



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 4. A. – Request from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

Mr. Scott Sparlin from the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (Coalition) would like to address the Board of Managers to request that the Board consider supporting the Coalition as it lobbies for financial support from the federal government for water storage.

The request is to support the Coalition by providing financial support of \$10,000 over the next two years (\$5,000 per year).

The LMRWD has supported the Coalition twice in the past by offering to provide funds as a match to other funds the Coalition raises. There are funds available in the 2024 budget. The 2024 budget included \$10,000 to finance the County Fair project with the Friends of the Minnesota Valley (FMV). FMV withdrew its request so the \$5,000 of the \$10,000 could be redirected and the LMRWD could once again require the Coalition to raise matching funds.

Beginning in 2019, the LMRWD funded efforts of the Coalition at the MN Legislature to address water storage in the Minnesota River basin. The Coalition asked for \$10,000 over 2019 and 2020. The LMRWD Board granted the request, but asked that the Coalition raise matching funds. This effort was successful: the Coalition raised the matching funds and funding for water storage was approved by the Legislature.

In September of 2021, the Coalition asked the LMRWD to fund efforts to lobby the Federal Government to fund water storage. The LMRWD Board approved matching funds of \$10,000 over two years again. No federal funding was received, however the State of Minnesota increased the amount of funding for water storage initiatives.

Mr. Sparlin plans to attend the February Board of Managers meeting to make the request in person and to answer any questions the Board may have.

Attachments

Current request letter from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River dated 2-3-24

Documents detailing approvals of projects with Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River and reimbursements

Recommended Action

Motion to authorize contribution of \$10,000 (\$5,000/year) for 2024 and 2025 to the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River to fund efforts to secure funding for water storage projects in the Minnesota River Basin

2-3-24

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Linda Loomis, Administrator
112 5th St. East, Suite 102
Chaska, MN 55318

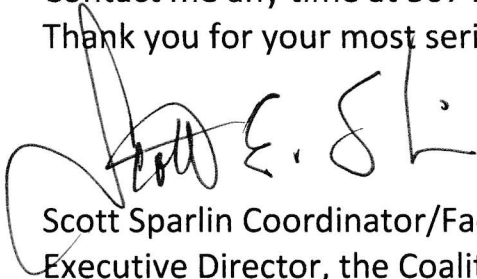
Building on our collective success in securing a \$17,000,000 appropriation for our new Water Storage Program for the Minnesota River Basin this past legislative session, The Minnesota River Congress has begun moving into the federal phase of our Water Storage Initiative. Our goal is to help secure additional funding for the program by engaging our Minnesota Senators and Representatives to help advance requests for federal funding . We will also seek additional private foundation funding targeted to the program's advancement. This action will provide the state program with the adequate resources it will need to be implemented basin-wide and to the scale it needs to have significant impacts on the river system.

We are asking for \$10,000 over the next 2 years to cover a portion of our initiative's costs related to accomplish this goal. As in the past we are seeking funding from all our partners to the degree they can give. The dollars you have donated in the past have made it easier to raise funds overall and with everyone chipping in something it makes us all good partners.

We appreciate your past support of our collective efforts and are asking for your support to continue this important work. We need funds to see this to its fruition. We highly value our partnership and will work diligently to make this a reality. We are also continuing to grow our already significant support for this critically needed program and with you on board we are much stronger.

Contact me any time at 507 276 2280 or sesparlin@gmail.com

Thank you for your most serious consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Sparlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator, Minnesota River Congress
Executive Director, the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River



Original Request from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday April 17, 2019

Agenda Item

Item 5. G. - Request from Minnesota River Congress

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

Mr. Scott Sparlin reached out to the LMRWD on behalf of the Minnesota River Congress. He and others from the Congress have been working to get water management agencies to agree to manage flow of stormwater. Specifically, the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts has been featuring water storage at each of its regional meetings and Area 6 (which includes 11 counties) is considering a resolution that would make water retention and storage a priority for all SWCD's in the region. The resolution would:

- Endorses the initiative of the Minnesota River Congress as it pertains to increasing more water storage on the landscape.
- Promotes water storage projects within districts.
- Advocates, along with the Minnesota River Congress, to secure funding targeted specifically for water storage in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Area 5 is doing looking at similar actions. In many counties, SWCD's are also the drainage authorities. There is a lot of interest in water retention and storage as evidenced by the attendance at the Water Storage Forum in Mankato on April 4th. There were probably 200 people in attendance, many from drainage authorities.

Mr. Sparlin has asked the LMRWD to fund these efforts. He is looking for \$5000 (approximately \$400/month) for each of the next two years. The money would be used to fund his time coordinating organizational activities and cover meeting expenses to amass support and bring experts on board to create the language.

He will be working to get legislation passed relating to water retention and storage, and funding for projects. His plan is to have a bill with bi-partisan support ready for the 2020-21 legislative session. He has found authors for legislation and will be working on the language, so that it is ready for introduction. The legislation will be aimed at getting funding for retention and storage projects.

The 2019 Budget has \$7,600 in Education & Outreach for a project with the Friends of the Minnesota Valley. The Friends project was to hold education meeting in each of the Counties in the Minnesota River Basin. This project fits with the goals and intentions of the project.

Item 5. G. - Minnesota River Congress Request

Executive Summary

April 17, 2019

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Attachments

Agenda from MASWCD Area VI Regional meeting

letter from Scott Sparlin on behalf of the MN River Congress

Recommended Action

Motion to authorize MN River Congress project



Area VI MASWCD

Serving the 11 SWCD's in South Central Minnesota

Renville, McLeod, Sibley, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Brown, Blue Earth, Watonwan, Waseca, Martin, and Faribault.

AREA VI Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2019

American Legion Post 132

13 South Minnesota Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

507-354-4016

DRAFT

OFFICERS

Director

Mark Schnobrich

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Mark Koenig

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Renville SWCD

MASWCD's purpose is to provide for education, communication, cooperation, and coordination between and among its member districts and affiliated partners, in order that the quality of the natural resources and environment within our area will be maintained and improved to the greatest possible extent.

- 9:00 am Registration**
- 9:30 Welcome – Charles Mathews, Vice Chair of the Mcleod SWCD**
- 9:32 Call to order, Pledge, Roll Call, Agenda, Minutes, - Mark Schnobrich,**
- 9:40 Treasurers Reports: Mark Koenig**
- 9:50 Area VI update on Conservation Scholarship – Mark Koenig**
- 10:05 Reports and MASWCD Update**
BSWR –
NRCS –
MACDE –
MASWCD –
- 10:20 Water Storage: Scales, Practices, Partnerships – Al Kean/ Chief Eng., BSWR**
Surface and subsurface water storage (detention and retention) involves various conservation practices at different scales from field to watershed. Local water planning, as well as state and federal technical and financial assistance programs, often involve SWCDs and landowners in partnerships with drainage authorities and other LGUs. An overview for consideration and discussion.
- 11:00 Minnesota River Congress – Director Coalition for a Clean Mn River**
Minnesota River Congress is spearheading an effort to secure significant funding specifically for surface water storage in the Minnesota River Watershed. What do they feel we need to do to achieve more storage.
- 11:15 Izaak Walton League – Don Arnosti/ Cons. Issues Program Director/ Executive Director**
Private Conservation groups are trying to achieve the same results in water storage. Can private / public / non-governmental units all work together. Don will give us an idea as to how they are working to promote more water storage on public and private lands.
- 12:00 pm Lunch**
- 12:45 Panel Discussion - Scott Sparlin, Don Arnosti, Al Kean, Ryan Freitag/ Mcleod SWCD Director, Adam Griebe/ Farmer, Brownton, Minn.**
Let us discuss the meat and bones of how we might actually get our separate factions to work together to achieve more water storage on the land.
- 1:45 pm Area VI Directors Report– Mark Schnobrich / Adjourn**

Lower Minnesota River Watershed
Linda Loomis, Administrator
112 5th St. East, Suite 102
Chaska, MN 55318

Based on information compiled from numerous input meetings with key individuals and organizations from the entire region, The Minnesota River Congress has begun an important initiative. The MRC is now actively acquiring support from conservation program implementors and a broad coalition of organizations throughout the Minnesota River Basin. This is being done with the ultimate goal of creating a large pool of money to be used specifically to produce surface water storage on the landscape.

Meetings have begun and are in process with state legislators, SWCD's and Watershed Districts across the basin to discuss the potential for a bill to address this specific underfunded yet clearly identified and prioritized conservation initiative.

We appreciate your past support of our collective efforts and are asking for your support to continue our important work. We need funds to see this to its fruition. Would you be willing to be a partner by both endorsing the effort in letter form as well as contributing dollars to see it move forward?

Contact me any time at 507 276 2280 or sesparlin@gmail.com

Thank you for your most serious consideration

Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator, Minnesota River Congress
Executive Director, the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

Manager Raby made a motion to approve the cost share application in the amount of \$2,100. The motion was seconded by Manager Frey. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Request from Minnesota River Congress

Administrator Loomis said there is an effort being made to increase the amount of water storage on the land. She noted the Mr. Scott Sparlin said the Regional divisions of the MN Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts are planning to adopt resolutions prioritizing water storage on the landscape.

Administrator Loomis said there is \$7,600 in the budget for a project proposed by the Friends of the Minnesota River Valley could be redirected to this project.

Administrator Loomis noted there are no partners and said there will be discussion of this project at the upcoming Minnesota River Congress.

The board said they should table this until after the meeting of the River Congress. Manager Raby clarified this request is for about \$5,000 a year for 2 years.

Manager Raby made a motion to postpone action on this item until the June meeting. The motion was seconded by President Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. MAWD Dues

President Hartmann said MAWD does not have a plan yet, but that he understands why the dues are calculated the way they are. He said the way dues are calculated makes sense and it would be difficult to find a formula that would work better. Manager Raby said it's hard to understand how the dues have tripled.

Administrator Loomis said right now the big push is to get WMO's to join.

Ms. Young suggested the LMRWD put a plan together on what the LMRWD would like to see MAWD do. Manager Raby said he thought that would be a good way to proceed, but that if the LMRWD expects to be taken seriously that it should probably be a member of the organization.

Attorney Kolb endorsed what Manager Raby proposed. He said a number of other watershed districts have had similar discussions. He echoed the recommendation by Ms. Young and give information to the MAWD Board ahead of the MAWD Annual Meeting and then be very vocal at the Annual Meeting.

Manager Raby proposed that staff identify some things to help us and then set aside time for a workshop before the Annual Meeting to discuss and finalize a list of service that would benefit the District. He also committed to attend a Metro MAWD meeting.

President Hartmann noted he attended the Metro MAWD meeting this week.

Manager Raby made a motion pay the MAWD dues this year and reevaluate again next year. The motion was seconded by President Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Dredge Management

i. Review Process for funding of maintenance of Navigation Channel

No information to report other than what was included in the Executive Summary.

ii. Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management site

Administrator Loomis said there was a meeting with the City of Savage on Friday. Ms. Young said the 90% plans are just about complete. She said there will need to be a



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday June 19, 2019

Agenda Item

Item 6. A. - Minnesota River Congress Request

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The Minnesota River Congress brought a request for funding to the Board at the April Board meeting. The Board tabled the request to the June meeting. The Minnesota River Congress held its semi-annual meeting May 16th in St. Peter. It was very well attended. Scott Sparlin's plan is to have legislators introduce legislation during the next legislative session that would include money to restore wetland in the upper Minnesota River Basin. He has two legislators that have agreed to author the legislation, however, they are both DFL legislators.

After attending the MN River Congress, I would recommend that the LMRWD not commit to funding at this time. The Board should wait until a work plan is put together and other partners are found. I would recommend that the Board authorize the Administrator to continue working with the MN River Congress. I would also add that upland water storage is not the answer to issues in the Minnesota River. There will need to be a variety of approaches to address the issues; upland storage, improve soil health and manage drain tile systems.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

No Action recommended

explained types of capstone projects that are typically done under this program. She then introduced Ms. Rathjen.

Ms. Rathjen gave the Board a brief back ground of herself. She explained that she lives in Savage and recently found that Eagle Creek is a creek with a self-supporting population of brown trout. Eagle Creek is basically in her back yard. She provided information about her proposal and work she has done with the DNR and the City of Savage to get permission and their cooperation to complete the project. She explained her plans to get volunteers to help with the project. She plans to use this project to educate neighbors, especially those that are encroaching on the DNR land with trampolines, sheds and compost piles.

Ms. Galles reported on the current conditions on the site. She said the request is for \$1,657 and most of that go towards seed, planting and equipment.

Manager Raby congratulated Ms. Rathjen for taking this project on and all the work she has done so far. He suggested that this should have maybe been classified as a public entity project but said it is a good project. Administrator Loomis suggested that this could fall under a private/public partnership.

Manager Raby made a motion to approve the cost share request. The motion was seconded by Manager Frey. The motion carried unanimously.

C. 2020 Preliminary budget

Administrator Loomis said she is looking to bring a proposed 2020 budget next month. She is looking for direction from the Board on a couple of questions. First, the legislature increased the amount of per diem that managers can receive when conducting business. The increase was from \$75 per day to \$125. Does the Board want to increase the amount of per diem paid?

Administrator Loomis asked if the Board wished to contribute any funds to pay for improvements to the Dredge site. The Board could impose a levy across the district or special assessment as a match toward the project. Manager Raby asked for a clarification of what the Administrator means by the word "match". She said that perhaps the word "match" was incorrect and that she wanted to know if the Board wanted to contribute local funds to the Dredge site project. The levy has been kept at \$725,000 and if the Board wished to contribute money to the Dredge project the levy should be increased.

Manager Raby said his opinion would be to not levy this next year and to continue to ask for money from the State. He said that the LMRWD should wait until 2021 to see how things go. The rest of the Board concurred.

