



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

**SPONSOR:** KCI Technologies Inc.

# Public Notice

**ISSUED:** April 17, 2025

**EXPIRES:** May 17, 2025

**REFER TO:** MVP-2022-02313-ANM

**SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act**

1. WETLAND AND STREAM COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL
2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**SPONSOR'S ADDRESS:** KCI Technologies Inc.  
c/o Harald Jordahl  
434 S. Yellowstone Drive, Suite 202  
Madison, Wisconsin 53719

**SPONSOR'S AGENT** N/A

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located in Section 5, Township 15 North, Range 3 West, Monroe County, Wisconsin. The approximate UTM coordinates are N 679514.193834, E 4853134.527281. Latitude 43.809488, Longitude -90.768099.

**BANK SERVICE AREA:** The proposed bank service area located within the Upper Mississippi-Black Root Service Area (HUC-70400).

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** The sponsor is proposing to develop the Little La Crosse River Headwaters Stream and Wetland Mitigation Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 92 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

**NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT:** This proposal was previously advertised on public notice on January 25, 2023, and the sponsor has made several revisions to the original proposal. The revisions include the addition of four parcels (Parcels A-D in Figure 1) and modification of the stream restoration design (Figure 6). The objective of the project is to re-establish a functioning stream/wetland complex that complements the adjacent DNR owned fisheries conservation easement on the Little La Crosse River, increase functions of the existing wetlands on site, and provide water quality improvement for the contributing drainages. The successful achievement of the objectives would result in the re-establishment of 15.87 acres of shrub-carr and 0.40 acre of wooded swamp; the re-habilitation of 8.15 acres of shrub-carr and 28.23 acres of wooded swamp, the establishment of 20.16 acres of buffer; and the restoration of 1,456 linear feet of stream. The site, if approved, would have approximately 47.08 compensatory wetland mitigation credits and 389 functional feet of compensatory stream mitigation credits that applicants for Department of the Army permits could purchase to offset unavoidable losses of wetlands and/or streams. More refined credits amounts will be determined if the sponsor moves on to the DMBI stage.

**ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT:** The site would be restored by returning the site to a sustainable condition, re-establishing the ecological function and value lost as a result of farming activities over the past 100 years. Restoration of the site includes the removal of tile drains (Figure 3), filling drainage ditches, removal of placed fill, priority 1 restoration of an un-named tributary to the Little La Cross River (labeled Existing Ditch in Figure 4), removal of invasive species, and re-

establishment of native, wetland vegetation. The project will restore 53.70 acres of wetland, establish 20.16 acres of buffer, and restore 1,456 linear feet of an un-named tributary of the Little La Crosse River (Figures 5 and 6).

The sponsor would track credit sales and report sales to the state as required by state law. The state will track sales and approved credit releases in its database, and the Corps will track sales using ledger data supplied by the state and credit releases it approves.

**OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT:** KCI Environmental Technologies and Construction Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the project sponsor, currently owns or is in agreements to acquire all the parcels within the entire site (Figure 1). Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) owns the adjacent La Crosse River Comprehensive Fisheries Management Area and holds a Fisheries Easement on the reach of the La Crosse River that transects the site. The project sponsor will place a perpetual conservation easement on the property to be held by WDNR or other land conservatorship as appropriate. KCI will consult with WDNR regarding long term management in association with the adjacent La Crosse River Comprehensive Fisheries Management Area.

**TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS:** The project sponsor (KCI) employs environmental, engineering, and construction professionals with extensive training and skills in mitigation planning to include site selection, plan development, design, construction, management, monitoring, and remedial action. KCI has been involved in the location, design, development, and management of about 1,600 acres of wetland and 40 miles of stream restoration and has experience with both public and private clients.

**ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY:** The site was historically a stream/wetland complex that constituted a headwaters drainage to the Little La Crosse River. The site has been altered to support agriculture, resulting in reduced functionality. The remnant conditions offer the ability to effectively return the site to a sustainable condition, thereby restoring its lost functions and values. Removal of the altered features including tile drain, fill, ditches, and re-establishment of the tributaries to the Little La Crosse River, would restore the interconnected complex of habitats on the site and restore hydrology to the system. Reconnecting the tributaries to the floodplains and wetland on the site would result in increased flood attenuation, nutrient processing, and in-stream habitat.

**HYDROLOGY:** Hydrology of the project site would be supported by both groundwater and surface water inputs. The site is located in the 100-year floodplain of the Little La Crosse River, and it receives drainage from an approximately 12,000-acre watershed. Re-establishing the natural flow paths onto the site would provide sufficient water to restore the system and achieve the objectives. There are no restrictions or rights to the water that would prevent the proposed restoration actions to restore effective wetland hydrology to the site. The site is geomorphically positioned such that removal of drainage improvements on site will not impact adjacent properties. WDNR holds a 66' wide fisheries access easement along both banks of the Little La Crosse River reach through the site boundary. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) holds a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) easement that forms a 30' wide buffer around the DNR access easement. The total of these two easements is 9.13 acres and is exclusive of the periphery buffer. There are no known water easements, soil, mineral, or biomass rights over the site. The sponsor has had preliminary conversations with the WDNR fisheries manager regarding the proposed work.

