneer Ridge Middle School	Chaska	Carver County	Gina Landis - principal
Southwest Christian High School	Chaska	Carver County	Dan Beckering - head of school
St. John's Lutheran School	Chaska	LMRWD	Amy Feek
World Learner School of Chaska	Chaska	Carver County	Deana Siekmann - director
Black Hawk Middle School	Eagan	Gun Club	Shannon Lee - 4th grade
Dakota Hills Middle School	Eagan	Gun Club	Trevor Johnson - principal
Deerwood Elementary School	Eagan	Gun Club	Jeremy Sorenson - principal
Eagan High School	Eagan	Gun Club	Dr. Polly Reikowski - principal
Faithful Shepherd Catholic School	Eagan	Eagan - Inver Grove	Catherine Butel - principal
Glacier Hills Elementary School	Eagan	Gun Club	Adriana Henderson - principal
Northview Elementary	Eagan	Gun Club	Tori Holtz - 4th grade
Oak Ridge Elementary	Eagan	Gun Club	Cathy Kindem - principal

Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School	Eagan	Gun Club	Matt Beniak - STEM
Pinewood Elementary School	Eagan	Gun Club	Leah Hack - principal
Rahn Elementary School	Eagan	Gun Club	Brad Robb - principal
Red Pine Elementary School	Eagan	Gun Club	Tony Washington - principal
Thomas Lake Elementary School	Eagan	Gun Club	Rachel Hughes - principal
Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church & School of Eagan	Eagan	Eagan - Inver Grove	Kathryn Jones - principal
Trinity School at River Ridge	Eagan	Eagan - Inver Grove	Beth Schmitz - head of school
Woodland Elementary School	Eagan	Gun Club	Lisa Carlson - principal
Agape Christi Academy	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Jed Culbertson - headmaster
Cedar Ridge Elementary School	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Stephen Sheperd - principal
Central Middle School	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Valora Unowsky - principal
Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Felicia Thames - principal
Eden Lake Elementary School	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Hernan Moncada - principal
Eden Lake Elementary School	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Meghan Gasdick - principal
Eden Prairie High School	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Robb Virgin - principal
Forest Hills Elementary School	Eden Prairie	Nine Mile Creek	Joel Knorr - principal
Oak Point Elementary School	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Chris Rogers - principal
PIM Arts High School	Eden Prairie	Nine Mile Creek	Cassy Schauwitzer - director of teaching and learning
Prairie View Elementary School	Eden Prairie	Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek	Quennel Cooper - principal
The International School of Minnesota	Eden Prairie	Nine Mile Creek	Chris Wester - school director
Brightmont Academy	Mendota Heights	Lower Miss River WMO	Jennifer Sorenson
Friendly Hills Middle School	Mendota Heights	Lower Miss River WMO	Chris Hiti - principal
Mendota Elementary School	Mendota Heights	Lower Miss River WMO	Steve Goldade - principal
Saint Thomas Academy	Mendota Heights	Lower Miss River WMO	Justin Hager - dean of school
Somerset Elementary School	Mendota Heights	Lower Miss River WMO	Libby Huettl - principal
Two Rivers High School	Mendota Heights	Lower Miss River WMO	Pat Killian - science teacher
Visitation School	Mendota Heights	Lower Miss River WMO	Rene Gavic - head of school
Minnesota Dragonfly Society (510c3 non-profit)	regional	NA	Leah Darst
Nature Enthusiations, LLC	regional	NA	Leah Darst - owner
Seven Hills Preparatory Academy (Bloomington & Richfield)	Richfield	Nine Mile Creek	Brent Peterson - principal
Aspen Academy	Savage	Scott County	Melanie Jiskra - principal
Eagle Ridge Middle School	Savage	Scott County	Dave Helke - principal

