



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

### Agenda Item

#### Item 6. D. - 2019 Legislative Action

#### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### Summary

Lisa Frenette, LMRWD lobbyist, is working on the issues the Board designated as important to the LMRWD. On February 6th, she and I met with Representative Rick Hansen, who indicated that he would author legislation on behalf of the LMRWD. We are currently waiting for legislation to be drafted that will ask for \$250,000 for the LMRWD over the next 5 biennia. Since state budgets are set every two years, the LMRWD will have to go back each biennium to ensure continued funding.

Jake Hamlin, CHS Lobbyist, suggested that the LMRWD seek an appropriation from the Port Development Assistance Program (PDAP) rather than seek funding from the general appropriations. Mr. Hamlin feels this would be more cost effective. After speaking to Ms. Frenette, we decided that we would continue to work with Representative Hansen on a direct appropriation in this biennium and then seek Representative Hansen's thoughts on seeking an appropriation under the PDAP. We also intend to speak with Patrick Phenow, who heads MNDOT's Port and Waterways Division.

Our concern with proceeding with the PDAP approach is that this is a competitive grant program. The Legislature funds the Program every biennium, however the LMRWD would need to submit a grant proposal, which may or may not be funded. The same could happen when seeking a direct appropriation through the legislature. Ms. Frenette and I will keep the apprised of what we learn.

We also spoke with Representative Hansen about our concern with the Freeway Landfill. The Freeway Landfill is a 150 acres site located in Burnsville, just southwest of I-35W and the Minnesota River. In the 1980s the site was designated as an EPA Superfund site. Efforts have been underway to clean up the site ever since. Current dewatering at Kraemer Mining keeps the level of groundwater in the area artificially below the lowest level of the landfill, thus protecting groundwater from pollution. Once mining operations at Kraemer cease, groundwater levels are expected to increase to normal levels and normal groundwater flow will carry pollution from the landfill to the Minnesota River. More information about the landfill and the types of pollution that threatens the river can be found at the [MPCA](#).

#### Attachments

No attachments

#### Recommended Action

No action recommended