



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

SPONSOR: Aaron Olson

Public Notice

ISSUED: April 7, 2015

EXPIRES: May 7, 2015

REFER TO: 2014-02054-BGO

SECTION:404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Mr. Aaron Olson
3345 Highway 212
Dawson, Minnesota 56232

SPONSOR'S AGENT Mr. Dan Donayre
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
1960 Premier Drive
Mankato, Minnesota 56001-5900

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Sec. 4, T. 116N., R. 43W., Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are N 4974551.903, E 733914.955. Latitude 44.886, Longitude -96.038.

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the HRM Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 16.71 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

Current land use, including adjacent properties – Presently the site is drained by a series of private drain tiles. The site contains: (1) 3.50 acres of effectively-drained hydric soils (former wetlands) planted annually with row crops; (2) 6.06 acres of partially-drained wetlands planted annually with row crops; and (3) 7.15 acres of uplands planted annually with row crops. The site has been in row crop production since at least 1938. MVP-2014-02054-BGO, Page 5 of 10 shows the location and extent of the existing drain tile system and the contributing watershed. MVP-2014-02054-BGO, Page 6 of 10 shows the approximate boundary of the partially-drained wetland area.

Modifications proposed to restore, establish, enhance and/or preserve wetlands on the bank site - The sponsor proposes to restore by re-establishment and rehabilitation 1.81 acres of fresh (wet) meadow (Type 2) wetland, 7.75 acres of shallow marsh (Type 3) wetland, and 7.15 acres of upland buffer. MVP-2014-02054-BGO, Page 9 of 10 shows the proposed plant communities and acreages.

Hydrology will be restored to the wetland areas by disabling the existing drain tile system and constructing an earthen berm with a water control structure. The earthen berm is also necessary to avoid and minimize hydrologic impacts to adjoining properties. The clay material for the berm will be

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excavated from the bank site and the topsoil will be salvaged and replaced following construction. MVP-2014-02054-BGO, Page 8 of 10 and Page 10 of 10 detail the proposed construction plan and the hydrologic modifications.

To control weedy species prior to the restoration, the bank site will be planted with Roundup ready beans to allow for periodic herbicide treatments of the entire area.

Seeding will take place once all grade work and construction are completed. State seed mixes will be used for the whole project as follows:

- Upland buffer – Mix 35-541, Mesic Prairie Southwest
- Fresh meadow wetland – Mix 34-271 Wet Meadow South and West
- Shallow marsh wetland – Mix 34-181 Emergent Wetland

Vegetation maintenance is anticipated to consist of annual mowing and spot spraying. Maintenance activities will target agricultural weeds and invasive species throughout the site. A schedule of maintenance activities will be prepared for the first five years following vegetation establishment.

Long-term management of the site: The established bank site would be managed by the sponsor or their successors in property ownership. The site would be adaptively managed for development of herbaceous and emergent communities dominated by native species common to the bank area. Credit sales would be tracked by the sponsor and reported to the state as required by state law. The reported credit releases and sales would be tracked on both Corps and state databases using ledger data supplied by the state. By state law, long-term management of the property would be the responsibility of the landowner and the sponsor until all released credits have been debited. After all credits are debited, long-term management obligations would fall to the landowner under state law. Additional protections and management limitations would be spelled out in both a conservation easement and in an approved bank plan.

The project would restore approximately 9.56 acres of wetlands with an additional 7.15 acres of restored upland buffer.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The proposed bank site is located approximately 2 miles south of Dawson, Minnesota. Surrounding land use is primarily agricultural.

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: This project has been previously coordinated with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District, and 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.

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Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant. A copy of the full prospectus submitted by the Sponsor is available to the public for review upon request.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Benjamin Orne at the St. Paul office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290-5280.

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

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, Lac qui Parle 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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Poweshiek Skipperling	Native prairie habitat.
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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>.

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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.