**CURRENT LAND USES:** The 92-acre site consists of farmed wetland and conserved land in a riparian buffer along the Little La Crosse River (Figures 8 and 9). The site shares its northern boundary with the La Crosse River Comprehensive Fishery Area (WDNR owned), which will be used

as a reference for establishing community types, species selection, and community transitions for the project. The site was cleared, ditched, drained, and filled to support its utilization for agriculture prior to 1939. Continued improvements to affect this conversion occurred through 1976. Tributaries to the Little La Crosse River bisect the site and were ditched and straightened prior to 1939. The site is located 10.4 miles from the closest airport. Two overhead utility lines are present in the northeast corner of the site and these areas have been excluded from crediting (Figure 5).

**COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES:** The Corps is coordinating this project with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### 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, Monroe 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.
Tricolored Bat	Found in caves and mines during winter and found in forested habitats during spring, summer, and fall.
Gray Wolf	Found in wide range of habitats including temperate forests, mountain, tundra, taiga, and grasslands.
Whooping Crane	Found in open wetlands and lakeshores.
Karner Blue Butterfly	Lives in oak savannas and pine barren ecosystems and found predominantly along the northern bank of wild lupine's (the only plant Karner blue larvae can eat) range
Northern Wild Monkshood	Found in moist, moss ledges and cliff bases with cold air drainage resulting in a cool soil environment.

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 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. Interested parties can find a copy of the full revised prospectus in the RIBITS Cyber Repository at the following link:

[https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:3974855921505:::P278\\_BANK\\_ID:6529](https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:3974855921505:::P278_BANK_ID:6529)

Comments can be electronically submitted to [April.N.Marcangeli@usace.army.mil](mailto:April.N.Marcangeli@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, please call April Marcangeli at the Brookfield, Wisconsin office at (651) 290-5731.

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.

Enclosure(s)  
PN Figures 1-9



**Map 1: Parcels**  
**Little La Crosse River**  
**Headwaters Restoration Site**

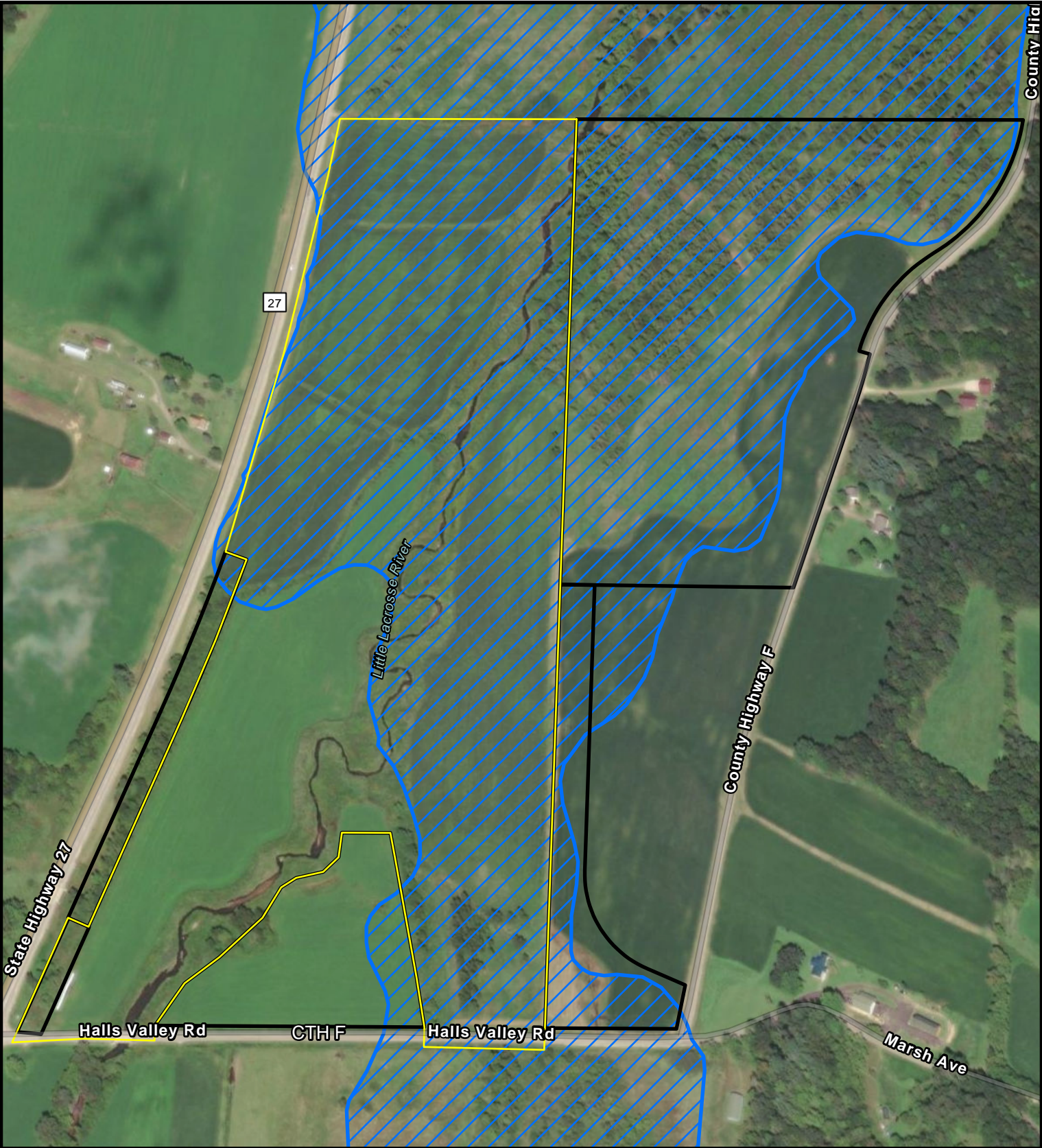
ESRI Image Basemap  
Monroe County, WI  
Map Created: 2/20/2025



