



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 2025 Administrator report
From: Linda Loomis, Administrator
To: LMRWD Board of Managers

In addition to items on the meeting agenda, the following District projects and issues were addressed during the month:

Other Work

Report of Outstanding Indebtedness

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 471.70, governmental entities with the authority to levy taxes must submit a report to each county by February 1. This report should outline the total dollar amount of outstanding debt obligations as of December 31 of the preceding year. The report is required regardless of whether any indebtedness exists. The LMRWD reports have been submitted to each county that has a portion of its jurisdiction within the LMRWD.

Eagle Creek Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP)

In accordance with the Grant Agreement between the Metropolitan Council and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District for the Metropolitan Area Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP), the LMRWD must submit a financial report in January 2025 and January 2026. This report will detail expenses incurred in the preceding twelve months that are eligible for reimbursement. The report for January 2025 was prepared and submitted to the MCES on January 6, 2025.

FY 2022 Financial Audit

We are nearing the completion of this item. There were some issues with the ending fund balance in the 9-foot channel fund at the end of 2021. CLA was able to resolve these issues with Redpath, and the LMRWD should receive the final report soon. An invoice for the 2024 work on this item is included in this month's agenda.

Elink reporting

The LMRWD is required to report annually on grants received through the BWSR, including funding received for dredge management. The report is due on February 1st. Although it has not been submitted yet, it is expected to be completed and submitted on time.

Work Without a Permit

On January 6, 2025, the City of Chanhassen informed the LMRWD that some vegetation clearing was done on two properties within the LMRWD. The residents claimed that only buckthorn was cleared but based on the photos provided by the City's Building Inspector, it appears that clear cutting was done. Photos are attached.

Earlier this year the LMRWD received an inquiry into LMRWD regulations and the LMRWD referred the inquiry to the LMRWD rules. The LMRWD did not receive any further

communication until the City brought this to our attention. A meeting with the City is scheduled for January 14th, so the Board can be updated at the meeting Wednesday.

Historical Information: Both properties are partially located in the steep slope overlay zone and back up to a ravine system that has long been a concern for the LMRWD. Due to the steep slope and safety concerns, the LMRWD has been unable to inventory gullies in this area. In 2014, several massive slope failures occurred in this system, including one on a property adjacent to the current violations and another that resulted in the closure of the regional trail for two years.

Ike's Creek Restoration Project update

US Fish & Wildlife Service is still looking for approval of permits. Inter-Fluve is beginning work on the construction documents so that they will be ready to go for bids once all the permits are in place.

LMRWD Fen stakeholder meeting

On Friday, December 13th, the LMRWD held a meeting with cities and counties where fens are located. The meeting was well attended. The summary of the meeting will be provided to the Board when it is ready.

CAMP (Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program)

A resident has inquired about monitoring Dean Lake (Shakopee) under the [CAMP](#) program. CAMP, operated by the Metropolitan Council Environmental Service, allows citizens to collect water samples, drop them off at a central location, and have them tested. This program is a fantastic way to involve residents in water resource management. We have discussed this with the City of Shakopee and will now have a shared volunteer. The cost for one volunteer is less than \$1,000, and this expense will be shared with Shakopee.

LMRWD Governance report

At the December 2024 Board of Managers meeting, the Board was informed that the LMRWD had commissioned a governance study in 2012. The Board can review this report using this link: https://lowermnriverwd.org/download_file/4219/0.

Winter Salt Awareness Week

At the December 2024 Board of Manager meeting, the Board approved contributing funds to Dakota County SWCD, to support the development of material in support of [Winter Salt Week](#). The materials already developed have been shared with the LMRWD and are attached for the Board's information.

TH 13 and Credit River

MnDOT has notified the LMRWD that they will be replacing the Credit River culvert under MN 13 in Savage. MnDOT inquired about specific studies the LMRWD might have addressing hydraulic or stormwater models, the history of flooding or roadway overtopping in the area, and if the LMRWD has had issues with flooding of the Credit River outside of the culvert location. The LMRWD addressed the questions and referred MnDOT to the City.

Subsequently, the City has asked the LMRWD for support for the development of a two-dimensional hydraulic model along the Credit River near downtown Savage, MN, that will:

- A. Estimate annualized cost of a 1-percent-annual-chance flood event.

