Appendix K: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Draft Standards						

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## 1 Foreword

In 1955, the Minnesota State Legislature enacted the initial Minnesota Watershed Act (Act), previously called Minnesota Statute (M.S.) Chapter 112. Pursuant to this statutory authority, five counties (Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Scott, and Carver) petitioned for a watershed district. On March 23, 1960, the Minnesota Water Resources Board, now the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), established the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (District or LMRWD). The District, as stated in M.S. 103D.201, is responsible for conserving the state's natural resources by land use planning, flood control, and other conservation projects. The District uses sound scientific principles for the protection of public health and welfare and the provident use of natural resources.

The District is located in the southwest part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area along the Minnesota River. It encompasses 80 square miles of Carver, Hennepin, Dakota, Scott, and Ramsey Counties, which includes the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling, at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, upstream to Carver, Minnesota. The width of the District includes the bluffs on both sides of the Minnesota River within this reach of the river. Portions of the communities of Mendota Heights, Mendota, Lilydale, Eagan, Bloomington, Burnsville, Savage, Shakopee, Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska, Jackson Township, Louisville Township, and Carver are located within the District's boundaries.

The Act, and its successors, necessitates that the District prepare and implement a watershed management plan (Plan) for the lower Minnesota River watershed area. Additionally, the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (M.S.103B.201-.253) requires certain plan components and local government compliance. The District has adopted a Plan pursuant to the Act. These Standards implement the Plan's principles and objectives. If the Standards identified are not implemented, the District will exercise its authority granted under M.S. 103B to enforce these Standards through the creation of rules and a permitting program.

# 2 Relationship with Municipalities

The District recognizes that the control and determination of appropriate land use is the responsibility of the municipalities or local government units (LGU). Given its desire for local implementation and coordination of regulatory authorities, the District anticipates implementation and enforcement of the Standards outlined in this document by the appropriate LGU. The exception being, the Shoreline and Streambank Alteration, Water Appropriations and Water Crossing Standards which will be administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource with input from District.

In accordance with M.S. 103B.235, LGUs are responsible for adopting Local Water Plans (LWP) and local controls necessary to implement the directives and standards set forth in the Plan and presented herein. The District recognizes that the authorities and procedures used by the various

LGUs in implementing these Standards will not be identical, and therefore, some LGUs may occasionally need language and procedures that vary from the language and procedures outlined herein. In all cases, the District reserves the right to conduct periodic audits/inspections of LGU programs, project approvals, permits, and other processes to assess conformance with these Standards. The Standards are intended as a minimum threshold requirement that must be met, and LGUs may adopt more restrictive requirements.

The District prefers to allow LGUs to serve as the permitting authority for these Standards. To avoid unnecessary duplication of permitting programs, the District anticipates providing oversight in order to confirm that LWPs, including the Standards, are properly implemented and enforced. If an LGU, however, fails to properly implement an adopted LWP, or fails to adopt and implement local controls necessary to implement these Standards, as determined by the District, the District may revoke the LWP approval and take enforcement actions as required to ensure compliance with these Standards. The District will not be responsible for liabilities, costs, and damages caused by the lack of proper implementation by an LGU.

### 3 Definitions

Regarding these Standards, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms are defined below. References in these Standards to specific sections of the Minnesota Statutes or Minnesota Rules include amendments, revisions, or recodifications of such sections. The words "shall" and "must" indicate a mandatory standard; the word "may" indicates a permissive standard.

**Abstractions:** Removal of stormwater from runoff, by such methods as infiltration, evaporation, transpiration by vegetation, and capture and reuse, such as capturing runoff for use as irrigation water.

**Agricultural Activity:** The use of land for the growing and/or production of agronomic, horticultural, or silvicultural crops, including nursery stock, sod, fruits, vegetables, flowers, cover crops, grains, Christmas trees, and grazing.

**Alteration or Alter:** When used in connection with public waters or wetlands, is any activity that will change or diminish the supply, course, current or cross-section, of public waters or wetlands.

**Atlas 14:** Precipitation frequency estimates released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center. The information supersedes precipitation frequency estimates in Technical Paper No. 40 (1961), National Weather Service HYDRO-35 (1977) and Technical Paper No. 49 (1964).

**Base Flood Elevation:** The computed elevation to which floodwater is anticipated to rise during the base flood. Base flood elevations are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and on the flood profiles.

**Best Management Practices or BMPs:** Structural or non-structural methods used to treat runoff, including such diverse measures as ponding, street sweeping, filtration through a rain gardenand

infiltration to a gravel trench.

**Bioengineering**: Various shoreline and streambank stabilization techniques using aquatic vegetation and native upland plants, along with techniques such as willow wattling, brush layering, and willow-posts.

Buffer zone: An area of maintained grassy or woody vegetation adjacent to a waterbody.

**Compensatory storage:** Excavated volume of material below the floodplain elevation required to offset floodplain fill.

**Construction activity:** Disturbance to the land that results in a change in the topography, existing soil cover (both vegetative and non-vegetative), or existing soil topography that may resultin accelerated stormwater runoff, leading to soil erosion, and the movement of sediment into surface waters or drainage systems.

**Development:** The construction of any public or private improvement project, infrastructure, structure, street, or road, or the subdivision of land.

**Dewatering:** The removal of water for construction activity.

**Drain or Drainage:** Any method for removing or diverting water from waterbodies, including excavation of an open ditch, installation of subsurface drainage tile, filling, diking or pumping.

**Easement:** The right to use the land of another owner for a specified use and may be granted for the purpose of constructing and maintaining walkways, roadways, subsurface sewage treatment systems, utilities, drainage, driveways, and other uses.

