

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 7. B. – LMRWD Water Resource Restoration Fund Application

Prepared By Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

Request from Eden Prairie

The LMRWD established the Water Restoration Resource Fund to fund projects that may not have been identified at the time the LMRWD developed its Plan implementation program. Many of these projects are opportunity projects; ones that may have been considered, but for some reason not ready to proceed. In 2023, the LMRWD made all its partners aware of this program and solicited applications from partners.

A deadline of February 29, 2024, was set for applications to be submitted. One application was received from the City of Eden Prairie. Young Environmental Consulting Group reviewed and evaluated the application according to the matrix that had been developed to evaluate previous requests for funding of partner's projects. The review and evaluation are attached in Technical Memorandum – Richard t. Anderson (RTA) West Bluff Overlook – LMRWD Water Resources Restoration Fund Review, dated April 10, 2024.

Attachments

Technical Memorandum – Richard t. Anderson (RTA) West Bluff Overlook – LMRWD Water Resources Restoration Fund Review, dated April 10, 2024

Recommended Action

Motion to contribute 15% of the project cost which equates to \$45,154 of the estimated project cost. The final contributed dollar amount will be based on the awarded construction contract. Contribution is contingent upon receipt of documentation that the project meets the permitting requirements of the LMRWD and other regulatory agencies, final signed construction plans and specifications, awarded contract and bid information, executed grant and maintenance agreement, and agreements that payments from the LMRWD are reimbursement based and require receipts of paid invoices as well as a summary of the work completed as part of the receipt/invoice

Technical Memorandum



То:	Linda Loomis, Administrator Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD)
From:	Erica Bock, Water Resources Scientist Hannah LeClaire, PE, Water Resources Engineer
CC:	Karli Wittner Jason Goblirsch Parks and Recreation Department, City of Eden Prairie
Date:	April 10, 2024
Re:	Richard T. Anderson (RTA) West Bluff Overlook – LMRWD Water Resources Restoration Fund Review

At the September 21, 2023, LMRWD Board Meeting, the LMRWD approved the Water Resources Restoration Fund (WRRF) work plan. The work plan consisted of developing an official application and process for the WRRF to distribute to the local governmental units (LGUs). The goal of the WRRF is to help fund projects sponsored by LGUs that reduce urban nonpoint source pollution, improve and protect groundwater quality, and promote surveys and studies of wetland (fen) health management. The WRRF application materials were distributed to the LGUs after the municipal coordination meetings on December 8, 2024. The deadline for the WRRF application was February 29, 2024.

The LMRWD received one (1) application on February 29, 2024, from the City of Eden Prairie (City) for the Richard T. Anderson (RTA) West Bluff Overlook Stabilization Improvements Project (Attachment 1). Young Environmental reviewed the project in line with the previously developed evaluation form (Attachment 2). This memo summarizes Young Environmental's funding evaluation of the project.

RTA Application and Evaluation

The City is requesting funding from the LMRWD to stabilize one of the most popular and eroded trails within the RTA recreation area. RTA is a 125-acre bluff land overlooking the Minnesota River Valley. RTA is within the Steep Slopes Overlay District (SSOD) and is public land with a parking lot located at 18700 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie, MN, 55347 (Figure 1). RTA was included in the 2020 and 2023 LMRWD gully inventories and was identified in the 2020 study as High Priority Region 13. The 2023 Gully Inventory and Condition Assessment reviewed the RTA Site with 7 gullies as high priority gullies.

The City would like to begin restoring areas of erosion within the RTA recreation area. There are three goals of the West Bluff Overlook Stabilization project, including:

- 1. Preventing further erosion.
- 2. Providing a user-friendly trail for access to the prairie bluff overlook.
- 3. Preventing further degradation of the high-quality plant communities in RTA.

The estimated cost for the stabilization project is \$301,025 (Attachment 1).

Restoration work will be completed on 1,360 linear feet of trail by installing 160 stone steps adjacent to a 520 linear foot riprap channel with ditch checks, three boulder retaining walls, and a pretreatment settling basin (Figure 2). The project plans to minimize ongoing maintenance while preventing erosion and providing a safer trail for users that encourages visitors to remain on designated trails. Due to the current erosion, users have encroached into the high-quality woodland in search of a navigable route. These additional trails have damaged native plants and exacerbated the erosion problem. The surface water from this ravine trail empties directly into an unnamed stream, causing sedimentation.

