Memorandum

To: Joshua Prososki, MPCA

From: Chaldelia Browne, WSB
Amy Anderson, WSB

Cc: Kent Skaar, MNDNR Parks and Trails

Date: May 6, 2026

Re: Rushford Bank Stabilization- Root River State Trail (Phase 2)
USACE Reference Number: 2026-1247
WSB Project No. 027760-000

MNDNR Parks and Trails Division is requesting certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act to assure that discharge from a federally permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements.

The enclosed includes:

Appendix A – Pre-filing Meeting Confirmation
Appendix B – Required Submittal Information
Appendix C – Antidegradation Form
Appendix D – Project Plans
Appendix E – DNR Application

178 E 9TH STREET | SUITE 200 | SAINT PAUL, MN | 55101 | 651.286.8450 | WSBENG.COM

APPENDIX A – Pre-filing Meeting Confirmation

178 E 9TH STREET | SUITE 200 | SAINT PAUL, MN | 55101 | 651.286.8450 | WSBENG.COM

Chaldelia Browne

From: Prososki, Joshua (MPCA) <Joshua.Prososki@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 10:20 AM
To: Chaldelia Browne
Cc: Amy Anderson; MN_MPCA_401Certification
Subject: RE: Root River Restoration- Houston & Fillmore Counties
Attachments: Supplemental Information Form.pdf; 401 Applicant Guidance Doc_2025.pdf; Antidegradation Assessment Form_2025.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Good morning Chaldelia and Amy,

Thank you for setting up the pre-filing meeting. The application materials have been included in this email. With a pre-filing meeting request date of 12/19/25, you may submit a 401 WQC application on or after 1/18/26.

Once an Army Corps project manager and number is assigned, please send that information over. The application can be submitted to 401Certification.pca@state.mn.us.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Take care,

Joshua Prososki
Wetland Hydrologist

Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
714 Lake St, Suite 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: 218-846-8125
Email: Joshua.Prososki@state.mn.us

From: Prososki, Joshua (MPCA)
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2025 1:39 PM
To: 'Chaldelia Browne' <cbrowne@wsbeng.com>
Cc: Amy Anderson <aanderson@wsbeng.com>
Subject: RE: Root River Restoration- Houston & Fillmore Counties

Good afternoon Chaldelia,

Can you propose some dates and times that would work for the pre-filing meeting? For the next two weeks, I'll have limited availability:

- 12/23 – all day
- 12/29 – all day
- 12/30 – all day
- 1/5 thru 1/7 – all day
- 1/9 – all day

Thank you,

Joshua Prososki
Wetland Hydrologist

Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
714 Lake St, Suite 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: 218-846-8125
Email: Joshua.Prososki@state.mn.us

From: Chaldelia Browne <cbrowne@wsbeng.com>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 12:21 PM
To: MN_MPCA_401Certification <401Certification.pca@state.mn.us>; USACE_Requests_MN <USACE_Requests_MN@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Amy Anderson <aanderson@wsbeng.com>
Subject: Root River Restoration- Houston & Fillmore Counties

Hello,

On behalf of the MNDNR Parks and Trail division, please find this email as a formal request for a prefiling meeting per EPA 40 CFR Part 121 (Section 121.4 Pre-filing meeting request) to start the process of obtaining a Section 401 Water Quality Certification or Waiver.

The MNDNR Division of Parks and Trails is proposing a riverbank restoration and stabilization project along the Root River that will physically alter approximately 406 lf of riverbank within three sections. It is assumed that the project will qualify under NWP 13 or RGP- Bank Stabilization and Habitat Improvement and will trigger the need for an individual water quality certification. The project location map and plan set is attached.

APPENDIX B – Required Submittal Information

178 E 9TH STREET | SUITE 200 | SAINT PAUL, MN | 55101 | 651.286.8450 | WSBENG.COM

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required Submittal Information

401 Water Quality Certification Program

Water Quality Permit Program

Doc Type: Permit Application

This form provides general guidance on information that is needed for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification Request. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reserves the right to request information from the applicant in addition to that provided in this form.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires any applicant for a federal license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge to Waters of the United States to obtain certification from the state or tribe in which the discharge originates to ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards. In addition to completing the Joint Application Form https://bwsr.state.mn.us/joint-application-form and Antidegradation Form https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwprm1-35.pdf, applicants whose proposed projects may require a MPCA Individual 401 Water Quality Certification for work in aquatic resources must also provide the information requested in this form.