Glendale Elementary School	Savage	Scott County	Jennifer Molitor - principal
Hamilton Ridge Elementary School	Savage	Scott County	Sam Fredrickson - principal
Harriet Bishop Elementary School	Savage	Scott County	Ken Essay - principal
Hidden Valley Elementary School	Savage	Scott County	Kristine Black - principal
Prior Lake High School	Savage	Scott County	John Bezek - principal
Redtail Ridge Elementary School	Savage	Scott County	Barb Yetzer - principal
St. John The Baptist Catholic School	Savage	LMRWD	Greg Wesely - principal
Aspire Academy	Shakopee	LMRWD	M. Kaahie Adam - executive director
Eagle Creek Elementary School	Shakopee	LMRWD	Stephanie Baker - principal
East Middle School	Shakopee	LMRWD	Clayton Ellis - principal
Jackson Elementary School	Shakopee	Scott County	Kevin Bjerken - principal
Red Oak Elementary School	Shakopee	LMRWD	Krysten Ellis, - principal
Shakopee Area Catholic School	Shakopee	Scott County	Nikki Giel - principal
Shakopee High School	Shakopee	Scott County	Jeff Pawlicki - principal
Sun Path Elementary School	Shakopee	Scott County	Patrick Leonard - principal
Sweeney Elementary School	Shakopee	LMRWD	Derek Bell - principal
Tokata Learning Center School	Shakopee	LMRWD	Eric Serbus - principal
West Middle School	Shakopee	LMRWD	Gwynee Chase - principal
Dodge Nature Center	West St. Paul	Lower Miss River WMO	Leah Darst - office coordinator



Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

Name of School/Organization:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Phone:

Describe your current role?

If you are a student, please provide the name and email of your supervising educator.

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

Address line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Name and Address Where Activity Will Take Place (if Different from Above)

Street Address:

Address line 2:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

What age(s) are the participants?

K–5th grade

6–12th grade

18+ years

Senior

Estimated number of participants:

Describe your proposed activity or project and how it relates to water resources and wildlife habitat education. Include project goals and learning objectives for participants.

When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?

Total requested amount (maximum \$500):

\$

Specify how funds will be allocated (e.g. supplies, materials, and transportation):

I understand that if my funding request is approved, I must complete and submit the Program Project Reporting and Reimbursement form to receive payment. Any photos submitted may be used by the LMRWD in future communications.

Signature:

Date:



Please submit your application to info@lowermnrivewd.org.



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

Name of School/Organization:

Jefferson High School

First Name:

Jon

Last Name:

Leverenz

Email:

jleveren@isd271.org

Phone:

952-806-7723

Describe your current role?

HS Biology Teacher

If you are a student, please provide the name and email of your supervising educator.

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

4001 West 102nd Street

Address line 2:

City:

Bloomington

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55437

Name and Address Where Activity Will Take Place (if Different from Above)

Street Address:

Moir Park (9 Mile Creek)

Address line 2:

10320 Morgan Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431

City:

Bloomington

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55431

What age(s) are the participants?

K-5th grade

6-12th grade

18+ years

Senior

Estimated number of participants:

35-90

Describe your proposed activity or project and how it relates to water resources and wildlife habitat education. Include project goals and learning objectives for participants.

We will be taking Water Quality Data Samples for the LMRWSD. We will have lessons in the classroom about Water Quality, Dissolved Oxygen, Turbidity and Microorganisms.

When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?

10/25 and another Spring date

Total requested amount (maximum \$500):

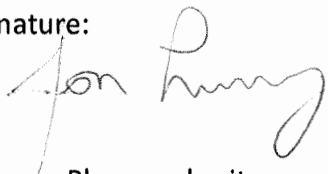
\$300

Specify how funds will be allocated (e.g. supplies, materials, and transportation):

\$100 for each bus trip and miscellaneous supplies that will be needed for sampling 9 Mile Creek. (Waders, Nets, Turbidity Disc??)

I understand that if my funding request is approved, I must complete and submit the Program Project Reporting and Reimbursement form to receive payment. Any photos submitted may be used by the LMRWD in future communications.

Signature:



Date:

10/10/2022

Please submit your application to info@lowermnrivewd.org.

Technical Memorandum

To: Linda Loomis, LMRWD Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed (LMRWD)

From: Jen Dullum, Education and Outreach Coordinator
Della Schall Young, PMP, CPESC

Date: November 7, 2022

Re: LMRWD Creek Crossing and Interpretive Signage Update

The approved Lower Minnesota River Watershed (LMRWD) 2022 Public Education and Outreach workplan includes a review of potential signage locations at creek crossings and high value resource areas. The following is the current status of this project.