0 200 400 800 Feet

- KCI Owned Parcel
- ▭ KCI Aquired Parcel





**Map 2: Hydric Soil  
Little La Crosse River  
Headwaters Restoration Site**

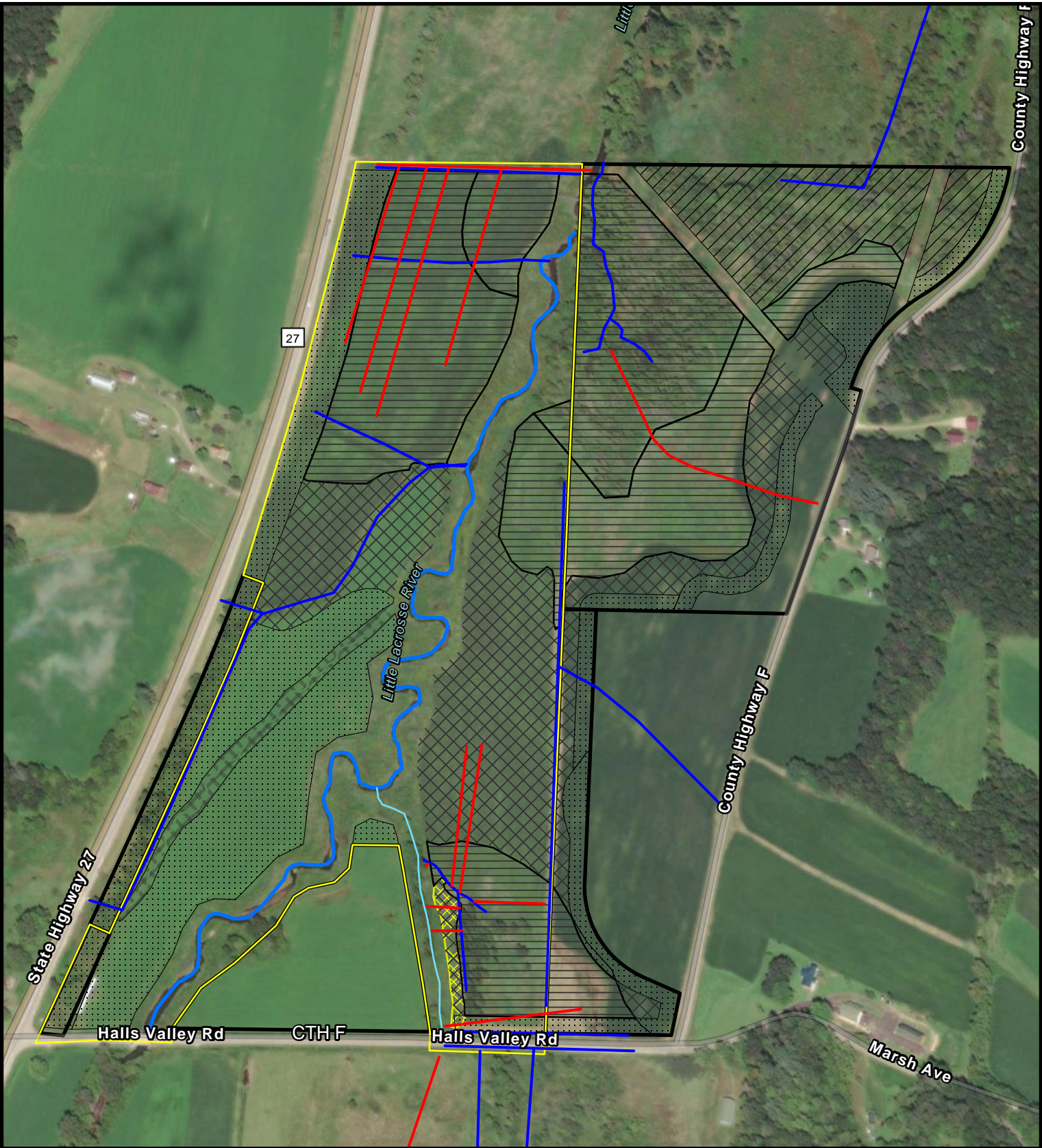
ESRI Image Basemap  
Monroe County, WI  
Map Created: 2/20/2025



