



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

SPONSOR: Charles Grunewald

Public Notice

ISSUED: January 26, 2015

EXPIRES: February 25, 2015

REFER TO: MVP-2013-04766-LSP

SECTION:404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Charles Grunewald
29979 Highway 78
Otter Tail, Minnesota 56571

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in SW ¼, Section 17, T132N, R42W, Otter Tail County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are N 5125587.37, E 269418.955. Latitude 46.244957, Longitude -95.990939.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area is Minnesota River (Bank Service Area 9).

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the Grunewald Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 23.96 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

Current land use, including adjacent properties – The proposed wetland bank is currently comprised of agricultural land planted in a rotation of corn and soybeans. There is an existing drainage system with a surface drain located in the basin. This drain tile system was constructed in the early 1900's and extends the length of the basin, exiting into a ditch located at the west side of the property. This basin has been determined to have originally contained a shallow marsh type wetland that was subsequently drained to allow for agricultural production. Adjacent properties are primarily agricultural land.

Modifications proposed to restore, establish, enhance and/or preserve wetlands on the bank site – The applicant will disable the drainage system in the basin by permanently plugging the drain tile near the outlet. The applicant is also proposing to build a control structure at the west end of the basin to raise the water level to the pre-drainage elevation of approximately 1,272.00 feet above sea level. The anticipated size of this basin is 16.80 acres. At this elevation, the deepest water in the basin will be approximately 5 feet deep. Much of the remaining open water in the wetland will be less than 3 feet deep which is anticipated to encourage the growth of emergent vegetation.

Native vegetation will be established in both the wetland basin and the upland buffer. The applicant has proposed to restore hydrology to the basin by disabling the drainage system and allowing native vegetation to develop naturally by inputs of native seed from surrounding wetland basins which will drain to the restored basin. Upland buffer will be established by planting a native, warm season seed mix around the wetland basin within the boundaries of the conservation easement. The size of the native upland buffer is anticipated to be approximately 4.76 acres. The southern 2.40 acre portion of the upland buffer will be located adjacent to an existing farmstead that currently contains oak forest

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with some non-native understory components. This 2.40 acre portion is located on a steep slope above the wetland basin and will be left as-is. The remainder of the property outside of the easement area will continue to be farmed after the bank has been constructed and operational.

Long-term management of the site: This site will be managed for a diverse, native plant community in the wetland basin and the upland buffer. The applicant has created a monitoring plan for the five years after construction of the bank. The applicant will be provided with success criteria and will be required to monitor the site for compliance with the standards for a period of five years. The bank will be protected by a permanent conservation easement that will protect the wetland in perpetuity.

The project would restore approximately 16.80 acres of wetlands with an additional 7.16 acres of restored upland buffer.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The surrounding land is currently under cultivation for row crops and would continue to be used as agricultural land after the bank is constructed.

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: This project has been coordinated with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, U.S. EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

3. REPLIES/COMMENTS

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, Bemidji Regulatory Field Office, 4111 Technology Drive, Suite 295, Bemidji, MN 56601.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Larry Puchalski at the Bemidji Regulatory Field Office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290-5339.

To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: http://mvp-extstp/list_server/ and add your information in the New Registration Box.

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4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT

None were identified by the bank sponsor or are known to exist in the action area. However, Otter Tail County is within the known historic range for the following Federally-listed species:

Northern Long-Eared Bat	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.
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Gray Wolf	Northern Forested Areas.
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This notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

5. JURISDICTION

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 any 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. Because this project is a mitigation bank, any required compensatory mitigation would be accounted for in the credit yield calculations. Any regulated discharges associated with implementation of a final approved bank plan could likely be authorized by regional general permit if the bank plan is approved before any regulated discharge occurs. Any **approved jurisdictional determination** needed will be made prior to reaching a decision, and will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

6. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL

The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps’ determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