I. Crossing Signs

Young Environmental reviewed crossings under local jurisdiction in 2021. Only one location at Riley Creek presents an opportunity for a potential crossing sign. This location appears to be half within the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD). Young Environmental contacted Eleanor Mahon, Education and Outreach Coordinator with RPBCWD, for potential collaboration and to ensure efforts are not being duplicated. RPBCWD is interested in working together on this signage project. Young Environmental also contacted Paul Rugar, Division Supervisor Traffic Transportation Operations Department, Medina Office with Hennepin County, to determine the feasibility of fabricating and installing a sign on Riley Creek. We are waiting for a County Process Form, which will provide further information and initiate this process, should that be the direction of the board. Map of proposed location provided as Attachment 1.

II. Interpretive Signs

Young Environmental investigated several other locations for interpretive signage, focusing on the unique habitats and ecosystems found within the LMRWD. The sites reviewed, the impetus of the review, and the summary of discussions with potential local partners are documented below in Table 1.

Table 1: Potential LMRWD Interpretive Sign Locations

Resource / Potential Message	Potential Sign Location	Manager of Resource	Findings
Quarry Lake / Habitat requirements and features of trout lakes. Recent improvements to the park.	Quarry Lake Park	City of Shakopee	Potential location. Waiting for city response regarding the location. City contact: Kirby Templin.
Courthouse Lake / Habitat requirements and features of trout lakes, and what makes a suitable environment for trout.	Government Center	Carver County / City of Chaska	City of Chaska is interested in this location and willing to coordinate on sign installation. Waiting on county response about location and partnership. City contact: Brent Alcott. County contact: Brent Kath.
Black Dog Fen / Unique features of calcareous fens.	Cliff Fen Park, City of Burnsville	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Not a potential location based on response from City of Burnsville, since the sign would be on city property, even though fen is not managed by the city. Also, fen is not showing signs of being healthy and established anymore. Already a kiosk at the trailhead on the east side of the park. City contact: Caleb Ashling.
Gun Club Lake Fen / Unique features of calcareous fens.	Mendota Heights Trailhead	Dakota County	Not a potential location based on response from county. An interpretive walk/experience was just completed at the Mendota Overlook, and they are not looking to add anything additional. County contact: Autumn Hubbell.
Ike's Creek / Habitat requirements that create a suitable environment for trout.	Bass Ponds Trailhead	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Minnesota Valley NWR)	Potential location. Waiting for the Minnesota Valley NWR response. Minnesota Valley NWR contact: Vicki Sherry.

Recommendation

Staff recommends moving forward with road crossing signs at Riley Creek, which will include taking the following actions. Additionally, staff will continue to investigate potential interpretive sign locations and report back to the board for review of suggested next steps.