**Erosion:** The wearing away of the ground surface as a result of wind, flowing water, ice movement, or land-disturbing activities.

**Erosion and Sediment Control Plan:** A plan of BMPs or equivalent measures designed to control runoff and erosion and to retain or control sediment on land during the period ofland-disturbing activities in accordance with the applicable standard.

**Excavation:** The artificial removal of soil or other earth material.

Existing conditions: Site conditions at the time of application consideration by the LGU or District, before any of the work has commenced, except that when impervious surfaces have been fully or partially removed from a previously developed parcel, but no intervening use has been legally or practically established, "existing conditions" denotes the previously established, developed use and condition of the parcel.

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Fens:** Rare and distinctive wetlands characterized by a substrate of non-acidic peat and dependent on a constant supply of cold, oxygen-poor groundwater rich in calcium and magnesium bicarbonates.

Fill: Any rock, soil, gravel, sand, debris, plant cuttings, or other material placed onto land or into

water.

Floodplain: The area adjacent to a waterbody that is inundated during a 100-year flood.

**Floodway:** The channel of the river or stream and the adjacent land that must remain free from obstruction, so the 100-year flood can be conveyed downstream.

**Fully reconstructed:** The reconstruction of an existing impervious surface that involves sitegrading and subsurface excavation so that soil is exposed. Mill and overlay and other resurfacing activities are not considered fully reconstructed.

**Groundwater Recharge:** The replenishment of groundwater storage through infiltration of surface runoff into subsurface aquifers.

**Hardship:** As defined in Minnesota Statues, Chapter 394.

**High Value Resource Area or HVRA**: Portion of land (or a watershed) contributing runoff to a trout water and/or fen within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

**Impervious Surface:** A constructed hard surface that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil and causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow than prior to development. Examples include rooftops, sidewalks, patios, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, and concrete, asphalt, or gravel roads.

**Infiltration:** A passage of water into the ground through the soils.

Infrastructure: The system of public works for a county, state, or municipality including, but not limited to, structures, roads, bridges, culverts, sidewalks; stormwater management facilities, conveyance systems and pipes; pump stations, sanitary sewers and interceptors, hydraulic structures, permanent erosion control and stream bank protection measures, water lines, gas lines, electrical lines and associated facilities, and phone lines and supporting facilities.

**Land-Disturbing Activity:** Any change of the land surface to include removing vegetative cover, excavation, fill, grading, stockpiling soil, and the construction of any structure that may cause or contribute to erosion or the movement of sediment into water bodies. The use of land for new and continuing agricultural activities shall not constitute a land-disturbing activity under these standards.

**Landlocked basin:** A localized depression that does not have a natural outlet at or below the 100-year flood elevation.

**Linear project:** Construction or reconstruction of a public road, sidewalk or trail, or construction, repair or reconstruction of a utility or utilities that is not a component of a larger contemporaneous development or redevelopment project.

Local Government Unit (LGU): Local government unit, such as cities and counties.

**Local Water Plan (LWP):** A plan adopted by each municipality pursuant to Minnesota Statute 27 103B.235.

**MNDOT:** Minnesota Department of Transportation

MPCA: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

MPCA General Construction Permit: General Permit Authorization to Discharge Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Permit Program Permit MN R100001 (NPDES General Construction Permit) issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, August 1, 2013, and as amended.

**Municipality:** Any city or township wholly or partly within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

**Natural Vegetation:** Any combination of ground cover, understory, and tree canopy that, while it may have been altered by human activity, continues to stabilize soils, retain and filter runoff, provide habitat, and recharge groundwater.

**Nested:** A hypothetical precipitation distribution where the precipitation depths for various durations within a storm have the same exceedance probabilities. This distribution maximizes the rainfall intensities by incorporating selected short-duration intensities within those needed for longer durations at the same probability level. As a result, the various storm durations are "nested" within a single hypothetical distribution. Nested-storm distribution (or frequency-basedhyetograph) development must be completed utilizing the most recent applicable National Weather Service reference data (e.g., Atlas 14), in accordance with:

- the alternating block methodology as outlined in Chapter 4 of the HEC-HMS (Hydrologic Engineering Center - Hydrologic Modeling System) Technical Reference Manual, (USACE, 2000);
- 2. methods in HydroCAD;
- 3. methods established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service; or
- 4. otherwise as approved by the District.

Reference: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2000. Hydrologic Modeling System HEC-HMS Technical Reference Manual.

**NPDES:** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

**Nondegradation:** For purposes of these rules, nondegradation refers to the regulatory policy stated in Minnesota Rules 7050.0185, as it may be amended.

**Ordinary High Water Level (OHW):** Ordinary high water level, as defined by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, means the boundary of water basins, watercourses, public waters, and public waters wetlands, and:

- a. The OHW is an elevation delineating the highest water level that has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape, commonly the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial.
- b. For watercourses, the OHW is the elevation of the top of the bank of the channel.

c. For reservoirs and flowages, the OHW is the operating elevation of the normal summer pool.

**Overlay District:** A district established by Lower Minnesota River Watershed District standards/regulations that may be more or less restrictive than the primary District's standards/regulations. Where a property is located within an overlay district, it is subject to the provisions of both the primary standards/regulations and those of the overlay district.

**Owner:** Any individual, firm, association, partnership, corporation, trust, or any other legal entity having proprietary interest in the land.

**Person:** Any individual, trustee, partnership, unincorporated association, limited liability company, or corporation.

**Public Drainage System:** Any drainage system as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 103E.005, subdivision 12.

**Public Project:** Land development or redevelopment or other land-disturbing activities for which a District permit is required that is conducted or sponsored by a federal, state, or localgovernmental entity.

