



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

September 2018 Administrator report

From: Linda Loomis, Administrator

To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, work continues on the following District projects and issues:

### **Metro-area Watershed Based Funding Pilot Program**

Projects have been submitted to BWSR and approved. LMRWD staff is working with partners to develop work plans and enter them into BWSR's elink system. The District was just informed September 11th that elink is ready for us to begin adding project work plans. Grant amounts allocated to the LMRWD are as follows:

COUNTY	LGU	PROJECT	GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED
Scott	Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	Prior Lake Outlet Channel Realignment/Wetland restoration	\$71,570
Scott	Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	Schroeder Acres Park/Eagle Creek sub-watershed stormwater study	\$60,000
Scott	Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	Targeted BMP for downtown Shakopee area	\$25,000
Carver	Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	East Chaska Creek Restoration Project	\$25,472
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$182,042</b>

In Hennepin County the Watershed Districts within the Minnesota River Watershed pooled allocations to use for a project to reduce Chlorides. The County also chose to allocate funds to a county-wide chloride project. A group from Hennepin formed a work group that met on September 7th to begin planning what that project would look like.

BWSR is holding a series of stakeholder meetings to get feedback on the Pilot Program and how they should allocate Clean Water Funds throughout the Metro-area in the future. Watershed District Administrators met ahead of the BWSR meeting to share ideas for how funds should be allocated. BWSR was meeting with stakeholder in four separate groups of LGUs (Local Governmental Units); cities and townships; Watershed Districts; joint powers Water Management Organizations and Counties and SWCD (Soil & Water Conservation Districts). I attended the Watershed District meeting on September 11th. BWSR intendeds to form a smaller group, with representation from each of the stakeholder groups. The smaller group will work with BWSR to develop a plan for future allocation of funds.

### **LMRWD Cost Share at 727 7th Street Chaska, MN**

At the March 2018 Board meeting the Board approved a cost share project at the above address. The project was approved conditioned on the District placing a sign on the rain garden. The project is complete and reimbursement to the homeowner in the amount of \$2,338.48 has been requested. I am working with the Carver SWCD to get an educational sign to be placed at the rain garden. The owner has already placed a Pollinator Cafe sign in the garden. The sign that will be placed is attached.

### **Manager Apportionment**

At the August meeting the Managers had questioned about how it is determined how many managers a county has to appoint. This question was raised after Managers saw the apportionment of the levy between the counties and Scott County exceeded Hennepin County for the first time in the history of the District.

I raised the question with legal counsel for the LMRWD, John Kolb. His response is attached. Basically the Counties would need to petition the Board of Water and Soil Resources

### **MAWD membership**

At the August Board meeting Managers asked if there are watershed districts in the state of Minnesota that are not members of MAWD. There are three small districts that have never been members. According to MAWD Executive Director, Emily Javens, the total amount of dues that these three districts would pay to become members of MAWD is a total of \$2,175. In total there are 42 members of MAWD. The Managers also asked if I was aware of any watershed districts that have chosen to leave MAWD and Ms. Javens has said that so far none have chosen to leave.

### **USACE Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project**

The LMRWD received notification that the Corp of Engineers has planned a habitat enhancement project for the floodplain in the LMRWD. Della Young and I are scheduled to meet with representatives from the Corp about this project on Wednesday, September 19th. Information about the project is attached

### **Draft Lower Minnesota River Watershed TMDLs - Part 1 0 Southern and Western Watersheds**

The LMRWD received the draft *Lower Minnesota River Watershed TMDLs report - Part 1 Southern and Western Watersheds*. Staff will be reviewing the document and providing comments.

### **Sale of Building**

The building where the LMRWD rents office space has been sold. The District does not have a lease and the previous owner let us continue on a month to month basis. I have not yet spoken to the new property owner.

