

Information for File # 2015-01495-MMJ; Zebra Avenue Ditch Project

Applicant: Zebra Ditch Drainage Association (Attn: Randall or Brian Thalmann)

Corps Contact: Melissa Jenny

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Primary County: Carver

Section: 31

Township: 115

Range: 26

Information Complete On: 05/15/2015

Posting Expires On: 05/25/2015

Authorization Type: MN-LOP-05

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 may be made prior to reaching a permit decision, and may be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>.

Project:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE: The proposed project is a ditch lowering project involving excavation and grading activities along 1,650-linear feet of Zebra Ditch, which is located near the intersection of Zebra Avenue and CSAH 50 (150th St.), contained within the NW ¼ of Section 31 in Young America Township, Carver Co., Minnesota. There is a need for a deeper ditch in this area to improve the drainage of upland agricultural fields located adjacent to Zebra Ditch; existing drain tile from these fields currently outlets into the ditch approximately 1-foot above the bottom of the ditch, causing water to back up onto cropped upland areas during large rain events. Specifically, the project involves lowering an existing culvert (54" reinforced concrete pipe) located under CSAH 50 (150th Street) by approximately 2.75 feet (from 987.40' to 984.66'), and lowering a 1,650-linear foot portion of ditch located upstream of the culvert by approximately 2.5-2.75 feet. The upstream portion of Zebra Ditch located within the project area is currently approximately 1.5 feet deep; post-excavation the ditch would be approximately 4 feet deep.

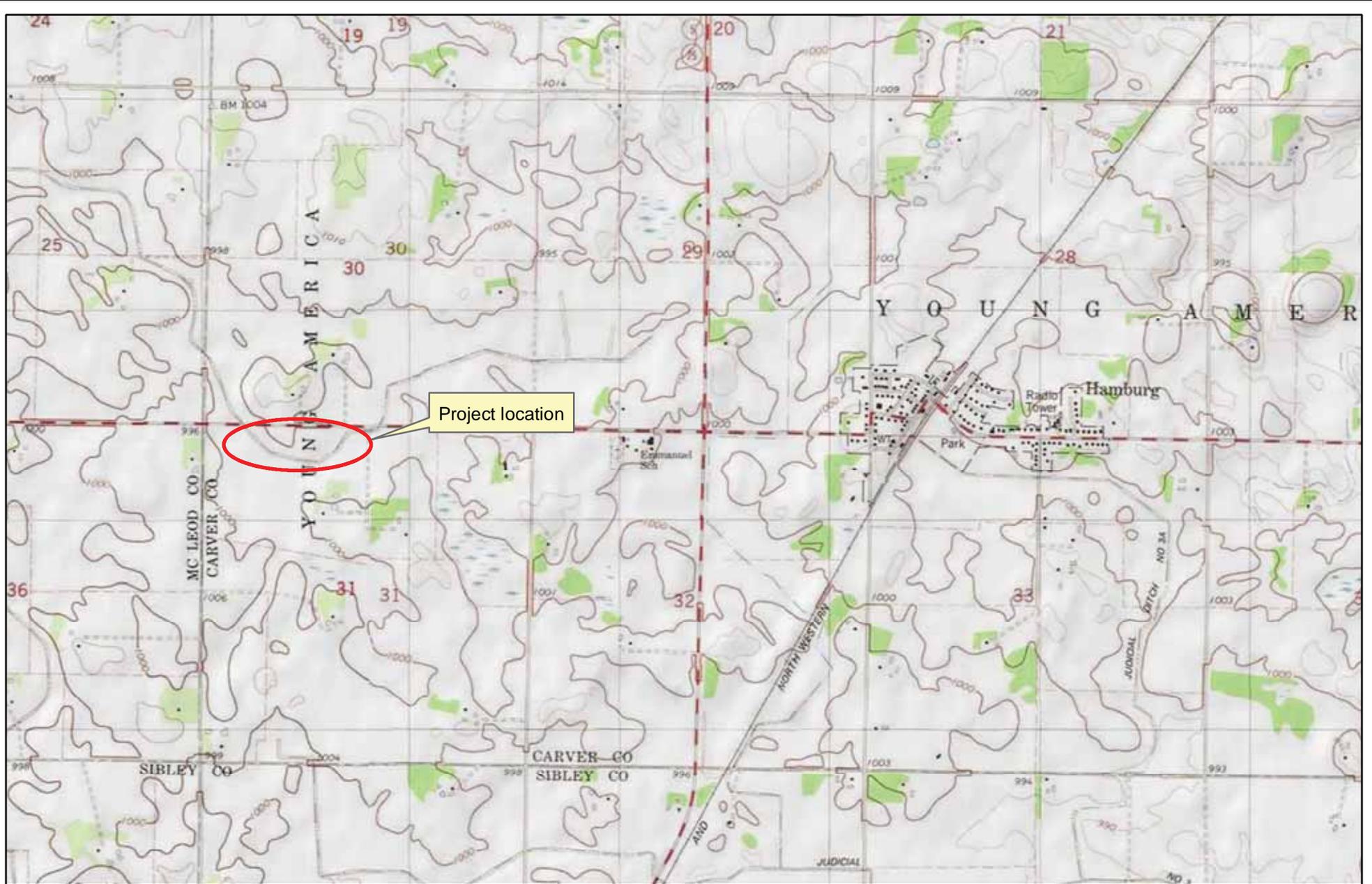
NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS: The existing ditch is approximately 20 feet wide, 1.5 feet deep, with 1:1 side slopes (rectangular cross-section). The proposed ditch would be approximately 30-35 feet wide, 4 feet deep, with 2:1 side slopes (trapezoidal cross-section). Excavation would result in grading activities within approximately 1,650 linear feet of existing ditch, impacting approximately 33,000-square feet of ditch bottom. All excavated material would be removed from the project site and placed in an upland location.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: No build: The applicant considered not deepening the ditch but determined that simply maintaining the existing cross-section of the ditch would not meet the overall purpose of the project; to improve drainage of upland fields adjacent to Zebra Ditch. The applicant also considered excavating the ditch without altering the ditch side-slopes but decided to incorporate more gradual slopes into the design for stability reasons and to meet local watershed district requirements.

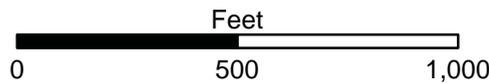
COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: Was not proposed by the applicant. The project as proposed would not adversely affect any wetland areas, and would not adversely affect any other special aquatic features.

Drawings: See attached.

Zebra Ditch Drainage Association Project



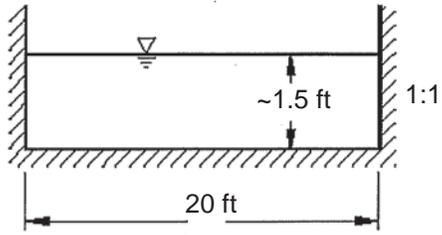
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Current ditch:



Proposed ditch:

