

MVP

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVP-2025-00597-SSC

MVP

June 24, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” (8 September 2023) ,¹ MVP-2025-00597-SSC, MFR 1 of 1².

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (“the agencies”) published the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming”, which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) (“*Sackett*”).

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on

¹ While the Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States”; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, the territorial seas, or interstate water that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

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Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

Name of Aquatic Resource	JD or Non-JD	Section 404/Section 10
DW-01	Non-Jurisdictional	N/A

2. REFERENCES.

- a. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”)
- b. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- d. January 2023 Rule preamble at 88 FR 3090
- e. “Memorandum To The Field Between The U.S. Department Of The Army, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers And The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning The Proper Implementation Of ‘Continuous Surface Connection’ Under The Definition Of ‘Waters Of The United States’ Under The Clean Water Act” (March 12, 2025)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size (in acres): Approximately 8.08 acres
- b. Location Description: The project/review area is located in Section 34, Township 119N, Range 027W, Wright County, Minnesota.
- c. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)
Latitude: 45.076400 Longitude: -94.058780
- d. Nearest City or Town: Howard Lake

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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- e. County: Wright
 - f. State: Minnesota
 - g. Other associated Jurisdictional Determinations (including outcomes): N/A
4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A⁶
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁸
N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed. N/A

⁶ This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

⁷ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁸ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

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- a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A
- b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A
- c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A
- d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A
- e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A
- f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A
- g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁹

The identified wetland, DW-01, is located within soils classified as predominantly hydric (Cordova clay loam, 0 to 2% slopes). A historic aerial imagery review was submitted by the applicant containing aeriels from 1940-1996 (fifteen photo points within that timeframe). Wet signature in the area of DW-01 was intermittently seen in some of the aerial photos. The majority did not indicate a wet signature. The surrounding area was developed into a golf course between 1993 and 1994. A residential development was constructed in 1996 alongside the golf course, this is when DW-01 was constructed. Review of this information supports the determination that the DW-01 is a stormwater control feature constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters to convey, treat, infiltrate, or store stormwater runoff for the adjacent residential development.

The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) were both reviewed for the site and did not denote the presence of DW-01 or any other surface waters flowing through the site. Hillshade within the area shows

⁹ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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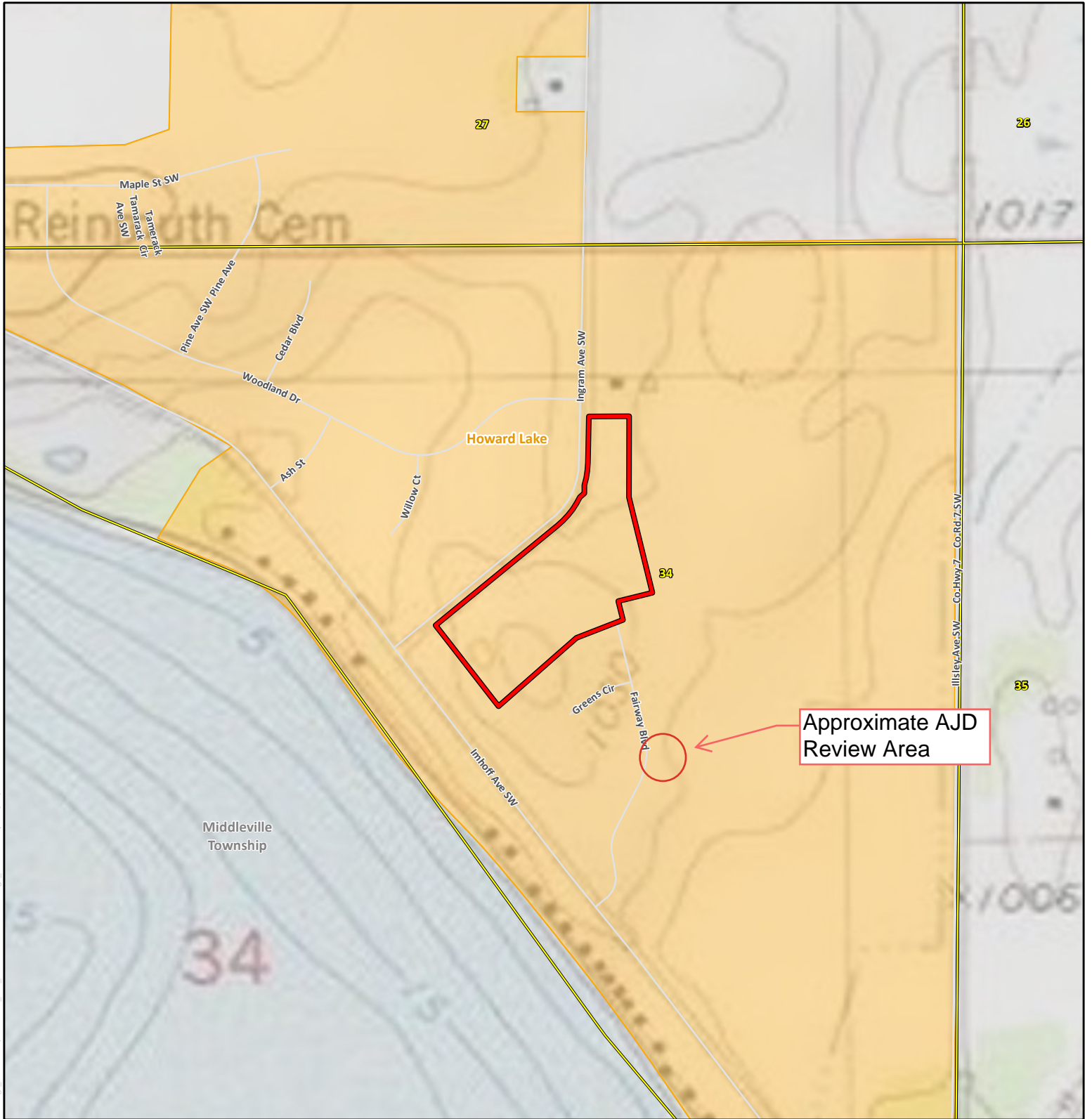
that DW-01 is surrounded by upland, which supports that the feature was constructed in uplands.