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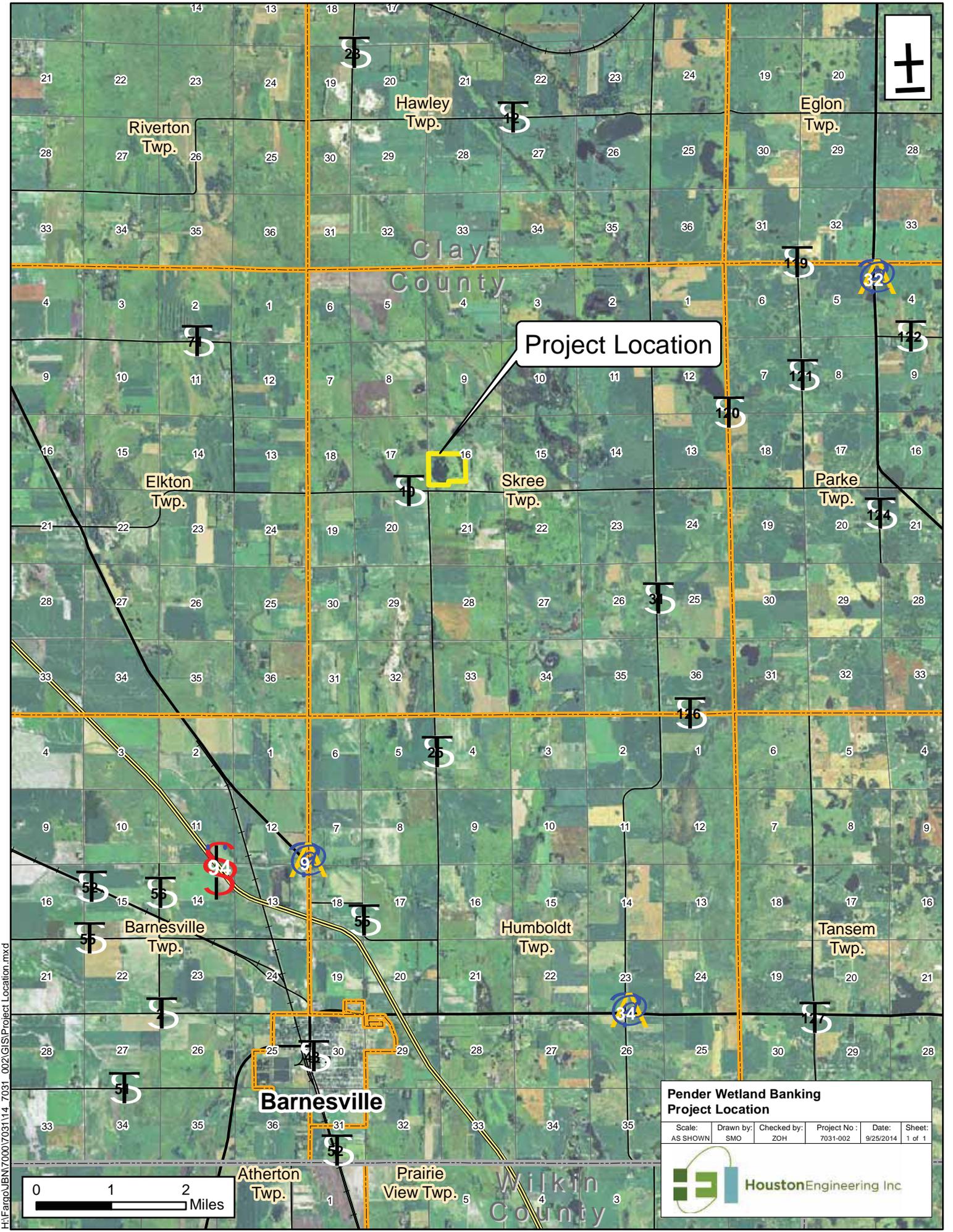
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7. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

Benjamin R. Cox
Northwest Section Chief

Enclosures



Project Location

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Pender Wetland Banking Project Location

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Houston Engineering Inc



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200TH ST S



Skree Twp.

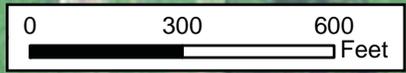
Clay County

90TH AVE S

25

2013 NAIP Image

 Project Boundary



Pender Wetland Banking Project Boundaries

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