



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Agenda Item

Item 6. A. – Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The LMRWD received a permit application for improvements at the Superior Minerals property in Savage. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC, has reviewed the application and supporting documents on behalf of the LMRWD. Conditional approval is recommended contingent upon the receipt of the name and contact information for all contractors undertaking land-disturbing activities, name and contact information for the person(s) responsible for erosion control inspections and maintenance, final construction plans signed by a professional engineer, documentation of full approval of the project by the City of Savage and documentation of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Permit decision and supporting information.

Attachments

Technical Memorandum – Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements (LMRWD No. 2023-024) dated December 13, 2023

Recommended Action

Motion to conditionally approve a permit for Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements (LMRWD No. 2023-024) contingent upon receipt of the following: the name and contact information for all contractors undertaking land-disturbing activities, name and contact information for the person(s) responsible for erosion control inspections and maintenance, final construction plans signed by a professional engineer, documentation of full approval of the project by the City of Savage and documentation of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Permit decision and supporting information



Technical Memorandum

To: Linda Loomis, Administrator
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD)

From: Erica Bock, Water Resources Scientist
Della Schall Young, PMP, CPESC, CTF, Principal Scientist

Date: December 13, 2023

Re: Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements (LMRWD No. 2023-024)

Superior Minerals Company has applied for an individual project permit from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) to install four 10x10-foot concrete pads and construct an access road. One of the concrete pads will have a 12-inch-high winch and steel column tower to serve as the primary barge retention system while the other will serve as anchor points to secure the tower. The project is located at 12051 Yosemite Avenue in Savage, MN (Figure 1). The applicant's engineer, Krech Ojard and Associates, submitted the permit application, associated application exhibits, and site plans for the Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements project (Project).

The concrete pads will create a primary barge retention system to ensure that barges are secured near the shoreline while loading. Currently, without the anchor points, the barges have limited ways of being secured. This creates a safety concern as the rear of the barges may be affected by the Minnesota River current while loading. The Project disturbs approximately 0.28 acres and constructs 0.08 acres of new impervious surfaces. The Project proposes to begin in the spring of 2024. The Project is not located within the High Value Resources Area or Steep Slopes Overlay District but is located within the Minnesota River floodway, triggering Rule C—Floodplain and Drainage Alteration.

The City of Savage does not have its municipal permit and therefore the Project requires a LMRWD individual permit and is subject to a LMRWD permitting review.

Summary

Project Name: Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements

Purpose: Installation of concrete pads and access road

Project Size:

Area Disturbed	Existing Impervious Area	Proposed Impervious Area	Net Increase Impervious Area
0.28 acres	0 acres	0.08 acres	0.08 acres

Location: 12051 Yosemite Avenue
Savage, MN 55378

LMRWD Rules: Rule C – Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

Recommended Board Action: Conditional approval

Discussion

The LMRWD received the following documents for review:

- LMRWD individual permit application; received October 10, 2023.
- Preliminary construction plans by Krech Ojard and Associates; dated August 28, 2023; received October 10, 2023.
- No-rise calculations by Krech Ojard and Associates; dated November 8, 2023; revised November 22, 2023; received November 22, 2023.
- Signed Authorization of Agent form; dated November 30, 2023; received December 1, 2023.
- Permit application fee of \$750; received December 6, 2022.

The application was deemed complete on December 1, 2023, and the documents received provide the minimum information necessary for permit review.

Rule C – Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

The LMRWD requires the applicant to provide documentation that the proposed floodplain fill will not cause an increase in the 100-year water surface elevations. The project is located within the Minnesota River floodway, as seen on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 27139C0061E (effective February 12, 2021) with a 100-year flood elevation of 718.7 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29) at

cross-section H. The project proposes 132 cubic yards of fill and 146 cubic yards of cut, resulting in 14 cubic yards of net cut. The applicant submitted cut and fill calculations in addition to a map showing the locations of the cut and fill within the project area. The no-rise calculations show no rise in the 100-year water surface elevation.

Rule C, Section 4.4.C states that no permanent structure, except for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)- and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-approved structures and uses may be constructed in the floodway. The definition of “structure” according to FEMA and NFIP is “a walled and roofed building”. The winch system is a small pole that is 12-inches above grade and the access road is at grade. The proposed construction does not meet the definition of the structure, and therefore can be placed within the floodway.

An erosion and sediment control plan is required to comply with Rule C. The applicant has submitted an acceptable erosion and sediment control plan for the project. The project generally complies with Rule C; however, contact information for the contractors and person responsible for the inspection and maintenance of all erosion and sediment control features is required before the LMRWD can issue a permit.

Recommendations

Based on review of the project, we recommend conditional approval contingent on the receipt of the following:

- Name and contact information for all contractors undertaking land-disturbing activities as part of the proposed project.
- Name and contact information for the person(s) responsible for erosion control inspections and maintenance.
- Final construction plans signed by a professional engineer.
- City of Savage full project approval documentation.
- Documentation of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Permit decision and supporting information.

Attachments

- Figure 1—Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements



Figure I: Carmeuse Savage Marine Improvements Project Location
LMRWD No. 2023-024



Legend

- Project Location
- Proposed Access Road
- Proposed Concrete Pads
- Parcels
- Public Waters
- 100-yr Floodplain
- Floodway

LMRWD Watershed Location Map

