



Board of Managers Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

**Saint Paul Yacht Club
375 West Water Street, Saint Paul, MN 55107**

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - 1.1 Identification of Voting Board Members
 - 1.2 Approval of Agenda* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions) Action
 - 1.3 Opportunity for Public Comment (Please limit to 2 minutes per person)
2. Approve August 12th, 2026 Meeting Minutes - Chair * Action
3. Approve September 9th, 2026 Financial Summary & Invoice Payment - Treasurer * ** Action
4. Approve JPA Extension for SWCD/LMRWMO Agreement for FY-2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding – SWCD * Action
5. Review Catholic Cemeteries - Lake Augusta Technical Memorandum – SWCD * Information
6. Updates
 - 6.1 Interstate Valley Creek Ribbon Cutting - September 14th, 4:30 pm - SWCD Information
7. Board Member & Alternate Updates
8. City Staff Advisor Updates
9. Adjourn - Next Meeting: October 14th, 2026 - Pool and Yacht Club, Lilydale, MN

* Materials included in full packet

** Materials posted separately on website

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



Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

Wednesday - August 12th, 2026 – 1:15 p.m.

Fleming Field – South St. Paul Airport
1725 Henry Ave, South St Paul, MN 55075

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski (Chair) Inver Grove Heights
Brian Jastram, Saint Paul
Mary Kleinberg, Lilydale

Steve Gebauer, (Sec/Tres) Mendota Heights
Leslie Pilgrim, Mendota Heights
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ruzek, Mendota Heights
Kelsey Gelhar, South St. Paul
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake
Tom Lopac, Eagan
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

Jess Hall, West St. Paul
Pat Murphy, Saint Paul
Kate Aachenbach, WSB/Lilydale
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

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 Kleinberg to approve the meeting agenda, second by Gebauer; motion passed.

2. Approve July 8th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jastram to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Halvorsen; motion passed.

3. Approve July 8th, 2026 Financial Summary & Invoices

Ruzek summarized the financial information in the packet. Steve noted that the check numbers in the summary should be modified to match

Motion by Gebauer to approve the financial summary, second by Kleinberg; motion passed.

4. Review Proposals for Audit, Legal, and Engineering Consultants

Three proposals were received after the public notice, all from the existing consultants. The Board was advised to engage with the consultants, Peterson Company, Campbell-Knutson, and Barr Engineering Company, for the next two years as noted in their respective proposals.

Motion by Halvorsen to engage with Peterson Company (Audit), Campbell-Knutson (Legal), and Barr Engineering Company (Engineering), for the next two years as noted in their respective proposals, second by Gebauer; motion passed.

5. Review Concord Street Ravine Report

WSB completed their contracted work on the Concord Street ravine assessment and report and the Administrator sought feedback from the Board. Gebauer noted that future designs should consider vegetative stabilization and plunge pools in the final stabilization design plans. Other minor edits were noted.

6. Updates & Handouts

Barten provided follow-up information on the Metro Children's Water Festival and how they select schools. The 2025 water monitoring reports created by SWCD staff were presented to the Board. The Board generally agreed to shifting funds within the SWCD budget towards two additional Landscaping for Clean Water Grants.

7. Board Member & City Staff Updates

Board Members and City staff provided updates on relevant issues or projects in their communities.

8. Adjournment & Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 3:00 pm on July 8th, 2026 at the Fleming Field conference room in South St. Paul.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY
August 13, 2026 to September 9, 2026

<u>Beginning Balance - Gateway Bank Checking Account:</u>	\$71,782.43
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Deposit(s)

Deposit(s)

Payment(s)

5068	9/9/2026 Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District	-	\$36,802.50
5069	9/9/2026 wsb	-	\$6,202.50
		-	

<i>Checking Ending Balance</i>	\$28,777.43
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Beginning Balance - Gateway Bank Savings Account:

\$273,415.45

Deposit(s)	8/30/2026 August 2026 Interest	+	\$592.15
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<i>Savings Ending Balance</i>	<u>\$274,007.60</u>
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<i>Available Total Balance at Gateway Bank</i>	<u>\$302,785.03</u>
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LMRWMO 2026 Budget & Financial Summary		2025 Budget Carryover		2026 Budget Monthly Revenue									
Revenue	Budget	Dec 11 2025 - Jan 14 2026	Jan 15 - Feb. 11 2026 (2025 Budget)	Feb 12 - March 11 2026 (2026 Budget)	Mar 12 - April 8 2026	April 9 - May 13 2026	May 14 - June 10 2026	June 11 - July 8 2026	July 9 - Aug 12 2026	Aug 13 - Sept 9 2026	2026 Budget Totals	Variance	Percent Received
Dues from Members	\$176,784.00				\$155,792.18		\$4,261.18	\$16,731.27			\$176,784.63	(\$0.63)	100%
Interest & LMCIT Rebate	\$3,000.00	\$582.19	\$583.45	\$528.13	\$585.87	\$568.19	\$588.36	\$570.61	\$590.87	\$592.15	\$5,189.82	(\$2,189.82)	173%
Grant Revenue (Estimated)	\$150,000.00		\$16,710.69								\$16,710.69	\$133,289.31	11%
Subtotal Operating Revenue	\$179,784.00	\$582.19	\$17,294.14	\$528.13	\$156,378.05	\$568.19	\$4,849.54	\$17,301.88	\$590.87	\$592.15	\$198,685.14		
		2025 Budget Carryover		2026 Budget Monthly Expenses									
Expenses	Budget	Dec 11 2025 - Jan 14 2026	Jan 15 - Feb. 11 2026 (2025 Budget)	Feb 12 - March 11 2026 (2026 Budget)	Mar 12 - April 8 2026	April 9 - May 13 2026	May 14 - June 10 2026	June 11 - July 8 2026	July 9 - Aug 12 2026	Aug 13 - Sept 9 2026	2026 Budget Totals	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended
Engineering/Technical Assistance													
Meetings (Barr)	\$7,000.00	\$462.50	\$370.00	\$585.00	\$585.00	\$546.00	\$585.00		\$1,755.00		\$4,056.00	\$2,944.00	58%
Technical Assistance (Barr)	\$6,500.00	\$840.50	\$985.00	\$232.50	\$1,947.50	\$1,445.50	\$800.00		\$637.50		\$5,063.00	\$1,437.00	78%
Plan Implementation / Project Mgmt. (SWCD) & (WSB ¹)	\$21,200.00		\$1,000.00			\$4,105.50		\$5,129.25	\$572.50	\$6,937.50	\$16,744.75	\$4,455.25	79%
Review Local Water Plans (Barr)	\$3,000.00										\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0%
Project Study/Implementation											\$0.00		
Priority Watershed Modeling - FY-23 WBIF Match	\$12,000.00										\$0.00	\$12,000.00	0%
Watershed Wide Hydrologic / Hydraulic Model - FY-25 AIG Match	\$9,800.00										\$0.00	\$9,800.00	0%
Seidls Lake Carp Study	\$5,000.00										\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0%
Landscaping for Clean Water Projects	\$10,000.00		\$2,550.00								\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0%
Monitoring											\$0.00		
Water Monitoring (CAMP) and Reports, Augusta Gage	\$16,500.00		\$5,589.50			\$2,089.00				\$7,150.00	\$8,857.50	\$7,642.50	54%
Education											\$0.00		
WMO Biannual E-Newsletter	\$2,700.00		\$1,650.00								\$0.00	\$2,700.00	0%
Landscaping for Clean Water Classes	\$10,000.00								\$10,000.00				
Chloride Education at Libraries	\$1,500.00					\$815.00					\$815.00	\$685.00	54%
Storm Drain Stenciling Program	\$3,000.00								\$262.50		\$262.50	\$2,737.50	9%
General Education Requests, Materials, Tabling, Water Stewards ^{3, 4}	\$7,150.00		\$250.00			\$1,102.50		\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,260.00	\$5,862.50	\$1,287.50	82%
Metro Watershed Partners Membership & Welcome Kits	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00									\$1,000.00	\$0.00	100%
Website Maintenance and Updates	\$4,000.00		\$800.00			\$1,492.50				\$157.50	\$1,650.00	\$2,350.00	41%
Board Education	\$500.00										\$0.00	\$500.00	0%
Administration											\$0.00		
General Administration	\$38,000.00		\$10,300.00			\$11,127.50				\$13,332.50	\$24,460.00	\$13,540.00	64%
Grant Development / Review	\$3,000.00										\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0%
Hold Annual TAC Meeting	\$1,000.00										\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0%
Insurance	\$2,700.00							\$2,736.00			\$2,736.00	(\$36.00)	101%
Attorney and Audit	\$5,800.00	\$68.00		\$204.00				\$4,600.00			\$4,804.00	\$996.00	83%
Subtotal Operating Expenses	\$171,350.00	\$2,371.00	\$23,494.50	\$1,021.50	\$2,532.50	\$22,723.50	\$1,385.00	\$14,965.25	\$3,965.00	\$39,100.00	\$76,311.25	\$95,038.75	45%
Grant Expenses	\$400,000.00	\$1,980.50	\$2,256.00	\$17,823.69	\$74,795.30	\$11,711.50	\$6,503.00	\$0.00	\$73,763.00	\$3,905.00	\$190,757.49	\$209,242.51	48%
Overall Fund Balance		\$404,626.82	\$396,170.46	\$377,853.40	\$456,903.65	\$423,036.84	\$419,998.38	\$422,335.01	\$345,197.88	\$302,785.03			
Total Grant Balance		\$150,421.50	\$236,750.04	\$218,926.35	\$144,131.05	\$132,419.55	\$125,916.55	\$125,916.55	\$52,153.55	\$48,248.55			
Operating Fund Balance		\$254,205.32	\$159,420.42	\$158,927.05	\$312,772.60	\$290,617.29	\$294,081.83	\$296,418.46	\$293,044.33	\$254,536.48			
Unencumbered Operating Fund Balance¹		\$214,205.32	\$119,420.42	\$118,927.05	\$272,772.60	\$250,617.29	\$254,081.83	\$256,418.46	\$253,044.33	\$214,536.48			