Instructions: Submit this form, a completed Antidegradation Assessment Form, and the Joint Application to the MPCA 401 Certification inbox 401Certification.pca@state.mn.us with the subject line of your 401 WQC request for project name and USACE project number (format will look like MVP-XXXX-XXXXX-XXX).

Applicant information

Applicant name: Department of Natural Resources - Division of Parks and Trail (Kent Skaar)

Mailing address: 500 Layfayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 259-5636 Email: kent.skaar@state.mn.us

Authorized contact *(Do not complete if same as above.)*

Name:

Mailing address:

Phone: Email:

Project information

Project description:

The DNR Division of Park and Trails are proposing to a riverbank stabilization along three sections of Root River near Rushford in Houston and Fillmore Counties.
Please see anti-degradation form for a detailed project description

Applicable federal license or permit:

Include a list below of all other federal, interstate, tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed project, including all approvals or denials already received.

USACE - Section 404, MnDNR – Public Waters Work Permit, MPCA – NPDES, CSW Permit, MPCA—Section 401Permit

Project location

☒ Attach a map that identifies project location including the location of receiving waters and any potential discharge(s) that may result from the proposed project.

Include a description below of any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge.

Contractors will construct the project per plan specifications and will perform spot checks in the field using survey grade GPS equipment.

☒ Documentation of pre-filing meeting. Attach a copy of the email or calendar appointment confirming you have requested or waived a pre-filing meeting with MPCA at least 30 days in advance of submitting a completed Water Quality Certification Request.

Check the box and type your name to acknowledge reading both statements.

The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief

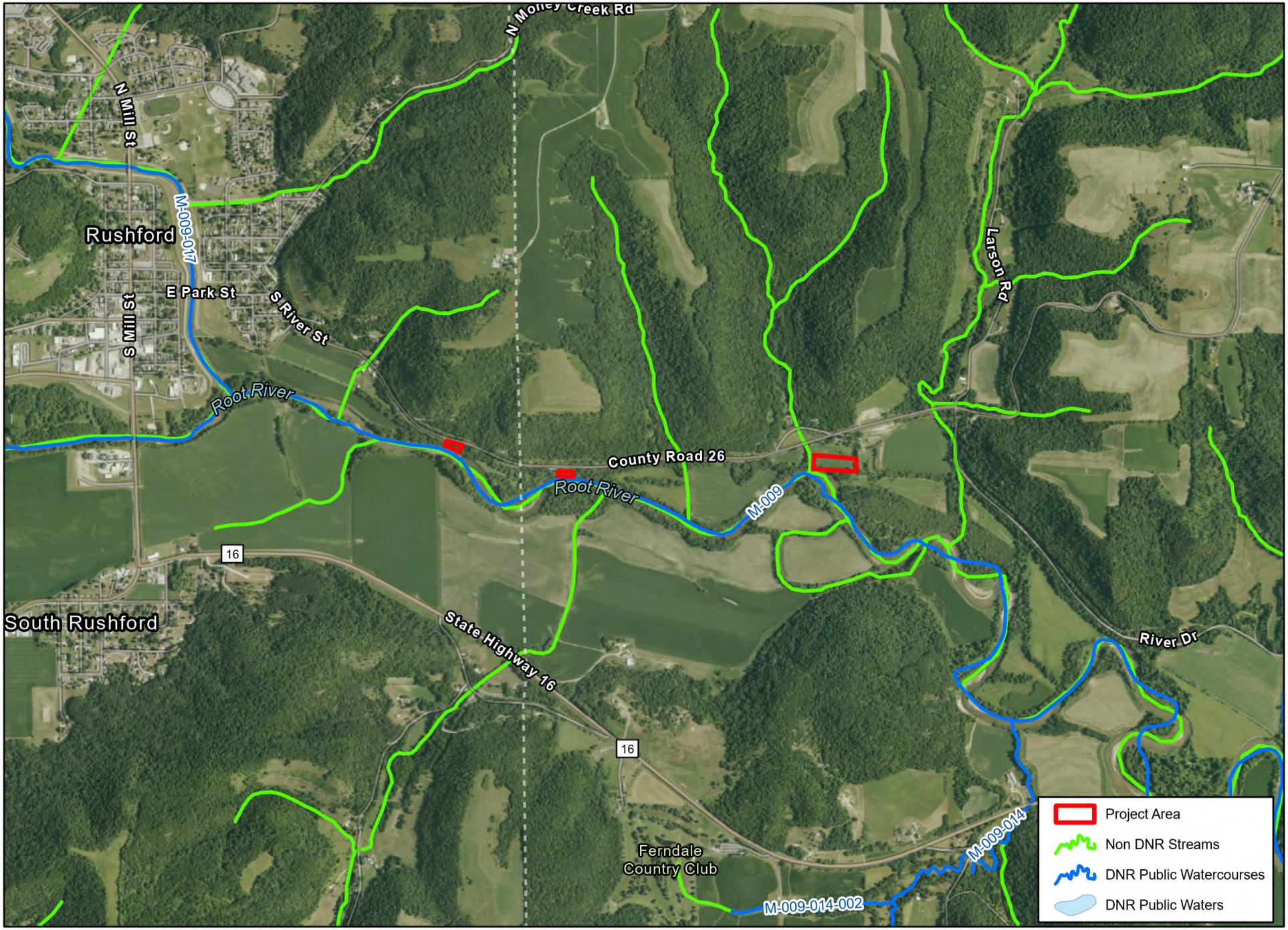
☒ Please type name below to acknowledge you read the above statement.