0 200 400 800 Feet

- KCI Owned Parcel
- ▭ KCI Aquired Parcel
- ▨ Partially Hydric to Hydric Soils





**Map 3: Restoration Actions  
Little La Crosse River  
Headwaters Restoration Site**

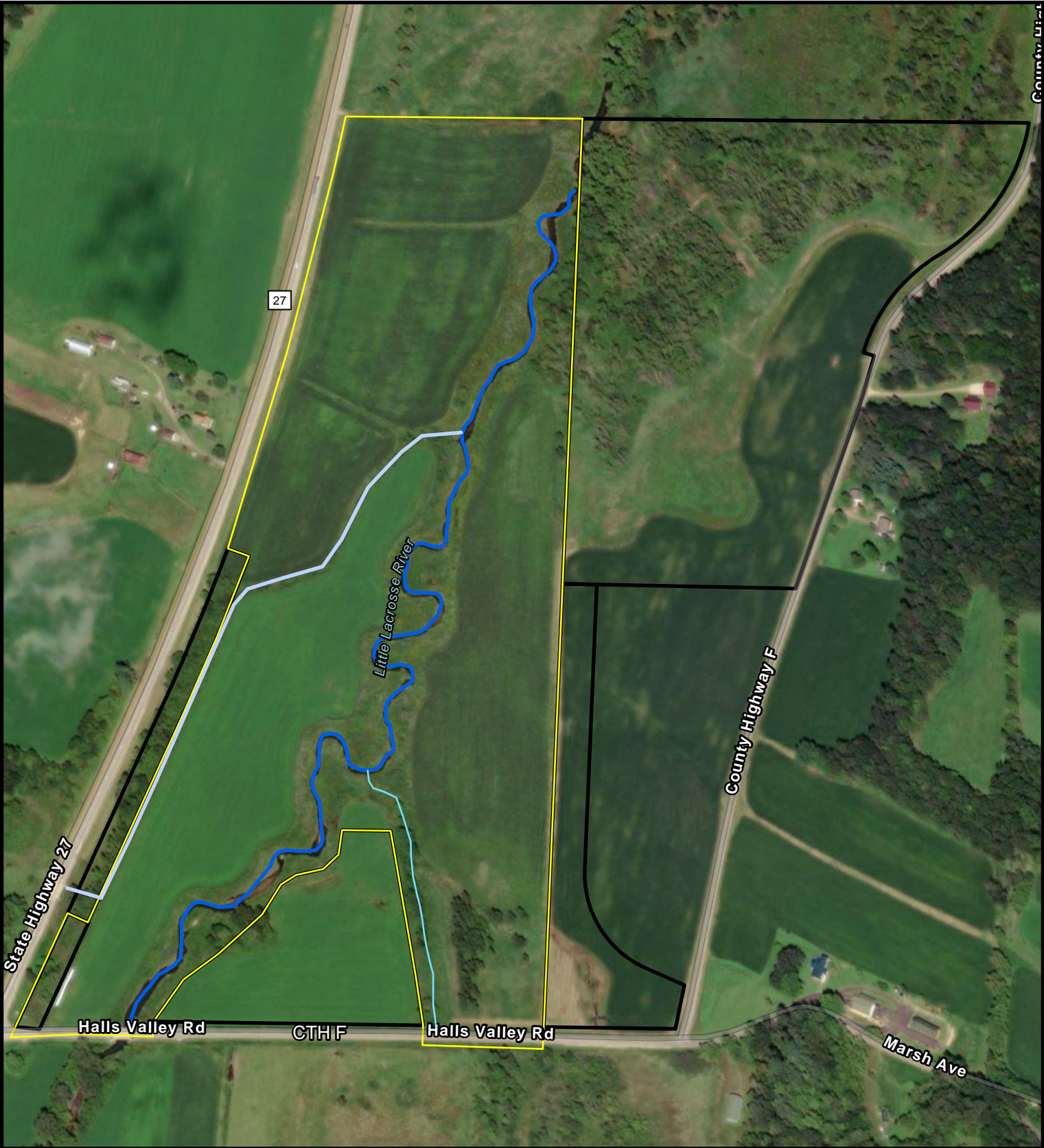
ESRI Image Basemap  
Monroe County, WI  
Map Created: 2/20/2025



0 200 400 800 Feet

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| — KCI Owned Parcel       | Credit Type               |
| — KCI Aquired Parcel     | — Buffer                  |
| — Little La Crosse River | — Effective Riparian Area |
| — Ditch                  | — Reestablishment         |
| — Tile                   | — Rehabilitation          |
| — Ditched Tributary      | — Rehabilitation 2        |
| — Wetland Filled Area    |                           |