2026 Budget Notes:

- \$40,000 set aside for 2033 Watershed Plan Update, \$10,000 additional annually encumbered.
- Board approved \$13,700 in work by WSB for Concord St. Ravine assessment on 1-14-26
- Board approved \$2,500 in funding towards Childrens Water Festival on 6-10-26.
- Board approved \$1,000 in funding towards 2027 MN Water Stewards Program on 7-8-26

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

Balances Explained:

Overall Fund Balance	Balance of all bank accounts
Total Grant Balance	Grant funds in-hand
Operating Fund Balance	WMO funds without grants
Unencumbered Operating Fund Balance	WMO funds not already dedicated to future expenses

LMRWMO 2026 Grant Budget & Financial Summary															
	Budget	Jan 12 2023 - Jan 10 2024	Jan 11, 2024 - Jan 8 2025	Jan 9 2025 - Jan 14, 2026	Jan 15 - Feb 11 2026	Feb12 - Mar 11 2026	Mar 12 - April 8 2026	April 9 - May 13 2026	May 14 - June 10 2026	June 11 - July 8 2026	July 9 - Aug 12 2026	Aug 13 - Sept 9 2026	Total	Variance	Percent Received/ Expended
BWSR - FY 2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Priority Watershed Project ID & Model - Thompson, Rogers, Seidls)															
Revenue															
BWSR FY-2023 WBIF Payment	\$118,385.00	\$59,193.00											\$59,193.00	\$59,192.00	50%
WBIF Matching Funds (LMRWMO)	\$12,000.00												\$0.00	\$12,000.00	0%
Total Revenue	\$130,385.00	\$59,193.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,193.00	\$71,192.00	45%
Expenses															
Grant Administration	\$8,000.00		\$769.50	\$517.00	\$188.00			\$749.00					\$2,223.50	\$5,776.50	28%
Project Development	\$10,000.00		\$1,491.00	\$3,713.00	\$1,833.00			\$1,337.50				\$550.00	\$8,924.50	\$1,075.50	89%
Priority Watershed Project ID & Model	\$100,385.00			\$983.50		\$536.50	\$1,554.45	\$2,940.50	\$4,829.50		\$58,826.50		\$69,670.95	\$30,714.05	69%
Priority Watershed Project ID & Model (WMO Match)	\$12,000.00												\$0.00	\$12,000.00	0%
Total Expenses	\$130,385.00	\$0.00	\$2,260.50	\$5,213.50	\$2,021.00	\$536.50	\$1,554.45	\$5,027.00	\$4,829.50	\$0.00	\$58,826.50	\$550.00	\$80,818.95	\$49,566.05	62%
FY-23 WBIF Balance		\$59,193.00	\$56,932.50	\$51,719.00	\$49,698.00	\$49,161.50	\$47,607.05	\$42,580.05	\$37,750.55	\$37,750.55	\$21,075.95	\$21,625.95	\$21,625.95		
BWSR - FY 2025 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Ivy Falls Creek Study)															
Revenue															
BWSR FY-2025 WBIF Payment	\$102,410.00			\$51,205.00									\$51,205.00	\$51,205.00	50%
WBIF Matching Funds (LMRWMO)	\$10,241.00												\$0.00	\$10,241.00	0%
Total Revenue	\$112,651.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,205.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,205.00	\$61,446.00	45%
Expenses															
Grant Administration	\$6,410.00							\$535.00					\$535.00	\$5,875.00	8%
Project Development	\$28,000.00				\$235.00			\$856.00				\$2,750.00	\$3,841.00	\$24,159.00	14%
Ivy Falls Stream and Watershed Study	\$68,000.00												\$0.00	\$68,000.00	0%
Ivy Falls Stream and Watershed Study (WMO Match)	\$10,241.00												\$0.00	\$10,241.00	0%
Total Expenses	\$112,651.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$235.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,391.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,750.00	\$4,376.00	\$108,275.00	4%
FY-25 WBIF Balance		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,205.00	\$50,970.00	\$50,970.00	\$50,970.00	\$49,579.00	\$49,579.00	\$49,579.00	\$49,579.00	\$46,829.00	\$46,829.00		
MN DNR - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant (Seidls Lake Shoreline Restoration)															
Revenue															
Grant Reimbursement Payments	\$382,000.00		\$70,192.78	\$257,751.06	\$16,710.69								\$344,654.53	\$37,345.47	90%
City Matching funds	\$81,000.00													\$81,000.00	0%
Total Revenue	\$463,000.00	\$0.00	\$70,192.78	\$257,751.06	\$16,710.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$344,654.53	\$118,345.47	74%
Expenses															
Grant Administration/Project Mgmt	\$26,000.00	\$15,118.00	\$6,171.50	\$5,211.50									\$26,501.00	(\$501.00)	102%
Construction	\$276,000.00			\$176,035.74		\$13,557.19	\$66,613.85						\$256,206.78	\$19,793.22	93%
Engineering	\$46,000.00			\$54,034.25		\$3,153.50	\$5,260.00						\$62,447.75	(\$16,447.75)	136%
Engineering	\$35,000.00			\$35,209.50									\$35,209.50	(\$209.50)	101%
Total Expenses	\$383,000.00	\$15,118.00	\$6,171.50	\$235,285.99	\$0.00	\$16,710.69	\$71,873.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$380,365.03	\$2,634.97	99%
Seidls Lake Shoreline Balance		-\$15,118.00	\$48,903.28	\$71,368.35	\$88,079.04	\$71,368.35	-\$505.50	-\$505.50	-\$505.50	-\$505.50	-\$505.50	-\$505.50	-\$501.00		
BWSR - FY-25 Accelerated Implementation Grant (Modeling)															
Revenue															
Grant Reimbursement Payments	\$98,000.00			\$49,000.00									\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00	50%
Matching funds (LMRWMO)	\$9,800.00												\$0.00	\$9,800.00	0%
Total Revenue	\$107,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,000.00	\$58,800.00	45%
Expenses															
Grant Administration	\$7,000.00							\$481.50					\$481.50	\$6,518.50	7%
Project Development	\$11,000.00							\$2,140.00	\$1,673.50			\$605.00	\$3,813.50	\$7,186.50	35%
Consultant - Develop Models	\$80,000.00			\$997.00		\$576.50	\$1,367.00	\$2,672.00			\$14,936.50		\$5,612.50	\$74,387.50	7%
Consultant - Develop Models (WMO Match)	\$9,800.00												\$0.00	\$9,800.00	0%
Total Expenses	\$107,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$997.00	\$0.00	\$576.50	\$1,367.00	\$5,293.50	\$1,673.50	\$0.00	\$14,936.50	\$605.00	\$9,907.50	\$97,892.50	9%
FY-25 AIG Balance		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,003.00	\$48,003.00	\$47,426.50	\$46,059.50	\$40,766.00	\$39,092.50	\$39,092.50	\$24,156.00	\$23,551.00	\$39,092.50		
	Budget	Jan 12 2023 - Jan 10 2024	Jan 11, 2024 - Jan 8 2025	Jan 9 2025 - Jan 14, 2026	Jan 15 - Feb 11 2026	Feb12 - Mar 11 2026	Mar 12 - April 8 2026	April 9 - May 13 2026	May 14 - June 10 2026	June 11 - July 8 2026	July 9 - Aug 12 2026	Aug 13 - Sept 9 2026	Total	Variance	Percent Received/ Expended
TOTAL GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED	\$593,385.00	\$59,193.00	\$70,192.78	\$357,956.06	\$16,710.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$455,052.53	\$189,537.47	77%
PASS THROUGH MATCH RECEIVED	\$81,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$93,000.00	0%
LMRWMO MATCH PROVIDED	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69,670.95	\$169,537.47	581%
GRANT EXPENSES (MINUS WMO MATCH)															
GRANT EXPENSES (MINUS WMO MATCH)	\$413,000.00	\$15,118.00	\$8,432.00	\$241,496.49	\$2,256.00	\$17,823.69	\$74,795.30	\$11,711.50	\$6,503.00	\$0.00	\$73,763.00	\$3,905.00	\$395,889.03	\$119,520.97	96%
PASS THROUGH MATCH EXPENSES	\$81,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$89,243.75	\$0.00	\$3,153.50	\$5,260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$167,328.20	-\$86,328.20	207%
NET GRANT FUNDS BALANCE (MINUS WMO MATCH)		\$44,075.00	\$105,835.78	\$222,295.35	\$236,750.04	\$218,926.35	\$144,131.05	\$132,419.55	\$125,916.55	\$125,916.55	\$52,153.55	\$48,248.55			

