



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 6. B. – MN Bluffs Regional Trail (LMRWD No. 2023-017)

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The MN Bluff Regional Trail will complete a segment of trail through the City of Chaska. Young Environmental Consulting Group reviewed the application and documentation for the construction on behalf of the LMRWD.

Approval of a permit for the project is recommended subject to the receipt of the following:

- Copy of the NPDES construction stormwater permit.
- Final Construction plans signed by a professional engineer.
- Contact information for the contractor(s).
- Contact information for the person(s) responsible for erosion and sediment control inspections and maintenance.
- Documentation of approval from the City of Chaska.
- Documentation of approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- Signed JPA between Carver County Regional Rail Authority and the City of Chaska.
- Designation of an individual who will remain liable to the LMRWD for performance under Rule B and Rule C from the time permitted activities commence until vegetation is established and the LMRWD has certified satisfaction with erosion and sediment control requirements.

Attachments

Technical Memorandum – MN Bluffs Regional Trail (LMRWD No. 2023-017) dated March 13, 2024

Recommended Action

Motion to conditionally approve a permit for MN Bluffs Regional Trail (LMRWD No. 2023-017) subject to the contingencies listed above

Technical Memorandum



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

From: Erica Bock, Water Resources Scientist
Hannah LeClaire, PE, Water Resources Engineer

Date: March 13, 2024

Re: MN Bluffs Regional Trail (LMRWD No. 2023-017)

The City of Chaska has applied for an individual project permit from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) for a 10-foot-wide recreational trail along an old railroad corridor through the City of Chaska. The trail will start near West 1st Street and end near Old Audubon Road in Chaska, MN, 55318 (Figure 1). The applicant's engineer, Bolton & Menk, Inc., submitted the permit application, associated application exhibits, and construction plans for the MN Bluffs Regional Trail Project.

The project proposes to construct a 10-foot-wide recreational trail along the old Carver County Railroad Corridor. The project proposes 8.8 acres of disturbance. There are currently 2.1 acres of impervious surfaces along the existing railroad embankment and the project proposes 0.2 acres of new impervious surfaces for a total of 2.3 acres of impervious surfaces. The existing railroad embankment is considered impervious as part of the project because it is highly compacted. The topsoil and turf will be added on top of the embankment, but the underlying soils will not be regraded since the railroad ballast and track were removed. This does not meet the LMRWD's definition of reconstruction. Because the project is proposing less than 1 acre of new and reconstructed impervious surfaces, the project will not trigger LMRWD Rule D—Stormwater Management. In addition, LMRWD Rule D has an exemption for recreational trails that are 10 feet wide or less with downgradient pervious surfaces at least as wide as half the trail width (Rule D, Section 5.3.D).

The project proposes a new bridge crossing within the floodplain of East Chaska Creek (Figure 2). The project is not located within the High Value Resource Area or Steep Slopes Overlay District; however, it is located in the floodplain of East Chaska Creek. Therefore, the project triggers LMRWD Rule B—Erosion and Sediment Control and Rule C—Floodplain and Drainage Alteration.

The application was received prior to the authorization of the Chaska local governmental unit (LGU) Permit for Rule B and Rule D, and therefore the project requires an individual permit for Rule B and Rule C and is subject to an LMRWD permitting review.

SUMMARY

Project Name: MN Bluffs Regional Trail

Purpose: Recreational regional trail

Project Size:

Area Disturbed	Existing Impervious Area	Proposed Impervious Area	Net Increase	Cut/Fill
8.8 acres	2.1 acres	2.3 acres	+0.2 acres	11.9 cubic yards cut.
				2.9 cubic yards fill.

Location: Trail begins near West 1st Street, running southwest to northeast, and ends near Old Audubon Road in Chaska, MN, 55318.

