COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
PERMIT REVIEW

MEETING DATE: January 11, 2016
AGENDA NUMBER: 23
FILE NUMBER: 15 – 132
ITEM: Springbrook Wetland Enhancement Project

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with 1 Stipulation

APPLICANT: City of Fridley
Attn: Mike Maher
6431 University Ave NE
Fridley MN 55432

PURPOSE: Restore wetland habitat to open water and create a “hemi-marsh” condition and reconstruction of boardwalk

LOCATION: Springbrook Nature Center and Springbrook Creek (County Ditch 17) Creek in Fridley.
APPLICABILITY:

1. Any work within or adjacent to a Public Ditch within the Watershed District.
2. Any work in or adjacent to wetlands, lakes or water courses.
3. One or more cumulative acres of land disturbance.
4. The lands and water that have been, or may be covered by the regional flood.
5. Appropriation and use of groundwater.
6. High water table, outwash and organic soils.
7. High infiltration soils.
8. Highly erodible soils.
9. Excavation or filling or a combination of excavation and filling of sand or other excavation or fill material including the laying, repairing, replacing or enlarging of a culvert or an underground pipe or facility where it crosses a public ditch or waters of the state.
10. Endangered, Threatened or Special concern species, elements of communities.

EXHIBITS:

1. Permit application by the City of Fridley, received 12/30/15.
2. Supporting documentation in 12/2/15 letter by WSB, received 12/30/15.
3. Joint Application Form for Activities Affecting Water Resources in Minnesota by WSB, dated 9/28/15, received 10/6/15

HISTORY & CONSIDERATIONS: The Springbrook Nature Center reconstructed three vinyl weirs in 2013 to better manage the water resources, restore and protect the wetland ecosystem in the Nature Center. The excavation of this area to open water was part of the Nature Center’s plan to restore the water resources and provide for an educational component.

FINDINGS:

Ditches and Drainage: There is a public ditch on the property. The ditch is County Ditch 17. The ditch is scheduled to be inspected in 2016. The trend in land use for this drainage area is toward open space, commercial, and industrial. There are no flooding concerns downstream.

Floodplain: There is floodplain on the property according to FEMA. The District Atlas 14 model predicts the 100-year elevation for the subwatershed at 860.4 feet. The total floodplain impact is 0 acre-feet, within the floodplain. Compensatory storage is not needed. The project will excavate a pool immediately downstream of Weir B and once
the pool is filled there will be no change in floodplain storage.

**Groundwater:** Surficial ground water is present at the surface since the work will be constructed in a wetland. The site does include groundwater sensitive areas. Information has not been provided to substantiate low floor elevations and is not needed since there will be no change in groundwater or surface flow characteristics.

**Historic Sites:** The proposed project does not include sites of historic or archeological significance.

**Local Planning & Zoning:** The proposed project is consistent with local planning and zoning. There is an approved local water plan.

**Maintenance:** The proposed project does include a ditch maintenance easement or utility line crossings. A drainage and utility easement is not provided for the storm water/infiltration pond shown on the drainage plan and is not needed because it is on city owned property. Property owners affected by changes in drainage have been notified and have acknowledged the changes proposed.

**Soils & Erosion Control:** Soils affected by the proposal are Isanti. Stabilizing vegetation is proposed for disturbed areas within two weeks of rough grading. Adjacent properties are protected from sediment deposition. All wetlands, waterbodies, ponds, infiltration basins and water conveyance systems are protected from erosion and sedimentation. Project site is greater than 1 acre; a NPDES permit is required. Excavated soil will be hauled off site and is suitable for residential land use.

**Stormwater & Hydraulics:** The applicant is meeting the volume management requirement equivalent to infiltrating runoff from the first inch of precipitation. Stormwater leaving the site is discharged into a well-defined receiving channel or pipe and routed to a public drainage system. Drainage sensitive uses do not exist downstream from the proposed site. The rate of post development runoff from the site does not exceed predevelopment rates, or rates which would interfere with sensitive downstream land uses.
**Water Quality:** Project does not include new impervious drainage areas greater than 1 acre. All discharges into wetlands are pretreated by a sediment basin/water quality pond and are designed correctly. The proposal will not detrimentally affect the existing water quality of the receiving water. The proposal will not cause extreme fluctuations of water levels or temperature changes.

**Wetlands:** Wetlands do exist on site. The wetland is designated a DNR Public Water so impacts are permitted through the DNR. The DNR has issued Permit Number 2015-1364 to allow for the excavation of 0.36 acres of sediment to a bottom elevation of 851 feet in accordance with the application and plans submitted by the applicant.

**Wildlife:** The proposed project does include the Blanding’s turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state-listed threatened species, which has been reported from the vicinity of the proposed project and may be encountered on site. The DNR has provided the applicant with information to protect the turtle.

The site has also been identified as a Site of Moderate Biodiversity Significance in 1989. However, much of the site has been developed since 1989 so a Biological Assessment is not being required by the DNR.

**Performance Escrow:** $2,180.00

**ISSUES/CONCERNS:**

| Escrows: $2,000 + (0.36 ac * $500/ac) = $2,180.00 | 1. Receipt of escrows. |

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve with 1 Stipulation

**Stipulation:**

1. Receipt of escrows.