**Public Waters:** Any waters as defined in Minnesota Statute 103G.005, subdivision 15.

**Qualified Professional:** A person, compensated for her/his service, possessing the education, training, experience, or credential to competently perform or deliver the service provided.

**Redevelopment:** Any construction or improvement performed on sites where the existing land use is commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential.

Runoff: Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water flowing over the ground surface.

**Sediment**: The solid mineral or organic material that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its original location by erosion and has been deposited at another location.

**Sedimentation:** The process or action of depositing sediment.

**Shoreland District:** Shoreland areas regulated by a local municipal or county Shoreland Ordinance, or by Minnesota Statues Section 103F. Generally, Shoreland District consists of land located within a floodplain, within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water level of a public water or public waters wetland, or within 300 feet of a stream or river.

**Shoreline:** The lateral measurement along the contour of the ordinary high water mark of waterbodies other than watercourses, and the top of the bank of the channel of watercourses, and the area waterward thereof.

**Site:** A contiguous area of land under common ownership, designated and described in official public records and separated from otherlands.

**Standard:** A preferred or desired level of quantity, quality, or value.

Steep slope: A natural topographic feature having average slopes of 18 percent or greater measured

over a horizontal distance of 25 feet or more.

**Steep Slopes Overlay District.** A district containing steep slope areas established by Lower Minnesota River Watershed District standards/regulations and is subject to the provisions of both the primary standards/ regulations and those of the overlay district.

Stormwater: Stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

**Structure:** Anything manufactured, constructed, or erected that is normally attached to or positioned on land, including portable structures, earthen structures, water and storage systems, drainage facilities and parking lots.

**Subsurface Sewage Treatment System or SSTS:** A sewage treatment system, or part thereof, serving a dwelling, or other establishment, or group thereof, and using sewage tanks followed by soil treatment and disposal or using advanced treatment devices that discharge below final grade. Subsurface sewage treatment system includes holding tanks and privies.

**Subwatershed:** A portion of land (or a watershed) contributing runoff to a particular point of discharge.

**Surface Water:** All streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, wetlands, reservoirs, springs, rivers, drainage systems, waterways, watercourses, and irrigation systems regardless of whether natural or artificial, public or private.

**Thalweg:** A line following the lowest points of a valley, river, stream, or creek bed.

**Trout waters:** Trout lakes or streams that support a population of stocked or naturally produced trout.

Waterbody: All surface waters, watercourses, and wetlands as defined in these Policies.

**Watershed:** A region draining to a specific watercourse or water basin.

Wellhead Protection Plan: A document that provides for the protection of a public water supply, submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health, is implemented by the public water supplier, and complies with: (a) the wellhead protection elements specified in the 1986 amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, United States Code, title 42, chapter 6A, subchapter XII, part C, section 300h-7 (1986 and as subsequently amended); and (b) Minnesota Rules parts 4720.5200 to 4720.5290.

Wetland: Any wetland as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 103G.005, subdivision 19.

# 4 Administrative Procedures

The LMRWD is a political subdivision of the state under the Minnesota Watershed Act, and a watershed management organization as defined in the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act. These Acts provide the District with power to accomplish its statutory purpose – to protect, preserve and restore water resources and to improve Minnesota River navigation within the boundaries of the District through sound scientific principles. The Plan, developed through an

extensive stakeholder process and adopted by the District pursuant to the Acts, provides the principles, objectives and scientific basis for these Standards.

These Standards protect the public health, safety and water and natural resources of the District by responsively regulating improvement or alteration of land and waters within the District to reduce the severity and frequency of high water level and the erosive nature of high flows, to preserve floodplain and wetland storage capacity, to improve the chemical and physical quality of surface and ground waters, to reduce sedimentation, to preserve unique resources (such as fens, trout waters and bluffs/ steep slopes), and to promote and preserve natural infiltration areas.

### 4.1 Variance and Conditional Use

### 4.1.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's policy to allow LGUs to grant variances or issue conditional use permits according to processes for such actions contained in existing local controls, except for the professional certification requirement for steep slopes. The District will cooperate with and, if requested, provide technical and other assistance to LGUs when considering variances from these Standards.

#### 4.1.2 Standards

Each LGU shall notify the District of requested variances and conditional use permits and allow the District to provide comment on the requested action. Variances that would circumvent the intent and purposes of the Standards shall not be granted.

#### 4.2 Enforcement

In accordance with M.S. 103B.235, each LGU within the District is required to prepare an LWP, capital improvement plan, and official controls as necessary to bring local water management into conformance with the District's Plan. LGUs shall enforce and implement the requirements of these Standards through the development and implementation of an LWP and supporting ordinances. Each LGU shall amend and/or update its official controls, regulations, and permitting processes as necessary to implement and enforce these Standards. The District reserves the right to conduct periodic audits/inspections of LGU's programs and/or projects to verify the Plan and these Standards are being followed. In addition, the District reserves the right to audit projectapprovals and permits by LGUs to assess conformance with District's policies, standards, objectives, and criteria. If an LGU fails to properly implement an approved LWP, or any of these Standards, the District may revoke the LGU's Local Plan Approval and administer the Standards for that LGU.

The District shall not be responsible for any liabilities, costs, damages, or othernegative impacts caused by the failure of an LGU to implement or enforce these Standards.

## 5 Erosion and Sediment Control Standard

## 5.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's policy to:

- Minimize erosion and sediment transport to lakes, streams, fens, and the Minnesota River.
- Retain or control sediment on land during land-disturbing activities.
- Prevent the resource degradation and the loss or damage of property due to erosion and sedimentation.
- Protect receiving water bodies, wetland, and storm sewer inlets.
- Require the preparation and implementation of erosion and sediment control plans to control runoff and erosion.

