

SPONSOR: Wisconsin Environmental

Restorations

**Public Notice** 

ISSUED: April 28, 2025 EXPIRES: May 28, 2025

REFER TO: 2014-01566-LED SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK MODIFICATION PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Leland Christenson

Wisconsin Environmental Restorations

P.O. Box 99 Strum Strum, Wisconsin 54770

SPONSOR'S AGENT Mark Krumenacher

GZA

17975 West Sarah Lane, Suite 100 Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045

PROJECT LOCATION: The Site is in Sections 18 and 19, Township 48N, Range 13W in the Town of Parkland, Douglas County, Wisconsin. The Bank Site is located along the northside of Valley Brook Road at the vicinity of the Valley Brook Road and Pine Street intersection. The Enbridge Energy pipeline corridor is located on the south and north easternmost corners of the site. The Wild Rivers Trail and Valley Brook Road intersection is slightly over 0.25 mile west of the sites southwestern corner. The northern border of the site is the CN railroad. The Site is in the St. Louis and Lower Nemadji River Watershed. Bluff Creek, which drains the site, flows to the north-northeast before entering Allouez Bay. The Bank Site is in the Lake Superior Service Area (BSA); the Beartrap-Nemadji 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC); and the Lower Nemadji River Watershed 10-digit HUC.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: This project involves the modification of an existing, approved wetland mitigation bank site. Mitigation banks are approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation credits which sponsors sell to permittees seeking Department of the Army authorization for impacts to aquatic resources.

The Corps originally approved the Bluff Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank on October 9, 2020. The Sponsor completed site construction and seeding in 2020 and received their initial credit release for construction in January 2021. In 2022 the Sponsor and Interagency Review Team (IRT) identified issues with the site performance, specifically the failure of an outlet structure and deficient of wetland hydrology or vegetation. As a condition of the continued sale of previously released credits and future release of additional credits, the Corps required the Sponsor to develop a corrective action plan to address these issues and bring the site into compliance with the objectives of their mitigation plan.

On April 8, 2025, the sponsor submitted their plan for redesigning the site, which they believe will allow them to successfully restore wetlands, achieve vegetative and hydrologic performance standards, and generate additional credit releases. The Sponsor is proposing to modify the site's

design to include the complete backfilling all drainage ditches and swales onsite (see enclosure figures for details on the specific ditches identified for removal). To obtain material for these ditch removals, the Sponsor proposes to obtain onsite material from the locations identified on the enclosed figures. The sponsor is also proposing a new design for the main outlet that their engineer believes will be stable and self-sustaining. The sponsor is not proposing to add any additional acreage or any changes to the types or extent of wetlands originally proposed. The sponsor is proposing a revised monitoring plan, specifically additional well installation to ensure site hydrology is sufficiently monitored.

The Corps is reviewing this proposal in accordance with the standard modification review process laid out in 33 CFR 332.8(d) and 33 CFR 332.8(f)(1).

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: This project has been coordinated with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Minnesota Bureau of Aeronautics.

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

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 plans 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 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 unidentified properties. The Corps will coordinate 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.

Comments can be electronically submitted to Leslie.e.day@usace.army.mil. If electronic submittal is not available, commenters should address replies to:

Regulatory Division

Regulatory Division (File No. 2014-01566-LED)

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 Leslie Day at the St. Paul District Office of the Corps, telephone number 651-290-5365.

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Enclosure(s): Figures 1-5









