



Board of Managers Meeting Agenda

Wednesday – February 12th, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.

West St. Paul City Hall
1616 Humboldt Ave, West St Paul, MN 55118

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. Identification of Voting Board Members
 - b. Approval of Agenda* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions) Action
 - c. Opportunity for Public Comment (Two minutes per person)
2. Approve January 8th, 2024 Meeting Minutes - Chair* Action
3. Approve February 12th, 2025 Financial Summary & Invoice Payment - Treasurer* Action
4. Review Approved Accelerated Implementation Grant & Authorize Administrator to Draft Work Plan & Execute Grant Agreement with MN Board of Water & Soil Resources - SWCD* Action
5. Review Goal Tracking Sheets & Authorize Barr to Begin Assessment - Barr* Action
6. Authorize Execution of Agreement with Peterson Co. for 2024 Audit - SWCD* Action
7. Discuss 2024 Annual Report Content (2023 included for reference) - SWCD** Discussion
8. Updates & Information Items
 - a. Grant Tracking Database - Barr** Information
 - b. 3M Grant Request for Proposals - SWCD* Information
 - c. Mud Lake Letter of Support - SWCD* Information
 - d. LMRWMO Salt Week Information - SWCD* Information
 - e. Landscaping for Clean Water Marketing Campaign Video - SWCD Information
9. Member City Updates Information
10. Adjourn - Next Meeting held on March 12th, 2025 - West St. Paul, City Hall

* Materials included in full packet

** Materials available separately on website

<https://LMRWMO.org/about-us/meeting-information/>



Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

Wednesday – January 8th, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.
Wellstone Center, Saint Paul

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski (Chair), Inver Grove Heights
Dawn Gaetke, Inver Grove Heights
Tom Sutton, Lilydale
Analiese Miller, West St. Paul
Brian Jastram, Saint Paul

Karen Reid (Vice Chair), Saint Paul
Leslie Pilgrim, Mendota Heights
Mary Kleinberg, Lilydale
Daniel Anderson, South St. Paul
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ruzek, Mendota Heights
Pat Murphy, Saint Paul
Cody Joos, West St. Paul
Chris English, Inver Grove Heights
Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering
Jan Martland, Mendota Heights
Barb Kaufman, Mendota Heights
Jonquil Shipman, Resurrection Cemetery
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights
Brady Zeug, Saint Paul
Paul Merchlewicz, Inver Grove Heights
Conor Resnikoff, South St. Paul
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering
Kenneth Dodge, Mendota Heights
Tom Hanschen, Mendota Heights
John Manville, Mendota Heights

1. Call Meeting to Order

1.1 Public Comment / Introductions

Audience members may address the Board regarding items not on the agenda.

1.2 Approval of Agenda* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion by Halvorsen to approve the agenda, second by Miller; motion passed.

2. Election of Officers

The current Chair (Lencowski), Vice Chair (Reid), and Secretary/Treasurer (Gebauer) were nominated by Halvorsen from the floor.

Motion by Anderson to elect the current Board officers to serve again in 2025, second by Miller; motion passed.

3. Approve November 13th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Anderson to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Lencowski; motion passed.

4. Approve December 11th, 2024 Financial Summary & Invoices

Ruzek provided a summary of the finances.

Motion by Anderson to approve the financial summary, second by Pilgrim; motion passed.

5. Designation of 2025 Financial Depository and Official Newspapers

Motion by Anderson to designate Gateway Bank as the official financial depository, and the Star Tribune and St. Paul Legal Ledger and official newspapers for public notices, second by Reid; motion passed.

6. Discussion on Lake Augusta Next Steps and LMRWMO Role

Barten provided a summary presentation on the history of studies and improvement efforts on Lake Augusta, discussions at the previous two meetings, and summarized the information in the packet. The Board discussed the history of work done on Lake Augusta by the LMRWMO, existing recommendations from the feasibility study, the difficulties in attempting to manage cormorant populations, supporting City efforts for further work at Lake Augusta, and future monitoring of lake water quality and water levels.

The following recommendations were provided to the LMRWMO Board for consideration:

1. The City of Mendota Heights (City) can choose to pursue a lake outlet at Lake Augusta. The LMRWMO would support the City in this effort, at the request of the City, via technical assistance, assisting in pursuit of grant funds, etc.
2. The residents/private property owners or City can choose to pursue and lead the effort for removal of trees either before or after an outlet is installed. Since the lake shore is private property, the LMRWMO role is more limited. The City can decide if they have a role and can request assistance from the LMRWMO. The LMRWMO would support the City in this effort, at the request of the City, via technical assistance, assisting in pursuit of grant funds, etc. Establishment of permanent native vegetation around the lake should be pursued along with tree removal.
3. The LMRWMO will add monitoring of lake levels to its current monitoring schedule, periodically during the growing season, until and potentially after a lake outlet is installed. If the lake continues to fluctuate, this data could help in planning a lake outlet. The LMRWMO will continue to monitor water quality as it has been, either via volunteers or paid staff to maintain a comprehensive water quality data set.
4. Opportunities for water quality improvements in the watershed can be considered down the road, likely lead by the City, should they choose, but not until the multi-year effects of the outlet on water quality (after 5+ years of monitoring for example) indicate whether the outlet has had any impact on water quality. The LMRWMO would support the City in watershed water quality improvement efforts, at the request of the City, via technical assistance, assisting in pursuit of grant funds, etc.
5. The City, Residents, or LMRWMO could pursue further study of the cormorant population. However, this would be with a limited budget and only if a willing partner, such as the UofM could be found to lead such a study. The aim of such a study would be to track the population of birds on the lake over many years and see if the population correlates to Lake water quality. It would also be to better understand the population in the event that residents would want to take on management. The LMRWMO will not take or lead any actions to manage the cormorant population. The LMRWMO can

work with the MPCA to discuss a lake specific TMDL that accounts for the cormorant impacts, only when that comes up next in the MPCA 10-year assessment cycle

Motion by Reid to approve the above recommendations for the LMRWMO role in Lake Augusta projects, further study, monitoring efforts, and other potential actions going forward, second by Sutton; motion passed.

7. Grant Tracking Database

Williams summarized available grants in the tracking spreadsheet document.

8. Member City Updates: City Advisors and Members provided updates on relevant projects in their Cities.

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 with the next Board meeting scheduled for February 12th, 2025 at the West St. Paul City Hall.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY
January 9, 2025 to February 12, 2025

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<u>Beginning Balance - Gateway Bank Checking Account:</u>		\$11,775.96
Deposit	1/29/2025 <i>League of MN Cities - 2024 Insurance Dividend</i>	+ \$170.00
Deposit	2/6/2025 <i>Transfer from Savings</i>	+ \$33,000.00
<u>Payments</u>		
5025	2/12/2025 <i>Barr Engineering</i>	- \$1,417.30
5026	2/12/2025 <i>Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District</i>	- \$21,851.39
5057	2/12/2025 <i>Trustees of the Hamline University of Minnesota</i>	- \$891.00
5058	2/12/2025 <i>wsb</i>	- \$5,641.75
<i>Checking Ending Balance</i>		\$15,144.52
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<u>Beginning Balance - Gateway Bank Savings Account:</u>		\$147,816.51
<i>Dep</i>	1/31/2025 <i>January 2025 Interest</i>	+ \$320.14
<i>Transfer</i>	2/6/2025 <i>Transfer to Checking</i>	- \$33,000.00
<i>Savings Ending Balance</i>		<u>\$115,136.65</u>
<i>Available Total Balance at Gateway Bank</i>		<u>\$130,281.17</u>
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LMRWMO 2025 Budget & Financial Summary		2024 Carryover		2025 Monthly Revenue					
Revenue	Budget	Dec 12, 2024 - Jan 8 2025	Jan 9 - Feb 12 2025	Feb 13 - Mar 12 2025	Mar 13 - April 9 2025	2025 Total	Variance	Percent Received	
Dues from Members	\$153,725.00					\$0.00	\$153,725.00	0%	
Interest & LMCIT Rebate	\$3,000.00	\$326.70	\$490.14			\$816.84	\$2,183.16	27%	
Grant Revenue	\$440,000.00					\$0.00	\$440,000.00	0%	
Subtotal Operating Revenue	\$156,725.00	\$326.70	\$490.14			\$816.84			
		2024 Carryover		2025 Monthly Revenue					
Expenses	Budget	Dec 12, 2024 - Jan 8 2025		Feb 13 - Mar 12 2025	Mar 13 - April 9 2025	2024 Total	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	
Engineering/Technical Assistance									
Meetings	\$7,000.00	\$621.80	\$1,189.80			\$1,189.80	\$5,810.20	17%	
Technical Assistance ²	\$6,500.00	\$2,153.50	\$227.50			\$227.50	\$6,272.50	4%	
Plan Implementation / Project Mgmt.	\$5,000.00		\$997.50			\$997.50	\$4,002.50	20%	
Grant Development / Review	\$3,000.00					\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0%	
Biennial Progress Review	\$2,000.00					\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0%	
Watershed Plan Amendment	\$1,000.00					\$0.00	\$1,000.00		
Project Study/Implementation									
Miss. River Direct Drainage - FY-21 WBIF Match	\$9,304.00	\$552.00	\$5,394.75			\$5,394.75	\$3,909.25	58%	
Interstate Valley Creek Stabilization (FY-24 SWCD CWF Match)	\$10,000.00					\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0%	
Priority Watershed Modeling - \$100,000 (FY-23 WBIF Match)	\$12,000.00					\$0.00	\$12,000.00	0%	
Seidls Lake Improvements - \$356,000 (FY-22 CPL % Match)	\$2,500.00					\$0.00	\$2,500.00	0%	
Landscaping for Clean Water Projects	\$14,000.00		\$850.00			\$850.00	\$13,150.00	6%	
Monitoring									
Lake and Stream Water Monitoring (CAMP) and Reports	\$14,000.00	\$2,660.00	\$2,421.89			\$2,421.89	\$11,578.11	17%	
Education									
WMO Biannual E-Newsletter	\$3,200.00					\$0.00	\$3,200.00	0%	
Board Tour of Projects	\$1,000.00					\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0%	
Water Resources Videos Partnership Campaign	\$7,500.00					\$0.00	\$7,500.00	0%	
Landscaping for Clean Water Classes	\$9,500.00					\$0.00	\$9,500.00	0%	
MN Water Stewards Support	\$3,000.00					\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0%	
Storm Drain Stenciling Program	\$5,000.00					\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0%	
Engage Residents at Public Events / WMO Tabling	\$500.00					\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	
General Education Requests & Materials	\$1,500.00		\$665.00			\$665.00	\$835.00	44%	
Metro Watershed Partners Membership & Welcome Kits	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$891.00			\$891.00	\$109.00	89%	
Website Maintenance and Updates	\$3,000.00		\$547.50			\$547.50	\$2,452.50	18%	
Board Education	\$500.00					\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	
						\$0.00	\$0.00		
Administration									
General Administration	\$36,000.00		\$6,842.50			\$6,842.50	\$29,157.50	19%	
Hold Annual TAC Meeting	\$1,000.00					\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0%	
Insurance	\$2,500.00					\$0.00	\$2,500.00	0%	
Attorney and Audit	\$5,800.00					\$0.00	\$5,800.00	0%	
Subtotal Operating Expenses	\$167,304.00	\$6,987.30	\$20,027.44			\$20,027.44	\$147,276.56	12%	
Grant Expenses	\$400,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,774.00			\$9,774.00	\$390,226.00	2%	
Overall Fund Balance		\$159,592.47	\$130,281.17						
Total Grant Balance		\$10,911.00	\$1,137.00						
Operating Fund Balance		\$148,681.47	\$129,144.17						
Unencumbered Operating Fund Balance¹		\$123,681.47	\$99,144.17						

