

Information for File #2015-00459-ERH

Applicant: Renville County Highway Department,
c/o Mr. Jeremy LeBlanc, Assistant County Engineer

Agent: N/A

Corps Contact: Eric Hanson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 180 5th Street East, Suite 700,
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1678; eric.r.hanson@usace.army.mil; 651-290-5386

Primary County: Renville

Location: Sec. 25, T. 116N., R. 34W. and Sec. 19-23 & 26-30, T.116N.

Information Complete On: May 28, 2015

Posting Expires On: July 17, 2015

Authorization Type: Section 404 Letter of Permission (LOP-05-MN). This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under 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 described below. In this case, the applicant has requested a preliminary jurisdictional determination for the proposed project described below and one will be issued concurrently with the final permit decision. If the applicant later requests an approved jurisdictional determination, that 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 and Purpose: The proposed project consists of the reconstruction of approximately 6.4 miles of Renville County State Aide Highway (CSAH) 11 from CSAH 5 to CSAH 16. The scope of the proposed work would include: a centerline shift, addition of turn lanes, shoulder widening, and roadway reconstruction from CSAH 5 to County Road (CR) 57; construction of a new horizontal curve beginning at the CSAH 11/CR 57 intersection running north along CR 57 and east along Judicial Ditch (JD) 9 until reconnecting to CSAH 11 at 410th Street; and the reconstruction of CSAH 11 along the existing alignment from 410th Street to CSAH 16.

Name, Area and Types of Waters (Including Wetlands) Subject to Loss: The proposed project would require a re-alignment of approximately 850 feet of Judicial Ditch #9 and result in permanent impacts to 1.101 acres (47,960 square feet) of wetland communities, including permanent impacts to 0.463 acres (20,168 square feet) of Type 1 wetlands, 0.026 acres (1,133 square feet) of Type 2 wetlands, and 0.612 acres (26,659 square feet) of Type 2/3 wetlands. The project would also include temporary impacts to 0.053 acres (2,309 square feet) of Type 2/3 wetlands.

Alternatives Considered: The applicant considered three alternatives to their preferred plan described in more detail below.

1. *No Build or No Action Alternative:* The applicant considered not building the project. This alternative would avoid all wetland impacts, but would also not address the traffic

problems and safety deficiencies associated with substandard horizontal curves, narrow shoulders, and a lack of turn lanes. This alternative was rejected by the applicant because it would not meet the applicant's objectives and would therefore not be a practicable alternative.

2. *Use Existing Alignment:* The applicant considered reconstructing the entire segment along the existing alignment. Reconstruction on the existing alignment would not require the re-alignment of JD 9, but it would reduce the setbacks from existing residential properties on the north side of CSAH 11 causing an increase in traffic noise for area residents. It would also require the purchase of additional land to accommodate the larger footprint. As a result, this alternative was rejected by the applicant because the increase the traffic noise for area residents and additional cost to purchase additional right-of-way would not be practicable.
3. *New Alignment:* The applicant considered constructing CSAH 11 on a completely new alignment. Constructing a new road parallel to the existing road would include substantially similar impacts to aquatic resources as the preferred alternative, but would also require the purchase additional land at a substantially higher cost than the preferred alternative. Therefore, constructing a new alignment was rejected by the applicant because substantially increasing the project costs would not be feasible, and therefore not a practicable alternative.

Compensatory Mitigation: In order to compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetlands applicant proposes to purchase wetland bank credits through the MN Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program. Replacement ratios and bank selection will be determined by the Army Corps of Engineers at the time of permitting.

Threatened or Endangered Species: This project was previously reviewed for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act by Jason Alcott of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Office of Environmental Stewardship. He subsequently issued a determination of **No Effect** on September 17, 2014. However, since that date, the Northern long-eared bat became listed as threatened in Renville County. As a result, Mr. Alcott re-evaluated the effects of the proposal on the Northern long-eared bat as a Threatened species under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and issued an updated determination on June 15, 2015 reaffirming the original **No Effect** determination.