**Map 4: Existing Ditch  
Little La Crosse River  
Headwaters Restoration Site**

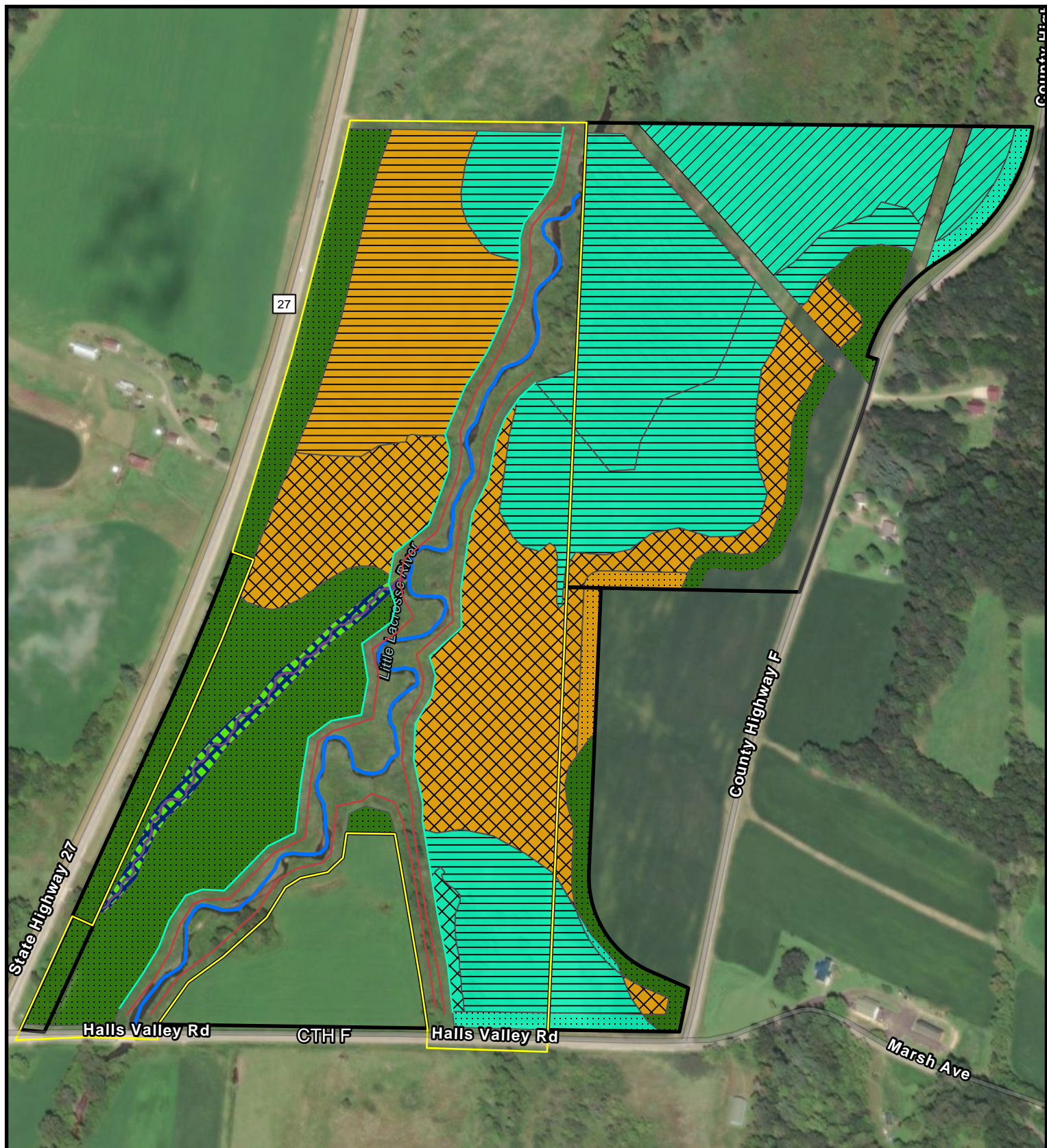
ESRI Image Basemap  
Monroe County, WI  
Map Created: 2/20/2025



0 200 400 800 Feet

- KCI Owned Parcel
- KCI Acquired Parcel
- Little La Crosse River
- Existing Ditch
- Ditched Tributary





**Map 5: Credit Type  
Little La Crosse River  
Headwaters Restoration Site**

ESRI Image Basemap  
Monroe County, WI  
Map Created: 2/20/2025



0 200 400 800 Feet

- KCI Owned Parcel
- KCI Aquired Parcel
- Little La Crosse River
- WIDNR Fisheries Easement
- DATCP CERP Easement

- Credit Type
- Buffer
  - Effective Riparian Area
  - Reestablishment
  - Rehabilitation
  - Rehabilitation 2

