US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Paul District

Chippewa River Diversion Dam Low-Flow Channel Rehabilitation Project

Environmental Assessment

Chippewa County, Minnesota
November 2025

NEPA ID: EAXX-202-00-B6P-1758110546

Chippewa Diversion Dam Low-Flow Channel Rehabilitation Project

Environmental Assessment

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

APPENDICES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Chippewa River Diversion Dam is part of the Lac qui Parle Project, which functions to reduce flood risk to the cities of Montevideo and Granite Falls, Minnesota, and agricultural areas along the Minnesota River downstream from the Lac qui Parle Dam. Other Lac qui Parle Project purposes include water conservation and low-flow augmentation for fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. It is operated and maintained by USACE staff stationed at Lac qui Parle Field Office under guidance by the Water Management and Hydrology Section, Engineering and Construction Division and in accordance with the Lac qui Parle Project Interim Water Control Manual (WCM; USACE 2017).

Constructed in the 1930s, the Chippewa River Diversion Dam and the Watson Sag Weir (the Project or the Project Dam) diverts high flows on the Chippewa River into Lac qui Parle Reservoir. The Project Dam is located 8 miles northwest of Montevideo, Minnesota, and 3 miles north of Watson, Minnesota (Figure 1). The Chippewa Dam is constructed of rolled earthfill and carries a 32-foot wide highway across the Chippewa River at elevation 950.3 feet (1929 NGVD[1]). The total length of the dam, which includes a 27-foot wide Tainter gate and a low-water control culvert, is approximately 1,900 feet (Figure 2). Construction included the creation of the Watson Sag channel and approach channel for passing the majority of flows and converting a 1,200-foot long portion of the original Chippewa River Channel into a low-flow channel (Figure 3).

The main control structure is a 5-span combination highway bridge and dam within a 1,200-foot-long approach channel (Figure 4 and Figure 5). Downstream flows to the Chippewa River are via a 27-foot wide Tainter gate with a sill elevation of 932.6 feet or four spillway bays with fixed crest of 942.3 feet. Flow can also be directed via a 1,600 foot-long low-flow bypass channel with a 4 foot by 4 foot vertical lift gate with invert elevation of 933.3 feet. Flows directed to Lac qui Parle reservoir are via the Watson Sag, consisting of a 3,500 foot-long diversion channel, combination highway bridge and spillway, fixed crest weirs across six bays at elevation 938.8 feet, and a rolled earth dike at elevations between 946.3 and 947.8 feet.

Flows through the Chippewa Diversion Dam are managed in accordance with USACE's WCM (USACE 2017). In general, during the open water season, flows less than 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) are split evenly (50/50) between the Chippewa River Diversion Dam and the Watson Sag Weir. However, for flows greater than 2,000 cfs, only 1,000 cfs are passed down to the lower Chippewa River (i.e., downstream of the Chippewa River Diversion Dam) through the dam; the remaining flow goes into the Lac

[1] All elevations in this Environmental Assessment (EA) use the 1929 National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD).

qui Parle pool via the Watson Sag Weir. During lower flows typical of fall/early winter, about 10% of the Chippewa River flow is maintained down the Watson Sag channel.

The primary purpose of the low-flow channel/gate is to maintain downstream flows in the Chippewa River when the Tainter gate on the approach channel is partially or fully closed. This happens periodically during maintenance activities on the Tainter gate. This is also the case under normal winter operations[2], when the area around the Tainter gate is frozen, as it lacks deicing capability. Use of the low-flow channel and gate also allows for more precise control of downstream flows that supplement that from the Tainter gate when in operation.

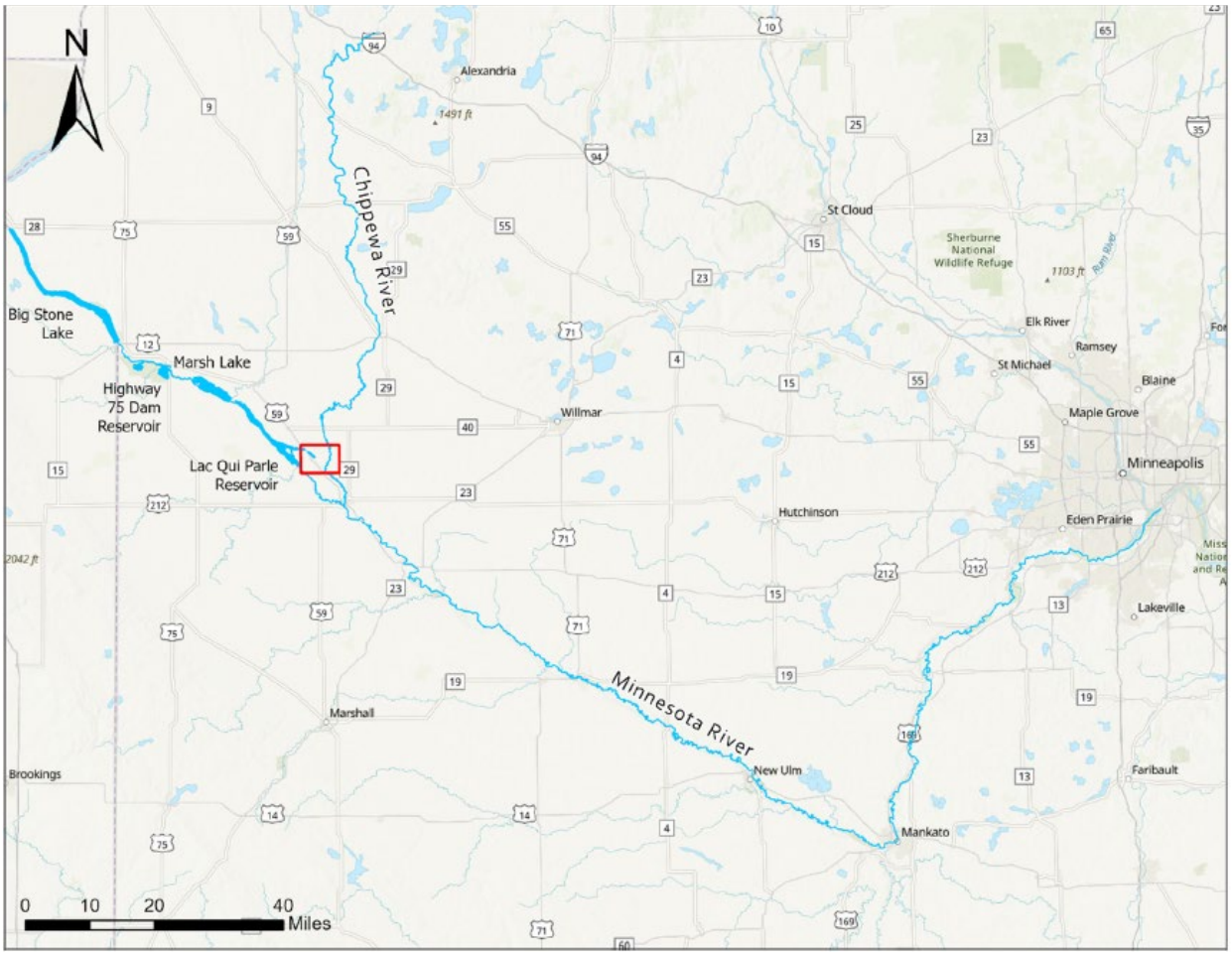


Figure 1. Chippewa Diversion Dam project location

[2] Currently, the low-flow channel gate requires repair, which will be completed in a separate action and prior to the proposed action. As a result, the current winter operation uses the Tainter gate to pass flows.

Figure 2. Watson Sag Weir/Chippewa Diversion Dam overview and study area

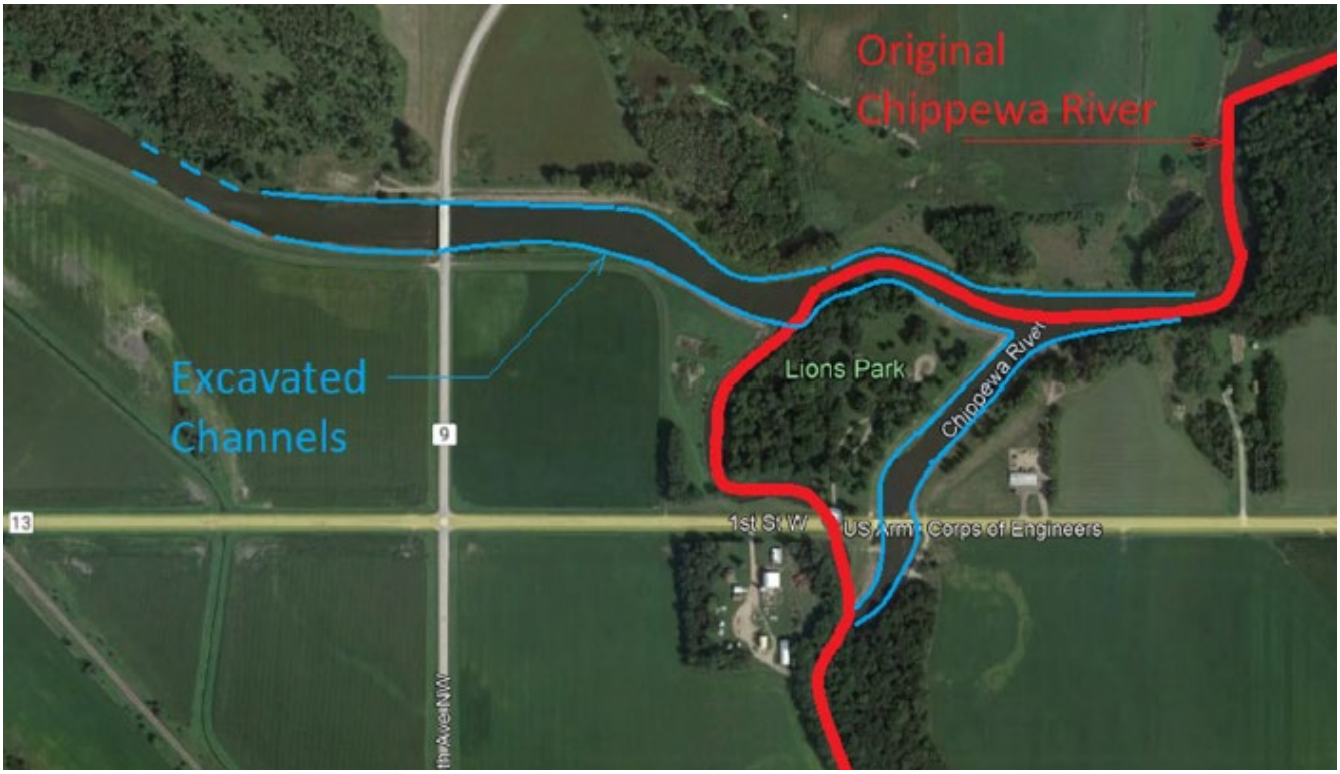


Figure 3. Chippewa-Watson channel configuration

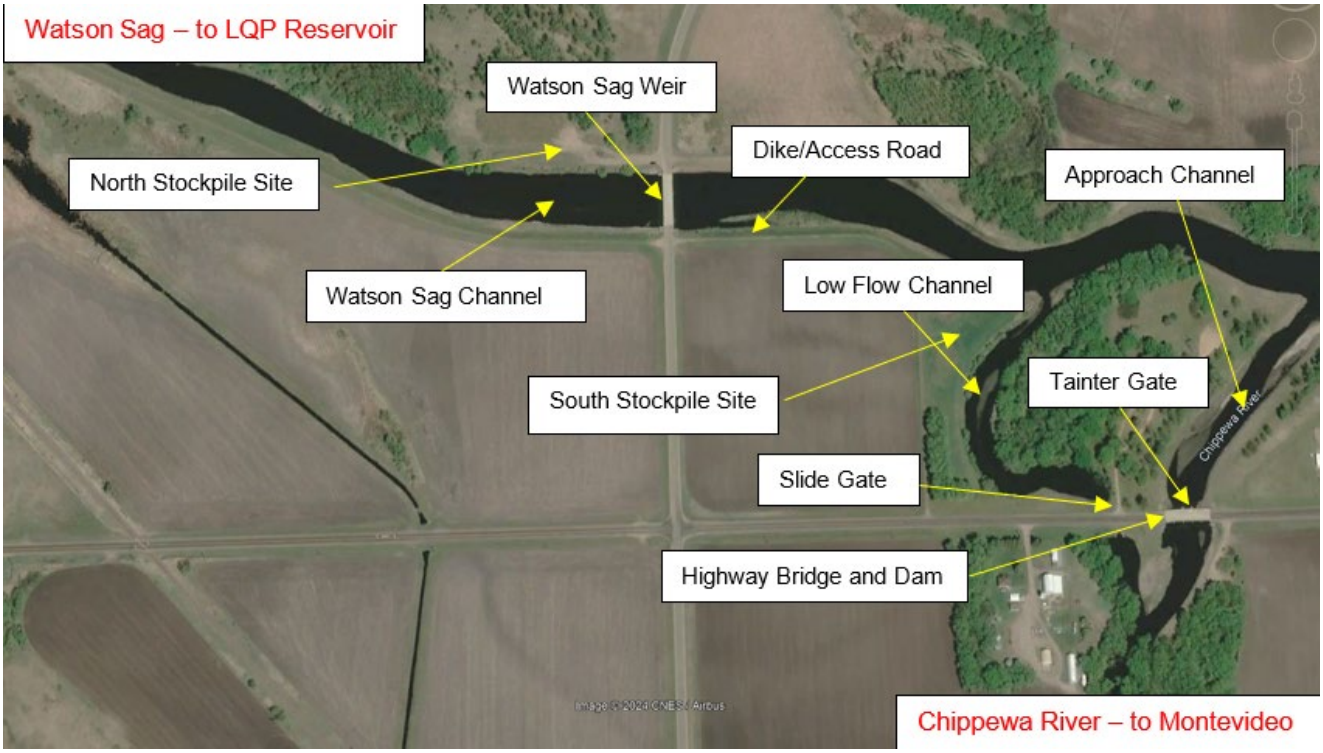


Figure 4. Major components of the Chippewa River Diversion Dam

Figure 5. Chippewa Diversion Dam (left) and Watson Sag Weir (right)

Additional details on Project components and operations can be found in the Interim WCM (USACE 2017).

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The Chippewa River Diversion Dam is a part of the Lac qui Parle Project, which has a primary purpose of flood risk management. Components of the dam need to be

rehabilitated to ensure project performance. Specifically, the low-flow channel has experienced significant sedimentation that has lessened its capacity for flow conveyance. Since it was last excavated in 2003, at least 6,000 cubic yards of material have accumulated, indicating a sedimentation rate of at least 270 cubic yards per year.

The main purpose of the proposed action is to remove and permanently dispose of accumulated sediments to restore the channel to resemble its original configuration of a trapezoidal shape with a 30- to 60-foot-wide variable bottom width with 3H:1V side slopes. This work is needed so the project can continue to function as designed and in accordance with the WCM.

As this type of activity has not been performed in over 20 years, it is considered beyond routine maintenance, and project effects are being disclosed through this EA. The focused study area for this EA (Figure 2) contains major components of the proposed action. However, the EA also considers downstream effects associated with flow.

1.3 AUTHORITY

The Chippewa River Diversion Dam is part of the Lac qui Parle Project, which is authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1936 (Public Law 74-738). The Lac qui Parle Project also has purposes authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-934), including water conservation and low-flow augmentation for fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. USACE is responsible for operation and maintenance of the project to include the channel feature.

2 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, USACE would not implement the necessary maintenance actions of dredging out the low-flow channel and partially restoring it to its original configuration. Sediment would continue to accumulate, in addition to the significant sediment already present in the low-flow channel. Consequently, the ability of USACE to operate the facility in accordance with the WCM would decline, i.e., performance of the project would deteriorate. It is likely that in the foreseeable future, accumulated sediment would preclude the ability to maintain downstream flows in the Chippewa River during periods when the Tainter gate is closed or under maintenance and not at full capacity to pass flows, thereby affecting operations for flood risk management.

2.2 PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE – MATERIAL REMOVAL AND PLACEMENT AT THE SOUTH STOCKPILE SITE

Summary: The Proposed Alternative is named for the stockpile site to be used. The low-flow channel would be excavated, and material would initially be placed in the South Stockpile Site, where it would be allowed to dewater/dry (Figure 4 and Figure 6). After

the material has dried, it would be graded within the boundary of the site. If needed, excavated material that exceeds site capacity for the South Stockpile Site would be loaded on trucks and moved to the North Stockpile Site (Figure 4 and Figure 8). All work would be completed by USACE Maintenance and Repair (M&R) staff. Additional details follow.