- B. Develop a two-dimensional hydraulic model of the Credit River floodplain between McColl Drive and the Minnesota River to understand breakout flows and refine the expected inundation extents of the 1-percent annual chance floodplain. This will allow the City to answer these questions, as well as explore potential changes to structures controlling flood elevations:
 - Where does water go when it leaves the channel?
 - When and where does Highway 13 overtop?
 - Should the area west of the railroad tracks be mapped as 100-year floodplain?
 - Could the Cargill/Mosaic port facility be flooded from the Credit River?
- C. Request that MnDOT's ongoing study of the Highway 13 corridor result in a recommendation for a larger hydraulic opening under Highway 13.
- D. Explore options for removing the old 123rd Street bridge.
- E. Map the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain based on Atlas 14 hydrology.
- F. Regulate development based on the higher flows associated with Atlas 14 hydrology.

The LMRWD asked the City to explain what it is that they want from the LMRWD.

Educator Mini-Grant Program

Applicants for the most recent round of Educator Mini-grants were notified of the awards approved by the Board at the December Board of Managers meeting. Grant agreements are currently being prepared and will be sent out for signatures.

Scott County SWCD monitoring

The Scott County SWCD informed the LMRWD that the cities of Savage and Shakopee have asked for supplemental, investigatory-type monitoring on Eagle Creek and Credit River in 2025 and 2026. For Eagle Creek there would be two to three sites on the west tributary, to help quantify the extent and impact of stormwater pollutant runoff from City of Shakopee. For the Credit River, the City of Savage wants to pinpoint possible sources of Chloride hot spots. This would build off a watershed-wide chloride study we completed back in 2019.

The Scott SWCD asked if the LMRWD would consider partnering in the cost of the additional monitoring. The suggestion was that the cost would be split 50/50 and will be added to the annual service agreement with Scott SWCD.

Other work ordered by the Board of Managers

This is the ongoing list of items the Board has requested. The AI generated from the recording of the Board meeting list of action items plus meeting notes from the Board meetings are used to populate this list:

- Addition of Manager to the Board

Update: I believe this item has been tabled after the December 2024 Board of Managers meeting. This may be placed on the February agenda to formalize the action, since it was direction from the Board in August was to advise the Board the process to add a seat to the Board for Scott County.

- Dates for 2025 MN River Boat tour

Update: This item is on the January Board meeting agenda

Watershed Plan Projects

LMRWD Water Resource Restoration Fund: Notice of the 2025 program was sent to the cities January 7, 2025. Applications are due February 29, 2025 and will be awarded at the April 2025 Board of Managers meeting.

Eagle Creek Bank Restoration at Town & Country RV Facility: No new information to report on this project since last update.

Fen Private Land Acquisition Study: There is no new information to report since the last update on this project.

Spring Creek: This project has been completed and the pay request is on the January 15th agenda.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/spring-creek>

Gully Inventory and Assessment: There is no new information report on this project since the last update.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/mn-river-corridor-management-project>

Minnesota River Study Area #3: A report on this project is on the December 11th agenda.

Project website: <https://lowermnriverwd.org/projects/study-area-3-eden-prairie>

Minnesota River Floodplain Modeling: The QAQC of the model begins next week. Model and report completion is anticipated for the March Board meeting.

Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management: Contracts from GMH Asphalt Corporation have been received and signed. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2025. We are waiting on a permit from the railroad.

Geomorphic Assessments (Trout Streams): There is no new information to report since the last update.

The following projects are projects that are planned by LMRWD partners. LMRWD partners are leading these projects, the LMRWD has agreed to contribute to the projects:

Seminary Fen Ravine Restoration Area C2: A report on this project was on the December 11th agenda. Here is a link to the [feasibility report](#) Area C-2.

Project website: <https://www.legacy.mn.gov/projects/seminary-fen-ravine-c-2-restoration>

Shakopee Riverbank Stabilization: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.shakopeemn.gov/living-here/street-infrastructure-projects/minnesota-riverbank-stabilization>

Carver Levee: There is no new information to report since the last update.

Project website: <https://www.cityofcarver.com/276/Levee-Certification>

RTA Overlook Trail Stabilization: This project has been stabilized for the winter. Pictures of the BMPs were submitted to the LMRWD for review. This project is funded under the LMRWD Watershed Restoration Program.

