



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, February, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 5. E. - Letter of support from the LMRWD for Carver Levee Improvement Project

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The City of Carver is looking for support from its partners, as it seeks funding for its Levee Improvement project. President Barisonzi has drafted a letter of support, which is attached and is looking for the LMRWD Board to authorize the letter.

Attachments

LMRWD Letter of support for Levee Improvement project

Recommended Action

Authorize providing a Letter of Support for the City of Carver's Levee Improvement project



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 2024

Carver

Lauren Salvato
Secretary

Dakota

Theresa Kuplic
Vice President

Hennepin

Joseph Barisonzi
President

Laura Amundson
Treasurer

Scott

Nathan Dull

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Carver's Levee Improvement Project. Carver's levee system was constructed nearly 55 years ago following the devastating 1965 flood, which damaged 50 historic structures, mainly homes, in downtown Carver. The levee was constructed as a community response to flood events in the 1960's and as a result no engineering plans and specifications exist for the levee. In addition, the levee has several documented deficiencies including freeboard elevations, steep slopes, lack of internal drainage and clear zone issues. Unfortunately, these deficiencies led to the City's removal from the US Army Corp's of Engineers' Levee Safety Program. All the while, The Minnesota River has reached flood stage at least 22 times in the past 10 years. As recently as 2019, the Minnesota River in Carver was at or above flood stage more weeks than it was below flood stage.

The City of Carver is asking for \$3.35 million from the State of Minnesota so they can make the necessary improvements to their levee. These improvements will not only prevent future flooding in Carver's historic downtown but will also set Carver on the path toward getting the levee certified by FEMA. Once this process is complete, home and building owners in the 100-year floodplain will no longer need to purchase exorbitant flood insurance on their structures, and the restrictions on certain improvements (expansions and additions) to the homes and businesses in the 100-year floodplain will no longer exist.

The City of Carver's Levee Improvement Project holds paramount importance for the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD). As stewards of the watershed's ecological health and sustainable development, the LMRWD recognizes the project's pivotal role in addressing aging infrastructure and enhancing resilience against flooding events. The interconnectedness of water management and environmental preservation underscores the LMRWD's commitment to supporting initiatives that contribute to the overall well-being of the watershed. By securing funding for the Carver Levee improvements, the LMRWD actively promotes the broader mission of ensuring the safety, economic stability, and ecological sustainability of the entire Lower Minnesota River region.

Carver's levee is a *prime* example of aging infrastructure. Carver needs the State of Minnesota's support to help ensure the safety of their residents and the vitality of their historic downtown. The City of Carver has one of the largest contiguous districts on the National Register of Historic Places. They have 90 structures which are on that list, many of which are located within the 100-year flood plain.

I hope you will join me in supporting the City of Carver's Levee Improvement project. Thank you for your consideration, your service, and your partnership on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Joseph Barisonzi
President
Board of Managers
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District

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