2025 Budget Notes:

- \$30,000 set aside for 2033 Watershed Plan Update, \$10,000 additional annually encumbered.
- Includes additional time to develop modeling standards

General: Budget is an estimate and will vary depending on changing priorities and grant project progress.

Balances Explained:

Overall Fund Balance	
Total Grant Balance	
Operating Fund Balance	
Unencumbered Operating Fund Balance	

LMRWMO 2025 Grant Budget & Financial Summary

	Budget	Aggregate Prior to Jan 12, 2022	Jan 13, 2022 - Jan 11, 2023	Jan 12 2023 - Jan 10 2024	Jan 11, 2024 - Jan 8 2025	Jan 9 - Feb 12 2025	Total	Variance	Percent Received/ Expended
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BWSR - FY 2021 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Miss. River Direct Drainage Study)

Revenue									
BWSR FY-2021 WBIF Payment	\$93,042.00	\$46,521.00					\$46,521.00	\$46,521.00	50%
WBIF Matching Funds	\$9,304.00				\$3,647.25	\$5,394.75	\$9,042.00	\$262.00	97%
Total Revenue	\$102,346.00	\$46,521.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,647.25	\$5,394.75	\$55,563.00	\$46,783.00	54%

Expenses									
Grant Administration	\$10,042.00			\$156.00	\$3,424.50	\$696.00	\$4,276.50	\$5,765.50	43%
Erosion & Direct Drainage Study	\$71,000.00				\$71,000.00	\$247.00	\$71,247.00	(\$247.00)	100%
Erosion & Direct Drainage Study Match (WMO)	\$9,304.00				\$3,647.25	\$5,394.75	\$9,042.00	\$262.00	97%
Project Development	\$12,000.00			\$2,733.50	\$5,067.00	\$7,090.50	\$14,891.00	(\$2,891.00)	124%
Total Expenses	\$102,346.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,889.50	\$83,138.75	\$13,428.25	\$99,456.50	\$2,889.50	97%
FY-21 WBIF Balance		\$46,521.00	\$46,521.00	\$43,631.50	-\$35,860.00	-\$43,893.50	-\$43,893.50		

Note: This grant was closed out in January 2025 & is pending final approval by BWSR staff. A final financial detail report will be provided in March, 2025.

Elink Totals
 \$3,186.00
 \$72,181.00
 \$9,042.00
 \$15,047.00
 \$99,456.00

BWSR - FY 2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Priority Watershed Project ID & Model - Thompson, Rogers, Seidls)

Revenue									
BWSR FY-2021 WBIF Payment	\$118,385.00			\$59,193.00			\$59,193.00	\$59,192.00	50%
WBIF Matching Funds	\$12,000.00						\$0.00	\$12,000.00	0%
Total Revenue	\$130,385.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,193.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,193.00	\$71,192.00	45%

Expenses									
Grant Administration	\$8,000.00				\$769.50		\$769.50	\$7,230.50	10%
Priority Watershed Project ID & Model	\$100,385.00						\$0.00	\$100,385.00	0%
Priority Watershed Project ID & Model Match (WMO)	\$10,000.00						\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0%
Project Development	\$12,000.00				\$1,491.00		\$1,491.00	\$10,509.00	12%
Total Expenses	\$130,385.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,260.50	\$0.00	\$2,260.50	\$128,124.50	2%
FY-21 WBIF Balance		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,193.00	\$56,932.50	\$56,932.50	\$56,932.50		

MN DNR - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant (Seidls Lake Shoreline Restoration)

Revenue									
Grant Reimbursement Payments	\$382,000.00				\$70,192.78		\$70,192.78	\$311,807.22	18%
Matching funds	\$75,000.00						\$0.00	\$75,000.00	0%
Total Revenue	\$457,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70,192.78	\$0.00	\$70,192.78	\$386,807.22	15%

Expenses									
Grant Administration/Project Mgmt	\$26,000.00			\$15,118.00	\$6,171.50	\$1,740.50	\$23,030.00	\$2,970.00	89%
Construction	\$356,000.00				\$27,486.03		\$27,486.03	\$328,513.97	8%
Engineering - Construction Docs	\$37,500.00				\$31,578.75		\$31,578.75	\$5,921.25	84%
Engineering - Const. Mgmt, Permits, Bids	\$37,500.00								
Total Expenses	\$457,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,118.00	\$65,236.28	\$1,740.50	\$82,094.78	\$337,405.22	18%
Seidls Lake Shoreline Balance		\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$15,118.00	-\$10,161.50	-\$11,902.00	-\$11,902.00		

	Budget	Aggregate Prior to Jan 12, 2022	Jan 13, 2022 - Jan 11, 2023	Jan 12 2023 - Jan 10 2024	Jan 9, 2025 - Feb 12 2025	Jan 9 - Feb 12 2025	Total	Variance	Percent Received/ Expended
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TOTAL GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED	\$559,346.00	\$46,521.00	\$0.00	\$59,193.00	\$70,192.78	\$0.00	\$175,906.78	\$433,590.22	31%
PASS THROUGH MATCH RECEIVED	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,262.00	0%
LMRWMO MATCH PROVIDED	\$9,304.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,647.25	\$5,394.75	\$9,042.00	\$433,590.22	97%

GRANT EXPENSES (MINUS WMO MATCH)	\$550,042.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,007.50	\$146,988.28	\$9,774.00	\$174,769.78	\$458,157.22	32%
PASS THROUGH MATCH EXPENSES	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,578.75	\$0.00	\$40,620.75	\$34,379.25	54%

NET FUND BALANCE (MINUS WMO MATCH)		\$46,521.00	\$46,521.00	\$87,706.50	\$10,911.00	\$1,137.00			
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Grant Application

Grant Name - Water Quality Modeling of Lower Mississippi River WMO Priority Watersheds

Grant ID - C25-0205

Organization - Lower Mississippi River WMO

Allocation	Accelerated Implementation Grant 2025	Grant Contact	Joe Barten
Total Grant Amount Requested	\$98,000.00	County(s)	Dakota,Ramsey
Grant Match Amount	\$9,800.00	12 Digit HUC(s)	
Required Match %	10%	Fiscal Agent	Lower Mississippi River WMO
Other Amount		Application Submitted Date	08/22/2024
Project Abstract	<p>The Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) and its member cities seek to develop watershed-wide water quality modeling to identify and prioritize water quality improvement practices to maximize pollutant reduction benefits. With primarily urban and suburban landscapes, the LMRWMO estimates that much of pollutant load (i.e., phosphorus, sediment, chloride) reaching its lakes and streams occurs via stormwater runoff. However, without comprehensive water quality models, the absolute and relative amounts of pollutant loading from different portions of the watershed are unknown. This data gap limits the ability of the LMRWMO and its member cities to best allocate watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) and other resources to achieve the most significant pollutant reductions and water quality improvements.</p> <p>This project includes the development and documentation of water quality models (using P8 or a GIS-based model) covering the watersheds tributary to Priority 1A and Priority 1B lakes and creeks in the LMRWMO. These include the watersheds tributary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -☐ Interstate Valley Creek -☐ Ivy Falls Creek -☐ Kaposia Creek (Simon’s Ravine) -☐ Lake Augusta 		

- ☐ Hornbeam Lake
- ☐ Rogers Lake
- ☐ Seidls Lake (including the adjacent I-494 system)
- ☐ Sunfish Lake
- ☐ Thompson Lake

These areas cover approximately 9,000 acres or 25 percent of the LMRWMO. Thompson Lake and Lake Augusta are currently listed as impaired for recreational use due to excessive nutrients. Water quality modeling will quantify estimated sediment and nutrient loading from the watershed and treatment achieved by existing best management practices. The study will identify pollutant loading "hot spots" on the landscape where future treatment maybe focused. The LMRWMO will use land use, land cover, and BMP information available during model development to semi-quantitatively assess chloride loading in the modeled watersheds.