Based on the application materials submitted by the applicant and other desktop resources used for review, DW-01, according to exclusion (b)(5) of the 2023 Rule as amended, is not a water of the United States.

- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water). N/A
9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
- a. Lake Golf Estates – Incidental Determination Request Memorandum dated June 5, 2025
 - b. Lake Golf Estates Project – Howard Lake, Wright County, MN Memorandum dated May 21, 2025
 - c. US Geological Survey, 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Bare Earth Digital Elevation Modeling (DEM) Dynamic service – hillshade accessed on June 23, 2025
 - d. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, accessed June 23, 2025

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.



Data Source(s): Westwood (2025); U.S. Census Bureau (2024); ESRI WMS USA Topo & World Streets Basemaps (Accessed 2025); PLSS (2025); MN Geospatial Commons (2024).

Lake Golf Estates Project

Wright County, Minnesota

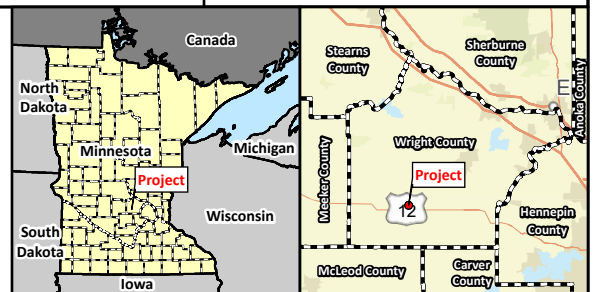
Project Location & USGS Topography

Exhibit 1



Westwood
Toll Free (888) 937-5150 westwoodsps.com

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - County Boundary
 - State Boundary
 - PLSS Section Boundary
 - Civil Township Boundary
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Road





AJD Review Area:
DW-01 (0.19 ac)

DW-01

Data Source(s): Westwood (2025); NAIP 2023; U.S. Census Bureau (2024); USGS 3DEP (Accessed 2025).

N
0 200 Feet

Lake Golf Estates Project

Wright County, Minnesota

Incidental Wetland Location

Exhibit 5

- Legend**
- Project Area
 - Incidental Wetland

Westwood
Toll Free (888) 937-5150 westwoodps.com

Map Documents: \\westwoodps.local\Global\Projects\0060246-00\GIS\MapPro\10060246-040_WeirlandExhibits\Photologs_20250515\0060246-040_WeirlandExhibits\Photologs_20250515.aprx 6/4/2025 4:40 PM ALMCT:ajgerrit