The project will be constructed during the growing season of 2024 with bid opening anticipated in April and construction to begin in June. The project is estimated to be completed by winter 2024. The City is requesting \$50,000 from the WRRF, which is 17% of the estimated total cost for the stabilization project. Table 1 shows the scoring of the project based on alignment with the goals, policies, and strategies of the LMRWD Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

Scoring Metric	Scoring Comments Additional Point Opportunities			Max Points
1. Project Type	The RTA Project addresses goals within the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Surface Water Management Plan. Additionally, this is a gully (ravine) restoration project located within the SSOD, which is a high priority management area of the LMRWD. The RTA Project is listed as a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) in the City's 2023-2032 CIP and is a direct tributary to Rice Lake	Maximum points awarded.	24	24
2. Plan Goals Addressed	 The RTA Project addresses multiple goals in the LMRWD WMP, including: Goal 2: Surface Water Management Goal 4: Unique Resource Management Goal 7: Erosion and Sediment Control 	The RVA Project addresses five out of the nine LMRWD Watershed Management Plan Goals, and a point was awarded for each area.	5	9

Table 1: RTA Project Funding Request Scoring

Scoring Metric	Scoring Comments Additional Point Opportunities		Project Score	Max Points
	 Goal 8: Commercial and Recreational Navigation Goal 9: Public Education and Outreach. 			
3. Water Capture	The project includes a riprap channel with ditch checks to slow runoff, along with 145 square feet of pretreatment settling basin.	The Water Capture Score gives credit to projects that meet or exceed the standards for stormwater runoff volume management.	3	7
4. Pollutant Management	phosphorus (TP) downstream The Maximum points awarded		7	7
5. Habitat Restoration	This project provides a secondary benefit to habit by seeding the disturbed areas with native seed mixtures that provide food and habitat for wildlife. Additionally, the project will prevent further degradation of habitat by keeping hikers on the trails.	Projects that include habitat creation or enhancement as the primary purpose of the project receive a score of seven.	3	7
6. Bank Stabilization	The project does not propose streambank stabilization as part of the project.	Points are awarded for streambank stabilization projects.	0	7
7. Watershed Benefits	The ravine discharges to an Unnamed Stream and then to Bluff Creek and Rice Lake.	The watershed benefits score gives more credit to projects that are near the headwaters and provide site benefits beyond the immediate site location.	3	7
8. Partnership Opportunities	The City has provided funding details and intends to contribute the remaining funds to implement the project. As part of LMRWD WMP Strategy 7.3.1, the LMRWD aims to	Maximum points awarded.	7	7

Page **3** of **4**

Scoring Metric	Scoring Comments	Additional Point Opportunities	Project Score	Max Points
	partner with LGUs to fund projects that address gully erosion.			
9. Public Education	The project is located on public land and has opportunities for signage and increased visitors.	Maximum points awarded.	7	7
Total Score			59	82

Project Scoring

Based on the presented information, the RTA Project received a score of 59 points out of a maximum of 82 points, placing it in the moderate-to-high priority category for the LMRWD (Attachment 2, Table 1). This category qualifies the project for partial funding.

Funding Recommendations

Based on the scoring, we recommend contributing 15% of the project cost (lesser of the awarded project cost or engineers cost estimate), which equates to \$45,154 of the estimated project cost. However, the final contributed dollar amount will be based on the awarded construction contract. The project addresses several goals in both the LMRWD WMP as well as the City's Surface Water Management Plan. It proposes to stabilize a ravine at the RTA site, part of a large ravine system in the SSOD, which remains a high priority for the LMRWD. Furthermore, the project follows the LMRWD's strategy of partnering with LGUs to leverage financial resources and improve natural resources within the LMRWD boundaries.

Before funds can be released, the following information is required:

- Documentation that the project meets the permitting requirements of the LMRWD and other regulatory agencies.
- Final signed construction plans and specifications.
- Awarded contract and bid information.
- Executed grant and maintenance agreement.
- Agreement that payments from the LMRWD are reimbursement-based and require receipts of paid invoices as well as a summary of the work completed as part of the receipt/invoice.