From the modeling results, the LMRWMO will characterize and prioritize treatment needs throughout the modeled watersheds. Analysis will include preliminary evaluation of treatment opportunities and recommended practices. This information will be used to inform future LMRWMO and member city management actions including:

- ☐ design of LMRWMO- or city-led public BMP projects,
- ☐ planning/prioritization of BMP maintenance by member cities
- ☐ identification/pursuit of public-private partnership opportunities resulting from redevelopment,
- ☐ review of private development/re-development proposals

As part of the study, the LMRWMO and member cities will develop standards and best practices for the development of water quality models and determine a process to maintain and update the model(s) to promote their continued accuracy and effective uses.

The modeling of priority lake watersheds is a first step. Over the life of its Plan, the LMRWMO seeks to extend this analysis to the entire watershed to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of pollutant loading and treatment.

Proposed Measurable Outcomes

Water quality models of priority watershed areas; report documenting model methods and results; documentation of modeling standards/best practices.

Narrative

****Required** MN Statute 16B.981 Subd. 2 (6) requires that no current principals of a grantee have been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last 10 years. A**

principal is defined as a public official, a board member, or staff (paid or volunteer) with the authority to access funds provided by this grant opportunity. By typing YES here, I attest that no current principal of my organization with authority to access funds has been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last 10 years.

YES

1. Does your organization have any active CWF competitive grants? If so, specify FY and percentage spent. Also, explain your organization's capacity (including available FTEs or contracted resources) to effectively implement additional Clean Water Fund grant dollars.

The Lower Mississippi River WMO has two active WBIF grants but no active CWF competitive grants.

2. Prioritization - Relationship to Plan (20 points): (A) List the specific local water management plan(s) and describe how it supports this proposal. Reference the document name, section, page number, and organization (if different than applicant). (B) List other relevant documents and describe how these documents support this project. Examples include: Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) document, or Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategy (GRAPS) document, the Minnesota Nutrient Management Strategy and others. (C) Provide web links to all plans referenced.

This project is identified in the LMRWMO 2023 Watershed Management Plan and is consistent with municipal stormwater-related goals and approaches of the Lake Pepin and Mississippi River Eutrophication TMDL Report.

A) LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan. The LMRWMO Plan implementation program (Section 5, Table 5-1, first page) specifically identifies this project as item S-7.

Table 5-1 notes that this project supports the following LMRWMO Plan goals:

G1. Maintain or improve water quality in LMRWMO priority 1A and 1B lakes to meet applicable state standards or existing 10-year (2012 – 2021) summer average water quality, if better than state standards.

G2. Reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to the Mississippi River and priority 1A streams.

G4. Work with member cities to implement practices to minimize chloride use in the watershed.

G12. Reduce sediment loading to the Mississippi River.

Link: lrmwmo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-LMRWMO-Watershed-Management-Plan_Final.pdf

B) Lake Pepin and Mississippi River Eutrophication TMDL Report. Section 3.4.2 of the TMDL identifies runoff from municipal stormwater as a source of phosphorus leading to nutrient impairments. The TMDL (Section 5.2.2) assigns a phosphorus target of 0.35 lbs/acre/yr to LMRWMO member cities. TMDL Section 8.3.3 notes “the MPCA intends to allow MS4s flexibility in selecting and implementing approaches for demonstrating compliance with the target loading rate....Options include analyses of data from monitoring of outfalls and streams, modeling results, or a combination.”

This project will develop models LMRWMO member cities may use to demonstrate compliance with the target load, identify areas not achieving the target load, and identify projects to achieve the target load. Regardless of the target load, this project will promote projects that reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin.

Link: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw9-22e.pdf>

3. Targeting (20 points): Identify the water resource(s) that will benefit from targeted implementation efforts after these grant activities are completed. How will this project lead to more targeted implementation activities that protect or restore those water resource(s)?

This project will target the watersheds tributary to lakes and creeks classified as Priority 1A and Priority 1B in the LMRWMO 2023-2032 Watershed Management Plan – these are the two highest LMRWMO priority classifications and reflect the relative importance of these waterbodies to the LMRWMO and its member cities. The project includes areas tributary to:

- ☐ Interstate Valley Creek
- ☐ Ivy Falls Creek
- ☐ Kaposia Creek (Simon’s Ravine)
- ☐ Lake Augusta
- ☐ Hornbeam Lake
- ☐ Rogers Lake
- ☐ Seidls Lake (including the adjacent I-494 system)
- ☐ Sunfish Lake
- ☐ Thompson Lake

Water quality modeling of these watersheds will identify pollutant loading “hot spots” and areas where existing treatment is minimal or non-existent. The LMRWMO and its member cities will use this information to target future structural and non-structural BMPs to achieve the greatest impact. In areas where opportunities for public BMPs are limited, the LMRWMO and member cities may target education, private cost-share (e.g., Landscaping for Clean Water), enhanced street sweeping, or other practices. Member cities may also use this information to identify areas where more rigorous technical review of development and redevelopment projects and/or coordination with developers can promote pollutant reductions.

Among the above waterbodies, Lake Augusta and Thompson Lake are impaired for aquatic recreation due to excessing nutrients. Project opportunities identified in these watersheds will have a direct impact on in-lake water quality. In addition, most of these watersheds are tributary to the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin; identification and implementation of projects throughout these watersheds will ultimately improve water quality in these downstream resources.

4. Targeting (5 points): Describe the proposed methods to be used to accelerate implementation of projects and practices that will ultimately improve or protect the targeted water resource.

Water quality modeling completed as part of this project will leverage the P8 model framework or GIS-based methods (similar to those previously developed for the City of Minneapolis and City of Richfield). Generally, this work includes:

- ☐ Characterizing land surface conditions using publicly available geospatial data (e.g., land use, soils).

- ☒ Characterizing existing stormwater management infrastructure, including existing BMPs.
- ☒ Running several years of precipitation data through the characterized watershed (using P8 models and/or GIS scripts).
- ☒ Calibrating the model(s) by reviewing results relative to observed data and/or expected results.
- ☒ Tabulating and mapping model results to document unit-area pollutant loading, percent pollutant removals, and other relevant parameters.
- ☒ Identifying locations where additional treatment or pollutant load reduction is most needed.
- ☒ Documenting and packaging completed models for continued use by the LMRWMO and member cities.

As part of this project, the LMRWMO will develop and document standards and best practices for development and use of water quality models. This will promote consistent use of models across the watershed.

5. Project Impact (25 points): A) Describe the proposed outcomes of this grant application. Describe how this grant will make implementation efforts more effective or efficient. Describe how the outputs will be either incorporated into the next water management or comprehensive plan amendment/revision or otherwise be incorporated into routine activities resulting in increased water quality protection or accelerated water quality restoration. B) Describe the benefits this proposal will provide from a local and/or state perspective. C) If applicable, describe how funds used for proposed staffing will be supported long-term.

A) The outcomes of this grant include water quality model(s) covering 25% of the watershed, a report documenting project results, and documentation of modeling standards/best practices.

Watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) provides the LMRWMO opportunities to implement water quality projects. The LMRWMO and its partners will use water quality modeling to target areas of greatest need to use WBIF and other resources more efficiently and maximize benefits. The LMRWMO will add significant opportunities identified by modeling to its implementation program (during the next Plan update or by Plan amendment). The LMRWMO will use model results to identify priority areas on which future Plan development will focus (e.g., consideration of more stringent design standards or increased grant funding).

B) Local benefits. The LMRWMO and its partners will use the models to efficiently assess the benefits of potential projects and communicate with stakeholders when planning and implementing these projects. Member cities may use the models to support adding water quality BMPs to adjacent city projects (e.g., park improvements, road reconstruction). Member cities may use the model to support MS4-related tasks like regulatory review of proposed projects or identification of stormwater ponds needing more frequent maintenance. Consistent modeling standards will also allow cities to pursue modeling efforts and direct developers consistent with LMRWMO-wide practices.

C) This project will be performed with consultant assistance. After the project, the LMRWMO will maintain the model(s) likely using the LMRWMO's engineering budget. The LMRWMO will coordinate maintenance scope and schedule with member cities to balance efficiency and accuracy. LMRWMO and city roles will be detailed in the model standards/best practices.

6. Project Rationale (20 points): Why are these the most important and needed activities to implement at this time? Discuss alternatives considered and why those were not selected. How does this proposal complement other watershed work that you and your partners are conducting?

A consistent and comprehensive understanding of pollutant loading and treatment across the LMRWMO watershed is needed to promote the most beneficial use LMRWMO and member city resources to achieve the LMRWMO's water quality goals. The LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan recognized this knowledge gap and thus included this project as part of Plan implementation. The Plan listed this project as scheduled for 2027 – a schedule based on expected funding availability. The accelerated implementation grant will allow this project to be completed on an earlier timeline. Early development of water quality models will allow the LMRWMO to focus its resources on the subwatersheds of greatest need starting now. This will allow more WBIF cycles to be focused on LMRWMO and partner projects of greatest impact. Expedited completion of this project may also allow the incorporation of additional water quality benefits into member city projects that would otherwise be completed without consideration of water quality needs.

The LMRWMO implementation program (Tables 5-1 and 5-2 in the LMRWMO Plan) does include other projects planned for 2023-2032. However, many of these are not eligible for CWF grant fundings (e.g., monitoring, water quantity focus) and others are coordinated with member city project implementation schedules. This project may be completed immediately with assistance from accelerated implementation grant funds.

This project complements recent LMRWMO work. In 2024, the LMRWMO is completing a study of areas with direct drainage to the Mississippi River. The direct drainages study evaluates project opportunities in about 25% of the watershed adjacent to the Mississippi River. This project addresses areas of the watershed not included in the Direct Drainages study. With the direct drainages study, this project will identify potential project locations in about half of the LMRWMO watershed, including all areas draining to waters identified as LMRWMO Priority 1A and Priority 1B.

7. Timeline (5 points): Provide an anticipated timeline for completion of the proposed activities. Include steps taken or expected to ensure that the proposed activities can begin soon after the grant award and important project milestones.

The following presents, briefly, the project timeline:

Finalize scope and grant work plan: ☐ Spring 2025

Develop model standards/best practices:☐ Summer 2025

Develop models:☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Summer 2025-Fall 2025

Revise models with partner input:☐ ☐ Winter 2026

Document model results and methods:☐ Spring 2026

8. The Constitutional Amendment requires that Amendment funding must not substitute traditional state funding. Briefly describe how this project will provide water quality benefits to the State of Minnesota without substituting existing funding.

This project will not substitute traditional state funding. A majority of funding sources are targeted towards capital improvements and do not allow modeling studies as an eligible practice/project for state grant funding. The LMRWMO implementation program included in Table 5-1 of the LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan originally identified Clean Water Fund competitive grants or watershed-based implementation funding (i.e., Amendment funding) as the primary funding for this project in conjunction with local match funds. This Accelerated Implementation Grant is consistent with that funding plan and does not substitute traditional state funding.

9. Please enter the dollar amount requested for CWP Loans. If you are not interested, indicate "not applicable".

not applicable

10. Please enter the dollar amount requested for Ag BMP Loan Program. If you are not interested, indicate "not applicable".

not applicable

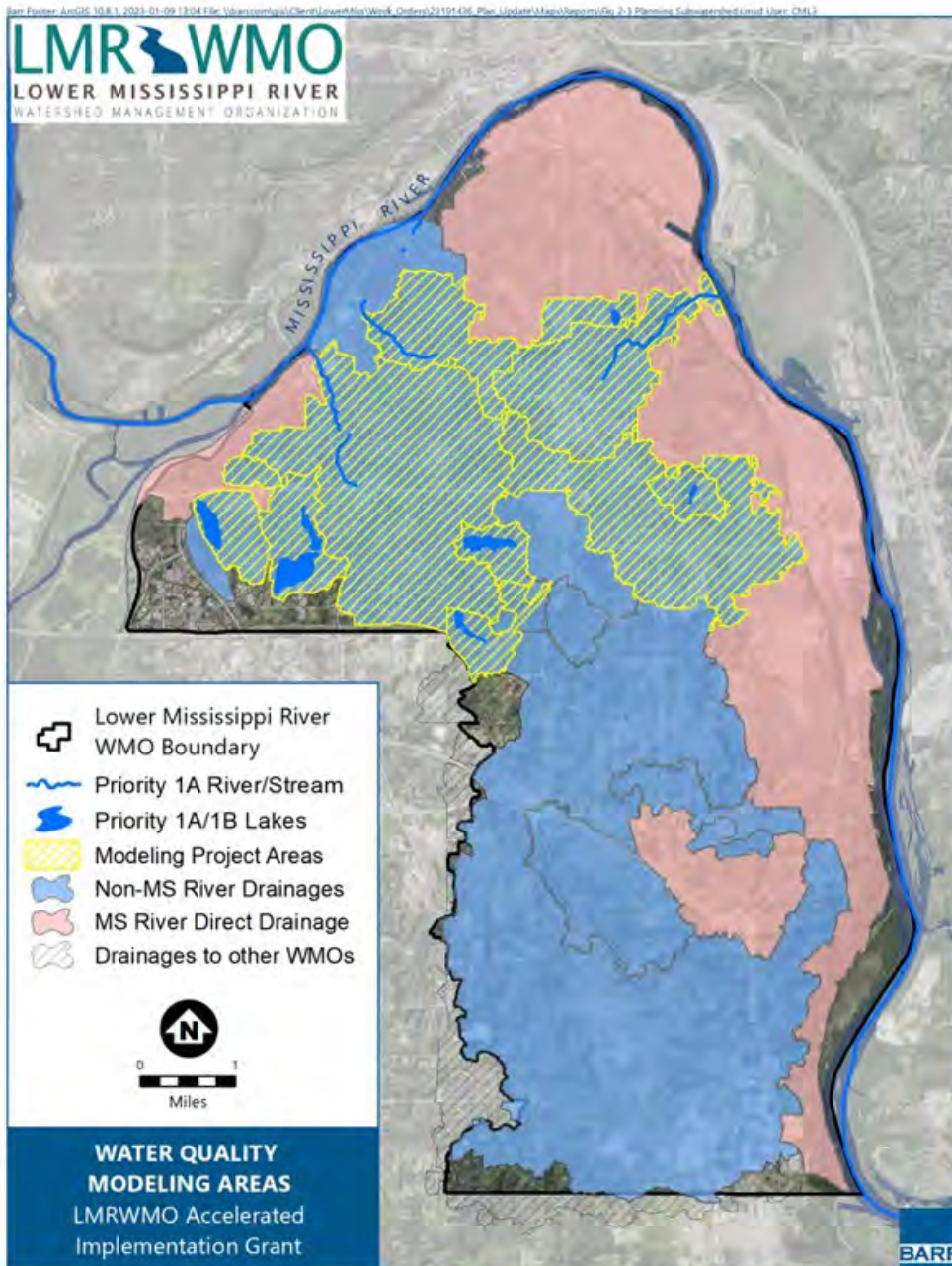
Application Budget

<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Activity Description</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>State Grant \$ Requested</i>	<i>Activity Lifespan (yrs)</i>
Administration	LMRWMO contracted staff will manage the grant and provide overall administration of grant funds and local match requirements. This includes coordination with projects partners to ensure compliance with grant requirements. The LMRWMO will maintain financial and project records as appropriate and will follow website grant reporting requirements. This task also includes all grant reporting efforts, including communication with BWSR staff as necessary in administration of the grant, and development of project reporting. Program and project files will include appropriate documents as referenced in the BWSR Grants Administration Manual. Financial records will include all revenue and expenses associated with this grant, reporting of contracted labor via invoices, as well as other expenditures on projects.	Administration/Coordination	\$7,000.00	
Develop modeling standards/best practices	This task includes working with the LMRWMO and member city staff to determine standards for water quality model development. This includes work at the beginning of the project to define the modeling approach and revisiting/revising the standards, if	Technical/Engineering Assistance	\$5,000.00	10

Activity Name	Activity Description	Category	State Grant \$ Requested	Activity Lifespan (yrs)
	necessary, at the end of the project.			
Developing water quality models of priority areas	<p>This task includes developing water quality models. Subtasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -☒ Characterizing land surface conditions using publicly available geospatial data (e.g., land use, soils). -☒ Characterizing existing stormwater management infrastructure, including existing BMPs. -☒ Running several years of precipitation data through the characterized watershed (using P8 models and/or GIS scripts). -☒ Calibrating the model(s) by reviewing results relative to observed data and/or expected results. -☒ Tabulating and mapping model results to document unit-area pollutant loading, percent pollutant removals, and other relevant parameters. -☒ Identifying locations where addition treatment or pollutant load reduction is most needed. -☒ Documenting and packaging completed models for continued use by the LMRWMO and member cities. 	Planning and Assessment	\$80,000.00	10
Project Development	Coordination between project stakeholders to finalize the terms of implementation of this project and creation of a detailed scope of work for procurement of a feasibility study consultant, organizing stakeholder meetings to inform and coordinate with affected parties and the Cities involved, communication with project partners and stakeholders before, during, and after work	Project Development	\$6,000.00	1

<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Activity Description</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>State Grant \$ Requested</i>	<i>Activity Lifespan (yrs)</i>
	is undertaken, providing direction to feasibility study consultant on study details.			

Application Image

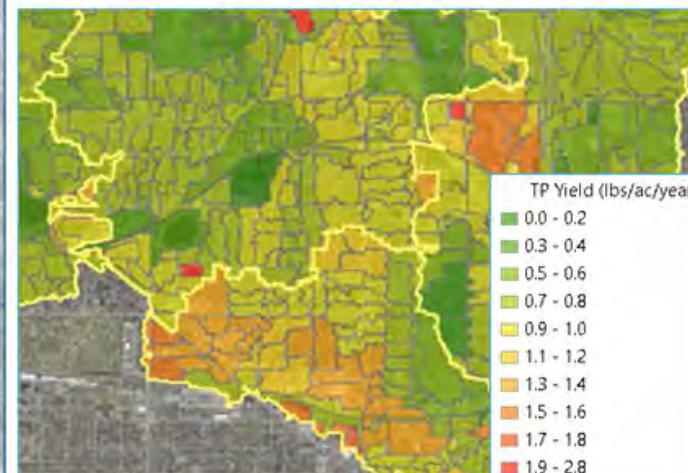


Water Quality Modeling of Lower Mississippi River WMO Priority Watersheds

The Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization seeks accelerated implementation grant funding to develop water quality models for areas draining to waterbodies classified as Priority 1A and 1B (see map to left).

