



MEMORANDUM

TO: Brown's Creek Watershed District Board
 FROM: Karen Kill
 RE: Brown's Creek Restoration – Spur Trail
 DATE: December 10, 2024

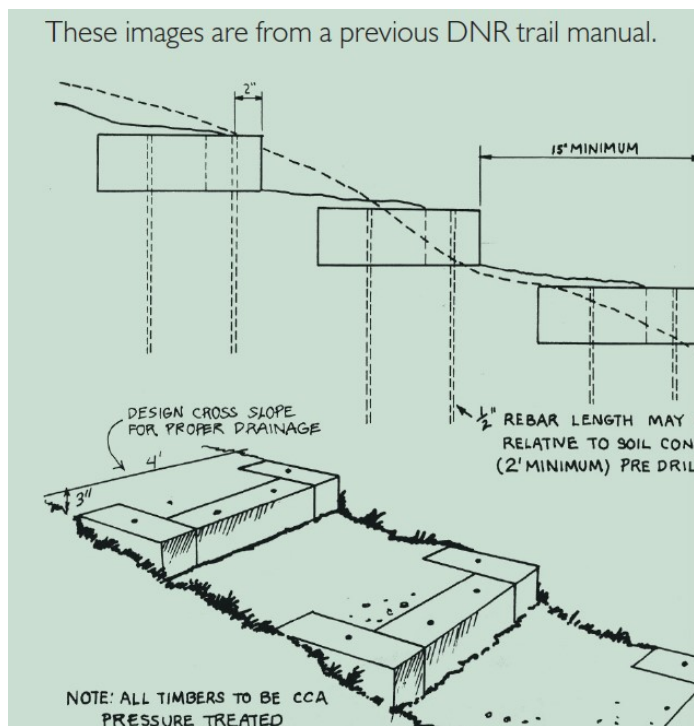
Background

The original design included an ADA accessible spur trail from Brown's Creek State Trail near the Brown's Creek crossing where trail users have been causing erosion due to foot traffic. BCWD has entered into a cooperative agreement with MN DNR Trails (landowner) to construct and maintain an asphalt spur trail. This item is included in the contractor budget for approximately \$7,000.

Issue

During final survey before construction, an error was discovered in the elevation data used in the design making the original design unable to be built to ADA specifications or without interference with the existing drainage swale while staying in the narrow corridor. The contractor was requested to stop work on the spur trail until a solution could be determined.

In coordination with the MN DNR Trails and Fisheries, several alternatives were considered including a boardwalk. This alternative was significantly more expensive and did not address the likelihood of foot traffic continuing the same erosion patterns. During these discussions, an alternative location for ADA access with better fishing opportunities was identified (see memo for scope to design) and may have state "Get Out More" funds available for construction. The MN DNR Trails was open to the idea of stabilizing the existing eroding location if an ADA access can be created in close proximity.



Staff engineers are looking into cost-effective options such as timber steps from the MN DNR Sustainable Trails Manual. Initial feasibility shows that these steps could be fit into the site without blocking the swale drainage. A cost estimate has not yet been created.

Managers:

Klayton Eckles, President • Celia Wirth, Vice-President • Debra Sahulka, Secretary • Larry Odebrecht • Chuck LeRoux



Recommendation

Direct staff to proceed with stabilizing steps, to coordinate with MN DNR Trails to determine if amendment of the cooperative agreement is necessary, and bring back final design and costs to the Board for approval.

Managers:

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