Channel Excavation – Channel excavation would involve removing between 6,000 and 7,000 cubic yards of material from a 1,200-foot long subreach of the low-flow channel (1.3 acres) extending from its entrance to the slide gate that controls flow just upstream of the road crossing (Figure 6). The channel would be configured to resemble what it was when the dam was first constructed, but at a smaller scale. It would have a trapezoidal shape with a bottom elevation of 933.0 foot and 3:1 side slopes and a 110-foot bottom width (Figure 7). The top width of the excavation would be limited to the ordinary high-water mark along the length of the channel. Maximum depth of excavation would be 7 feet. Material would be removed mechanically using an excavator with a maximum reach of 60 feet. Incidental fallback of some of this material will occur, but will be minor. It is anticipated that between 300 and 500 cubic yards of material would be removed per day over a four- to six-week period. Material would be composed primarily of fines—clayey sand to sandy clay material.

Material Placement – Excavated material would be permanently placed within a 1.3-acre containment area at the South Stockpile Site (Figure 6). The South Stockpile Site has a maximum capacity of 11,000 cubic yards. If material exceeds site capacity[3], excess material would be dried, placed into all-terrain dump trucks, and transported to the North Stockpile Site, which is 0.8-acre in size and a maximum capacity of 8,000 cubic yards (Figure 8).

Grading and Seeding – After the excavated material has been sufficiently dewatered/dried in stockpiled areas, it would be graded to a stable configuration. The South Stockpile Site will have a gradual 6:1 side slopes to minimize the risk of repose/slope failure with the wet material. Any excess material placed at the North Stockpile Site will have steeper 3:1 side slopes as it will be dry material. It is anticipated

[3] Under a separate future action, this site may be shared to stockpile material from the Lac Qui Parle Dam Spillway Repair Project. Once timing of the excavation work is determined, coordination between Operations, M&R, and the Lac qui Parle Spillway contractor will be necessary to ensure conflicts between efforts are minimized.

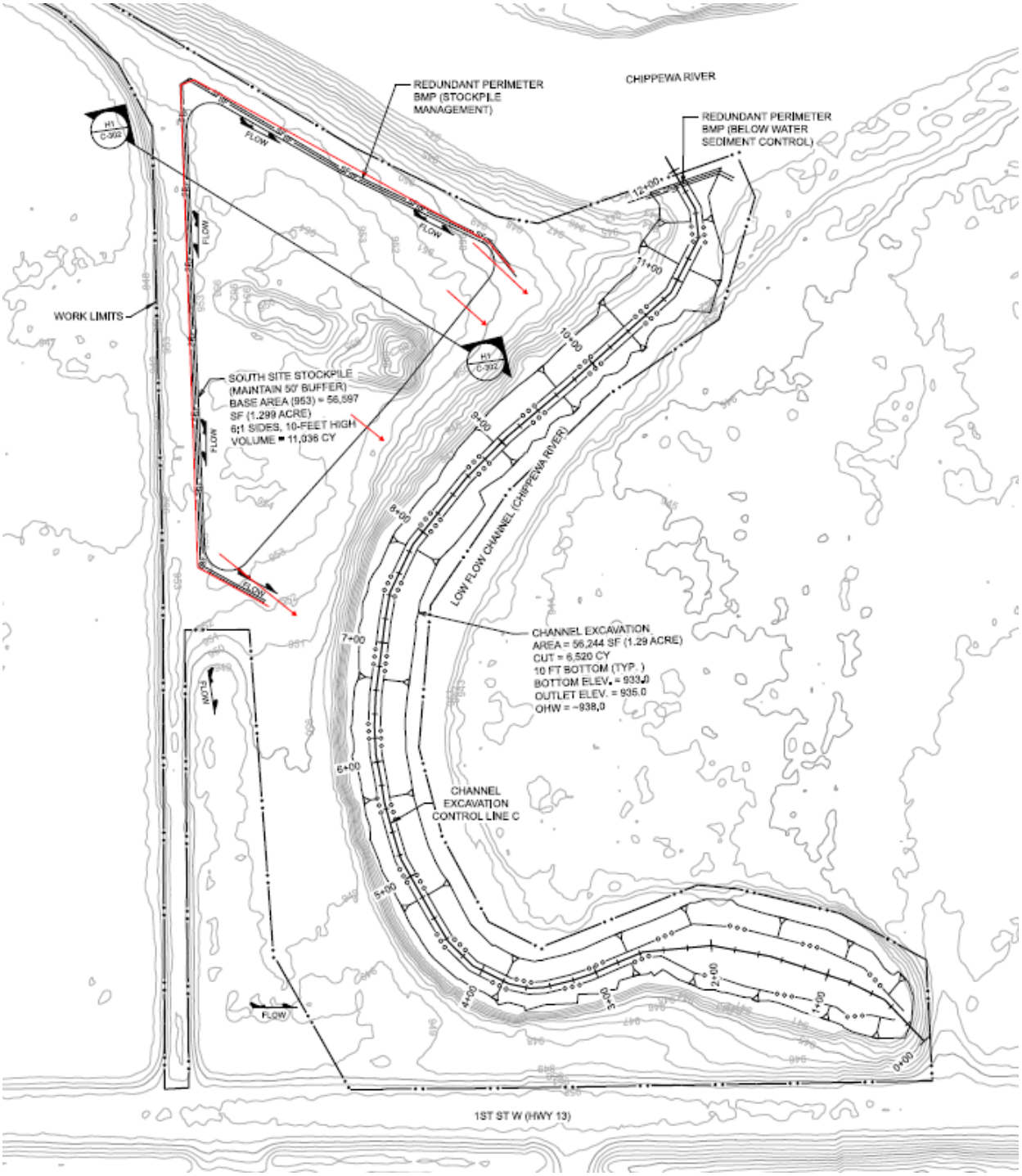


Figure 6. Proposed excavation on the Chippewa Diversion Dam low-flow channel and South Stockpile Site

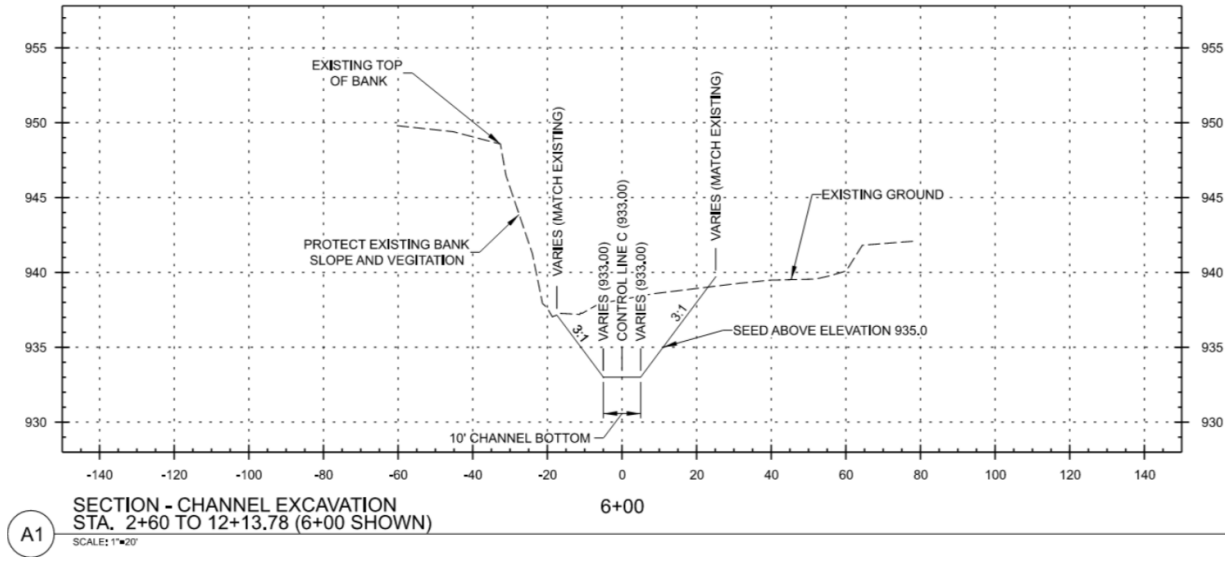


Figure 7. Low-flow channel configuration as part of excavation

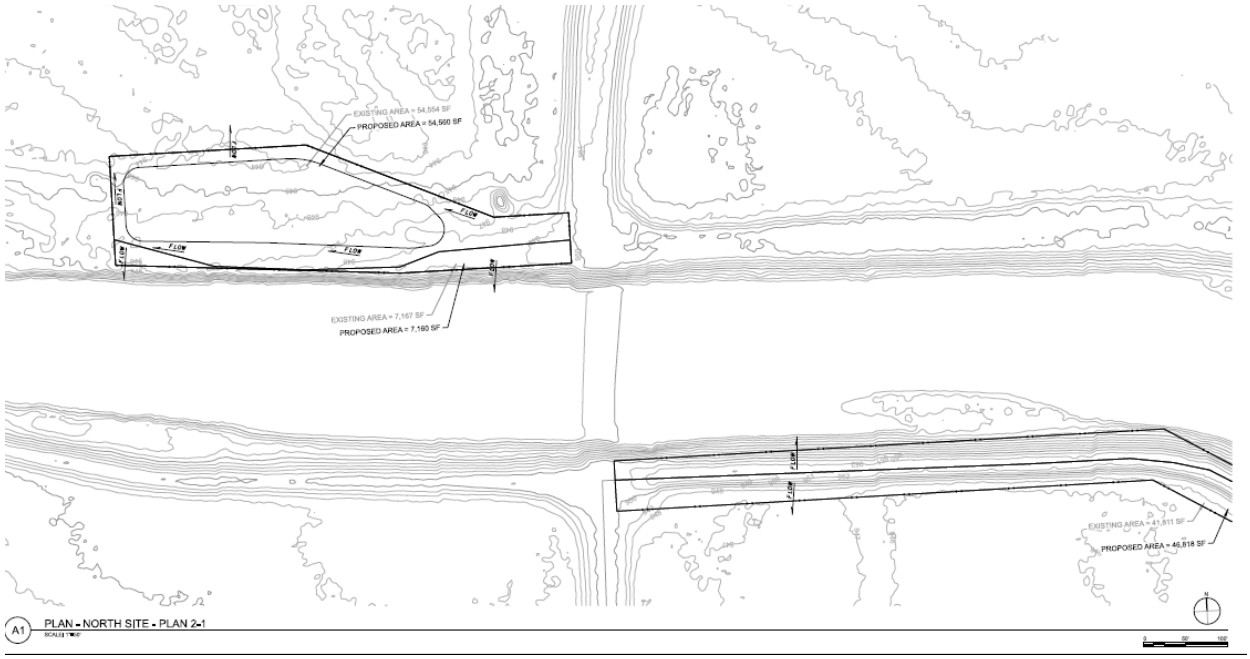


Figure 8. North Stockpile Site

that the material, after settlement and grading, would be 10 to 12 feet high. After grading, these areas will be seeded with Minnesota State recommended 25-141Mesic General Roadside or temporary seed with 21-111 Oats or 21-112 Winter Wheat mix. Grading and seeding would also occur along the shoreline of the excavated channel to restore those areas to the original configuration.

Water Management – During channel excavation, there would be no flows through the low-flow channel (work area). Flows in the Chippewa River up to 400 cfs would be managed in accordance to the WCM. In summary, flows would be split evenly (50/50) using the approach channel under the control of the Tainter gate and the Watson Sag. However, for flows greater than 400 cfs, only 200 cfs would be passed through the approach channel. Excess flows would be passed over the Watson Sag Weir and into the Lac qui Parle pool. This may require a deviation from the WCM because this excess flow would be directed into Lac qui Parle pool instead of the Chippewa River.

Work Limits - The extent of the proposed project work limits includes the low-flow channel targeted for excavation, the land immediately to the west of the channel and north of Highway 13 for access and the South Stockpile Site, a portion of the berm along the south side of the Watson Sag for access, the North Stockpile Site just to the north of the Watson Sag, and work zone for heavy equipment (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Work limits for proposed action

Work Season – Dredging the low-flow channel is planned to occur over one field season during base or low flows, lasting up to six weeks. Work months would be August through December. Grading and seeding would occur during other months when conditions are suitable for vegetation establishment. Due to funding uncertainties, the proposed project could happen in 2026, 2027, or 2028.

2.3 SCREENED ALTERNATIVES

Several action alternatives were initially considered but were screened from consideration due to environmental concerns associated with disposal. One such alternative explored was using a 3-acre site approximately 0.5 kilometers to the west of

the channel, just off a berm on the south side of the Watson Sag (West Wetland Stockpile Site (Appendix 1). Another alternative screened involved using sites (acres) on land on the north side of the Chippewa River, about 100 meters to the north (North River Stockpile Sites; Appendix 2). Both of these alternatives would involve material placement in either floodplain forest or wetland habitat requiring mitigation measures and additional costs. Use of the North River Stockpile Sites would have also involved construction to extend an access road and cutting down trees.

A third alternative that was screened involved excavation of the low-flow channel during a dry state. This would have required construction of a temporary coffer dam at the channel entrance and dewatering using pumps. This alternative was screened because subject matter experts indicated that the area could never fully dewater based on soil conditions, size of the channel, and limited pump capacity.

A fourth alternative considered involved fully excavating the channel back to its original configuration, which would have resulted in 12,000 cubic yards of disposal material. This alternative was screened due to limitations in the amount of space at available disposal sites.

3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The geographic scope of effects includes the low-flow channel, the disposal sites, and the work zone for heavy equipment operations. The Chippewa River downstream of the affected site was also considered because of considerations to flow passing through the Project. This area is within the Chippewa River drainage.

In general, environmental consequences of the No Action Alternative would largely be attributed to the reduced functionality of the Chippewa River Diversion Dam as sedimentation in the low-flow channel continues. It is assumed this would eventually render the low-flow channel inoperable and unable to effectively control flows downstream, thus leading to a reduced ability to meet the authorized purpose of the project. Based on the accumulation of sediment in the low-flow channel since 2003, it is anticipated to occur in the next decade or two.

3.1 NATURAL RESOURCES

The drainage area upstream of the Chippewa River Dam is 2,070 square miles.

3.1.1 Air Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is required by the Clean Air Act to establish air quality standards that primarily protect human health. These National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) regulate six major air contaminants across the U.S. When an area meets criteria for each of the six contaminants, it is called an “attainment area” for the contaminant; areas that do not meet the criteria are called “nonattainment

areas." Chippewa County, Minnesota, is classified as an attainment area for each of the six contaminants and is therefore not a region of impaired ambient air quality (Minnesota Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants | Green Book | US EPA). This designation means that the project area has relatively few air pollution sources of concern.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have no effect on air quality.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would have a minor, temporary effect on air quality due to the use of heavy equipment that generally use diesel fuel. Heavy equipment would be used to dredge the channel, transport and place the material, and grade the material after it has been dried. The operation of heavy equipment would temporarily increase vehicle emissions and slightly degrade air quality in the immediate vicinity. Impacts would be short-term and negligible due to the short construction timeframe (up to six weeks). To minimize air emissions, the M&R crew would be required to meet or exceed all federal, state, and local air resource requirements. These effects would be temporary, and air quality would quickly return to baseline conditions. After construction, maintenance activities would be routine, noninvasive and have minimal impacts.

3.1.2 Water Quality

According to the 2016 Chippewa River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load report, lakes and streams in the Chippewa River Watershed are polluted with excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), algae, and sediment, and have low levels of dissolved oxygen and altered habitat conditions. In some areas, the pollution is severe enough to harm aquatic insects and fish. Within the study area, the Chippewa River is considered impaired for fecal coliform (FC), mercury (Hg-F), and turbidity (T). The water quality standard in this reach is a Class 2 aquatic life and recreation use designation for warm water habitats (2Bg).

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would result in less flow to the lower Chippewa River during periods when the Tainter gate is not functional, which would have minor, detrimental effects to water quality downstream depending on the time of year. For example, water temperatures would increase with lower flow during summer months, and dissolved oxygen levels would decrease during winter months. For example, These effects would increase over time as less flow is able to pass through the Project.

Proposed Alternative – During excavation of the channel, water turbidity within the low-flow channel would temporarily increase from mechanical excavation and incidental waters returning during placement. Turbidity levels in the Watson Sag would likely also be affected but would be minimized with avoidance measures and best management practices (BMPs) that include a sedimentation curtain or similar measures. Turbidity levels in the Chippewa River downstream of the Project would also temporarily increase when flow is reintroduced to the low-flow channel. However, this would be minimized by reintroducing the flows gradually. Increases in suspended particulates would be temporary, localized, and limited to physical changes to the water column.