Kent Skaar

The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request with the applicable reasonable period of time.

☒ Please type name below to acknowledge you read the above statement.

Kent Skaar



Project Location and Receiving Waters

Root River Bank Stabilization
Wetland Delineation
Houston and Fillmore Counties, MN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

N

0 2,000 Feet

1 inch = 2,000 feet

wsb

APPENDIX C – Antidegradation Form

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Antidegradation assessment

Water Quality Certification Applicants

401 Certification

Doc Type: 401 Certification

Instructions: This form provides general guidance on information that may be necessary for antidegradation review. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reserves the right to request information from the applicant in addition to that provided in this form.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires any applicant for a federal license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge to Waters of the United States to obtain certification from the state or tribe in which the discharge originates to ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards. In addition to completing the Joint Application Form, https://bwsr.state.mn.us/joint-application-form, applicants whose proposed projects may require an MPCA Individual 401 Water Quality Certification for work in aquatic resources must also provide the information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the Minnesota antidegradation water quality standards (Minn. R. 7050.0265, https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7050.0265/). Applicants should review the antidegradation requirements in Minn. R. 7050.0285 (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7050.0285/) prior to completing this form.

The purpose of the antidegradation requirements is to achieve and maintain the highest possible quality in surface waters of the state. To accomplish this purpose, antidegradation requires:

A. The protection of existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses;
B. The minimization of degradation of high water quality, and only to extent necessary to accommodate important economic or social development;
C. The protection of outstanding resource value waters; and
D. Consideration of thermal discharges.

Applicant information

Applicant name/Project name/USACE ID number: DNR-Division of Parks & Trails/ Rushford Bank Stabilization Root River State Trail /

USACE Reference Number: 2026-1247 Date submitted (mm/dd/yyyy): 05.06.2026

1. Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Note: The MPCA cannot make any certification decision until the Environmental Review process is complete.

Is environmental review (Environmental Assessment Worksheet, Environmental Impact Statement, Categorical Exclusion (Catex), etc.) **required** for this project? ☐Yes ☒ No

If yes, include the date record of decision (ROD) / finding of fact (FOF) was completed and the decision: _____

For responses for questions 2 through 12, if you are referencing other documents, please attach them and provide an exact citation to where the information can be found. If the project manager cannot find it, the antidegradation may be sent back as incomplete.

2. Analysis of alternatives to project design that avoid or minimize degradation

(This does not include the Preferred Alternative discussed below.)

Describe your analysis of at least two prudent and feasible alternative project designs that would avoid or minimize degradation and avoid or minimize net increases in loading of pollutants or other causes of degradation to surface water (such as wetlands, lakes, stream, etc.). The analysis of each alternative must include a description of how impacts to surface waters are avoided and/or minimized; information on any design considerations and constraints; expected performance, construction, operation, and maintenance costs; and reliability for each alternative. If one of the alternatives is no build, an explanation must be provided why that is not feasible. Minn. R. 7050.0280, subp. 2

The proposed project is an improvement project being conducted to curb erosion and stabilize the eroding banks while protecting public safety and restoring the visual appeal of the riverbank to pre-erosion conditions. Two alternatives including the No Build were reviewed for this project and are summarized below. The determination to dismiss the alternatives from further consideration was based on longevity and long-term effects.

No Build Alternative

Not stabilizing the riverbank and allowing further bank sloughing and undercutting at these locations will continue to negatively affect water quality and would eventually impact State owned infrastructure. Impacts to the trail system would sever the communities of Houston and Fillmore from the remainder of the Root River State Trail System. This option was not viable and stabilizing the riverbank was prioritized.