- Community
- Floodplain
  - Forest
  - Shrub Carr
  - Wooded Swamp



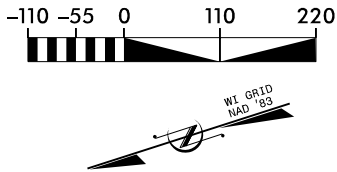
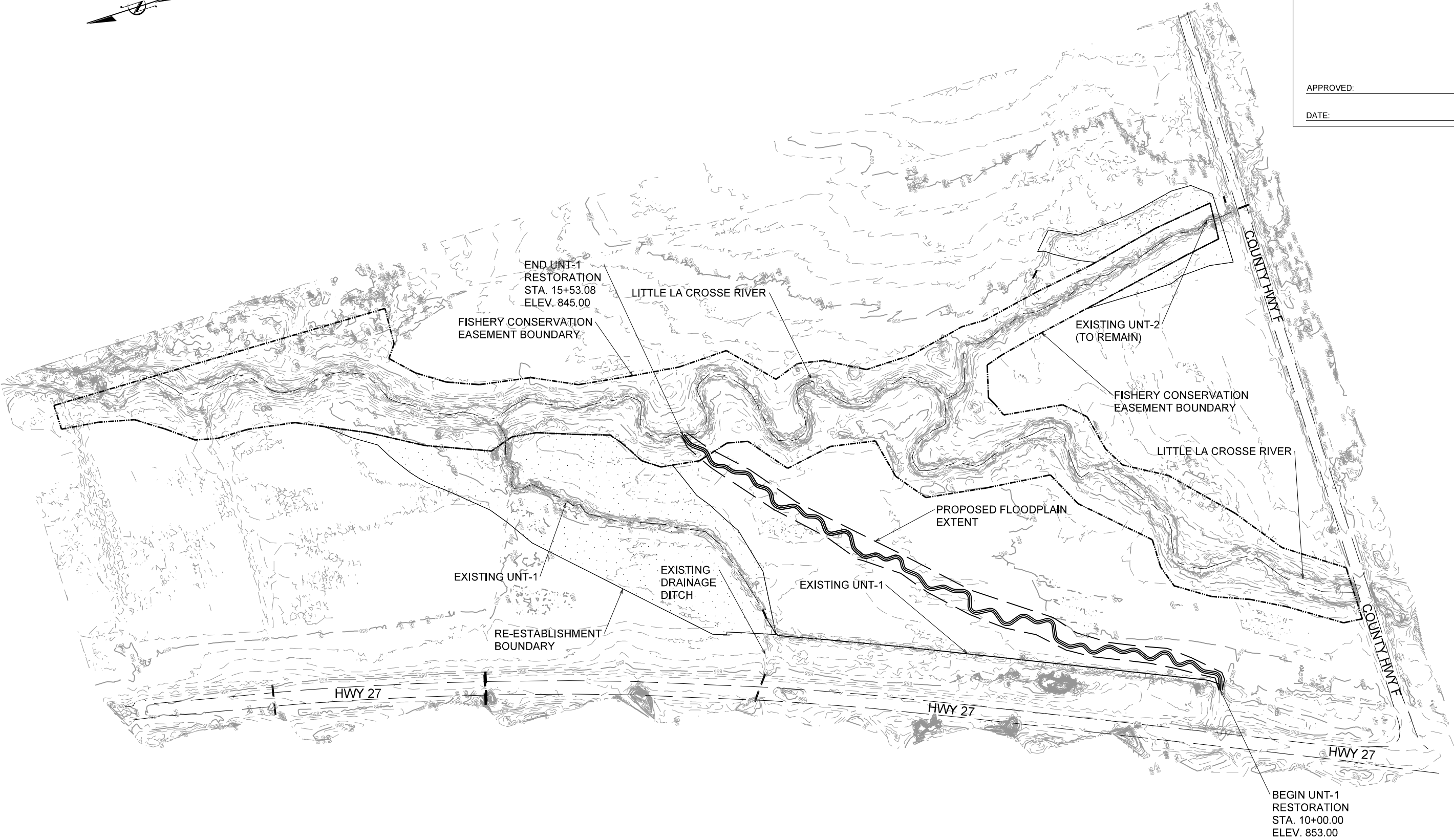


Figure 6 Unnamed Tributary Restoration Plan



APPROVED:

DATE:

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	REVISIONS	
		DATE	APPROVED

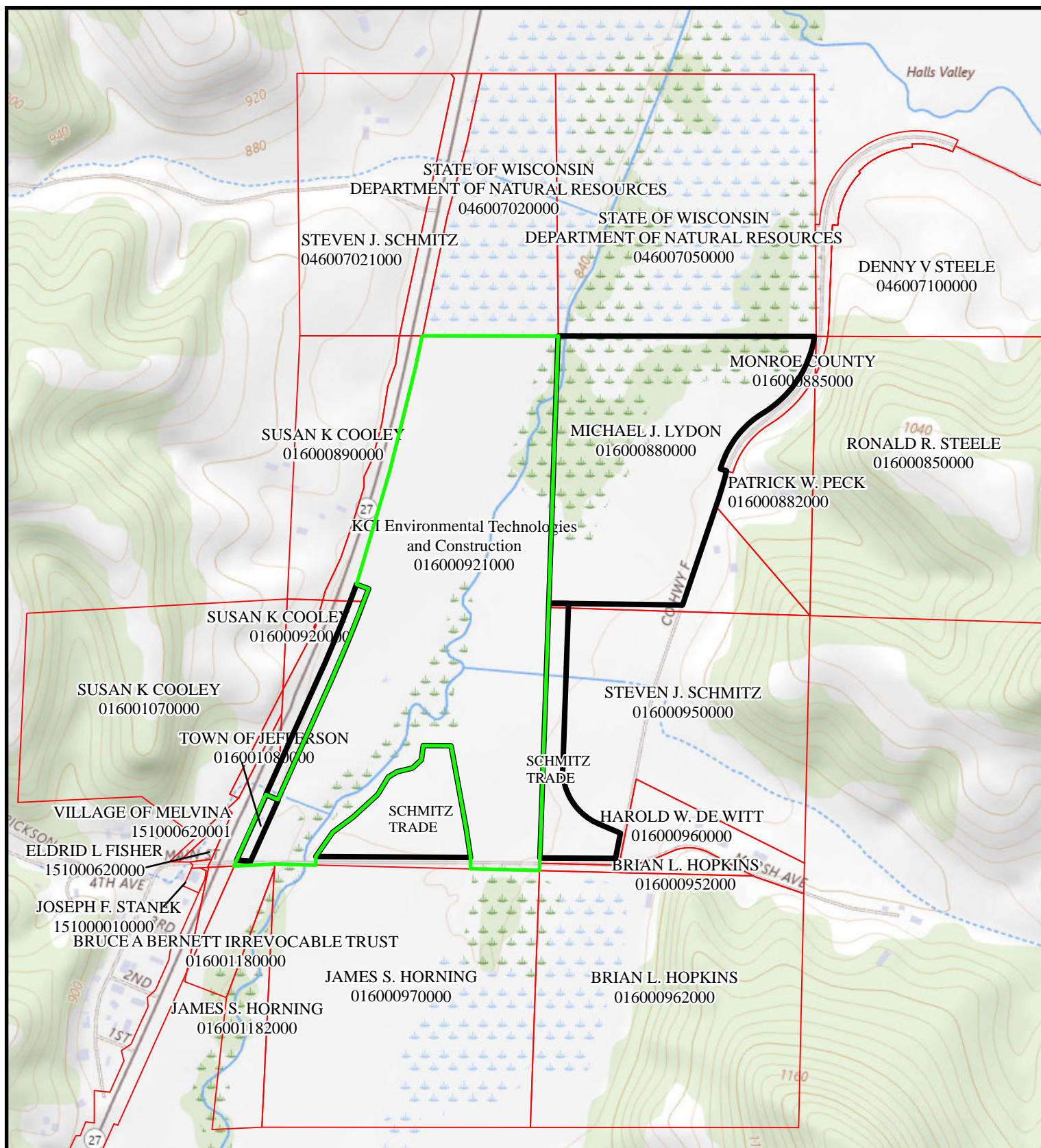


LITTLE LA CROSSE RIVER HEADWATERS  
STREAM & WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT  
MONROE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

DATE: JANUARY 2024  
SCALE: GRAPHIC

UNT-1  
RESTORATION  
OVERVIEW





**Figure 7: Adjacent Parcels**  
**Little La Crosse River**  
**Headwaters Restoration Site**

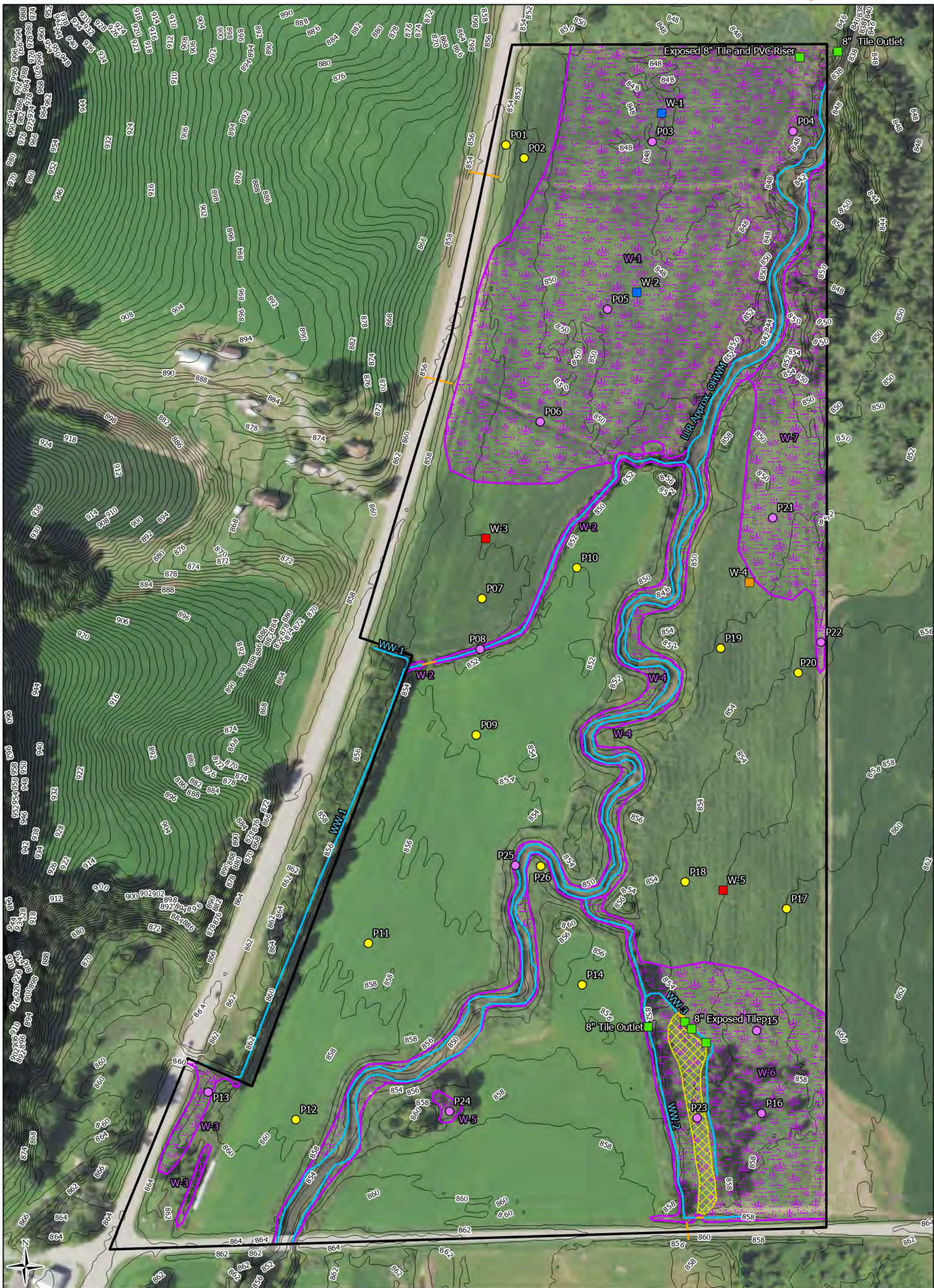
USGS Topo Basemap  
 Monroe County, WI  
 Map Created: 2/20/2025

