

Attachment 1

From: [Constantine Koutsouvas](#)
To: [MN Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Interstate Island EAW
Date: Monday, November 25, 2019 4:41:32 PM

Hi,

I would be very grateful to MN DNR for doing whatever you can to protect nesting habitats (and habitats in general) on Interstate Island. I live in St. Paul and go birding along the north shore frequently. Seeing shore birds like piping plovers is becoming increasingly rare due to habitat loss. (Not to take anything away from terns; they're great birds too whose habitat is also worthy of protection!)

I really hope you undertake this important restoration project.

Sincerely,

Constantine Koutsouvas
1597 Niles Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55116

From: [Christopher Smith](#)
To: [MN Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Interstate Island Comments
Date: Monday, November 25, 2019 9:31:19 AM
Attachments: [Pages from 2118 Aggregate Surfacing on Riprap_SP.pdf](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of restoration efforts related to interstate island, but include the following comments for consideration.

- 1) Limit erosion control materials (e.g., sediment control logs, blanket) to plastic-free materials (e.g., cotton, jute).
- 2) Fill riprap voids with sand and/or small aggregate to prevent small animals, including hatching birds, from becoming trapped in riprap voids. See attached MnDOT Specification.
- 3) In order to better enhance habitat for the hairy-necked tiger beetle, place only fine-grained sand within 15-20 feet for shorelines areas. Specifically, avoid the placement of cobble / gravel within the first 15-20 feet of the water's edge.
- 4) Section 13, b. -- Update the language to reflect the fact that the Rhode Island Hairy-necked Tiger Beetle has been found in recent years in the Duluth area, see Smith (2019).

Literature Cited:

Smith, Christopher E. 2019. Early-Season Surveys for Hairy-necked Tiger Beetles (*Cicindela hirticollis rhodensis*) in Minnesota. Final Report – June 2019, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 5 pg.

Thank you,
Chris

--
Christopher E. Smith, M.Sc., CWB®
Wildlife Research & Consulting Services, LLC
[FieldEcology.com](#)
[@FieldEcology](#)

Designer's Note: Use for all Riprap installations with passage benches, or as required in the plan, to create a walkable passage area.

S-1 (2118) AGGREGATE SURFACING ON RIPRAP

S-1.1 DESCRIPTION

Place virgin Class 5 aggregate material to fill voids and create a walkable passage area, as shown in the plans and described in this special provision.

S-1.2 MATERIALS

Designer's Note: Choose option A for most cases. Chose option B if "clean fill" is required for environmental concerns. Examples may be in sensitive wetland areas or if filling down to the waterline. Check with Bridge Hydraulics Unit if you have questions on when to select option B.

A Aggregate 3138

- A) Provide 100 percent virgin Class 5 Aggregate, that meets the gradation requirements of Table 3138-3.
- B) Provide 100 percent virgin aggregate meeting the gradation in Table 1, and the quality requirements of 3137.1.D.1.

Table 1 Gradation Requirements	
Sieve Sizes	% Passing
2"	100
1.5"	95-100
3/4"	35-65
3/8"	5-25
#4	0-7

S-1.3 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Designer's Note: Chose option A if the aggregate surfacing is for a passage bench areas only. Choose option B if the aggregate surfacing is for larger area, such as the entire slope. Option A may be used for larger areas if requested by the DNR (or other environmental personnel) for specific animal passage.

- A) Place the aggregate material after the riprap has been placed, to the top of the riprap layer, so the top of the riprap is not visible, or as specified in the plans. Place aggregate material to the limits specified in the plan.
- B) Place material such that voids in the finished surface are three inches or less in any dimension.

S-1.4 METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

The Engineer will measure the aggregate surfacing in accordance with 1901, "Measurement of Quantities."

S-1.5 BASIS OF PAYMENT

The Contract unit price for the accepted quantities of Aggregate Material for Passage Benches includes the cost for production, testing, and placement.

The Department will pay for Aggregate Surfacing on Riprap using Aggregate Surfacing Special based upon the following schedule:

Item No:	Item:	Unit:
2118.609	Aggregate Surfacing Special	ton

From: [Brandon Rothauge](#)
To: [MN Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Interstate Island Avian WMA
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 10:48:18 AM

To whom it may concern,

As a Northern Minnesota resident, student of Wildlife Ecology and Ecosystem Restoration, and a conservation management technician for the US Forest Service, I support this plan and its implementation, and look forward to seeing the results of its long-term monitoring and management.

Thank you,

--

Brandon Sequoia Rothauge
27 Evergreen Lane
Babbitt, MN 55706



Planning & Development Division
Planning & Economic Development Department

Room 160
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-5580



planning@duluthmn.gov

December 19, 2019

Kate Fairman, Environmental Review Planning Director
MN Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Interstate Island Avian Habitat Restoration Project EAW

Dear Ms. Fairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Interstate Island Avian Habitat Restoration Project Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). We welcome the work proposed to enhance the nesting habitat that has been degraded by recent high water levels and storms. The St. Louis River Estuary (SLRE) is the largest and most biologically productive wetland and aquatic complex in western Lake Superior and supports a high level of bird diversity (The Nature Conservancy 2019). This work will broaden the appeal of the SLRE as a prime birdwatching area.

The City of Duluth has and continues to be committed to the work of our state, federal and tribal partners as they plan, design and construct projects to remediate contaminated sediments and restore fish and wildlife habitat with the goal to removal beneficial use impairments in the St. Louis River Area of Concern. In addition, the City is working to protect approximately 1,300 acres of riparian and upland habitat along nearly ten miles of the river as part of our effort to restore and manage native plant communities for birds and wildlife and promote human interaction with the natural environment. This project is one of several that will add to the larger goal of this area which is to move from remediation to restoration to revitalization along the St. Louis River Estuary.

In summary, the City fully supports this project because it is an important action item developed by our partners toward restoring fish and wildlife habitat in the SLRE.

Regards

Adam Fulton
Deputy Director, Planning and Economic Development