



Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District

900 Washington St NW, Preston, MN 55965

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Brightsdale Dam Channel Restoration Request for Proposals Proposals DUE: 9/08/2023, 4:00 PM

Total Project Budget: Not to Exceed \$986,400

I. Project Description

Seeking a consulting engineering company to restore the channel of the North Branch Root River at the site of a former hydropower dam that failed and was removed in 2003.

II. Project Summary

Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is seeking proposals through solicitation for a consulting engineering company to restore the channel of the North Branch Root River at the site of a former hydro power dam that failed and was removed in 2003. This is a collaborative project between Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Private Landowners, and Fillmore SWCD. This project was funded by Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

The hydropower facility was constructed by the Root River Power and Light Company in 1913-14. Two dams were constructed at the site. The upper dam was 164 ft-wide and diverted flow into a side channel. A dam on the side channel was 40 ft-wide and 12 ft-high. The hydropower dam failed in the early 1990's and the dam was removed in 2003. However, the channel was not stabilized after dam removal and this has caused significant channel downcutting and bank erosion. A headcut has migrated 4,000 ft upstream and caused sedimentation and habitat loss. This reach of the North Branch Root River is listed as impaired for sediment and macroinvertebrates (Figure 1). This project will help address these impairments while improving aquatic habitat and recreational opportunities.

Fillmore SWCD seeks a consulting engineering company to restore the channel area and provide a proper meander pattern. The consulting firm would apply for, and abide by, all necessary local, state, and federal permits and requirements put forward by the LCCMR funding guidelines (Exhibit B). The channel has been assessed by the MNDNR and preliminary concept designs can be found in Exhibit A. The concept design is a starting point and additional perspectives are recommended prior to the project's final direction. The preliminary concept design entails existing eroded banks be sloped and stabilized with toe-wood sod mats. Two grade control riffles constructed to maintain proper channel gradient through the project reach and to address an active head cut. The channel will be re-meandered slightly to put the channel back on the path of stability, with portions of the current channel to be filled in. This will provide opportunities to expand floodplain access and restoring native prairie lost to erosion. A secondary option for this project is to stabilize the current path of the Root River without re-meandering, should project cost rise outside the budget of this project.

Further goals of the project are as follows:

1. Reduce excess streambank erosion.
 - a. Currently losing CRP land on left bank – approx. 1,500’ of active erosion and 800’ moderate erosion.
 - b. Quick calculations indicate annual sediment loss at approximately 540 tons a year or 40 dump truck loads.
 - c. Strategy
 - i. Channel shaping and toe-wood sod mat bank treatments.
 - ii. Grade control riffles will be elevated to reduce and match overall slope and reduce impacts from the head cut.
 - d. Quantified Goal
 - i. Reduce the sediment loss 85% or under 80 tons a year using the BANCs model.
2. Improve channel stability
 - a. Channel pattern and dimensions are not in their stable form.
 - b. Greater than 90-degree radius at the historic dam location.
 - i. Sediment built up behind the dam and once it was breached, the excess sediment aggraded the channel and floodplain downstream within the project area. This increases near-bank shear stress, resulting in excess streambank erosion and lateral channel migration rates above natural conditions.
 - c. Strategy
 - i. Channel shaping and re-meander upstream segment.
 - ii. Grade control riffles will be elevated to reduce and match overall slope and reduce impacts from the headcut.
 - d. Quantified Goal
 - i. Channel maintains its cross-sectional area and floodplain access. Measurements include, but not limited to riffle cross-sectional area, bank height ratios, pool to pool spacing and width to depth ratios.
3. Improve/maintain habitat quality
 - a. Design concept should not degrade in-channel or riparian habitats.
 - b. Strategy
 - i. Adding wood to the design will improve in-channel habitat as well as grade control riffles comprised of native materials.
 - c. Quantified Goal
 - i. Pre and post monitoring of in-channel habitat features. Measurements include Large Woody Debris Index, riffle pebble counts and max pool depths.

In total, it is hoped the Brightsdale Dam Channel Restoration will be used for educational purposes for the public and for students attending Eagle Bluff ELC. Permanent channel monitoring cross-sections will be established and DNR staff will monitor changes to the channel over time. Established MPCA water quality and biological monitoring sites will be used to evaluate progress towards achieving reduction in sediment loss within the affected project segment for the North Branch Root River. Monitoring results will be used to inform the implementation of future projects on larger rivers in southeast Minnesota.

