



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 5. G. – Authorize execution of River Watch Agreement between LMRWD and Friends of the MN Valley

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

At the October 18, 2023, LMRWD Board of Managers meeting, the Board approved funding of the River Watch Program conducted by the Friends of the MN Valley (FMR).

The LMRWD prepared an agreement for services between the LMRWD and FMR for the program. FMR and LMRWD legal counsel have reviewed the agreement.

The Board should approve the agreement and authorize execution

Attachments

Excerpt from October 18, 2023, meeting minutes

Agreement for Services

Recommended Action

Motion to approve Agreement for Services for River Watch and authorize execution

B. Discussion of Friends of the MN Valley funding request

Mr. Suss came forward and withdrew his request for funding for next year's County Fair project. He shared that they have reached out to the directors of SWCDs in the river basin and asked if they would be interested in sharing a booth at the County Fairs with the Friends of the Minnesota River Valley, which has received some support. He shared the request for funding for the River Watch program.

Mr. Crawford reviewed the River Watch program with the Board. He stated that they have reached their capacity with their current funding and are requesting funding from the Board to work with more schools on the River Watch program.

Manager Salvato asked if the program is in the category of a volunteer monitor. Mr. Crawford explained that they have their own project number so the students are able to go enter the project number on the PCA database and see all of the River Watch data that has been collected since the program started. He noted that they have around 150 students who go out to the river in one day. He added that Prior Lake alone has generated a large amount of data.

Manager Salvato asked if this program is looking to get more lower income children into STEM. Mr. Crawford stated that this is definitely a priority for them. He added that they are now working with the All Nations Program to expand the diversity of the program.

President Barisonzi asked about the volume of the program. Mr. Crawford shared that during the 2022-2023 school year they worked with around 2500 kids and are around 700 kids so far this school year. He noted that they have different curriculums for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Mr. Suss reviewed the request for \$20,000 and how they would be able to expand the program with these funds.

Manager Hartmann noted that it is a priority of the district to collect chloride and asked if the students will be collecting this. Mr. Crawford stated that they have signed up for chloride tests from Salt Watch and they bring them out into the field with them. He noted that he does also send in this data. Mr. Suss added that they will be an official partner with Salt Watch soon.

The Board agreed that it would be important to them that chloride is added to this conversation and reporting structure.

Mr. Evenson shared that this funding is not only going to help the students, but also their parents, teachers, and friends. He noted that this will reach the whole sphere of the kids that are in these classes. He added that this will also help create a basis for future education of these kids and provide opportunities for them in the area of natural resources. He stated that this will also help give these students an understanding of natural resources.

Manager Kuplic shared that they are amazed that the high school students are helping teach this information to the younger students.

Manager Kuplic made a motion to support the proposal and authorize funding of \$20,000 for the 2023-2024 River Watch Program. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote

being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Amundson, Hartmann, Kuplic and Salvato; the following voted against: None; President Barisonzi abstained.

Suss thanked the Board for their funding and support.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2021/2022 Financial Audit

Administrator Loomis introduced this item and shared that the audit is still ongoing. She noted that they are hoping to have most of the audit wrapped up this week.

President Barisonzi asked if there had been any action taken against the previous auditor. Administrator Loomis stated that they have filed a formal complaint with the accountancy board regarding this auditor.

B. Lower Minnesota River East One Watershed One Plan Governance

An update was provided in the October Administrator Report.

Administrator Loomis shared that the first draft of the plan was released today for comments to the.. Advisory Committee. She noted that the Policy Committee will likely receive it tomorrow. She added that she can share a copy of the plan with anyone interested

C. City of Carver Levee

Administrator Loomis introduced this item and shared that she and Ms. Young had run into the project manager for the city of Carver on this project at the Minnesota Water Resource Conference and he shared that he would like to come to the December Board Meeting to give an update to the Board on this.

D. Dredge Management

i. Dredging at mouth of MN River

Administrator Loomis introduced and provided background on this item. She shared that the dredging was supposed to take place on October 2nd.

ii. Sale of Dredge Material

No update on this item.

iii. Private Dredge Material Placement

Administrator Loomis noted that she has not gotten a notice from the DNR that Cargill has requested a permit to do any additional dredging at Cargill east or west.

iv. Vernon Avenue reconstruction and culvert replacement project

Administrator Loomis shared that she did receive a notice this week from the Corp. of Engineers that they will not require a permit from them on this project. She noted that they are just waiting for the LMRWD to permit the project as well as the DNR.

E. Watershed Management Plan

No new information to report since the last update.