### **Upcoming meetings/events**

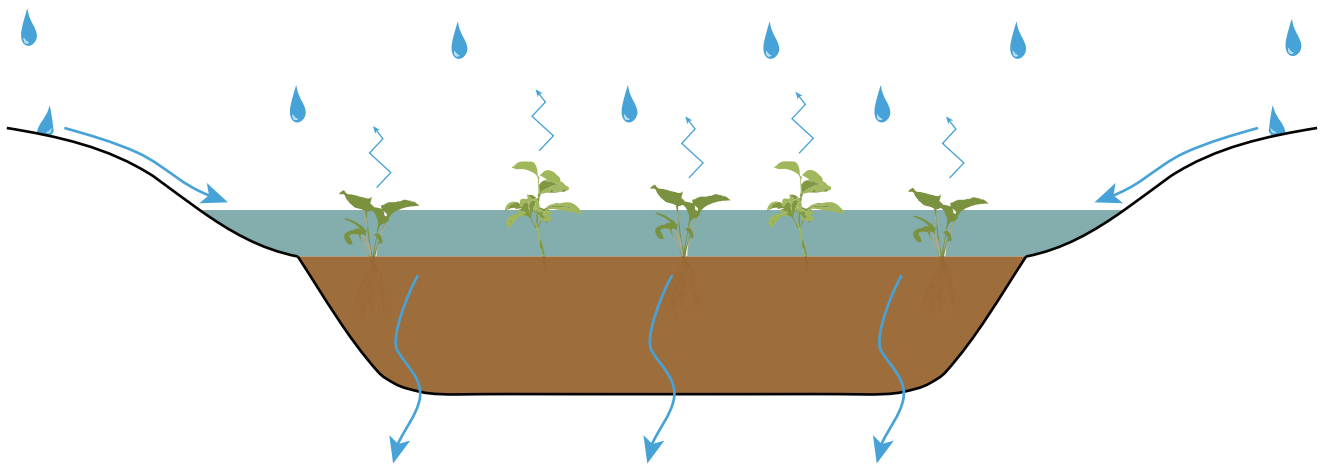
- [Metro MAWD](#) - Thursday, September 20, 2018, 2:00pm-4:00pm, walking tour starting at Surly Brewing
- 2018 Scott WMO & Scott SWCD Fall Tour - Monday, September 24th 3:30 pm to 7:00pm, Scott County Highway Department
- [Metro Children's Water Festival](#) - Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 8:00am to 3:00pm, MN State Fair Grounds
- [Pollinator Summit 2018](#) - Friday, October 12, 2018, 9:00am to 4:30pm, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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- [Minnesota Water Resource Conference](#) - Tuesday, October 16 - Wednesday, October 17, 2018; River Centre, St. Paul
- BWSR Academy - October 29 to October 31, Breezy Point Conference Center
- [Climate Adaption Conference](#) - November 14, 2018, University of Minnesota, Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN
- MAWD 2018 Annual Conference November 29 to December 1, 2018; Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN
- USACE River Resource Forum - December 2018, US Fish & Wildlife Center, Bloomington, MN

# RAIN GARDEN



“CLEANING STORMWATER FOR CARVER COUNTY”

A rain garden is a shallow flat depression in the ground that allows stormwater to slowly infiltrate into the soil. Native plants, mulch, and soil in the rain garden naturally remove pollutants contained in the stormwater. Rain gardens receive stormwater from impervious (hard) surfaces such as rooftops, sidewalks, driveways and patios, reducing the amount of stormwater (and pollutants they carry with) from entering our lakes, creeks and the Minnesota River.



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
[lowermnriverwd.org](http://lowermnriverwd.org)





Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>

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**RE: 25226-0001: Managers apportionment**

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**John Kolb** <JKolb@rinkenoonan.com>  
To: Linda Loomis <naiadconsulting@gmail.com>  
Cc: Della Young <della@youngecg.com>

Fri, Aug 17, 2018 at 10:38 AM

Linda,

Manager positions can be reapportioned.

After ten years from the establishment of the watershed district, the county board of commissioners of a county affected by the watershed district may petition the board to redistribute the managers. After holding a public hearing on redistributing the managers, the board may redistribute the managers among the counties affected by the watershed district if the redistribution is in accordance with the policy and purposes of the watershed law. A petition for the redistribution of managers may not be filed with the board more often than once in ten years.

Tax base and land area are the primary factors upon which managers are distributed. There may be justification based on the change in tax base (levy apportionment). In any event, the request must come from the county(ies).

