



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

### **Agenda Item**

#### **Item 7. C – Education & Outreach**

### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### **Summary**

This item was tabled at the February 21, 2024, Board of Managers meeting.

#### ***LMRWD Social Media Content and Strategy***

President Barisonzi has asked to table this item until the Board has determined an Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Here is a link to the February agenda item: [https://lowermnriverwd.org/download\\_file/view/3624/646](https://lowermnriverwd.org/download_file/view/3624/646)

#### ***Educator Mini-Grant Program***

The LMRWD extended the deadline for the Educator Mini-Grant program. An email was sent to the LMRWD mailing list advising of the extension. A total of 6 applications was received, requesting \$2,475 in funding. There is \$11,000 in the LMRWD 2024 budget for educator mini-grants, which is to be distributed twice a year. Guidelines for the Educator Mini-Grant program can be found on the LMRWD website using this link:

<https://lowermnriverwd.org/makeadifference/educator-mini-grants>

The applications were shared with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) who ranked the programs and has provided recommendations to the LMRWD Board of Managers. There was not a quorum of the CAC at the March 5, 2024, meeting, so Suzy Lindberg and Jess Norby checked in with the CAC members that were absent.

The recommendations made by the CAC are provided in Technical Memorandum – Educator Mini-Grant Recommendations – Spring Round 2024, dated March 13, 2024.

### **Attachments**

Technical Memorandum – Educator Mini-Grant Recommendations – Spring Round 2024, dated March 13, 2024

### **Recommended Action**

- Motion to table Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Social Media Content and Strategy
- Motion to approve Educator Mini-Grants as recommended by the Citizen Advisory Committee

# Technical Memorandum



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

**From:** Jess Norby, Senior Water Resources Scientist  
Suzy Lindberg, Communications Manager

**Date:** March 13, 2024

**Re:** Educator Mini-Grant Recommendations – Spring Round 2024

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The Educator Mini-Grant program is a key component of the Education and Outreach Program, focusing on educating school-aged students within and surrounding the LMRWD. The program provides up to 10 grants per school year – each up to \$500 – to help cover the cost of materials and/or programming that focuses on water resources.

On behalf of the LMRWD, Young Environmental released a new call for educator mini-grants in February and received **six applications**, requesting a total of **\$2,975** in funding. Young Environmental pre-screened the applications for compliance and funding eligibility and created review packets that were distributed to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for discussion at the March 5, 2024 meeting. Our team led the discussion on the applications, providing recommendations and justification for the educational relevance and cost-effectiveness of each grant application. Based on the resulting discussion, and further clarifications made with one applicant, the CAC has provided the following recommendations for Board approval.

## SUMMARY

Based on the review process, our team and the CAC recommends authorizing funding for 5/6 of the applications, noting their alignment with LMRWD mission and goals for watershed-focused education, which includes authorizing **\$2,475** in funding to five current applicants. With this approach, there will also be budget remaining for up to five grants in the fall season of the school year. We have included a detailed scoring matrix and comments from the CAC on page 2, followed by the full mini-grant applications received for reference.

Mini Grant	Summary	Total Average Score	Recommended Board Action
<b>Mini-Grant 1:</b> Integrated Arts Academy	Funds for waders and materials to lead an experiential field trip on water sampling.	6.8	Recommend approving funding request for <b>\$475</b> .
<b>Mini-Grant 2:</b> Friends of the Mississippi River	Funds will be used for transportation for a canoe-trip on	7	Recommend approving funding request for <b>\$500</b> .