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI
RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION TO ASSIST WITH
IMPLEMENTING A FY23 WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION GRANT**

WHEREAS, effective October 5, 2023, the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) entered into a joint powers agreement for the provision of grant administration and project development services for the FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Grant ("Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Agreement provides: "[t]his Agreement shall be in effect as of the date of execution of all the parties, and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2026, or until all obligations by the parties of their respective obligations under this Agreement have been fulfilled, whichever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Agreement."; and

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Agreement provides: "SWCD agrees to provide LMRWMO with the following services: Grant Administration and Project Development from the date of execution until December 31, 2026, as expressed in the Work Plan attached and incorporated into this Agreement as Exhibit 1. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and Exhibit 1, the terms of this Agreement shall govern"; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement has not been terminated nor have the parties fulfilled all their respective obligations under the Agreement as of the date of this First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the SWCD and LMRWMO seek to amend: (a) Sections 2 and 3 of the Agreement for purposes of extending the term of the Agreement through December 31, 2027; and (b) Section 12 of the Agreement to identify Ashley Gallagher as the authorized representative of the SWCD; and

WHEREAS, Section 19 of the Agreement provides that any alterations, variations or modifications to the Agreement shall be valid only when expressed in writing and duly signed by the parties' authorized representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein the parties agree as follows:

1. To amend Section 2 Term to read as follows:

This Agreement shall be in effect as of the date of execution of all the parties, and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2027, or until all obligations by the parties of their respective obligations under this Agreement have been fulfilled, whichever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Agreement.

2. To amend Section 3 Scope of Services to read as follows:

SWCD agrees to provide LMRWMO with the following services: Grant Administration and Project Development from the date of execution until December 31, 2027, as expressed in the Work Plan attached and incorporated into this Agreement as Exhibit 1. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Agreement, as amended, and Exhibit 1, the terms of this Agreement, as amended, shall govern.

3. To amend Section 12 Authorized Representatives, in part, to identify the following person as the authorized representative for the SWCD:

Ashley Gallagher, District Manager
Dakota County SWCD
4100 220th Street West, Suite 102
Farmington, MN 55024
Telephone: (651) 480-7781

4. All other terms of the Agreement between the SWCD and LMRWMO shall remain in full force and effect unless otherwise amended.
5. In any case where this First Amendment conflicts with the Agreement, this First Amendment shall prevail.
6. **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES** - Each party agrees that the electronic signatures of the parties included in this Agreement are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as wet ink signatures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this First Amendment on the date(s) indicated below.

**DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

By: _____
Kevin Chamberlain, Chair, or successor

By: _____
Sharon Lencowski, Chair, or successor

Date: _____

Date: _____

Dakota County SWCD Board Motion
No. _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Brian J. Wisdorf 8/25/2026
Assistant Dakota County Attorney/Date
KS-23-472-01

**FY-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan and Budget for the
Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization for Work Performed by the
Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District**

TASK	CALCULATION			SUBTOTAL
	Hours	Rate	Fees	
Administration	90	\$90.00		\$8,100.00
Administration • Manage the grant and provide overall administration of funds, match requirements, and grant reporting. • Coordinate with State Agency contacts regarding all aspects of the grant. • Maintain program and project files to include appropriate documents as reference. Maintain financial records to include all revenue and expenses associated with this grant, as well as expenditures on projects. • Provide entries and status reporting into the eLINK system. Provide website support to follow BWSR website grant reporting requirements.				
Project Development	110	\$90.00		\$9,900.00
Project Development • Implement activities outlined in grant work plan. • Coordinate with project stakeholders to finalize the terms of implementation of this project and create a detailed scope of work for procurement of a feasibility study consultant. • Organize stakeholder meetings to inform and coordinate with affected parties. • Create joint powers agreement (JPA) to define financial responsibilities of project cooperators. • Communicate with project partners and stakeholders before, during, and after feasibility study is undertaken. • Provide direction to feasibility study consultant on study details.				
Total				\$18,000.00
Total Agreement Not-to Exceed				\$18,000.00

Notes:

1. Additional items may be required of the SWCD during the workplan timeframe and individual budget amounts may change as work progresses. If proposed changes are to exceed the total agreed amount, this work plan can be amended as jointly approved by the LMRWMO and SWCD.
2. Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources grants require the use of their billable rate process for work completed by Soil & Water Conservation Districts and other local units of government. The hourly rate is an estimate and the actual BWSR billable rates will apply.