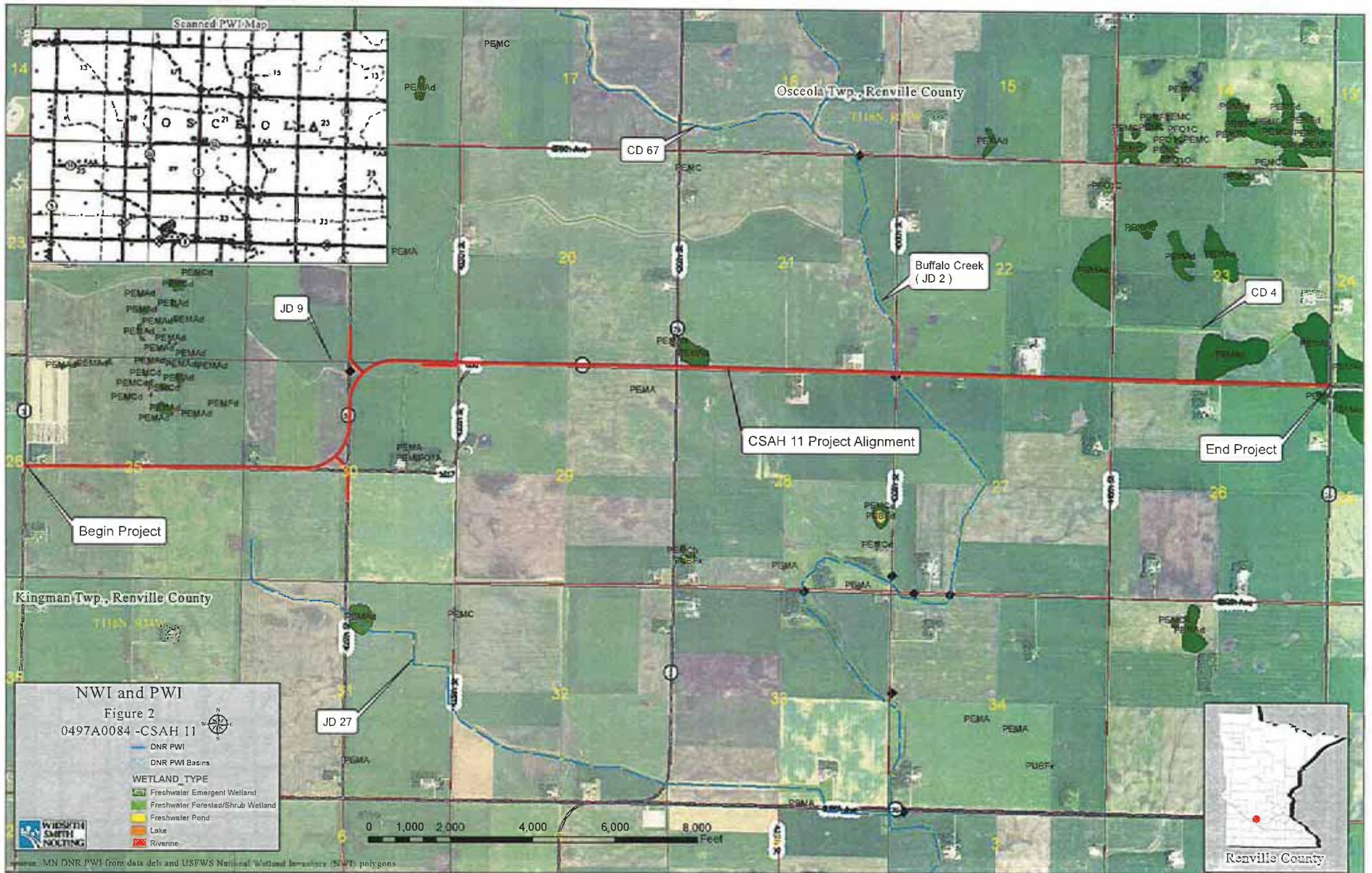
Historic Properties: The project was previously reviewed for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act by Renee Hutter Barnes of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Office of Environmental Stewardship. After reviewing the proposal, Ms. Hutter found that **no historic properties would be affected** by the project as currently proposed due to the work occurring predominantly within areas previously disturbed by the construction of the existing road.