Mini Grant	Summary	Total Average Score	Recommended Board Action
– Environmental Stewardship Institute	the Minnesota River, which can include the LMRWD’s CAC.		
<b>Mini-Grant 3:</b> Chaska Middle School West	Requested funds to support the Deep Portage Learning Center programming.	4.4	Recommend <u>not approving</u> the funding request for <b>\$500</b> because the project is not focused on watershed education.
<b>Mini-Grant 4:</b> Shakopee Area Catholic Schools	Funds will be used for Cedar Lake Farms Field trip programming, led by Scott County Watershed District, including transportation funds and purchase of National Geographic Kids Water! Book.	7	Recommend approving funding request for <b>\$500.</b>
<b>Mini-Grant 5:</b> Prior Lake High School	Funds will be used to purchase Credit River stream experiment equipment	7.6	Recommend approving funding request for <b>\$500.</b>
<b>Mini-Grant 6:</b> Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends	Funds will be used to design curriculum relating to watershed, stormwater, and habitat education.	7.4	Recommend approving funding request for <b>\$500.</b>
<b>TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR BOARD APPROVAL</b>			<b>\$2,475</b>

Attachment I:



## Lower Minnesota River Watershed District - Educator Mini-Grant Evaluation Spring 2024 Round

Mini-Grant Summary	Amount Requested	Applicant Contact	Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Members						Staff Vote		TOTAL AVG SCORE	CAC Recommendation	Notes
			Judy Berglund	Greg Genz*	Thomas Hartle*	Kevin Kedrowski*	Lee Peterson	Patty Thomsen	Linda Loomis (Administrator)	Jess Norby (Young Env.)			
<b>Mini-Grant 1:</b> <i>Integrated Arts Academy</i>  Money will be spent on waders and materials for an experiential field trip on water sampling.	\$475	Tammy Hakanson <a href="mailto:hakanson.t@isd112.org">hakanson.t@isd112.org</a>	6	---	---	---	8	6	7	7	6.8	Based on the total average score, the CAC recommends the Mini-Grant for <b>Board Approval</b> .	The CAC wished to ensure that activities are communicated effectively for water quality. They suggested providing professional help to guide activities (if funds allow) or connecting with a water professional who may be willing to volunteer time to ensure the supplies are used effectively.
<b>Mini-Grant 2:</b> <i>Friends of the Mississippi River – Environmental Stewardship Institute</i>  Money will be spent on transportation for a canoe trip on Minnesota River.	\$500	Natalie Warren <a href="mailto:nwarren@fmr.org">nwarren@fmr.org</a>	6	---	---	---	7	6	8	8	7	Based on the total average score, the CAC recommends the Mini-Grant for <b>Board Approval</b> .	Project had a strong connection to the Minnesota River and the group is providing an opportunity for the CAC to participate in tour with students, which can help with relationship-building.

# Lower Minnesota River Watershed District - Educator Mini-Grant Evaluation Spring 2024 Round



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Mini-Grant Summary	Amount Requested	Applicant Contact	Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Members						Staff Vote		TOTAL AVG SCORE	CAC Recommendation	Notes
			Judy Berglund	Greg Genz*	Thomas Hartle*	Kevin Kedrowski*	Lee Peterson	Patty Thomsen	Linda Loomis (Administrator)	Jess Norby (Young Env.)			
<b>Mini Grant 3:</b> <i>Chaska Middle School West</i>  Money will be used to support the Deep Portage Learning Center programming	\$500	Alexis Buesgens <a href="mailto:Buesgens.a@distrikt112.org">Buesgens.a@distrikt112.org</a>	3	---	---	---	6	5	4	4	4.4	Based on the total average score, the CAC recommends the Board <b>not approve</b> the mini grant for this grant cycle for a lack of direct alignment with goals.	The group determined the Deep Portage programming lacks a direct connection to watershed education and therefore recommended against funding based on competition this round.
<b>Mini-Grant 4:</b> <i>Shakopee Area Catholic Schools</i>  Money will be used for Cedar Lake Farms Field Trip programming	\$500	Amy Conniff <a href="mailto:aconniff@sacsschools.org">aconniff@sacsschools.org</a>	6	---	---	---	7	6	8	8	7	Based on the total average score, the CAC recommends the Mini-Grant for <b>Board Approval.</b>	Staff clarified the educational value by further researching the Cedar Lake Farms program and determined it aligns with goals.
<b>Mini-Grant 5:</b> <i>Prior Lake High School</i>  Money will be invested in Credit River stream experiment equipment	\$500	Maggie Ekrem <a href="mailto:mekrem@plsas.org">mekrem@plsas.org</a>	6	---	---	---	8	8	8	8	7.6	Based on the total average score, the CAC recommends the Mini-Grant for <b>Board Approval.</b>	The CAC greatly appreciated the level of detail included in itemized costs and believed the educational tools were highly in alignment.