Manager Raby asked what other watershed districts are doing with the per diem amount. He said they should be consistent. Administrator Loomis said she would find out. She said that she did hear that one watershed was planning to increase the per diem right away. She would recommend that if the Board wanted to increase the per diem that they wait to institute the increase until 2020, since the 2019 budget assumes the per diem is \$75.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. MN River Congress Request

Administrator Loomis said this item came before the Board in April and the Board tabled the item to the June meeting. She reminded the Board the reason they tabled the item to June was to allow for the MN River Congress meeting in May to see if more definite information about the project became available. She is recommending not moving forward until the board has more specific information. She asked the board to table this request until they get more information.



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday July 17, 2019

Agenda Item

Item 6. B. - MN River Congress Request

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

This is an item that has come before the Board at the April and June Board meetings. Mr. Scott Sparlin plans to be present to answer any questions the Board may have. I asked Mr. Sparlin to prepare a proposed work plan or scope of work for the project. The information he provided is attached. Funding is included in the 2020 budget for this project. If the Board chooses to provide funding for this project in 2019, there is funding in the 2019 budget intended for a project that Friends of the MN Valley proposed, that could be re-directed toward this project.

Attachments

Water Storage Legislation Work Plan and Timeline
Proposed Water Storage Legislation
MN River Congress participating entities and organizations.

Recommended Action

No action recommended

Minnesota River Congress/CCMR Water Storage Legislative Initiative
Work Plan-Timeline 7-1-19 to 7-1-21

July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Continue to solicit, collect, compile and adapt input to be used to develop the various components of the bill. This requires face to face meetings and communicating with the potential implementers of the legislation including SWCD's, Watershed Districts, BWSR, State Agencies and numerous others. This will also be an on-going communication task given the nature of bill creation and perpetual negotiations with legislators. I will also meet with bill authors to share the compiled input in order to create first version of the bill in this time frame. This also requires face to face consultations. The bill is projected to be introduced this upcoming session of the legislature as previously indicated to me and other members of the Minnesota River Congress by the authors in both the State House and Senate.

I will continue to work with Minnesota State University Mankato Water Resources Center staff to compile and create a packet of existing data and associated documentation from various compelling studies. This will be made to distribute to legislators and partners for use in proving the need for water storage and securing support for the legislation from all parties and the public.

Do comprehensive targeted outreach, meet, as well as communicate with key water related, conservation, natural resource and agricultural entities to secure all levels of backing such as partnerships, resolutions and letters of support. This task is a focus of this time frame but will continue to be a task for the entire time as well.

I have met and will be meeting in person with Governor's past federal staff. I am confident I will ultimately obtain a meeting with Governor through those contacts and my past relationship with the Governor during his time in the U.S. House of Representatives. I will attempt to persuade the Governor to champion the water storage legislation and the river system in general going forward. He has close ties to Mankato and served as the House of Representatives chair of the "Sportsman's Caucus"

In consultation with authors we will also explore the potential for working within existing legislation to modify content which will likely take the same route of activity and actions by myself and others as laid out here.

Total \$3500 Includes on-going full 2-year period tasks from above

December 1, 2019 to May 15, 2020

Meet in person and continue distribution of created information packets to legislators from both political parties in both houses of the legislature to obtain sponsorship and sign on to the bill.

Continue meetings with SWCD's for advancement of basin resolutions in support of a water storage bill to be taken to the state level for confirmation vote.

Work with bill authors to introduce the bill and obtain first hearings in both house and senate and foster progress.

When hearings are scheduled, we will arrange for testimony from important key affected individuals and entities such as agricultural producers, farming organization representatives, The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, conservation organizations, city, county and state entities that deal with infrastructure maintenance.

We will develop an infrastructure protection awareness document and identify and secure point communication persons able to articulate the potential for infrastructure damages if something is not done on a larger scale such as we propose.

We will work with key partners to develop regular press releases and other means of media communications to increase public awareness about the nature and status of the bill.

We will participate in and work with organizers of "Water Action Day" at the State Capitol to include it as a priority talking point with all state legislators and see that information about it is included in the packet handout for the day by participants.

We will solicit and request statements in support from the Governor. To accomplish this task, I will set up a meeting with staff, provide information and consultation as to what we want to convey to the greater public.

Time frame total \$2000

May 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020

I will work with the bills authors and sponsors to obtain committee hearings and consult with them to make any critical changes to ensure progress.

I will continue to foster the progress of the bill and advocate for its enactment. I will also seek out additional member support. This task requires trips to St. Paul and face to face meetings with legislators.

I will meet in person with federal elected house and senate members to explore options for federal partner funding if the state were to sign a water storage bill. The bill will be under more serious consideration at this time and federal funding opportunities can become a critical incentive for the state to enact a water storage bill if significant dollars are accessible at the federal level. Given that circumstance we will work to communicate these opportunities to the public and work in consultation with federal legislators and staff to develop the communication strategy and plea for public support at the state level to access the federal funding.

I will explore the potential for private foundation funding by meeting face to face with officers to discuss the feasible possibilities if the state were to enact the water storage bill.

I will explore the potential for Legacy Amendment funding through the LSOHF and Clean Water Fund by meeting with officers and discussing face to face the feasible possibilities if the state were to enact the water storage bill.

I will explore and compile other forms of funding to partner with by meeting with organizations and businesses who may want to play a part in creating and or enhancing water storage.

Time frame total \$2500

January 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021

I and the authors of the bill will continue to shepherd and monitor the bill through the next critical final phases. This task involves trips to the capitol for hearings and meetings to strategize with various legislators, staff and other key partners and people. I will set up and help coordinate testimony people in consultation with legislative staff as needed.

Working with bill authors and sponsors we will secure committee hearings and get a vote on a final water storage bill passage.

I will work with federal partners to strategize on process for accessing federal dollars available after the legislation is passed and enacted.

I will provide a final report on the initiative **Time frame total \$2000**

Initial process and sequence for seeking support for a
Water Storage bill and its components
“The Next Big Thing”

The fact is that all the data shows clearly that we need to put more water storage on the landscape. This is a clear, understandable and in most cases a well-received way to accomplish the goal of replacing historical and currently drained lakes and wetlands. It is literally intuitive to most people and especially land owners.

A very desirable by-product of this entire process is the exposure in the various medias.

Area 6 SWCD Supervisors and staff which comprise of 11 county SWCD's in the middle part of the Minnesota River basin has been met with three times have passed the resolution in principle. Area 5 has also been met with and notified of the initiative and will be going through the same endorsement process. We are emphasizing that surface water storage has come to the forefront in all our related meetings and discussions with other groups. We are using “in the interest of not wanting to waste your time, are you comfortable with, and agree that this is a program you would look forward to implementing. And do you feel that it is a public natural resource priority?” We are scheduling meetings with all the other affected SWCD district areas and key individual ones also.

The Minnesota River Congress is spearheading an initiative to secure significant funding by requesting a bill in the state and national legislatures that would create a pool of money targeted **specifically for surface water storage** in the Minnesota River Watershed. We will refer to CREP #1 and successful process that took place with much public and organizational support. This would be a little different however because we would already have a bill in the state legislature to take to the federal level when we make the federal request.

We are describing what we envision that the program/initiative could look like and how it might work and will be asking for additional input on how best to make it work or improve on the way we have it laid out. (See initial description on next page) It should have an acreage or percentage goal which will most likely be linked to the amount of money the bill would have in it.