## 5.2 Regulated Activity and Threshold

#### 5.2.1 General

Land-disturbing activities of one (1) acre or more.

5.2.2 High Value Resources Area (HVRA) Overlay District, as shown on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – High Value Resources Area Overlay District Map (Figure K1).

Land-disturbing activities that involve the displacement or removal of 5,000 square feet or more of surface area or vegetation, or the excavation of 50 cubic yards or more of earth within the HVRA overlay district.

# 5.3 Exceptions

No erosion control plan or permit shall be required for the following land-disturbing activities:

- Minor land-disturbing activities such as home gardens contained within a residential lot, landscape repairs, and maintenance work.
- Installation of any fence, sign, telephone or electric poles, or other kinds of posts or poles.
- Emergency activity necessary to protect life or prevent substantial harm to persons or property.
- All maintenance, repair, resurfacing, and reconditioning activities of existing road, bridge, and highway systems that do not involve land-disturbing activities outside of the existing surfaced roadway.

Agricultural activity.

### 5.4 Standards

#### 5.4.1 General

An erosion and sediment control plan and inspection and maintenance strategy shall be required for all regulated activities meeting the thresholds defined above.

### 5.4.1.1 Erosion and sediment control plan including:

- a) Topographic maps of existing and proposed conditions that clearly indicate all hydrologic features and areas where grading will expose soils to erosive conditions, as well as the flow direction of all runoff; temporary erosion and sediment control BMP, and permanent erosion control BMPs.
- b) Construction schedule with implementation of best management practices highlighted.
- c) Construction staging plan.
- d) Name, address, and phone number of the individual (s) responsible for inspection and maintenance of all erosion and sediment control measures.
- e) Documentation on the status of the project's General Permit Authorization to Discharge Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Permit Program, Permit MN R100001 (NPDES General Construction Permit), issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, August 1, 2013, as amended.

#### 5.4.1.2 Inspection and Maintenance

### 5.4.1.2.1 Inspection

Routine inspections shall be conducted at least once every seven (7) days during active construction and within 24 hours after a rainfall event greater than 0.5 inches in 24 hours by the Owner or the Owner's representative. Following a rainfall inspection, the next inspection shall be conducted within seven (7) days. The inspection schedule will be modified for the following conditions:

- a) Where parts of the construction site have permanent cover, but work remains on other parts of the site. Inspections of the areas with permanent cover shall be reduced to once per month.
- b) Where construction sites have permanent cover on all exposed soil areas and no construction activity is occurring anywhere on the site, monthly inspections shall be

- performed for 12 months (except during frozen ground conditions). After the 12th month of permanent cover and no construction activity, inspections may cease until construction activity resumes, or sooner if notified by the District or the LGU.
- c) Where work has been suspended due to frozen ground conditions, the inspection and maintenance schedule shall resume within 24 hours after runoff occurs at the site or upon resuming construction, whichever comes first.

### Routine inspections shall include:

- a) All areas disturbed by construction activity and areas used for storage of materials that are exposed to precipitation.
- b) Discharge locations, inaccessible locations, and nearby downstream locations where inspections are practicable.
- c) Locations where vehicles enter or exit the site for evidence of off-site sediment tracking.

Records for each inspection and maintenance activity shall be kept on file with the owner and shall contain the following information:

- a) Date and time of inspection.
- b) Name, title, and qualifications of person(s) conducting inspection.
- c) Date, duration, and amount of all rainfall events that produce more than 0.5 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, and whether any discharges occurred.
- d) Inspection findings, including corrective action recommendations and implementation dates.
- e) Locations of the following:
  - i. Sediment discharges or other pollutants from the site.
  - ii. BMPs that need to be maintained.
  - iii. BMPs that have failed to operate as designed or proven inadequate for a particular location.
  - iv. BMPs that are needed and did not exist at the time of inspection.
- f) Documented changes to the erosion and sediment control plan.
- g) Inspector's signature.

An Inspection Log shall be kept by the Owner with the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan fora period of three (3) years from completion of the project.

#### 5.4.1.2.2 Maintenance

All maintenance conducted during construction must be recorded in writing, and these records must

be kept. All nonfunctional BMPs must be repaired, replaced, or supplemented with functional BMPs within 24 hours after discovery, or as soon as field conditions allow access unless another period is specified below. Maintenance will include the following:

- a. Excess sediment behind silt fences and biorolls shall be removed and properly disposed of when sediments reach one-third the height of the structure. Such sedimentation shall be corrected within 24 hours of discovery.
- b. Construction site vehicle exit locations shall be inspected for evidence of off-site sediment tracking onto paved surfaces. Tracked sediment will be removed from all paved surfaces within 24 hours of discovery, or if applicable, within a shorter time.
- c. Surface waters, including drainage ditches and conveyance systems, shall be inspected for evidence of erosion and sediment deposition. Evidence of erosion and/or sediment deposition will be addressed within seven (7) days.
- d. Infiltration areas shall be maintained to ensure no compaction or sedimentation occurs.
- e. Construction entrances shall be maintained daily.
- f. Turf shall be maintained until final stabilization is established.

The maintenance of temporary erosion and sediment controls and implementation of additional controls shall be performed as soon as possible and before the next storm event, whenever practicable. All remaining temporary erosion and sediment controls and accumulated sediments from silt fences will be removed within 30 days of achieving final stabilization at the site.

5.4.2 HVRA Overlay District, as shown on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – High Value Resources Area Overlay District Map (Figure K1).

#### 5.4.2.1 Grading/Erosion Control Plan

The grading/erosion control plan must meet all of the requirements of section 5.4.1.1 subsections a – d.

