

# ***Hunting River Stream Connectivity Project Deliverables Report for WI DNR River Protection Program Grant # RM06116***

October 24, 2017

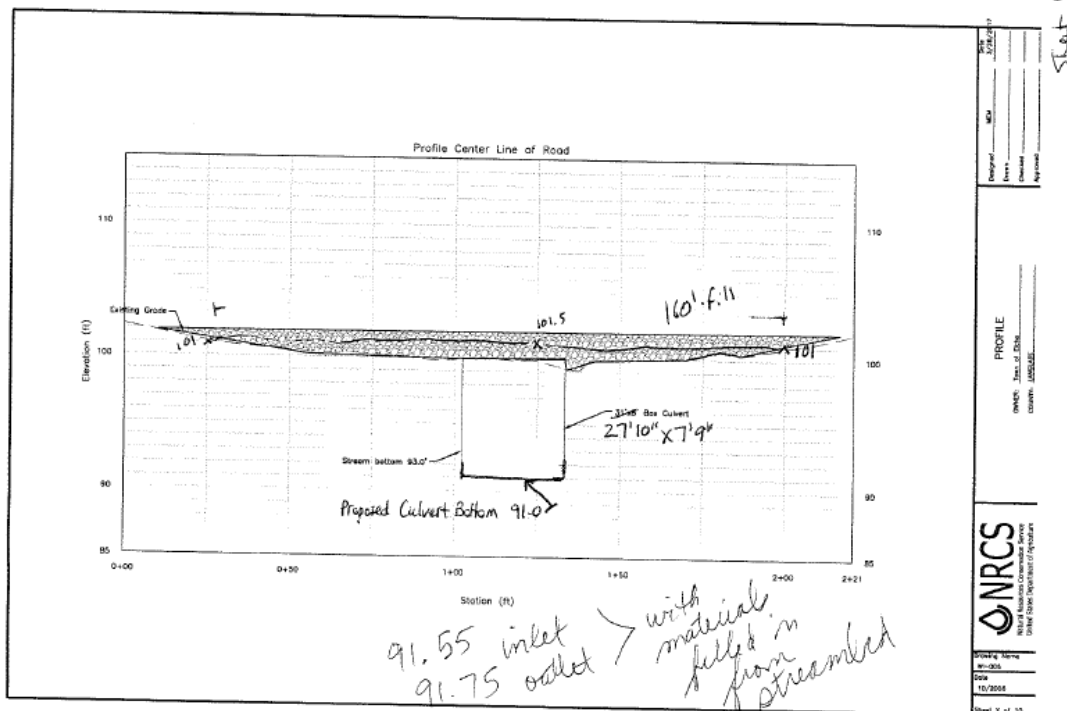
The Hunting River at Fitzgerald Dam Road has been identified as a high priority fish passage barrier for many years. It is a pleasure to report that after many years of cooperative efforts between the Town of Elcho, Langlade County Land Conservation Department (LCD), Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Trout Unlimited (TU), aquatic connectivity of the Hunting River System has been restored. This resulted in significant environmental benefits to the Hunting River and delivered a long-lived, low maintenance, flood resilient road crossing for the Town of Elcho.



*In late August, Stibbe Excavating replaced four 36" round culverts with a 27' 10" wide by 7' 9" tall aluminum box culvert with headwalls and wingwalls. Aluminum box culvert being assembled.*



Aluminum box culvert being lifted into place. Hunting River flow was maintained and diverted from the pipe trench using temporary culverts and a bypass channel.



Post construction, the DATCP Engineer along with LCD, verified that the culvert was installed as designed, below the natural flowline of the Hunting River.





*DNR inspections documented that adequate final erosion control (topsoil, seed, e-mat, silt fence and riprap) was installed and the site was stabilized with vegetation to protect water quality.*



*DNR site inspections documented an immediate fluvial response upstream of the road crossing. Water depths decreased exposing more riffle habitat as well as a narrowing of the stream channel.*





*The water depths, elevations, and velocities in the new culvert closely match the conditions of the river channel.*

In addition to the site conditions observed adjacent to the road crossing, the APHIS beaver control expert that works on the Hunting River reported that the water level dropped about 6 inches approximately 2.5 miles upstream. Additionally, trout are being observed in upstream reaches where they have not been observed in the past.

Over the coming months, DNR staff will retrieve the instream temperature probes that were deployed to evaluate if there was an instream temperature response that can be documented. Additionally, DNR, TU, and UW Madison staff plan to work on outreach to share this success story and emphasize the broad benefits of adequately sized road stream crossings.

**This project would not have been possible without considerable time, patience, and cost share dedicated from the Town, Langlade County Conservation Department, and six different Trout Unlimited Chapters statewide.**

Respectfully submitted,

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