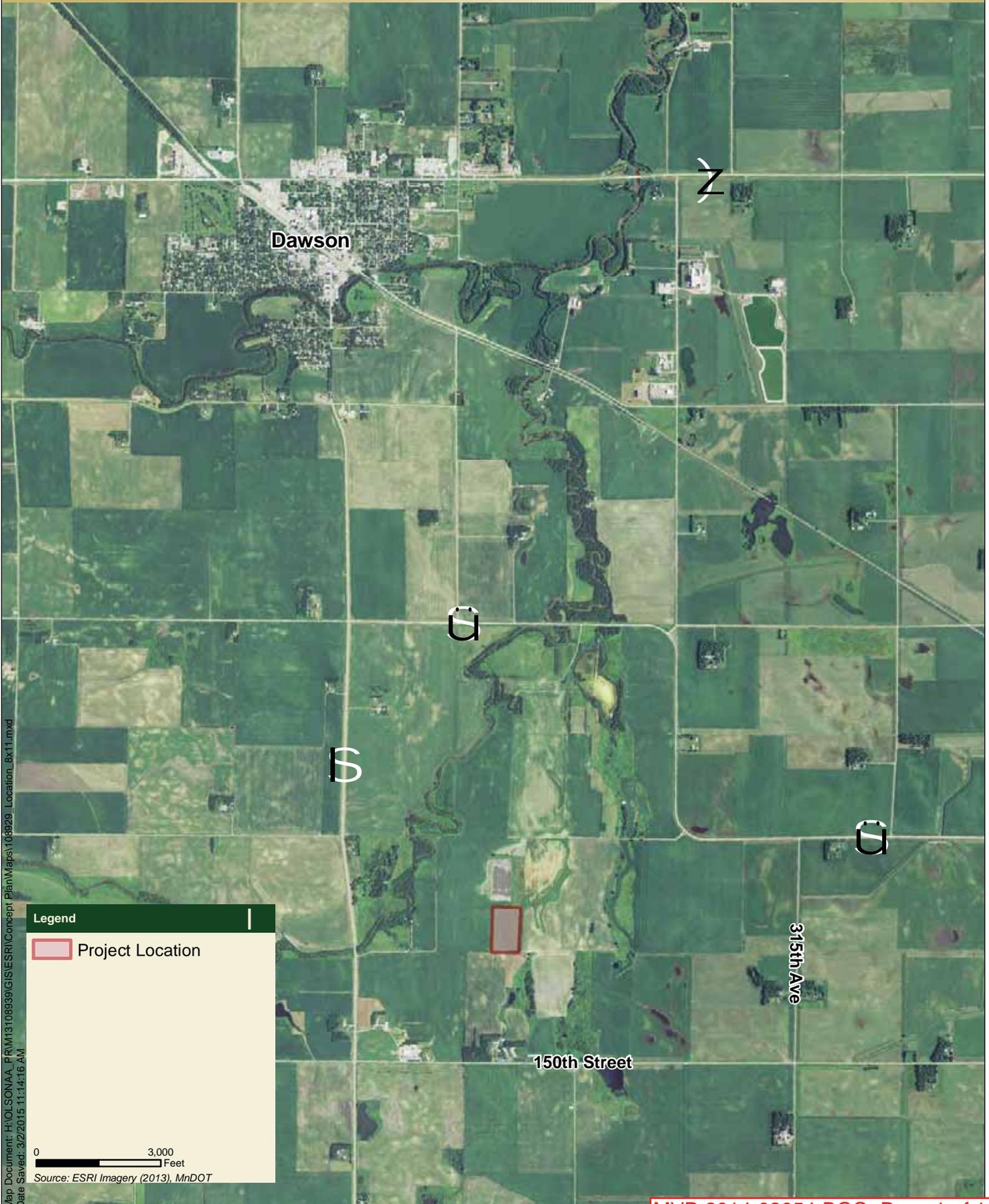
The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no listed properties (known to be eligible for inclusion, or included in the Register) are located in the project area.

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.

