



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Agenda Item

Item 6. B. – Minnesota Greenway Trail – Kennaley’s Creek Amendment

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The LMRWD issued a permit for this project and construction began. During construction inconsistencies were discovered between surveys. The LMRWD was notified, and additional documentation was submitted. It was determined that an amendment to the permit would be necessary. Young Environmental Consulting Group reviewed the additional documentation on behalf of the LMRWD and is recommending approval of an amendment to the permit.

Details of the Young Environmental Consulting Group’s review is attached.

Attachments

Technical Memorandum – Minnesota River Greenway Trail – Kennaley’s Creek Amendment (LMRWD No. 2023-007) dated October 30, 2024

Recommended Action

Motion to approve Kennaley’s Creek permit amendment for the addition of a temporary construction crossing at Kennaley’s Creek

Technical Memorandum



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

From: Erica Bock, Water Resources Scientist
Hannah LeClaire, PE, Project Manager

Date: October 30, 2024

Re: Minnesota River Greenway Trail—Kennaley’s Creek Amendment (LMRWD No. 2023-007)

BACKGROUND

Dakota County received an individual project permit from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) for the Minnesota (MN) River Greenway Trail within Fort Snelling State Park on November 6, 2023, after the conditional approval items for the project were received. Construction began at the end of 2023.

In February 2024, Dakota County informed the LMRWD that two of the proposed boardwalks required elevation adjustments because the existing ground survey differed from the design survey. Young Environmental reviewed the boardwalk elevation changes with regard to Rule C, and an LMRWD Permit Amendment was issued after approval at the May 15, 2024, LMRWD board meeting. The permit amendment and original project review memorandums are included in Attachment 1.

During the initial project review, the Project proposed using the existing bridge over Kennaley’s Creek for construction access to avoid disturbance to the public water and potential cultural resources. However, on January 5, 2024, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) informed the LMRWD that the contractor for the MN River Greenway Trail Project (LMRWD No. 2023-007) installed a temporary bridge across Kennaley’s Creek for use during construction. This temporary bridge crossing was not permitted by the MnDNR Public Waters Permit or the LMRWD; however, the contractor agreed to stop construction immediately and apply for necessary permits to ensure compliance.

A meeting with Dakota County (permittee), S.M. Hentges (project contractor), Taylor Huinker (MnDNR), Young Environmental Staff, and Linda Loomis was held on January 17, 2024. Attendees discussed the temporary bridge over Kennaley’s Creek and determined it would require hydraulic modeling and additional review by the LMRWD and the MnDNR.

S.M. Hentges and Carlson-McCain (engineer for S.M. Hentges) met with the LMRWD on October 7, 2024, to discuss the modeling approach and submitted the modeling for review on October 9, 2024. Young Environmental reviewed the updates to the model with regard to Rule C to ensure the permit’s no-rise conditions remain in compliance. The construction timeline for this portion of the

project has been delayed pending cultural resources permitting. We will remain in contact with the permittee for project updates.

SUMMARY

Project Name: Minnesota River Greenway Trail—Kennaley’s Creek Amendment
Purpose: Temporary bridge crossing

Project Size:

Area Disturbed	Existing Impervious Area	Proposed Impervious Area	Net Increase Impervious Area
11.9 acres	0 acres	3.7 acres	3.7 acres

Location: Kennaley’s Creek Crossing (approximately 0.5 miles east of TH77)

LMRWD Rules: Rule C—Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

Recommended Board Action: Approval

DISCUSSION

The LMRWD received the following documents for review to support the Kennaley’s Creek permit amendment request:

- MN River Greenway Temporary Bridge HEC-RAS Model by Carlson-McCain; received October 9, 2024
- MN River Greenway Temporary Bridge Modeling Memo by Carlson-McCain; received October 9, 2024
- MN River Greenway Temporary Bridge Excavation Quantities by S.M. Hentges; received October 9, 2024
- Restoration plan by S.M. Hentges; Received October 9, 2024
- MnDNR Public Waters Permit by MnDNR; dated October 9, 2024; received October 28, 2024

The documents provided are sufficient to complete our review.

Rule B—Erosion and Sediment Control

The LMRWD regulates land-disturbing activities that affect one acre or more under Rule B. Minor changes to the disturbed area were made to include the temporary bridge and erosion, and sediment control measures were adjusted accordingly. The contractor provided a restoration plan to tie back into the existing bank soils after construction. These areas will be seeded with a seed mix for wet

ditches, and wildlife-friendly erosion control blankets will be installed to allow for vegetative support of the banks. The project meets the requirements of Rule B.

Rule C—Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

The LMRWD requires applicants to provide documentation that the proposed floodplain fill will not cause an increase in the Minnesota River's 100-year water surface elevation. The project is within the Minnesota River floodplain as shown on the Dakota County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 27037C0080E (effective December 2, 2011). The effective FIRM from 2011 shows the project in a FEMA Zone AE (or 100-year floodplain). The 100-year water surface elevations range throughout the project from 714.2 to 714.4 feet NGVD29.

Carlson-McCain provided an updated hydraulic model and hydraulic modeling summary based on the FEMA effective model to support the no-rise conditions. Elevations of the temporary bridge were added to cross-section 10.8. There are 34 cubic yards of excavation proposed for the temporary bridge. The temporary excavation will be used to create the ramp to the bridge. The excavated material is to be returned to its original location upon removal of the temporary bridge and the area returned to existing conditions, resulting in no net cut or fill. The model showed no change in the 100-year water surface elevation between the proposed permanent and proposed temporary conditions. The areas will be properly seeded and have wildlife-friendly erosion control blankets installed to allow for vegetation support on the banks. The project meets the minimum requirements of Rule C.

