



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024

### Agenda Item

#### Item 6. B. – LTS MSP Lateral 2 (LMRWD No. 2024-014)

#### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### Summary

The application for a permit from the LMRWD is to place fiber optic cable in locations in Savage and Burnsville. Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC has reviewed the application and supporting documents on behalf of the LMRWD. Details of the review is attached for the Board's information in Technical Memorandum – LTS MSP Lateral 2 (LMRWD No. 2024-014) dated December 4, 2024.

Young Environmental recommends approval of the permit with a special stipulation that the contractor contact the LMRWD immediately upon the discovery of disturbed groundwater or the release of lubricant fluid.

#### Attachments

Technical Memorandum – LTS MSP Lateral 2 (LMRWD No. 2024-014) dated December 4, 2024

#### Recommended Action

Motion to approve a permit for LTS MSP Lateral 2 (LMRWD No. 2024-014) with the special stipulation that the contractor contact the LMRWD immediately upon the discovery of disturbed groundwater or the release of lubricant fluid

# 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:** December 4, 2024

**Re:** LTS MSP Lateral 2 (LMRWD No. 2024-014)

LTS Telecommunications Services, Inc. (LTS), has applied for an individual project permit from the LMRWD to place fiber optic cable and conduit in the Cities of Savage and Burnsville (Figure 1). The applicant’s engineer, Mi-Tech, submitted the permit application, associated application exhibits, and site plans for the LTS MSP Lateral 2 project.

The proposed project consists of placing 3.2 miles of underground fiber optic cable within the LMRWD, with 4,229 linear feet in the 100-year floodplain of the Minnesota River. Underground conduit/cable and handholes will be installed using directional boring. The total disturbed area within the LMRWD is 3,400 square feet (0.08 acres), including 800 square feet (0.02 acres) in the Minnesota River floodplain in the City of Savage (Figure 2). The project is not located within the High Value Resource Area. All disturbed areas within the floodplain will be returned to the existing ground elevation. The project requires an individual permit for Rule C because the City of Savage does not have their Rule C LMRWD Municipal Permit.

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** LTS MSP Lateral 2

**Purpose:** Installation of underground fiber optic utility in road right-of-way

**Project Size:**

Area Disturbed	Floodplain Disturbed	Permanent Cut	Permanent Fill	Net Change
3,400 square feet	800 square feet	0 cubic yards	0 cubic yards	0 cubic yards

**Location:** Area within floodplain requiring LMRWD permit : TH 13 from Vernon Ave. South to Lynn Ave., Savage MN, 55378

**LMRWD Rules:** Rule C—Floodplain and Drainage Alteration

**Recommended Board Action:** Approval

## DISCUSSION

The LMRWD received the following documents for review:

- The following documents were received on June 3, 2024:
  - LMRWD Individual Permit Application
  - LMRWD Cover Letter & Plans (prepared by Mi-Tech), dated June 3, 2024
- Permit Application Fee of \$750, received June 12, 2024
- The following documents were received on August 30, 2024:
  - Revised LMRWD Individual Permit Application
  - LMRWD Individual Permit Package, dated August 30, 2024
  - Letter of Authorization
- LMRWD Individual Permit Package, dated September 13, 2024
- The following documents were received on October 22, 2024:
  - LMRWD Individual Permit Package, dated October 2, 2024
  - Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Permit No. M-UL-2024-110591
  - MnDOT Permit No. M-UL-2024-110503
  - City of Burnsville Utility Work Permit within the Right-of-Way (Permit No. 52489)
  - City of Savage Right-of-Way Permit (Permit No. SA035125)

The application was deemed complete on October 31, 2024, and the documents received provide the minimum information necessary for permit review.

### *Rule C—Floodplain and Drainage Alteration*

The LMRWD requires the applicant to provide 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, as seen on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 27139C0064E, effective February 12, 2021. The FIRM establishes that a portion of the project is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency Zone AE (or the 100-year floodplain), with an approximate 100-year elevation of 721.0 feet NAVD88 (between cross section C and D). The project proposes 7 handholes/bore pits in the 100-year floodplain, with approximately 157 cubic yards of excavation and 800 square feet of temporary soil disturbance. All bore pits will be restored to existing conditions, including elevation and revegetation. The project does not propose permanent alterations to the ground elevation within the floodplain; therefore, modeling and a no-rise certificate were not required.

The applicant submitted erosion and sediment control plans, including straw wattles, silt fencing, mulch, and seed for disturbed areas. Additionally, the applicant sent documentation of approval from the Cities of Savage and Burnsville on October 22, 2024. The project complies with Rule C.

### *Additional Considerations*

Because of groundwater encounters on past projects within the 100-year floodplain of the Minnesota River, the LMRWD is increasingly concerned about the potential negative impacts of deep excavations on groundwater. The installation of fiber optic cable will be done via directional boring with a maximum depth of 4 feet below grade. Although the project is not anticipated to disturb groundwater patterns, for the conditions of this permit, the applicant will notify the LMRWD, local city jurisdiction, and any relevant state agencies immediately upon discovery.