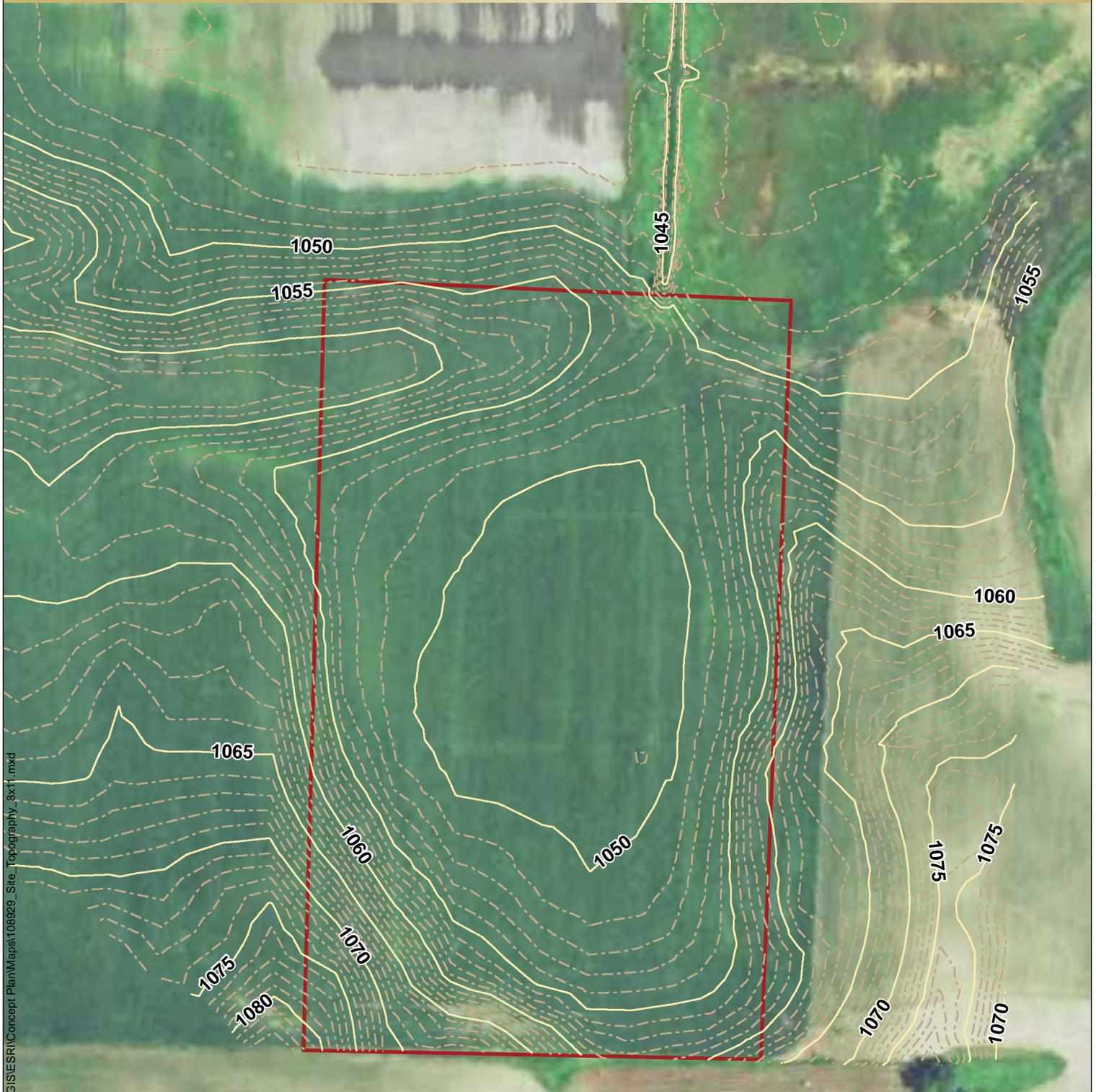
Tamara E. Cameron,
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosure(s)