Attachments

- Figure 1—Eden Prairie RTA Site Overview
- Figure 2—RTA Project Location
- Attachment 1—City of Eden Prairie RTA WRRF Application
- Attachment 2—Funding Request Evaluation







Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) Water Resources Restoration Fund Application

Fill out the project application. The following information is required for all projects.

Project Information			
Project Name:			
Address/Cross Streets:			
Property Owner Name:			
City:			
County:			
Project Contact Name:			
Project Contact Phone:			
Project Contact Email:			
Land Access:	□Private Access Only		
	Partially Private Access		
	□Partially Public Access		
	Public Access		
Describe Access Location:			
Attach access map showing:			
• Public versus private land			
• Limits of disturbance			
Property lines and property ow	vnership		
• Right-of-way (ROW) and acce	ss information		
Attach project map showing:			
Project location			
• Project features			
• Watershed boundary (if applicable)			
Waterbodies to which the project drains			
• Calcareous fens (if applicable)			
• Trout streams (if applicable)			
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Impaired Waters (if applicable)			
List Project Partners:			

What is the proposed project schedule? (Estimated schedule is acceptable. Please indicate the finality of the schedule. For construction projects, at a minimum, provide the estimated bid opening date, construction start date, and length of anticipated construction.) Describe factors that may affect your anticipated schedule, if any.

Provide a project narrative informing the LMRWD how the project addresses similar goals of the LMRWD Watershed Management Plan (<u>Watershed Management Plan, Section 3: Goals,</u> Policies, and Strategies). Address how the project meets of the goals of the local governmental unit's (LGU) surface water management plan. Describe the goals, need, size, and quantifiable benefits of the project. Project narratives should include a summary of existing and proposed conditions. Reference attachments as necessary.

Funding Funding Amount Request from LMRWD \$ (up to 25% of total cost): Applicant Contribution \$ Matching Funds from applicant and additional partners Applicant Contribution \$ \$ \$ Total Project Cost (attach engineer's cost estimate if project has not yet been bid or fee estimate if your project is not a construction \$	
(up to 25% of total cost): Applicant Contribution \$ Matching Funds from applicant and additional partners Applicant Contribution \$ \$ \$ Total Project Cost (attach engineer's cost estimate if project has not yet been bid or fee \$	
Matching Funds from applicant and additional partners Applicant Contribution \$ \$ \$ Total Project Cost (attach engineer's cost estimate if project has not yet been bid or fee \$	
partners	
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Total Project Cost (attach engineer's cost\$estimate if project has not yet been bid or fee\$	
Total Project Cost (attach engineer's cost\$estimate if project has not yet been bid or fee\$	
estimate if project has not yet been bid or fee	
estimate if your project is not a construction	
project)	
Attach cost/fee estimate or bidded construction cost	
Is the project in the LMRWD Watershed Yes (If Yes, what is the name of the project	-ct
Management Plan Capital Improvement Projects as identified in the Plan?):	
Section (pg. 188/259 of the Watershed	
Management Plan)? \Box No	
Is the project included in the LGU Local □ Local Comprehensive Plan	
Comprehensive Plan or LGU Surface Water Location (Section and Page No.):	
Management Plan (SWMP)?	
SWMP Location (Section and Page No.):	
What waterbody(s) does your project drain to? Name(s):	
Are any of these waterbodies an MPCA listed	
impaired water, designated trout stream,	
calcareous fen, or Minnesota Department of	
Natural Resources (DNR)-Protected wetland? \Box_{No}	
Minnesota Impaired Waters List	
What issues does the project address within the	
LGU Local Comprehensive Plan or SWMP?	

Please fill out the rest of the application form as it applies to your project. The following sections may not apply to all projects. If a section does not apply, please select not applicable (N/A).