#### 5.4.2.2 Inspection and Maintenance

All of the requirements set forth in section 5.4.1.2 must be met.

# 6 Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

## 6.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's policy to:

• Regulate alterations within the floodplain and drainageways within the watershed to provide

flood protection to natural resources, permanent structures, and private lands, in accordance with M.S. 103F.

- Preserve existing water storage capacity below the 100-year high water elevation of all public
  waters, wetlands subject to the Wetland Conservation Act, and public drainage systems
  subject to Minnesota's buffer law in the watershed to minimize the frequency and severity of
  high water.
- Minimize development below the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) base flood elevation that will unduly restrict flood flows or aggravate known high water problems.

## 6.2 Regulated Activity and Threshold

Alteration to or filling land below the 100-year flood elevation of any wetland, public water, or landlocked subwatershed (as identified by municipalities) shall be subject to the following regulations and shall be completed in accordance with a state-approved floodplain management and shoreland ordinance:

- a) No filling is allowed within the 100-year floodplain which causes a rise in the 100-year flood elevation without providing compensatory floodplain storage equal to or greater than the volume of fill. A no-rise certification by a professional engineer satisfies this requirement.
- b) No grading or filling is allowed within the 100-year floodplain which reduces the flood carrying capacity of the watercourse.
- c) The lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area of proposed structures must be a minimum of two (2) feet above the 100-year high water level of nearby surface waters or one (1) foot above the emergency overflow elevation, whichever is greater, unless they have protection through flood proofing or by another approved construction technique.
- d) No permanent structure, with the exception of drainage conveyance structures and monitoring equipment, may be constructed in the floodway as it is shown on FEMA flood maps.

# 6.3 Exceptions

If the 100-year high water elevation of a waterbody is entirely within a municipality, the waterbody does not outlet during the 100-year event, and the municipality has adopted a floodplain ordinance prescribing an allowable degree of floodplain encroachment, the ordinance governs the allowable degree of encroachment.

#### 6.4 Standards

a. Fill shall not cause a net decrease in storage capacity below the projected 100-year high water elevation nor an increase in the 100-year elevation of a waterbody.

- b. The allowable fill area shall be calculated by a professional engineer registered in the state of Minnesota. Creation of floodplain storage capacity to offset fill shall occur before any fill is placed in the floodplain, unless it has been demonstrated to the District and the municipality that doing so is impractical and that placement of fill and creation of storage capacity can be achieved concurrently. Any placement of fill prior to creation of floodplain storage capacity will only be allowed upon a demonstration by a registered professional engineer that such work will not aggravate high water conditions.
- c. Fill or grading shall not cause a decrease in the conveyance capacity of a waterbody below the projected 100-year high water elevation.
- d. The conveyance capacity shall be calculated by a professional engineer registered in the state of Minnesota. The analysis must demonstrate no decrease in conveyance upstream and downstream of the proposed fill or grading.
- e. All new residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional structures shall be constructed such that the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement or crawl space) is at a minimum of two (2) feet above the 100-year high water elevation.
- f. No person shall install or remove a culvert or other artificial means to remove ordrain surface water, create artificial pond areas, or obstruct the natural flow of waters without demonstrating that there is no adverse impact on upstream or downstream landowners or water quality, habitat, or fisheries.
- g. Temporary placement of fill within the floodway for staging or processing of river dredge or fill material, including facilities for such activities, shall be allowed when conducted, in whole or part, pursuant to a cooperative or local sponsorship agreement with the United States under the Rivers and Harbors Act and it meets requirements of the LGU.

# 7 Stormwater Management Standard

# 7.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's strategy to:

- Manage new development, redevelopment, and drainage alternations, by requiring each
  development or land-disturbing activity to manage its stormwater effectively, either on or
  off-site.
- Promote and encourage a reduction in runoff rates, to encourage infiltration, and to promote groundwater recharge.
- Encourage infiltration and stormwater storage in the upland areas of the District.
- Maximize groundwater recharge as a means of maintaining drinking water supplies, preserving base flows in streams and water levels in fens, and limiting discharges of

stormwater to downstream receiving waters.

- Protect and maintain existing groundwater flow, promote groundwater recharge, and improve groundwater quality and aquifer protection.
- Require that property owners control the rate and volume of stormwater runoff originating from their property so that surface water and groundwater quantity and quality is protected or improved, soil erosion is minimized, and flooding potential is reduced.
- Protect and improve natural resources within the watershed to prevent further degradation.

## 7.2 Regulated Activity and Threshold

#### 7.2.1 General

Development, redevelopment, and drainage alterations (including roads) creating new impervious areas greater than one (1) acre.

7.2.2 High Value Resources Area (HVRA) Overlay District, as shown on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – High Value Resources Area Overlay District Map (Figure K1).

Development, redevelopment, and drainage alterations (including roads) creating new impervious areas greater than 10,000 square feet (sq. ft.).

#### 7.3 Standards

#### 7.3.1 General

#### 7.3.1.1 Rate Control

Stormwater runoff rate from development, redevelopment, and drainage alterations shall not exceed the existing runoff rates for the 1-year or 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year 24-hour events using Atlas 14 nested distribution.

#### 7.3.1.2 Volume

Projects that create one (1) acre or more of new impervious surface on sites without restrictions, the post-construction stormwater runoff volume retained onsite shall be equivalent to 1-inch of runoff from impervious surfaces or the MPCA's Construction General Permit abstraction requirements (as amended), whichever is greater.

#### 7.3.1.3 Water Quality

Projects shall have no net increase from existing conditions in total phosphorus (TP) and total suspended solids (TSS) to receiving waterbodies.

