



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting  
Wednesday, May 15, 2024

### Agenda Item

**Item 5. E. - Reimburse Prior Lake High School for 2024 educator mini-grant**

### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### Summary

At the March 20, 2024, meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers, the Board approved an educator mini grant of \$500 for the Prior Lake High School.

The Grant was to educate students on stream ecology, erosion, dynamics, by firsthand observation of the Credit River, a tributary to the Minnesota River. Teacher Margaret Ekrem has provided the LMRWD with a report project, that includes receipts and pictures. The Board should authorize reimbursement to Prior Lake High School as requested in the final report.

### Attachments

Educator mini-grant application  
March 20, 2024 meeting minutes excerpt  
Educator Mini-grant agreement  
Prior Lake High School final report with receipts and pictures

### Recommended Action

Motion to authorize reimbursement of Educator Mini Grant for Prior Lake High School



# 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

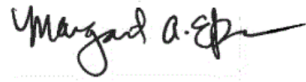
-3 Stream Dip Nets with Net Guard (\$66.85 each) >>> \$200.55

-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).

**President Barisonzi made a motion to authorize the personnel committee, with the support of the Administrator to conduct interviews for the applicants for Legal Counsel including the following steps; review applicants and proposed rubric, revise rubric as necessary, evaluate the existing candidates and choose those to be interviewed, draft question for candidates (same questions for all candidates) send questions and request interview for all candidates interview candidates and make recommendations to the Board. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion [the audio does not indicate this motion was seconded; President Barisonzi responded that Manager Kuplic seconded the motion when asked by the Administrator]**

Manager Kuplic thought it would be beneficial to include Ms. Schall Young when considering which legal counsel to choose.

Ms. Schall Young said that the relationship between the District Engineer and Legal Counsel is a critical relationship, especially when it comes to implementation of the permitting program. It is key that the relationship has confidence and trust. President Barisonzi asked if Manager Kuplic would like to add “with the support of the District Engineer” to the motion. Manager Kuplic said that she would like to add that to the motion. President Barisonzi said he would accent that as a friendly amendment.

**Upon a vote being taken the motion carried.**

#### **C. Education & Outreach**

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

**Manager Kuplic made a motion to table item 7.C. -LMRWD Social Media Content and Strategy. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

**Manager Salvato made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Citizen Advisory Committee and award educator min-grant as follows: Integrated Arts Academy - \$475; Friends of the Mississippi – Environmental Stewardship Institute - \$500; Shakopee Area Catholic Schools - \$500; Prior Lake High School - \$500; and Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends - \$500. Manager Amundson seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **D. Proposed Partnering with the MN River Collaborative on the Water Storage Study**

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

The Board discussed the project overall and the proposed recommendation by staff. President Barisonzi noted there were no financial commitments in the motion being considered.

**Manager Salvato made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-05 – Developing a Scope of Study to Identify Areas of the Minnesota River Basin Suitable for Upland Storage. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

~~**E. LMRWD Communication Policy**~~ – This item was removed from the agenda.

#### **E. Evaluation of Administrative Services**

President Barisonzi introduced this item. He explained that he and Manager Salvato prepared a memo that has been shared with the Board. He noted that this is not an evaluation of the performance of the current administrator but is looking to the future to make sure the LMRWD has the capacity to accomplish the goals of the LMRWD.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
2024 Educator Mini-Grant Program  
Cost Share Grant Agreement

This grant agreement made this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024 is between the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, a Minnesota Watershed District ("LMRWD") a public body with purposes and powers set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D, and Maggie Ekrem, ("GRANTEE"), a teacher at Prior Lake High School. The GRANTEE's address is Prior Lake High School, 7575 150<sup>th</sup> St. W, Savage MN 55378.

