



MEMORANDUM

November 1, 2024

TO: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FROM: Deborah Loon, Executive Director
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.
RE: Appropriation Extension Request –
ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(b) - Metro Big Rivers, Phase 10

The Minnesota Valley Trust's ML2020 appropriation is funding the engineering design, including architectural and archeological review, and construction in Work Area A for the restoration of Ike's Creek, which is the only known trout stream in Hennepin County and one of very few in the metro area. Ike's Creek is located on the Long Meadow Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Bloomington.

The engineering design, archeological review and permitting work are on schedule to be completed late fall 2024 / early winter 2025. Tree removal is planned for winter 2025 and construction in Work Area A in spring 2025. Construction in Work Area B will likely need to follow with separate funding due to anticipated costs.

The archeological review concluded there is moderate to high potential of significant archeological and cultural resources near the work area. We are, therefore, working with local tribes and developing a monitoring plan.

If any potential archeological and cultural resources are found during construction, work will need to stop for further investigation. This potential puts the project at risk of not being completed by the grant appropriation deadline June 30, 2025. Accordingly, we respectfully request an extension of the grant appropriation to June 30, 2026.

Please let me know of any questions or additional information needed. Thank you for your consideration.