Stormwater Volume Control	
Does your project propose any volume control	□ Yes
or reduction of stormwater runoff?	\Box N/A
If yes, what is the estimated total volume	
reduction? (Ensure your project narrative	
describes method of stormwater volume	
control)	

Pollutant Management		
Does your project propose pollutant management to prevent impairment or protect	□ Yes □ N/A	
downstream resources?		
Is the downstream resource impaired for any pollutants? <u>Minnesota's Impaired Waters List</u>	☐ Yes (If yes, list the impairments):	
	□ No	
What are the pollutants targeted and their	Pollutant	Percent Reduction
percent reduction because of the project?		
(Ensure that your project narrative describes		
the method of pollutant management)		

Brief Description of Habitat Restoration Benefits

Please provide a brief description (500 words or less) about how the proposed project provides habitat benefit (i.e. increase in native plantings, removing dams, aquatic connectivity, riparian restoration, wetland restoration, forest management). If project is in a stream or river, please provide the <u>MPCA Stream Habitat Assessment</u> (MSHA) score (or other stream habitat assessment), documentation, and photos (if applicable).

Streambank Stabilization	
Is there a designed streambank restoration	□ Yes
component of the project?	If Yes, what is the proposed length to be stabilized:
	\square N/A
Has the current bank stability been evaluated?	□ Yes
(i.e. Bank Erosion Hazard Index, MPCA	
Channel Condition and Stability Index,	
Minnesota Department of Transportation	
(MnDOT) HydInfra, etc.) Please attach	
supporting documentation.	
What is the current streambank stability?	□ Very Stable
Please attach supporting documentation and	□ Stable
photos.	□ Moderately Unstable
	□ Unstable
Permitting	
Does the project trigger any <u>LMRWD Rules</u> (if applicable)?	□ Rule B: Erosion and Sediment Control
(ii applicable):	□ Rule C: Floodplain and Drainage Alteration
	□ Rule D: Stormwater Management:
	□ Rule F: Steep Slopes
	\Box N/A
If the project triggers LMRWD Rules,	
summarize how the project intends to comply	
with the Rules (i.e. stormwater management).	
Provide documentation of additional permitting r	
Minnesota DNR, MPCA, and/or additional city p	
provide their status (in-progress, obtained, etc.)	
Permit	Status
permits will be required; however, approval is no Permit	

Construction Plans		
Attach Construction Plan Sheets		
(if applicable)		



OPINION OF PROBABLE COST CITY OF EDEN PRAIRIE RICHARD T. ANDERSON WEST BLUFF OVERLOOK STABILIZATION PROJECT STANTEC PN: 227706585 CONCEPTUAL PLANS February 28, 2024

NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY	U	INIT PRICE	TOT	AL PRICE
BASE	BASE BID SCHEDULE						
1	MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION	LS	1	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00
2	TREE REMOVAL	EA	25	\$	575.00	\$	14,375.00
3	DOWNED TREE AND MINOR BRUSH REMOVAL ALONG PATH	LS	1	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
4	REMOVE EXISTING TIMBER STEPS	EA	9	\$	500.00	\$	4,500.00
5	REMOVE EXISTING BENCH AND FOOTINGS	EA	1	\$	750.00	\$	750.00
6	LANNON STONE STEPS (8"x8"x4')	EA	160	\$	650.00	\$	104,000.00
7	3/4" CRUSHED ROCK	TON	28	\$	100.00	\$	2,800.00
8	COMMON EXCAVATION - OFFSITE (EV)	CY	80	\$	50.00	\$	4,000.00
9	STREET SWEEPER w/PICKUP BROOM	HR	8	\$	175.00	\$	1,400.00
10	RANDOM RIPRAP CLASS II	TON	230	\$	125.00	\$	28,750.00
11	RANDOM RIPRAP CLASS III (DITCH CHECKS)	TON	13	\$	150.00	\$	1,950.00
12	BOULDER RETAINING WALL (2-4-FOOT MAX HEIGHT)	LF	320	\$	175.00	\$	56,000.00
13	TRAFFIC CONTROL	LS	1	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
14	PRETREATMENT SETTLING BASIN	LS	1	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
15	TEMPORARY ROCK CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE - MAINTAINED	LS	1	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,000.00
16	SEED AND SLOPE STABILIZATION	LS	1	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
	SUBTOTAL			\$	273,025.00		
			[30%]	COI	NTINGENCY	\$	28,000.00
	TOTAL OPINION OF P	ROBAE	BLE CONSTR	RUC	TION COST	\$	301,025.00