F. 2023 Legislative Action

Administrator Loomis introduced this item. She shared that Lisa Frenette, the Board's legislative liaison, is in attendance.

Ms. Frenette shared that they have had a lot of success with dredge management and the things that they have needed to do with BWSR allowing the Board to use some extra funds for other issues. She shared that there may not be any money available next year as so much was spent

AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

This Agreement is between the LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT, STATE OF MINNESOTA, (the “LMRWD”) a public body with purposes and powers set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D, with offices located at 112 East 5th Street, Suite 102, Chaska, MN 55318, and Friends of the Minnesota Valley, (the “FRIENDS”) a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, with headquarters located at 6601 Auto Club Road, Bloomington, MN 55438

The parties agree as follows:

1. TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

The Friends agrees to furnish River Watch program services to the LMRWD commencing October 18, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2024, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the Default and Cancellation provisions of this Agreement.

2. SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

The Friends agrees to provide River Watch program services to the LMRWD as more fully described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

3. PAYMENT FOR SERVICES

The Friends will bill LMRWD for services rendered. Payment shall be made within thirty-five (35) days from receipt of the invoice. Payment will be distributed in three installments: 1) The first payment of 50% will be distributed after the execution of the grant agreement. 2.) The second payment of 40% will be distributed after the first payment of 50% has been expended and reporting requirements have been met. An Interim Financial Report that summarizes expenditures of the first 50% must be signed by the Grantee and approved by the LMRWD. Grantee is required at this point to submit documentation of the expenditures report on the Interim Financial Report for verification. 3.) The third payment of 10% will be distributed after the grant has been fully expended and reporting requirements are met. The final 10% payment must be requested within 30 days of the expiration date of the Grant Agreement. A Final Financial Report that summarizes final expenditures for the grant must be signed by the Grantee and approved by the LMRWD.

The total cost of this Agreement shall not exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000).

4. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

The Friends shall select the means, method, and manner of performing the services. Nothing is intended or should be construed as creating or establishing the relationship of a partnership or a joint venture between the parties or as constituting either party as the agent, representative, or employee of the other party for any purpose. The Friends is and shall remain an independent contractor for all services performed under this Agreement.

5. LIABILITY

Each party shall be responsible for its own acts and deeds and the results thereof. The Friends’s liability shall be governed by the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 466 and other applicable law.

6. INSURANCE

A. Both parties agree at all times during the term of this Agreement, and beyond such term when so required, to have and keep in force the following insurance coverages:

Limits

1. Commercial General Liability on an occurrence Basis with contractual liability coverage:

General Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Products – Completed Operations Aggregate	2,000,000
Personal and Advertising Injury	1,500,000
Each Occurrence – Combined Bodily Injury and Property Damage	1,500,000

2. Workers’ Compensation and Employer’s Liability

Workers’ Compensation	Statutory
-----------------------	-----------

Employer’s Liability. Bodily injury by:

Accident – Each Accident	500,000
Disease – Policy Limit	500,000
Disease – Each Employee	500,000

3. Professional Liability – Per Claim 1,500,000
Aggregate 2,000,000

The professional Liability insurance must be maintained continuously for a period of two years after the termination of this Agreement.

B. A self-insurance program is an acceptable method to provide the required insurance limits.

C. Duty to Notify. Each party shall promptly notify the other party of any claim, action, cause of action or litigation brought against it, its employees, officers, agents or subcontractors, which arises out of the services contained in this Agreement. Each party shall also notify the other party whenever it has a reasonable basis for believing that it and/or its employees, officers, agents or subcontractors, might become the subject of a claim, action, cause of action, or litigation arising out of and/or related to the services contained in this Agreement.

7. DATA PRACTICES

Each party, its officers, agents, owners, partners, employees, volunteers and subcontractors shall abide by the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13 (MGDPA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH), adopted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and implementing regulations, if applicable, and all other applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations and orders relating to data privacy or confidentiality. The terms of this section shall survive the cancellation or termination of this Agreement.

8. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Each party binds itself, its partners, successors, assigns and legal representatives to the other party for all covenants, agreements and obligations contained in the contract documents.
- B. Neither party shall assign, transfer or pledge this Agreement and/or the services to be performed, whether in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the other party.

9. MERGER AND MODIFICATION

- A. It is understood and agreed that the entire Agreement between the parties is contained herein and that this Agreement supersedes all oral agreements and negotiations between the parties relating to the subject matter. All items that are referenced or that are attached are incorporated and made a part of this Agreement. If there is any conflict between the terms of this Agreement and referenced or attached items, the terms of this Agreement shall prevail.
- B. Any alterations, variations, modifications, or waivers of provisions of this Agreement shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing as an amendment to this Agreement signed by the parties.

