



Date: July 6, 2020

To: Local and State Governmental Units in the Lower Minnesota River West One Watershed, One Plan Planning Area (see map below)

From: Sibley County and Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) acting on behalf of the Lower Minnesota River West Policy Committee

Re: Invitation to Submit Priority Concerns for the Lower Minnesota River West Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

The Lower Minnesota River West Watershed has been selected by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for the One Watershed, One Plan program. This program allows counties to transition from county-based water management planning to watershed-based planning. The planning boundary for the Lower Minnesota River West Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is a drainage area of 498,715 acres including areas of Bevens Creek, High Island Creek and Rush River Sub-Watersheds as well as direct flow areas to the Minnesota River (see map below). The County Boards and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Boards of McLeod, Nicollet and Sibley, along with the High Island Creek Watershed District, have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the sole purpose of developing a comprehensive watershed plan to restore and protect water resources in the Lower Minnesota River West Watershed planning area.

There are two purposes for this notice:

- 1) Invite all recipients of this notice to submit within 60 days any water management issues they feel the process and resulting plan should address (e.g. land use plans or special ordinances, special projects/plans like wastewater facilities, well head protection plans, etc. that could benefit from having a plan connection).

- 2) Invite anyone interested to serve on an Advisory Committee. This committee advises the Policy Committee (comprised of county commissioners, SWCD supervisors and a watershed district manager) and will meet as necessary throughout the planning process (Fall 2020 to June 2022). The Advisory Committee will have representation from as many stakeholders as possible within the watershed to ensure that all who depend upon our water resources are represented.

Please submit the requested information by September 4th, 2020 and direct inquiries, to:

Jack Bushman and Joel Wurscher

Sibley SWCD

112 5th Street, PO Box 161

Gaylord, MN 55334

507-702-7077

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A public information “kick-off” sponsored by the Lower Minnesota River West Policy Committee will be held in the Fall of 2020. Additional information will be distributed throughout the planning process.

**Lower Minnesota River West Watershed
1W1P Planning Area
(498,715 acres)**

Percent of land area in planning boundary:

**Sibley Co. – 70.2%, Nicollet Co. – 18.1%, McLeod Co. – 8.4%,
Renville Co. – 3.3%,**

HICWD – 100% within planning boundary