Water quality models will estimate watershed pollutant load and treatment (see example in inset below). The LMRWMO and member cities may use the models to:

- Target and evaluate water quality improvements
- Identify BMP maintenance needs
- Evaluate development and redevelopment proposals
- Demonstrate TMDL compliance



Above: An example of total phosphorus loading rates estimated from subwatersheds using a P8 water quality model.

Left: Map showing the subwatershed areas (~9,000 acres) for which the LMRWMO will develop water quality models as part of this project.

Goal ID	Goal Text	Metrics/Measures	Goal Status																																																								
G1	<p>Maintain or improve water quality in LMRWMO priority 1A and 1B lakes to meet applicable state standards or existing 10-year (2012 – 2021) summer average water quality, if better than state standards, including: (see Table 1).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="235 423 800 849"> <thead> <tr> <th>Waterbody</th> <th>Total Phosphorus (ug/L)</th> <th>Chloro-phyll a (ug/L)</th> <th>Secchi Depth (m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lake Augusta¹</td> <td>40</td> <td>14</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hornbeam Lake</td> <td>45</td> <td>17</td> <td>1.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rogers Lake</td> <td>27</td> <td>5</td> <td>1.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seidls Lake</td> <td>54</td> <td>18</td> <td>1.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunfish Lake</td> <td>30</td> <td>14</td> <td>2.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thompson Lake¹</td> <td>60</td> <td>20</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(1) Goals based on applicable state standards for shallow and deep lakes (MN Rules 7050)</p>	Waterbody	Total Phosphorus (ug/L)	Chloro-phyll a (ug/L)	Secchi Depth (m)	Lake Augusta ¹	40	14	1.4	Hornbeam Lake	45	17	1.8	Rogers Lake	27	5	1.6	Seidls Lake	54	18	1.2	Sunfish Lake	30	14	2.6	Thompson Lake ¹	60	20	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observed summer (June–September) average concentrations of total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a and summer average Secchi disc transparency averaged over the most recent 10-year period. Goals will be evaluated for each parameter for each lake. Goals are considered met if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10-year average parameter value is equal to or better than goal value; 10-year average parameter value is worse than goal value but is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Better than state standard, and Does not demonstrate a statistically-significant worsening trend (at 90% confidence level). 	<p>10-year average water quality data are determined as part of water quality reporting appended to the LMRWMO Annual Report. Goal status is assessed against that data; current status is summarized below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1417 480 1982 906"> <thead> <tr> <th>Waterbody</th> <th>Total Phosphorus (ug/L)</th> <th>Chloro-phyll a (ug/L)</th> <th>Secchi Depth (m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lake Augusta</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hornbeam Lake</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rogers Lake</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seidls Lake</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunfish Lake</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thompson Lake</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> <td>Yes/No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Waterbody	Total Phosphorus (ug/L)	Chloro-phyll a (ug/L)	Secchi Depth (m)	Lake Augusta	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Hornbeam Lake	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Rogers Lake	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Seidls Lake	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Sunfish Lake	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Thompson Lake	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
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G2	<p>Reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to the Mississippi River and priority 1A streams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measured sediment and phosphorus concentrations or loads in Interstate Valley Creek, Ivy Falls Creek, and Kaposia Creek (as available). Estimated pollutant reductions from water quality improvement projects implemented by the LMRWMO and/or member cities and tributary to LMRWMO creeks or the Mississippi River. 	<p><i>To be completed.</i></p>																																																								
G3	<p>Reduce bacteria loading to Interstate Valley Creek through landowner education, outreach, and member city support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of practices to reduce bacteria loading including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational broadcasts (e.g., mailings, social media posts) Landowner site visits or other outreach Signage encouraging pet clean-up 	<p><i>To be completed.</i></p>																																																								

Goal ID	Goal Text	Metrics/Measures	Goal Status
G4	Work with member cities to implement practices to minimize chloride use in the watershed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of practices to reduce chloride use by member cities including but not limited to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for municipal applicators • Training for private applicators/owners • Municipal use of alternative deicers • Site visits to promote reduced salt use in commercial/high impervious areas • Use of salt minimization design strategies • Incentive programs for residents • Educational broadcasts 	<i>To be completed.</i>
G5	Promote infiltration and reuse to reduce stormwater runoff volumes through member city volume control performance standards and the support of education and outreach activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementation of member city local controls prioritizing volume reduction through infiltration (where feasible), consistent with LMRWMO Plan Policy P1. • LMRWMO and/or member city education and outreach activities including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadcasts (e.g., social media) • Resident incentive programs (e.g., rain barrels) • LMRWMO and member city financial support for Dakota County SWCD's Landscaping for Clean Water workshops and projects. 	<p>Member cities continue to implement ordinances requiring infiltration as the preferred method of stormwater treatment (where feasible).</p> <p><i>Placeholder for annual data on number of Landscaping for Clean Water workshops and infiltration projects.</i></p>
G6	Minimize flood potential and reduce the number and/or flood risk of habitable structures within local floodplain areas in cooperation with member cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of capital projects by the LMRWMO and member cities that increase stormwater storage or result in reduced flood risk. • Number of habitable structures removed from the 100-year floodplain as a result of LMRWMO and member city projects. 	<i>To be completed.</i>

Goal ID	Goal Text	Metrics/Measures	Goal Status
G7	Promote fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities by maintaining or improving water quality (see goal G1) and shoreline integrity, implementing 10 shoreline improvement projects over 10 years (including city, LMRWMO, and/or cost-share projects).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed summer (June–September) average water quality (see Goal G1). • Number of shoreline protection or improvement projects performed (or supported) by the LMRWMO and member cities (including shoreline projects implemented through Dakota County SWCD’s Landscaping for Clean Water). 	<p><i>To be completed.</i></p> <p><i>Placeholder for annual data on number of Landscaping for Clean Water workshops and infiltration projects.</i></p>
G8	Promote the incorporation of habitat benefits into at least two stormwater management BMPs over 10 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat benefits incorporated into stormwater BMPs constructed by the LMRWMO and member cities including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native plantings in existing turf areas • Conservation easements to protect existing natural areas • Design enhancements to minimize disturbance of habitat (e.g., trees) 	<p><i>To be completed.</i></p>
G9	Pursue no net loss of wetlands due to human activity via support of member city roles as local governmental units (LGUs) responsible for wetland management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued administration of Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) by member cities (per LMRWMO Plan Policy 25). • Continued implementation of member city local controls requiring wetland buffers and limiting wetland impacts (per LMRWMO Plan Policy 26). 	<p>All member cities currently act as the local governmental unit (LGU) responsible for administration of the WCA in their city.</p> <p>All member cities have adopted and enforce local controls requiring wetland buffers.</p> <p><i>Placeholder for notable details, if needed.</i></p>
G10	Promote the protection of groundwater quality and quantity through annual collaboration with Dakota County, Ramsey County, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and/or other agencies managing groundwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual meeting with Dakota County to review coordination of groundwater management roles and opportunities. • Annual communication to Minnesota DNR and other groundwater management agencies regarding coordination of organization roles. 	<p><i>To be completed.</i></p>

Goal ID	Goal Text	Metrics/Measures	Goal Status
G11	Promote groundwater conservation, infiltration, and water reuse through implementation of member city volume control performance standards, education, and outreach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementation of member city local controls prioritizing volume reduction through infiltration (where feasible), consistent with LMRWMO Plan Policy P1. • LMRWMO and/or member city education and outreach activities including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadcasts (e.g., social media) • Resident incentive programs (e.g., rain barrels) 	<i>To be completed.</i>
G12	Reduce sediment loading to the Mississippi River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured sediment concentrations or loads in Interstate Valley Creek, Ivy Falls Creek, and Kaposia Creek (as available). • Estimated sediment reductions from water quality improvement projects implemented by the LMRWMO and/or member cities and tributary to LMRWMO creeks or the Mississippi River. 	<i>To be completed.</i>
G13	Reduce sediment loading to LMRWMO priority waterbodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated sediment reductions from water quality improvement projects implemented by the LMRWMO and/or member cities and tributary to LMRWMO priority waterbodies. 	<i>To be completed.</i>
G14	Prevent or mitigate the impact of local erosion issues through the promotion of partner cost-share and educational programs (e.g., Dakota County SWCD cost-share).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of shoreline protection, riparian stabilization, or other erosion control projects supported by the LMRWMO (including relevant projects implemented through Dakota County SWCD's Landscaping for Clean Water). 	<i>To be completed.</i>

