

### General information

**Public comment period begins: March 3, 2025**

**Public comment period ends: March 17, 2025**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to certify the referenced project, with conditions, and has preliminarily determined that the project will satisfy the antidegradation standards in Minn. R. 7050.0265.

**Name and address of Applicant:**

Sam Cook  
Environmental Project Manager  
St. Louis County Public Works  
4787 Midway Road  
Duluth, Minnesota 55811

**Project name and location (county):**

Maple Grove Road/CSAH 6  
Reconstruction and Culvert  
Replacement Project, St. Louis County

**MPCA contact person:**

Bill Wilde, Project Manager  
Resource Management and Assistance Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
Phone: 651-757-2825  
Email: William.wilde@state.mn.us

**Federal Permitting Agency:**

Elizabeth G. Marti  
USACE Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Bemidji Regulatory Field Office  
4111 Technology Drive NW  
Suite 295  
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

A draft Section 401 Water Quality Certification with antidegradation determination is available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices> or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft certification upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and time identified above.

### Major Watershed: Lake Superior

### Description of Issuance for 401 Water Quality Certification for Maple Grove Road/County State Aid Highway 6 Culvert Replacement Project #2024-00704-EGM

The St. Louis County Public Works Department proposes to reconstruct CSAH 6 (Maple Grove Road.) between US 2 and US 33 in Solway Township. The project will include bituminous overlay, improve road profile and sight lines, and slope corrections that meet safety and design standards. The project is 3.55 miles long and will take place primarily within the existing road profile. Disturbance along both sides of the roadway will occur in areas where cross culverts are being replaced and slope adjustments are being completed. In addition, an aging culvert on CSAH 6 will be replaced where it crosses an unnamed tributary that flows to the Pine River. It is approximately 200 feet west of US Highway 2. St. Louis County proposes to replace it with 8 feet wide by 4 feet high by 70 feet long reinforced concrete box culvert, including the aprons. The Unnamed tributary will have 79-square feet (SF) of impact in the culvert area, 213.6-SF of riprap installed below ordinary high-water level, and 1,304-SF of permanent wetland impacts. Compensatory mitigation for the permanent wetland impacts will be mitigated using state road bank credits, at a 1:1 replacement ratio, within the same bank service area as project. The water quality will be maintained or improved after project completion.

### Procedure for public participation

As stated in Minn. R. chs. 7000 and 7001, there are three formal procedures for public participation in the MPCA's consideration of this matter. Interested persons may:

- (1) Submit written comments on the draft certification and antidegradation determination.
- (2) Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
- (3) Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

## Submitting written comments

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or online you must state:

- (1) Your interest in the request for 401 water quality certification or the draft 401 water quality certification.
- (2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft 401 water quality certification you believe should be changed.
- (3) The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the MPCA to investigate the merits of the position.

## Public informational meeting

A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above and in addition include a statement of the reasons the person desires the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and the issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.

## Contested case hearing

A contested case hearing is a formal proceeding before an administrative law judge empowered to advise the MPCA regarding issues of fact. As described in Minn. R. 7000.1800, persons who submit petitions for a contested case hearing must also state the issues they propose to address in a contested case hearing, the specific relief requested or resolution of the matter, and the reasons (which may be in the form of proposed findings) supporting an MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing. Failure to comply with these rules exactly may result in a denial of the request. To the extent known, the petitioner may also submit a list of prospective witnesses to be called at a hearing, a proposed list of publications, references, or studies to be introduced at a hearing and the approximate time required for the petitioner to present the matter at a hearing. The decision whether to hold a contested case hearing will be made under Minn. R. 7000.1900.