MEMORANDUM

SRF Project No. 20033.00

To: Jonquil Shipman
The Catholic Cemeteries
Leah Gifford, PE, Senior Project Manager

From: Will Claridge, PE, Water Resources Engineer III
Becca Even, EIT, Water Resources Engineer II

Date: July 29, 2026

Subject: Lake Augusta Outlet Improvement Study in Mendota Heights, MN:
Final Site Assessment and Alternatives Technical Memorandum

The Catholic Cemeteries (TCC) commissioned SRF Consulting Group to determine the feasibility of the installation of an outlet for Lake Augusta, located in Mendota Heights, Minnesota. The goal was to build understanding of the lake level risk relative to burial elevations, evaluate feasible improvement alternatives, and advance a preferred option toward implementation while accounting for regulatory, maintenance, and ownership considerations. This memorandum summarizes the site assessment and alternatives.



Figure 1. Lake Augusta and Lake Lemay, with Resurrection Cemetery to the east, TH 62 to the north, and TH 55 to the west.

Site Background

Lake Augusta, located in Mendota Heights, Minnesota and adjacent to Resurrection Cemetery, has experienced substantial water level increases over the past several decades. The lake is currently landlocked, with a surface area of approximately 44 acres and a maximum depth of 33 feet, however both of those values change based on water level.

Of particular concern to Resurrection Cemetery, owned and managed by TCC, are burial locations adjacent to the lake. The threshold lake elevation that would pose a direct risk to existing burials remains unknown, creating a significant uncertainty and risk for future decisions.

This project seeks to build upon prior studies by advancing an implementation-focused evaluation of lake outlet control, shoreline improvements, and related measures that prioritize actions that reduce

long-term risk to cemetery operations while improving lake water quality and stability.

Water Levels

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) first established the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) of Lake Augusta with a survey in 1985 to set the regulatory Public Waters elevation at 832.5. The lake was again surveyed in 2025 and 2026 by the MnDNR and the OHWL was revised to 837.0.

Historical water level readings (from the 1980s to present) were provided by the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO). SRF projected historical aerial photographs from 1940, 1951, 1957, and 1964 on estimated bathymetry to assess the water surface elevations (WSE). These elevation estimates, the data provided by the watershed, and the two surveyed OHWLs are shown on Figure 2 to show the change in water levels over time, and Appendix A for the historic aerial photos.

If you take the average WSE readings available in 1985 (833.68 converted to NAVD 88) and in 2025 (846.52), we can see an average rise in WSE of 0.32 feet per year when simplifying to a linear fit.

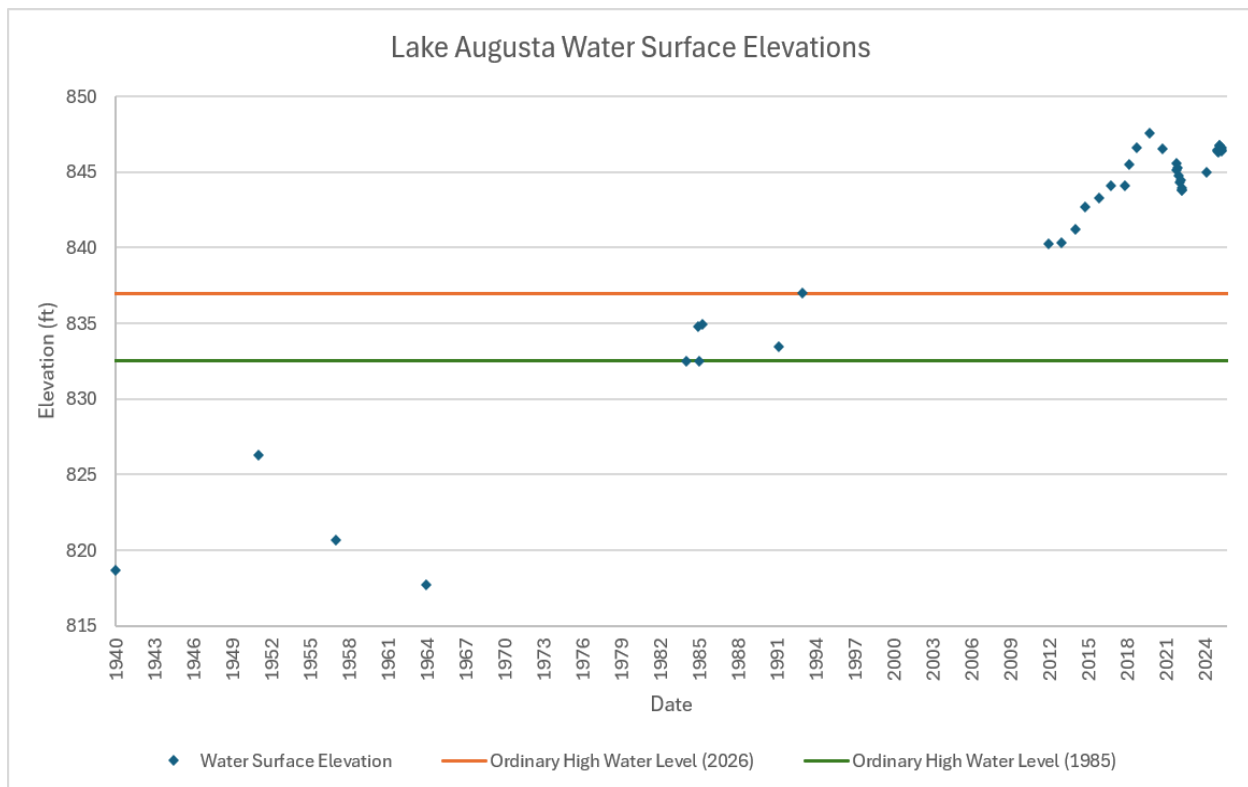


Figure 2. Lake Augusta Historical Lake Levels

Site History

SRF collected relevant past studies and construction records on the watershed, Lakes Augusta and Lemay, and on the roadways bordering the lakes. The timeline is summarized below:

- 1896 – The earliest available topographic map was published. A road appears at the north end of Lake Augusta.
- 1925 – MnDOT Construction Logs indicate that a concrete road was installed at the north end of the lake, there are no record plans.
- 1940 – The Resurrection Cemetery was established.
- 1985 – MnDNR hydrographic work report describes the consideration of adding outlets to Lemay and Augusta.
- 1994 – Lake Lemay outlet was constructed with the MnDOT Trunk Highway (TH) 55 project; this is also when the interchange of TH 13 and TH 110 (now TH 62) was realigned to its current configuration.
- 2010 – Lake Augusta was placed on Minnesota’s 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for excess nutrients (phosphorous)¹.
- 2012 – A study was conducted by the LMRWMO and identified internal phosphorous from the lake bottom sediment as the primary source of phosphorous².
- 2017- A Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Report was completed by MPCA, however because the lake is landlocked and not contributing to downstream water quality concerns, the lake was minimally referenced within the report.
- 2017 – An alum treatment was completed on Lake Augusta, the following years saw a slight phosphorus reduction³. However, water quality remains poor.
- 2018 – The Mendota Heights Surface Water Management Plan was published and contains water level and pollutant loading information for Lake Augusta.
- 2020 - A Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Report completed for the LMRWMO but Lake Augusta was minimally cited.
- 2023 - In partnership with the LMRWMO, the City of Mendota Heights commissioned Barr Engineering to complete a “Lake Augusta Water Quality Improvement and Outlet

¹ https://lmrwmo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Lake-Augusta-Monitoring-Report_2018.pdf

² <https://dakotaswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2021-Augusta-Monitoring-Report.pdf>

³ <https://lmrwmo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2024-Augusta-LMRWMO-WQ-Monitoring-Reports.pdf>

Feasibility Study" (2023 LMRWMO Report) to evaluate the condition of Lake Augusta and identify potential solutions to address water quality and water level concerns.

- 2025 - Star Tribune article about the lake summarized the issues of the lake and water quality.