Project website: <https://www.edenprairie.org/city-government/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-and-natural-resources/park-projects>

Upcoming meetings/events

Managers are invited to attend any of these meetings. Most are free of charge and if not the LMRWD will reimburse registration fees. Please contact LMRWD administrator if you have any questions.

- [Minnesota River Chapter of Sustainable Farming Association Annual meeting](#) – Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, The Wooden Spoon, 515 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato, MN
- Q & A Session for Administrator Permission – Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 7:00 PM virtual on Webex
- [Winter Salt Week 2025](#) – January 27-31, 2025, various Live Stream events
- [20th Annual Soil Management Summit](#) – January 29-30, 2025, Mayo Event Center, Mankato, MN
- LMRWD Personnel Committee Meeting – Monday, February 3, 2025, 7:00 PM Chaska Community Center
- LMRWD Citizen Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 6:00 PM, [virtual on Webex](#)
- LMRWD Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 5, 2025, 7:00 PM, Savage Public Library, 13090 Alabama Avenue South, Savage, MN
- LMRWD Personnel Committee Meeting – Thursday, February 6, 2025, 7:00 PM Chaska Community Center
- LMRWD Personnel Committee Meeting – Friday, February 7, 2025, 7:00 PM Chaska Community Center
- AMC Drainage Conference February 7-8 Arrowwood Resort
- [Sustainable Farming Association Annual Conference](#) – Saturday, February 8, 2025, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN





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

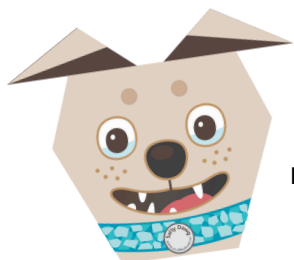


Be safe AND protect our waters by following these steps:

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

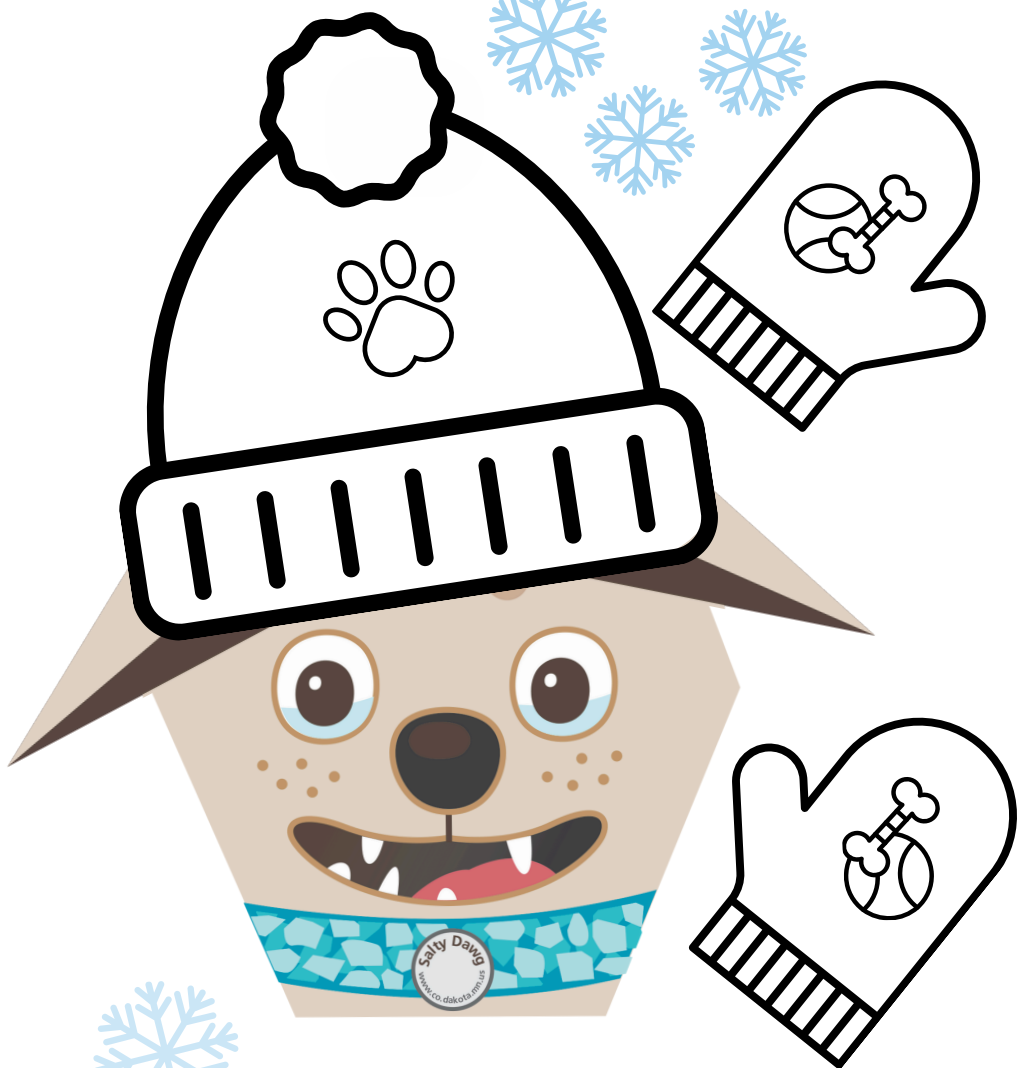
Parking Lot
Pollution
Road
Salt

Shovel
Sidewalk
Smart
Snowplow

Stream
Street
Water
Wetland
Winter

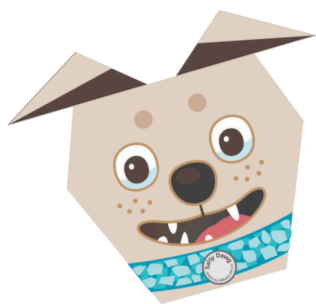


Help Salty get ready for a walk by decorating a hat and mittens!

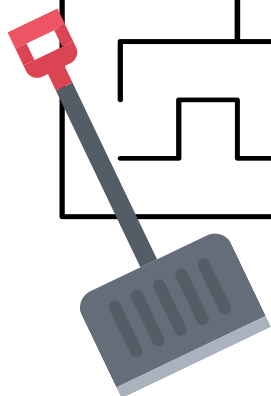
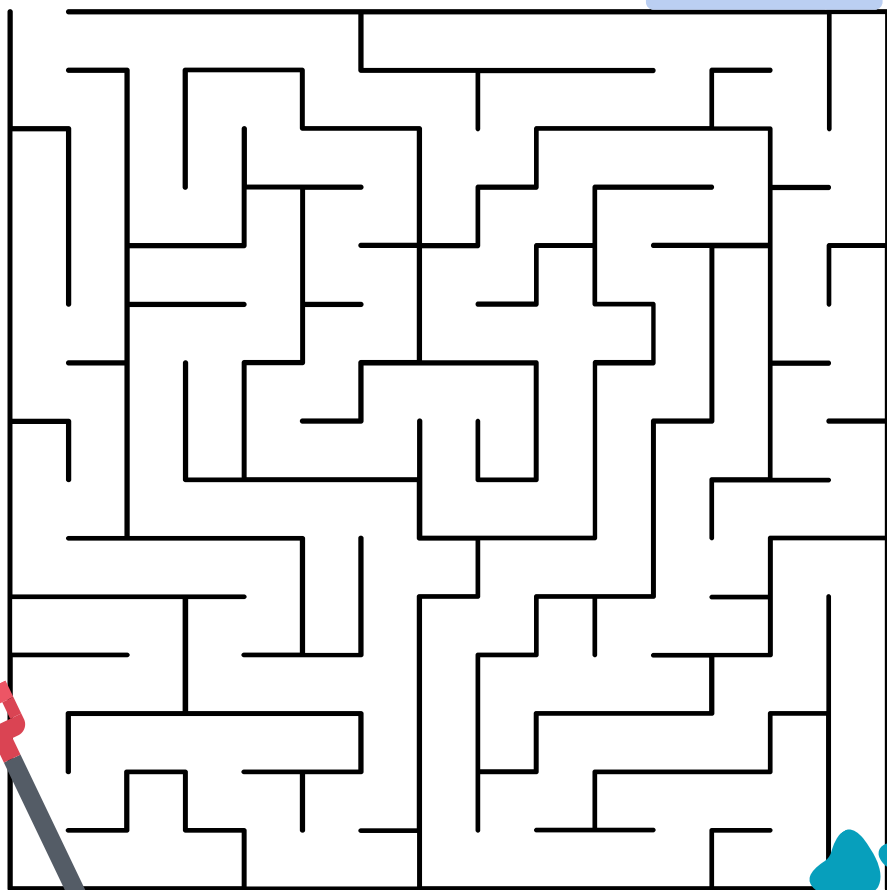


Road and sidewalk salt can irritate your pet's feet and skin, and cause more problems if they eat salt or lick their paws after a walk.