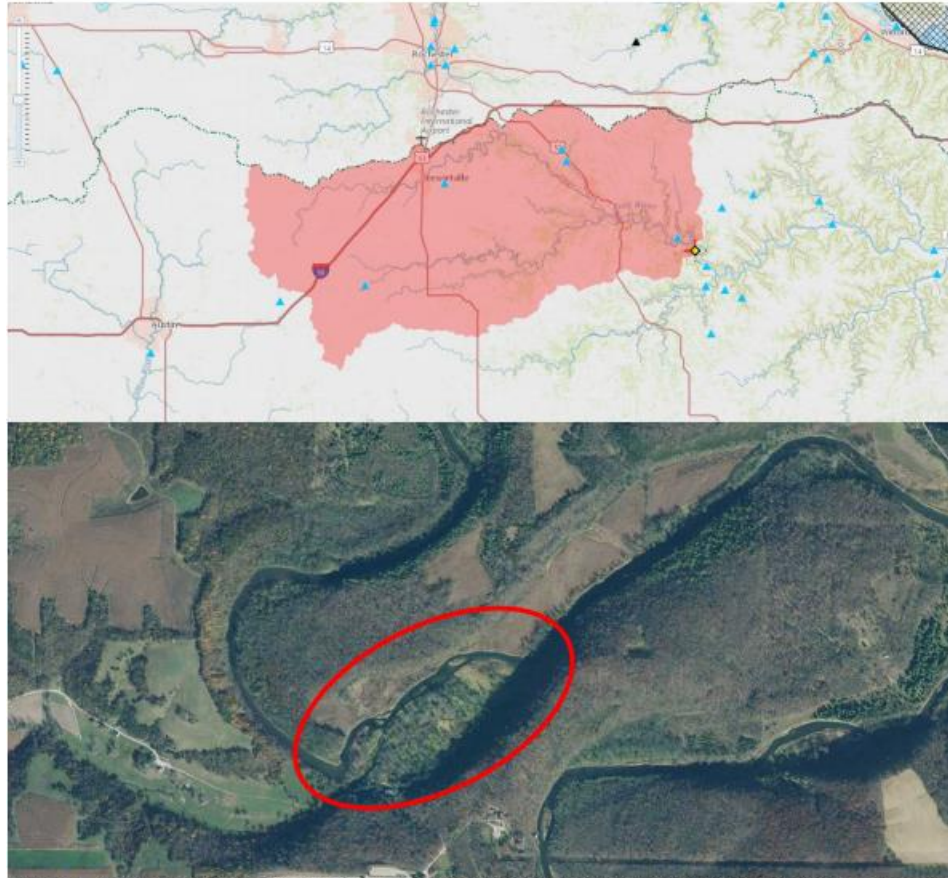


Figure 1. Project location. Top photo outlines the contributing watershed and the bottom is an aerial photograph zoomed in on the site.

III. Project Deliverables

1. Project Development, Design, and Permitting

- The consulting engineering company will develop a construction design and plan, identify permit requirements, obtain certifications when applicable (e.g., FEMA), develop bidding materials, and be responsible for all other aspects of this project. This construction plan should consider the concept design put forward by the Minnesota DNR (Exhibit A). The engineer will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits. A DNR Public Waters Work permit will be required for all work below the ordinary high-water mark. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet may be required with Fillmore SWCD or Minnesota DNR serving as the Responsible Government Unit. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit may be required due to the channel realignment. A State and Federal Historical Preservation site inspection may be necessary due to the historical nature of the site and potential discovery of Native American artifacts. Projects should also follow the guidelines put forward by the LCCMR (Exhibit B). Finally, preliminary discussions with the USFWS regarding endangered bats should not be impacted with the current project plan. Other permitting requirements may also be involved.
- It is expected that a number of meetings will be held with project collaborators to gain input on project designs.

2. Project Construction and Execution

- The consulting engineering company, or its approved contractor acting under the management of the consulting engineering company, will construct the project according to design plans. The project will require tree clearing which will provide rootwads and additional woody debris for bank stabilizations. A 1,000 ft-long new channel and floodplain will be excavated. The present channel will be disconnected from flow and filled creating 1.5 acres for prairie restoration. Approximately 2,800 ft. of eroding banks will be sloped and toe-wood will be installed for stabilization. Two 50+ ft-long riffles will be constructed using boulders to create cross vanes. The riffles will stabilize the channel slope and prevent headcutting. Extensive erosion control measures will be silt fence, straw logs and mulch, and erosion control blanket. The site will be seeded with a variety of mixes depending upon the location. Live stake willows, bare root shrubs and trees will also be installed to further protect the river banks from erosion long term.
- Coordination with project partners is expected due to the number of stakeholders and complexity of the project. A smaller design team can be assembled to assist with the design, permitting and bidding process.

3. Project Reporting

- A summary report will be developed and given to Fillmore SWCD on the detail, progress, and completion of the project. This will be used for both reporting and educational purposes.

IV. Anticipated Budget

Funding for the Brightsdale Dam Channel Restoration was secured by the Project Collaborators through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). An award of \$986,400 was given for project consulting, materials, and execution.

The consulting engineering company will be responsible for developing all aspects of an engineered project plan. They will also be responsible for permit compliance and construction oversight (Table 1), however project partners may be able to assist in some aspects. Finally, they will also be responsible for procurement of all construction materials and supplies listed in Table 2 should it be needed. Table 1 and 2 values are anticipated expenses and RFP applications may submit their own budget and prices in a manner that may make them competitive against other applicants. However, **applications with a total project amount greater than \$986,400 will not be accepted**. An anticipated list of expenses is as follows.