7.3.2 HVRA Overlay District, as shown on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – High Value Resources Area Overlay District Map (Figure K1).

#### 7.3.2.1 Rate Control

Stormwater runoff rate from development, redevelopment, and drainage alterations shall not exceed the existing rates for the 1-year or 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year 24-hour events using Atlas 14 nested distribution.

#### 7.3.2.2 Volume

- New Development: For new, nonlinear developments that create 10,000 sq. ft. or more of new impervious surface on sites without restrictions, the post-construction stormwater runoff volume retained onsite shall be equivalent to 1.1 inches of runoff from impervious surfaces.
- 2. Redevelopment: Nonlinear redevelopment projects on sites without restrictions that create 10,000 sq. ft. or more of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces shall capture and retain onsite 1.1 inches of runoff from the new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces.
- 3. Linear projects on sites without restrictions that create 10,000 sq. ft. or greater of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces, shall capture and retain the larger of the following:
  - a. 0.55 inches of runoff from the new and fully reconstructed impervious surfaces.
  - b. 1.1 inches of runoff from the net increase in impervious area.

To the maximum extent practicable, volume control shall be fully met onsite. Site conditions may make infiltration undesirable or impossible. The Owner must make soil corrections and/or investigate other locations on the site for feasible infiltration locations. Infiltration of stormwater should avoid areas of contaminated soil. Infiltration practices are not allowed in:

- a) Areas that receive discharges from vehicle fueling and maintenance facilities.
- b) Areas with less than three (3) feet of separation distance from the bottom of the infiltration system to the elevation of the seasonally saturated soils or the top of bedrock.
- c) Areas that receive discharges from industrial facilities which are not authorized to infiltrate industrial stormwater under an NPDES/SDS Industrial Stormwater Permit issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).
- d) Areas where high levels of contaminants in soil or groundwater will be mobilized by the infiltrating stormwater.
- e) Areas of predominately Hydrologic Soil Group D (clay) soils unless allowed by an LGU

- with a current NPDES/SDS Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit.
- f) Areas within 1,000 feet up-gradient, or 100 feet down-gradient of active karst features unless allowed by an LGU with a current MS4 permit.
- g) Areas within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) as defined in Minnesota Rule 4720.5100, subp. 13., unless allowed by an LGU with a current MS4 permit.
- h) Areas where soil infiltration rates are more than 8.3 inches per hour unless soils are amended to slow the infiltration rate below 8.3 inches per hour, or as allowed by an LGU with a current MS4 permit.

If the Owner claims that infiltration is not feasible or allowed onsite, sufficient supporting documentation must be provided. Filtration technologies may be an acceptable alternative for type C and D soils and other sites where infiltration is infeasible given the criteria above.

### 7.3.2.3 Water Quality

### 7.3.2.3.1 Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids

All projects shall have a net decrease TP and TSS to receiving waterbodies from existing conditions. For new development projects, the decrease in TP and TSS shall be 60 percent and 80 percent from existing conditions, respectively.

#### 7.3.2.3.2 Buffer Zone

An undisturbed buffer zone of 100 linear feet from trout waters shall be maintained at all times, both during construction and as a permanent feature after construction, except where awater crossing, or other encroachment is necessary to complete the project.

Exceptions: Buffer encroachments (circumstance and reason) and restoration activities must be documented. The replacement of existing impervious surfaces within the buffer zone is allowed. All potential water quality, scenic, and other environmental impacts of these exceptions must be minimized by the use of additional or redundant BMPs and documented.

### 7.3.2.3.3 Temperature Controls

Permanent Stormwater Management facilities shall be designed to minimize any increase in the temperature of trout waters receiving waters resulting from the 1-year and 2-year 24-hour precipitation events. This includes all tributaries of designated trout streams within the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Section where a trout water is located. Projects that discharge to trout waters must minimize the impact using one or more of the following measures, in order of preference:

a. Minimize new impervious surfaces.

- b. Minimize the discharge from connected impervious surfaces by discharging to vegetated areas, or grass swales, and using other nonstructural controls.
- c. Use Infiltration or other volume reduction practices to reduce stormwater runoff in excess of pre-project conditions (up to the 2-year, 24-hour precipitation event).
- d. Design appropriate combination of measures such as shading, filtered bottom withdrawal, vegetated swale discharges, or constructed wetland treatment cells that will limit temperature increases when incorporating ponding. Also, design the pond to drawn down in 24 hours or less.
- e. Use other methods that will minimize any increase in the temperature of the trout water.

#### 7.3.3 Maintenance and Easement

- 1. All stormwater management structures and facilities must be designed for maintenance access and properly maintained in perpetuity so that they continue to function as designed.
- 2. A maintenance plan shall identify and protect the design, capacity, and functionality of onsite and offsite stormwater management facilities; specify the methods; and schedule responsible parties for maintenance for every stormwater management facility.
- 3. The maintenance agreement shall be recorded with the applicable county (Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, or Ramsey) as part of the LGU development approval process.
- 4. A public entity assuming a maintenance obligation may submit a written executed agreement in lieu of the recorded maintenance agreement.

#### 7.3.4 Alternative Measures

Sites where infiltration is infeasible, should comply with the NPDES General Construction Permit, issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, August 1, 2013as amended.

# 8 Shoreline and Streambank Alteration Standard

# 8.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's policy to:

- Manage stable, intact, and vegetated shorelines and streambanks that provide valuable
  functions to the associated water resource, including erosion prevention, reinforcement of
  soils through root structure, trapping of nutrients and sediments, and provision of fish and
  wildlife habitat.
- Promote the preservation and enhancement of the ecological integrity and natural appearance of shorelines and streambanks with the intent of preventing erosion.
- Encourage practices such as bioengineering and preservation of natural vegetation practices,

- when alterations are necessary.
- Preserve water quality and the ecological integrity of the riparian environment, including wildlife and fisheries habitat, and recreational water resources.