# Lower Minnesota River Watershed District - Educator Mini-Grant Evaluation Spring 2024 Round



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Mini-Grant Summary	Amount Requested	Applicant Contact	Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Members						Staff Vote		TOTAL AVG SCORE	CAC Recommendation	Notes
			Judy Berglund	Greg Genz*	Thomas Hartle*	Kevin Kedrowski*	Lee Peterson	Patty Thomsen	Linda Loomis (Administrator)	Jess Norby (Young Env.)			
<b>Mini-Grant 6:</b> Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends  Design of curriculum for watershed, stormwater, habitat	\$500	Alison Schaub <a href="mailto:hello@mnvalleyrefugefriend.org">hello@mnvalleyrefugefriend.org</a>	6	---	---	---	7	8	8	8	7.4	Based on the total average score, the CAC recommends the Mini-Grant for <b>Board Approval.</b>	

\*Note: Three CAC members were absent from the March 5 monthly meeting and did not contribute to the scoring. They were provided with the mini-grant application package and our staff followed up with them offline to request scores. While we did not receive input from every CAC member, there was general consensus with members and staff in attendance on their review of applications.



# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application Evaluation Form

Integrated Arts Academy, Chaska, MN

## Purpose

This document provides information on the funding decision process for the educator mini-grant program application.

## Screening

All applications received on or before the deadline will be prescreened. Staff and members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will then review applications based on the project quality metrics below. Each application will be given a numerical score by each reviewing member. While funds last, funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Managers using the assigned scores.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding.**

## Scoring

Applicants who do not meet the required prescreening criteria will not be considered for funding (i.e., if there is a “no” response to any of the questions). Applications who meet prescreening eligibility are then scored numerically based on project quality. Project quality will be ranked as follows:

Five or more points..... Forward to managers for funding approval

Under five points..... Will not be considered for funding

**Note:** Instructions on this form are for grant reviewers. No action is required by grant applicants.

## Eligibility Prescreening

Is the applicant located within the LMRWD or a member city? .....  Yes / No

Is this the first mini-grant for this recipient for the current academic year? .....  Yes / No

Are all application questions complete? .....  Yes / No

Project Quality

Instructions for reviewer: Rate all questions on a 0–2 scale and calculate the total score.

How satisfactory is the level of detail in the project application?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does this project address the LMRWD goals around education and awareness relating to water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does the activity or project enhance participant learning and engagement?

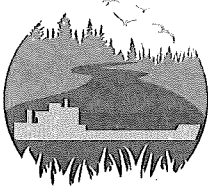
not well    (0)    (1)    (2)    very well

Does the proposed activity or project seem like a sensible use of funds to further LMRWD goals?

very unreasonable    (0)    (1)    (2)    very reasonable

<b>Total Score</b>	_____
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LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

Name of School/Organization:

Integrated Arts Academy

First Name:

Tammy

Last Name:

Hakanson

Email:

hakansont@isd112.org

Phone:

952-556-6200

Describe your current role?

Science Teacher

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

Address of School/Organization

Street Address:

11 Peavey Rd

Address line 2:

City:

Chaska

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55318

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-5<sup>th</sup> grade

6-12<sup>th</sup> grade

18+ years

Senior

Estimated number of participants:

70

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.

Our proposed project would center on water quality testing and habitat observation/protection for an onsite pond and resident wildlife. Goals would include getting students to be involved in the quality testing, better understanding of the ecosystem, human impact and how we can protect it for the future. Students would explore our pond with a macro and microscopic lens. They would then research the connections our pond has to the community and watershed.

When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?