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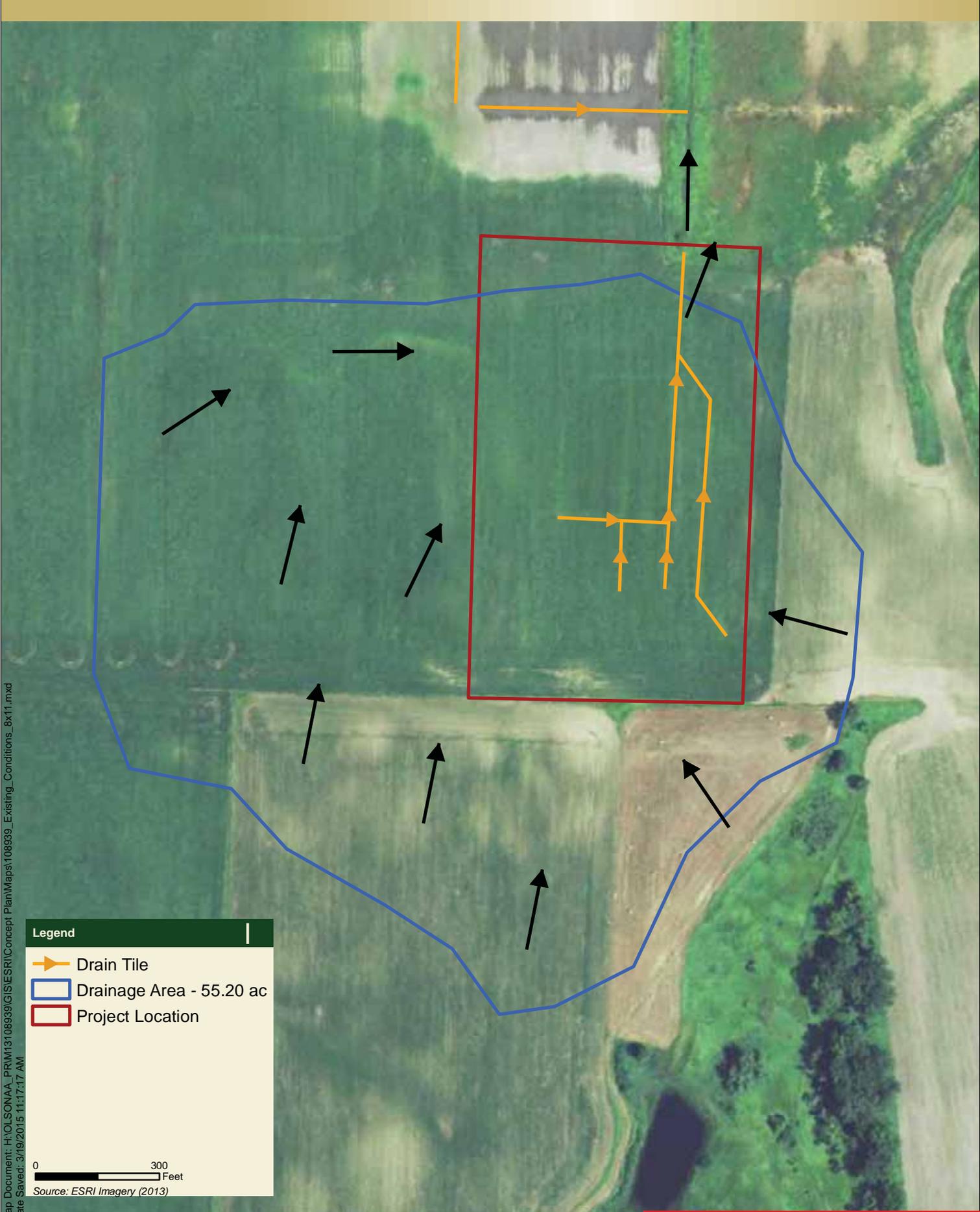


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Legend

- Index Contour
- Intermediate Contour
- Project Location

0 200 Feet
Source: ESRI Imagery (2013)

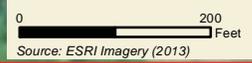


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Source: ESRI Imagery (2013)