Vegetated Riprap Stabilization

Vegetated riprap stabilization at the top of bank was considered to present a more natural/vegetated option. This alternative was rejected due to concerns of vegetation establishment and its ability to hold soil during high water events. The bank slopes are also too steep between the water's edge and the paved trail surface to allow for proper placement of riprap up slope. This alternative was ultimately rejected because it would not meet the needs of the project.

3. Preferred alternative project design:

Describe the analysis of your preferred alternative project design that avoids or minimizes net increases in loading of pollutants or other causes of degradation. The analysis must include a description of how impacts to surface waters are avoided and/or minimized; information on any design considerations and constraints; expected performance, construction, operation, and maintenance costs; and reliability for each alternative. In addition, the analysis must verify that the preferred alternative is the least degrading prudent and feasible alternative for surface water. If the preferred alternative is not the least degrading alternative, then you must provide an explanation of the constraints. Explanation of least impacts should also include pollutant loading. For example: hard-armoring a stream bank might reduce TSS but could increase velocity and create downstream erosion or loss of habitat for aquatic organisms. Minn. R. 7050.0280, subp.2

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative will stabilize 550 lf of the Root River (M-009) along three sections using mostly natural structures composed of vegetated soil lifts, native planting, live stakes and rip rap for the bank restoration and stabilization. The proposed stabilization method uses minimal rock and recreates a stable slope, which will be restored using native seed mixes and woody vegetation. The preferred alternative minimizes rock installation and emphasizes a vegetative solution, and it is believed that the vegetation coverage of the restored bank will increase post-project compared to the existing eroded condition.

The preferred alternative will curb erosion and stabilize the eroding banks, recreate lost stream banks and pollutant loading within the river while protecting public safety and restoring the visual appeal of the riverbank to pre-erosion conditions.

There will be approximately 1.2 acres of clearing and grubbing along the project to be completed in December 2026 January 2027 based on the project's timeline and keeping in compliance with the Multi-State Bat Habitat Conversation Plan approved by USFWS.

Root River (M-009) Impacts
The preferred alternative will impact approximately 550 lf (4,860 sf) along three sections of Root River below the NWL. The project activities will result in 864 tons of fill. The impacts below normal water level from west to east are:

Site 1 (180 lf): 2,160 sf (384.0 Tons)
Site 2 (170 lf): 2,040 sf (362.7 Tons)
Site 3 (200 lf): 660 sf (117.3 Tons)

4. Water quality parameters of concern

List the water quality parameters of concern for the project. These parameters should relate to the proposed project or activity type. *Examples*: *Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Mercury (Hg), Temperature, PCBs, flow volume, velocity, etc.*

It is expected that the proposed project will improve the water quality following construction. Due to the nature of work happening within the river during construction there may be a temporary increase in TSS or latent sediments. TSS and turbidity will be controlled using BMPs. While the project is not a water quality project, based on BWSR's water erosion pollution reduction estimator 2.01, the proposed project is estimated to remove 22.11 tons/yr of TSS and 18.79 lbs./yr of TP.

5. Existing uses and level of water quality necessary to protect uses

Antidegradation requires the protection of existing uses and the protection of the water quality necessary to protect those uses (Minn. R. 7050.0265, subp. 2). Existing use is defined as *those uses actually attained in the surface water on or after November 8, 1975* (Minn. R. 7050.0255 subp. 15).

Example 1: A surface water is in pristine condition on November 28, 1975, but development or other impacts have degraded that same water and it is no longer a high quality surface water. The existing use is the pristine water.

Example 2: A stream is highly degraded for several decades until it is restored to a trout stream in 1990. The existing use is the restored trout stream.

In the table below:

Identify all streams, rivers, wetlands, and lakes within a mile radius of the project location by Waterbody Identification Number (WID). WIDs, and other information, can be found by using the map at: EDA: Surface water data. Identify the use classification and existing use for **all** surface waters potentially impacted by this project. Include surface waters that are not directly within the project area but may be *potentially impacted even if they are more than one mile away*. Review Minn. R. 7050.0415 – 7050.0430 for the use classification that fits the waters potentially impacted by your project. Use classifications are also located at https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=7050.

Also, identify the existing water quality of each surface water for the water quality parameters of concern. The methods for determining existing water quality are found in Minn. R. 7050.0260.

Streams and rivers
If the waterbody is a stream/river and not listed in *Beneficial use designations for stream reaches* the beneficial uses are 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5 and 6.

Lakes and wetlands
To find beneficial use designations for lakes and wetlands, check Minn. R. 7050.0470. Waterbodies described in both documents are arranged by major watershed basins in this document. If the waterbody is a wetland and not listed in Minn. R. 7050.0470, the unlisted default beneficial uses are 2D, 3, 4A, 4B, 5 and 6. If the waterbody is a lake and not listed in Minn. R. 7050.0470 the beneficial uses are 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, 5 and 6.