3.1.3 Hydraulics and Hydrology

Under the WCM, flows in the upper Chippewa River (i.e., upstream of the Chippewa River Diversion Dam) up to 2,000 cfs are split evenly (50/50) through the Chippewa River Diversion Dam and Watson Sag Weir. However, for flows greater than 2,000 cfs, only 1,000 cfs are passed down to the lower Chippewa River (i.e., downstream of the Chippewa River Diversion dam) through the dam; the remaining flow goes into the Lac qui Parle pool via the Watson Sag Weir. The low-flow channel and associated gate are used periodically to pass flows when the Tainter gate is not operating or to supplement flows. Historically, the range in flows for the October 1 to December 1 timeframe (proposed work season) has been between 300 and 400 cfs; thus, a 50/50 split has resulted in sending between 150 and 200 cfs through the Chippewa River Diversion Dam's Tainter gate.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would result in increased siltation in the low-flow channel, thus restricting the amount of flow conveyed downstream. Over time, it is reasonable to assume that all flow through the low-flow channel would be partially or completely blocked. To maintain downstream flows to the Chippewa River, the approach channel and Tainter gate would have to be used exclusively. Under severe conditions, flows into the diversion channel would be restricted, forcing more water over the Watson Sag (USACE 2017). Less flow would be conveyed in the Chippewa River downstream of the Project.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would restore the low-flow channel to a state close to its original configuration. With repairs to the gate, the low-flow channel would be fully functional and able to convey flows during periods when the Tainter gate is not operated.

3.1.4 Sediment Quality

Analysis of sediment quality and composition was conducted within the low-flow channel in September 2024 (Appendix 5 and Appendix 6). Results indicated that the sediments were mostly free of contaminants. Some pesticides and polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) were observed to be at elevated levels, but these were within Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Sediment Quality Target I levels, indicating a moderate level of protection. Sediments were classified as clayey sand with organic material, moderately organic, and sandy organic clay with organic material.

There are no known hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste sites associated with sediment within the study area.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have no effect on sediment quality in the area.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would have short-term adverse effects associated with construction-related disturbance on soil within the footprint of the disposal sites. However, soils may incur minor benefits with the addition of fines from the excavated channel that would promote vegetation growth.

3.1.5 Wetlands

A query of the National Wetlands Inventory indicated the presence of wetlands in the study area consisting of the type PUBH, which indicates a shallow palustrine system with an unconsolidated bottom (Figure 10). This is a low quality wetland due to past disturbance with the Project. Wetland plants occur along the margins of the channel, but flows preclude the establishment of vegetation in other areas due to flow. No wetlands are within the two placement sites.

No Action Alternative – There would be no effects to wetlands under the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Alternative – Under the Proposed Alternative, the bottom of the low-flow channel would be excavated. Any aquatic vegetation in the channel and western margin would be destroyed. However, vegetation would be reestablished after implementation, likely within 2 to 5 years. There would be no effect at the two disposal areas as they do not have wetlands.

3.1.6 Aquatic Habitat

The Chippewa River is a low-gradient stream with sand/silt bottom with some gravel and rock riffle sections that meanders through a landscape heavily dominated by agriculture. Sections of the river have been altered through channelization and bank stabilization. Excessive sedimentation from upland area erosion has substantially degraded aquatic habitat. Benthic habitat degradation from siltation, excessive water turbidity, and variable and frequent low flows are significant problems limiting overall aquatic habitat quality.

The quality of aquatic habitat in the study area is marginal. Historically, the low-flow channel was part of the natural channel. However, construction of the Chippewa Dam and Watson Sag disturbed the area by impounding the river and converting it to a low-flow channel with slide gate. Sediment in the bottom of the channel is dominated by clayey sand to sandy clay material (Appendix 6). Fish spawning habitat is limited, and few mussels reside in the substrate. The reach is sinuous but lacks geomorphic, cover, and structural diversity. The total drop through this 1,200-foot-long reach is approximately 0.5 feet, consisting of run mesohabitat.

Source: NWI

Figure 10. Wetland types in the project area

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would lead to continued sedimentation in the low-flow channel, potentially creating an area with little to no flow. The area could become a stagnant side pool with limited habitat value.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would have short term adverse effects to aquatic habitat because of the effects from excavation. Over the long term, there would be minor benefits because the channel would be deepened and thus remain flowing riverine habitat (albeit of limited value). Downstream aquatic habitat would experience minor adverse effects from sedimentation.

3.1.7 Floodplain

The study area does not fall within a Regulatory Floodway. There are no floodway concerns with either the No Action Alternative or Proposed Alternative.

3.1.8 Vegetation

Terrestrial vegetation in both of the proposed placement sites consists of mowed turf. These are previously disturbed areas that have been used as placement sites in the

past. Other vegetation in the study area consists of shrubs and trees indicative of a riparian corridor. A patch of floodplain forest exists just to the east of the channel that is a part of Lions Park.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have no effect on terrestrial vegetation.

Proposed Alternative – Terrestrial vegetation within the South Stockpile site will be temporarily displaced with material excavated from the low-flow channel. This area will be seeded with an appropriate grass seed mix to allow revegetation within 2–3 years. Heavy equipment would work around established trees.

3.1.9 Terrestrial Habitat

The existing terrestrial habitat in the affected area consists of a narrow riparian corridor and upland grasslands as a result of prior disturbance. There is limited habitat value. The adjacent floodplain forest just to the east of the site has substantially more value.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have no effect on terrestrial habitat.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would have short-term adverse effects to terrestrial habitat associated with construction. The affected upland area would be reconfigured back to its original configuration with the exception of the footprint of the disposal area(s).

3.1.10 Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife species typical of this region include such common avian species as robin, blue jay, and chickadee. Common mammalian species include raccoon, rabbit, and white-tailed deer. The bald eagle, a state-listed species of special concern, is a permanent inhabitant of the region. The nearest bald eagle nest is over 3,500 feet west of the activity. Within the study area, wildlife species are scarce due to limited habitat and prior site disturbance. However, wildlife with strong connectivity to the site is more abundant and diverse in the floodplain forest directly east (within Lions Park).

Amphibians and reptiles typical of this area include:

Frogs – northern leopard frog, wood frog, green frog, chorus frog, spring peeper
Toads – American toad
Salamanders – spotted salamander
Turtles – northern map turtle, snapping turtle, spiny softshell turtle, painted turtle, Blanding's turtle
Snakes – northern water, garter, milk

Fish in the Chippewa River are indicative of limited quality habitat and include suckers, redhorse, carp, catfish and a variety of minnow species. Some game species are also found such as walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Within the

low-flow channel, aquatic habitat is limited, suggesting use by hardy fishes such as carp, suckers, and minnow species. To minimize impacts to fish species, excavation of the low-flow channel will be completed outside of fish spawning season (April through June).

Most mussel species observed in the area are common, such as deertoe, plain pocketbook, threeridge, black sandshell (state species of special concern), fat mucket, fragile papershell, spike (state species of special concern), strange floater, pink heelsplitter, giant floater, Wabash pigtoe, white heelsplitter, and mucket. State species of concern do not appear to be regulated by Minnesota's Endangered Species law and do not warrant further mitigation. No federally listed or state-listed mussel species are known to occur in the area.

During a 2024 timed pollywog survey, eleven species of mussels were found within the low-flow channel (Table 1). Black sandshell[4], spike[4], and paper pondshell species were not found but were identified during a 2020 mussel relocation effort in the adjacent Chippewa Diversion Dam approach channel.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no effect to birds, mammals, and reptiles. However, species highly dependent on water such as amphibians, fish, and mussels may be adversely affected by lessened flows as a result of the low-flow channel becoming inoperative. This effect would be minor.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would likely have an adverse effect on some fish and wildlife in the area through disturbance from the operation of heavy equipment. Mobile species would likely leave the area, but would return after the work was completed. Benthic organisms like mussels may be incidentally extracted during excavation of the low-flow channel, as would amphibians that burrow into the substrate. However, the channel would recolonize over time. This recolonization would be immediate for more mobile species like amphibians, but would take longer for mussels (likely within 5 to 10 years).

[4] Minnesota Species of Special Concern.

Table 1. Species and numbers of native mussels collected from the Chippewa Diversion low-flow channel, 9 September 2024

Scientific Name	Common Name	Upper Reach No. Live	Upper Reach %	Lower Reach No. Live	Lower Reach %	Total No. Live	Total %
Amblema plicata	Threeridge	-	-	1	12.5	1	2.0
Fusconaia flava	Wabash pigtoe	1	2.3	-	-	1	2.0
Lampsilis cardium	Plain pocketbook	6	14.0	-	-	6	11.8
Lampsilis siliquoidea	Fatmucket	1	2.3	-	-	1	2.0
Lasmigona complanata	White heelsplitter	4	9.3	-	-	4	7.8
Potamilus alatus	Pink heelsplitter	4	9.3	1	12.5	5	9.8
Potamilus fragilis	Fragile papershell	10	23.3	-	-	10	19.6
Pyganodon grandis	Giant floater	4	9.3	6	75.0	10	19.6
Quadrula quadrula	Mapleleaf	2	4.7	-	-	2	3.9
Strophitus undulatus	Strange floater	2	4.7	-	-	2	3.9
Truncilla truncata	Deertoe	9	20.9	-	-	9	17.6

Totals	Upper Reach No. Live	Upper Reach %	Lower Reach No. Live	Lower Reach %	Total No. Live	Total %
Total	**43**	**-**	**8**	**-**	**51**	**-**
Live species	10	-	3	-	11	-
Time searched	150	-	60	-	210	-
CPUE (No. live/min)	0.3	-	0.1	-	0.2	-

3.1.11 Threatened and Endangered Species

3.1.11.1 *Federally Listed Species*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) website was consulted on 12 September 2025 to identify the potential presence of federally listed threatened and endangered species within the study area (Appendix 8). One endangered, one threatened, two proposed threatened, and one proposed endangered species were identified and are listed in Table 2. No critical habitat was identified within the study area.

Table 2. Federally listed species within the study area

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Mammal	Northern long-eared bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	Endangered
Insect	Dakota skipper	*Hesperia dacotae*	Threatened
Insect	Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	Proposed threatened
Insect	Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee	*Bombus suckleyi*	Proposed endangered
Insect	Western regal fritillary	*Argynnis idalia accidentalis*	Proposed threatened

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

The northern long-eared bat (NLEB) is a medium-sized bat that hibernates in caves and mines in the winter and roosts singly or in colonies under the bark or in cracks and crevices of trees in the summer. NLEB is relatively widespread, and USFWS lists NLEB as an endangered species because a fungal pathogen causing white-nose syndrome is sharply reducing populations.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Monarch butterflies are large and conspicuous, with bright orange wings surrounded by a black border and covered with black veins. The bright coloring of a monarch serves as a warning to predators that eating them can be toxic. During the breeding season, monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed host plant, and larvae emerge after two to five days. Larvae develop over a period of 9 to 18 days, feeding on milkweed and sequestering toxic chemicals as a defense against predators. The larva then pupates into a chrysalis before emerging 6 to 14 days later as an adult butterfly. There are multiple generations of monarchs produced during the breeding season, with most adult butterflies living approximately two to five weeks. Monarch butterflies live mainly in prairies, meadows, and grasslands and along roadsides.

SUCKLEY'S CUCKOO BUMBLE BEE

Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee is a generalist pollinator and an obligate parasitic bumble bee. It invades the nests of the host bumble bees and relies on host species workers to provision its larvae. It requires suitable nesting sites for colonies, nectar, and pollen resources during the colony period and suitable overwintering sites. Historic observations of Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee have been made at meadows near these sources.

WESTERN REGAL FRITILLARY

The western regal fritillary is a brush-footed butterfly with large orange and black wings. This pollinator is found in remnant tall-grass prairies, where they forage on nectar from milkweed and other plants.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have no effect on any listed species.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would similarly have no effect on any listed species. No trees would be cleared as part of the project; therefore, there would be no effect to bats. The action area includes previously disturbed areas, making the area unsuitable as a habitat for all other listed species.

3.1.11.2 *State-Listed Species*

A 17 September 2025 query of the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) identified three state-listed mussel species in the study area. State Species of Special Concern included two mussels and one salamander found in the study area (Table 3).

Table 3. Minnesota state-listed species in the study area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Mucket	*Actinonaias ligamentina*	Threatened
Black sandshell	*Ligumia recta*	Special concern
Elktoe	*Alasmidonta marginata*	Threatened
Spike	*Eurynia dilatata*	Threatened
Creek heelsplitter	*Lasmigona compressa*	Special concern
Mudpuppy	*Necturus maculosus*	Special concern

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have no effect on state-listed species.

Proposed Alternative – None of the state-listed mussel species were found in the low-flow channel during a 2024 survey. Therefore, the Proposed Alterative would have no effect on those species. A survey of mudpuppy was not undertaken in association with the proposed action, as it is unlikely to be present in the project area. This species is

associated with permanent water bodies with good water quality. If present, mudpuppy would be adversely affected by the excavation work. However, this effect would be short-term, and mudpuppy would be expected to return to the area post-construction.

3.1.12 Invasive Species

Several invasive species are found in the Chippewa River watershed, the most common of which include zebra mussels, common carp, Eurasian watermilfoil, and common buckthorn. The most likely invasive species to be present in the affected area is common carp.

COMMON CARP

Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are reported throughout much of Minnesota. This is a large invasive freshwater fish native to Europe and Asia; it was introduced to North America in the 1800s as a food fish but is now considered a pest due to its destructive impact on habitats and native species. They are omnivorous bottom-feeders, recognized by their long dorsal fins, soft mouths, and two pairs of barbels (whiskers), and are known to degrade water quality and destroy aquatic vegetation by uprooting plants.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have minor adverse effects on common carp and other aquatic invasive species associated with lower flows, as described in Section 3.1.10.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alterative would have no measurable effect on common carp. The Proposed Alternative is also not anticipated to result in the spread of invasive species not currently present within the project area. USACE's M&R crew will be required to clean equipment and watercraft prior to bringing them onto the project site and prior to removing them from the site to prevent the spread of invasive species. Equipment and watercraft will be inspected to ensure they are free from soil residuals, egg deposits from plant pest, noxious weeds, plant seeds, aquatic plants and animals, and residual water. If at any point equipment or watercraft are found to be contaminated with invasive species, they will immediately be placed on dry land and decontaminated until all invasive species have been removed.

3.2 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

3.2.1 Flood Control/Flood Risk Management

Flood risk is managed under USACE's interim Water Control Manual.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, the project would not be able to fully function during periods when the Tainter gate is closed or under maintenance and not at full capacity to pass flows. As the capacity of the low-flow channel is low relative to approach channel/gate, this effect would be minor.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would benefit flood risk management by ensuring the facility is fully operational.

3.2.2 Recreation

Recreation opportunities in this area are limited; it receives occasional use from anglers (shoreline fishing) and those interested in wildlife viewing. A small nearby regional park, Lion's Park, provides open space, parking, restrooms, and picnic tables.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, there may be minor adverse effects to anglers that result from reduced downstream flows.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would have short-term minor adverse effects on recreation. Construction would disturb opportunities for wildlife viewing and fish may be displaced, thus limiting angling opportunities.

3.2.3 Aesthetic Values

The project area is previously disturbed and has limited aesthetic appeal.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, there may be minor adverse effects to aesthetics that result from reduced downstream flows.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would have temporary adverse effects on aesthetics of the area associated with the use of heavy equipment that would increase noise levels. There would also be minor adverse visual effects with exposed soil in the disposal sites. These impacts would be short-term and negligible due to the short construction timeframe and time it takes for vegetation to become established.

3.2.4 Noise

The project area is located in a rural setting with one major road. It is a relatively quiet area with occasional noise from car traffic.

No Action Alternative – The No Action Alternative would have no effects on noise.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative would have a temporary adverse effect on noise in the area associated with the use and transportation of heavy equipment. These impacts would be short-term and negligible due to the short construction timeframe.

