



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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March 2024 Administrator report  
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator  
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, the following District projects and issues were addressed during the month:

## **Other Work**

### **Ike's Creek Restoration Plan**

The LMRWD received a draft EAW for this project and an updated 10% design submittal. The estimated cost of the project exceeds the funds US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has available. The major source of erosion comes from a ravine located on private property. USFWS cannot use the funds they have on private property, so that area must be excluded from this project unless USFWS can acquire the property needed to stabilize the ravine. USFWS hopes that when a sale of the property occurs the owners will either gift the property to the USFWS or they will sell it. They are currently working to try to phase this project to restore some now and then when additional money becomes available the project can be completed.

Manager Salvato brought a federal to our attention. USFWS was notified of this grant, and it was suggested that USFWS apply for an *America the Beautiful* grant.

### **Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District Soil Health**

Scott SWCD has planned to workshops; one for building a raingarden on April 16<sup>th</sup> and one for prescribes burns on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The LMRWD helped find space in Shakopee for the rain garden workshop. LMRWD's logo appears on the promotional materials for both workshops. Flyers for both workshops is attached.

### **City of Chanhassen**

The City of Chanhassen is planning to create an educational campaign for surface water resources in the City. Part of that campaign involves shining a spotlight on the watershed districts that make up Chanhassen. The campaign involves a social media post with a graphic of a map of Chanhassen indicating where the water districts are located, as well as a post with an "elevator pitch" about the watershed district. Lower MN River's Facebook page will also be tagged. LMRWD staff is supplying Chanhassen with the information they have requested for the campaign.

### **Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA)**

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended the quarterly meeting of MAWA. An update was provided on the Chloride legislation (which was included in the report on legislative activities) was provided. BWSR has a pilot program to study hydrology of watershed for impact of water storage projects. Initial results seem to indicate that water quality improvement projects may be contributing to peak flows. Yellow Medicine Watershed District is coming up on the 10-year anniversary of its One Watershed One Plan and will be updating the plan. They reported that the majority of the funds requested under the implementation program is for planting cover crops and no-till projects.

### **Chaska Seminary Fen Ravine C-2 Construction Funding Request**

The City of Chaska provided an update on this project. They are still looking for funds to construct the project.

### **2024/2025 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)**

The LMRWD plans to convene a meeting to determine projects that will receive allocations of WBIF money.

56	Lower Minnesota River East	\$538,396	2024
Metro	Carver County WPA	\$721,325	2025
Metro	Lower Minnesota River WPA	\$217,485	2025
Metro	Scott County WPA	\$646,054	2025

### **LCCMR Request**

The LMRWD received a request to partner with Geosyntec on a grant request to the LCCMR. Nigel Pickering, Geosyntec, is interested in a study to investigate current drainage design methods, come up with improved design methods, and provide a decision support system for better design. The goal is to use these design improvements to help reduce the downstream cumulative effects that result in high flows and high sediment loads.

Geosyntec was planning to team with Jason Ulrich of the St Croix Experimental Station. St Croix Station, who was originally going to lead the study. The St. Croix Experimental Station has too many other proposals going in. Geosyntec cannot lead it without contracting issues. Private firms can't be the recipient of State money.

### **MPCA – Lower Minnesota River Watershed Assessment**

This item is on the March 21, 2024, agenda.

Information for the previous round of assessments can be found by visiting the MPCA website using this link: [Lower Minnesota River Watershed](#). The last assessment was completed in 2015.

## **Watershed Plan Projects**

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**LMRWD Water Resource Restoration Fund:** The LMRWD received one application for a project under this program from the City of Eden Prairie. A recommendation will come to the Board of Managers at the April 17, 2024, Board of Manager meeting.

**MAC Boundary Adjustment:** This item is on the March 20, 2024, LMRWD Board of Managers meeting agenda.

**Eagle Creek Bank Restoration at Twon & Country RV Facility:** This project is included in the LMRWD 2024 workplan. The Board has requested quarterly reports on the work plan and will be reported on at the April 2024 Board of Managers meeting.

**Fen Private Land Acquisition Study:** There is no information to report on this. The LMRWD will be working with the MnDNR to identify the parcels that offer the greatest protection for the fens.

**Spring Creek:** We are waiting to hear from the USACE to see if cultural heritage investigation is needed. Project website: <https://lowermnrriverwd.org/projects/spring-creek>

**Gully Inventory and Assessment:** This project is included in the LMRWD 2024 workplan. The Board has requested quarterly reports on the work plan and will be reported on at the April 2024 Board of

Managers meeting.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

**Minnesota River Study Area #3:** The LMRWD is coordinating with the USACE, MPCA, MnDNR, and WCA LGU (Eden Prairie) to finalize wetland impacts and a potential mitigation plan. Once we have concurrence from the agencies, we can execute the 90% plans, which will take 2 to 3 months to complete.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/study-area-3-eden-prairie>

**Minnesota River Floodplain Modeling:** There is no new information to report since the last update.

**Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management:** This project is ready to go out to bid. The engineer's estimate is higher than the funds the LMRWD receives from the state to manage dredge material. LMRWD staff is exploring options to fund the project given the projected project costs. Funding of this project has been discussed with Mr. Shannon Sweeney, David Drown Associates, financial consultants. He will put together information for the Board to review at the April 17, 2024 Board of Managers meeting.

**Geomorphic Assessments (Trout Streams):** This project is included in the LMRWD 2024 workplan. The Board has requested quarterly reports on the work plan and will be reported on at the April 2024 Board of Managers meeting.

**The following projects are projects through LMRWD partners. LMRWD partners are leading these projects, the LMRWD has agreed to contribute to the projects:**

**Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2:** An update on this item is provided above.

Here is a link to the [feasibility report](#) Area C-2.

**Shakopee Riverbank Stabilization:** The City of Shakopee has introduced legislation for additional funding for this project.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/living-here/street-infrastructure-projects/minnesota-riverbank-stabilization>

**Carver Levee:** The City of Carver has introduced legislation for additional funding for this project.

Project website: <https://www.cityofcarver.com/276/Levee-Certification>

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## Upcoming meetings/events

*Managers are invited to attend any of these meetings. Most are free of charge and if not the LMRWD will reimburse registration fees. Please contact LMRWD administrator if you have any questions.*

- Lower MN River East 1W1P Advisory Committee meeting – April 17, 2024, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Scott SWCD office, 7151 W 190th St, Jordan, Minnesota 55352
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Steering Committee meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – virtual only
- Lower MN River East 1W1P Policy Committee – Thursday, March 21, 2024, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, In-person at Le Sueur SWCD office located at 181 W Minnesota St, Le Center, MN 56057 and [virtual on MS Teams](#)
- UMWA (Upper Mississippi Waterway Association) monthly meeting – Thursday, March 21, 2024, virtual only via Zoom
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, April 2, 2023, 4:30pm, virtual
- Metro Watershed – Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Capitol Region Watershed District, 595 Aldine Street, St. Paul, MN 55104