Goal ID	Goal Text	Metrics/Measures	Goal Status
G15	Increase community awareness of water resource management issues via outreach activities and cooperation with member city and partner education and outreach programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance of LMRWMO staff or Managers at community events. • Development or broadcast of educational content through LMRWMO or member city media. • Maintenance and update of the LMRWMO website. • Development of a K-12 education program in cooperation with partners. 	<p>The LMRWMO website is updated with meeting information and links to annual reports, newsletters, and technical reports.</p> <p><i>To be completed.</i></p>
G16	Increase community capacity to implement water resource stewardship practices via outreach and support of partner engagement programs (e.g., Dakota County SWCD's Landscaping for Clean Water program, MN Water Stewards).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMRWMO Support for Minnesota Water Stewards program • Support of LMRWMO and member city volunteer programs (e.g., drain stenciling). • LMRWMO and member city financial support for Dakota County SWCD's Landscaping for Clean Water workshops and projects. 	<p><i>To be completed.</i></p> <p><i>Placeholder for annual data on number of Landscaping for Clean Water workshops and infiltration projects.</i></p>
G17	Execute the activities included in the LMRWMO implementation program while promoting efficiency, limiting organizational redundancy, and leveraging skills of partner organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of technical trainings for Managers. • Annual meeting with member city staff to coordinate capital improvement programs with LMRWMO projects and funding opportunities. • Tracking of implementation progress (completed as part of annual reporting). 	<p>The LMRWMO annual report includes the implementation schedule updated to reflect the current status of each task.</p> <p><i>To be completed.</i></p>
G18	Maximize the financial capacity of the WMO through the pursuit and use of grant and cost-share funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of watershed-based implementation funding to fund LMRWMO projects. • Applications for competitive grant funding (as appropriate) 	<p><i>To be completed with list active WBIF-funded projects and grant applications.</i></p>

PETERSON COMPANY LTD

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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952.442.4408 | Fax: 952.442.2211 | www.pclcpas.com

January 15, 2025

Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization
4100 220th St. W. Suite 102
Farmington, MN 55024

CLIENT COPY

Dear Board of Supervisors and District Manager:

The following represents our understanding of the services we will provide Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization.

You have requested that we audit the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization, as of December 31, 2024, and for the year then ended and the related notes, which collectively comprise Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and in accordance with Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAP,) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that the management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAS). These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis
- 2) Budgetary Comparison Schedules

Auditor Responsibilities

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards. As part of our audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

Management Responsibilities

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a) For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b) For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements, and
- c) To provide us with:
 - I. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
 - II. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit;
 - III. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- d) For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by us;
- e) For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities;
- f) For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period(s) under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole; and
- g) For acceptance of nonattest services, including identifying the proper part to oversee nonattest work;
- h) For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets;
- i) For informing us of any known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees with significant role in internal control and others where fraud could have a material effect on the financials; and
- j) For the accuracy and completeness of all information provided.

With regard to the required supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the required supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding required supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the required supplementary information in any document that contains the required supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such required supplementary information; and (d) to present the required supplementary information with the audited basic financial statements, or if the required supplementary information will not be presented with the audited basic financial statements, to make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the required supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the required supplementary information and our report thereon.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management, and when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

Nonattest Services

With respect to any nonattest services, at the end of the year, we agree to perform the following:

- Propose adjusting or correcting journal entries to be reviewed and approved by Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization's management.
- Prepare the financial statements with the required footnote disclosures.
- Prepare lease amortization calculations and disclosures, if needed.
- Prepare the depreciation schedule, if needed.

We will not assume management responsibilities on behalf of Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization. However, we will provide advice and recommendations to assist management of Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization in performing its responsibilities.

Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization's management is responsible for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning a competent individual to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

Our responsibilities and limitations of the nonattest services are as follows:

- We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards.
- The nonattest services are limited to the financial statement preparation, lease amortization calculations and disclosures, depreciation schedule, and journal entry proposals previously outlined. Our firm, in its sole professional judgment, reserves the right to refuse to do any procedure or take any action that could be construed as making management decisions or assuming management responsibilities, including determining account coding and approving journal entries.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to management and the governing body of Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s) to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinion on the basic financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

In accordance with the requirements of Government Auditing Standards, we will also issue a written report describing the scope of our testing over internal control over financial reporting and over compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of grants and contracts, including the results of that testing. However, providing an opinion on internal control and compliance will not be an objective of the audit and, therefore, no such opinion will be expressed.

Other

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

Regarding the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your Internet website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Professional standards prohibit us from being the sole host and/or the sole storage for your financial and non-financial data. As such, it is your responsibility to maintain your original data and records and we cannot be responsible to maintain such original information. By signing this engagement letter, you affirm that you have all the data and records required to make your books and records complete.

Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

We expect to begin our audit in the spring and to issue our reports no later than June 30, 2025.

Samantha Hoskins is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. Her responsibilities include supervising Peterson Company Ltd's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fee for these services will be \$4,400. Included in this audit fee are six bound copies, any additional copies will be prepared at \$15 each. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. Invoices not paid within 30 days will accrue interest at 1.50%. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 45 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs. Further, we will be available during the year to consult with you on financial management and accounting matters of a routine nature.

Government Auditing Standards require that we document an assessment of the skills, knowledge, and experience of management, should we participate in any form of preparation of the basic financial statements and related schedules or disclosures as these actions are deemed a non-audit service.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to management and the Board of Supervisors the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Peterson Company Ltd and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to the Board of Water and Soil Resources or the Minnesota State Auditor's Office pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Peterson Company Ltd's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the Board of Water and Soil Resources or to the Minnesota State Auditor's Office. The Board of Water and Soil Resources or the Minnesota State Auditor's Office may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgement of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the basic financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Peterson Company Ltd

Peterson Company Ltd
570 Cherry Drive
Waconia, MN 55387

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization by:

Management signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Governance signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Barten, Joe

From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency <mpca@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Barten, Joe
Subject: 3M East Metro Settlement Priority 2 grant RFP now open

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.



Priority 2 grant program RFP now open

\$20 million available for restoration and recreation projects

A request for proposals has opened for restoration and recreation projects in the Twin Cities east metropolitan area and in downstream areas of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers that have been affected by Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) released by 3M. These funds make up Priority 2 of the East Metro Settlement, which the state of Minnesota reached in 2018 after alleging that the company's releases of PFAS chemicals had damaged drinking water and natural resources in the Twin Cities east metropolitan area.

Priority 1, about \$700 million, is dedicated to drinking water projects in the Twin Cities east metropolitan area.

Priority 2, up to \$20 million, is for projects that restore and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, habitat, fishing, and outdoor recreational opportunities in the project area. The project area includes portions of Washington, Ramsey and Dakota counties and downstream areas of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers affected by PFAS released by 3M. A [project area map](#) is available on the 3M PFAS settlement homepage.

Applicant organizations must be capable of planning and executing a project in the project area. Applications will be considered from local units of government, non-profit organizations, watershed districts, federal/state agencies, Tribes, and schools. Individuals or for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for a grant.

To be considered, a project must help achieve one or more of these settlement goals:

- **Goal 1** – Restore, protect, and enhance aquatic and terrestrial resources, wildlife, and habitats.
- **Goal 2** – Increase understanding of fish tissue contamination, improve communication about PFAS-based fish consumption advisories, and identify and enhance alternative, non-contaminated fishing areas.
- **Goal 3** – Improve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

Applicants can apply for no less than \$20,000 per project. No match is required.

The RFP is a two-part proposal process:

Applicants will first submit a letter of intent — a brief project description and map to determine whether a project qualifies for Priority 2 funding. Agency staff will review all submissions and apply the project criteria and specifications in determining which applications will be invited to submit a full application. Letters of intent can be submitted via email until 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 4 to 3MPriority2@state.mn.us.

Project criteria and specifications were determined by project co-trustees in consultation with two work groups — a government and 3M work group and a resident work group.

Specifics about how to submit a letter of intent and other details on the project webpage: mndnr.gov/3mp2. More information about the 3M PFAS Settlement and Priority 2 is available on the [3M PFAS Settlement web portal](#). The webpage and the portal both include a link to sign up for email updates.

Questions can be emailed to 3MPriority2@state.mn.us.

 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [[Contact us](#)]