1. Scope of Work. GRANTEE will use funds for the purposes identified in the Educator Mini-Grant Program Application, attached to this Agreement as Exhibit 1.
2. Grant Agreement Period. The GRANTEE will have until the end of the current calendar year to complete the project.
3. Reimbursement. The GRANTEE may request reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$500. At the time reimbursement is requested, GRANTEE will provide the LMRWD a reimbursement and reporting request form, receipts for all direct purchases, and project photos.
4. Indemnification. The LMRWD will be held harmless against all liability and loss in connection with the Project.
5. Notices. Any notice or demand, authorized or required under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the other party as follows:

To LMRWD:

Administrator  
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District  
112 East Fifth Street, Suite 102 Chaska, MN 55318

To GRANTEE:

Maggie Ekrem  
Prior Lake High School  
7575 150<sup>th</sup> St. W  
Savage MN 55378

The parties agreeing to be signed as follows:

GRANTEE:

By: Margaret G. Ekrem

Its: Teacher Grant Recipient

Date: 3/25/24

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

By: [Signature]

Its: President

Date: 4-17-24



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Educator Mini-Grant Program Reimbursement and Reporting Request Form

Name of School/Organization: Prior Lake High School

First Name: Maggie Last Name: Ekrem

Email: mekrem@plsas.org Phone: 952-226-9723

Address of School/Organization

Street Address: 7575 157<sup>th</sup> St. W

Address line 2:

City: Savage State: MN Zip Code: 55378

When and where did the activity/project take place? Credit River in Savage, MN  
on Thurs, April 18<sup>th</sup>

Describe how your activity or project engaged participants?

Participants were in charge of catching macro-invertebrates with the nets and using magnifying glasses and the Macroinvertebrate Identification Guide to determine which macroinvertebrates were caught. The different species function as indicators to determine how healthy or polluted the stream was. Other tests were used to pinpoint the specifics of the stream and determine its health.

Total number of participants: 27

List your relevant expenses:

see attached.

Refund amount (cannot be more than the original award amount):

\$

Please provide information for the check recipient:

First Name: ~~Prior Lake High School~~ c/o Becky Last Name: Pint

Street Address: 7575 157th St. W

Address line 2:

City: Savage State: MN Zip Code: 55378

To complete the reimbursement process, please submit the following items via email to [admin@lowermnriverwd.org](mailto:admin@lowermnriverwd.org):

- 1) Completed reimbursement form.
- 2) Receipts for your purchases matching the refund amount requested.
- 3) Photos of your activity or project in action. Please include the photographer's name for photo credit.



# INVOICE



*World-Class Support for Science & Math*

**Please Remit Payment To:**

Carolina Biological Supply Company  
PO Box 60232  
Charlotte, NC 28260-0232

Invoice Number	52537724 RI	P O Number	31132901
Invoice Date	04/12/24	Shipping Terms	FOB: SHIPPING POINT
Sales Order Number	31132901 WB	<b>IMPORTANT</b> <i>Please Refer to the Invoice Number on All Payments</i>	
Sales Order Date	04/11/24	Please Pay This Amount:	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
Payment Terms	CREDIT CARD PAYMENT		

**Bill To: 116019**

BECKY PINT  
4540 TOWER ST SE  
PRIOR LAKE MN 55372  
UNITED STATES

**Ship To: 2891559**

MAGGIE EKREM  
MAGGIE EKREM  
PRIOR LAKE HIGH SCHOOL  
7575 150TH ST W  
SAVAGE MN 55378-2131

Line #	Catalog #	Description	Shipped	Backordered	U / M	Unit Price	Extended Price
1	GEO9888	STREAM TABLE KIT, INDIVIDUAL	2		EA	118.50	237.00
2	972303C	STC-SI, LAND & WATER, 3RD	1		EA	10.95	10.95
3	651344A	16 X 19IN AQUATIC NET W/GUARD	3		EA	66.85	200.55
4	652007	DICHOTOMOUS IDENTIFICATION KEY	1		EA	49.00	49.00
6	PROMO DIS	PROMOTIONAL DISCOUNT	1		EA	48.65-	48.65-

CREDIT CARD  
ORDER

*Please send all other correspondence to:*

Carolina Biological Supply Company  
2700 York Road, Burlington, NC 27215-3398  
Phone: (800) 334-5551 • Fax: (800) 222-7112

If you have a concern regarding your invoice,  
please contact a Customer Service Representative  
at (800) 334-5551 within 3 days of receipt.

*We Truly Appreciate Your Business.  
Thank you!*

Sub Total	448.85
Freight & Handling	77.25
Sales Tax	
Invoice Total	526.10
Less Payments	(526.10)
Amount Due	<b>\$ 0.00</b>