Exceptions: Water bodies in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and in Voyageurs National Park **that are not listed**, may have different Use Classifications (Beneficial use designations).

Name of surface water/Waterbody and Waterbody Identification Number (AUID), if applicable.	Use classification	Existing use (highest quality attained from November 28, 1975 to present)	Existing water quality
Root River – 07040008-522	*2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5 and 6*	*Aquatic consumption, life and recreation, Flood prevention, Agriculture and wildlife, Aesthetic enjoyment, and navigation*	*Medium water quality river does not meet water quality standards for beneficial uses such as aquatic consumption, aquatic life, and drinking.*
Root River– 07040008-527	*2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5 and 6*	*Aquatic consumption, life and recreation, Flood prevention, Agriculture and wildlife, Aesthetic enjoyment, and navigation*	*Medium water quality river does not meet water quality standards for beneficial uses such as aquatic consumption, and aquatic life.*
Rush Creek - 07040008-523	*1B, 2Ag, 3, 4A,4B, 5 and 6*	*Drinking water, Aquatic consumption, life and recreation, Flood prevention, Agriculture and wildlife, Aesthetic enjoyment, and navigation*	*Medium water quality river does not meet water quality standards for beneficial uses such as aquatic consumption, aquatic life and recreation*
Unnamed creek (Rush Creek Tributary) - 07040008-D28	*1B, 2Ag, 3, 4A,4B, and 6*	*Drinking water, Aquatic consumption, life and recreation, Flood prevention, Agriculture and wildlife, Aesthetic enjoyment, and navigation*	*Low water quality, lack of MPCA water quality data*
Baker Valley Creek -07040008-G44	*2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5 and 6*	*Aquatic consumption, life and recreation, Flood prevention, Agriculture and wildlife, Aesthetic enjoyment, and navigation*	*Low water quality, lack of MPCA water quality data.*

6. Water quality comparison before and after project

For each surface water listed in Section 5, describe the anticipated water quality after the project is fully complete and operational. If any portion of the surface area of a water resource will be permanently impacted, a Mitigation Plan will be required (see Section 12). If water quality improvements are anticipated, please provide calculations or a detailed explanation of how you came to this conclusion.

Name of surface water/Waterbody and Waterbody Identification Number (AUID), if applicable.	Anticipated Water Quality
Root River– 07040008-522	Positive change in water quality based on expected reduction of TSS and TPL.
Root River – 07040008-527	No expected change in water quality.
Rush Creek - 07040008-523	No expected change in water quality.
Unnamed creek (Rush Creek Tributary) - 07040008-D28	No expected change in water quality.
Baker Valley Creek -07040008-G44	No expected change in water quality.

7. Impaired waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)

Identify ALL surface waters listed in Section 5 that are listed on the Minnesota Impaired Waters List (https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list). List the impairment for each surface water identified and state whether or not a total maximum daily load study (TMDL) has been completed for the waterbody.

Name of waterbody	Impairment	TMDL completed? (Y/N)
Root River– 07040008-522	Hg-F, InvertBio	☐ Yes ☒ No
Root River – 07040008-527	Hg-F, InvertBio, T	☐Yes ☒ No
Rush Creek - 07040008-523	E.coli	☐Yes ☒ No

8. Physical alterations of surface waters

Identify ALL surface waters listed in Section 5 that are listed on the Minnesota Impaired Waters List (https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list). List the physical alteration including hydraulic impacts such as volume, inundation and velocity and the extent/volume of the alteration, also state if the alteration will be permanent (longer than one year) or temporary.

Name of waterbody	Physical alteration	Extent of alteration (include units)	Temporary or permanent
Root River– 07040008-522	Fill for restoration and stabilization of bank	550lf/ 864tons / 4,860 sf	Permanent

9. Indirect impacts

For all surface waters where partial physical alteration of the function or acreage of the surface water will occur, describe the potential indirect impacts to the remaining surface water and the potential indirect impacts to nearby surface waters. For all surface waters where physical alteration will affect the entire function or acreage of the surface water, describe the potential indirect impacts to nearby surface waters. Indirect impacts may include changes in water source chemistry, timing, water quality (including temperature), water volume or velocity, aquatic species health or population, impervious surfaces, and chemical runoff (chloride, petroleum products, etc.), vegetation or macroinvertebrate (bug) populations, etc.