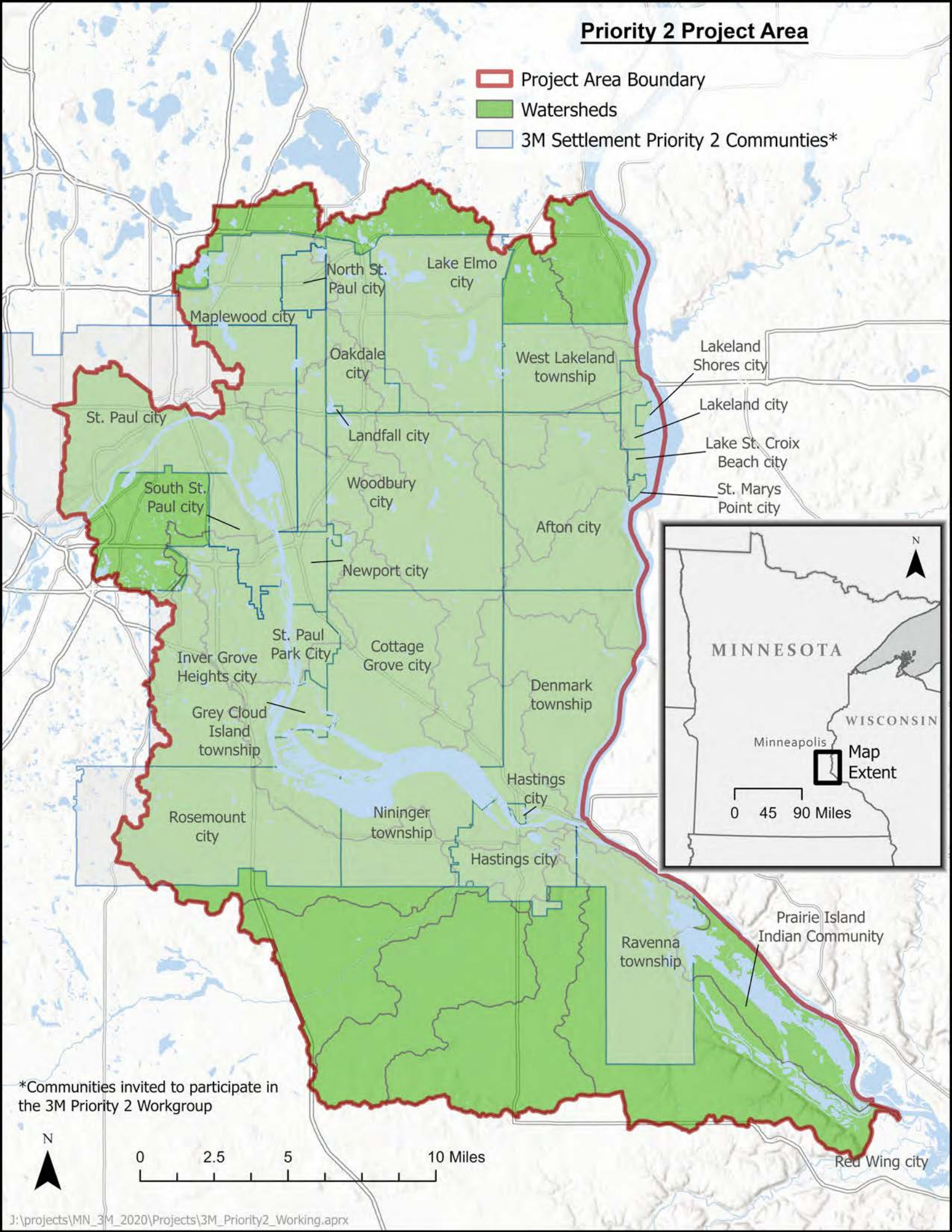


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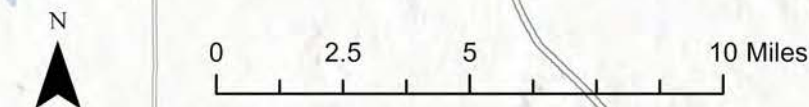
This email was sent to joe.barten@co.dakota.mn.us using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North · Saint Paul, MN 55155 · 1-800-439-1420

Priority 2 Project Area

- Project Area Boundary
- Watersheds
- 3M Settlement Priority 2 Communities*



*Communities invited to participate in the 3M Priority 2 Workgroup





February 6, 2025

Grant Committee Members
Minnesota DNR Legacy Funds

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) Board of Managers, please accept this letter of support for the City of West St. Paul's Mud Lake improvement efforts.

Healthy ecosystems are critical components of the hydrologic system and positively affect soil health, groundwater, surface water quality and quantity, wildlife, fisheries, aesthetics, and public recreation. The ability of Mud Lake to attenuate runoff and filter pollutants is important for protecting the water quality and ecological health of downstream resources. Overloading Mud Lake beyond its natural capacity with water, sediment, or nutrients has diminished its effectiveness in providing these water quality, aesthetic, and habitat benefits.

The proposed restoration will address these issues by dredging the lake to restore its depth, manage invasive species, and plant native vegetation to support wildlife. This effort is vital not only for restoring the ecological health of Mud Lake but also for enhancing the community's quality of life. Furthermore, the proposed project is in conformance with the LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan and speaks directly to multiple LMRWMO plan goals and strategies, noted below:

4.3.1 Ecological Health Goals

Goal 7: Promote fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities by maintaining or improving water quality and shoreline integrity, implementing 10 shoreline improvement projects.

Goal 8: Promote the incorporation of habitat benefits into at least stormwater management BMPs.

4.3.2 Ecological Health Strategies

Strategy 15: The WMO will work with member cities to identify shoreline degradation issues and prioritize opportunities for shoreline restoration and protection actions.

Strategy 16: The WMO will work with member cities and partners to identify and pursue opportunities to incorporate habitat or recreations benefits into WMO and member city projects.

Strategy 19: Collaborate with cities to promote access to waterbodies for recreation & education.

The LMRWMO is pleased to offer support for the City of West St. Paul's Mud Lake Restoration & Upland Vegetation Enhancement Project. We look forward to working with the City and State on future conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Barten', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Joe Barten, Administrator
Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization

Winter Salt Week 2025

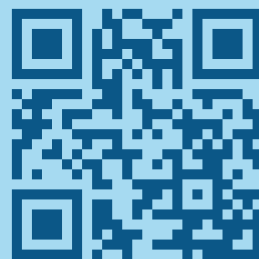
WELCOME TO THE Lower Mississippi River Watershed

Healthy lakes, streams, and River
through partnerships, education, and
coordinated action



LMR WMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Learn more about your
watershed and how
you can help keep our
freshwater fresh!





Salty Dawg's SCAVENGER HUNT



Salty Dawg's SCAVENGER HUNT



WINTER SALT WEEK 2025



WINTER SALT WEEK 2025



SMART SALTING

with Salty Dawg



Activity Book

Did you know?

Road salt is the leading cause of chloride pollution in local waters - lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Some salt during winter is necessary for safe roads, driveways, and sidewalks. But when the snow melts, salt can go into our local waters affecting fish and plants.

One teaspoon of salt
can permanently
pollute five gallons
of water FOREVER

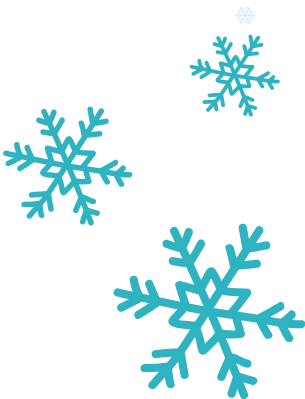


Be safe AND protect our waters by following these steps:

Clear the snow before it turns to ice. The more snow you remove with a shovel or snowplow, the less salt you will have to use (and it will be more effective!).

If you use salt, scatter so that there is space between the grains. Less is more when it comes to salt!.

Salt won't work when pavement temperatures are below 15 degrees F. *Use sand for traction* or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.



Clear the road with smart salting words!

O	T	S	M	A	R	T	P	O	S	E	L	S	W
E	I	O	W	C	W	A	T	E	R	L	A	K	E
W	T	E	O	S	O	E	A	D	E	T	L	L	T
E	R	S	L	W	T	R	W	I	N	T	E	R	L
T	E	T	P	K	T	E	E	R	T	S	S	V	T
L	C	R	W	R	W	N	A	O	C	T	S	O	S
A	I	E	O	S	A	L	T	L	D	A	O	R	T
N	E	A	N	I	K	A	T	H	E	O	W	I	A
D	D	M	S	C	R	A	N	C	W	S	A	O	A
S	I	D	E	W	A	L	K	L	E	V	O	H	S
E	E	O	U	W	R	L	C	T	R	L	O	T	N
W	C	A	T	O	L	G	N	I	K	R	A	P	A
N	A	P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N	T	K	L
D	O	E	A	W	A	R	E	N	E	S	S	O	O