Table 1: Anticipated costs of professional and technical services provided by the consulting engineer.

Description	Amount
The consulting engineering company will be responsible for developing engineered project plans and hiring a construction contractor. They will also be responsible for permit compliance and construction oversight.	\$137,000
The consulting engineering company or its contractor will be responsible for constructing the project according to engineered plans following permitting requirements.	\$662,575
Professional and Technical Contracts Subtotal	\$799,575

Table 2: Anticipated materials needed for the completion of this project.

Description	Purpose	Amount
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Class V rip rap	Riffle construction	\$33,000
Boulders	Cross vane construction in riffles	\$72,000
Straw sediment control logs	Erosion control and prevention	\$7,500
Seed, MN State Mixture 32-241	Soil stabilization	\$625
Seed MN State Mixture 34-261	Soil stabilization	\$12,960
Seed MN State Mixture 35-641	Soil stabilization and prairie restoration	\$8,640
Straw mulch and disc anchoring	Erosion control	\$500
Erosion control blanket	Erosion control	\$11,500
Straw erosion control blanket	Erosion control	\$30,000
Bare root shrubs	Soil Stabilization	\$8,000
Live stake willows	Soil stabilization	\$1,200
Silt Fence	Erosion Control	\$900
	Supplies Subtotal Total	\$186,825

V. Project timeline

The following is a proposed project timeline. **Project completion and reporting must be completed by 9/30/25.**

9/08/2023	Submission deadline for proposals
9/14/2023	Fillmore SWCD recommends contractor
9/21/2023	Fillmore SWCD Board approves recommended contractor at meeting.
12/31/23 or earlier	Develop an engineered plan set be use used for contractor bidding
3/31/24	Contractor hiring and onboarding
4/30/24 - 9/30/24	All permitting compliance completed
10/31/24	Site preparation
12/31/24	Excavate new channel and construct riffles
1/31/25	Slope banks; install toe wood and root wads; slope and seed
6/30/25	Open new channel to flow and block old channel section
7/31/25	Fill old channel; plant with native prairie
8/31/25	Final grading and seeding (Exhibit B)
9/30/25	Final site inspection and submission of project report to collaborators.

VI. Proposal Submittal Format:

Requested proposals are required to contain the following information:

1. Scope of Services:
 - a. Describe how services outlined in section III will be provided. Include a detailed listing and description of tasks, assigned staff and deliverables. Please add tasks that may be necessary based on your experience with other similar planning processes.
2. Proposed Schedule:
 - a. **not to exceed September 30th, 2025.**
3. Role of Staff and contractor:
 - a. Identify the assigned staff and contractor, their background and experience, and their roles and responsibilities for the project.
4. Experience and Capacity:

- a. Demonstrate your firm’s ability to provide the required services.
 - b. Submit a sample of a similar planning process and completed document. This document may be electronic or be a link to a website where the document can be viewed.
 - c. Verify your business liability insurance.
5. Budget:
- a. Total project cost.
 - b. Project cost breakdown by category.

Please submit your proposal as a sealed bid by **September 8th, 2023, 4:00 PM** to the attention of:

Riley Buley, District Administrator
 Fillmore SWCD
 900 Washington St. NW
 Preston, MN 55965
 507-765-3878 ext. 123
 riley.buley@fillmoreswcd.org

Sealed bids must be labeled ‘Sealed Bid- Brightsdale Dam Channel Restoration’ and stamped as received by the Fillmore SWCD prior to 4:00 pm on 9/8/23.

Timeline for Review and Selection:

9/08/2023	Submission deadline for proposals
9/14/2023	Fillmore SWCD recommends company to complete project.
9/21/2023	Fillmore SWCD Board approves recommended company at meeting.
10/14/2023	Consultant contract due for review by Fillmore SWCD Attorney.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following factors:

- Bid completeness
- Project cost
- Project schedule
- Qualifications of the person(s) or company(s) involved
- Abidance of Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) restoration requirements (Exhibit B)

This Request for proposals is open to all qualified, responsive bidders. Questions regarding the proposal process may be made to Riley Buley (details above). Successful and unsuccessful bidders will be notified of their status within 10 calendar days. Any or all bids may be rejected when in the best interest of Fillmore SWCD.

Successful bidders will also be required to submit their contracting policies for review to a Minnesota Authorized Representative, sign a conflict-of-interest statement to the approval of the state of Minnesota.

VII. Prevailing Wage Statement and Billing Frequency (included 8/29/23)

This project is subjected to the applicable prevailing wage rules stated in Minnesota State Statute [177.41-177.44](#). These rules require that the wages of laborers and workers should be comparable to wages paid for similar work in the community as a whole. A prevailing wage form should accompany these bid submittals. Vendors may not be any of those who are suspended or debarred in MN: [Link to Suspend/Debarred Vendor Report](#).

Fillmore SWCD has applied for and received this grant from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). This funding is a reimbursable grant. As such, monthly billing of project expenses will be utilized and cannot exceed \$100,000 per bill.

VIII. Funding

Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