Topographic Conditions

SRF reviewed LiDAR information to determine the current natural overflow. Should the water rise to 861.9, it would overflow to the west into Lake Lemay. To overtop the northern bounding Centre Point Frontage Road, water levels would have to exceed 864.9.

The team reviewed historical USGS Topographic Maps, and the oldest from 1896 indicated that high water would have flowed to the north towards the Minnesota River. The east-west road at the north end of the lake and subsequent construction did not take into account that that route is the natural drainage path should Lake Augusta overtop.



Figure 3. 1896 USGS Historical Topographic Map.

Water Quality

Water quality in Lake Augusta has been a long-term concern. Even with active management including monitoring and the alum treatment, the lake has not shown improvement and has frequent algal blooms. The 2023 LMRWMO Report primarily focuses on water quality, but the lake levels are

also noted. The report attributes, in part, the ongoing water quality problems to the many Cormorants roosting in the hundreds of dead trees along the lake shore, producing waste that increases the phosphorous loading into the lake⁴. The dead trees are due to the rise in water levels.

The Report considers three potential solutions to improve water quality and concludes that a lake outlet and shoreline tree removal would be the most cost-effective way to reduce the total phosphorous (TP) loading at \$540 per pound of TP removed. The other solutions were to construct treatment ponds within existing low points or storage areas within the cemetery.

Data Collection

Gopher State One Call data was collected to determine if there were any major utility concerns that would impact the routing of an outlet from Lake Augusta. There are a large number of utilities surrounding the lake to the north and the west. The team does not believe any of these utilities would restrict the possible outlet alternatives. There is a large transmission line crossing the lake but is not in the area of the outlet.

A topographic survey was completed on May 26, 2026 on the east side of the lake with the closest and lowest burials. The elevations and locations of the shoreline, slope, monuments, and key drainage features were collected.

Modeling

The City provided a HydroCAD model of the Gun Club watershed, which includes Lake Augusta and Resurrection Cemetery. SRF trimmed the model to only include the Lake Augusta watershed and then updated the model by correcting the hydrology and adding more detailed hydraulics to the ponds within the cemetery. This was then used to develop a regression equation to estimate how different rainfall amounts would affect the water level. This was done by looking at varying rainfall amounts from 0.11 inches to the 1000-year storm event (12.17 inches) and then plotting the rise in water level based on results from the HydroCAD model.

The equation was then used in a water balance spreadsheet. Rainfall data from MSP Airport over the months of April to June 2026 were compared to the recorded water levels from the staff gauge on the lake, and typical evapotranspiration by month were compared to understand whether groundwater was coming into or flowing out of the lake.

April's rainfall data was not used because the influence of snowmelt and freeze-thaw was seen in the water balance. In the months of May and June we saw fairly consistent average outflow of 0.012 inches per hour when accounting for evapotranspiration. The average was used because the day-to-day evapotranspiration rate varies based on temperature, cloud cover, wind speed, humidity, and other factors.

⁴ <https://www.startribune.com/cormorants-lake-augusta-mendota-heights/601384321>

Resurrection Cemetery Priorities

The lowest and most at-risk burial sites are located along the eastern lakeshore near the middle of the lake. The ground elevations at the grave sites are estimated to be near 860 feet at the ground surface, with burial bottoms estimated around 854 feet. Resurrection Cemetery does not have records of the type of burials utilized in the 1940s and 1950s which is when many near the shoreline were first used. Therefore, we are considering the criteria for green burials in our assumptions on water levels. Green burials provide a more conservative estimate than a traditional concrete lined or vaulted burial. The Minn. Stat. § 306.991 Subd. 3. (a) (1) requires at least 3.5 feet between the OHWL and burial bottom for green burials⁵.

Due to Lake Augusta's history of significant bounces in water surface elevation, we recommend a 5-foot differential between the bottom of the lowest burial and the max water surface elevation of the lake. Thus, we suggest lake levels should not exceed 849.0. With the established annual rise over the last forty years, that would occur within 8 years. Our modeling shows that a 100-year storm can raise the lake 2.8 feet, which would also exceed the recommended water elevation and with our understanding of groundwater outflow, that storm would take water levels in Lake Augusta approximately 3 months to recede.

The MnDNR's newly published OHWL elevation sets where the water level becomes a matter of regulatory review, which is elevation 837.0. Therefore the water level could be reduced to that elevation without significant permit implications. However, many stakeholders will need to weigh in on the determination of water surface elevations.

The cemetery also was concerned about shoreline erosion in the same area. SRF completed a wave attack analysis and confirmed riprap protection would be sufficient to protect the shoreline. The smallest size, MnDOT's Class I Random Riprap, would protect the shoreline. However, addressing the lake level would also abate some erosion concerns. The slopes are 5.5H:1V where the wave action is the highest and 2.9H:1V where the steepest slopes are located, which has less of a wind "fetch" across the lake. If active shoreline erosion is observed, simple placement of riprap should be enough to protect the shoreline.

Planning-Level Alternatives Analysis

SRF met with the City and LMRWMO to discuss alternatives to address lake water levels and learn about the history of this topic. It was clear that draining west towards Lake Lemay would not be an option because of water quality concerns – Lake Lemay has better water quality and water from Lake Augusta would worsen it. There are also flooding and storm capacity concerns downstream of the outlet from Lake Lemay. The only direction that the lake can outlet is north through a pumped outlet, through the MnDOT right-of-way to the Minnesota River, which is where it would have drained prior to construction of the highway. The LMRWMO noted that they had discussed adding a lake outlet through MnDOT right-of-way in 2022, which is referenced in the 2023 LMRWMO Water Quality and Outlet Feasibility Study. The report

⁵ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/307.14>

indicates that MnDOT may set conditions of a 1-2 cfs maximum pumping rate and restrictions of temporary pumping when heavy rain is forecasted (>2" in 48 hours).

SRF is proposing two pumping alternatives as an outlet for Lake Augusta. The first alternative is a permanent pumping system that would include a wet well and lift station and would be turned on automatically when a certain lake level is reached. The second alternative is a temporary pumping system that would be manually placed and operated when pumping is needed following a rise in lake levels or something that can be deployed once a year. Each of these alternatives are summarized in detail in Appendix B, with the profile, plan view, opinion of probable cost, site and design assumptions, and operation and maintenance needs.

Permitting

SRF has reviewed local and state permitting requirements for the addition of a lake outlet. Permitting requirements are summarized below by agency.

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

A project to address lake levels typically requires an **Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)** if the reduction of water levels could change the surface of the lake, a public water, by 1 or more acres.⁶ The boundary of the public water is delineated by the OHWL elevation and due to the proposed design not lowering the lake elevation below the OHWL, an EAW is likely not required. However, this should be discussed further with the City because they can request an EAW and may choose to do so to address any concerns from the public that may arise.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

MnDNR coordination is needed as the agency oversees public waters and water level management plans. A **Public Waters Work Permit** would be required if work within the lake would occur below the ordinary high-water level (OHWL).⁷ A permanent intake pipe below the OHWL would trigger a permit but if the intake pipe is above 837.0, a permit would not be required. If work is not done below the OHWL, the MnDNR should still be involved and informed of the changes in the lake outlet.

Either alternative would require the pumping of a volume of over 10,000 gallons per day or one million gallons within a year, so the project would require a **Water Appropriation Permit**.⁸ This permit can be continual or based on use.

Since at least one permit will be needed, other MnDNR requirements will need to be addressed. These include:

- Landowner signatures from the lakeshore property owners.