LMRWD Rules: Rule B – Erosion and Sediment Control
Rule C – Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

Recommended Board Action: Conditional approval

DISCUSSION

The LMRWD received the following documents for review:

- LMRWD online permit application; received December 28, 2023.
- LMRWD permit narrative by Bolton & Menk, dated December 28, 2023; revised and received February 1, 2024.
- HydroCAD analysis by Bolton & Menk; received December 28, 2023.
- Construction plans by Bolton & Menk, no date; received February 1, 2024.
- Erosion control plans by Bolton & Menk, no date; received February 1, 2024.
- Overview map exhibit by Bolton & Menk, no date; received February 1, 2024.
- Trail typical section from Bolton & Menk; received February 1, 2024.
- Signed Authorization of Agent form from Bolton and Menk, dated January 25; received February 1, 2024.
- Erosion control details from Bolton & Menk; received February 26, 2024.
- Trail cross sections from Bolton and Menk; received February 26, 2024.
- HEC-RAS model by Bolton & Menk; revised and received February 26, 2024.
- Hydraulic memorandum by Bolton & Menk dated February 21, 2024; revised and received February 26, 2024.
- Floodplain cut and fill calculations by Bolton and Menk; received February 26, 2024.

The application was deemed complete on February 26, 2024, and the documents received provide the minimum information necessary for permit review.

Rule B – Erosion and Sediment Control

The LMRWD regulates land-disturbing activities that affect one acre or more under Rule B. The proposed project would disturb approximately 8.8 acres within the LMRWD boundary. The applicant has provided an erosion and sediment control plan and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The project generally complies with Rule B, but a copy of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction stormwater permit as well as the contact information for the contractor and person(s) responsible for the inspection and maintenance of erosion and sediment control features are needed before the LMRWD can issue a permit.

In addition, the City of Chaska is currently working on a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Carver County for authority to construct on the railroad property. Carver County has signed the LMRWD Authorization of Agent Form and the final JPA will be required before the LMRWD can issue a permit.

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 100-year water surface elevations. The project is located within the East Chaska Creek 100-year floodplain, as seen on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 27019C0236D, effective December 21, 2018, and in Figure 2. The project proposes 11.9 cubic yards of cut and 2.9 cubic yards of fill for the proposed bridge. The proposed bridge is a prefabricated single span steel truss bridge that will support a concrete walking trail. The bridge will be 60 feet long and 14 feet wide. The applicant submitted cut and fill calculations, a work map, and a HEC-RAS model showing the updated changes to the proposed bridge. The model showed no change in the 100-year water surface elevation, meeting the minimum requirements of Rule C.

The project also crosses the Chaska Creek floodplain on the west end of the project limits; however, there is only resurfacing work taking place in the floodplain with no proposed geometry changes to the river at that crossing location. Therefore, modeling was not required. The applicant submitted trail cross sections for the project for verification.

Recommendations

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

- Copy of the NPDES construction stormwater permit.
- Final construction plans signed by a professional engineer.
- Contact information for the contractor(s)
- Contact information for the person(s) responsible for erosion and sediment control inspections and maintenance.
- Documentation of approval from the City of Chaska.
- Documentation of approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- Signed JPA between Carver County Regional Rail Authority and the City of Chaska.
- Designation of an individual who will remain liable to the LMRWD for performance under Rule B and Rule C from the time permitted activities commence until vegetation is established and the LMRWD has certified satisfaction with erosion and sediment control requirements.

Attachments

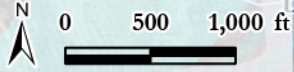
- Figure 1—MN Bluffs Regional Trail Project Location Map
- Figure 2—East Chaska Creek Trail Crossing