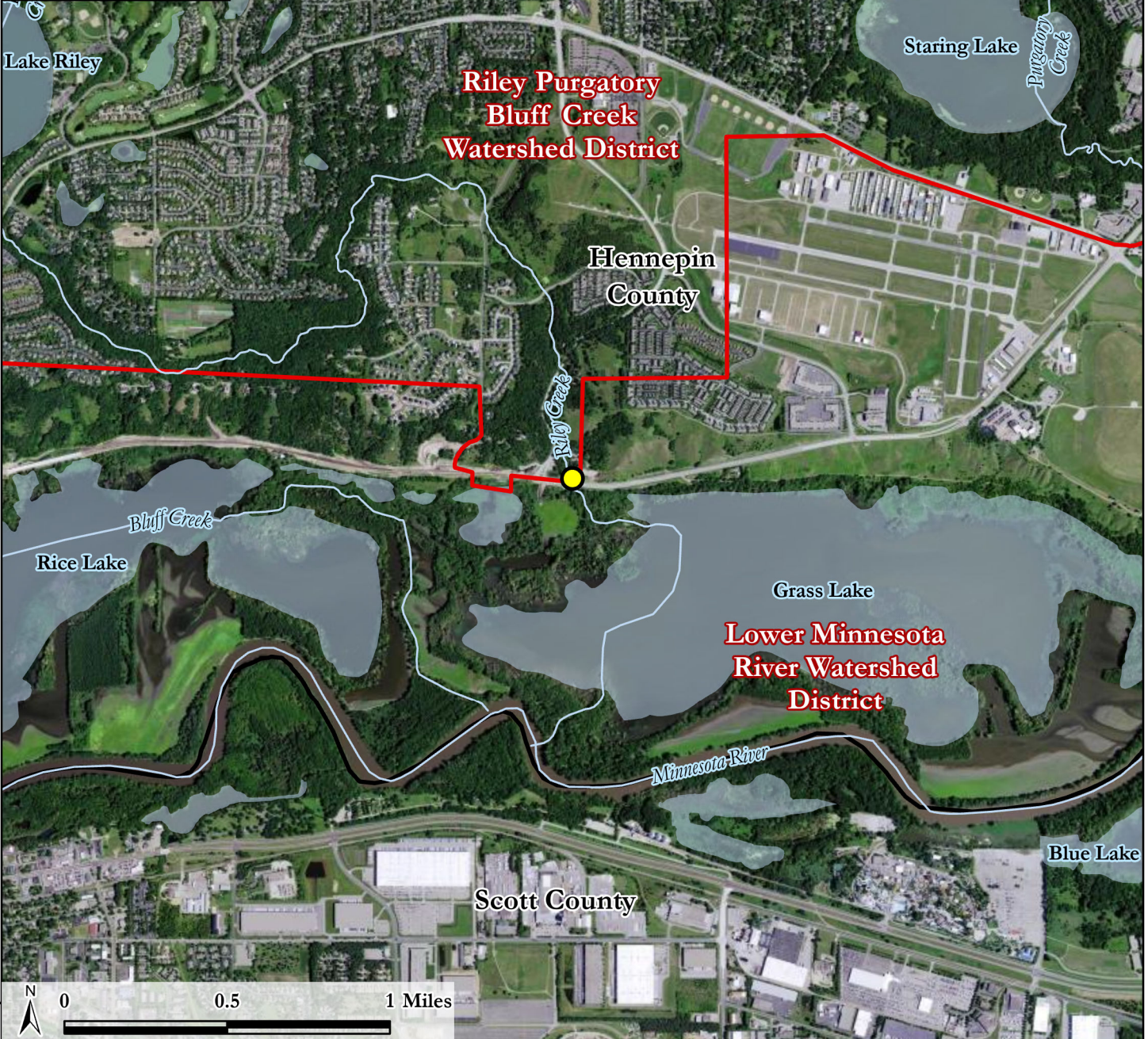
- Review Hennepin County Process Form
- Draft a contract with Hennepin County and RPBCWD for road crossing signage
- Bring a contract to the board for review and approval consideration
- Proceed with design and fabrication
- Work with Hennepin County on installation

Attachment I:

Riley Creek Crossing Sign Location



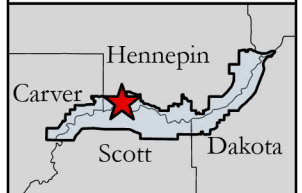
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT



Legend

- Potential Sign Location
- Public Waters
- Watershed District Boundaries
- County Boundary
- Public Waterbodies

LMRWD Watershed Location Map



Young Environmental
Consulting Group, LLC

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT
2022 Educator Mini-Grant Program
Cost Share Grant Agreement

This grant agreement made this ____ day of _____ 2022 is between the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, a Minnesota Watershed District ("LMRWD") a public body with purposes and powers set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D, and Shannon Lee, ("GRANTEE"), a teacher at Black Hawk Middle School. The GRANTEE's address is Black Hawk Middle School, 1540 Deerwood Drive, Eagan, MN 55122.

1. Scope of Work. GRANTEE will use funds for the purposes identified in the Educator Mini-Grant Program Application, attached to this Agreement as Exhibit 1.
2. Grant Agreement Period. The GRANTEE will have until the end of the current school year to complete the project.
3. Reimbursement. The GRANTEE may request reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$500. At the time reimbursement is requested, GRANTEE will provide the LMRWD a reimbursement and reporting request form and receipts for all direct purchases.
4. Indemnification. The LMRWD will be held harmless against all liability and loss in connection with the Project.
5. Notices. Any notice or demand, authorized or required under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the other party as follows:

To LMRWD:

Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 East Fifth Street, Suite 102 Chaska, MN 55318

To GRANTEE:

Shannon Lee
Black Hawk Middle School
1540 Deerwood Drive
Eagan, MN 55122

The parties agreeing to be signed as follows:

GRANTEE:

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

By: _____

By: _____

Its: _____

Its: President _____

Date: _____

Date: _____