0 195 390 780 Feet



- KCI Owned Parcel
- KCI Aquired Parcels
- Adjacent Parcels





- Study Area (64.75 ac)
- Monroe Co 2' Contours
- Culverts
- Waterways
- Drainage Features / Tile Outlets
- Field Delineated Wetlands (23.63 ac)
- Wetland Fill ca 2020/2021 (0.43 ac)

- Sample Points
- Upland
  - Wetland
- Monitoring Well Locations (Sp 2023 Data)
- Met Wetland Hydrology
  - Borderline Wetland Hydrology
  - Did Not Meet Wetland Hydrology



**Heartland**  
ECOLOGICAL GROUP INC

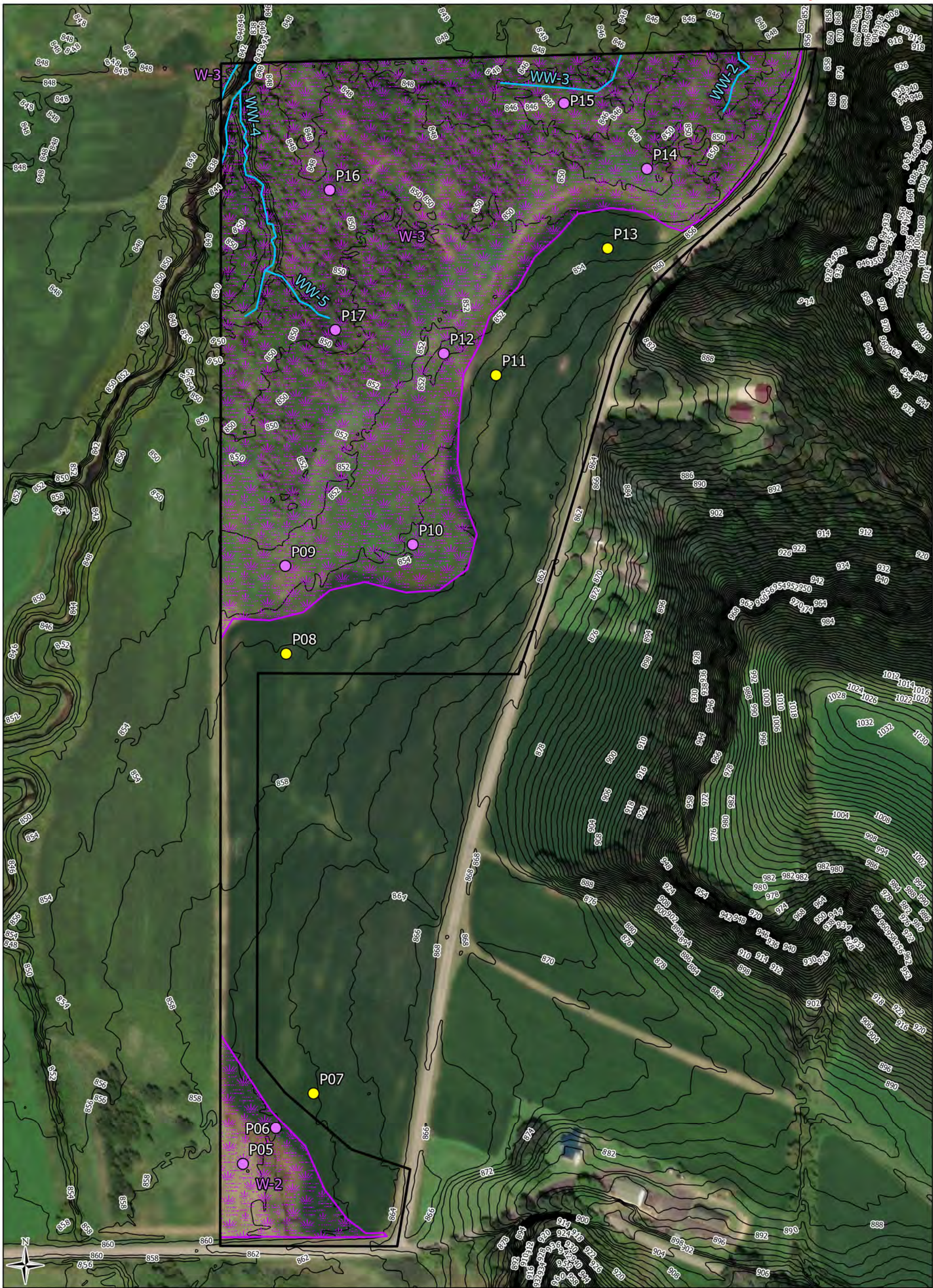
**Figure 7. Field Delineated Wetlands**

Little La Crosse River Mitigation Project #20231006  
T15N, R3W, S05 & 06  
T Jefferson, Monroe Co

2022 NAIP  
Monroe Co, HEG  
LRR: MW

Figure Created: 7/10/2023





- Study Area (37.63 ac)
- Monroe Co 2' Contours
- Waterways
- Field Delineated Wetlands (23.86 ac)
- Sample Points**
  - Upland
  - Wetland

0 200 Ft

**Heartland**  
ECOLOGICAL GROUP INC

Figure 7b. Field Delineated Wetlands

LLR Mitigation Site Addition  
Project #20241365  
T15N, R3W, S05 & 06  
T Jefferson, Monroe Co

2020 Orthophoto  
Monroe Co, HEG

LRR: MW  
Figure Created: 12/2/2024