3.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Seven historic properties in the area of potential effects are individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and/or are contributing elements of a NRHP-eligible or listed historic district. One other property in the area of potential effects is not NRHP-eligible individually and is a noncontributing element of the NRHP-

Table 4. Environmental Assessment Matrix

	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE							PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE						
PARAMETER	**BENEFICIAL SIGNIFICANT**	**BENEFICIAL SUBSTANTIA**	**BENEFICIAL MINOR**	**NO EFFECT**	**ADVERSE MINOR**	**ADVERSE SUBSTANTIA**	**ADVERSE SIGNIFICANT**	**BENEFICIAL SIGNIFICANT**	**BENEFICIAL SUBSTANTIA**	**BENEFICIAL MINOR**	**NO EFFECT**	**ADVERSE MINOR**	**ADVERSE SUBSTANTIA**	**ADVERSE SIGNIFICANT**
A. Social Effects														
1. Noise Levels				X								ST		
2. Aesthetic Values					X					X		ST		
3. Recreational Opportunities					X					X		ST		
4. Transportation				X							X			
5. Public Health and Safety				X						X				
6. Community Cohesion (Sense of Unity)				X							X			
7. Community Growth & Development				X							X			
8. Business and Home Relocations				X							X			
9. Existing/Potential Land Use				X							X			
10. Controversy				X							X			
B. Economic Effects														
1. Property Values				X							X			
2. Tax Revenue				X							X			
3. Public Facilities and Services				X						X				
4. Regional Growth				X							X			
5. Employment				X						ST				
6. Business Activity				X							X			
7. Farmland/Food Supply				X							X			
8. Commercial Navigation				X							X			
9. Flooding Effects					X					X				
10. Energy Needs and Resources				X							X			
C. Natural Resource Effects														
1. Air Quality				X								ST		
2. Terrestrial Habitat				X								ST		
3. Wetlands				X								ST		
4. Aquatic Habitat					X					X		ST		
5. Habitat Diversity & Interspersion				X						X		ST		
6. Biological Productivity					X							ST		
7. Surface Water Quality					X							ST		
8. Water Supply				X							X			
9. Groundwater				X							X			
10. Soils				X						X		ST		
11. Threatened or Endangered Species				X							X			
D. Cultural Resource Effects														
1. Historic Architectural Values				X							X			
2. Precontact & Historic Archeological Values				X							X			

X = Long-term effects; ST = Short-term recurring effects.

eligible Lac Qui Parle Flood Control Project Historic District.

No Action Alternative – No impact to cultural resources would be expected.

Proposed Alternative – The Proposed Alternative is in an area significantly disturbed by previous road and dam construction/maintenance projects that were similar in scope and located within an essentially identical footprint. Both the North and South Stockpile Sites as well as the channel are also in locations that have been significantly disturbed. Based on the previous development disturbance, USACE has determined the proposed undertaking will have No Adverse Effect to historic properties. Tribal coordination was completed 10 February 2025 and SHPO concurred on 12 Marsh 2025.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

4.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC § 4321 *et seq.*) establishes the broad national framework for protecting our environment. NEPA's basic policy is to assure proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action. Two alternatives have been presented, and the significance of the project's impacts have been evaluated. The resulting document will be distributed to agencies, the public, and other interested parties to gather any comments or concerns. If no significant impacts to the environment are found, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be signed by the St. Paul District Commander.

4.2 BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLE PROTECTION ACT

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibits anyone from taking, possessing, or transporting an eagle, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such birds without prior authorization. Disturbing an eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause injury to an eagle, decrease productivity or cause nest abandonment are considered forms of take. Activities that directly or indirectly lead to take are prohibited without a permit. There are no eagle nests within 660 feet of the project area and no takes are anticipated as a result of this project.

4.3 CLEAN WATER ACT

The Clean Water Act (CWA; 33 USC §1251 *et seq.*) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States (WOTUS) and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

Section 404 of the CWA regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into WOTUS and is administered by USACE. USACE does not issue permits to itself but complies with the provisions of the CWA. The proposed action would not result in a discharge of dredged or fill material into WOTUS; it is not anticipated that equipment used to excavate the channel would result in more than incidental fallback in accordance with

33 CFR 323.2(d). Therefore, a Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) analysis and a 401 Water Quality Certification are not required for the Proposed Alternative. However, conditions for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit may be required as construction impacts are anticipated to be greater than 1 acre in size.

4.4 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act (16 USC § 1531 *et seq.*) provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. There are two federally listed species in the action area. The proposed action would have no effect on any federally listed species. See Section 3.1.11 for details.

4.5 FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA; 16 USC 661–667e) requires federal agencies to coordinate with the USFWS and applicable state agencies when a stream or body of water is proposed to be modified. The proposed project was coordinated with the USFWS, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), and MPCA on 13 August 2025. No concerns were identified. A copy of the FWCA coordination can be found in Appendix 7.

4.6 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended by Public Law 96-515 (94 Stat. 2987), established national policy for historic preservation, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain a NRHP, and created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties included in or eligible for the NRHP.

Tribal consultation and determination of effects was initiated on 29 January 2025 with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, and Upper Sioux Community. The Upper Sioux Community THPO was the only THPO to respond and expressed no concerns with the project on 10 February 2025. The Minnesota SHPO concurred with USACE's No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties determination on 12 March 2025.

4.7 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988

Executive Order 11988 directs agencies to provide leadership and action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling was conducted to assess the effects of material placement on floodplains. Results showed that this would not cause any adverse impacts to the water surface elevations associated with the 1/100 annual exceedance event on the Chippewa River.

Table 5. Compliance with environmental protection statutes and other environmental requirements

Federal Statutes

Environmental Requirement	Compliance[1]
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act	Full
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended	Full
Clean Air Act, as amended	Full
Clean Water Act, as amended	Full
Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended	N/A
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended	Full
Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981	Full
Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended	Full
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended	Full
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended	N/A
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended	Full
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended	Partial
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended	Full
National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966	N/A
Noise Pollution and Abatement Act of 1972	Full
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act	Full
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended	N/A

Executive Orders (EOs), Memoranda

Environmental Requirement	Compliance[1]
Floodplain Management (EO 11988)	N/A
Safeguarding the Nation from the Impacts of Invasive Species (EO 13112)	Full
Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality (EO 11514)	Full
Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Environment (EO 11593)	Full
Protection of Wetlands (EO 11990)	Full
Analysis of Impacts on Prime and Unique Farmland (CEQ Memorandum, 30 August 1976)	Full

[1] The compliance categories used in this table were assigned according to the following definitions:

a. Full – All requirements of the statute, EO, or other policy and related regulations have been met for the current stage of planning.

b. Partial – Some requirements of the statute, EO, or other policy and related regulations remain to be met for the current stage of planning.

c. Noncompliance (NC) – Violation of a requirement of the statute, EO, or other policy and related regulations.

d. Not Applicable (N/A) – Statute, EO, or other policy and related regulations not applicable for the current stage of planning.

5 COORDINATION

On 29 January 2025, USACE initiated consultation with the Minnesota SHPO and the THPOs of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, and Upper Sioux Community. On 10 February 2025, the Upper Sioux Community responded and expressed no concerns with the project but requested to be notified if cultural resources or human remains are found during project-related activity. No other tribes responded. On 12 March 2025, the Minnesota SHPO concurred with the No Adverse Effects determination.

USACE also coordination earlier with the USFWS, MDNR, and MPCA (Appendix 7). Additional coordination with more details on the proposed project will be completed concurrent with public release of the EA.

6 SUMMARY OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND CONSTRUCTION RESTRICTIONS

The following measures would be implemented under the Proposed Alternative to minimize impacts:

1. In-channel work would be done outside of fish spawning season.
2. Redundant below-water sediment controls would be placed at the entrance of the low-flow channel (e.g., a silt curtain) to prevent sediment transport to the Watson Sag or Chippewa River.
3. A 50-foot buffer and redundant perimeter controls would be placed at stockpile sites to contain sediment runoff.
4. Overland sheet flow from the South Stockpile Site would be routed across existing vegetation and directed back into the low-flow channel rather than the Watson Sag, using the area, with a silt curtain or similar, as a containment cell to capture sediment runoff.
5. Excavated material would be placed directly within the South Stockpile site for containment and dewatering/drying out prior to transport to the North Stockpile Site, if needed.
6. After drying, excavated material in stockpiled areas would be graded and seeded with an appropriate grass seed mix within 1 year of placement. Temporary seeding would use a cover crop such as winter wheat. Permanent seeding would use turf grass.
7. The MNDNR would be afforded an opportunity to displace fish from the low-flow channel using an electrofishing equipment or nets. After the area is treated, a silt fence would be erected. MNDNR would also be allowed the opportunity to conduct mussel salvage prior to channel work. USACE may assist in these efforts.
8. A spill control plan for fuel would be developed and implemented.
9. Heavy equipment would be free of greases, oils, fuels and sediments, and prohibited invasive species and aquatic plants prior to being transported into the

work site. Minnesota guidelines would be followed: see http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/ewr/invasives/ais/best_practices_for_prevention_ais.pdf.

10. There would be no flow through the low-flow channel during excavation to contain sediments within the area of disturbance.
11. Once excavation work is completed, all areas would be restored to original grade and seeded with the exception of the channel and the stockpiled areas.
12. After channel excavation is completed, flows would be slowly ramped into the channel to minimize downstream sedimentation.

Under normal circumstances, all work resulting from the activity will be in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local water-quality and effluent standards or shall not exacerbate any existing impairments of the Chippewa River.

7 DISTRIBUTION AND REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This draft EA is being made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. The document can be viewed at https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/Public-Notices/.

Questions on the project or comments on the EA can be directed to David Potter at 3651.290.5713 or at david.f.potter@usace.army.mil. Please address all formal written correspondence on this project to the District Engineer, St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North, 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

8 REFERENCES

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2017. Interim Water Control Manual – Lac Qui Parle Project. St. Paul District.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 1987. Wetland Delineation Manual. Waterways Experimental Station.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2025. Environmental Compliance Review – Chippewa River Diversion Gate Repairs. Memorandum for Record. 22 April.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2024. Custom Soil Resource Report for Chippewa County, Minnesota. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. INVESTIGATION RESULTS OF THE WEST WETLAND STOCKPILE SITE

Chippewa Diversion Disposal Area Wetland Investigation

Investigator: Marissa Merriman (USACE St. Paul District Regulatory Division)

Introduction

A wetland delineation was conducted in accordance with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region—Version 2.0 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2010)*. The area investigated includes the potential Chippewa Diversion Disposal Site as identified on attachments to this report.

Offsite Analyses

Antecedent precipitation was analyzed using the Corps Antecedent Precipitation Tool and showed that climate and precipitation conditions for the site investigated was normal at the time of survey.

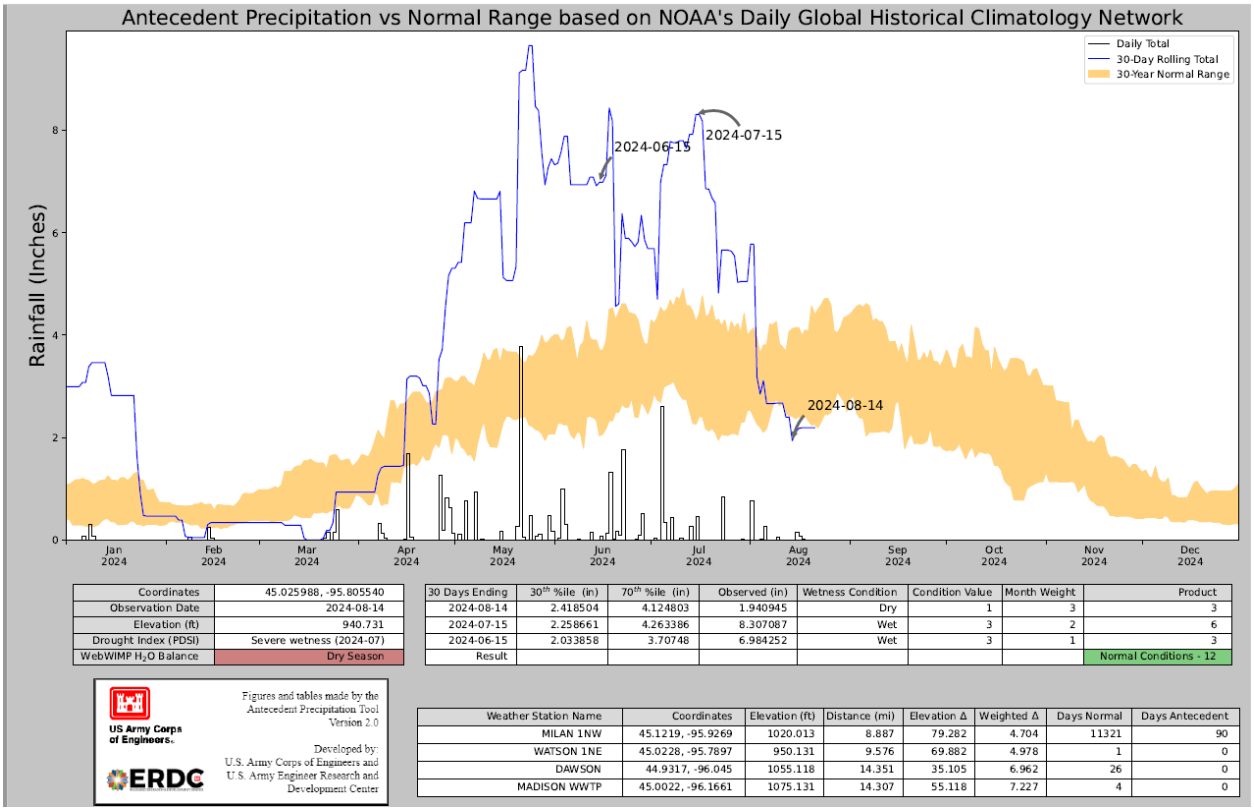


Figure 1. Corps Antecedent Precipitation Tool results for Chippewa Diversion site on August 14, 2024.

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping of the investigation areas was reviewed. A soils report was generated using the Web Soil Survey. The majority of the investigation area is mapped Rauville silty clay loam and Lamoure silty clay loam; both series are considered hydric. A small portion of the western end of the spillway investigation area was mapped as La Prairie loam. This soil series is generally not hydric.

Field verification

The field investigation took place on August 14, 2024. GPS information on wetland boundaries, sample point locations, and photos was uploaded to the project's ArcGIS Online map. In addition, sample pits to verify soils and hydrology at suspected wetland boundaries were performed during site inspection along the delineated wetland boundary. This investigation is sufficient to fulfill requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The investigation area is bordered by an embankment to the north, separating it from the Watson Sag. Dominant vegetation consisted of reed canary grass, Sandbar willow, sawtooth sunflower and poison ivy. It should be noted that it is typical for weedy and opportunistic facultative and upland species to colonize disturbed wetland sites.

The first sample point was taken at the toe of slope of the embankment. Due to disturbed, filled, and compacted soils at this location, the soil profile could only be described to 8 inches below ground surface. Primary hydrology indicators were not observed. This is not unusual for the time of year as the typical dry season in the Midwest Region begins July 1st. The determination relied on the presence of at least two secondary hydrology indicators. Secondary indicators observed included dry season water table, FAC-Neutral Test, geomorphic position and an algal mat/crust, and inundation on aerial imagery. Redoximorphic features were located at approximately 6 inches below ground surface, and given the immediately adjacent intact wetland community present, volunteer hydrophytic vegetation species observed at the margins of the mowed area, and presence of redox concentrations, the area is presumed to have hydric soils and the area was determined to be wetland based on Chapter 5 procedures in the Midwest Regional Supplement and best professional judgement.

The second sampling point was taken on the slope of the embankment. Only a shallow soil profile could be obtained with an auger but the sampling point did not exhibit any indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and hydrology and was therefore deemed an upland sampling point.

Additional investigative sampling points were taken further within the wetland and along the boundary but the data were not recorded. The western boundary of the wetland continues outside of the project boundary

It is apparent from site conditions that the site has been previously disturbed. USACE records show that much of the area was previously filled in the 1970s as part of previous Civil Works projects. Although previously filled, the area still exhibits all three wetland parameters, so the vegetation, soils and hydrology are not significantly disturbed as wetland indicators are not obscured by the previous work.

Wetland types identified include wet prairie and shallow marsh communities per Eggers and Reed Community classification.

Jurisdiction

Based on mapping, the wetland appears to be part of a large wetland complex that extends northwest and receives floodwaters from the Chippewa River. Therefore, it is presumed to be an adjacent wetland and is a water of the U.S. under Section 404 of the

CWA. A Section 404 CWA permit is required for discharge of dredged and/or fill material at this location.

Conclusion

A Section 404 CWA permit is required for discharges of dredged and fill material within designated wetland area in the disposal area. The disposal area proposed may not be the LEDPA; Regulatory recommends further investigating alternative disposal sites that may consist of less wetland or, ideally, entirely of uplands.