We are using the CSSR (Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction) study recommendations and allude to all the other numerous past and present related data and recommendations which currently exists and will be compiled by me shortly. We will enlist Patrick Belmont, Karen Gran, Chris Lenhart, Peter Wilcock and numerous others with completed studies and supporting data to provide that data and documentation.

We have created a template resolution that can be edited to fit what ever entity would be offering its endorsement. We will also be creating other narrative to be plugged into current letters of endorsement.

We are meeting/contacting other organizations who already participate in the Minnesota River Congress, (list included) to get support letters or resolutions, or their group sign on to a single letter along with other groups. Groups initially targeted include but not limited to IWLA, LPLA, CURE, MEP, FMV, CCMR, LSP, SFA, DU, PF, any farm organization or commodity related etc.

We will seek to obtain letter endorsements from other area SWCD's, Watershed Districts, and all other water related entities able to do so.

We have met in person with and secured legislative authors in the State House and Senate.

We will solicit other House and Senate sign on support aggressively.

We have met with one of the Governor's former national staff people who is now a MNDNR staff person along with other former national staff who have agreed to expose the initiative to the Governor and ask him to champion it. We will also be seeking meetings with the Governor himself for strategies and support counsel.

We will meet with federal level Minnesota legislators possessing state support and seek federal support and matching dollars.

We will seek private foundation funding for water storage.

We will investigate the potential for Legacy Amendment support.

Water Storage Program/Initiative (first draft) very preliminary description

A one-time purchase to willing land owners of a permanent easement on land that has been identified as historically water covered by a concurred upon date such as the 1895 land survey or later, as well as existing MNDNR maps including Lidar etc. Rates for payment should reflect land values of the surrounding area and cropping history. A maximum payment limit should be established. Referencing other similar bills for additional requirements and components can and should be done for detailed legal descriptions. Much of this can be done at the legislative level during the bill creation process. Inclusion of components and incentives suggested by SWCD's would be a critical part of the initial bill makeup. There could also be an option of revising current program legislation to fit the storage priority.

Some features could include:

*Allowing use of the shallow lake/wetland and surrounding buffer to be leased for hunting by the land owner.

*If open to the public for hunting etc. further additional payment for land could be offered.

*Priority should be given to areas with ability to store larger volumes of water?

Area 2,4,5,6,7 SWCD's

Counties in the Basin

Blue Earth

Cottonwood

Faribault

Freeborn

Jackson

Martin

Watonwan

Chippewa

Douglas

Grant

Kandiyohi

Otter Tail

Pope

Stevens

Swift

Brown

Lyon

Murray

Redwood

Lac qui Parle

Lincoln

Yellow Medicine

Renville

LeSueur

Steele

Waseca

Carver

Dakota

Hennepin

McCloud

Nicollet

Pipestone

Traverse

Big Stone

Ramsay

Rice

Scott

Sibley

*Stearns

Minnesota River Congress Participating entities/organizations to date:

Minnesota State Mankato Water Resources Center, Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center, Minnesota Soybean Growers Assn, Clean Up the River Environment, Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, Minnesota Corn Growers Assn., Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, Joseph Brown Center, Friends of Pool #2, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, The Minnesota Earth Sabbath Team, Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition, Tatanka Bluffs Corridor, Minnesota Valley History Learning Center, The Mankato Paddling and Outings Club, LeSueur River Citizens Watershed Network, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Farmers Union, Lower Sioux Community, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Rural Advantage, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, The New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, Minnesota River Watershed Alliance, The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, Mankato Paddling and Outings Club, Wild River Academy, University of Minnesota Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Numerous county SWCD staff and supervisors, County Commissioners, State and Federal elected officials and staff, crop consultants, Row Crop Producers, Certified Organic farmers, Community Supported Agriculture producers, American Fisheries Society sub-unit MSUM, US Geologic Survey, Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Minnesota River By-Way, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance, Agri-News, Pioneer Public Television, KEYC Television, 5 basin newspapers, Barr Engineering, Friends of High Island

The board provided direction to staff.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2020 Proposed Budget

Administrator Loomis said she provided hard copies of the budget for the Board.

Manager Raby asked about Scott County. He noted they were surprised that the market value in Scott County was more than Hennepin County. Administrator Loomis said it has flip-flopped this year. She said a mistake was made in 2018 when the LMRWD certified the levy to Scott County. The levy for the entire district was certified to Scott County. Administrator Loomis talked about how this will be taken care of.

Administrator Loomis said the board agreed to keep the levy at \$725,000. She said she is concerned about the dredge project and making sure the LMRWD has enough money available to pay for the construction costs. She said paying for the dredge project will be tight. She said she would feel more comfortable putting additional money in the budget for the nine-foot channel.

Administrator Loomis explained the overhead costs of the district are allocated across the different funds by percentages. She recommended the percentage for the channel fund be changed to 15%. The additional percentage should be charged to the 509 plan. She said this is more reflective of the amount of time spent on the two responsibilities of the District.

Manager Raby asked for staff to clarify the funding of the dredge site project. The estimated cost provided by the engineers is about \$1.5M. Staff said they are trying to get a more accurate number and have reached out to LS Marine. Staff said they would have more information available in August. The Board said that by increasing the levy to \$800,000 that it should cover the project.

Bruce Loney asked about the Prior Lake Outlet Channel project shown in the LMRWD budget. Administrator Loomis said there is a proposal to do a project with the City of Shakopee to slow the flow of water down in a segment of the Prior Lake Outlet Channel, in order to reduce nutrients and sediment to Dean Lake. The LMRWD and the City received a grant under the Metro area Watershed Based Funding for this project and it will likely be constructed in 2020.

B. MN River Congress Request

Scott Sparlin provided an overview of his proposal to achieve an increase in water storage in the MN River Basin. He said there has been action on this proposal already. He has spoken to Representatives Jeff Brand and Paul Torkelson and they support both this project. There is a sponsor in the State Senate. He is now seeking letters of support for this initiative to create more storage in the MN River Basin.

President Hartmann asked what feedback Mr. Sparlin has received from the farming community. Mr. Sparlin listed some of the organizations he has contacted and responses he has received. He said there will have to be a significant amount of payments get more storage and that payments will have to reflect the land values. The flexibility of the initiative will be the strongpoint. Mr. Sparlin explained the three tiers to this proposal for perpetual water storage. He pointed out that the program would be voluntary and he is hoping to be able to get federal funding once the State puts a program in place.

Manager Raby clarified the funding request and said it looks like the total is \$6,500.

Administrator Loomis said the work plans goes from this year to 2021. Mr. Sparlin said the total is \$10,000 and it is cumulative.

Manager Raby asked if other money has been raised. Mr. Sparlin said they have raised about \$3,000 for this effort and they will continue to seek additional funding.

Administrator Loomis asked if it would be easier for Mr. Sparlin to raise money if there were a match. The board discussed contributing funds as matching funds. Manager Raby said he would be comfortable matching up to \$5,000 each year. Manager Raby asked if this was in the LMRWD budget. Administrator Loomis said that funding was in the budget for a different project in the MN River Basin that could be redirected to this project. Mr. Sparlin said a match would help and he mentioned some of the groups that he is speaking to about supporting this initiative.