⁶ <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/environmental-review/guidance-practitioners/environmental-assessment-worksheet-eaw-guidance>

⁷ https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/index.html

⁸ https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/index.html

- A flowage easement would be required if the proposed design changed the water levels below the OHWL. However, the proposed design should lower water levels while remaining above the OHWL, so a flowage easement should not be required.
- Any infrastructure that is installed on privately owned land will require easement dedication.
- Watershed modeling is required to analyze the proposed outlet functionality for the 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 50-, and 100-year storm events.
- The proposed outlet will need to be included within an approved water management plan through the City of Mendota Heights or Lower Minnesota River Watershed Management Organization.
- Review by biologists is required to ensure the protection of aquatic species

SRF has met with the MnDNR to discuss these potential permitting needs and recommends close coordination into final design to ensure the project is compliant with all requirements.

Lower Minnesota River Watershed Management Organization

Lake Augusta falls within the bounds of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed Management Organization. No permits are required by the LMRWMO for water resources related projects and permitting must be completed through the city the project is located in.⁹ However, close coordination is recommended in final design.

City of Mendota Heights

The City of Mendota Heights requires a Stormwater Management Permit when a land disturbing activity is greater than 5,000 sq-ft or 50 cu-yd that includes: grading, filling, excavation, storing, transporting and disposal of soil or earth materials, unless exempt by Title 14, Ch. 1-6 of the city code.¹⁰ If installing a permanent pump station and pipe, it may trigger review of the project's Erosion Control plan.

While the project work limits are likely to be within the City of Mendota Heights, there is a portion of the lake shoreline that is the City of Mendota, and it is likely that access to the outlet would be through that City. No permits should be required but written notification of the project should be documented.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Currently, Lake Augusta is not a "Water of the United States", because it has no outlet which is the trigger for United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits or approvals. However, since the project would discharge to existing storm sewer that eventually outfalls into the Minnesota River,

⁹ <https://lmrwmo.org/permits/>

¹⁰ <https://mn-mendotaheights.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/267/Stormwater-Management-Permit-Application-PDF?bidId=>

that may turn the Lake into a Water of the US and the project would need approval from the USACE.¹¹

The next phase of the project should request an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) to confirm if it is a water of the US and describe the work to confirm USACE requirements.

Minnesota Department of Transportation

A Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Drainage Permit would be required as the proposed design discharges into existing storm sewer owned and operated by MnDOT.¹²

Changing Rainfall Patterns

The rise in Lake Augusta's water levels has not occurred in isolation; it reflects a broader shift in regional precipitation. Figure 4 plots the historical precipitation record with two trendlines: one fit to the entire period of record (light blue) and one fit to the most recent 35 years (dark blue). The steeper slope of the recent trendline indicates that annual precipitation is not only increasing but increasing at a faster rate than the long-term record would suggest. This is consistent with statewide observations that Minnesota has grown measurably wetter in recent decades, with increases in both total annual precipitation and the frequency and intensity of large rainfall events.

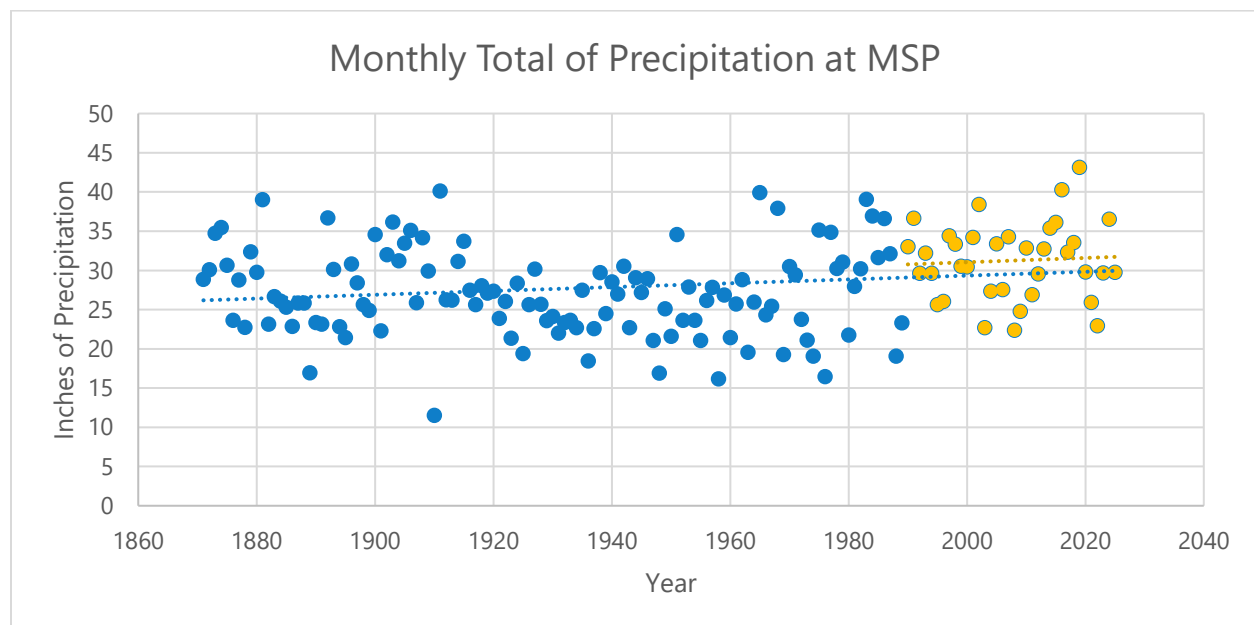


Figure 4. Plot of Historical Precipitation with Trendlines, light blue is for entire record history, dark blue is for the last 35 years. (Data from NWS DataNOW website)

¹¹ <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Delineation/>

¹² <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/forms.html>

Conclusion

Lake Augusta has risen approximately 13 feet since the mid-1980s and, absent intervention, will continue to rise. Because of the threshold of direct risk to burials, SRF recommends managing the lake to a maximum water surface elevation of 849.0. Under the historical rate of rise, that elevation will be reached within approximately 8 years; accelerating precipitation trends and the possibility of a single large storm event make earlier exceedance plausible. Doing nothing carries a quantifiable and near-term risk to cemetery operations. With no surface outlet, the lake's only losses are evapotranspiration and a modest average groundwater outflow of approximately 0.012 inches per hour; nearly every additional inch of precipitation is retained as storage. Individual large events present a second, more immediate pathway to exceedance: the modeling indicates a 100-year storm would raise the lake approximately 2.8 feet in a matter of days, and with the limited outflow available, roughly three months would be required for levels to recede.

The alternatives analysis established that the only viable outlet direction is north through the MnDOT corridor to the Minnesota River — the lake's natural pre-development drainage path — and that either a permanent lift station or a temporary, manually operated pumping system could serve this purpose. An outlet also offers a meaningful water quality co-benefit, as the 2023 LMRWMO study identified an outlet paired with shoreline tree removal as the most cost-effective means of reducing phosphorous loading.

Next Steps

- The City of Mendota Heights is planning to begin designing an outlet and looking for grant and partner funding to support the work.
- The determination of the “normal” water surface elevation to target will need to be a joint decision between the MnDNR, MnDOT, the City of Mendota Heights, and the LMRWMO as the preferred alternative advances into final design.
- Engage landowners to communicate the concerns and alternatives.
- Confirm MnDOT requirements for draining into their system. If they require pumping to react to forecasted rainfall, that would need to be added to the control panel or require someone to turn off the system.
- Define clear ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the lake outlet.
- Consider a temporary pumping solution if the water exceeds an elevation of approximately 847 to avoid any single event risk to the burials.
- Coordinate with Xcel Energy to confirm the capacity and connection restrictions for the site to provide power to a lift station.