Marissa Merriman
Ecologist, Regulatory Division

Appendices (available upon request)

APPENDIX 2. INVESTIGATION RESULTS OF NORTH RIVER STOCKPILE SITE

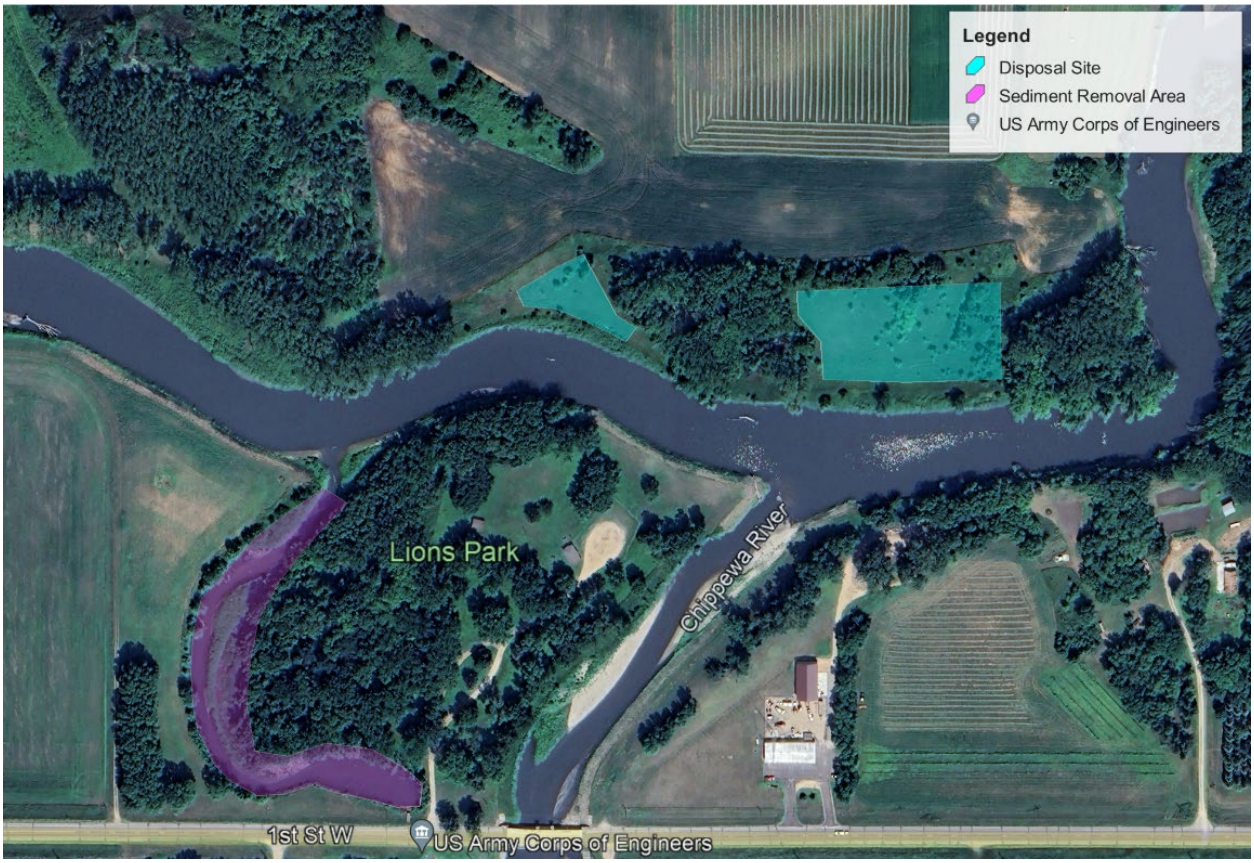


Figure 2-1. Map of proposed excavated channel and north disposal site.

APPENDIX 3. WETLAND INVESTIGATION RESULTS OF NORTH STOCKPILE SITE

LQP Spillway and Disposal Areas Wetland and Waterbody Investigation

Investigators: Marissa Merriman, Faye Healy, Samantha Coungeris (MVP Regulatory Division)

Introduction

A wetland delineation was conducted in accordance with the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region—Version 2.0 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2010)*. Potential waterbodies were investigated per *Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-05: Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark*. Areas investigated include the Lac qui Parle Spillway, Disposal Site #1 and Disposal Site #2 as identified on attachments to this report.

Offsite Analyses

Antecedent precipitation was analyzed using the Corps Antecedent Precipitation Tool and showed that climate and precipitation conditions for the sites investigated were normal at the time of survey, however the analysis did indicate that as of June 01 the area has entered into a dry period.

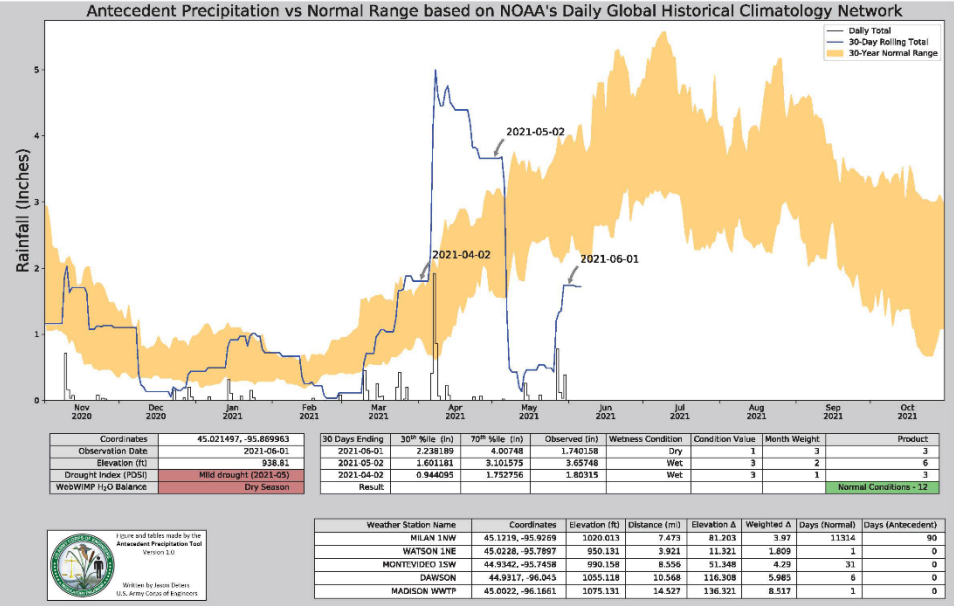


Figure 1. Corps Antecedent Precipitation Tool results for Lac qui Parle Spillway site in June 2021.

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping of the investigation areas were reviewed. A soils report was generated using the Web Soil Survey. The majority of the spillway investigation area is mapped Lamoure silty clay loam series, which is a hydric soil series. A small portion of the western end of the spillway investigation area was mapped as La Prairie loam. This soil series is generally not hydric. The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory showed mapped palustrine emergent wetland immediately south of the existing spillway.

Disposal site #1 consists of Du Page loam soils. This is generally not a hydric soil unit. According to NWI there are no mapped wetlands within the review area.

Disposal site #2 consists of Lamoure silty clay loam and Rauville silty clay loam. These soil series are associated with floodplain landforms, are occasionally to frequently flooded, and generally hydric. A majority of the review area is mapped as NWI wetland with a Cowardin Classification of Paulustrine Emergent (PEM) wetland with a temporarily flooded hydrologic regime.

Field verification

The field investigation took place on June 9, 2021. Due to time constraints, this wetland investigation does not include GPS information on wetland boundaries. In addition, sample pits to verify soils and hydrology at suspected wetland boundaries could not be done due to risk of striking buried utilities. Therefore, wetland boundaries determined in this investigation should be considered approximate but sufficient to fulfill requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

LQP Spillway

The investigation area included a 15-foot strip that was recently mowed south of the existing spillway and a small portion of the Minnesota DNR state wildlife management area. Vegetation identification in the mowed strip was nearly impossible but remaining leaf and stem structures indicated sedges (*Carex* spp.), *Phalaris arundinecea* (reed canary grass), and common dandelion are present. It should be noted that it is typical for weedy and opportunistic facultative and upland species to colonize disturbed wetland sites. Other species observed at the margins of the mowed strip include: reed canary grass, sedges, false indigo, black ash saplings, common mullein, bidens, and curly dock.

Due to risk concerning buried utilities, only two sample points were completed within the investigation area. The first sample point was taken at the southern limit of the 15-foot mowed strip. Due to disturbed, filled, and compacted soils at this location, the soil profile could only be described to 8 inches below ground surface. Primary hydrology indicators such as a water table within 12 inches of the ground surface could not be ascertained and the area was determined to have wetland hydrology based on secondary indicators. Redoximorphic features were located at approximately 6 inches below ground surface, and given the immediately adjacent intact wetland community present, volunteer hydrophytic vegetation species observed at the margins of the mowed area, and presence of redox concentrations, the area is presumed to have hydric soils and the area was determined to be wetland per Chapter 5 procedures in the Midwest Regional Supplement and best professional judgement.

The second sampling point was taken in the DNR Wildlife Management Area approximately 10 feet south from the first sample point. Vegetation was 100% *Phalaris arundinacea (*reed canary grass) and met the dominance test for hydrophytic vegetation. The soil profile was described to 14 inches below the ground surface, was consistent with the mapped soil unit, and found to meet hydric soil indicator F6: Redox Dark Surface.

Additional sampling points were not taken to establish an exact wetland boundary since the likely eastern and western boundaries of the wetland area were in areas that appeared to be high-risk for potential buried utilities. The western boundary of the wetland area appears to closely match the boundary between the hydric Lamoure silty clay loam unit and the La Prairie loam unit where the vegetation community transitions to mowed and planted turf grass adjacent to the power substation and is dominated by *Poa* spp. and white clover. The eastern boundary appears to be located along the toe of the slope south of the culvert. Photos approximating this boundary are included in the appendix for this report. The north boundary of the wetland area is where the concrete ditch and spillway begins. The southern boundary of the wetland is outside of the investigation area and was not field-verified.

Disposal Site #1

The first disposal area south of the Watson sag consists of Du Page loam soils. This is generally not a hydric soil unit. The area is highly disturbed and filled from previous use as a disposal site. The vegetation community consists of smooth brome (bromus inermis), quackgrass (Elymus repens), and spurge (Euphorbia sp.). Given that this area is not mapped wetland on NWI, is not mapped as having hydric soils, and the vegetation community consists entirely of upland species, this investigation area is non-wetland.

Disposal Site #2

The second disposal area north of Watson sag, past the county highway 9 bridge on the west side is mapped hydric soils and mapped as NWI wetland. Without a GPS shapefile the exact limits of the investigation area were difficult to distinguish. However, the majority of the disposal area appears to be previously filled and disturbed to the point that it is no longer meeting wetland criteria. Vegetation immediately adjacent to the fill area is hydrophytic and consists of willows (salix spp.), cottonwood, reed canary grass and other typical riparian wetland species. It is presumed from desktop information and undisturbed areas immediately adjacent to the current spoil piles that the entire investigation area was previously wetland. It is recommended that use of this site for disposal be discontinued as there is a nearby upland disposal site available.

Jurisdiction

Based on mapping, the spillway wetland appears to be part of a large wetland complex that extends south to the bank of the Lac qui Parle River below the parking area east of the review area. Therefore, it is presumed to be an adjacent wetland and is a water of the U.S. per the NWPR. The spillway also includes a concrete ditch that is several feet wide. This feature had no flow at the time of survey. This feature was not assessed as a potential waterbody, is not wetland currently, and is not a water of the U.S.

Disposal site #1 was determined to consist entirely of uplands and is therefore not jurisdictional under Section 404 of the CWA and no permit is required for discharge of dredged and/or fill material at this location.

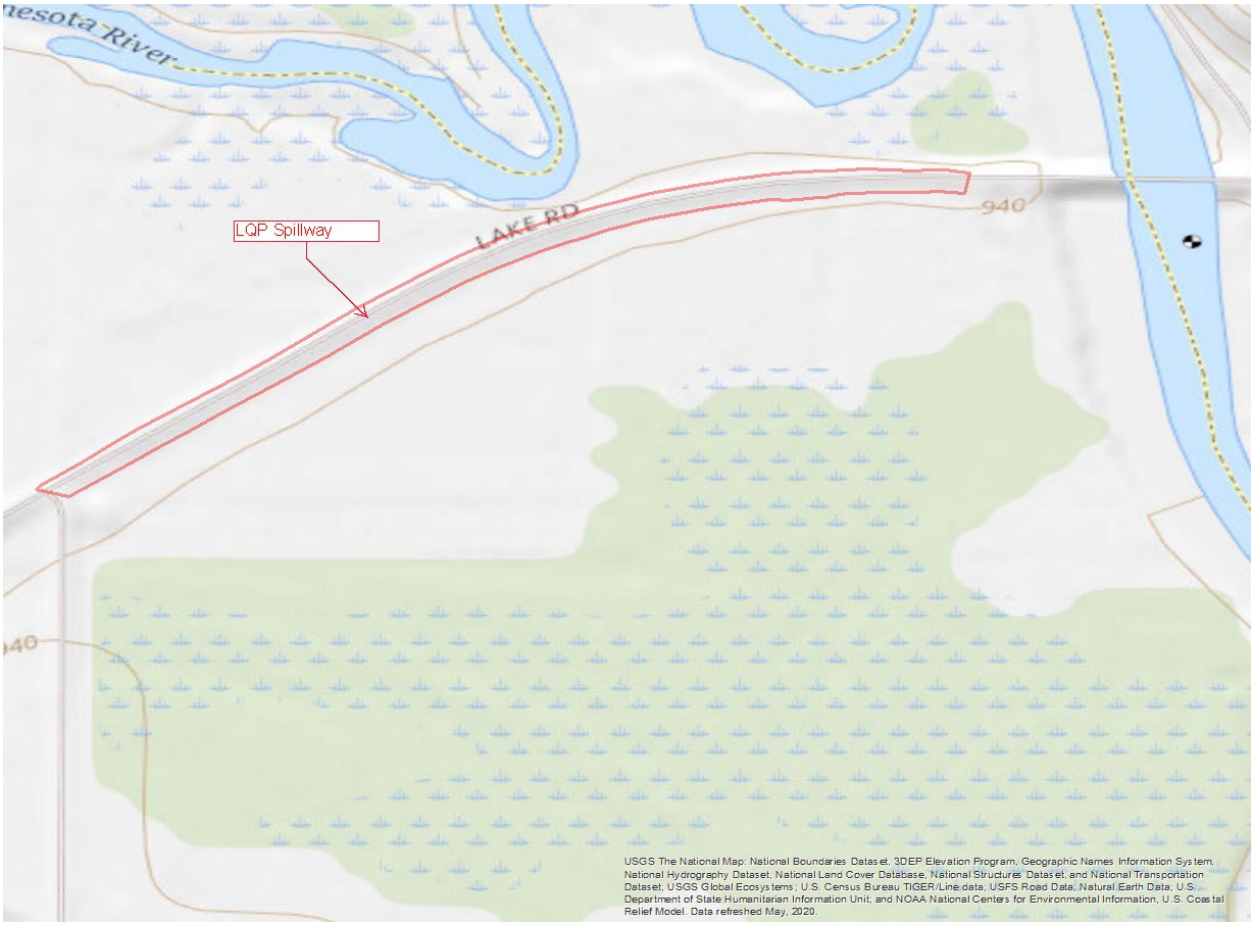
Remaining wetland at Disposal Site #2 is jurisdictional under Section 404 of the CWA as it is adjacent to Watson Sag. A Section 404 CWA permit is required for discharge of dredged and/or fill material at this location.