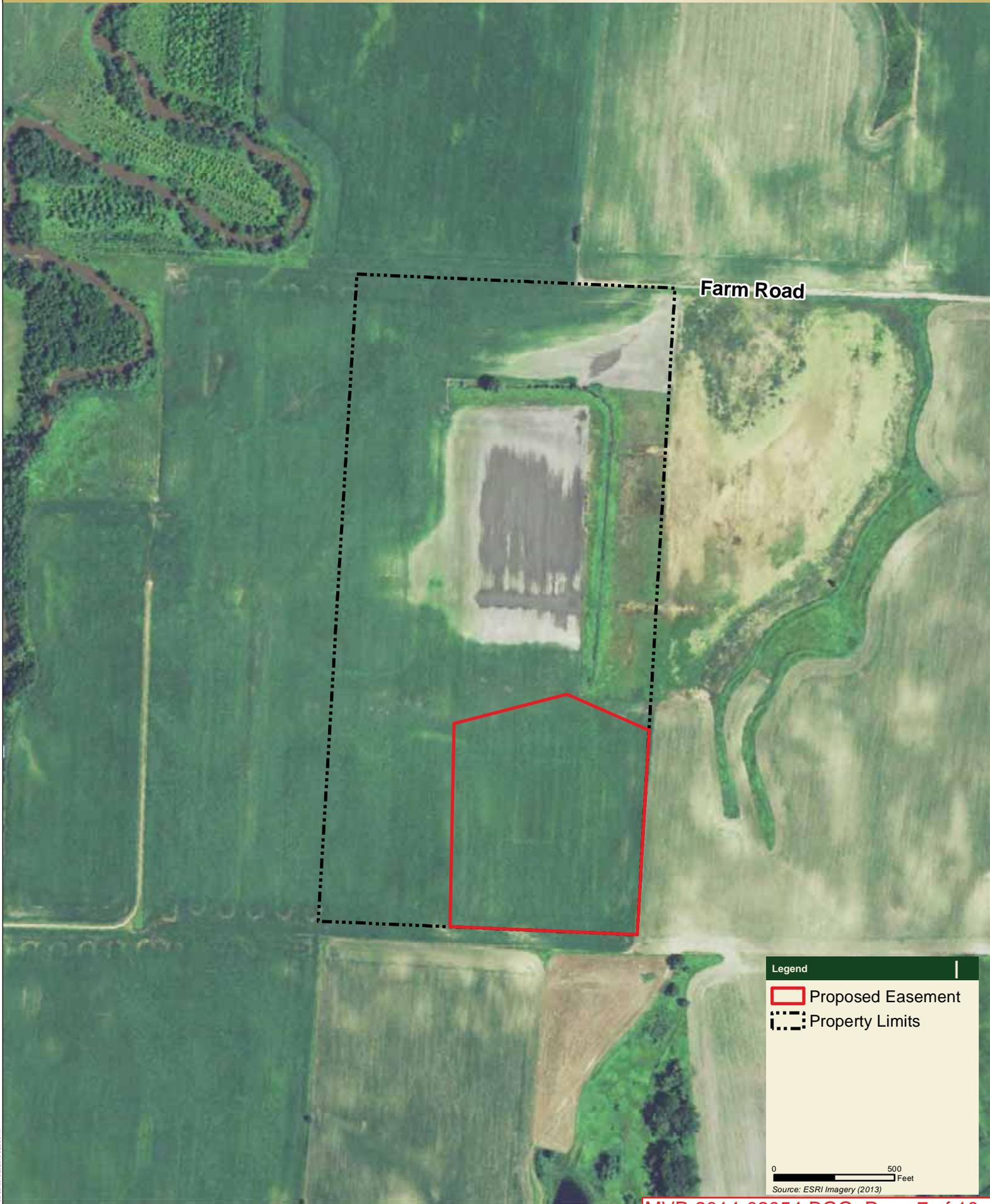
Legend

-  Delineated Wetlands
-  Project Location



Source: ESRI Imagery (2013)

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Farm Road

Legend

-  Proposed Easement
-  Property Limits

0 500 Feet

Source: ESRI Imagery (2013)

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Legend

- Outlet Structure
- Outlet Pipe
- Berm
- Drainage Area - 55.20 acres
- - - Easement

0 300 Feet
Source: ESRI Imagery (2013)

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Legend

-  Type 2 - 1.81 acres
-  Type 3 - 7.75 acres
-  Buffer - 7.15 acres
-  Proposed Easement