Mr. Sparlin asked for an endorsement letter saying the LMRWD board is in support of seeking funding from the state of MN to create a significant water storage program.

Manager Raby made a motion to agree to match up to \$5,000 in 2019 and 2020 based upon a 1 to 1 match and write a letter of endorsement. The motion was seconded by President Hartmann. The motion carried unanimously.

Manager Hartmann asked where the water comes from for irrigation. Mr. Sparlin said groundwater wells, but there are a few permits that do come from tributaries.

Manager Frey asked if Mr. Sparlin has spoken to Ducks Unlimited. Mr. Sparlin said that is in progress. Manager Frey said he thinks there would a lot of support for this proposal from the hunting community if the proposal will increase habitat.

Manager Raby asked that the LMRWD submit a resolution to MAWD.

C. Remote meeting participation

Administrator Loomis said this is for the Board's information. Manager Raby asked if there was schedule to complete. Administrator Loomis said there was not a schedule. She said she will ask for a timeframe.

D. Dredge Management

i. Review Process for funding of maintenance of Navigation Channel

Administrator Loomis said she received communication from MNDOT that attorneys for MNDOT do not believe the LMRWD qualifies for funding under the Port Development Assistance Program. She and Lisa Frenette are arranging a meeting with Patrick Phenow, Navigation Director for MNDOT.

ii. Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management site

Administrator Loomis said the hearing for the amendment to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is tomorrow night. Manager Raby said it looks like the condition for removing material when there is a flood was not being removed from the permit. Ms. Della Young stated that the site is being designed so that there will be no rise in the flood elevation. The city has received a no rise certification from LMRWD engineers and the CUP will be worded so that removal of material from the site will not be necessary.

The condition that a three day notice be given to the City when material is being removed from the dredge site will be removed from the CUP.

iii. Private Dredge Material Placement

Private slips have not yet been dredged. Last year's material is in the process of being removed.

E. Watershed Management Plan

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)
By Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator Minnesota River Congress/ Ex. Dir. CCMR

Hours specific to **Water Storage Initiative** for Minnesota River Congress @ \$40 hr.

July	20
August	30
September	35
October	35
November	40
December	20
Total	180 hrs. @ \$40 = \$7200

Invoice from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River for first half of project

Mileage @ .52 per mile

St. Paul (2) 440, Mankato (3) 210, Henderson (2) 180, St. Peter (3) 180
Nicollet 35, **Total 1045 miles \$543.40**

Room Rental, refreshments, security charges, **\$425**

Total WSI expenses from July thru Dec. 2019 \$8168.40

Money secured and designated for **Water Storage Initiative** to date

Nicollet Conservation Club	1250
New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen	850
Fundraiser American Legion	1115
CURE	200
MnAgWaterResourceCenter	200
Crystal Waters Project	200
Minnesota Wastewater Operators Assn.	200
Friends of Pool 2	300
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Coop.	100
Mankato Paddling and Outing Club	100
Doug Thomas	100
Darby and Geri Nelson	1000
Total as of 11-25-19	\$5615



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Board of Managers

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, MN 7:00 p.m.

Approved May 20, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 7:12 PM, President Hartmann called to order the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) and asked for roll call to be taken. The meeting was convened on-line due to a declaration of a peacetime emergency by Governor Walz. The following Managers were present: Manager Adam Frey, and President Jesse Hartmann. Manager Dave Raby joined the meeting at 7:15pm. In addition, the following were also on-line: Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrator; Della Schall Young, Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC, Technical Consultant; John Kolb, Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law, Legal Counsel; Lisa Frenette, Frenette Legislative Advisors, lobbyist for the LMRWD; and Lindsey Albright, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Administrator Loomis said she had no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

President Hartmann made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Manager Frey. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of: Frey, and Hartmann, the following voted against: none and the motion carried.

3. CITIZEN FORUM

Administrator Loomis said she had not received any communications from anyone that wished to address the Board.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

President Hartmann introduced the item.

A. Approve Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Regular Meeting

B. Receive and file February 2020 Financial reports

C. Approval of Invoices for payment

- i. Coalition for A Clean Minnesota River - 2019 payment for water storage initiative
- ii. Daniel Hron - for March & April 2020 office rent
- iii. Metro Sales - payment on copier maintenance agreement
- iv. Frenette Legislative Advisors - for March 2020 lobbying services
- v. Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law - February 2020 legal services
- vi. US Bank Equipment Finance - for May 2020 copier lease payment
- vii. Scott County - fee charged for verifying levy for 2019 audit
- viii. Young Environmental Consulting Group - for December 2019 technical services

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)
By Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator Minnesota River Congress/ Ex. Dir. CCMR

Hours specific to **Water Storage Initiative** for Minnesota River Congress @ \$40 hr.

2020

January	35 hrs.
February	40 hrs.
March	46 hrs.
April	40 hrs.
May	30 hrs.
June	4 hrs.
July	0 hrs.
August	0 hrs.
September	0 hrs.
October	0 hrs.
November	10 hrs.
December	0 hrs.

2021

January	50 hrs.
February	45 hrs.
March	40 hrs.
April	20 hrs.

Total Hrs. 360 = \$14,400

In person meetings

Mileage @ .52 per mile

St. Paul (2) 440, Mankato (2) 140, Henderson (1) 90, St. Peter (3) 180

Nicollet 70,

Total 920 miles = \$478,40

Total WSI expenses from January 2020 thru April 18, 2021 \$14,878.40

Money secured and designated for **Water Storage Initiative** to date

Nicollet Conservation Club	\$1500
New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen	1000
Fundraiser American Legion	970
CCMR	1500
CURE	100
Mn Ag Water Resource Center	100
Crystal Waters Project	100
Minnesota Wastewater Operators Assn.	100
Friends of Pool 2	100
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Coop.	100
Mankato Paddling and Outing Club	100
Doug Thomas	100
Darby and Geri Nelson	500
Total	\$6,270.00

Minnesota River Congress/CCMR Water Storage Legislative Initiative
Work Plan-Timeline 7-1-19 to 7-1-21

Final Report
accomplishments are highlighted in yellow.

July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Continue to solicit, collect, compile and adapt input to be used to develop the various components of the bill. This requires face to face meetings and communicating with the potential implementers of the legislation including SWCD's, Watershed Districts, BWSR, State Agencies and numerous others. This will also be an on-going communication task given the nature of bill creation and perpetual negotiations with legislators. I will also meet with bill authors to share the compiled input in order to create first version of the bill in this time frame. This also requires face to face consultations. The bill is projected to be introduced this upcoming session of the legislature as previously indicated to me and other members of the Minnesota River Congress by the authors in both the State House and Senate.

I will continue to work with Minnesota State University Mankato Water Resources Center staff to compile and create a packet of existing data and associated documentation from various compelling studies. This will be made to distribute to legislators and partners for use in proving the need for water storage and securing support for the legislation from all parties and the public.