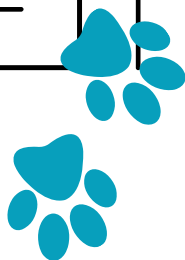
Read the packaging carefully - if chloride is listed, there is salt in it!

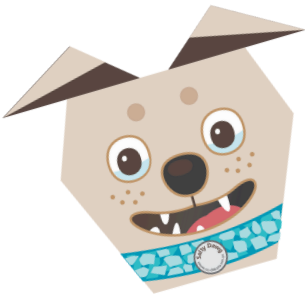


**Salty is ready -
make sure you
shovel early for a
clear and slip-free
sidewalk!**

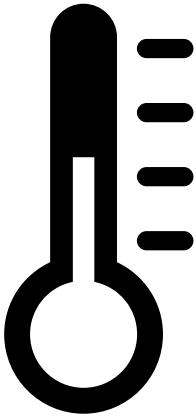


The more snow and ice you
remove manually, the less
salt you will have to use and
the more effective it can be.





**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.

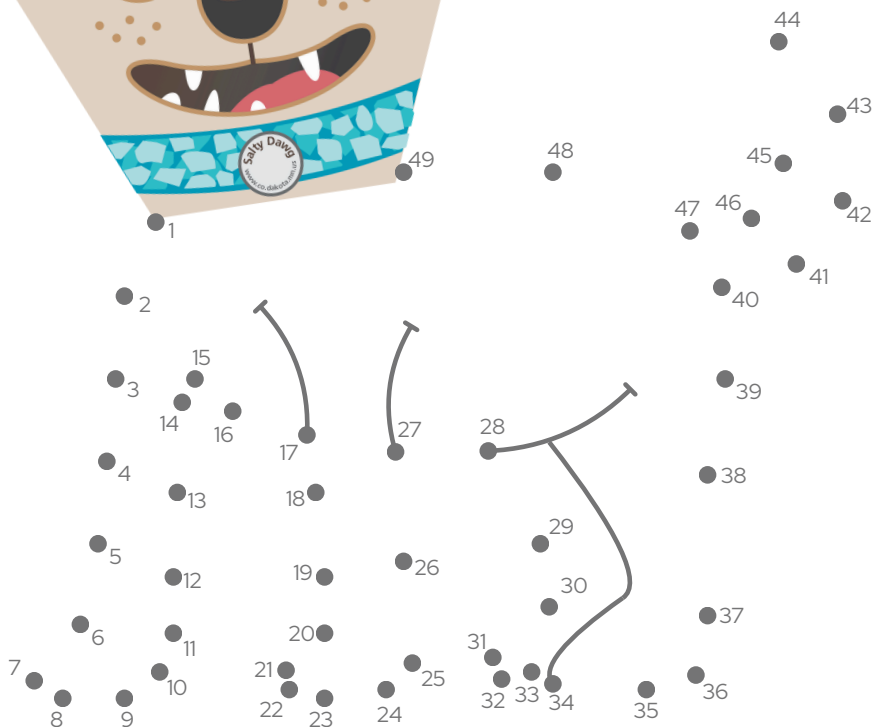
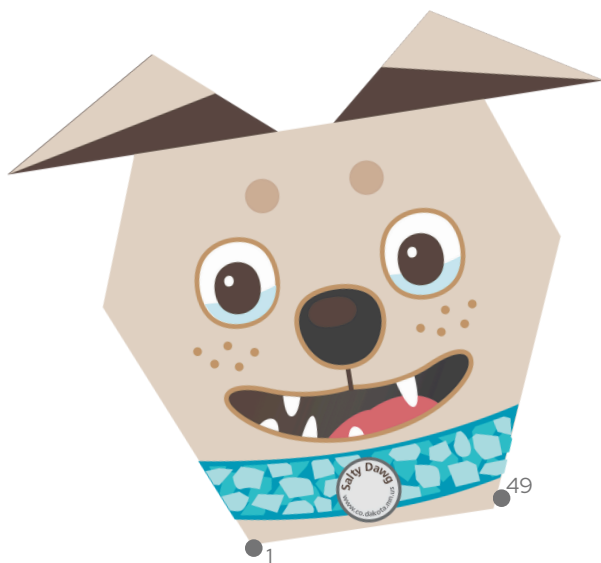