Awareness
Chloride
Deicer
Lake

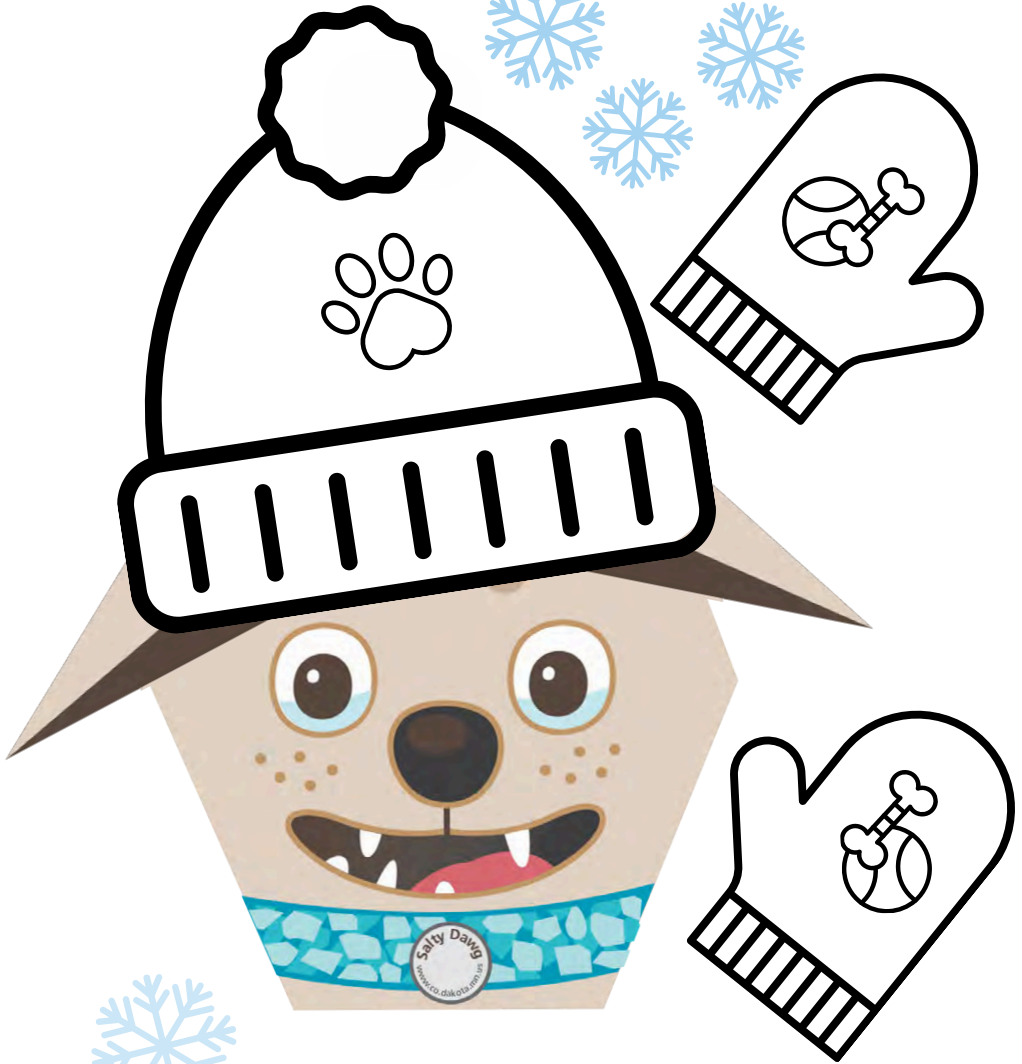
Parking Lot
Pollution
Road
Salt

Shovel
Sidewalk
Smart
Snowplow

Stream
Street
Water
Wetland
Winter

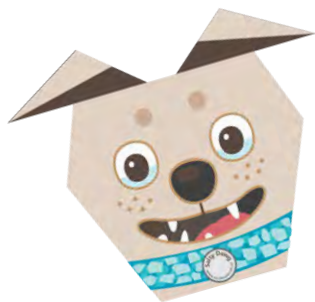


Help Salty get ready for a walk by decorating a hat and mittens!

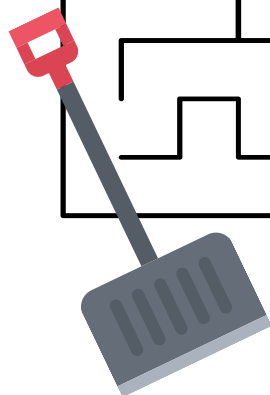
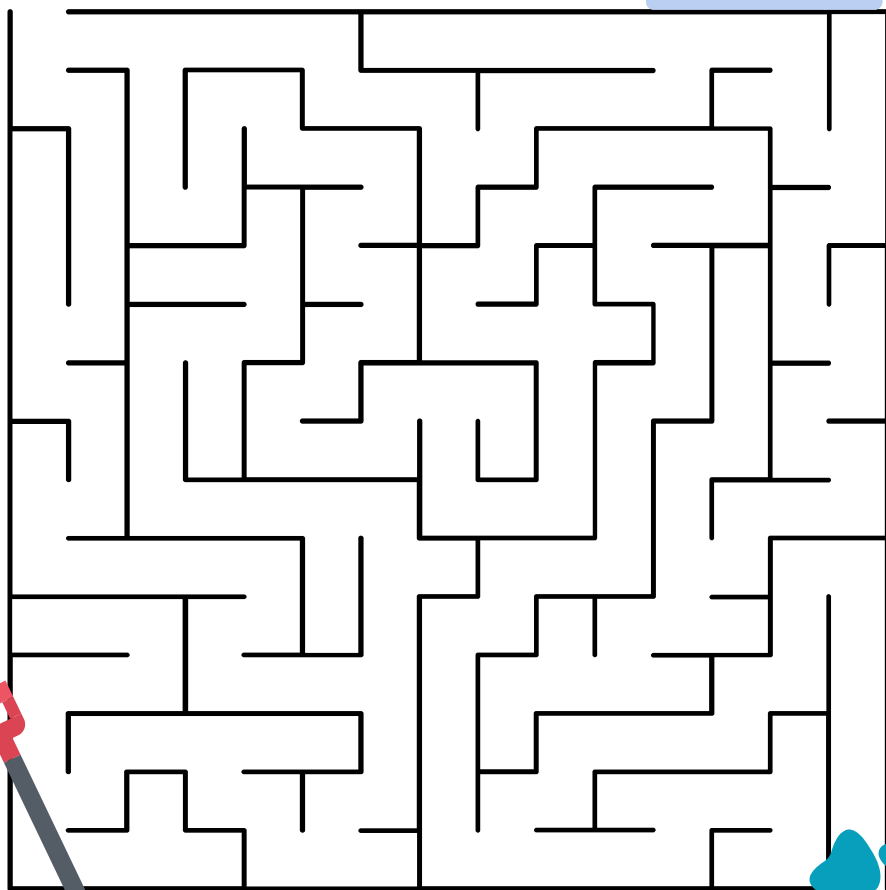


Road and sidewalk salt can irritate your pet's feet and skin, and cause more problems if they eat salt or lick their paws after a walk.

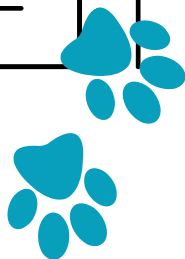
Read the packaging carefully - if chloride is listed, there is salt in it!



**Salty is ready -
make sure you
shovel early for a
clear and slip-free
sidewalk!**

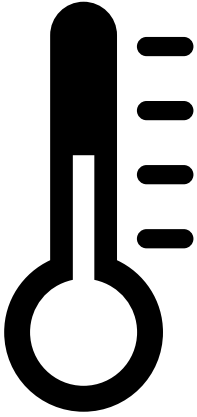


The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be.





**Salty Dawg
says -
Salt smarter
and help
protect our
waters!**



Check the pavement temperature before applying salt! Salt only works when pavement temperature is above 15°F.

In colder temperatures, use different products such as sand or a de-icer.

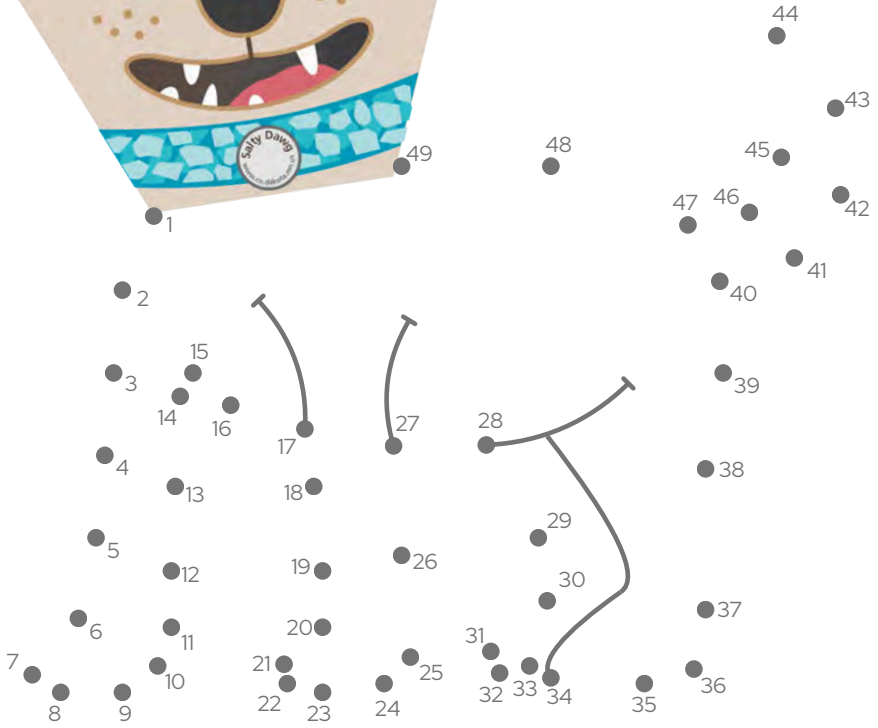
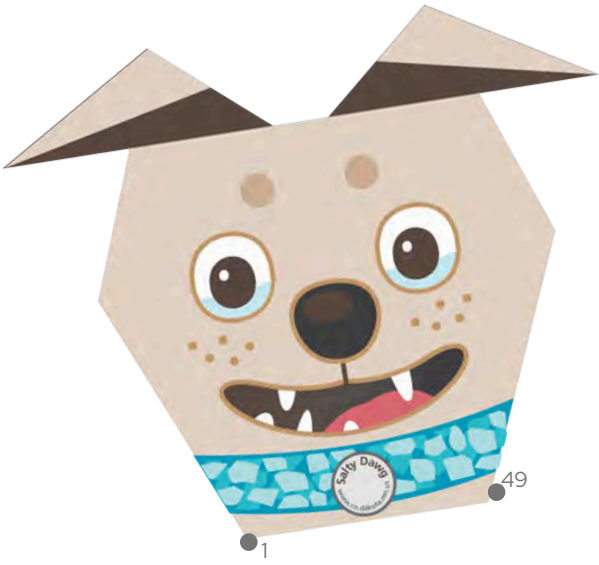


ONE mug of road salt is enough to clear a 20 ft driveway.



Remove snow early and often to lessen the need for salt. If salt or sand is needed, make sure you sweep up any excess to prevent it from entering local waters!

Thank you for helping Salty "connect the dots" on how to reduce salt use and keep our freshwater fresh!



THANK YOU PARTNERS



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT



LEARN MORE AND TAKE ACTION

Minnesota Pollution Control
Agency - Chloride resources

Izaak Walton League of
America - Salt Watch