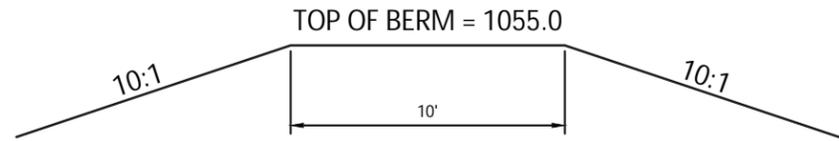
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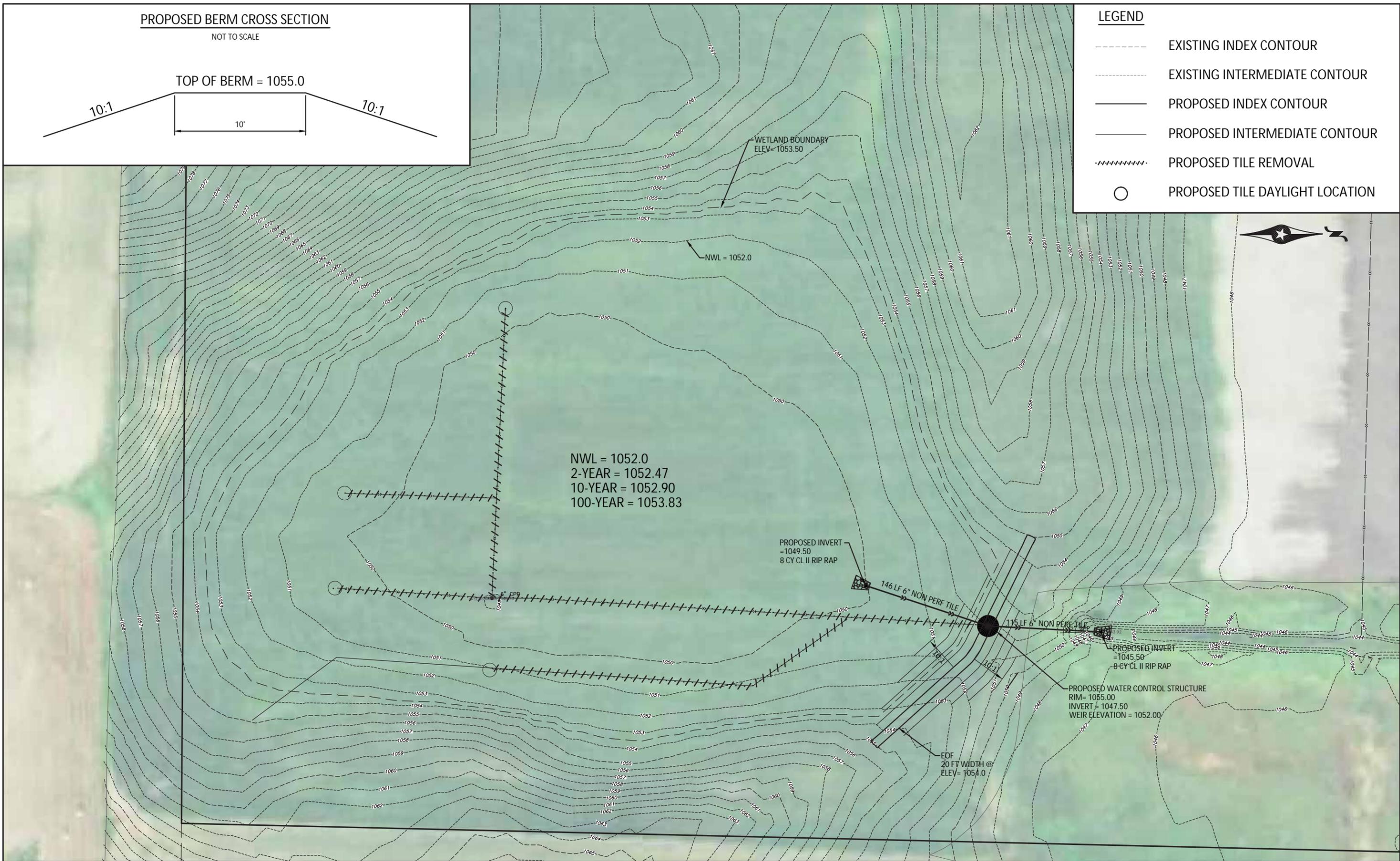
PROPOSED BERM CROSS SECTION

NOT TO SCALE



LEGEND

- EXISTING INDEX CONTOUR
- EXISTING INTERMEDIATE CONTOUR
- PROPOSED INDEX CONTOUR
- PROPOSED INTERMEDIATE CONTOUR
- PROPOSED TILE REMOVAL
- PROPOSED TILE DAYLIGHT LOCATION



BOLTON & MENK, INC.
Consulting Engineers & Surveyors
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CHASKA, MN RAMSEY, MN MAPLEWOOD, MN BAXTER, MN ROCHESTER, MN
AMES, IA SPENCER, IA DES MOINES, IA FARGO, ND

AARON OLSON	FIGURE 13
HRM WETLAND BANK	
CONCEPT PLAN	

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