CONCEPTUAL CONSTRUCTION PLANS

RICHARD T. ANDERSON WEST BLUFF OVERLOOK STABILIZATION PROJECT

CLIENT



CITY OF EDEN PRAIRIE 8080 MITCHELL RD EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344 (P) - (952) 949-8536 (E) - J.GOBLIRSCH@EDENPRAIRIE.ORG CONTACT: JASON GOBLIRSCH

ENGINEER



STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES, INC. ONE CARLSON PARKWAY N SUITE 100 PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA 55447 (P) - (763) 252-6819 (E) - SARAH.HARDING@STANTEC.COM CONTACT: SARAH HARDING

FOR

HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA **FEBRUARY 2024**





CITY: EDEN PRAIRIE COUNTY: HENNEPIN



WARNING:

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CALLING FOR LOCATIONS OF ALL EXISTING UTILITIES. THEY SHALL COOPERATE WITH ALL UTILITY COMPANIES IN MAINTAINING THEIR SERVICE AND/OR RELOCATION OF LINES.

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT GOPHER STATE ONE CALL AT 651-454-0002 AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE FOR THE LOCATIONS OF ALL UNDERGROUND WIRES, CABLES, CONDUITS, PIPES, MANHOLES, VALVES OR OTHER BURIED STRUCTURES BEFORE DIGGING. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REPAIR OR REPLACE THE ABOVE WHEN DAMAGED DURING CONSTRUCTION AT NO COST TO THE OWNER. CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL TWIN CITY AREA: 651-454-0002 TOLL FREE 1-800-252-1166



NOTE:

- 1. ALL DISTURBED AREAS SHALL BE RESTORED WITH NATIVE SEED AND EROSION CONTROL BLANKET CATEGORY 25 AS SHOWN IN THE RESTORATION PLAN.
- 2. DOUBLE SILT FENCE SHALL BE INSTALLED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL TO PREVENT SEDIMENT FROM DISCHARGING INTO THE ADJACENT STREAM.
- 3. A ROCK CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE SHALL BE INSTALLED AND MAINTAINED AT THE ACCESS LOCATION.
- PROTECT CULVERT THAT RUNS UNDER THE ACCESS PATH AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL.
 REMOVE ALL EVERGREEN TREES WITHIN 10-FEET
- of EITHER SIDE OF THE EXISTING PATH (23 TOTAL).
 REMOVE ADDITIONAL TREES AS SHOWN ON THE
- CONSTRUCTION PLANS ABOVE (2 TOTAL).
- 7. PROTECT ALL TREES NOT SPECIFIED FOR REMOVAL.
- 8. REMOVE ALL DOWNED TREES AND BRANCHES WITHIN 10-FEET OF EXISTING PATH.

LEGEND

	EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR
<u> </u>	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR
	EXISTING DIRT PATH EDGE
	CONSTRUCTION LIMITS
	REMOVE TIMBER STEP
\times	REMOVE TREE
	REMOVE BENCH AND FOOTINGS







NOTE:

- 1. LANNON STONE STEPS SHALL HAVE ROUGH DIMENSIONS OF 8-INCH BY 8-INCH BY 4-FEET.
- 2. THE BOULDER RETAINING WALL SHALL BE STEPPED AND HAVE A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 2-4-FEET.
- 3. A PRETREATMENT SETTLING BASIN SHALL BE INSTALLED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SLOPE BEFORE WATER FROM THE CHANNEL DISCHARGES INTO THE CREEK.
- 4. CLASS II RIPRAP CHANNEL SHALL HAVE A 1-FOOT BOTTOM WIDTH AND 1-FOOT DEPTH WITH 2:1 SIDE SLOPES.
- CLASS III RIPRAP DITCH CHECKS SHALL BE KEYED-IN AT EVERY 10-FEET OF ELEVATION DROP IN CHANNEL.

