



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

### Agenda Item

#### Item 6. D. 2020 Legislative Action

#### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### Summary

On Thursday, January 9, 2020, Lisa Frenette and I met with Kevin Bigalke of BWSR. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the LMRWD might find funding to replace the Clean Water Fund grant for Seminary, which the second half payment was denied. Kevin said that BWSR staff has discussed how the LMRWD could be paid. He asked if the LMRWD would be willing to seek legislation allowing money the LMRWD received for Dredge Management to be used to replace the Seminary Fen grant. Lisa and I said we would speak to the Board.

Lisa and I would recommend that the Board consider this request. It would be a positive for BWSR and the LMRWD that we have been able to work this out without requesting additional money from the Legislature and would only need language to allow dredge money to be used for another purpose. The bid received for the Dredge Project was low enough that reallocation of funds would not jeopardize the project. In addition, the LMRWD is in line to receive another \$480,000 in 2021 for Dredge Management. Another benefit of this, is that Representative Hansen suggested that we meet again with BWSR and the fact that we did and were able to come up with a solution would be viewed by the Representative as a positive.

We also discussed with BWSR how long the LMRWD might want to continue receiving the \$480,000 that was appropriated in 2017. Lisa and I said that we would have a better idea, once the Dredge Project is completed, but that it is the intent of the LMRWD to discontinue the appropriation once the District no longer needs it. BWSR asked that the LMRWD consider to continue the appropriation and to seek language that would allow the LMRWD to use the funds to address sediment reduction projects both inside and outside of the LMRWD. Lisa and I said we would ask the Board to consider this.

There are a couple of areas that the LMRWD could use funds to manage erosion, such as Area #3. There are areas contributing large amounts of sediment that have become apparent with the reconstruction of Flying Cloud Drive. LMRWD staff plans to track this sediment back to its source once the snow melts. Stabilizing sources of this sediment would be another use for these funds. There are also known areas upstream of the LMRWD, notably Bevens Creek in Carver County and Sand Creek in Scott County.

#### Attachments

None

#### Recommended Action

Provide direction staff regarding drafting language to allow State appropriation to replace Seminary Fen grant