ONE mug of road salt is enough to clear a 20 ft driveway.



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

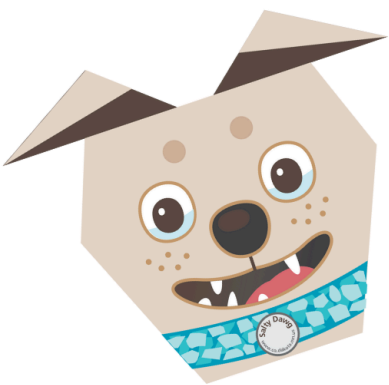


LEARN MORE AND TAKE ACTION

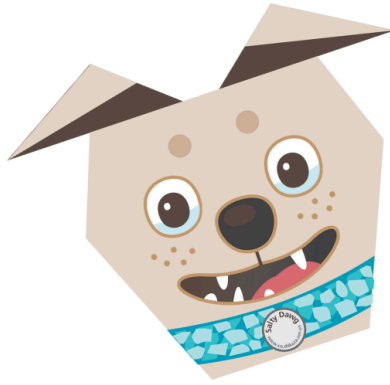
Minnesota Pollution Control
Agency - Chloride resources

Izaak Walton League of
America - Salt Watch





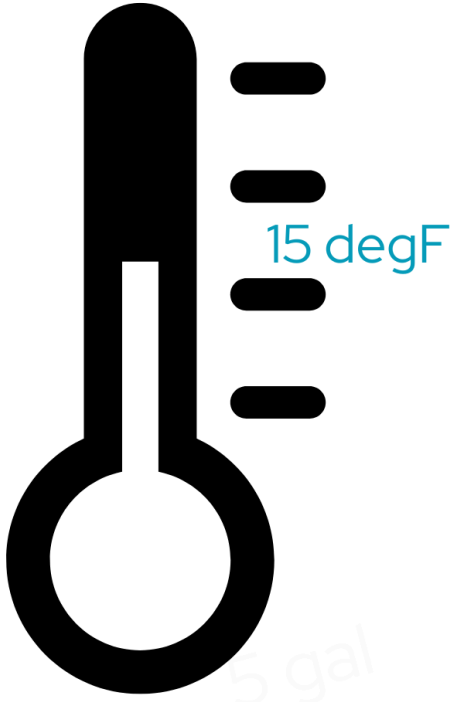
Salty Dawg's
**SCAVENGER
HUNT**



Salty Dawg's
**SCAVENGER
HUNT**

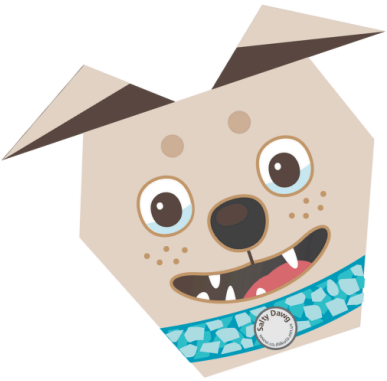


WINTER SALT WEEK 2025

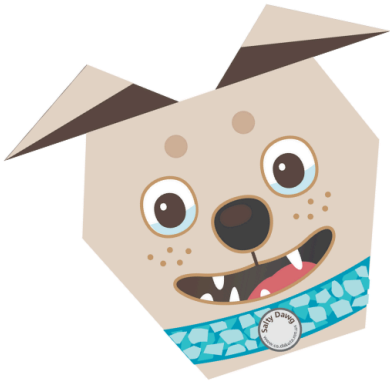


WINTER SALT WEEK 2025





Salty Dawg's
**SCAVENGER
HUNT**



Salty Dawg's
**SCAVENGER
HUNT**



5 gal



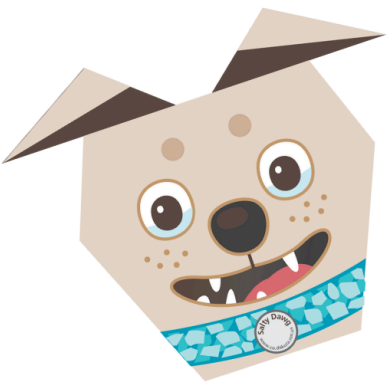
5 gal

WINTER SALT WEEK 2025

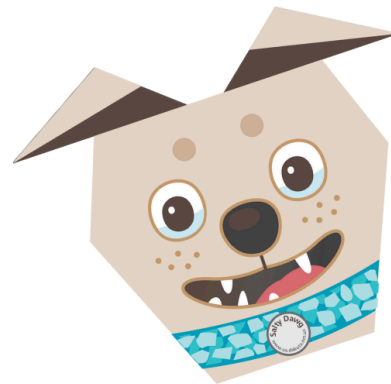


WINTER SALT WEEK 2025





Salty Dawg's
**SCAVENGER
HUNT**



Salty Dawg's
**SCAVENGER
HUNT**



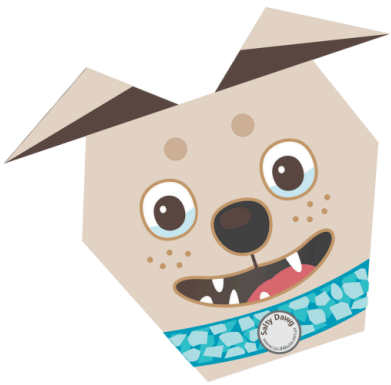
WINTER SALT WEEK 2025

Dakota
COUNTY

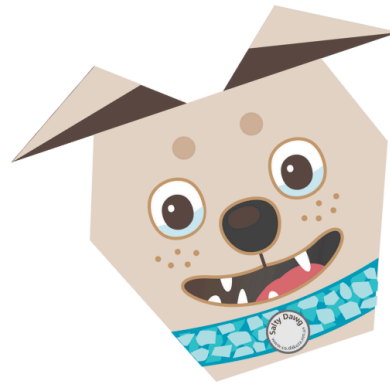


WINTER SALT WEEK 2025

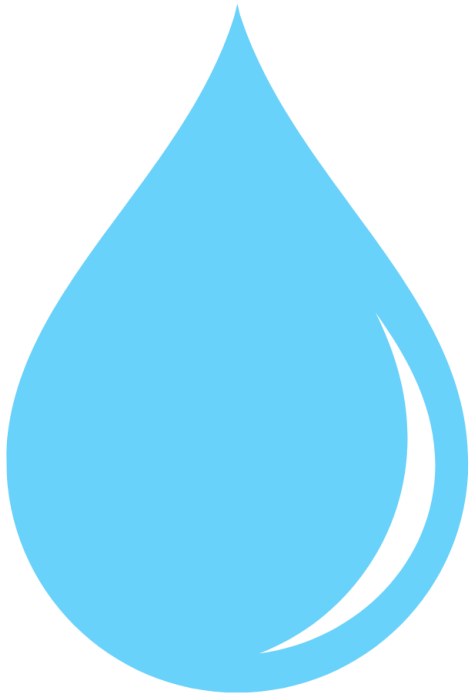
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Salty Dawg's **SCAVENGER HUNT**



Salty Dawg's **SCAVENGER HUNT**



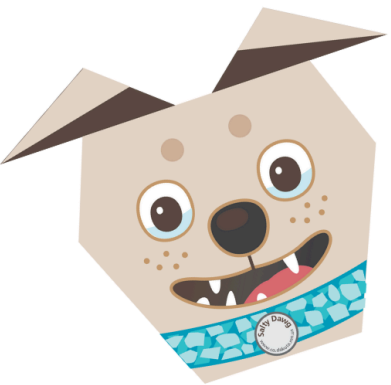
5 gal

WINTER SALT WEEK 2025

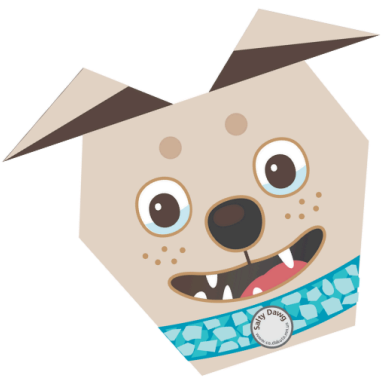
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COUNTY