Do comprehensive targeted outreach, meet, as well as communicate with key water related, conservation, natural resource and agricultural entities to secure all levels of backing such as partnerships, resolutions and letters of support. This task is a focus of this time frame but will continue to be a task for the entire time as well.

I have met and will be meeting in person with Governor's past federal staff. I am confident I will ultimately obtain a meeting with Governor through those contacts and my past relationship with the Governor during his time in the U.S. House of Representatives. I will attempt to persuade the Governor to champion the water storage legislation and the river system in general going forward. He has close ties to Mankato and served as the House of Representatives chair of the "Sportsman's Caucus"

In consultation with authors we will also explore the potential for working within existing legislation to modify content which will likely take the same route of activity and actions by myself and others as laid out here.

Total \$3500 Includes on-going full 2-year period tasks from above

December 1, 2019 to May 15, 2020

Meet in person and continue distribution of created information packets to legislators from both political parties in both houses of the legislature to obtain sponsorship and sign on to the bill.

Continue meetings with SWCD's for advancement of basin resolutions in support of a water storage bill to be taken to the state level for confirmation vote.

Work with bill authors to introduce the bill and obtain first hearings in both house and senate and foster progress.

When hearings are scheduled, we will arrange for testimony from important key affected individuals and entities such as agricultural producers, farming organization representatives, The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, conservation organizations, city, county and state entities that deal with infrastructure maintenance.

We will develop an infrastructure protection awareness document and identify and secure point communication persons able to articulate the potential for infrastructure damages if something is not done on a larger scale such as we propose.

We will work with key partners to develop regular press releases and other means of media communications to increase public awareness about the nature and status of the bill.

We will participate in and work with organizers of "Water Action Day" at the State Capitol to include it as a priority talking point with all state legislators and see that information about it is included in the packet handout for the day by participants.

We will solicit and request statements in support from the Governor. To accomplish this task, I will set up a meeting with staff, provide information and consultation as to what we want to convey to the greater public.

Time frame total \$2000

May 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020

I will work with the bills authors and sponsors to obtain committee hearings and consult with them to make any critical changes to ensure progress.

I will continue to foster the progress of the bill and advocate for its enactment. I will also seek out additional member support. This task requires trips to St. Paul and face to face meetings with legislators.

I will meet in person with federal elected house and senate members to explore options for federal partner funding if the state were to sign a water storage bill. The bill will be under more serious consideration at this time and federal funding opportunities can become a critical incentive for the state to enact a water storage bill if significant dollars are accessible at the federal level. Given that circumstance we will work to communicate these opportunities to the public and work in consultation with federal legislators and staff to develop the communication strategy and plea for public support at the state level to access the federal funding.

I will explore the potential for private foundation funding by meeting face to face with officers to discuss the feasible possibilities if the state were to enact the water storage bill.

I will explore the potential for Legacy Amendment funding through the LSOHF and Clean Water Fund by meeting with officers and discussing face to face the feasible possibilities if the state were to enact the water storage bill.

I will explore and compile other forms of funding to partner with by meeting with organizations and businesses who may want to play a part in creating and or enhancing water storage.

Time frame total \$2500

January 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021

I and the authors of the bill will continue to shepherd and monitor the bill through the next critical final phases. This task involves trips to the capitol for hearings and meetings to strategize with various legislators, staff and other key partners and people. I will set up and help coordinate testimony people in consultation with legislative staff as needed.

Working with bill authors and sponsors we will secure committee hearings and get a vote on a final water storage bill passage.

I will work with federal partners to strategize on process for accessing federal dollars available after the legislation is passed and enacted.

I will provide a final report on the initiative **Time frame total \$2000**

Administrator Loomis thinks it may be good for Mr. Sparlin to come and talk to the Board again to clarify. The Board discussed the item and decided to table until the following month.

Manager Salvato asked about the Aaron Sullivan payment.

Administrator Loomis did two site visits, one before and one after, she looked at the plants and there were a lot of plants, downspouts are directed from the property, and the plans were followed through.

- A. Approve Minutes April 21, 2021 Regular Meeting and May5, 2021 Meeting**
- B. Receive and file April 2021 Financial reports**
- C. Approval of Invoices for payment**
 - i. **DRB Consulting - Payment on data management project**
 - ii. **Frenette Legislative Advisors - Feb/Mar 2021 legislative services**
 - iii. **Daniel Hron - April 2021 office rent**
 - iv. **Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law - February 2021 legal services**
 - v. **US Bank Equipment Finance - April copier lease payment**
 - vi. **Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District - Payment of LMRWD contribution to Lower Riley Creek stabilization**
 - vii. **Aaron Sullivan - Payment for 2021 cost share project**
 - viii. **Frenette Legislative Advisors - April legislative services**
 - ix. **US Bank Equipment Finance - May copier lease payment**
 - x. **Naiad Consulting, LLC - Jan/Feb 2021 administrator services and expenses**
 - xi. **TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc. - preparation of February and March 2021 meeting minutes**
 - xii. **Young Environmental Consulting Group - February 2021 technical and Education & Outreach services**
- D. Authorize 2nd half payment to Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River for Water Storage Initiative**

Manager Salvato made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and to table item 4D until June. The motion was seconded by President Hartmann. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Hartmann, Mraz, and Salvato; the following voted against: None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report on 2020 monitoring in Dakota County

Lindsey Albright from the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District presented the findings of the 2020 monitoring. She walked the Board through each of the fens and updated them on the wells and water levels. General conclusions are continued monitoring to increase the data record; a number of the wells had significant trends before the re-measurement in 2016 so many of the wells in the Nichols Fen are right on the edge and another year or two of data would get those significant trends. Quarry Island had no clear trends; Fort Snelling showed stable water levels. Management decisions for the Board include a consideration of data sharing and having access to the Met Council's database as that would help with some of the wells. The Board may also look at whether data from all the wells is necessary or if they are getting enough conclusive information from a smaller set, or if more wells are necessary. Ms. Albright noted they may want to look at discrete monitoring (which is what she does) versus continuous monitoring at these wells.

President Hartmann asked how far apart wells 1LN and 1LS are.

Ms. Albright replied they are right next to each other, within 2 feet.

- ~~A. Approve Minutes July 21, 2021 Regular Meeting~~
- B. Receive and file July 2021 Financial reports
- C. **Approval of Invoices for payment**
 - i. Blackstone Contractors LLC - final payment for East Chaska Creek project less retainage
 - ii. Daniel Hron - July 2021 office rent
 - iii. Inter-Fluve, Inc. - first payment on alternative review/validation project
 - iv. Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law - May 2021 legal services
 - v. **Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River– 2nd installment of payment for Water Storage Initiative**
 - vi. Frenette Legislative Advisors - June 2021 legislative services
 - vii. TimeSaver Off-Site Secretarial – preparation of May 2021 meeting minutes
 - viii. Young Environmental Consulting Group - May 2021 technical and Education & Outreach services
 - ix. Carver County - Q2 2021 financial services
- D. Authorize payment of invoice #2 for Area #3 from Inter-Fluve
- E. Receive and file Citizen Advisory Committee June 2021 meeting minutes
- F. Authorize payment of invoice from Freshwater for LMRWD share of Nonyphenol investigation
- G. Approve and authorize letter to BWSR regarding Watershed Based Funding
Authorize amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Metropolitan Council and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District for water quality monitoring in Ike's Creek

President Hartmann made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the July 2021 meeting minutes removed. The motion was seconded by Manager Mraz. Upon a vote being taken the motion carried unanimously.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Proposed 2022 Budget and Preliminary Certification of Tax Levy Payable 2022

Administrator Loomis made no changes to the budget that was presented to the Board at the July meeting. The recommended levy for taxes payable 2022 is the same as the previous year at \$725,000. The levy is apportioned as follows: Carver County \$41,762; Dakota County \$72,153; Hennepin County \$306,964; Scott County \$304,120. The total proposed expenses for the 2022 budget are \$1,035,000 and is below the expenses in the 2021 budget. Public notice of the public hearing was published in the Star Tribune on Thursday, August 12, 2021 and Sunday, August 15, 2021.

