

**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action**

MEETING DATE: January 13th, 2025
AGENDA NUMBER: 16
ITEM: Update on the Lower Coon Creek Restoration Project

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED

None

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To provide a project status update on the Lower Coon Creek Corridor Restoration project

BACKGROUND

At the October 28, 2024, Board meeting the Board awarded the contract for the Lower Coon Creek Corridor Restoration project to the lowest responsible bidder Sunram Construction Inc. The District had applied for approvals from DNR, MPCA, and ACOE noting a notice to proceed would not be issued until all applicable permits and approvals were received. Construction was anticipated to be substantially completed by March 15, 2025, followed by site restoration in the spring/summer.

During the DNR Public Waters Work Permit review process, the DNR Natural Heritage staff advised to exclude in water work during the Blandings turtle hibernation period between September 15 and April 15. The DNR permit also requires excluding in water work during the fish spawning period between March 15 and June 15. To accommodate these exclusions the project timeline was amended to complete above water work (tree removals, backwater excavations...) this winter followed by in water work (bank stabilizations, grade control structures...) between June 15 and September 15, 2025.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Project cost-phasing the work will result in additional costs for mobilization, erosion control, and site restoration. Staff anticipate these additional costs will remain within the project budget and will not require re-bidding the project.

Public communication-District staff will continue to communicate project updates with direct mailings to adjacent properties, onsite signage, and the project website. Staff anticipate additional questions and concerns from the public following the initial disturbance of the above water work about the delay in completing the in water work.

Site accessibility-the project area is within the floodplain, can be inundated with standing water following spring snow melt or large storms, and can have wet soft ground during periods of consistent rainfall. Therefore, accessing heavy construction equipment and materials is highly dependent on the weather. Staff are working on contingencies if site

conditions prevent completing the in-water work during the permitted construction period between June 15 and September 15.

RECOMMENDATION

None