

Information for File # 2015-00180-JCD

Applicant Kandiyohi County Public Works

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Primary County Kandiyohi

Section 36

Township 120 North

Range 35 West

Information Complete On January 20, 2015

Posting Expires On February 23, 2015

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/wetland impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements identified above. An approved jurisdictional determination will be made prior to reaching a permit decision, and will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>.

Project Description, Purpose and Need

Kandiyohi County Public Works is proposing to construct a 1.52 mile trail which will connect recreational areas near Willmar High School and the Civic Center with the Eagle Lake Area and the Glacial Lakes State Trail. There is currently a lack of off-road access methods to these recreational areas. The project begins northwest of Willmar High School at an existing trail terminus located at the end of Transportation Drive NE. The proposed trail will meander northerly through school property to County State Aid Highway No. 9 (CSAH 9), where it will continue to head north crossing County Road No. 90 (CR 90 to East Eagle Lake Road (old CSAH 9)), and run adjacent to the township road until it connects to the Eagle Lake Trail near County State Aid Highway No. 26 (CSAH 26).

The proposed trail will be located within existing road right of ways when it is adjacent to highways, and Willmar Public Schools will be granting the County a trail easement on the school property. Construction will consist of stripping the existing topsoil along the project corridor, bringing in any additional fill that is required and then placing aggregate base with a bituminous surface. Topsoil will be placed along the trail section with turf establishment practices following

immediately. The trail will generally consist of a 10 foot wide bituminous surface with 2 foot topsoil shoulders on each side, and slopes designed at 1:3 ratio.

Aquatic Resource Impacts

The proposed project will discharge fill material into 0.17 acre fresh (wet) meadow, and 0.41 acre shallow marsh for a total impact of 0.58 acre of aquatic resources.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Alternatives

Kandiyohi County has avoided major impacts to aquatic resources by keeping the alignment of the new trail near road slopes and higher elevation areas. The trail winds and curves around wetlands as much as state aid standards will approve while still allowing for safe maintenance.

Some impacts to aquatic resources along the project corridor cannot be avoided. These impacts were minimized by using 1:3 side slopes on the trail and attempting to “bench” the trail into the existing road slopes while maintaining the minimum standards allowed by state aid.

Alternatives considered were as follows:

No Build

This alternative would not address the projects need. This trail needs to be constructed to accomplish the goal of connecting the loop of the Glacial Lakes State Trail system with Eagle Lake and the Willmar High School area. This alternative was dismissed.

Build with no impacts to aquatic resources

This alternative would move the proposed trail to the shoulders of the highways. While this alternative would not impact a majority of the wetlands, it would create a dangerous situation by having pedestrians and bicyclists adjacent to traffic. This alternative was dismissed.

Build with additional right of way

This alternative would include buying additional right of way through the corridor to minimize impacts to aquatic resources. This alternative would approximately double the cost of the overall proposed project and would still not eliminate all impacts to wetlands. This alternative was dismissed.

Compensatory Mitigation

Kandiyohi County proposes to purchase 1.16 wetland bank credits from the German Settlement Wetland Bank (S2623-1175) in Scott County, Minnesota as Mitigation for the loss of wetlands resulting from construction of the trail project

Drawings See attached.