### *Recommendations*

Based on review of the project, we recommend approval of the LTS MSP Lateral 2 project for the installation of fiber optic cable and conduit in 100-year floodplain in Savage with the following special stipulation:

- The applicant is required to contact the LMRWD immediately upon the discovery of disturbed groundwater or any release of lubricant fluid.

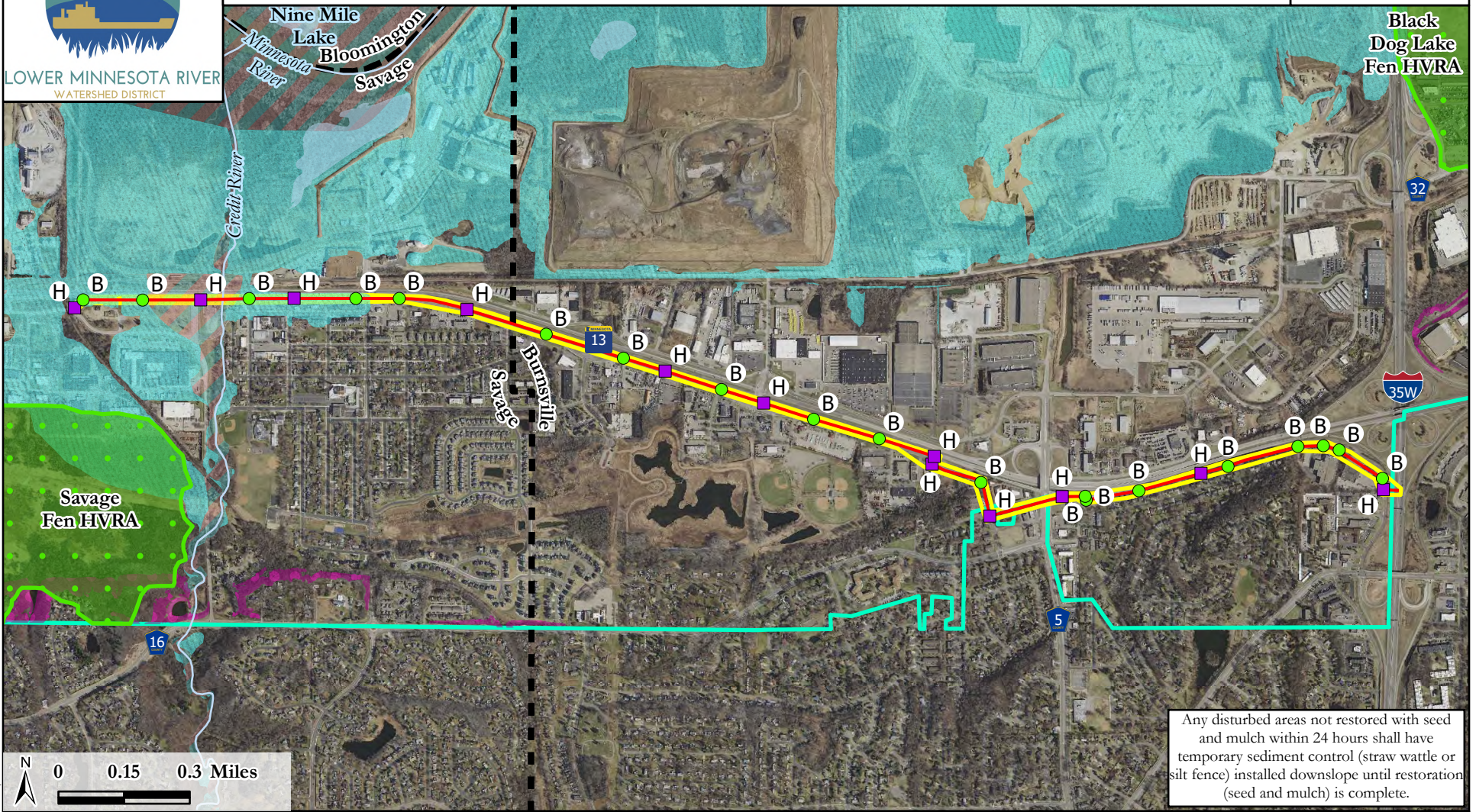
### *Attachments*

- Figure 1—LTS MSP Lateral 2 (Coates to Savage) Project Location
- Figure 2—LTS MSP Lateral 2 (Coates to Savage) Floodplain Bore Pits and Handholes





Figure 1: LTS MSP Lateral 2 (Coates to Savage) Project Location  
LMRWD No. 2024-014

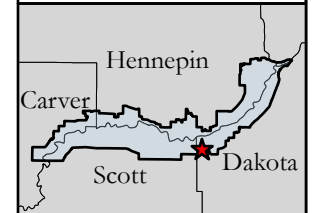


Any disturbed areas not restored with seed and mulch within 24 hours shall have temporary sediment control (straw wattle or silt fence) installed downslope until restoration (seed and mulch) is complete.