## 8.2 Regulated Activity and Threshold

- a. Improvement or alteration below the ordinary high water mark of a lake or wetland, or the bankfull height of a watercourse; including but not limited to, bioengineered installations, placement of riprap, retaining walls, sand blankets, or boatramps.
- b. Maintenance of an existing riprap or hard-armored shoreline or streambank that involves the addition of new material or structural change.

#### 8.3 Standards

- a. Use bioengineering techniques to the extent possible. The use of bioengineering is encouraged as an alternative to traditional engineered stabilization techniques for cost advantage, aesthetic superiority, and ecological integrity. If bioengineering cannot provide a stable shoreline, a combination of riprap and bioengineering may be used to restore or maintain shoreline. If a combination of riprap and bioengineering cannot provide a stable shoreline within a reasonable period, riprap may be used to restore or maintain shoreline.
  - Live plantings incorporated in shoreline bioengineering must be native aquatic vegetation and/or native upland plants.
  - O Riprap used in shoreline erosion protection must be sized appropriately in relation to the erosion potential of the wave or current action of the particular water body, but in no case shall the riprap rock average less than six (6) inches in diameter or more than 30 inches in diameter. Riprap shall be durable, natural stone, and of a gradation that will result in a stable shoreline embankment. Stone, granular filter, and geotextile material shall conform to standard Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) specifications, except that neither limestone nor dolomite shall be used for shoreline or stream bank riprap but may be used at stormwater outfalls. All materials used must be free from organic material, soil, clay, debris, trash, orany other material that may cause siltation or pollution.
  - O Riprap placement shall conform to the natural alignment of the shoreline/streambank.
  - O A transitional layer consisting of graded gravel, at least six (6) inches deep, and an appropriate geotextile filter fabric shall be placed between the existing shoreline and any riprap. The thickness of riprap layers should be at least 1.25 times the maximum stone diameter. Toe boulders, if used, must be at least 50 percent buried.
  - Riprap must not cover emergent vegetation, unless authorized by a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit.

- o Riprap shall extend no higher than the top of bank or two feet above the 100-year high water elevation, whichever is lower.
- b. Stabilize the shoreline with minimal horizontal encroachment and without interference of water flow or navigation. No riprap or filter material shall be placed more than six (6) feet waterward of the OHW. Streambank riprap shall not reduce the cross-sectional area of the channel or result in a stage increase of more than 0.01 feet at or upstream of the treatment.
- c. Design of shoreline erosion protection must reflect the engineering properties of the underlying soils and any soil corrections or reinforcements necessary. The design shall conform to engineering principles for wave energy dispersion and resistance to deformation from ice pressures and movement, considering prevailing winds, fetch, and other factors that induce wave energy.
- d. Use of riprap for merely cosmetic purposes is prohibited.
- e. Use retaining walls only when there is no adequate stabilization alternative and in accordance with MN Rules 6115.0211. Retaining walls extending below the OHW of a water body are prohibited, except where:
  - o There is a demonstrable need for a retaining wall in a public improvement project.
  - o The design of the retaining wall has been certified by a registered engineer.

A determination by the District for a project meeting this Standard does not preclude it from needing a DNR Public Waters Work Permit.

# 9 Steep Slopes Standard

# 9.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's policy to:

- Protect water quality down gradient steep slopes from pollutant loadings of sediment, nutrient, bacteria, and other contaminants.
- Maintain stability of steep slopes, shorelines, and other areas prone to erosion.
- Sustain and enhance the biological and ecological functions of non-invasive vegetation on steep slopes.
- Minimize impacts to and preserve the natural character and topography of steep slopes.
- Protect properties and waterbodies adjacent to steep slopes from erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and other damage.
- Promote public safety by requiring certification from qualified individuals before landdisturbing activities and other changes to land on steep slopes.

## 9.2 Regulated Activity and Threshold

- Land-disturbing activities that involves the excavation of 50 cubic yards or more of earth, or displacement or removal of 5,000 square feet or more of surface area or vegetation within the Steep Slopes Overlay District, as shown on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Steep Slopes Overlay District Map (Figure K2).
- Activities requiring municipal/LGU grading, building, parking lot, and foundations permits
  that result in a net increase in impervious surface or stormwater runoff within the Steep
  Slopes Overlay District as illustrated on Figure K2.

### 9.3 Exceptions

- Upon showing, to the satisfaction of the LMRWD, that the LGU has enacted and is following official controls necessary to meet the intent of these standards, the LMRWD may issue an exception to the standard for projects with land-disturbing activities that require a municipal grading, building, parking lot, or foundation permit that impact less than 50 cubic yards or less than 5,000 square feet of surface area or vegetation. The exception, if issued, will be documented in a Memorandum of Agreement wherein the LGU must agree: (1) that it will enforce its official controls; (2) that the exception will terminal if the LGU amends its official controls, so they no longer meet the intent of these standards; and (3) that it will provide notice to the LMRWD of all permits issued under the exception.
- New impervious areas associated with driveway widenings that drains to the street where runoff water is managed by a municipal storm sewer system.
- Maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing structures, public roads, utilities, and drainage systems within the Steep Slopes Overlay District.
- Disturbances that are part of an approved local water plan (LWP) to repair, grade, or reslope existing steep slopes that are eroding or unstable to establish stable slopes and vegetation.
- Native plantings that enhance natural vegetation of steep slopes.
- Selective removal of noxious, exotic, or invasive vegetation using locally recognized methods to control and/or minimize their spread.
- Pruning of trees or vegetation that are dead, diseased or pose a public hazard, and removal
  of vegetation in emergency situations from steep slopes.
- Maintenance of existing lawns, landscaping, and gardens.
- Agricultural and forestry activities.