Other Considerations:

A Listed State-Impaired Water: The project would **not** have direct impacts to any listed state-impaired waters.

FEMA 100-Year Floodplain: The project area is **not** within the FEMA 100 or 500-year floodplains.

Drawings: See attached drawings labeled 2015-00459-ERH Figures 1-10.



MVP-2015-00459-ERH
 Figure 1 of 10

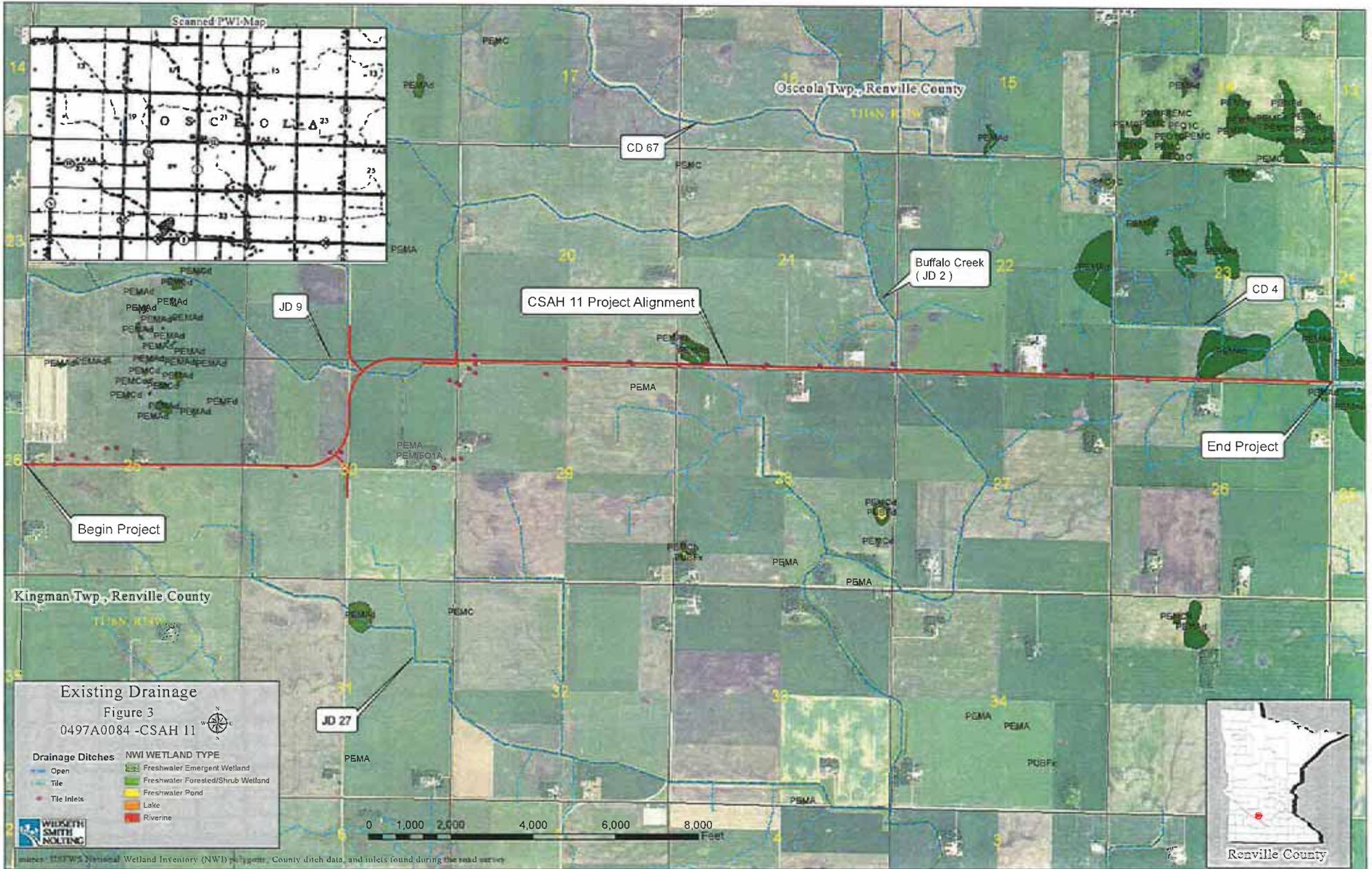




Figure 5
Sheet 1
0497A0084 - CSAH 11



NWI and PWI

- DNR PWI
- DNR PWI Basins
- NWI WETLAND TYPE**
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riveline

Delineated Wetlands

- Sample points
- delineated ditches
- delineated basins

- Drop inlets
- Area Investigated
- Drainage Ditches**
- - - Open
- Tile



source: MN DNR PWI from data deli and USEW's National Wetland Inventory (NWI) polygons
2013 FSA Color Aerial Photo



Renville County



Figure 5
Sheet 2
0497A0084 -CSAH 11



NWI and PWI

- DNR PWI
- DNR PWI Basins
- NWI WETLAND TYPE**
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- River/ine

Delineated Wetlands

- Sample points
- delineated ditches
- delineated basins

- ⊗ Drop Inlets
- Area investigated

Drainage Ditches

- - - Open
- Tile



source: MN DNR PWI from data deli and USEWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) polygons
2013 FSA Color Aerial Photo



Renville County

MVP-2015-00459-ERH
Figure 4 of 10



Figure 5
Sheet 3
0497A0084 -CSAH 11



NWI and PWI

— DNR PWI

— DNR PWI Basins

NWI WETLAND TYPE

■ Freshwater Emergent Wetland

■ Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

■ Freshwater Pond

■ Lake

■ Rivertine

Delineated Wetlands

● Sample points

— delineated ditches

■ delineated basins

⊗ Drop Inlets

— Area Investigated

Drainage Ditches

--- Open

— Tile



source: MN DNR PWI from data.deli and USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) polygons
2013 FSA Color Aerial Photo

Wetland Ditch 7
7' Wide



Renville County



Figure 5
Sheet 4

0497A0084 -CSAH 11



NWI and PWS

- DNR PWS
- DNR PWS Basins

NWI WETLAND TYPE

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine

Delineated Wetlands

- Sample points
- delineated ditches
- delineated basins

- Drop Inlets
- Area investigated

Drainage Ditches

- - - Open
- Tile



source: MN DNR PWS from data deli and USEWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) polygons
2013 FSA Color Aerial Photo