Spring or Fall 2024

Total requested amount (maximum \$500):

\$475.00

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

4 pair of waders, 10 dip nets, petri dishes, field trip to another location for sampling and comparison

**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:

02/14/2024



# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application Evaluation Form

Friends of the Mississippi River's Environmental Stewardship Institute, St. Paul, MN

## Purpose

This document provides information on the funding decision process for the educator mini-grant program application.

## Screening

All applications received on or before the deadline will be prescreened. Staff and members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will then review applications based on the project quality metrics below. Each application will be given a numerical score by each reviewing member. While funds last, funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Managers using the assigned scores.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding.**

## Scoring

Applicants who do not meet the required prescreening criteria will not be considered for funding (i.e., if there is a "no" response to any of the questions). Applications who meet prescreening eligibility are then scored numerically based on project quality. Project quality will be ranked as follows:

Five or more points..... Forward to managers for funding approval

Under five points..... Will not be considered for funding

**Note:** Instructions on this form are for grant reviewers. No action is required by grant applicants.

## Eligibility Prescreening

Is the applicant located within the LMRWD or a member city? ..... Yes/No

Is this the first mini-grant for this recipient for the current academic year?..... Yes/No

Are all application questions complete? ..... Yes/No

Project Quality

Instructions for reviewer: Rate all questions on a 0–2 scale and calculate the total score.

How satisfactory is the level of detail in the project application?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does this project address the LMRWD goals around education and awareness relating to water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does the activity or project enhance participant learning and engagement?

not well    (0)    (1)    (2)    very well

Does the proposed activity or project seem like a sensible use of funds to further LMRWD goals?

very unreasonable    (0)    (1)    (2)    very reasonable

<b>Total Score</b>	_____
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# 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–5<sup>th</sup> grade

6–12<sup>th</sup> 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:



# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application Evaluation Form

Chaska Middle School West, Chaska, MN

## Purpose

This document provides information on the funding decision process for the educator mini-grant program application.

## Screening

All applications received on or before the deadline will be prescreened. Staff and members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will then review applications based on the project quality metrics below. Each application will be given a numerical score by each reviewing member. While funds last, funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Managers using the assigned scores.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding.**

## Scoring

Applicants who do not meet the required prescreening criteria will not be considered for funding (i.e., if there is a “no” response to any of the questions). Applications who meet prescreening eligibility are then scored numerically based on project quality. Project quality will be ranked as follows:

Five or more points..... Forward to managers for funding approval

Under five points..... Will not be considered for funding

**Note:** Instructions on this form are for grant reviewers. No action is required by grant applicants.

## Eligibility Prescreening

Is the applicant located within the LMRWD or a member city? .....  Yes / No

Is this the first mini-grant for this recipient for the current academic year? .....  Yes / No

Are all application questions complete? .....  Yes / No

Project Quality

Instructions for reviewer: Rate all questions on a 0–2 scale and calculate the total score.

How satisfactory is the level of detail in the project application?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does this project address the LMRWD goals around education and awareness relating to water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does the activity or project enhance participant learning and engagement?

not well    (0)    (1)    (2)    very well

Does the proposed activity or project seem like a sensible use of funds to further LMRWD goals?

very unreasonable    (0)    (1)    (2)    very reasonable

<b>Total Score</b>	_____
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LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

Name of School/Organization: Chaska Middle School West

First Name: Alexis

Last Name: Buesgens

Email: Buesgensa@district112.org

Phone: 952-556-7441

Describe your current role?

Deep Portage Coordinator

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

Address of School/Organization

Street Address: 140 Engler Blvd.

Address line 2:

City: Chaska

State: MN

Zip Code: 55318

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

Street Address: 2197 Nature Center Dr. NW

Address line 2:

City: Hackensack

State: MN

Zip Code: 56452

What age(s) are the participants?

K-5<sup>th</sup> grade

6-12<sup>th</sup> grade

18+ years

Senior

Estimated number of participants:

275

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.

Chaska Middle School West provides students with the opportunity to attend Deep Portage Learning Center. Deep Portage's mission is that through the exploration of woods, water, and wildlife to prepare and inspire learners of all ages to sustain and celebrate our natural world.

When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?