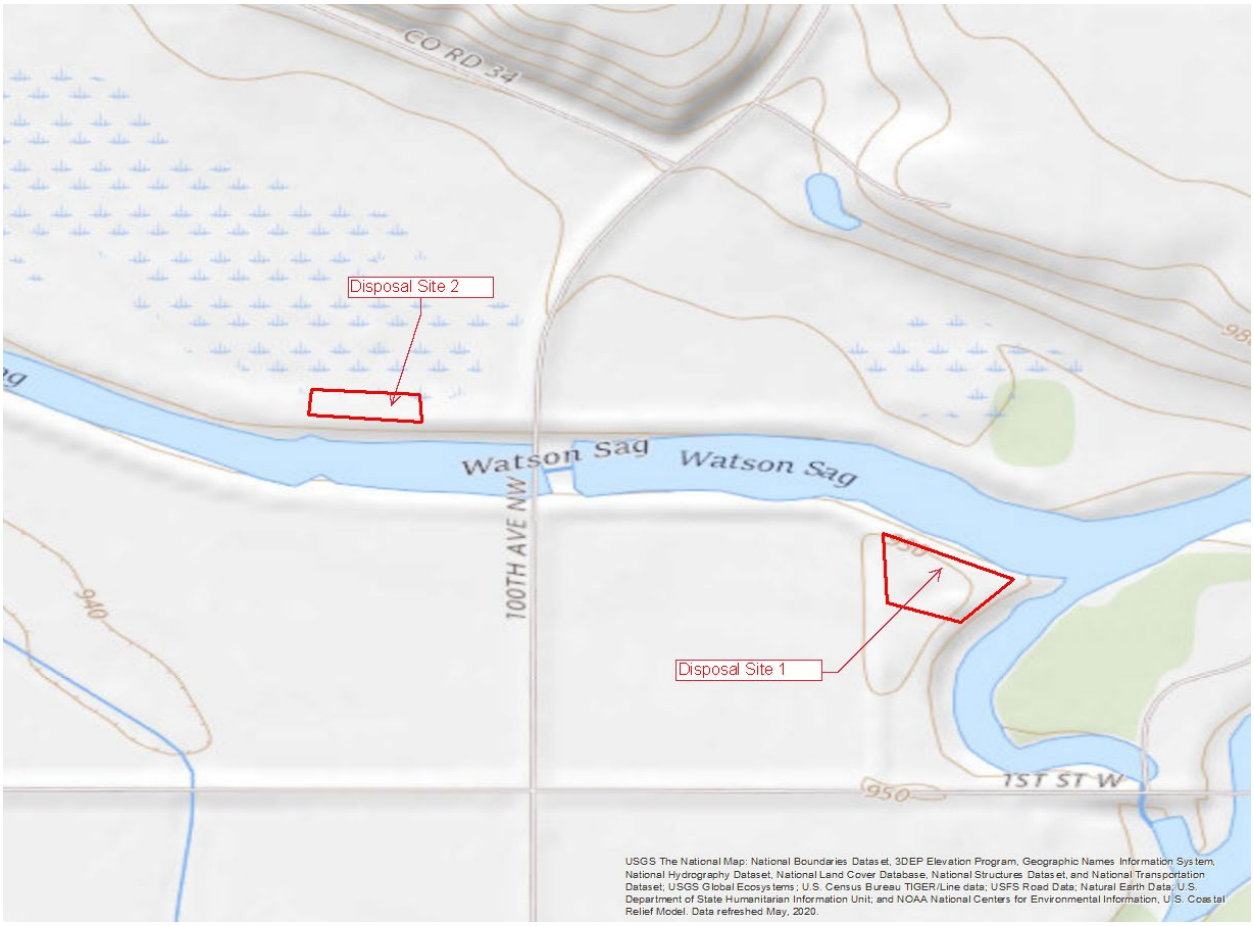
Conclusion

A Section 404 CWA permit is required for discharges of dredged and fill material within designated wetland area along the Lac qui Parle spillway and within Disposal Area #2. Disposal Area #1 consists entirely of upland and does not require a Section 404 CWA permit for discharges of dredged or fill material within the area shown on the enclosed figures. Regulatory recommends discontinuing use of Disposal Area #2 and restoration of the area if feasible.

Marissa Merriman
Senior Ecologist, Regulatory Division

Appendix A – Topographic Maps

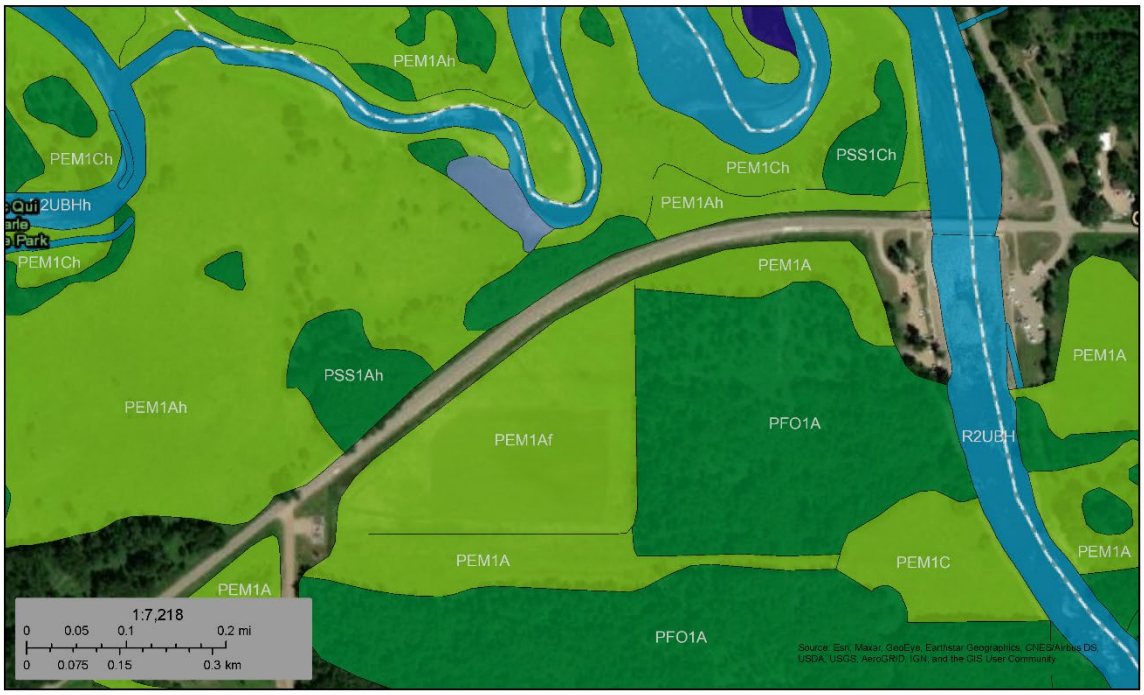

LQP Spillway
LAKE RD
940
USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed May, 2020.


CO RD 34
Disposal Site 2
Watson Sag
Watson Sag
100TH AVE NW
Disposal Site 1
1ST ST W
950
USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed May, 2020.

Appendix B NWI Maps

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

LQP Spillway Area



June 2, 2021

Wetlands

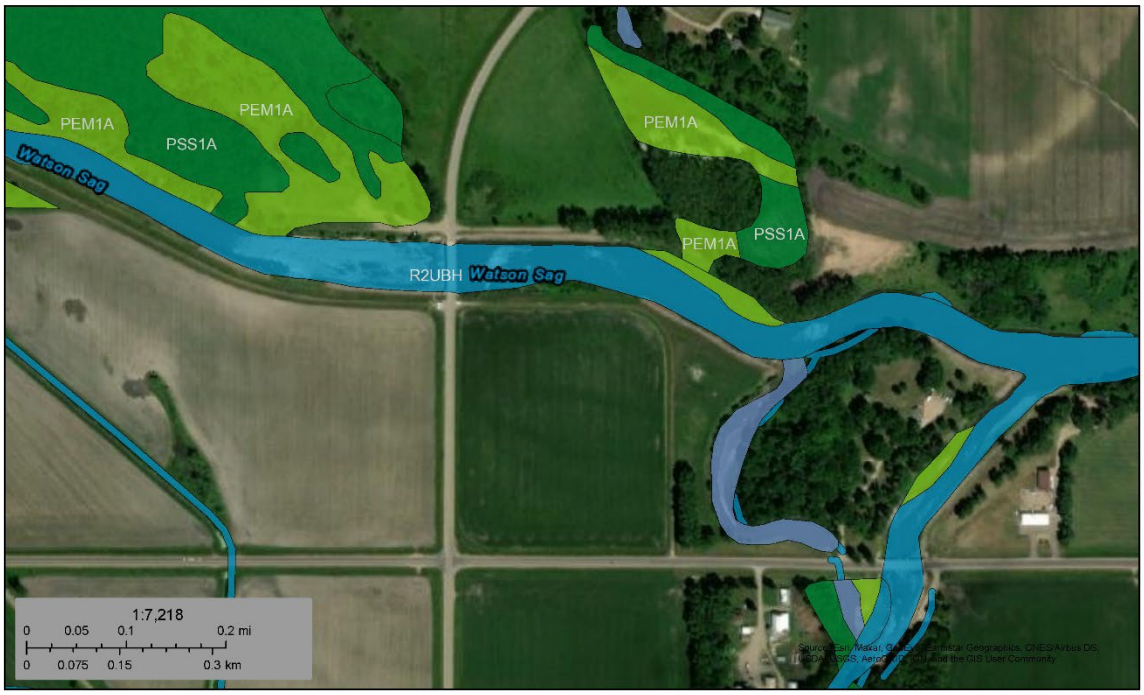
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
This page was produced by the NWI mapper

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

LQP.disposalareas



June 2, 2021

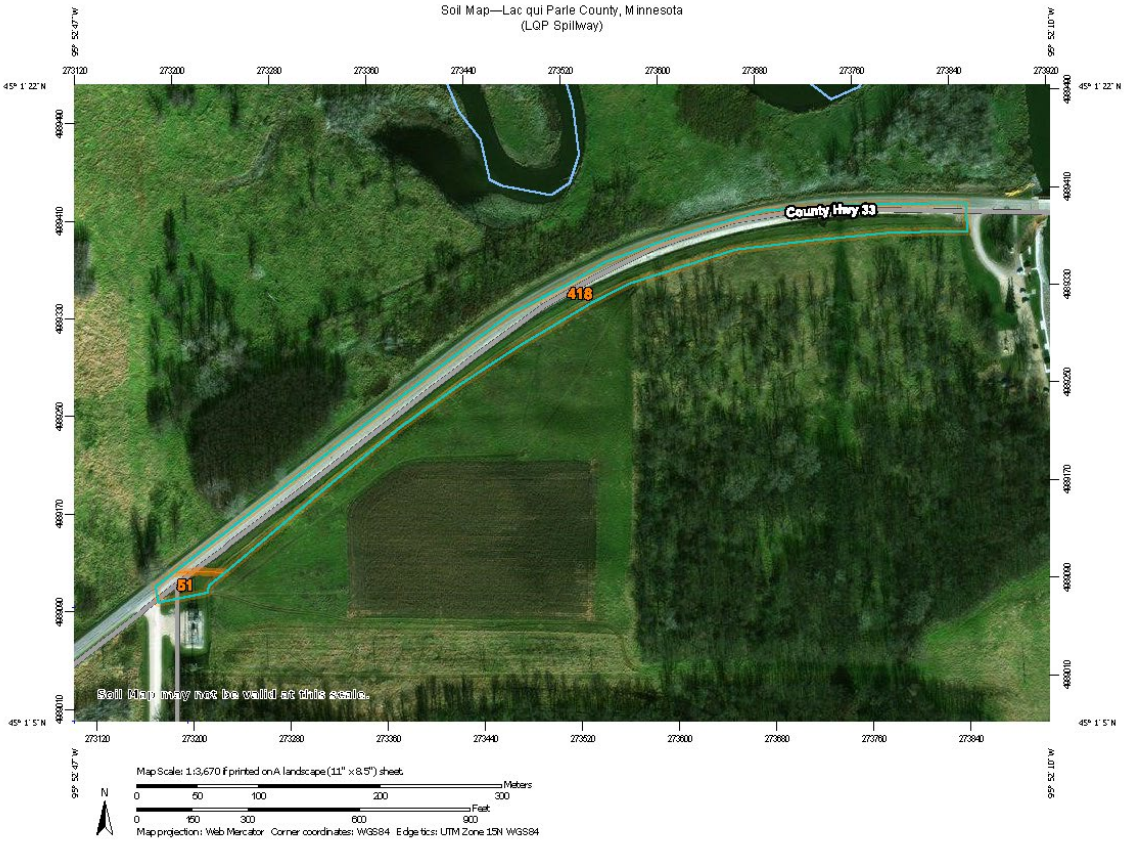
Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
This page was produced by the NWI mapper

Appendix C Soil Survey Reports


Soil Map—Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota
(LQP Spillway)
County Hwy 33
418
61
Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.
Map Scale: 1:3,670 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.
Meters
0 50 100 200 300
Feet
0 150 300 600 900
Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 15N WGS84
N
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey
6/2/2021
Page 1 of 3

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Lac qui Parle County, Minnesota
Survey Area Data: Version 21, Jun 10, 2020

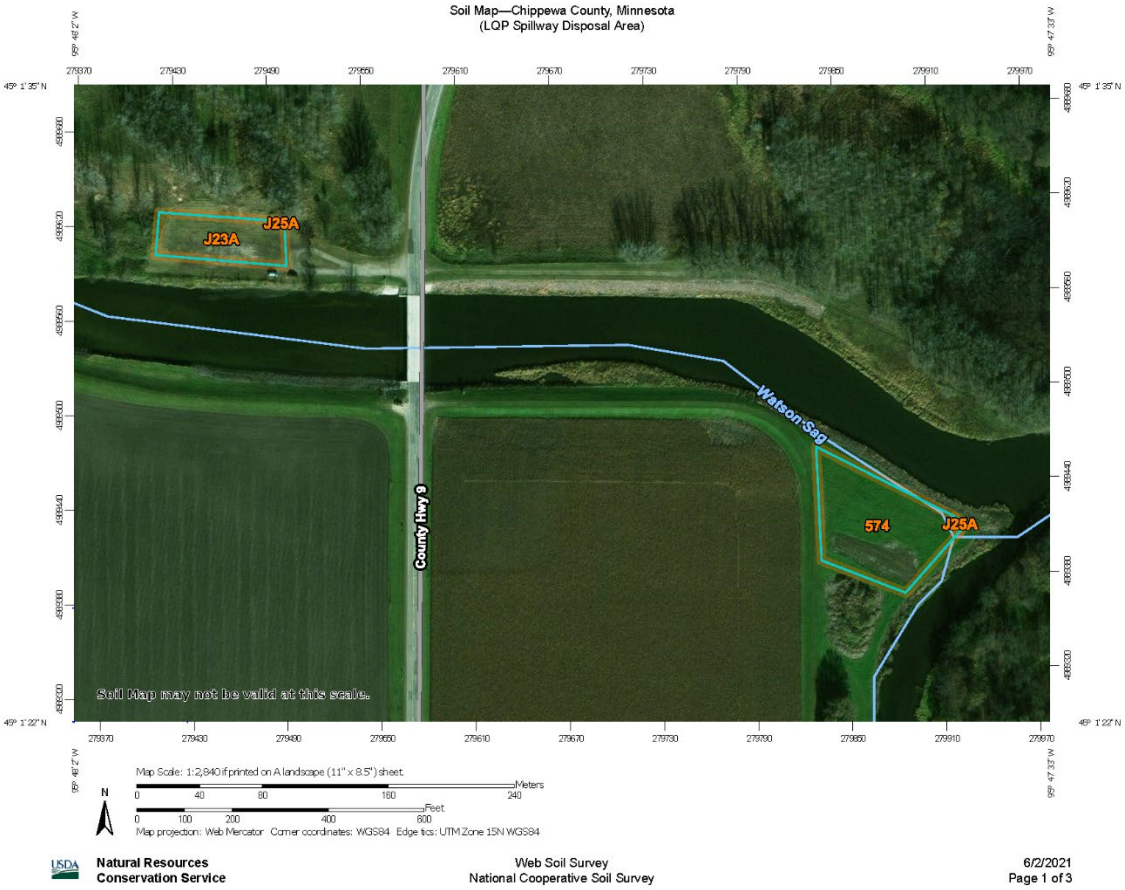
Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: May 3, 2015—Feb 28, 2017

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
51	La Prairie loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	0.2	4.9%
418	Lamoure silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	4.2	95.1%
Totals for Area of Interest		**4.5**	**100.0%**


Soil Map—Chippewa County, Minnesota
(LQP Spillway Disposal Area)
J25A
J23A
Watson Sag
County Hwy 9
574
J25A
Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.
Map Scale: 1:2,940 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.
Meters
0 40 80 160 240
Feet
0 100 200 400 600
Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 15N WGS84
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey
6/2/2021
Page 1 of 3

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:15,800.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Chippewa County, Minnesota
Survey Area Data: Version 23, Jun 10, 2020

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: May 3, 2015—Feb 28, 2017

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
574	Du Page loam	1.2	68.3%
J23A	Lamoure silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	0.6	31.1%
J25A	Rauville silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	0.0	0.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		**1.8**	**100.0%**

Appendix D – Site Photographs

Spillway, looking west

Spillway: first photo looking east toward approximate east wetland boundary; second photo looking south – MnDNR WMA in background.

Spillway looking east; approximate western boundary- roughly follows soil map unit boundary.

Disposal Site #1

Disposal site #2, approximate wetland boundary present-day

Disposal site 2 – existing spoil pile

Disposal site #2: Dominant vegetation in non-filled wetland areas – Eastern cottonwood, sandbar willow, False indigo, reed canary grass, sedges.

Appendix E – Wetland Data Forms

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Midwest Region

Project/Site: Lac qui Parle Spillway | City/County: Lac qui Parle | Sampling Date: 6/09/2021

Applicant/Owner: USACE | State: MN | Sampling Point: 1-1

Investigator(s): Merriman, Healy, Congeris | Section, Township, Range:

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Floodplain | Local relief (concave, convex, none): none

Slope (%): 0-2 | Lat: 45.021497 | Long: -95.869930 | Datum:

Soil Map Unit Name: Lamoure silty clay loam | NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation x, Soil x, or Hydrology x significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes No x

Are Vegetation, Soil, or Hydrology naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes x	No	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes X No
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes x	No	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X	No	

Remarks:
Sample point is within mowed maintenance corridor for spillway.

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size:)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	=Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	=Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5')			
1. *Phalaris arundinacea*	50	Yes	FACW
2. *Carex spp*	10	No	
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
	60 =Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
	=Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	50	x 2 =	100
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	0	x 4 =	0
UPL species	0	x 5 =	0
Column Totals:	50 (A)		100 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 2.00

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- X 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- X 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes x No

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)
Sample point within recently mowed corridor. Most vegetation not identfiiable. Chapter 5 of the regional supplement applies here. Volunteer vegetation and vegetation immediately adjacent to mowed area consists of hydrophytes. Managed vegetation is excluded for purposes of hydrophytic vegetation

SOIL

Sampling Point: 1-1

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-7	10YR 2/2	98	10YR 4/6	2	C	M	Loamy/Clayey	Prominent redox concentrations
								Mixed gravel fill

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ? Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- x Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** x **No** ____

Remarks:

Soil profile does not meet a hydric soil indicator due to significant disturbance including mixed fill. Unable to dig beyond 7 inches due to compaction and mixed fill material. Soil assumed hydric based on mapped soil unit, presence of redox concentrations in the upper 6 inches of the profile.

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ___ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Gauge or Well Data (D9)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- x Geomorphic Position (D2)
- X FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ____ No ____ Depth (inches): ____

Water Table Present? Yes ____ No ____ Depth (inches): ____

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ____ No ____ Depth (inches): ____

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** X **No** ____

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Could not confirm presence of primary hydrology indicators due to compaction of soil profile and time constraints.

US Army Corps of Engineers Midwest Region – Version 2.0

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Midwest Region

Project/Site: Lac qui Parle Spillway | City/County: Lac qui Parle | Sampling Date: 6/09/2021

Applicant/Owner: USACE | State: MN | Sampling Point: 1-2

Investigator(s): Merriman, Healy, Coungeris | Section, Township, Range:

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Floodplain | Local relief (concave, convex, none): none

Slope (%): 0 | Lat: 45.021497 | Long: -95.869930 | Datum:

Soil Map Unit Name: Lamoure silty clay loam | NWI classification:

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes No x

Are Vegetation , Soil , or Hydrology naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes x	No	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** Yes X No
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes x	No	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X	No	

Remarks:
Sample point is within MNDNR WMA adjacent to mowed maintenance corridor for spillway.

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size:)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	=Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	=Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5')			
1. *Phalaris arundinacea*	100	Yes	FACW
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
	100 =Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
	=Total Cover		

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 1 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 1 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 100.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:	
OBL species	0	x 1 =	0
FACW species	100	x 2 =	200
FAC species	0	x 3 =	0
FACU species	0	x 4 =	0
UPL species	0	x 5 =	0
Column Totals:	100 (A)		200 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 2.00

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- X 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- X 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]
- 4 - Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
- Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes x No

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)
Sample point within recently mowed corridor. Most vegetation not identfiiable. Chapter 5 of the regional supplement applies here. Volunteer vegetation and vegetation immediately adjacent to mowed area consists of hydrophytes. Managed vegetation is excluded for purposes of hydrophytic vegetation

SOIL

Sampling Point: 1-2

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth	Matrix		Redox Features					
(inches)	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-6	10YR 2/2	100					Loamy/Clayey	
6-14	10YR 2/2	93	10YR 3/4	5	C	M		
			10YR 5/6	2	C	M		Prominent redox concentrations

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators:

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Dark Surface (S7)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- x Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
- ___ Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
- ___ Red Parent Material (F21)
- ___ Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- x Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

Restrictive Layer (if observed):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? **Yes** x **No** ____

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3)
- ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)
- ___ Iron Deposits (B5)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Aquatic Fauna (B13)
- ___ True Aquatic Plants (B14)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Gauge or Well Data (D9)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)

- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1)
- x Geomorphic Position (D2)
- X FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes ____ No ____ Depth (inches): ____

Water Table Present? Yes ____ No ____ Depth (inches): ____

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes ____ No ____ Depth (inches): ____

Wetland Hydrology Present? **Yes** X **No** ____

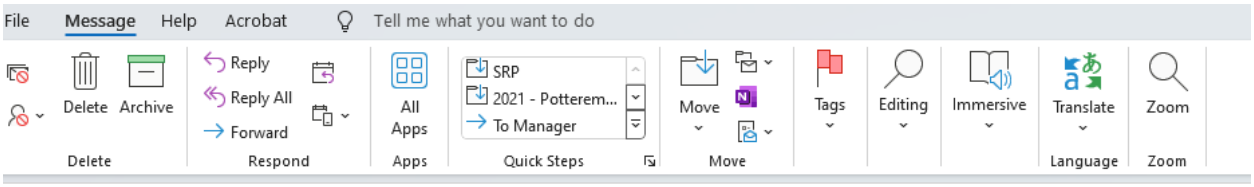
Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Could not confirm presence of primary hydrology indicators due to time constraints - water table can take substantial amount of time to equalize in soils with clay component.

US Army Corps of Engineers Midwest Region – Version 2.0

APPENDIX 4. 2024 MUSSEL SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE CHIPPEWA APPROACH CHANNEL



RE: Proposed maintenance for Chippewa Diversion Dam, Chippewa County, MN

Kelner, Daniel E CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)
To
Cc Potter, David F CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

Reply | Reply All | Forward

Tue 1/28/2025 1:51 PM

Chipp_Diversion_mussel_relocation_2020_FINAL.XLSX
19 KB

Chippewa Diversion Mussel Survey 2024.xlsx
14 KB

Mike et al. during 2020 we conducted a mussel relocation within the areas to be de-watered for dam repairs and relocated 796 mussels of 13 live species to an area several hundred feet upstream (see attached). No live or dead state T&E species were present or relocated and 30 live black sandshell (special concern) were relocated at that time. Prior to this proposed work we conducted another mussel survey on 9 September within the same proposed areas to be dewatered to assess mussel impacts. We spent 120 minutes searching the entire areas to be dewatered and collected 25 live mussels of 6 species. No T&E species were collected and all mussels were relocated out of the areas. Sixteen of these individuals (64%) were <5 years indicating that perhaps they recolonized the area post dewatering in 2020. However, these along with the older individuals may have moved into the area actively or passively or were missed during the relocation and survived dewatering.

There should be no impacts to state T&E species with minimal impacts to common mussel species from the proposed dewatering at the site given the lack of T&E species being present and low abundance and low diversity of common species. The Corps will continue to assess mussel impacts at the site if construction should be delayed beyond 2027 but at this time no additional mussel relocation is planned.

Dan Kelner
Fisheries Biologist/Malacologist
note address change
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
TELE (651) 290-5277
MOBILE (651) 724 -2244

Table 4-1. Species and number of native mussels collected from the Chippewa Diversion approach channel, September 9, 2024.

Species	Common	Upstream of Dam No.	Upstream of Dam %	Downstream of Dam No.	Downstream of Dam %	Total No.	Total %
Lampsilis cardium	plain pocketbook	6	75.0	8	47.1	14	56.0
Potamilus fragilis	fragile papershell	2	25.0	1	5.9	3	12.0
Lampsilis siliquodea	fatmucket	-	-	2	11.8	2	8.0
Potamilus alatus	pink papershell	-	-	1	5.9	1	4.0
*Ligumia recta**	black sandshell*	-	-	3	17.6	3	12.0
Strophitus undulatus	strange floater	-	-	2	11.8	2	8.0

Totals	Upstream of Dam No.	Upstream of Dam %	Downstream of Dam No.	Downstream of Dam %	Total No.	Total %
Total	8	-	17	-	25	-
Live species	2	-	6	-	6	-
Time searched	60	-	60	-	120	-
CPUE (No. live/min)	0.1	-	0.3	-	0.2	-

*Minnesota Species of Special Concern

APPENDIX 5. 2024 RESULTS OF SEDIMENT ANALYSIS FOR THE CHIPPEWA LOW-FLOW CHANNEL


CHP1
Lions Park
CHP2
CHP3
Chippewa River
CHP4
CHP5
13
US Army Corps of Engineers
Google Earth

Chippewa Diversion River Env Sampling Results

	Sample				MPCA SQT I	MPCA SQT II	May 2021 Realtec Final Chloride MIV	CHP1		CHP2		CHP3		CHP4		CHP5	
	Lab ID							1397558		1397559		1397560		1397561		1397562	
	Matrix							SOIL		SOIL		SOIL		SOIL		SOIL	
	Lab							CT Labs		CT Labs		CT Labs		CT Labs		CT Labs	
	Sampled							11/13/2023		11/13/2023		11/13/2023		11/13/2023		11/13/2023	
	Depth																
	Analyte	CAS Number	Units	Method				Result	Qual	Result	Qual	Result	Qual	Result	Qual	Result	Qual
Inorganic Results	Solids- Percent	SOLID	%	AZS40G				63.9		61.2		73.4		62.7		17.4	
	Total Volatile Solids	TVS	gVS/gTS	AZS40G				0.1	U	0.1	U	0.1	U	0.1	U	0.162	Y
	Percent Moisture	MOIST	%	D297487				36.1		38.8		26.6		37.3		82.6	
	Ammonia Nitrogen	7664-41-7	mg/kg	E350.1				6.3	J	12	U	11	U	14.2	J	43	U
	Phosphorus	7723-14-0	mg/kg	E365.4				335		228	JV	248	J	220	J	720	J
	Nitrogen Kjeldahl	7727-37-9	mg/kg	E351.2				549		253	JM-Y	203	J	527		2450	
	Total Organic Carbon	TOC	mg/kg	LYDKHN				15900	Y	15600		16300		14900		126000	
	Cyanide	57-12-5	mg/kg dry	SW9014				0.743	U	0.685	U	0.500	U	0.747	U	3.07	J1-U
Metals Results	Arsenic	7440-38-2	mg/kg	SW6010	9.8	33	9	2.1		2.1		2		4		6.5	
	Cadmium	7440-43-9	mg/kg	SW6010	0.99	5	1.6	0.2	J	0.15	J	0.15	J	0.29	J	0.66	J
	Chromium	7440-47-3	mg/kg	SW6010	43	110	23000	5.2		3.9		3.5		5.5		12	
	Chromium- Hexavalent	18540-29-9	mg/kg dry	EPA 7196A/3060			11	9.58	J1-S1-U	8.80	S1-U	6.28	S1-U	9.45	S1-U	41.1	S1-U
	Copper	7440-50-8	mg/kg	SW6010	32	150	2200	6.6		2.5		3.3		5.9		17	
	Lead	7439-92-1	mg/kg	SW6010	36	130	300	3.1		2.2		2.1		3.7		8.6	
	Magnesium	7439-95-4	mg/kg	SW6010				6300	M	6100		4800		5300		11000	
	Nickel	7440-02-0	mg/kg	SW6010	23	49	170	6.3		4		4.2		7		17	
	Zinc	7440-66-6	mg/kg	SW6010	120	480	4800	19		12		12		21		53	
	Mercury	7439-97-6	mg/kg	SW7471B	0.18	1.1	3.1	0.016		0.011	J	0.0042	J	0.0082	J	0.039	J
	Phenolics- Total Recoverable		mg/kg dry	SW9065			3500	0.0217		0.390		0.153		4.87	D	2.22	J1
Pesticides	4-4'-DDD	72-54-8	ug/kg	SW8081B	4.9	28	19000	3.1	UM-Y	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	11	U
	4-4'-DDE	72-55-9	ug/kg	SW8081B	3.2	21	22000	3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	55.9	P
	4-4'-DDT	50-29-3	ug/kg	SW8081B	5.3	570	7300	6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Aldrin	309-00-2	ug/kg	SW8081B			460	6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	alpha-BHC	319-84-6	ug/kg	SW8081B			690	6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	alpha-Chlordane	5103-71-9	ug/kg	SW8081B				3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	11	U
	beta-BHC	319-85-7	ug/kg	SW8081B			2500	3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	77.7	P
	Chlordane (Technical)	12789-03-6	ug/kg	SW8081B	3.2	18	9500	62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	delta-BHC	319-86-8	ug/kg	SW8081B				3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	11	U
	Dieldrin	60-57-1	ug/kg	SW8081B	1.9	62	110	3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	11	U
	Endosulfan I	959-98-8	ug/kg	SW8081B			130000	6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Endosulfan II	33213-65-9	ug/kg	SW8081B				6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Endosulfan sulfate	1031-07-8	ug/kg	SW8081B				6.2	UM	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Endrin	72-20-8	ug/kg	SW8081B	2.2	210	4000	6.2	UM-Y	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Endrin aldehyde	7421-93-4	ug/kg	SW8081B				6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Endrin ketone	53494-70-5	ug/kg	SW8081B				3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	11	U
	gamma-Chlordane	5103-74-2	ug/kg	SW8081B				3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	11	U
	Heptachlor	76-44-8	ug/kg	SW8081B			1900	6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Heptachlor epoxide	1024-57-3	ug/kg	SW8081B	2.6	18	280	3.1	U	3.2	U	2.7	U	3.1	U	11	U
	Lindane	58-89-9	ug/kg	SW8081B			4300	6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	220	UV
	Methoxychlor	72-43-5	ug/kg	SW8081B				6.2	U	6.5	U	5.3	U	6.3	U	22	U
	Toxaphene	8001-35-2	ug/kg	SW8081B	0.1	32	4100	62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
PAHs	1-Methylnaphthalene	90-12-0	ug/kg	SW8270SIM				3.9	U	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	11.6	J
	2-Methylnaphthalene	91-57-6	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	20	200	39000	3.9	U	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	18.2	J
	Acenaphthene	83-32-9	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	6.7	89	450000	3.9	U	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	14	U
	Acenaphthylene	208-96-8	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	5.9	130		3.9	U	1.64	J	3.3	U	3.9	U	10.4	J
	Anthracene	120-12-7	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	57	850	2800000	3.9	UM	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	8.45	J
	Benzo(a)anthracene	56-55-3	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	110	1100		1.99	JM	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	6.77	J
	Benzo(a)pyrene	50-32-8	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	150	1500	2000**	3.9	UM	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	14	U
	Benzo(b)fluoranthene	205-99-2	ug/kg	SW8270SIM				3.34	JM	3.12	J	2.36	J	4.5	J	19.1	J
	Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	191-24-2	ug/kg	SW8270SIM				3.72	JM	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	14	U
	Benzo(k)fluoranthene	207-08-9	ug/kg	SW8270SIM				2.46	JM	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	14	U
	Chrysene	218-01-9	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	170	1300		1.98	JM	2.07	J	3.3	U	2.95	J	17.8	J
	Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene	53-70-3	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	33	140		2.75	J	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	14	U
	Fluoranthene	206-44-0	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	420	2200	200000	4.27	JM	5.01	J	2.68	J	5.67	J	27.5	J
	Fluorene	86-73-7	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	77	540	280000	3.9	U	4	U	3.3	U	1.83	J	8.79	J
	Indeno(1-2-3-cd)pyrene	193-39-5	ug/kg	SW8270SIM				3.53	J	4	U	3.3	U	3.9	U	14	U
	Naphthalene	91-20-3	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	180	560	81000	5.04	J	4.43	J	2.23	J	6.04	J	84.9	
	Phenanthrene	85-01-8	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	200	1200		3.8	JM	3.97	J	2.2	J	4.95	J	26.9	
	Pyrene	129-00-0	ug/kg	SW8270SIM	200	1500	220000	3.59	JM	3.66	J	2.1	J	4.56	J	21.9	J
PCBs	Aroclor-1016	12674-11-2	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	Aroclor-1221	11104-28-2	ug/kg	SW8082				92	U	97	U	80	U	94	U	340	U
	Aroclor-1232	11141-16-5	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	Aroclor-1242	53469-21-9	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	Aroclor-1248	12672-29-6	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	Aroclor-1254	11097-69-1	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	Aroclor-1260	11096-82-5	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	Aroclor-1262	37324-23-5	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
	Aroclor-1268	11100-14-4	ug/kg	SW8082				62	U	65	U	53	U	63	U	220	U
Grain Size	0.75		% finer					100		100		100		100		100	
	3/8		% finer					100		100		100		100		100	
	#4		% finer					100		100		100		100		98.8	
	#10		% finer					99.8		99.3		99.9		100		98.6	
	#40		% finer					98.9		92.3		95.5		98.8		96.7	
	#200		% finer					27		12		8.7		23.9		48	
	Coarse Gravel		%					0		0		0		0		0	
	Fine Gravel		%					0		0		0		0		1.3	
	Coarse Sand		%					0.2		0.7		0.1		0		0.2	
	Medium Sand		%					0.9		7		4.4		1.2		1.9	
	Fine Sand		%					71.9		80.3		86.8		74.9		48.7	
	Silt Fines		%					21		8.3		6		17.8		37.8	
	Clay Fines		%					6		3.7		2.7		6.1		10.2	

U Analyte concentration was below detection limit
J Estimated value
M Matrix spike and/or matrix spike duplicate recovery outside acceptance levels
Z Specified calibration criteria was not met
P Concentration of analyte differs more than 40% between primary and confirmation analysis
Q Laboratory Control Sample outside acceptable limits
S1 The percent recovery is above the limits (e.g. LCS recovery, surrogate spike recovery, or CCV recovery), but the analyte was not detected in the sample. Data is acceptable.
J1 The sample was utilized for MS/MSD purposes. For this compound, the recovery and/or RPD fell outside control criteria.