Renville County

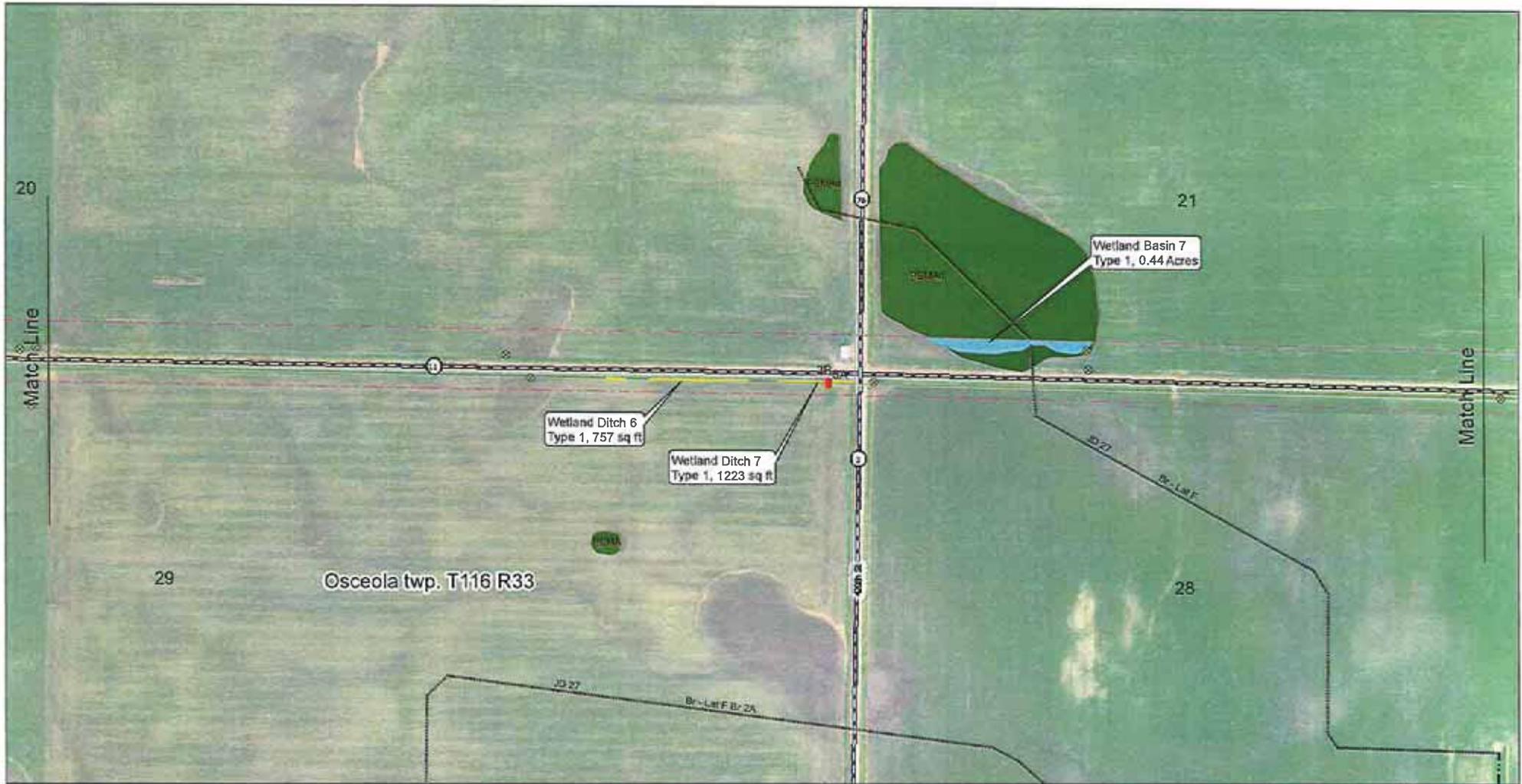


Figure 5
Sheet 5
0497A0084 -CSAH 11



NWI and PWI

- DNR PWI
- DNR PWI Basins
- NWI WETLAND TYPE**
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
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- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Rivome

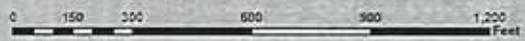
Delineated Wetlands

- Sample points
- delineated ditches
- delineated basins

- Drop Inlets
- Area investigated

Drainage Ditches

- Open
- Tile



Source: MN DNR PWI from data sets and USEPA's National Wetland Inventory (NWI) polygons
2013 PSA Coble Aerial Photo



Renville County



21

Osceola twp. T116 R33

22

28

27

Wetland Basin 8
JD 2, Type 2/3
2248 sq ft

Figure 5
Sheet 6
0497A0084 -CSAH 11



NWI and PWI

- DNR PWI
- DNR PWI Basins

NWI WETLAND TYPE

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine

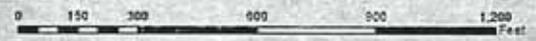
Delineated Wetlands

- Sample points
- delineated ditches
- delineated basins

- ◆ Drop Inlets
- Area Investigated

Drainage Ditches

- - - Open
- Tile



Source: MN DNR PWI from data del; and USEPA's National Wetland Inventory (NWI) polygons
2011 FSA Color Aerial Photo



