

CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

P.O.BOX 481
Annandale, MN 55302
(320) 274-3935

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XXXXXXXX, XX XXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX,

In response to your inquiry regarding the increase to your special assessment, this letter has been prepared.

Your increase is due to ongoing operation and maintenance (the OM line on your special assessment notice) costs associated with the 1980 Clearwater River Chain of Lakes Restoration Project. The Chain of Lakes Restoration Project was a 4.4 million project spanning the 1980s-1990s designed to significantly improve water quality on Clearwater Lake and several smaller lakes that make up the chain. The operation and maintenance assessment is used by the District to maintain the many sub-projects that make up this larger Restoration Project, following MN 103D.631.

Specifically, the District recently received two grant awards for operation and maintenance on two of these sub-projects, the Kingston Wetland Re-meandering Project, and the Fertilizer Field Trial Project. Your OM assessment has increased due to these two projects being undertaken by the District to meet its maintenance requirements.

The Kingston Wetland Re-meandering Project, with a grant of \$404,000, will extend the useful life of the sub-project known as Kingston Wetland Treatment System, a wetland built in the early 1980s to treat the Clearwater River for nutrients before it entered downstream lakes, (such as Clearwater). Your OM special assessment is paying for the local match for this grant project, spread out over a 5-year period. This is the second year of this assessment collection.

The Fertilizer Field Trial Project is a continuation of the sub-project known as the Tri-County Conservation Project. The grant received for this is \$300,000. It is a nutrient management program designed to address high amounts of phosphorous entering the Clearwater River (and

subsequently, downstream lakes) from fertilizer runoff from area agricultural fields. The project focuses on assisting agricultural operators in switching from standard fertilizer application rates to variable fertilizer application rates, resulting in fields receiving less excessive fertilizer applications, and therefore less fertilizer runoff entering the Clearwater River. Your OM special assessment is paying for the local match for this grant project, spread out over a 5-year period. This is the first year of this assessment collection.

I hope this answers your questions. If you have further questions or comments, please contact me at the phone number listed above, and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis Loewen
Assistant Administrator
Clearwater River Watershed District