#### 9.4 Standard

The standards outlined in this section apply to the areas identified on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District - Steep Slopes Overlay District Map (Figure K2).

- A. Land disturbing activities as regulated in this section may occur within the Steep Slopes Overlay District, provided a qualified professional/professional engineer registered in the state of Minnesota certifies the suitability of the area for the proposed activities, structures or uses resulting from the activities and the following requirements are addressed:
  - 1. Minimum erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) include site stabilization and slope restoration measures to ensure the proposed activity will not result in:
    - i. adverse impacts to adjacent and/or downstream properties or water bodies;
    - ii. unstable slopes conditions; and
    - iii. degradation of water quality due to erosion, sedimentation, flooding, and other damage.
  - 2. Preservation of existing hydrology and drainage patterns. Land-disturbing activities may not result in any new water discharge points on steep slopes or along the bluff.

Stormwater ponds, swales, infiltration basins, or other soil saturation-type features shall not be constructed within Steep Slopes Overlay District.

# 10 Water Appropriations Standard

# 10.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's policy to:

- Maintain groundwater recharge and protect groundwater from contamination.
- Promote management practices that protect groundwater recharge and quality.
- Support enforcement of Wellhead Protection Plans, Individual Sewage Treatment Systems/ISTS, and community septic ordinances.
- Support development and implementation of Wellhead Protection Plans.
- Review appropriations requests for groundwater in HVRAs.
- Evaluate the potential impacts of public or private infrastructure (including private and municipal groundwater appropriations) interference of flows on groundwater recharge, transmission, and discharge.

## 10.2 Regulated Activity and Threshold

Temporary withdrawal of groundwater for construction dewatering, landscaping, dust control, and hydrostatic testing of pipelines, tanks, and wastewater ponds, and groundwater withdrawal of more than 10,000 gallons of water per day or 1 million gallons per year within HVRA Overlay District, as shown on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District – High Value Resources Area Overlay District Map (Figure K1).

#### 10.3 Standards

10.3.1

- A. In all cases of groundwater appropriation requiring a DNR permit in the District, a copy of the permit application and information on the location of the discharge/withdrawal shall be filed with the District for review.
- B. Develop and submit a discharge management plan to the District.
- C. Demonstrate no net change in groundwater levels to adjacent fen.

# 11 Water Crossing Standard

# 11.1 Policy Statement

It is the District's policy to:

- Prohibit the use of beds and banks of streams and lakes for the placement of roads, driveways, and utilities.
- Regulate crossings of watercourses for driveways, roads, and utilities to maintain stream stability, conveyance capacity, and the ability to transport, without adverse effect, the flows and detritus of its watershed.
- Preserve the ecological integrity of the riparian and aquatic environment, including wildlife
  and fisheries habitat and recreational water resources.
- Encourage improvement of wildlife passage and habitat, especially for projects involving culvert and public right-of-way in or near natural corridors.

# 11.2 Regulated Activity and Threshold

Horizontal drilling under or placement of a road, highway, utility, bridge, boardwalk or associated structure in contact with the bed or bank of any waterbody, including alteration of a waterbody to enclose it within a pipe or culvert.

## 11.3 Exceptions

Ecological restoration of a waterbody that has been significantly altered from its natural state or degraded, for which the proposed application would provide a greater degree of resource protection and restoration than would strict compliance with the standard.

#### 11.4 Standards

- a. Show the effects of the project through analysis completed by a qualified professional on the stream's physical characteristics, hydraulic capacity, and water quality.
- b. Time construction by taking advantage of seasons with no or low stream flow as appropriate.
- c. Time construction to avoid spawning seasons, if applicable.
- d. Demonstrate a public benefit and ensure the crossing will retain adequate hydraulic and navigational capacity for the portion of a road, highway, utility, or associated structure that crosses the bed or bank of any waterbody. If applicable, the project should not adversely affect water quality, and represent the "minimal impact" solution to a specific need with respect to all other reasonable alternatives.
- e. Projects must follow the DNR manual Best Practices for Meeting DNR General Public Waters Work Permit GP 2004-0001, and as amended, when applicable.
- f. Size and place stream crossings, as follows:
  - Regardless of the stream's width-to-depth ratio (bankfull width/mean depth), minimum culvert width shall match or exceed stream bankfull width (water surface width at discharge associated with the 1.5-year return period). Combined width of multiple culverts is satisfactory.
  - O Culvert length shall extend beyond side slope toe and be buried one-sixth of its height.
  - O Slope of culvert shall match stream thalweg (the deepest continuous line along a watercourse) slope.
  - O When using multiple culverts, offset culvert inverts. Use the fewest and largest multiples possible. A minimum vertical separation of 1-foot is required between the lowest placed culvert and multiples.
  - o Alignment of culvert shall match stream alignment.
  - Additional consultation is required with DNR, the District, and other regulatory agency staff when the stream is a designated trout stream or contains endangered or threatened species.
- g. Provide a maintenance agreement. A declaration, or other recordable instrument, stating terms for hydraulic capacity maintenance shall be recorded in the County recorder's office or registrar before activity commences. In lieu of recordation, a public body or project proposer

without a property interest sufficient for recordation may assume the maintenance obligation by means of a written agreement. The agreement shall state that if the ownership of the structure is transferred, the public body shall require the transferee to comply with this requirement.

h. Preserve aquatic and upland wildlife passages.