Appendix A – Historical Images



1951 Historical Aerial with 1985 Bathymetric Survey and 2024 Lake Boundary.

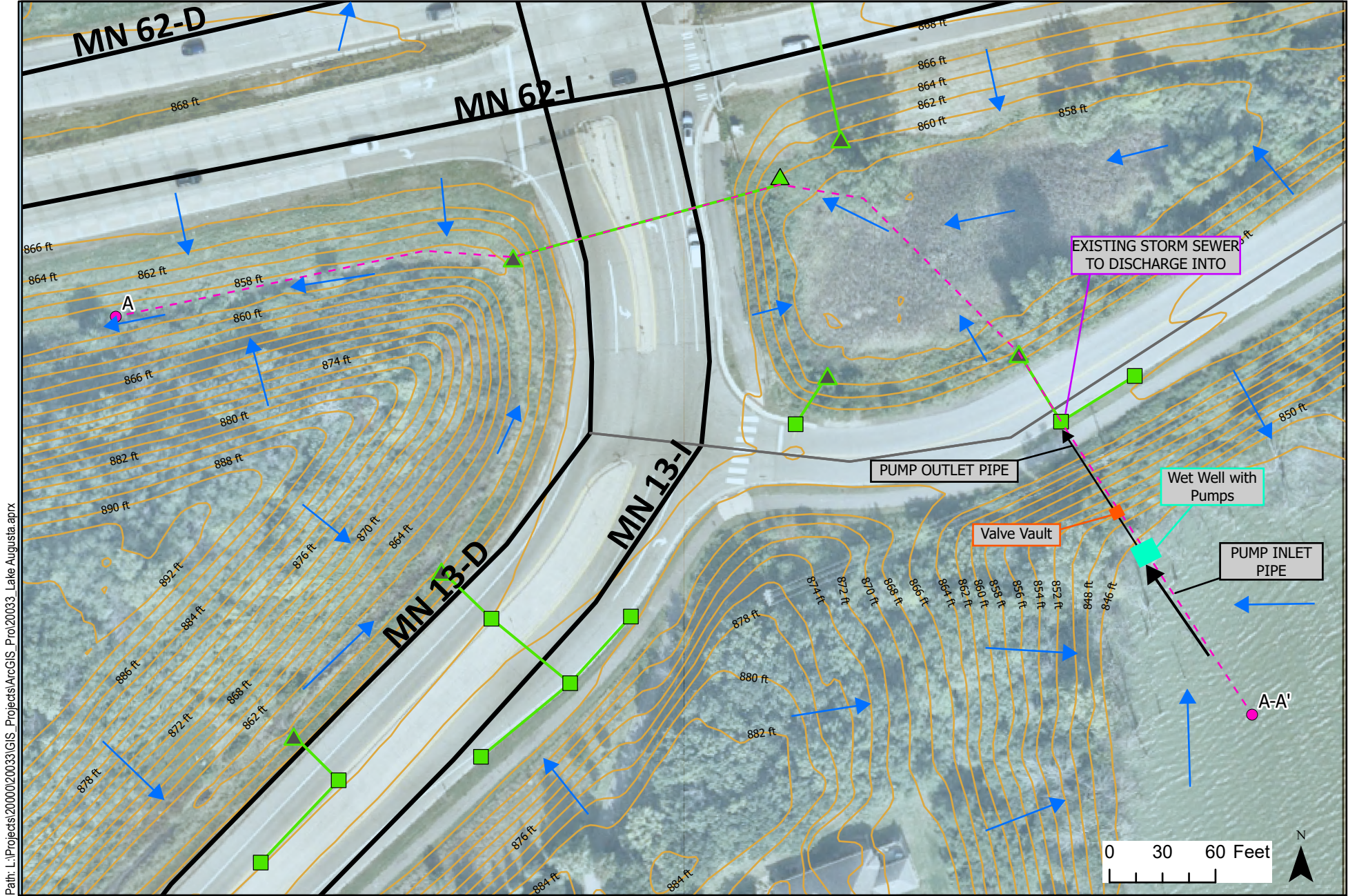


1940 Historical Aerial with 2024 Lake Boundary.



1951 USGS Topographic Map

20033_Final Site Assessment.docx



Lake Augusta - Outlet Scenario 1
20033.00
The Catholic Cemeteries

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| --- Profile Cross Section | ■ CB | ▲ OUTLET | — 2' Contours | — Local Roads |
| ● Profile Points | ▲ INLET | — Ex. Storm Pipes | — Highways | |

Figure 1

APPENDIX B

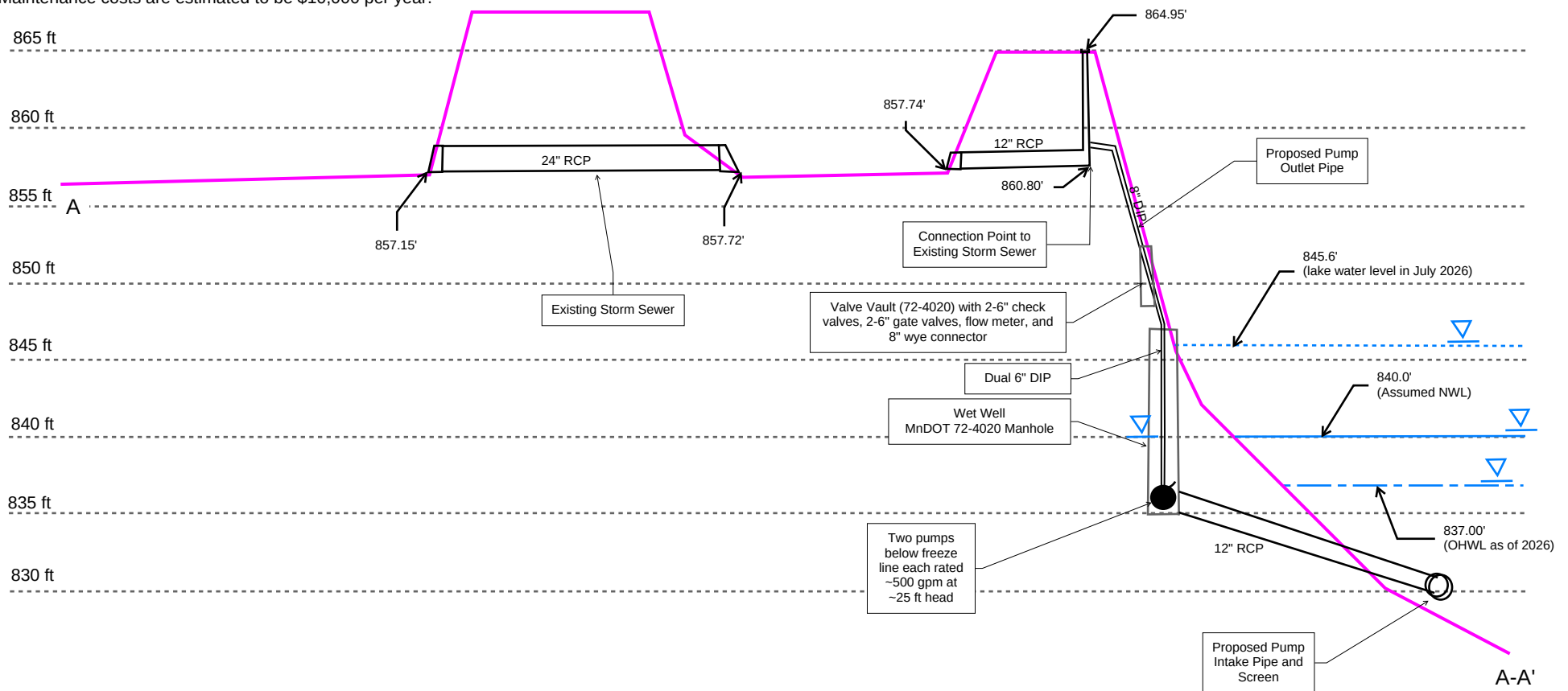
Assumptions:

- Final pump design must be coordinated with pump manufacturer to ensure specifications.
- One pump running can provide ~1 cfs for routine drawdown, two can be used for post-storm recovery.
- After a 100-year storm both pumps would take about 30 days to return to starting elevation.
- Electrical Service is assumed to come from the nearest power pole.
- Assumes pump would be operational April through November.
- Contingency is assumed to be 30% and engineering, permitting, and administrative costs are assumed to be 20% of the Construction Cost.