**Legend**

- Project Location
- LMRWD Boundary
- Handholes
- Bore Pits
- Fiber Line
- Public Waters
- Public Waterbodies
- High Value Resource Area
- Steep Slope Overlay District
- 100-yr Floodplain
- Floodway

**Location Map**

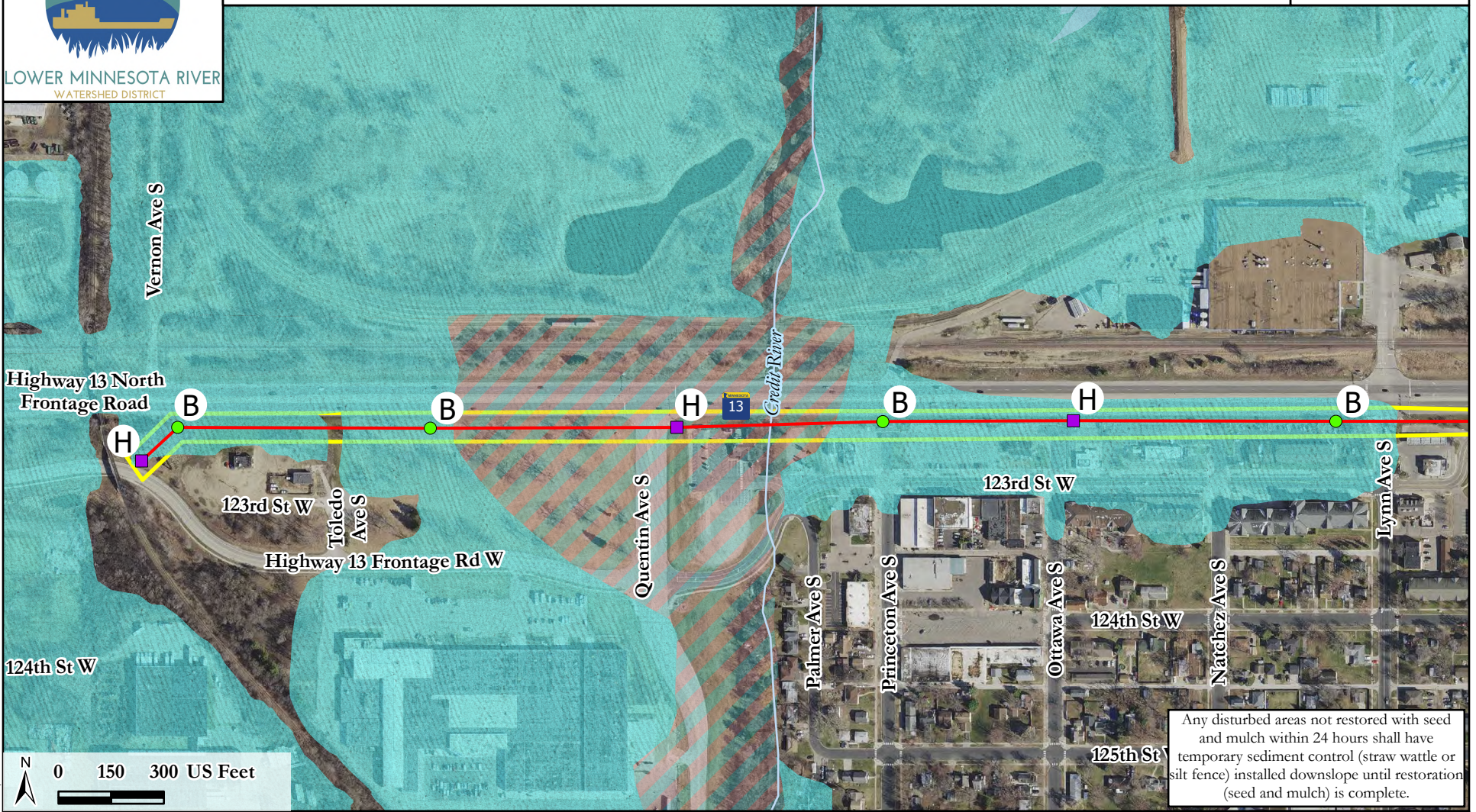


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Figure 2: LTS MSP Lateral 2 (Coates to Savage) Floodplain Bore Pits and Handholes  
LMRWD No. 2024-014

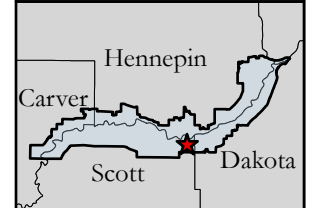


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### Legend

-  Project Location
-  Handholes
-  Bore Pits
-  Fiber Line
-  Public Waters
-  Public Waterbodies
-  100-yr Floodplain
-  Floodway

### Location Map



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