



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday March 20, 2019

### Agenda Item

#### Item 5. A. - 2019 Metro Children's Water Festival.

#### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### Summary

The 2019 Metro Children's Water Festival has requested LMRWD support. The LMRWD has supported this event for more than five years. In 2018, the LMRWD provided \$1,650 to the Festival to pay for transportation for 6 classrooms. The cost for transportation in 2019 is the same as 2018. This is a very popular event. For years more classrooms registered than could be accommodated and there is a waiting list every year to attend. In 2017, the Festival was expanded to allow twice as many students to attend.

The LMRWD received a request from the Metro Children's Water Festival to fund the 2019 Festival. The Metro Children's Water Festival is an event held in September of each year. 2019 will be the 21st year for this event and is sponsored by the Metro Conservation Districts. The Event is held at the State Fairgrounds and offers Metro Area fourth and fifth grade Students an opportunity to come to the daylong event and interactively learn about water. Over 30 different educational stations are available for students to visit. More information can be found on the Metro Children's Water Festival [website](#).

The LMRWD has financially supported this event for the past three years and has included \$1,650 in its 2018 budget to support this event again this year. Support offered in the past has been to sponsor schools. The cost per classroom and the LMRWD sponsorship amount over the course of the past 5 years follows:

2019	(\$275 per class)
2018	\$1,650 (\$275 per class) 6 classrooms
2017	\$1,650 (\$275 per class) 6 classrooms
2016	\$1,500 (\$250 per class) 6 classrooms
2015	\$1,400 (\$250 per class) 6 classrooms
2014	\$1,500 (\$350 per class) 4 classrooms

Scott County SWCD hosts its own event in September called [Outdoor Education Day](#). 2018 was the 33rd year for the Scott County event. 1,070 student from 13 Scott County Schools attended.

#### Attachments

Communication from Metro Children's Water Festival

#### Recommended Action

Motion to authorize expenditure to sponsor 2019 Metro Children's Water Festival

February 2019

Dear Linda Lumis and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District,

We are kicking off the fund-raising campaign for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual **Metro Area Children's Water Festival (CWF)**. The past two years we've grown the festival and are now able to accommodate over 1700 students each year.

### **What is the Children's Water Festival?**

The festival is an interactive, hands-on, educational outreach program. The festival educates, motivates and challenges children to understand, conserve and protect water resources. It is one of the premier K12 education events in the metro area and helps teachers achieve state and school district science standards for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The festival is one of the largest education collaborations in the metro area and has been increasing awareness of water issues and solutions in students and adults for 22 years. Since it began in 1998 over 26,100 and 1003 teachers have attended.

### **Why sponsor the Children's Water Festival?**

- It provides free education on water resources to 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the metro area.
- It inspires students to learn more about water resources and protect clean water for future generations.
- It provides science enrichment that helps teachers meet state education standards.
- It creates enthusiasm and awareness around one of our most precious resources.
- Be recognized as a business or entity that supports water and environmental learning. Sponsors are recognized at the festival, in the festival booklet, on [www.metrocwf.org](http://www.metrocwf.org), through press releases and articles, and receive a certificate of sponsorship. We can provide the CWF logo to put on your website.

### **How will funds be used?**

The festival is provided free to students. Sponsored funds cover rental charges for the State Fair Grounds where its hosted, presenter fees the Science Museum's water show which every student sees, food & beverages for volunteers and presenters, and materials for the Water Arcade. Sponsorship also covers some busing costs for schools that cannot afford transportation. Most presenters, organizers and the planning committee members are from public and private agencies that volunteer their time and expertise.

### **How to sponsor**

Fill out and return the enclosed sponsor form. Thank you for supporting this event that gives so much to the children of Minnesota and identifies the metro area as a national leader in environmental stewardship.

Learn more at [www.metrocwf.org](http://www.metrocwf.org)

Thank you,

Madeline Seveland

Metro Children's Water Festival Chair

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