LMRWMO

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2019 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.*

Stormwater Improvements & Contaminated Sediment Removal at Thompson Lake

The LMRWMO was awarded $576,000 in funding from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment for stormwater improvements at Thompson County Park in West St. Paul. This project will leverage over $1.3M in County and $144,000 in local funding to make the project possible.

The project inolves two phases. Phase one will remove Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contaminated sediment from now-banned coal tar based driveway sealants. This has accumulated from decades of untreated stormwater entering the lake. PAHs are a group of semi-volatile organic compounds some of which are considered carcinogenic (i.e. cancer causing).

Crews install the underground stormwater treatment chamber.

Phase two involves the installation of three types of stormwater treatment measures to remove pollutants (phosphorus, sediment, chloride, heavy metals, and others) which are sent to the lake from the 180 acre watershed. The first type of treatment is large underground chambers (shown below) which will remove trash and large sediment from the stormwater. The next is a stormwater pond forebay to allow pollutants to settle out in the water column. The third is a restored stormwater treatment wetland to even further remove and stop pollutants from reaching Thompson Lake. The project will reduce sediment entering Thompson Lake by up to 12.27 tons per year and total phosphorus by 43 pounds per year.

The project is the result of nearly a decade of studies, analysis, and gathering the necessary funding and will be completed in the spring of 2019.

Become A Citizen Water Quality Monitor!

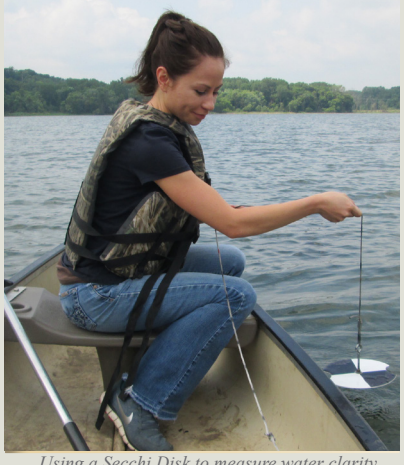
Help us gather the vital data to inform our lake and stream management decisions and ensure the lasting health of the LMRWMO lakes and streams.

Monitoring typically 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 below:

(651) 480-7777

joe.barten@co.dakota.mn.us



Using a Secchi Disk to measure water clarity

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.*

Beautify Your Yard, Clean Stormwater, & Provide Pollinator Habitat

$250 Grants Available!

The Landscaping for Clean Water program makes it easy for residents of the LMRWMO to turn their yards into an attractive force for clean water. 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 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 Landscaping for Clean Water Design workshop where you will work with professionals to design a project specific to your property.

Example of a Residential Raingarden

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 Management Organziation, located in northern Dakota County and southern Ramsey County, covers 55.8 square miles 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?

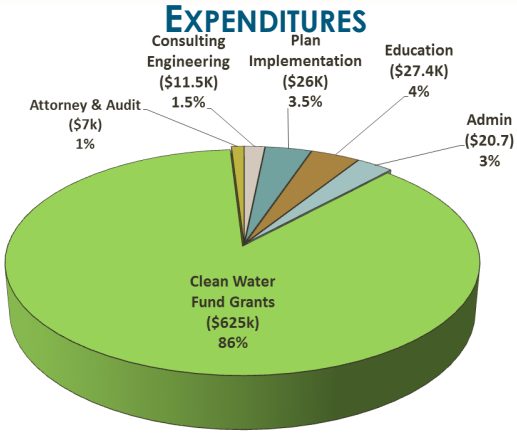
The LMRWMO Board of Managers is made up of citizen appointees who set the budget and direction of the organization. Contact us if you'd like to fill a Board vacancy for one of the highlighted Cities below.

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

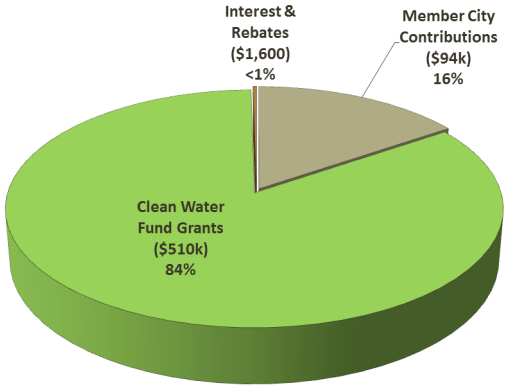
2019 Budget

The LMRWMO is funded member City dues based on land area and property value. Grant assistance is also provided through partnerships entities to fulfill the mission of the LMRWMO. See below for more detail.

Expenditures



Revenue



The LMRWMO Board of Managers is comprised of up to two appointed representatives from each member city, listed below

Sharon Lencowski (Chair) - Inver Grove Heights
Karen Reid (Vice Chair) - Saint Paul
Mary Jeanne Schneeman (Sec/Tres) - Mendota Heights
Jill Smith (Alternate) - Mendota Heights
Jim McClosky (Member) - South St. Paul
John Ross (Alternate) - South St. Paul
Tom Sutton (Member) - Lilydale
Lyle Hanzal (Alternate) - Lilydale
Patti O'Leary (Member) - Sunfish Lake
Jim Stowell (Alternate) - Sunfish Lake
Sheila Vanney (Member) - West St. Paul
Administrator - Joe Barten (651) 480-7777