



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA RIVERS BASIN COMMISSION

An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Commission.
- Series Title:** Records,
- Dates:** 1970-1987.
- Abstract:** Records documenting the organization and operation of this commission, created to prepare an overall comprehensive environmental conservation and development plan and coordinate southern Minnesota rivers basin planning by all state and federal agencies. There are also records of its successors, the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Board and the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Council.
- Quantity:** 2.25 cu. ft. (2 boxes and 1 partial box).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA RIVERS BASIN COMMISSION

The Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Commission was established by the legislature in 1971 [Laws 1971 c705] to prepare an overall comprehensive environmental conservation and development plan and to coordinate southern Minnesota rivers basin planning by all state and federal agencies. It studied methods of water conservation such as flood control, and guided the implementation of a comprehensive plan. Staff support for the commission was provided by the State Planning Agency.

The commission was renamed the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Board in 1975 [Laws 1975 c13]. It had eleven members, six of whom were appointed by the governor. The remaining five members were laymen representing local interests. They were elected by an advisory council which consisted of one person appointed by the county board of each of the 45 counties lying wholly or partly within the basin.

In 1983, the Legislature [Laws 1983 c301] created a permanent water coordinating body through the merger of the Water Planning Board and the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Board with the state Environmental Quality Board [EQB]. Governor Perpich also approved a reorganization order transferring the staff of the three merged boards to the State Planning Agency.

An advisory council to the EQB, the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Council, was also created. It differed from the board only in membership: the eleven members, all residents of the basin area, were appointed by the governor.

In 1987, the Legislature combined the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Council with the Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Water Resources Board to form the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources [Laws 1987 c358].

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Files documenting the commission's formation, daily operations, and activities directly related to the preparation of an overall comprehensive environmental conservation and development plan and coordination of southern Minnesota rivers basin planning by all state and federal agencies. The files are mainly those of Marilyn Lundberg, a State Planning Agency employee who served as administrative assistant to the commission.

Included in the files are minutes (1971-1987), correspondence (1973-1987), reports to the Legislature (1973-1985), and subject files. The latter include board appointments and resolutions, formation and historical documents, budget materials, membership lists, newspaper articles and press releases, public hearing statements, public meeting transcripts, and files concerning the Root River Citizens Advisory Committee and the Super Fund Bill.

There are also files documenting the commission's area policy/action committees (1974-1987), Field Advisory Committee (1975-1979), Upper Mississippi River Subbasin Advisory Committee (1977-1987), and Citizens Participation Committee for 639 Study (1978-1987). The latter two committees dealt with Public Law 87-639, a federally sponsored study done by the commission, Soil Conservation Service, and Army Corps of Engineers to investigate flood prevention, water conservation, and use in the drainage areas of the Yellow Bank, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Redwood, and Cottonwood rivers.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Citizens' advisory committees--Minnesota.
- Flood control--Minnesota.
- Rivers--United States--Regulation.
- Water conservation--Minnesota.
- Water quality management--Minnesota.
- Water resources development--Minnesota.
- Watershed conservation--Minnesota.
- Watershed management--Minnesota.

Places:

- Blue Earth River Watershed (Iowa-Minn.)--Regulation.

Minnesota River Watershed--Regulation.

Persons:

Lundberg, Marilyn.

Organizations:

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.
Minnesota State Planning Agency.
Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Board.
Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Council.
United States. Army. Corps of Engineers.
United States. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.
United States. Soil Conservation Service.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota State Planning Agency. Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Commission. Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
114.K.19.3B	1	Minutes, October 1971-1987. 8 folders. Most are ribbon copies. Correspondence, 1971-1983. 15 folders.

Location	Box	
114.K.19.4F	2	Correspondence, 1984-1987. 4 folders. Reports, 1973-1985. 2 folders and 1 volume. Annual Report of the Executive Secretary, 1973. 1 folder. Typescript. Report [to the Legislature], 1973-1985. 1 folder.

The equivalent of a biennial report; includes 1973, 1975, 1979, 1981, 1983, and 1985.

Minnesota River Basin Report, February 1977. 1 volume.
Subject files, 1970-1987. 11 folders.

Board appointments and resignations, 1971-1987.

Board formation papers, 1970. 2 folders.

Include work plans, studies, proposals, correspondence and task outlines.

Budget, 1978-1983.

History, 1971-1974.

Membership lists, undated.

Newspaper articles and news releases, 1974-1984.

Public hearing statements, 1972.

Public meeting transcripts, 1972.

Also include statements and correspondence for public meetings held statewide.

Root River Citizens Advisory Committee, 1974-1976.

Superfund Bill Testimony, 1983.

Committee files, 1974-1987. 14 folders.

Area policy/action committees records, 1974-1987. 5 folders.

Minutes (photocopies), correspondence, and reports of three of four of the study areas located within the basin; Area I—Blue Earth River, Area II—Upper Minnesota River Subbasin, Area III—Minnesota River Headwaters Subbasin, and Area IV—Lower Minnesota River Subbasin.

Area I Policy Committee, 1974-1985.

Area II Policy Committee, 1974-1983.

Area II Action Committee, 1978-1987. 2 folders.

Area V Policy Committee, 1975-1980.

Field Advisory Committee, 1975-1979. 2 folders.

Minutes (photocopies) and correspondence of this committee formed by the Soil Conservation Service to study the southern Minnesota River Basin.

Upper Minnesota River Subbasin Advisory Committee Records, 1977-1987. 3 folders.

This committee was established in 1977 under Public Law 87-639 to carry out a study to investigate flood prevention, water conservation and use in the drainage areas of the Yellow Bank, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Redwood, and Cottonwood rivers. The committee was formed by the SMRBC, and included the Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Minnesota Water Planning Board, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was chaired by the SMRBC. The records include meeting minutes and background materials.

Citizens Participation Committee for 639 Study Records, 1978-1987. 5 folders.

This committee was formed by the SMRBC as part of the public involvement program for the Public Law 87-639 study. Its purpose was to obtain local input, coordinate planning activities, inform concerned citizens, and advise local, state, and federal bodies on matters relating to natural resource planning in the drainage areas of the Yellow Bank, Lac Qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Redwood, and Cottonwood rivers. The records include minutes (ribbon and photocopies) which are incomplete, quarterly progress reports, correspondence and related papers.

Location	Box	
114.K.19.4F	2	2 folders.

Location	Box	
112.I.19.10F	3	3 folders.