President Hartmann opened the public hearing.

Administrator Loomis walked the Board through line items in the budget.

Seeing and hearing no one wishing to testify, President Hartmann closed the public hearing.

Manager Raby requested clarification about the posting of the hearing notice. Attorney Kolb clarified that the notices met the requirements of statute.

Manager Raby made a motion to approve the Resolutions 21-08, 21-09, 21-10 and 20-11. The motion was seconded by Manager Mraz. Upon a vote being taken the motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. I-35W Frontage Trail Cost Share – Burnsville



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Agenda Item

Item 5. B. – Request from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

In 2019, Mr. Scott Sparlin, Executive Director for the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, requested the LMRWD provide financial assistance to an initiative to seek legislative funding for water storage projects within the Minnesota River watershed. The LMRWD agreed to fund the project over the course of two years (\$5,000 per year). The District provide funds as a match to other funds raised for the project.

In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature included funding for water storage projects and now Mr. Sparlin is planning to request federal funds for projects. He is requesting that the LMRWD consider funding this work. A request from Mr. Sparlin is attached along with a timeline and budget for the project. The 2022 budget has funds that could be used for this project. Funds could come from either the Education line or from the Watershed Resource Restoration Fund.

Attachments

LMRWD Funding Request dated 9/21/2021

Draft Workplan Timeline for the LMRWD dated 9/21/2021

Recommended Action

Motion to approve funding request as a match to other funds raised

B. Request from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

Administrator Loomis reminded the Board that Scott Sparlin requested \$10,000 over the course of two years to help get legislation passed at the State level for funding of water storage projects in the Upper Minnesota River Basin. Mr. Sparlin was successful this legislative session, but the legislature diluted it as it is not just specific to the Minnesota River and the amount of funding allocated was not what had been hoped for. Now Mr. Sparlin would like to ask the federal government for assistance with the same task because much of the sediment and nutrients from the erosion in the Minnesota River are contributing to the anoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Manager Raby would like to know what the overall effort over the next two years will be and the funding effort for that.

Mr. Sparlin clarified they got the program established, it is for the Minnesota River basin and the Upper Mississippi River. The legislature did not include the kinds of funds needed to bring this to scale which is what they will be working on over the next couple of years. The money he is asking the LMRWD for is to continue down the path of seeking a federal partnership. The overall budget is dependent upon the work that other organizations are doing so he cannot give a good answer to the question at this time. They are looking at a \$30,000 per year (total of \$60,000) overall budget and will seek a match for the funds.

President Hartmann made a motion to approve the fund request as a match per the previous time. The motion was seconded by Manager Mraz. Upon a vote being taken the motion carried unanimously.

C. Appletree Condominium Cost Share Application

Administrator Loomis stated this is a condominium building in Bloomington; they are in a steep slope overlay zone and have been having issues with erosion behind the building. They have done quite a bit of work to put in drain tile and drain water away from the building to the City storm water system and are looking at landscaping to further ameliorate the erosion issues. They sent in an application for a cost-share project and Young Environmental reviewed the application and made some recommendations.

Ms. Schall-Young noted it is a good application and they are recommending approval. The Board should keep in mind that the project will need a permit so perhaps a portion of the money should go towards that permit application to ensure that they come back and do due diligence.

Administrator Loomis noted \$7,500 is the maximum amount for a condominium-type of request.

Manager Raby made a motion to approve the cost-share application subject to the applicant applying for and obtaining a permit from the LMRWD. The motion was seconded by Manager Mraz. Upon a vote being taken the motion carried unanimously.

D. Modification to LMRWD Board of Managers meeting schedule

Administrator Loomis noted in April, Staff asked that the Board consider adding a second meeting every month to the schedule to make it a regular meeting and eliminate emergency meeting notices, and now that Ms. Schall-Young's team has a better handle on applications they no longer feel they need the second meeting. They are asking to modify that meeting schedule and eliminate the first Wednesday meeting.



Authorization of payment of first half for second project

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Agenda Item

Item 4. F. – Authorize Payment to Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River Water Storage Initiative

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

In 2019 and 2020, the LMRWD supported efforts by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River to lobby the Minnesota Legislature to support efforts to manage the flow of stormwater in the Minnesota River by establishing a program aimed at storing more water on the landscape. The LMRWD supported this effort financially by providing up to \$5,000 in matching funds each year for two years.

At the September 15, 2021 Board of Managers meeting, the Board of Managers approved a request to provide a matching grant again for \$5,000 over two years. The focus this time will be to seek a federal program with funding to establish water storage initiative. Mr. Sparlin is requesting distribution of the first half of the grant. He has provided information regarding expenses and matching funds received. He has also provided testimony given before the MN Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee in March 2022.

A report from the 14th Minnesota River Congress held June 15, 2022 is attached for the Board's information.

Attachments

Excerpt from September 2021 LMRWD Board of Manager meeting approving grant

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)

Testimony to State Senate 3-8-2022

14th Minnesota River Congress Summary

Recommended Action

Motion to accept report from Mr. Scott Sparlin and authorize distribution of grant funds in the amount of \$5,000.

Invoice for first half payment for second project

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)

By Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator Minnesota River Congress/ Ex. Dir. CCMR

Hours specific to **Water Storage Initiative** for Minnesota River Congress @ \$45 hr.

2021

October	38 hrs.	2022 January	50 hrs.
November	40 hrs.	February	45 hrs.
December	32 hrs.	March	30 hrs.
		April	48 hrs.
		May	16 hrs.
		June	24 hrs.

Total Hours 323 = \$14,535

In person meetings

Mileage @ \$.54 (Mankato 4) 280, (St. Paul 2) 440, (Nicollet 2) 140, (Henderson 2) 180

Total Mileage 1040 miles = \$562

Ballroom Rental \$1200

Coffee, soft drinks, brownies, cookies, \$200

Total event cost \$1400

Total WSI expenses from 10-1-21 to 7-1-22 \$16,497

Money secured and designated for **Water Storage Initiative** to date

Nicollet Conservation Club	\$6000
Izaak Walton League MN	\$750
Darby and Geri Nelson	\$500
New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen	\$750
Friends of Pool 2	\$100
Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance	\$100
Crystal Waters Project	\$100
CCMR	\$1500
Rahr Malting Co.	\$1000
Jim Sheman	\$1000
Lac qui Parle Lake Assn.	\$100
Pioneer Public TV	\$250
Earth day fund raiser	\$160
Individual donor appeal total	\$1055

Total Matching dollars raised \$13,365

3. CITIZEN FORUM

Administrator Loomis reported that she had not received communication from anyone that wished to address the Board. Michael Miller representing the Burnsville Sanitary Landfill and Waste Management was present and addressed the Board. He reported on plans to expand the landfill.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

President Hartmann introduced the item.