November 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 - November 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

Total requested amount (maximum \$500):

\$ 500

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

These funds would be used to provide students who might not have had the opportunity to attend a chance to go and learn more about the natural world.

**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:

Alexis Bryson  
Principal

Date:

2/21/24  
2/16/24

Please submit your application to [info@lowermnrivewd.org](mailto:info@lowermnrivewd.org).



# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application Evaluation Form

Shakopee Area Catholic School, Shakopee, MN

## Purpose

This document provides information on the funding decision process for the educator mini-grant program application.

## Screening

All applications received on or before the deadline will be prescreened. Staff and members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will then review applications based on the project quality metrics below. Each application will be given a numerical score by each reviewing member. While funds last, funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Managers using the assigned scores.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding.**

## Scoring

Applicants who do not meet the required prescreening criteria will not be considered for funding (i.e., if there is a “no” response to any of the questions). Applications who meet prescreening eligibility are then scored numerically based on project quality. Project quality will be ranked as follows:

Five or more points..... Forward to managers for funding approval

Under five points..... Will not be considered for funding

**Note:** Instructions on this form are for grant reviewers. No action is required by grant applicants.

## Eligibility Prescreening

Is the applicant located within the LMRWD or a member city? .....  Yes / No

Is this the first mini-grant for this recipient for the current academic year? .....  Yes / No

Are all application questions complete? .....  Yes / No

Project Quality

Instructions for reviewer: Rate all questions on a 0–2 scale and calculate the total score.

How satisfactory is the level of detail in the project application?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does this project address the LMRWD goals around education and awareness relating to water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does the activity or project enhance participant learning and engagement?

not well    (0)    (1)    (2)    very well

Does the proposed activity or project seem like a sensible use of funds to further LMRWD goals?

very unreasonable    (0)    (1)    (2)    very reasonable

<b>Total Score</b>	_____
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# 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–5<sup>th</sup> grade

6–12<sup>th</sup> 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:



# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application Evaluation Form

Prior Lake High School, Savage, MN

## Purpose

This document provides information on the funding decision process for the educator mini-grant program application.

## Screening

All applications received on or before the deadline will be prescreened. Staff and members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will then review applications based on the project quality metrics below. Each application will be given a numerical score by each reviewing member. While funds last, funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Managers using the assigned scores.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding.**

## Scoring

Applicants who do not meet the required prescreening criteria will not be considered for funding (i.e., if there is a “no” response to any of the questions). Applications who meet prescreening eligibility are then scored numerically based on project quality. Project quality will be ranked as follows:

Five or more points..... Forward to managers for funding approval

Under five points..... Will not be considered for funding

**Note:** Instructions on this form are for grant reviewers. No action is required by grant applicants.

## Eligibility Prescreening

Is the applicant located within the LMRWD or a member city? .....  Yes / No

Is this the first mini-grant for this recipient for the current academic year? .....  Yes / No

Are all application questions complete? .....  Yes / No

Project Quality

Instructions for reviewer: Rate all questions on a 0–2 scale and calculate the total score.

How satisfactory is the level of detail in the project application?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does this project address the LMRWD goals around education and awareness relating to water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does the activity or project enhance participant learning and engagement?

not well    (0)    (1)    (2)    very well

Does the proposed activity or project seem like a sensible use of funds to further LMRWD goals?

very unreasonable    (0)    (1)    (2)    very reasonable

<b>Total Score</b>	_____
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# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application

**Name of School/Organization:** Prior Lake High School

**First Name:** Maggie

**Last Name:** Ekrem

**Email:** [mekrem@plsas.org](mailto:mekrem@plsas.org)

**Phone:** 763-213-9224

**Describe your current role?** Environmental Science and Biology teacher

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

Address of School/Organization

**Street Address:** 7575 150th St. W

**Address line 2:**

**City:** Savage

**State:** MN

**Zip Code:** 55378

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

**Street Address:** Multiple spots along the Credit River (about 0.5 miles from the high school) and on the Prior Lake High School property