10. DEFAULT AND CANCELLATION

- A. If each party fails to perform any of the provisions of this Agreement or so fails to administer the work as to endanger the performance of the Agreement, it shall be in default. Unless the defaulting party's default is excused by the other party, the non-defaulting party may upon written notice immediately cancel this Agreement in its entirety.
- B. A party's failure to insist upon strict performance of any provision or to exercise any right under this Agreement shall not be deemed a relinquishment or waiver of the same, unless consented to in writing. Such consent shall not constitute a general waiver or relinquishment throughout the entire term of the Agreement.
- C. This Agreement may be canceled with or without cause by either party upon thirty (30) day written notice.

11. SURVIVAL OF PROVISIONS

Provisions that by their nature are intended to survive the term, cancellation or termination of this Agreement include but are not limited to: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR; LIABILITY; INSURANCE; DATA PRACTICES; DEFAULT AND CANCELLATION; PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE; and MINNESOTA LAW GOVERNS.

12. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

In order to coordinate the services being provided to the LMRWD with the activities of the Friends, Thomas Crawford, or successor, shall manage this Agreement on behalf of the Friends and serve as liaison between the Friends and the LMRWD.

13. COMPLIANCE AND NON-DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION

Both parties shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local statutes, regulations, rules and ordinances currently in force or later enacted.

14. NOTICES

Any notice or demand which must be given or made by a party under this Agreement or any statute or ordinance shall be in writing, and shall be sent registered or certified mail. Notices to the Friends shall be sent to the Friends Administrator with a copy to the originating Department at the address given in the opening paragraph of the Agreement. Notice to the Commission shall be sent to the address stated in the opening paragraph of the Agreement.

15. MEDIA OUTREACH

LMRWD shall not use the term “_____”, or any derivative thereof in LMRWD’s advertising, external facing communication and/or marketing, including but not limited to advertisements of any type or form, promotional ads/literature, client lists and/or any other form of outreach, without the written approval of the _____, or their designees.

16. MINNESOTA LAWS GOVERN

The Laws of the State of Minnesota shall govern all questions and interpretations concerning the validity and construction of this Agreement and the legal relations between the parties and their performance. The appropriate venue and jurisdiction for any litigation will be those courts located within the Hennepin County, State of Minnesota. Litigation, however, in the federal courts involving the parties will be in the appropriate federal court within the State of Minnesota. If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will not be affected.

THIS PORTION OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

FRIENDS ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORIZATION

Reviewed by the Friends Attorney's Office

FRIENDS OF THE
MINNESOTA VALLEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA
The Friends certify that the person who executed this Agreement is authorized to do so on behalf of the Friends as required by applicable articles, bylaws, resolutions or ordinances.*

Attorney

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

**Lower Minnesota River
Watershed District**

The LMRWD certifies that the person who executed this Agreement is authorized to do so on behalf of the LMRWD as required by applicable articles, bylaws, resolutions or ordinances.*

Printed Name: _____

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

* Parties shall submit applicable documentation (articles, bylaws, resolutions or ordinances) that confirms the signatory's delegation of authority. This documentation shall be submitted at the time parties the Agreement is executed.

EXHIBIT A

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

River Watch is a volunteer monitoring program coordinated by Friends of the Minnesota Valley and highlights a partnership between Friends of the Minnesota Valley and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District. In the program, teachers and youth volunteers use biological monitoring criteria established by the MPCA to monitor local streams. Teachers use this as a unique hands-on research experience in the classroom setting. The details of the program responsibilities are as follows:

- Take proper precautions to ensure the safety of those involved in activities relating to River Watch.
- Recruit and manage teachers and students to monitor sites within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
- Coordinate and facilitate training sessions in field collection techniques and macroinvertebrate identifications including all in-person, hands-on training.
- Provide funds to cover internal teacher costs including busing and substitute teacher pay
- Provide all Quality Assurance/Quality Control checks.
- Manage program finances.
- Manage program contracts.
- Maintain communication with all parties.
- Keep accessible all data sheets, site selection forms, financial records, and reports.
- Provide copies of checked data sheets as requested.
- Coordinate outreach educational opportunities.
- Coordinate volunteer appreciation efforts.
- Develop and distribute Year End Results to all interested parties upon request and via Hennepin Friends website.