Indirect impacts from the project may include temporary impacts to aquatic life, wildlife habitat, and hydrology. These impacts will be minimized by 1) using appropriate BMPs to prevent erosion and control sediment during construction, 2) reseeding areas with native vegetation, 3) performing work in water outside of the fish spawning period.

It is not expected that the proposed project will negatively affect the water quality following construction. The project will use BMPs and all work in water will follow DNR guidelines and best management practices. Fill impacts have been minimized to the greatest extent possible while replicating the bank that has been lost due to erosion.

10. Loading and degradation to surface waters

For all surface waters where physical alterations are proposed, describe all anticipated net increases in loading at the project site and downstream. Include all potential causes of degradation expected in each surface water when your preferred alternative project design is fully implemented.

Example 1: Filling of a wetland that causes another wetland to backup and inundate, (the inundated wetland can be on or off the project site).

Example 2: A discharge from the project site that increases flow to another surface water on or off the project site.

Example 3: Upsizing a culvert can increase downstream velocity and may increase flooding and erosion or require additional disturbance to the stream to replace downstream culverts or infrastructure being negatively impacted.

There are no net increases in loading or other degradations expected upon completion of the project.

11. Comparison of existing and expected economic conditions and social services

Provide a comparison of existing and expected economic conditions and social services when the proposed project (preferred alternative) is fully implemented. Include a description of economic gains or losses attributable to the proposed activity; contribution to social services; prevention/remediation of environmental or public health threats; climate change considerations, trade-offs between environmental media; the value of the water resources; and other relevant environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposed activity. Minn. R. 7050.0265, subp. 5(B)

Environmental & Visual Impacts

Due to erosion, the current banks are a threat to public safety and connectivity, and it has reduced the visual aesthetics of the Riverbank and increased TSS and TPL. The proposed project has been designed to protect public safety and state connectivity as well as to restore the visual appeal of the riverbank to pre-erosion conditions as well as increase vegetation coverage compared to existing eroded conditions.

12. Description of the Compensatory Mitigation Plan Minn. R. 7050.0285, subp. 2 (A-E)

The applicant may propose to mitigate the project's permanent wetland impacts through an approved wetland bank if the proposed mitigation is for the same resource quality type surface water ("type-for-type") AND the proposed mitigation is located in the same major watershed (https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watersheds). The applicant may propose to mitigate other surface water resource types with on-site, project-specific mitigation if the mitigation is of the same resource type as the impacted water resource.

Describe any proposed permanent surface water impacts. Include the name of the surface water and AUID if appropriate, the type of impact, and the extent of the impact.

All surface water impacts will result from fill material consisting of natural structures composed of soil, wood and rip rap for the restoration and stabilization of Root River. The project will permanently impact 4,860 sf (550 lf) of Root River below the NWL.

Surface Water	*Impact Type*	
	Fill	*Cut*
Root River	4,860 sf (864 tons)	

Describe mitigation proposed for permanent surface water impacts.

The impacts to the Root River have been minimized to those necessary to restore and stabilize the banks to curb the ongoing bank failure and erosion. The resulting conditions of the banks will be stabilized slopes with native vegetation and woody material, and improvement from existing conditions which more closely resembles the natural state of the stream. It is not expected that that mitigation will be needed thus none is proposed for impacts to the Root River.

For each surface water listed above, describe how the proposed compensatory mitigation will replace existing uses and maintain the current level of water quality at the proposed project site (e.g., wetland types, replacement ratio, water monitoring data if available).

No mitigation is proposed for impacts resulting from project activities.

Describe how the compensatory mitigation will be maintained and the monitoring activities that will be conducted to ensure the proposed mitigation is viable over the long-term. Include a timeline for reporting progress and an intervention/remediation plan to be implemented if the mitigation fails.

No mitigation is expected to be required for impacts to aquatic resources. No specific monitoring activities are expected.

Applicant signature

Print name: KENT SKAAR Title: _____

Phone: Email: kent.skaar@state.mn.us Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Signature: Kent Skaar Digitally signed by Kent Skaar Date: 2026.05.06 08:04:51 -05'00'

APPENDIX D – Project Plans

APPENDIX E – DNR Application

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Ecological & Water Resources

MPARS
MNDNR PERMITTING AND REPORTING SYSTEM
www.mndnr.gov/mpars

MNDNR PERMITTING AND REPORTING SYSTEM

REVISION 20211001 **APP ID** 97255

Public Waters Work Permit Application

Reference Number: 2026-1247

Date Submitted to DNR: April 23, 2026 at 9:39 AM

Application Reference Name: Root River Bank Stabilization near Rushford 2026

DNR Lead Hydrologist: **Nicole Lehman**
Area: Rochester
Email: nicole.lehman@state.mn.us
Phone: 507-206-2854

