



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Agenda Item

Item 6. B. – Ike’s Creek Restoration Project (LMRWD No. 2024-020)

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

This project has been reported in the past through the Administrator Reports. US Fish & Wildlife Service has applied for a permit from the LMRWD. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC has reviewed the documentation on behalf of the LMRWD and is recommending conditional approval. Details of the review by Young Environmental can be found in the attached Technical Memorandum.

Attachments

Technical Memorandum – Ike’s Creek restoration Project (LMRWD No. 2024-020) dated February 12, 2025

Recommended Action

Motion to approve LMRWD No. 2024-020 permit for Ike’s Creek restoration Project subject to receipt of a copy of the NPDES Construction stormwater permit, contact information for the contractor(s) undertaking land-disturbing activities, contact information for the individuals(s) responsible for erosion control inspections and maintenance, a copy of the approved MN DNR permit, Final construction plans signed by a professional engineer and a final Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit.

Technical Memorandum



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

From: Rachel Kapsch, Water Resources Scientist
Erica Bock, Water Resources Scientist
Gabrielle Campagnola, Water Resources Engineer (Barr Engineering)

Date: February 12, 2025

Re: Ike's Creek Restoration Project (LMRWD No. 2024-020)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has applied for an individual project permit from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) to perform habitat restoration on Ike's Creek in the City of Bloomington (Figure 1). Ike's Creek is a small tributary to the Minnesota River with a naturally reproducing population of native brook trout. The applicant's engineer, Inter-Fluve, and USFWS submitted the permit application, supporting exhibits, and site plans for the Ike's Creek Restoration Project.

The proposed habitat restoration project location is within a former impoundment (a buildup of water between two structures) and between berms constructed in the early 20th century on the Minnesota River valley bottom. The project includes removing portions of the berms, realigning impacted stream sections, floodplain grading, and installing stone and large wood in the stream channel. The project aims to remove passage barriers and create complex step-pool stream habitat, improving in-stream and riparian habitat for native species in Ike's Creek.

The total disturbed area within the LMRWD is 1.27 acres, including 3,111 cubic yards of cut and 4,105 cubic yards of fill below the 100-year water surface elevation of the Minnesota River. The project is located within the High Value Resource Area (HVRA), the Minnesota River 100-year floodplain, and the Steep Slopes Overlay District (SSOD). However, there is less than 50 cubic yards of earth displacement/removal and less than 5,000 square feet of surface area or vegetation disturbance; the plans submitted support these calculations. The applicant proposes to begin tree clearing within the project area in March 2025. Tree clearing must be completed by April 15, 2025, because of the presence of endangered bat species. The remaining construction is set to occur between April and June 2025. Although the City of Bloomington has a Municipal (LGU) Permit for Rule B (Erosion and Sediment Control), the City waived permitting authority to the LMRWD during a pre-application coordination meeting on September 19, 2024, to simplify the permitting process for Inter-Fluve. The project requires an individual permit for Rule B and Rule C (Floodplain and Drainage Alteration).

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Ike's Creek Restoration Project										
Purpose:	Improve in-stream and riparian habitat for species native to Ike's Creek										
Project Size:	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Area Disturbed</th><th>Cut</th><th>Fill</th><th>Net Change</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1.27 acres</td><td>3,111 cubic yards</td><td>4,105 cubic yards</td><td>+994 cubic yards</td></tr></tbody></table>	Area Disturbed	Cut	Fill	Net Change	1.27 acres	3,111 cubic yards	4,105 cubic yards	+994 cubic yards		
Area Disturbed	Cut	Fill	Net Change								
1.27 acres	3,111 cubic yards	4,105 cubic yards	+994 cubic yards								
Location:	Bass Ponds Trailhead, 2501 86th Street East, Bloomington, MN 55425										
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:

- The following documents were received on November 18, 2024
 - HEC-RAS Model
 - No-Rise Certification
 - Hydraulic Analysis for Ike's Creek Restoration Project (dated November 18, 2024)
- The following documents were received on November 21, 2024
 - LMRWD Online Permit Application
 - LMRWD Rule C (Floodplain and Drainage Alteration) Cover Page
 - U.S. Department of the Interior Memorandum
 - Level 2 Wetland Delineation Report
- The following documents were received on November 27, 2024
 - Ike's Creek Cross Section Map
 - Ike's Creek SSOD Figure
- Section 01 57 14 Flow Management, Erosion and Sediment Control; received December 10, 2024.
- The following documents were received on December 16, 2024
 - Revised Permit Application
 - Revised Project Plan Set
 - HEC-RAS Cross Sections Overlay Figure

- The following documents were received on January 10, 2025
 - Letter from USACE (dated June 21, 2024)
 - Response to LMRWD Comments (dated January 9, 2025)
 - Revised Section 01 57 14 Flow Management, Erosion and Sediment Control
 - Revised Hydraulic Analysis for Ike’s Creek Restoration Project (dated January 8, 2025)
 - Floodplain Permit Approval Letter from the City of Bloomington (dated January 13, 2024)
 - Letter from MPCA titled “Nationwide Permits – Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification”

The application was deemed complete on January 15, 2025, and the documents received provide the minimum information necessary for permit review.

Rule B—Erosion and Sediment Control

The LMRWD regulates land-disturbing activities involving the displacement or removal of 5,000 square feet or more of surface area within the HVRA under Rule B. The proposed project will disturb approximately 1.27 acres within the LMRWD boundary. The applicant provided an erosion and sediment control plan that includes temporary best management practices such as silt fencing, sediment control logs, seed and Type 3 mulch, nonwoven coir fabric, and a stone check dam.

The project complies with Rule B, but the following documents are required before the LMRWD can issue a permit:

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction stormwater permit
- Final stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP)
- Contact information for all contractors undertaking land-disturbing activities
- Contact information for the individual responsible for inspection and maintenance of all erosion and sediment control measures,
- Proof of obtaining a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Rule C—Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

The LMRWD requires documentation that the proposed floodplain fill will not cause an increase in 100-year water surface elevations. The project is located within the Minnesota River 100-year floodplain, per the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 27053C0476F (effective November 4, 2016) and Figure 1. The project proposes 3,111 cubic yards of cut and 4,105 cubic yards of fill, resulting in 994 cubic yards of net fill below the 100-year water surface elevation of the Minnesota River. No compensatory storage is proposed. The project includes in-channel habitat enhancements, excessive sediment load mitigation, and restoration of the historic valley geomorphic conditions. Floodplain work includes removing portions of the berms, realigning impacted portions of the stream, grading the alluvial fan, and installing stone and large wood within the stream channel.

The applicant submitted project plans showing cut and fill within the Minnesota River 100-year floodplain, along with a signed no-rise certification and HEC-RAS modeling. The HEC-RAS model includes alterations in the floodplain resulting from the project and confirms no change in the 100-year water surface elevation. The project complies with Rule C.

Recommendations

Based on a review of the project, we recommend conditional approval of the Ike's Creek Restoration Project, contingent upon receipt of the following:

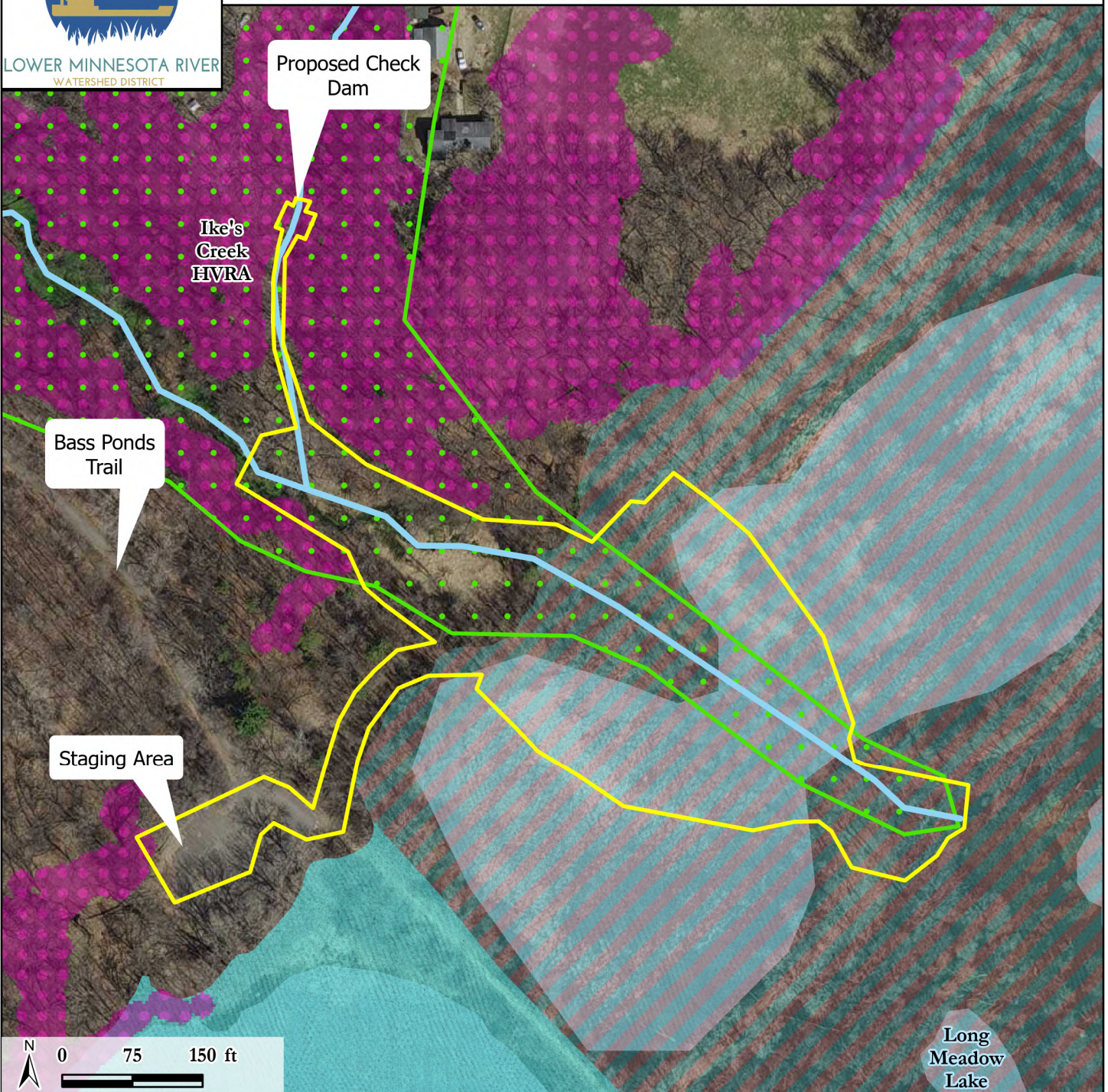
- Copy of the NPDES construction stormwater permit
- Contact information for the contractor(s) undertaking land-disturbing activities
- Contact information for the individual(s) responsible for erosion control inspections and maintenance
- Copy of approved Minnesota DNR permit
- Final construction plans signed by a professional engineer
- Final SWPPP

Attachments

- Figure 1– Ike's Creek Restoration Project Location



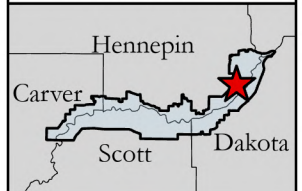
Figure 1: Ike's Creek Restoration Project Location
LMRWD No. 2024-020



Legend

- Project Location
- Ike's Creek
- High Value Resource Area
- Steep Slope Overlay District
- 100-yr Floodplain
- Floodway
- Public Waterbodies

LMRWD Watershed
Location Map



Projects\LMRWD\Project Reviews\02 In Process\2024-020 Ike's Creek Restoration\04 GIS