Operation & Maintenance Considerations:

- To winterize, pump lake down to minimum elevation, drain the force main, lock control panel, inspect pumps and leave them in place. Remove any debris or sediment build up around the pump inlet, screens, or inside the structures.
- To prepare for pumping season, clear debris from wet well and pump and inspect pump components for cracks, deformities or obstructions. Clean screens, test all valves, re-lubricate grease and oil levels and test the pump before use.
- Inspect pump system within 24-48 hours following peak storm events to ensure proper function and no blockages occurred. Regular pump inspections should be conducted monthly while the pump is active. Consider regular cleaning of the screen if algal blooms or leaf drops hinder intake. Vactor wet well every couple of years.
- Maintenance costs are estimated to be \$10,000 per year.

	Permanent Alternative Cost
Mobilization	\$30,000
Dewatering during Construction	\$35,000
Pumps and Controls	\$95,000
Wet Well and Vault	\$87,000
Valves, Piping, Meters, Screens	\$93,500
Power	\$18,000
Tree Clearing	\$20,000
Erosion Control and Site Restoration	\$24,500
Contingency	\$120,900
Construction Subtotal	\$523,900
Engineering, permitting, legal, administration	\$104,780
Total Cost	\$628,680

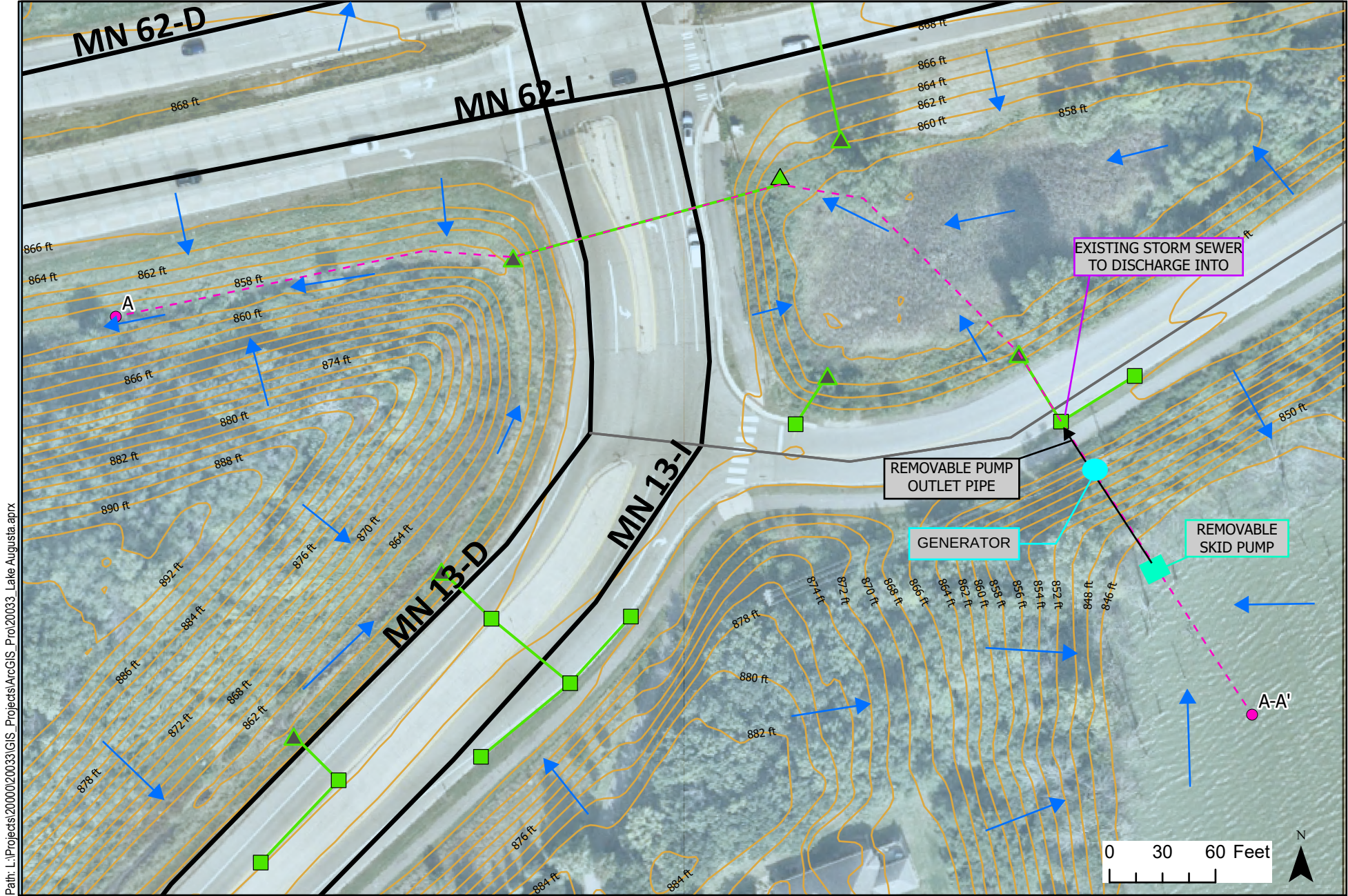


Lake Augusta - Outlet Scenario 1 Cross Section - Permanent Wet Well Pumping System*

20033

*Drawing scale is approximate. Dimensions/Measurements are estimates and subject to change based on final design.

Figure 2



Lake Augusta - Outlet Scenario 2
20033.00
The Catholic Cemeteries

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| --- Profile Cross Section | ■ CB | ▲ OUTLET | — 2' Contours | — Local Roads |
| ● Profile Points | ▲ INLET | — Ex. Storm Pipes | — Highways | |

Figure 3

APPENDIX B

Assumptions:

- Final pump design must be coordinated with pump manufacturer to ensure specifications.
- One pump could be installed at a time, minimizing upfront costs.
- After a 100-year storm both pumps would take about 30 days to return to starting elevation.
- Power is assume to be from a purchased towable generator. For shorter terms, consider rental options. Also, an electric connection could also be considered.
- Assumes pump would be used once a year to lower the water level.
- Cost assumes the purchase of equipment.
- Contingency is assumed to be 30% and engineering, permitting, and administrative costs are assumed to be 20% of the Construction Cost.

Operation & Maintenance Considerations:

- To install - inspect pump components for cracks, deformities or obstructions. Clean screens, test all valves, re-lubricate grease and oil levels and test the pump before use. Install and secure pipe.
- As needed, Fuel the generator and inspect the pipe anchoring, secure and sandbag as needed. Consider regular cleaning of the integral screen if algal blooms or leaf drops hinder intake.
- Inspect pump system within 24-48 hours following peak storm events to ensure proper function and no blockages occurred.
- To remove - pump lake down to minimum elevation and remove the pump skid from the water. Drain pump and pipes, remove any debris or sediment build up around the pump inlet or screens. Remove, clean and store pipes and and pumps.
- Maintenance costs are estimated to be \$25,000 per year.

	Temporary Alternative Cost
Mobilization	\$13,000
Dewatering during Construction	\$0
Pumps and Controls	\$62,000
Wet Well and Vault	\$0
Valves, Piping, Meters, Screens	\$31,000
Power	\$28,000
Tree Clearing	\$0
Erosion Control and Site Restoration	\$7,000
Contingency	\$42,300
Construction Subtotal	\$183,300
Engineering, permitting, legal, administration	\$36,660
Total Cost	\$219,960