DNR Region: Central Region 3
Address: MN Department of Natural Resources
2118 Campus Drive SE, Suite #100
Rochester, MN 55901

Parties (*Individuals and Organizations associated with the permit application*)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Landowner or Government Unit

Address: 2118 Campus Drive Southeast, Suite 100, Rochester, MN 55904
Phone: 507-206-2847

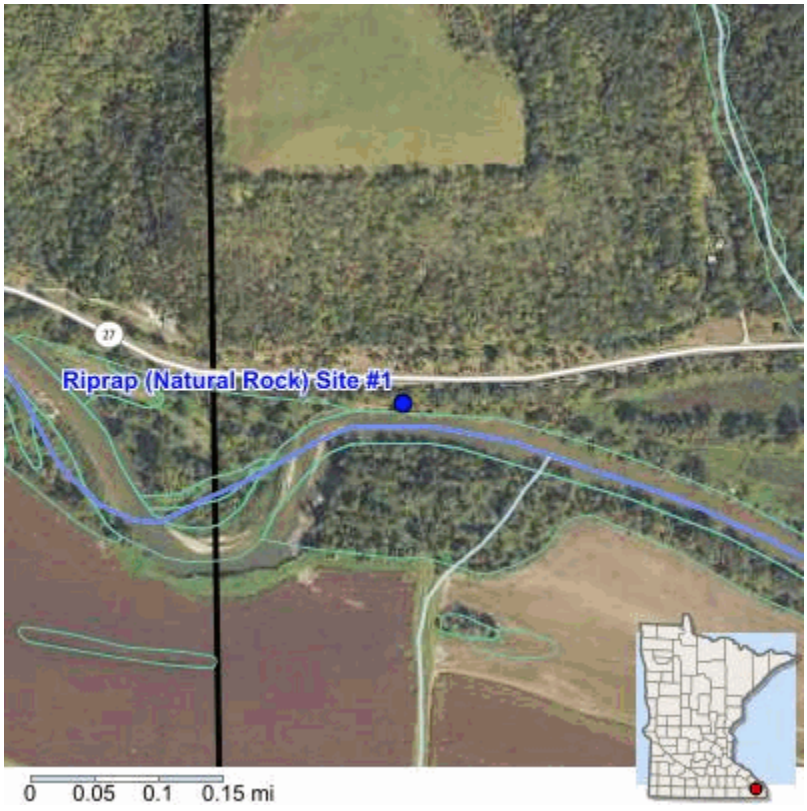
Travis Viker - Contact (*representing Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*)
(*submitted application*)

Address: 2118 Campus Dr. SE; Suite 100, ROCHESTER, MN 55904
Phone: 507-206-2846
Email: travis.viker@state.mn.us

Proposed Activity

Riprap (Natural Rock)

Location and Water Resources (*within 50 meters*)



Site Name: Riprap (Natural Rock) Site #1
(Riprap (Natural Rock))
Counties: Houston
Watersheds: Root River
PLS: T104N-R7W-S19 SWNW, T104N-R7W-S19 NWNW, T104N-R7W-S19 NENW
UTM: X:602369 Y:4850596
Water Resources: Stream/River: Root River (M-009) - Public Waters Watercourse, Stream/River: Root River - Public Waters Watercourse, Wetland

Project Overview

Project Overview (*continued*)

1	Please assign a reference/project name to this application.	Root River Bank Stabilization near Rushford 2026
2	When is the anticipated start date for the project?	12/01/2026
3	When is the anticipated bid date for the project, if applicable? (optional)	10/29/2026
4	When is the expected completion date for the entire project?	07/31/2027
5	Briefly describe the overall project purpose and need.	Project purpose is to address the active erosion and river bank loss along the Root River State Trail, east of the community of Rushford, in Fillmore and Houston Counties. Recent bank erosion has resulted in significant riverbank loss, including up to and immediately adjacent to the bituminous trail surface. Some bituminous trail surface has damage from erosive forces. These areas are currently fenced and the public use of the trail limited. Should the erosion advance much further, complete closure of the State Trail in this location will be required. Severance of the State Trail at this location would isolate local communities from the remainder of the State Trail system. Due to the location and limitations of State ownership, significant realignment of the trail corridor is not possible.
6	Has any portion of the proposed work in wetlands or water areas already started?	No
7	Is this a transportation project sponsored by a government unit?	Yes
8	If yes, who is proposing the project?	MN DNR
9	Will the project require any dewatering (the deliberate removal of water through the use of a pump, ditch, etc. to lower water levels to allow work to be accomplished)?	No
10	Has an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) been completed for the project, or will it be required?	No
11	Has the project gone through a Natural Heritage (endangered species) review?	Yes
12	Do you anticipate submitting your project to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for written authorization?	Unsure
13	Have you developed any mitigation plans for the portion(s) of the project that will impact public waters?	No
14	Describe TWO alternatives to the proposed project that were considered that would avoid or minimize impacts to public waters. One option may be "no build" or "do nothing".	1. No Build - would eventually critically impact State owned infrastructure and sever the communities from remainder of the Root River State Trail System. 2. Vegetated Riprap to the to the top of the bank was considered but establishment of vegetation to hold in soil prior to high water events was a concern. Bank slopes are too steep between the waters edge and the paved trail surface to allow for a proper placement of riprap up slope.