Renville County



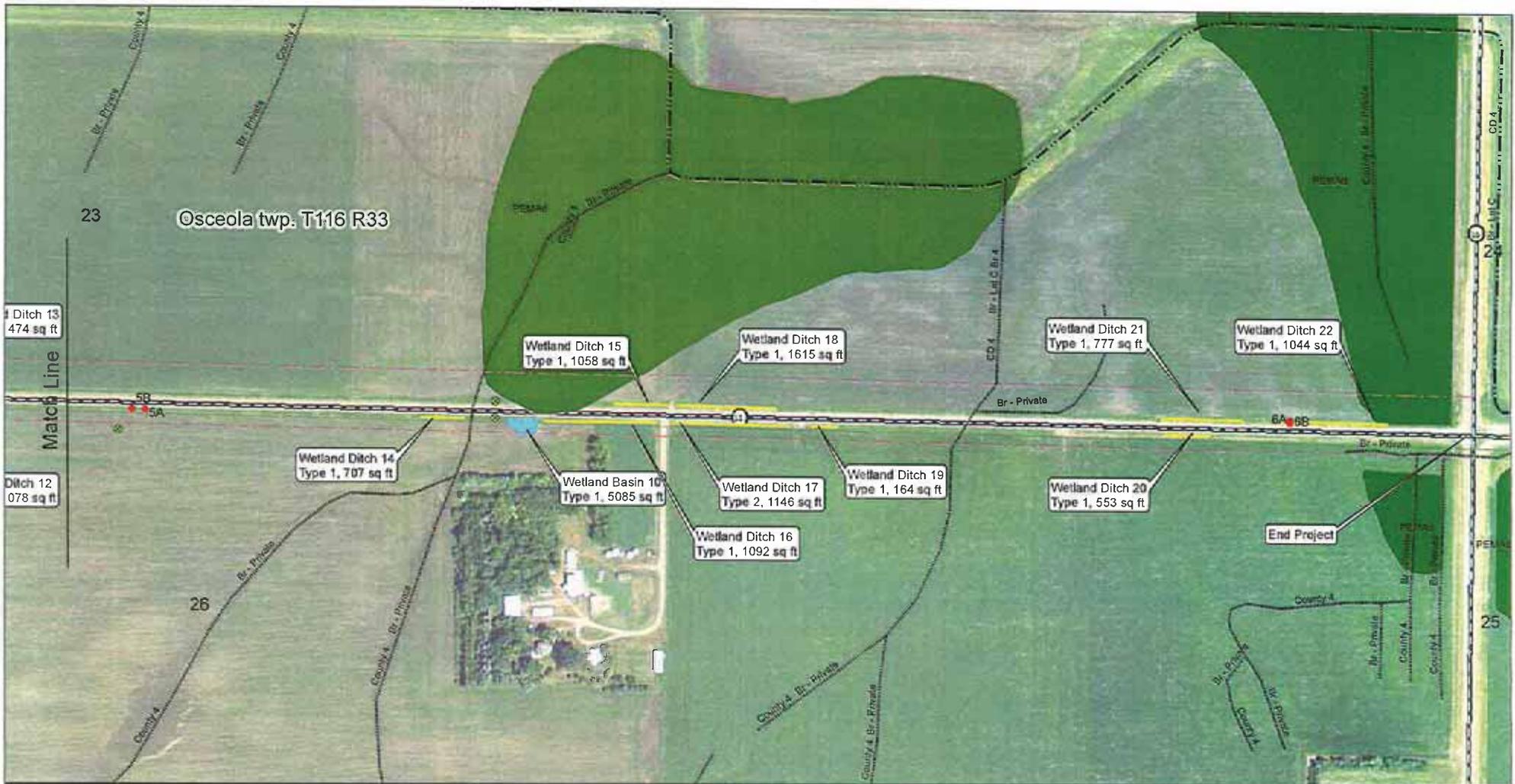


Figure 5
Sheet 8
0497A0084 -CSAH 11



NWI and PWI

- DNR PWI
- DNR PWI Basins
- NWI WETLAND TYPE**
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine

Delineated Wetlands

- Sample points
- delineated ditches
- delineated basins

- Drop Inlets
- Area investigated
- Drainage Ditches**
- Open
- Tile



source: MN DNR PWI from data deli and USEWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) polygons
2013 FSA Color Aerial Photo



Renville County