**What age(s) are the participants?**

K–5<sup>th</sup> grade

6–12<sup>th</sup> grade

18+ years

Senior

Estimated number of participants: 110 students

**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.**

Our activity will be composed of multiple parts. We'd like to first educate students on stream ecology, erosion, stream dynamics, and the importance of streams in the ecosystem (stream tables). We'll also discuss the pollutants that can impact the stream and how we can measure them. After students have gained an understanding of these concepts, we'll head out into the field. Prior Lake High School is located close enough to the Credit River to allow for frequent visits. Students will determine the stream health of this river by catching and identifying macroinvertebrates (dip nets and macroinvertebrate identification guides). In addition, we will measure stream velocity, measure pH, and assess the quality of the sediment and surrounding plant life.

**Minnesota State Standards Addressed:**

- 9-12 Earth and Space Sciences: 9E.1.2.1.1 Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes. (P: 3, CC: 6, CI: ESS2)
- 9-12 Earth and Space Sciences: 9E.1.2.1.2 Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of soils to model the effects of human activity on soil resources. (P: 3, CC: 2, CI: ESS3, ETS2)
- 9C.2.1.1.1 Analyze patterns in air or water quality data to make claims about the causes and severity of a problem and the necessity to remediate or to recommend a treatment process. (P: 4, CC :2, CI: PS1)
- 9C.2.1.1.1 Analyze patterns in air or water quality data to make claims about the causes and severity of a problem and the necessity to remediate or to recommend a treatment process. (P: 4, CC :2, CI: PS1)

**When is this activity/project scheduled to take place?** This activity takes place in August, September, and October as well as in April and May of the school year.

**Total requested amount (maximum \$500):** \$ 500.00

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

-2 stream tables (\$118.50 each) >>> \$237.00

-Smithsonian Institution Land and Water Use Student Investigations Book >>> \$10.95

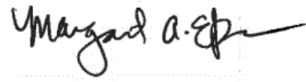
-3 Stream Dip Nets with Net Guard (\$66.85 each) >>> \$200.55

-6 Dichotomous Macroinvertebrate Identification Books >>> \$49.00

Total: \$498.00

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret A. Spivey", written over a dotted line.

Date: 2/20/2024

Please submit your application to  
[info@lowermnriverwd.org](mailto:info@lowermnriverwd.org).



# Educator Mini-Grant Program Application Evaluation Form

Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends, Bloomington, MN

## Purpose

This document provides information on the funding decision process for the educator mini-grant program application.

## Screening

All applications received on or before the deadline will be prescreened. Staff and members of the Citizen Advisory Committee will then review applications based on the project quality metrics below. Each application will be given a numerical score by each reviewing member. While funds last, funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Managers using the assigned scores.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be considered for funding.**

## Scoring

Applicants who do not meet the required prescreening criteria will not be considered for funding (i.e., if there is a “no” response to any of the questions). Applications who meet prescreening eligibility are then scored numerically based on project quality. Project quality will be ranked as follows:

Five or more points..... Forward to managers for funding approval

Under five points..... Will not be considered for funding

**Note:** Instructions on this form are for grant reviewers. No action is required by grant applicants.

## Eligibility Prescreening

Is the applicant located within the LMRWD or a member city? .....  Yes / No

Is this the first mini-grant for this recipient for the current academic year? .....  Yes / No

Are all application questions complete? .....  Yes / No

Project Quality

Instructions for reviewer: Rate all questions on a 0–2 scale and calculate the total score.

How satisfactory is the level of detail in the project application?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does this project address the LMRWD goals around education and awareness relating to water quality, water conservation, and wildlife habitat?

very unsatisfactory    (0)    (1)    (2)    very satisfactory

How well does the activity or project enhance participant learning and engagement?

not well    (0)    (1)    (2)    very well

Does the proposed activity or project seem like a sensible use of funds to further LMRWD goals?

very unreasonable    (0)    (1)    (2)    very reasonable

<b>Total Score</b>	_____
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# 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–5<sup>th</sup> grade

6–12<sup>th</sup> 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: 02/16/2024