JCK

**John C. Kolb**

Attorney

**RINKE NOONAN**

Suite 300, US Bank Plaza

P.O. Box 1497

St. Cloud, MN 56302

(320) 656-3503 Direct

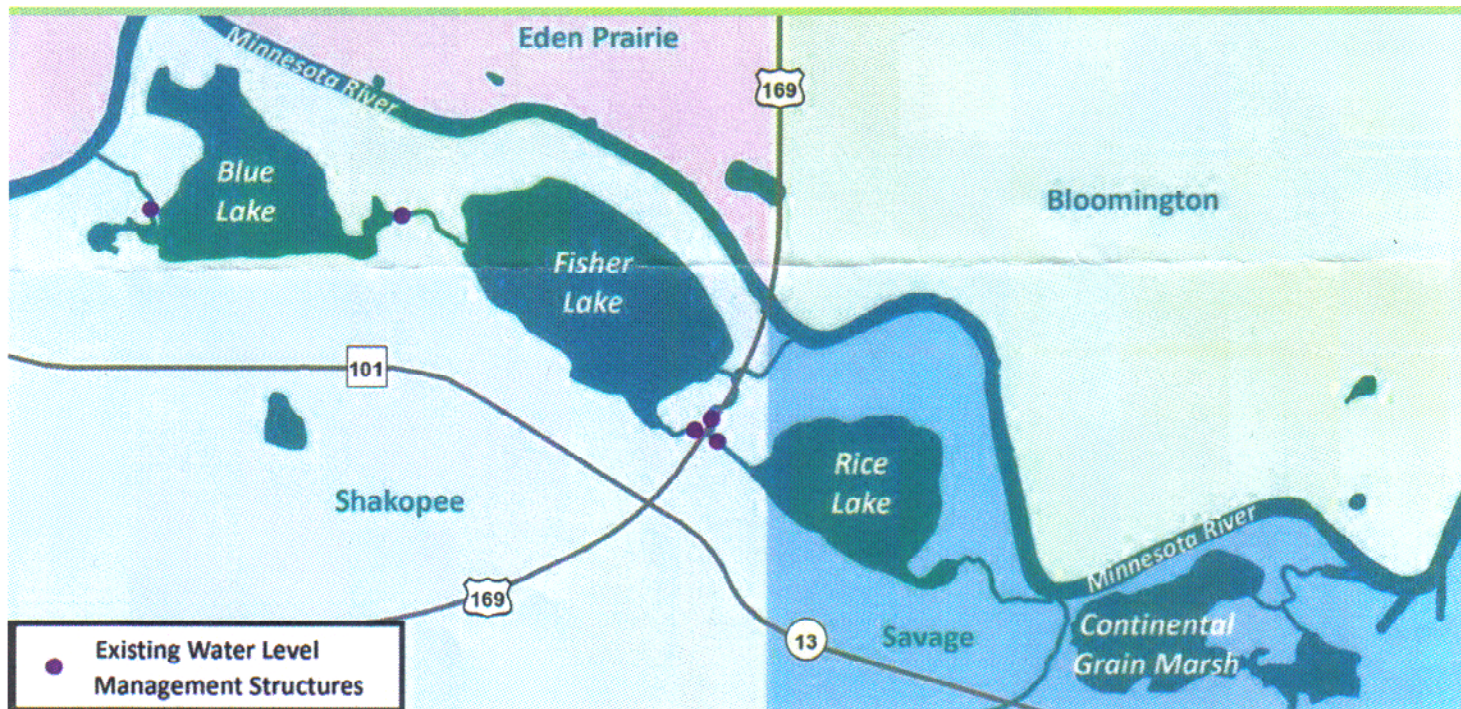
(320) 656-3500 Fax

[website](#) | [email](#) | [bio](#) | [map](#)

# BASS PONDS, MARSH & WETLAND HABITAT REHABILITATION & ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

## Project Summary

The Army Corps of Engineers is studying the feasibility of constructing habitat enhancement features in the Bass Ponds, Marsh & Wetland area as part of the Corps of Engineers' Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program. The project would be located within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The study area is between Minnesota River miles 15 and 21.



**775 ACRES** | **3 LAKES** | **1 MARSH**

**THE PROBLEM** ▶ Changes in climate and land use have altered the hydrology of the study area. Currently the lakes, wetlands and marshes experience prolonged full pool conditions with depths of 3-to-4 feet throughout the year. The lack of seasonal variability in water levels has resulted in a degraded habitat in the study area by reducing wetland habitat quality, aquatic plant diversity and the availability of quality habitat for migratory waterbirds and waterfowl.

## CURRENT OBJECTIVES FOR HABITAT RESTORATION

- 1**  Create quality feeding and resting habitat for waterfowl
- 2**  Increase diversity and quantity of emergent plants
- 3**  Increase diversity and quantity of submergent plants

## Project Status

Potential project features under consideration include water level management measures such as water control structures, rock-lined channels, earthen plugs, and dredged channels. These features would improve the FWS's capacity to manage water levels within the lakes. With this project, the FWS would be able to conduct full or partial drawdowns periodically, exposing some or all of the lakebeds to stimulate the germination and growth of aquatic plants. Improving the density and diversity of aquatic plants within the waterbodies will benefit resident and migratory waterbirds and waterfowl throughout the warmer months by providing high quality habitat for nesting and brooding, and fall feeding and resting during the annual migration. The costs of the project would be 100 percent federal.

QUESTIONS OR  
FEEDBACK CONTACT:

**Tom Novak**, Program Manager  
Tom.Novak@usace.army.mil

**Kelli Phillips**, Project Manager  
Kelli.A.Phillips@usace.army.mil