



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

SPONSOR: Daniel and Melissa Kron

Public Notice

ISSUED: 3/7/2024

EXPIRES: 4/7/2024

REFER TO: 2023-00521-EJI

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Daniel and Melissa Kron
26183 133rd Avenue
Cold Spring, MN 56320

SPONSOR'S AGENT Granite City Environmental
c/o Clint Jordahl
P.O. Box 1382
St. Cloud, MN 56302

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 31, Township 124 North, Range 29 West, Stearns County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are X: 392241.558124, Y: 5039870.884096. Latitude: 45.504042, Longitude: -94.379377

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area (BSA) is the Upper Mississippi River Basin in Minnesota (BSA 7).

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the K&K Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 20 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT: The sponsor's stated objective for the proposed wetland bank is to restore natural hydrology to a wholly and partially drained wetland area and establish native non-invasive vegetation to the restored wetland area and adjacent buffer. The sponsor anticipates that restoring the natural hydrology to the basin will result in approximately 3 acres of shallow marsh with a 4 to 5-acre fringe of wet meadow. As stated by the sponsor in the prospectus, there is a need for wetland bank credits in BSA 7 because it incorporates most of the Twin City Metropolitan area and several counties that are experiencing the highest population growth rate in Minnesota. All or part of 5 of the 10 fastest growing counties in Minnesota are located within BSA 7. The bank site is located in an area of need for wetland credits to offset impacts associated with transportation projects, residential and commercial development, and industrial development.

ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT: The sponsor proposes to restore 8 acres of partially and completely drained farmed wetland to fresh wet meadow and shallow marsh by plugging a private drainage ditch and restoring native vegetation. The sponsor is also proposing to enhance or preserve 12 acres of upland buffer. Operation and management would be completed by the sponsor or third party contractors.

OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT: The Kron family is the landowner and proposes to be responsible for establishment and long-term management of the site.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS: The sponsor states that the project is technically feasible because it will only require disabling the single ditch that drains the closed basin. The sponsor states that they, their partners and agent have the experience in land surveying, wetland bank plan preparation and construction necessary to successfully complete the project.

ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: The sponsor states that the site does not have any physical, chemical or biological constraints that would limit the site's suitability for ecological restoration. Given the simplicity of the site (a single basin with a single drainage feature) and site's history as a drained wetland that has been cropped for several decades, the sponsor states the proposal to restore historic hydrology and native vegetation is ecologically suitable.

HYDROLOGY: The onsite hydrology is currently manipulated by a single ditch that flows out of the south end of the basin. Historic aerial photos show that the basin was inundated with surface water prior to construction of the ditch.

CURRENT LAND USES: The proposed wetland bank easement area is currently farmed cropland that is surrounded on the north, west and east sides by additional cropland owned by the sponsor. The adjacent property to the east is comprised of cropland and wooded, low density, rural residential property (See Figure 2).

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: The Corps is coordinating this proposal with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

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

The sponsor did not identify any Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat and none are known to exist in the action area of the project. However, Stearns County is within the known historic range for the following Federally-listed species.

Northern Long-eared Bat - *Myotis septentrionalis* (Endangered)

Tricolored Bat - *Perimyotis subflavus* (Proposed Endangered)

Whooping Crane - *Grus americana* (Experimental Population, Non- Essential)

Monarch Butterfly - *Danaus plexippus* (Candidate)

The Corps is coordinating this notice with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Corps will consider any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat in our final assessment of the described work.

4. JURISDICTION

The Corps is reviewing this proposal in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

5. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL

The Corps has consulted the latest version of the National Register of Historic Places and determined

that no listed properties (known to be eligible for inclusion or included in the Register) are located in the project area. The Corps will consider the potential effects of the project on any unidentified cultural resources and/or historic properties. The Corps will coordinate if required its determination on identification of historic properties and any effect findings with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties as appropriate independent of this public notice. The Corps will resolve any adverse effects on historic properties in coordination with consulting parties prior to the Corps' authorization of the work in connection with this project.

6. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that the Corps hold a public hearing to consider this proposal. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps may deny public hearing request(s) if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

7. REPLIES/COMMENTS

The Corps invites interested parties to submit written facts, arguments, or objections by the expiration date above. 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. The Corps will forward comments received to the sponsor and consider all comments during our evaluation. Interested parties can find a copy of the full prospectus in the RIBITS Cyber Repository at the following link:

https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:528358253025:::RP.278:P278_BANK_ID:6640

Comments can be electronically submitted to evan.j.ingebrigtsen@usace.army.mil If electronic submittal is not available, commenters should address replies to:

Regulatory Division
St. Paul District Corps of Engineers
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101-1323

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Evan Ingebrigtsen at the Brainerd office of the Corps, telephone number 651-290-5765.

To receive Public Notice notifications, go to: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Contact/RSS/> and subscribe to the RSS Feed for which you would like to receive Public Notices.

Enclosures: 2023-00521-EJI; K&K Wetland Bank, Public Notice Figures 1-8.



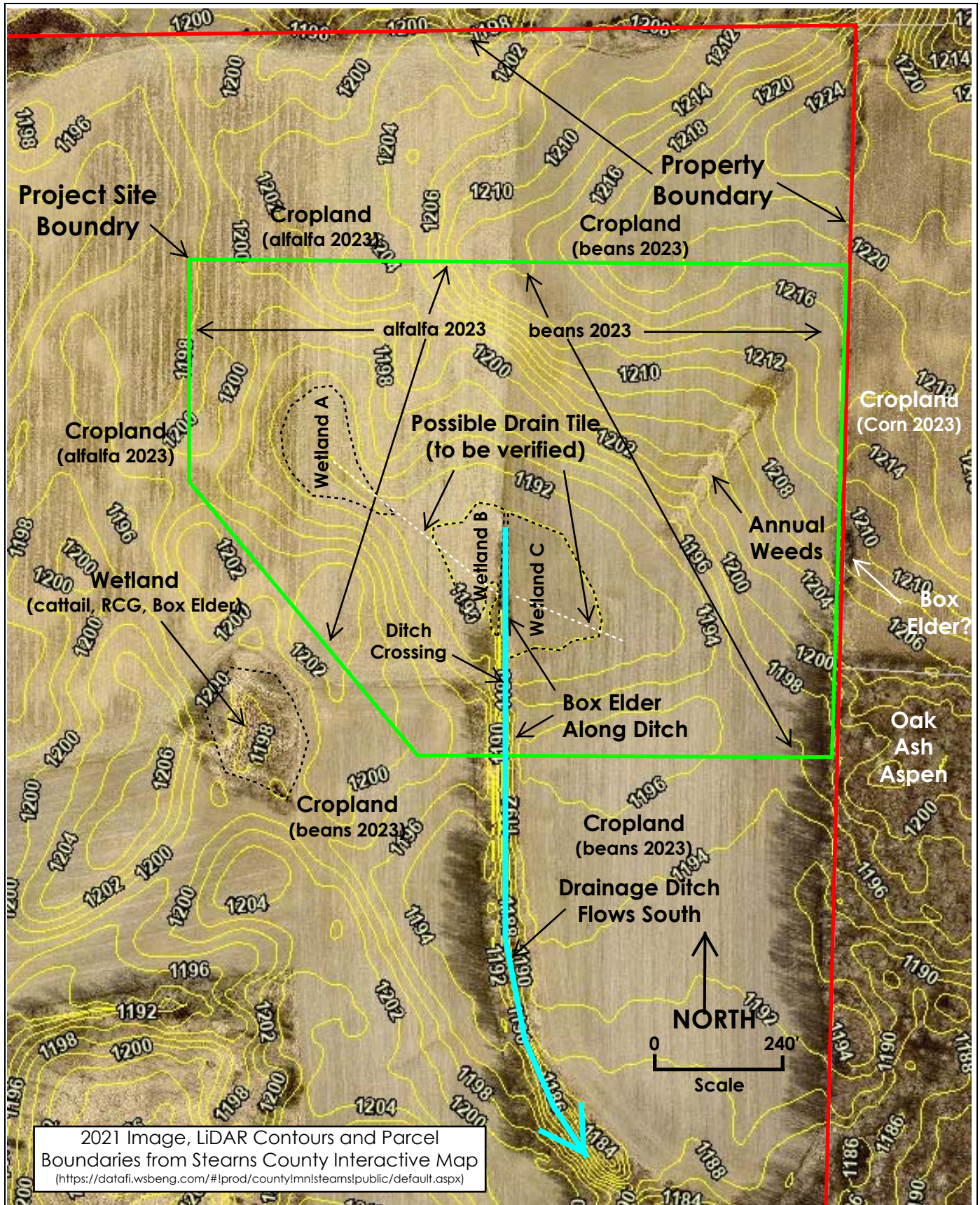
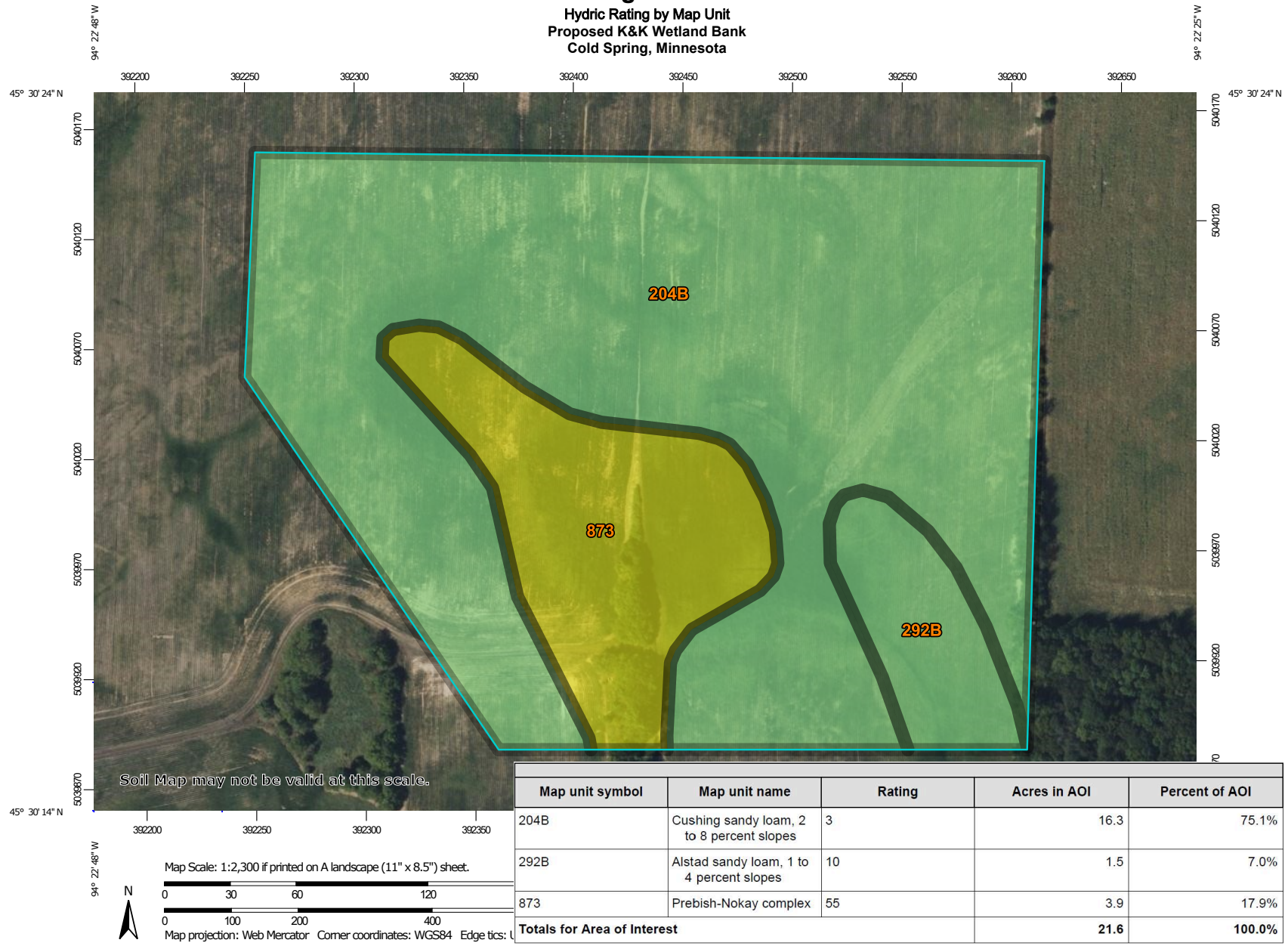


Figure 3
Hydric Rating by Map Unit
Proposed K&K Wetland Bank
Cold Spring, Minnesota



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey

Granite City
Environmental

10/13/2023
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