WINTER SALT WEEK 2025

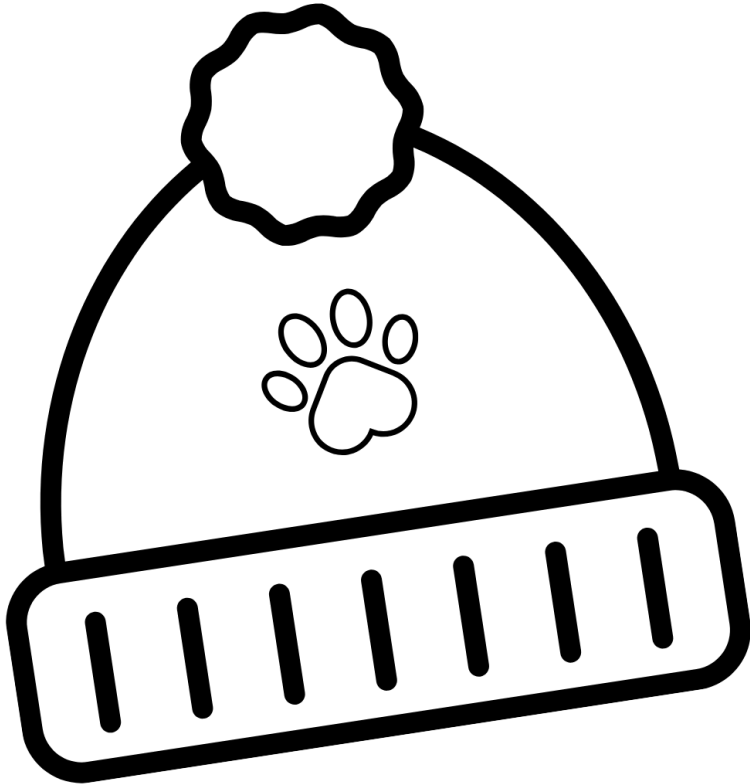
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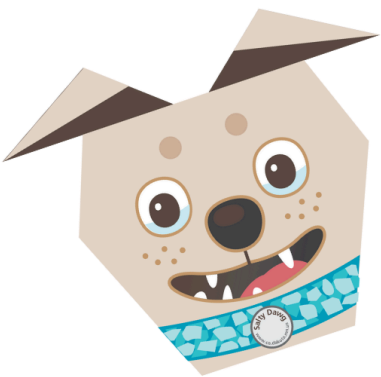
Salty Dawg's SCAVENGER HUNT



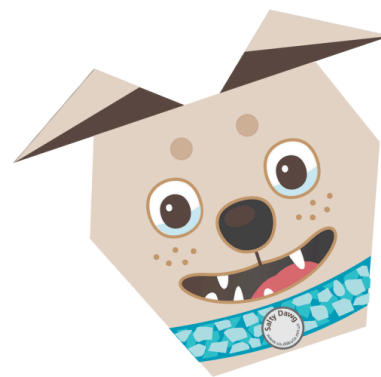
Salty Dawg's SCAVENGER HUNT



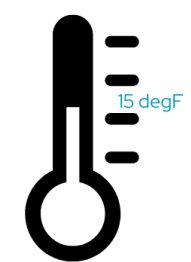
A blue bucket with the text "5 gal" on it.	A blue snowflake.	A silver spoon with a pile of white salt on it.
Two blue paw prints.	A black thermometer with the text "15 degF" on it.	A blue dump truck.
An orange shovel digging into a pile of blue snow.	A small black and white outline of a winter hat with a pom-pom and a paw print.	A blue water drop.



Salty Dawg's SCAVENGER HUNT



Salty Dawg's SCAVENGER HUNT



WINTER SALT WEEK 2025



WINTER SALT WEEK 2025



Winter Salt Week 2025

NEIGHBORS WITH THE Lower Minnesota River Watershed

Managing and protecting the Minnesota River,
lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater,
and assisting and facilitating river navigation
through science and community education



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

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