Project Overview (*continued*)

15	Why did you choose to pursue the option proposed in this application over these alternatives?	Wrapped soil lifts in combination with a riprap toe has had good success in other ites within Fillmore County. Lifts provide immediate stabilization via geotextiles and long-term stabilization via vegetation establishment. Lifts will recreate lost stream banks by re-installing them at a more stable slope. This method minimizes rock installation and emphasizes a vegetative solution. When vegetation has established within the lifts they provide an aesthetic match to the surrounding Root River streambanks, which currently have both grassy and woody vegetation.

Activity Detail

Activity: Riprap (Natural Rock)

How many different water sites will have this type of activity (i.e., the number of individual stream/river, ditch, lake, pond, pit, and/or wetland crossings or unique impact areas)? 1

Site Name: Riprap (Natural Rock) Site #1

1	Briefly describe the impact to the waterbodies at this particular site:	Approximately 550 linear feet of riverbank is to be stabilized with approximately 864 tons of riprap, along with a total area of stream impact approximately 4,860sqft. Riprap is to be placed from the toe up to bankfull elevation with wrapped soil lifts rebuilding the remainder of the riverbank at a 1.5H:1V slope.
2	How many cubic yards of fill are proposed, if any?	576 cubic yards
3	If applicable, what is the size of the area to be filled?	550
4	Please choose units:	linear feet
5	What is the area of stream impact in square feet?	4,860 square feet
6	Is the fill permanent or temporary?	Permanent
7	How many cubic yards of material are proposed to be excavated, if any?	0 cubic yards
8	Is the excavation permanent or temporary?	Not applicable
9	Will you be removing any vegetation from an aquatic resource that is not already associated with excavation/filling?	No
10	Will work at this site result in the draining of any water resources?	No
11	Please upload construction plans showing existing and proposed conditions.	027760-000-C-RUSHFORD_BANK_STABILIZATION_PLAN_SET_20260422_compressed.pdf
12	Please upload photo(s) of the project site.	20250828_123427.jpg
13	Select the resource(s) below that describes the type of water bodies that could be impacted at this site.	stream/river, wetland
14	Counties	Houston
15	Watersheds	Root River
16	PLS	T104N-R7W-S19 SWNW, T104N-R7W-S19 NWNW, T104N-R7W-S19 NENW
17	UTMXY	X:602369 Y:4850596
18	Water resources	Stream/River: Root River (M-009) - Public Waters Watercourse, Stream/River: Root River - Public Waters Watercourse, Wetland

Activity Detail (*Continued*)

Attachment(s): 027760-000-C-RUSHFORD_BANK_STABILIZATION_PLAN_SET_20260422_compressed.pdf
20250828_123427.jpg

Aquatic Resource Impact Summary

Aquatic Resource Map Site ID	Aquatic Resource Type	Type of Impact	Duration of Impact	Size of Impact	Overall Size of Aquatic Resource	Existing Plant Community Type(s)	County; Major Watershed #; *and* Bank Service Area
Riprap (Natural Rock) Site #1	Stream/River: Root River (M-009) - Public Waters Watercourse, Stream/River: Root River - Public Waters Watercourse, Wetland	Fill	Permanent	550 ft (4,860 square feet)	N/A	floodplain forest	Houston; 57; 43; 8

Acknowledgment (*By the party who submitted the permit application*)

☑ **I attest that:**

·I own or control (by lease, license, or other permission) the land that I propose to alter, AND

·There are no easements or other restrictions on the land that would prohibit the proposed activities from being authorized under a permit, AND

·I possess the authority to undertake the work described, or I am acting as a duly authorized agent, AND

·The information submitted and the statements made concerning this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

PRINTED: 04/23/2026 at 9:39 AM