A. Approve Minutes July 20, 2022, Regular Meeting

B. Receive and file July 2022 Financial reports

C. Approval of Invoices for payment

- i. CLA (Clifton Larson Allen, LLP) – July 2022 financial services
- ii. Scott County SWCD – Q2 2022 monitoring, technical assistance & education services
- iii. Dakota County SWCD - Q2 2022 monitoring, technical assistance & education services
- iv. Rinke Noonan – July 2022 legal services
- v. US Bank Equipment Finance – August payment on copier lease
- vi. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC – June 2022 technical, and Education & Outreach Services
- vii. TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial – preparation of July 2022 meeting minutes
- viii. Naiad Consulting, LLC – July 2022 administrative services & expenses

D. Receive and file June 2022 Citizen Advisory Committee meeting minutes

E. Accept report from 2021 Cost Share application – Sarazine, 11451 Landing Road, Eden Prairie and authorize reimbursement

F. Authorize payment to Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River Water Storage Initiative

G. Grant Agreement Terms & Conditions for Monitoring Ike's Creek between Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends and the LMRWD

H. Cost Share Application for 11533 Palmer Circle, Bloomington

I. Cost Share Application for 1033 Sunny Ridge Drive, Carver

J. 2022-2023 Liability Insurance Quote

Manager Amundson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of Item 4. C. vii -invoice from TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial. Item 4. C. viii – invoice from Naiad Consulting LLC, and Item 4. J. -2022-2023 Liability Insurance Quote. President Hartmann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the motion carried unanimously.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Presentation of 2023 Proposed Budget and Preliminary Certification of Tax Levies Payable 2023

Administrator Loomis explained the proposed levies to the Counties and provided a brief overview of the proposed expenses from the proposed 2023 Budget.

President Hartmann opened the public hearing at 7:24 pm.

No one was present who wished to address the Board.

President Hartmann closed the public hearing at 7:25 pm.



LMRWD Agenda Item 4.H. - Authorizing reimbursement to Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River for second half of 2021/2022 project

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers

Meeting Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Agenda Item

Item 4. H. – Authorize Payment to Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River Water Storage Initiative

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

In 2019 and 2020, the LMRWD supported efforts by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River to lobby the Minnesota Legislature to support efforts to manage the flow of stormwater in the Minnesota River by establishing a program aimed at storing more water on the landscape. The LMRWD supported this effort financially by providing up to \$5,000 in matching funds each year for two years.

At the September 15, 2021, Board of Managers meeting, the Board of Managers approved a request to provide a matching grant again for \$5,000 over two years 2022 and 2023. This initiative was successful in obtaining \$17 million from the State of Minnesota to continue to support efforts to keep more water on the landscape and reduce runoff from agricultural landscapes.

Attachments

Original proposal request from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River

Excerpt from September 2021 LMRWD Board of Manager meeting minutes approving grant

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)

Recommended Action

Motion to authorize distribution of grant funds in the amount of \$5,000.

Statement for Match Funding to The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
 From The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR)
 By Scott Sparlin Coordinator/Facilitator Minnesota River Congress/ Ex. Dir. CCMR

Hours specific to **Water Storage Initiative** for Minnesota River Congress @ \$45 hr.

2022

July	20 hrs.	2023 January	50 hrs.
August	30 hrs.	February	45 hrs.
Sept.	32 hrs.	March	30 hrs.
October	32 hrs.	April	48 hrs.
November	40 hrs.	May	18 hrs.
December	28 hrs.	June	14 hrs.

Invoice from Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River for second half of 2021/2022 project

Total Hours 387 = \$17,415

In person meetings

Mileage @ \$.54 (Mankato 7) 420, (St. Paul 4) 880, (Nicollet 1) 28, (Henderson 2) 360

Total Mileage 1688 miles = \$912

Ballroom Rental \$1200

Coffee, soft drinks, cookies, \$200

Total event cost \$1400

Total WSI expenses from 7-1-22 to 6-30-23 \$19,727

Money secured and designated for **Water Storage Initiative only** to date:

Nicollet Conservation Club	\$4,500
Izaak Walton League MN	325
Geri Nelson	500
New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen	1000
Friends of Pool 2	100
Crystal Waters Project	100
CCMR	1500
Rahr Malting Co.	1000
Lac qui Parle Lake Assn.	100
Jim Scheman	1000
Individual donor appeal total	\$2670

Total Matching dollars raised \$12,795

President Hartmann offered a friendly amendment to move Item 6. I. iii. ahead one position to then follow Item 6. I. i. - Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Organic Recycling Facility (LMRWD No. 2022-016), on the agenda. Manager Barisonzi and Salvato accepted the friendly amendment. Upon a vote being taken motion carried unanimously.

3. CITIZEN FORUM

Administrator Loomis said she had not received communication from anyone that wished to address the Board, and no one present at the meeting asked to address the Board.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

President Hartmann introduced the item.

~~A. Approve Minutes June 21, 2023 Regular Meeting~~

B. Receive and file May 2023 and June 2023 Financial Reports

C. Approval of Invoices for payment

- i. Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) - Financial services through June 2023
- ii. Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law – June 2023 Legal Services
- iii. Daniel Hron – August 2023 office rent
- iv. Frenette Legislative Advisors – May, June & July 2023 legislative services
- v. US Bank Equipment Finance – July 2023 payment on copier lease
- vi. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC – June 2023 technical, and Education and Outreach services
- ~~vii. Naiaad Consulting, LLC – June 2023 administrative services, mileage, and expenses~~
- viii. Barr Engineering – June 2023 services related to Area #3 (wetland delineation & Threatened and Endangered Species Review)
- ix. 106 Group – June 2023 services related to Area #3
- x. 106 Group – June 2023 services related to Vernon Avenue
- xi. Inter-Fluve – June 2023 Area #3 Design Services
- xii. Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District - Q2 2023 monitoring, cost share and education services
- xiii. I & S Group, Inc. – June 2023 services related to wetland delineation at Vernon Avenue
- xiv. 4M Fund – May Bank service charges

D. Report on Citizen Advisory Committee

E. LMRWD Permit Renewals

F. LMRWD Permit Program Summary

G. Authorize replacement of copier at Chaska Office and entering into a new lease agreement

H. Reimburse Coalition for a Clean MN River for second half of Water Storage Initiative

I. Reimburse Peggy Thomsen for Cost Share project at 11533 Palmer Circle

J. Accept Quote and authorize payment of premium for D & O Insurance

President Hartmann made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended under the approval of the agenda. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken motion carried unanimously.