



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 9. B. – 2024 Legislative Activities Update

Prepared By

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Summary

This last week of the session will be spent in conference committees. We will have to wait and see what survives the conference committee process.

The list of priorities for the LMRWD this session follow:

- **Voluntary Certification with Limited Liability for Commercial Winter Maintenance Applicators and other legislation to reduce salt entering the natural environment**
The limited liability provisions did not make it through this session. The State will be studying state agency salt purchases. The goal will be to reduce the amount of salt purchased in 2025 by 25% by 2030. This provision was in both the House and Senate version of the Omnibus Environment Finance Bill
- **Invasive Carp Species**
The Senate Omnibus Environment Finance Bill includes funding for preventing and managing invasive carp, including a grant to the University of Minnesota to how to optimize management to reduce invasive carp. \$12,000,000 from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund to protect the Mississippi River from invasive carp by evaluating and construction a structural deterrent at Lock and Dam No. 5.
- **Support funding for statewide River Watch Programs**
\$50,000 to Friends of the Minnesota Valley is included in the Senate version of Legacy Finance Bill. The house has agreed to leave this provision in the bill during conference committee.
- **Support Native Fish Protection**
Legislation defining native rough fish was introduced and includes provisions to deny licenses for native rough fish for commercial harvesting in a natural environment but would allow aquaculture.
- **Support Water Storage Initiatives**
No new legislation was introduced this year for water storage.
- **Support legislative requests of partners of the LMRWD**
 - **Carver Levee Improvement Project**
 - **Shakopee Riverbank stabilization**
 - **Merriam Junction Regional Trail**Legislation was introduced for each of the above activities, but most never had hearings at the committee level.

- **Lower Minnesota River Landfill Remediation Projects**

No new legislation was introduced this year that impacted any of the landfills in the LMRWD.

Attachments

No attachments

Recommended Action

No action recommended