The MnDNR is requiring a no-rise certificate and restoration plan for the project and a copy of the MnDNR Public Waters Permit for the temporary crossing at Kennaley's Creek was received.

Recommendations

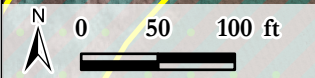
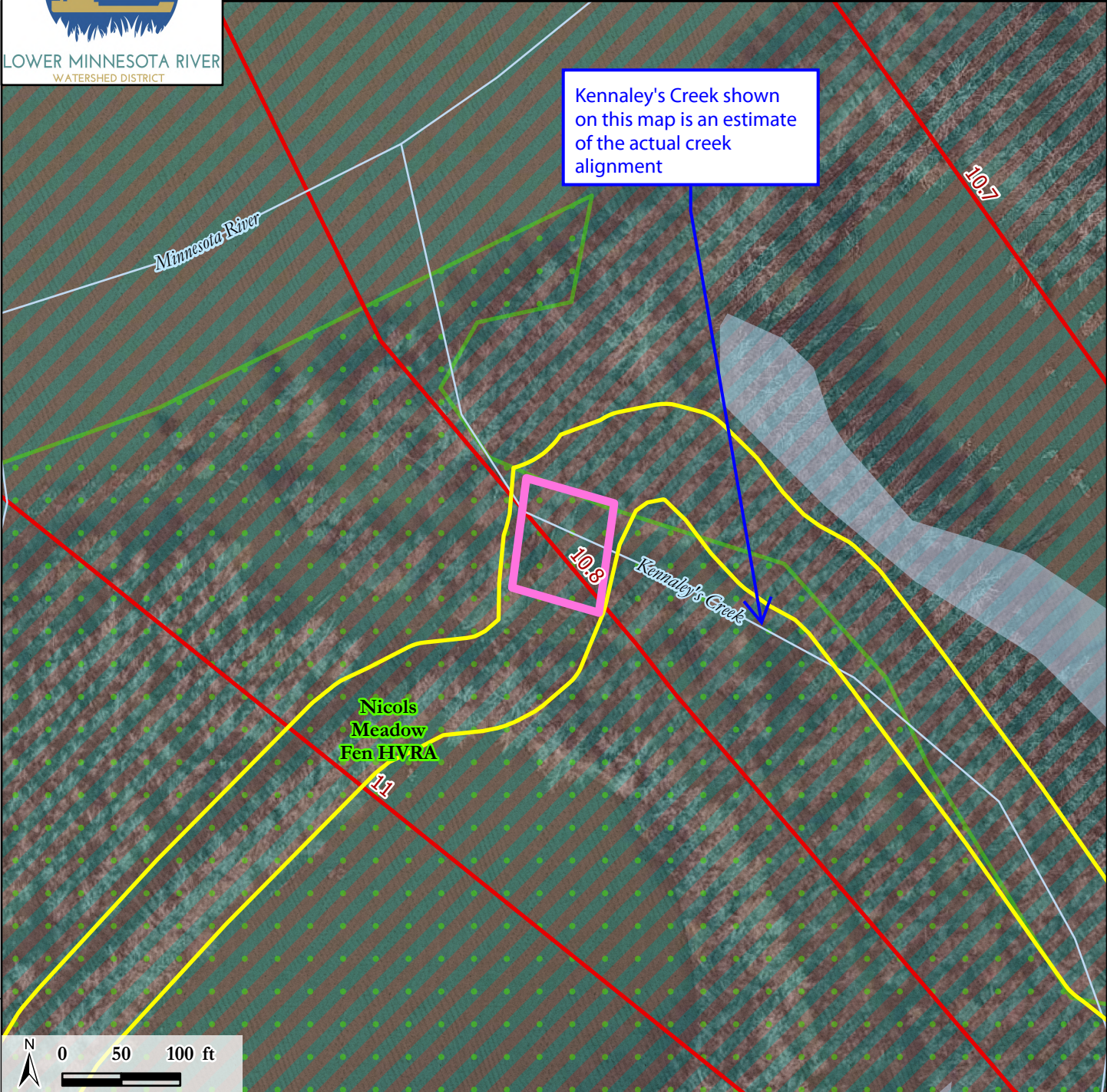
Based on the project review, we recommend approval of the Kennaley's Creek permit amendment for the addition of a temporary construction access crossing at Kennaley's Creek.

Attachments

- Attachment 1—MN River Greenway Trail Permit Review and Amendment #1
- Figure 1—Temporary Bridge Location



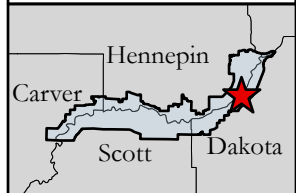
Figure I: MN River Greenway Trail Kennaley Creek Bridge Location
LMRWD No. 2023-007



Legend

- Project Location
- Cross Sections
- Bridge
- Floodway
- High Value Resource Area
- Public Waterbodies
- Public Waters

LMRWD Watershed Location Map



Projects\LMRWD\Project_Reviews\02 In Process\2023-007 MN River Greenway Trail\04 GIS