

## **Information for File #2013-03829-BGO**

**Applicant:** Allen Saunders

**Corps Contact:** Benjamin Orne

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**Primary County:** Swift County

**Section:** SE ¼ of Section 1

**Township:** 121N.

**Range:** 39W.

**Information Complete On:** February 3, 2014

**Posting Expires On:** February 13, 2014

**Authorization Type:** LOP-05-MN

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-01. We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Our jurisdictional review and final jurisdictional determination could result in modifications to the scope of the project's regulated waterbody impacts.

### **Project Description**

The applicant proposes to discharge fill material below the plane of the Ordinary High Water Mark along approximately 1,125 linear feet of an unnamed drainage ditch to Mud Creek. The work would be conducted in association with the placement of 36-inch drainage tile along the bottom of the unnamed drainage ditch for farming purposes. The unnamed drainage ditch would then be backfilled using existing spoil materials located adjacent to the ditch. The dimensions of the channel portion to be filled are approximately 4 to 6 feet deep with a 25 to 50-foot-wide top and 4 to 6-foot-wide bottom. Based on available information, the origin of the unnamed drainage ditch is currently located approximately 5,680 linear feet upstream from the east edge of the Field Boundary.

The following information was provided by the applicant to describe the purpose and need of the proposed project: “The purpose of this project will be to insure the safety of machinery operators and allow for more efficient field operations in this particular field while decreasing the opportunity for ditch bank erosion. As this open ditch runs at a 45 degree angle to the planted rows the possibility of entering this open ditch with tractors and harvesters is a real and present danger. The ditch banks on this open ditch are steep enough to cause serious damage or even death if a farm implement were to accidentally come to close and go over the edge of the ditch bank. Over application of fertilizer, crop protection herbicides and seed occur due to the 45 degree angle this open ditch presents.”

### **Alternatives Considered**

The applicant has considered the following alternatives:

1. Do nothing, continue to farm point rows and decreased yields caused by continued traffic on crop.
2. Take angle ditch and run it south to e-w road and then west to where it crosses road to the outlet ditch. The right angles will increase erosion resulting in downstream sedimentation.
3. Install tile in ditch improve farm operation while reducing erosion.

### **Federally-listed Threatened and Endangered Species**

According to the USFWS Midwest Region website, which was checked on February 3, 2014, the Northern long-eared bat (proposed as endangered), Dakota skipper (proposed as threatened), and Poweshiek skipperling (proposed as endangered) are found in Swift County, Minnesota.

### **Historic Properties**

The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no listed properties (known to be eligible for inclusion, or included in the Register) are located in the project area.

### **State Listed Impaired (Section 303(d)) Waters**

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s Impaired Waters Viewer, which was checked on February 3, 2014, there are no state listed impaired water resources located within 1-mile of the Channel Portion Tiled/Filled.

**Drawings:** See attached.



W2 - 0.4 Acre

W3 - 2.3 Acres

FW4 - 1.8 Acres



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

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Allen Saunders Drain Tile Project  
Turning 1 - Swift County  
Data Sources: FSA 2010, NAD 1983 UTM 15N



Field Boundary



Certified Wetland Areas



Channel Portion Tiled/Filled - 1,125 Linear Feet



Channel Portion Unaltered - 765 Linear Feet

