LMRSWMO LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2017 NEWSLETTER

MISSION: Water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and integrity through member city collaboration and partnerships with other water management organizations with member city citizen support and participation.

ALUMINUM SULFATE TREATMENTS TO IMPROVE LAKE WATER QUALITY

The LMRWMO was awarded funding from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment for aluminum sulfate treatments on Sunfish Lake and Lake Augusta. This project will address the cause of the water quality

problems in these lakes which is excess phosphorus causing algae growth.

This project was identified through a multi-year study addressing water quality and pollution sources. The study

showed that Lake Augusta and Sunfish Lake have similar depth and watersheds and identified the source of phosphorus, which is the pollutant in the lakes causing algae blooms. Phosphorus can come from a variety of sources but monitoring and modeling results indicated that the majority, 87% Lake Augusta and 90% for Sunfish Lake, comes from the sediments at the bottom of the lake or "internal loading."

The solution for this type of internal phosphorus is an application of aluminum sulfate (alum) into the lake. This non-toxic material is commonly used to treat and clarify drinking water and has the same effect on a lake. The alum binds

> with phosphorus particles in the water and makes them unusable for plants, thereby reducing the production of algae in the lake

> The alum treatment is scheduled for the spring of 2017

and will occur over two or three days at each lake. The alum is injected into the lake several feet below the water surface as it settles to the bottom of the lake it interacts with and binds up the phosphorus in a form that is unusable to grow algae. Lake transparency is expected to improve dramatically with the alum treatments with noticable results in just a few hours.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION FACTS:

 WMOs are funded by the cities within their jurisdiction. WMOs are governed by a citizen board appointed by the member cities. The WMO was formed in 1985 after the Metro Surface Water Mgmt. Act was passed.

BECOME A CITIZEN WATER QUALITY MONITOR

Citizen involvement is vital to ensuring the lasting health of Minnesota's waters and volunteers are needed to monitor the lakes within the LMRWMO.

Monitoring involves Secchi disk measurements to measure transparency of the water as well as measurements of phosphorus and chlorophyll in a lake. These give an indication of how excess nutrients in the lake are causing algae growth and making lakes unusable.

If you would like to learn how to become a water monitor, contact the LMRWMO administrator.

> (651) 480-7777 joe.barten@co.dakota.mn.us



Using a Secchi Disk to measure water clarity



Alum treatment equipment on Lake Riley in Eden Prairie

EVERY HOME IS WATERFRONT PROPERTY CLEAN WATER STARTS AT HOME

The Landscaping for Clean Water program makes it easy for residents of the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization to turn their yards into an attractive force for clean water rather than a contributor to water pollution. Each of us has the opportunity to create a landscape on our property which will benefit our lakes, streams, and wetlands by soaking water into the ground, providing pollinator habitat, and stabilizing eroded slopes and shorelines. Through this program, we give you the tools and knowledge to transform your yard for the better. Register today to attend an introductory Landscaping for Clean Water workshop to learn about low-maintenance native gardens, raingardens, and native shoreline planting projects.

The workshop provides an overview of water quality challenges in Dakota County and provides beautiful and practical ways to transform conventional urban yards into beautiful and beneficial landscapes. You will also learn about \$250 grants available to participants. After the introductory workshop, you can sign up for a \$25



Example of a Residential Raingarden

Landscaping for Clean Water Design workshop where you will work with professionals to design a project specific to your property.

Workshops are held annually from March to June and attendance at the introductory workshop is free. Register or find out more by calling (651) 480-7777 or visiting *www.dakotacountyswcd.org*

ABOUT THE WATERSHED

The Lower Mississippi River Watershed, located in northern Dakota County and southern Ramsey County, covers 35,548 acres and includes Inver Grove Heights, St. Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, and Sunfish Lake. The LMRWMO was established by a Joint Powers Agreement to meet the requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982.

The premise of the Surface Water Management Act is that rain and stormwater runoff are not contained within municipal boundaries. Rain that falls in one community may run through another causing flooding, erosion, or the degradation of water quality downstream. The LMRWMO addresses intercommunity stormwater issues and ensures that all stormwater projects and studies follow accepted engineering standards. The costs incurred are allocated proportionately to member cities. Other efforts of the LMRWMO include protection of surface waters, water monitoring, and public education.

The public is welcome to attend LMRWMO board meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. (No meetings typically held in January or July.) Meetings are located at the member city halls. For upcoming meeting information, contact your Board of Managers representative or visit: *www.dakotaswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo//agendas.html*

DID YOU KNOW?

The LMRWMO Board of Managers is made up of citizen appointees who set the budget and direction of the organization. Two citizens from each of the seven cities below make up the LMRWMO Board.

- Inver Grove Heights
 - Lilydale
- Mendota Heights
- Sunfish Lake
- South St. Paul
 - St. Paul
- West St. Paul

2017 BUDGET

The LMRWMO is funded through dues from its member cities based on area within the watershed and valuation of that area. Grant assistance is also provided through partnerships entities to fulfill the mission of the LMRWMO. See below for more detail.



The Board of Managers is comprised of two appointed representatives from each member city.

2017 LMRWMO Representatives:

Sharon Lencowski (Board Chair) - Inver Grove Heights Scott Deyo (Vice Chair) - West St. Paul Mary Jeanne Schneeman (Sec/Tres) - Mendota Heights

Jill Smith (Alternate) - Mendota Heights Max Wallin (Member) - South St. Paul Chris Hartzell (Alternate) - South St. Paul Tom Sutton (Member) - Lilydale Richard Williams (Alternate) - Sunfish Lake Administrator - Joe Barten (651) 480-7777

Contact the Administrator if you are interested in serving on the LMRWMO Board of Managers