Figure I: MN Bluffs Regional Trail Project Location
LMRWD No. 2023-017



Figure 2
Proposed Bridge
Replacement



Legend

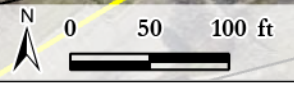
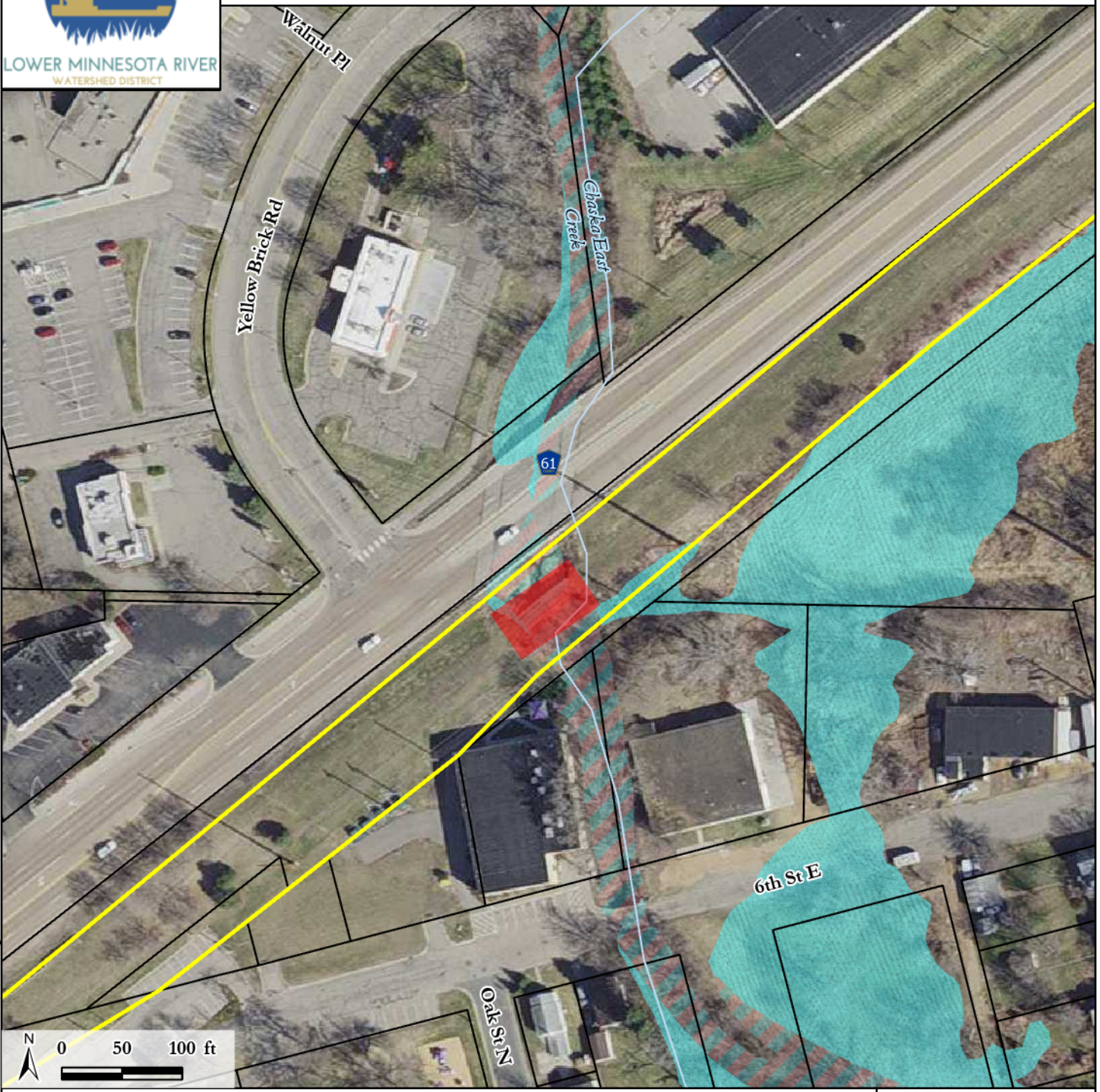
- Project Location
- Proposed Bridge Replacement
- Public Waters
- Public Waterbodies
- High Value Resource Area
- Steep Slope Overlay District
- 100-yr Floodplain
- Floodway

LMRWD Watershed Location Map

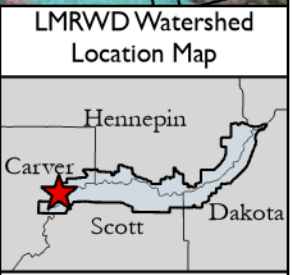




Figure 2: MN Bluffs Regional Trail Bridge Replacement
LMRWD No. 2023-017



- Legend**
- Project Location
 - Proposed Bridge Replacement
 - Public Waters
 - 100-yr Floodplain
 - Floodway



Location: Projects \LMRWD\Project Reviews\02 In Process\2023-017 MN River Bluffs Regional Trail\04 GIS