LEGEND

901	EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR		
— 900 —	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR		
	EXISTING DIRT PATH EDGE		
	CONSTRUCTION LIMITS		
	INSTALL LANNON STONE STEP (8"X8"X4')		
	BOULDER RETAINING WALL (2-4' MAX HEIGHT)		
	PRETREATMENT SETTLING BASIN		







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ISSUE NO .:
SHEET TITLE:
GRADING AND EROSION CONTROL PLAN
SHEET NO .:

C-104

DWN BY: CHK'D BY: APP'D BY: JRP SEH SEH

CERTIFICATION:

PROJECT NO .:

ISSUE DATE:

CERTIFICATION: I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PUR SPECIFICATION, OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER WAY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE DWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESSION

227706585

2/28/2024

Attachment 2—Funding Request Evaluation

Funding Request Evaluation

LMRWD continues to receive inquiries from municipalities and other partners for project funding support. Historically, because the requests were infrequent and appeared to compete with other requests or priorities, the decision to provide financial assistance was not supported by documented criteria nor scoring. Recently, with the request from the City of Carver for the levee project, Young Environmental developed the following scoring system, which was applied to this request.

The goal of the scoring system is to establish impartial and fair evaluations for all District funding requests based on the project's alignment with the goals, policies, and strategies of the LMRWD Watershed Management Plan. Projects are scored on nine different metrics, detailed below, for a possible 82 points.

- 1. Project Type (Maximum 24 points): The Project Type Score considers whether a proposed project is tributary to an impaired waterway, if it solves an issue previously identified by the community or LMRWD plans, and whether the project is explicitly included in the community or LMRWD plans. Points are awarded based on how well the project aligns with the community or LMRWD plans.
- 2. Plan Goals (Maximum 9 points): The Plan Goals Score gives credit depending on how well-aligned a proposed project is with the goals of the LMRWD Watershed Plan. Projects are assigned a score of 0 through 9 based on how many of the LMRD's goals are addressed.
- **3. Water Capture (Maximum 7 points):** The Water Capture Score gives credit to projects that meet or exceed the standards for stormwater runoff volume management. Projects are assigned a score of 0 to 7 based on the amount of volume reduction that the proposed project provides.
- 4. Pollutant Management (Maximum 7 points): The Pollutant Management Score gives credit to projects that meet or exceed the amount of water quality treatment provided beyond what is required for regulatory purposes. Projects without a pollutant reduction component will receive a score of 0, whereas those that reduce pollutant loading to downstream resources can receive a score of up to 7.
- **5.** Habitat Restoration (Maximum 7 points): The Habitat Restoration Score gives credit to projects that provide habitat benefits. Projects with no habitat benefit receive a score of 0. Projects likely to achieve habitat benefits as a secondary project benefit receive a score of 3. Projects that include a replacement of the existing habitat with an improved habitat receive a score of 5. Projects that include habitat creation or enhancement as the primary purpose of the project receive a score of 7.

- 6. Bank Stabilization (Maximum 7 points): The Bank Stabilization Score gives credit to projects that restore or stabilize degraded gullies, streambanks or shorelines. A project is assigned a bank stabilization score based on the length of the gully, streambank, or shoreline restored or stabilized and the level of existing degradation. This metric is only applied to projects with a designed restoration component (versus indirect benefits). Projects without a designed bank or shoreline restoration component are assigned a score of 0.
- 7. Watershed Benefits (Maximum 7 points): The Watershed Benefits Score gives credit to projects that provide benefits beyond the immediate site location. Scores are based on where the proposed project is located within the watershed, giving greater weight to those near headwaters.
- 8. Partnership Opportunities (Maximum 7 points): The Partnership Opportunity Score gives credit to projects that allow the LMRWD to partner with other organizations. The LMRWD is interested in being a project partner with its member communities. A project receives the maximum score of 7 if one or more of the partners is a financial contributor to the project.
- **9.** Public Education (Maximum 7 points): The Public Education Score gives credit to projects that spread awareness of the LMRWD's projects and their benefits to the public. The score is based on the accessibility of the final project, giving the greatest weight to those on public lands with public access.

Using the total points scored, projects fit in one of four priority categories (e.g., low, low-to-moderate, moderate-to-high, high), as shown in Table 1.

Project Score	Priority	Recommended Action
0–19	Low	Do not recommend funding requests at this time; additional information may be needed to evaluate the potential project more fully.
20–40	Low-to-Moderate	Work with project sponsors to incorporate more District goals, policies, or strategies.
41–61	Moderate-to-High	Consider partial funding requests, with funding amount and design components that align with District priorities.
62–82	High	Recommend full funding request as presented.

Table 1. LMRWD Funding Request Scoring Priority