QC Qualifiers

Code	Description
B	Analyte detected in the associated Method Blank.
C	Toxicity present in BOD sample.
D	Diluted Out.
E	Soils, No Total Coliform detected.
F	E.coli, Total Coliform detected, no E. Coli detected.
G	E.coli, Total Coliform detected and E. Coli detected.
H	Holding time exceeded.
I	Incubator temperature was outside acceptance limits during test period.
J	Estimated value.
L	Significant peaks were detected outside the chromatographic window.
M	Matrix spike and/or Matrix Spike Duplicate recovery outside acceptance limits.
N	Insufficient BOD oxygen depletion.
O	Complete BOD oxygen depletion.
P	Concentration of analyte differs more than 40% between primary and confirmation analysis.
Q	Laboratory Control Sample outside acceptance limits.
R	See Narrative at end of report.
S	Surrogate standard recovery outside acceptance limits due to apparent matrix effects.
T	Sample received with improper preservation or temperature.
U	Analyte concentration was below detection limit.
V	Method Blank/Matrix or Prep artifact due to limited sample amount or dilution for matrix/analyte interference.
W	Sample amount received was below program minimum.
X	Analyte exceeded calibration range.
Y	Replicate/Duplicate precision outside acceptance limits.
Z	Specified calibration criteria was not met.

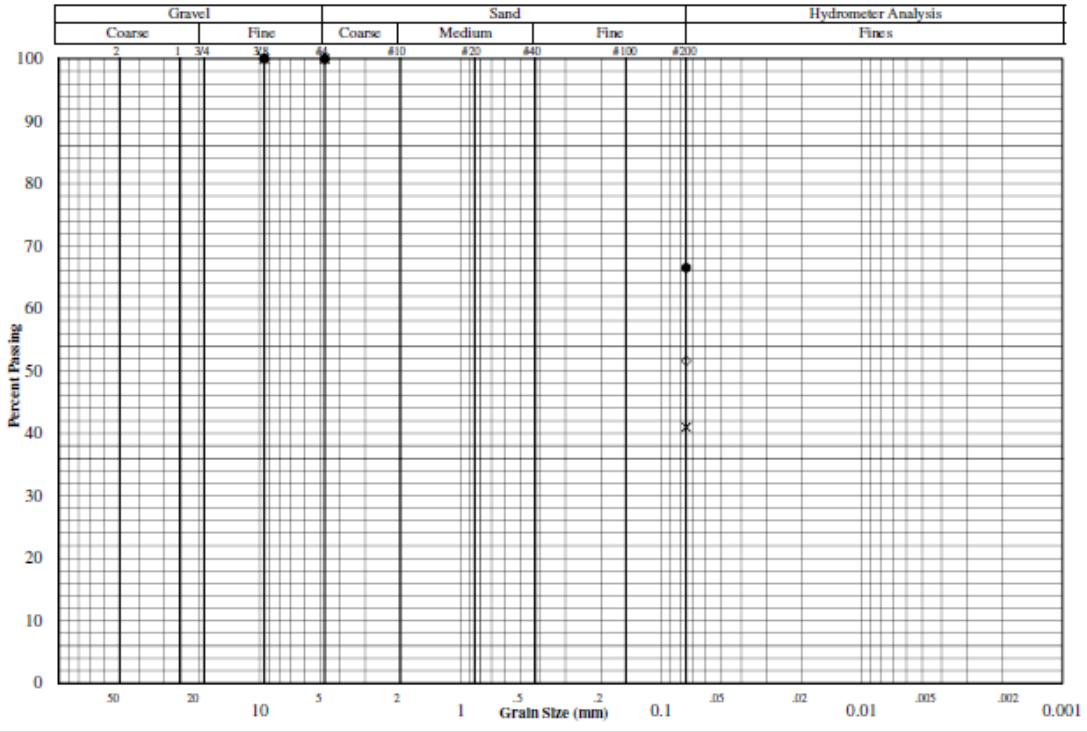
APPENDIX 6. 2024 RESULTS OF SEDIMENT COMPOSITION ANALYSIS

Grain Size Distribution ASTM D1140

Job No. : **15407**

Project:	Chippewa Low Flow Channel Excavation	Test Date:	9/27/24
Reported To:	USACE -Geotech. & Geology Section	Report Date:	10/3/24

	Location / Boring No.	Sample No.	Depth (ft)	Sample Type	Soil Classification
*		1		Bulk	Clayey Sand w/organic material, moderately organic (SC)
●		2		Bulk	Sandy Organic Clay w/organic material (OL)
◇		3		Bulk	Sandy Organic Clay w/organic material (OL)



Additional Results	*	●	◇
Liquid Limit			
Plastic Limit			
Plasticity Index ASTM:D4318			
Water Content ASTM:D2216			
Dry Density (pcf) ASTM:D7263			
Specific Gravity ASTM:D854			
Porosity			
Organic Content ASTM:D2974			
pH ASTM:D4972 Method B			

(* = assumed)

Percent Passing

	*	●	◇
Mass (g)	202.1	166.2	155.2
2"			
1.5"			
1"			
3/4"			
3/8"	100.0	100.0	100.0
#4	100.0	100.0	99.8
#10			
#20			
#40			
#100			
#200	41.0	66.6	51.6

	*	●	◇
D_{60}			
D_{30}			
D_{10}			
C_U			
C_C			

Remarks:

9530 James Ave South

SOIL ENGINEERING TESTING, INC.

Bloomington, MN 55431

APPENDIX 7. COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES ON THE PROPOSED ACTION

From: Potter, David F CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)
<David.F.Potter@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 10:46 AM
To: Domeier, Chris R (DNR) <chris.domeier@state.mn.us>; Gessler, Walt A (DNR)<walt.gessler@state.mn.us>; Barta, Kirsten (MPCA) <Kirsten.Barta@state.mn.us>; nick_utrup <nick_utrup@fws.gov>
Cc: Allen, Peter J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Peter.J.Allen@usace.army.mil>
Subject: Proposed Actions for Chippewa River Diversion, Chippewa County, MN

All:

In accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Corps of Engineers proposes work on the Chippewa River Diversion Dam in Chippewa County, Minnesota. The dam is part of the Lac qui Parle Project, which provides flood risk management benefits to the cities of Montevideo and Granite Falls, MN and associated agricultural lands. In summary, the proposed action would involve excavating about 7,000 cubic yards of material (fines and sand) out of a 1,200 foot long reach of the low flow channel. This need is due to sedimentation that has occurred over the past 20+ years. This work would be completed during one field season, either in 2026, 2027, or 2028, depending on funds. A detailed project description is attached. Please let me know if you have concerns or comments, preferably by August 27. Another opportunity to comment will be availed when the Environmental Assessment is available, anticipated this fall.

David Potter
Tel: 651.290.5713

_____

From: Domeier, Chris R (DNR) <chris.domeier@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:21 PM
To: Potter, David F CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Proposed Actions for Chippewa River Diversion, Chippewa
County, MN

I have no concerns. Thank you.

APPENDIX 8. IPAC QUERY

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To: 09/12/2025 15:53:45 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0140835
Project Name: Chippewa River Diversion Dam Rehabilitation

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

This response has been generated by the Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) system to provide information on natural resources that could be affected by your project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides this response under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

Threatened and Endangered Species
The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirement for obtaining a Technical Assistance Letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Consultation Technical Assistance
Please refer to refer to our Section 7 website for guidance and technical assistance, including step-by-step instructions for making effects determinations for each species that might be present and for specific guidance on the following types of projects: projects in developed areas, HUD, CDBG, EDA, USDA Rural Development projects, pipelines, buried utilities, telecommunications, and requests for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA.

We recommend running the project (if it qualifies) through our **Minnesota-Wisconsin Federal Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin ("D-key"))**. A demonstration video showing how-to access and use the determination key is available. Please note that the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key is the third option of 3 available d-keys. D-keys are tools to help Federal agencies and other project proponents determine if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect federally listed species and designated critical habitat. The Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key includes a structured set of questions that assists a project proponent in determining whether a proposed project qualifies for a certain predetermined consultation outcome for all federally listed species found in Minnesota and Wisconsin (except for the northern long-eared bat- see below), which includes determinations of “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect." In each case, the Service has compiled and analyzed the best available information on the species’ biology and the impacts of certain activities to support these determinations.

If your completed d-key output letter shows a "No Effect" (NE) determination for all listed species, print your IPaC output letter for your files to document your compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

For Federal projects with a “Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (NLAA) determination, our concurrence becomes valid if you do not hear otherwise from us after a 30-day review period, as indicated in your letter.

If your d-key output letter indicates additional coordination with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office is necessary (i.e., you get a “May Affect” determination), you will be provided additional guidance on contacting the Service to continue ESA coordination outside of the key; ESA compliance cannot be concluded using the key for “May Affect” determinations unless otherwise indicated in your output letter.

Note: Once you obtain your official species list, you are not required to continue in IPaC with d-keys, although in most cases these tools should expedite your review. If you choose to make an effects determination on your own, you may do so. If the project is a Federal Action, you may want to review our section 7 step-by-step instructions before making your determinations.

Using the IPaC Official Species List to Make No Effect and May Affect Determinations for Listed Species

1. If IPaC returns a result of “There are no listed species found within the vicinity of the project,” then project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on any federally listed species under Service jurisdiction. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **no effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.
2. If IPaC returns one or more federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as potentially present in the action area of the proposed project – other than bats (see below) – then project proponents must determine if proposed activities will have **no effect** on or **may affect** those species. For assistance in determining if suitable habitat for listed, candidate, or proposed species occurs within your project area or if species may be affected by project activities, you can obtain Life History Information for Listed and Candidate Species on our office website. If no impacts will occur to a species on the IPaC species list (e.g., there is no habitat present in the project area), the appropriate determination is **no effect**. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC species list report for your records.

3. Should you determine that project activities **may affect** any federally listed, please contact our office for further coordination. Letters with requests for consultation or correspondence about your project should include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header. Electronic submission is preferred.

Northern Long-Eared Bats
Northern long-eared bats occur throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and the information below may help in determining if your project may affect these species.

Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥3 inches dbh for northern long-eared bat that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of forested/wooded habitat. Northern long-eared bats have also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat and evaluated for use by bats. If your project will impact caves or mines or will involve clearing forest or woodland habitat containing suitable roosting habitat, northern long-eared bats could be affected. For bat activity dates, please review Appendix L in the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines.

Examples of unsuitable habitat include:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested or wooded areas,
- Trees found in highly developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas),
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees, and
- A monoculture stand of shrubby vegetation with no potential roost trees.

If IPaC returns a result that northern long-eared bats are potentially present in the action area of the proposed project, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities **may affect** this species **IF** one or more of the following activities are proposed:

- Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, as defined above, at any time of year,
- Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine,
- Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine,
- Construction of one or more wind turbines, or
- Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

If none of the above activities are proposed, project proponents can conclude the proposed activities will have **no effect** on the northern long-eared bat. Concurrence from the Service is not required for **No Effect** determinations. No further consultation or coordination is required. Attach this letter to the dated IPaC

species list report for your records.

If any of the above activities are proposed, and the northern long-eared bat appears on the user's species list, the federal project user will be directed to either the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat range-wide D-key or the Federal Highways Administration, Federal Railways Administration, and Federal Transit Administration Indiana bat/Northern long-eared bat D-key, depending on the type of project and federal agency involvement. Similar to the Minnesota-Wisconsin D-key, these d-keys helps to determine if prohibited take might occur and, if not, will generate an automated verification letter. Additional information about available tools can be found on the Service's northern long-eared bat website.

Whooping Crane
Whooping crane is designated as a non-essential experimental population in Wisconsin and consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act is only required if project activities will occur within a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park. If project activities are proposed on lands outside of a National Wildlife Refuge or National Park, then you are not required to consult. For additional information on this designation and consultation requirements, please review "Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Whooping Cranes in the Eastern United States."

Other Trust Resources and Activities
Bald and Golden Eagles - Although the bald eagle has been removed from the endangered species list, this species and the golden eagle are protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to survey the area for any migratory bird nests. If there is an eagle nest on-site while work is on-going, eagles may be disturbed. We recommend avoiding and minimizing disturbance to eagles whenever practicable. If you cannot avoid eagle disturbance, you may seek a permit. A nest take permit is always required for removal, relocation, or obstruction of an eagle nest. For communication and wind energy projects, please refer to additional guidelines below.

Migratory Birds - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Service. The Service has the responsibility under the MBTA to proactively prevent the mortality of migratory birds whenever possible and we encourage implementation of recommendations that minimize potential impacts to migratory birds. Such measures include clearing forested habitat outside the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31) or conducting nest surveys prior to clearing to avoid injury to eggs or nestlings.

Communication Towers - Construction of new communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. However, the Service has developed voluntary guidelines for minimizing impacts.

Transmission Lines - Migratory birds, especially large species with long wingspans, heavy bodies, and poor maneuverability can also collide with power lines. In addition, mortality can occur when birds, particularly hawks, eagles, kites, falcons, and owls, attempt to perch on uninsulated or unguarded power poles. To minimize these risks, please refer to guidelines developed by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee and the Service. Implementation of these measures is especially important along sections of lines adjacent to wetlands or other areas that support large numbers of raptors and migratory birds.

Wind Energy - To minimize impacts to migratory birds and bats, wind energy projects should follow the Service's Wind Energy Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the Service's Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance, which provides guidance for conserving bald and golden eagles in the course of siting, constructing, and operating wind energy facilities.

State Department of Natural Resources Coordination
While it is not required for your Federal section 7 consultation, please note that additional state endangered or threatened species may also have the potential to be impacted. **Please contact the Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for information on state listed species that may be present in your proposed project area.**

Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage
Email: Review.NHIS@state.mn.us

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Endangered Resources Review Homepage
Email: DNRERReview@wi.gov

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please feel free to contact our office with questions or for additional information.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

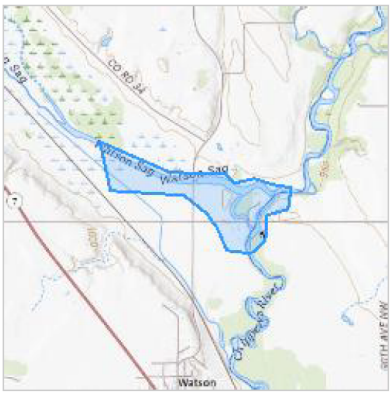
This species list is provided by:

Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
(952) 858-0793

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0140835
Project Name: Chippewa River Diversion Dam Rehabilitation
Project Type: Dam - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: Repairs and maintenance for the project
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@45.02375025,-95.79312518594435,14z



Counties: Chippewa County, Minnesota

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Dakota Skipper *Hesperia dacotae* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1028	Threatened
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee *Bombus suckleyi* Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885	Proposed Endangered
Western Regal Fritillary *Argynnis idalia occidentalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/12017	Proposed Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act [2] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) [1]. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

1. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
2. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your project area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts
For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/ activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity.

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional Migratory Bird Office or Ecological Services Field Office.

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an incidental take permit may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the Do I Need A Permit Tool. For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional Migratory Bird Office or Ecological Services Field Office.

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete
If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles, to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

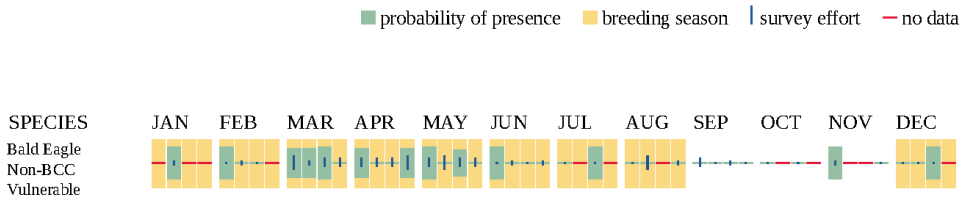
Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) [1] prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9454	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10567	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8745	Breeds May 1 to Jul 20
Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

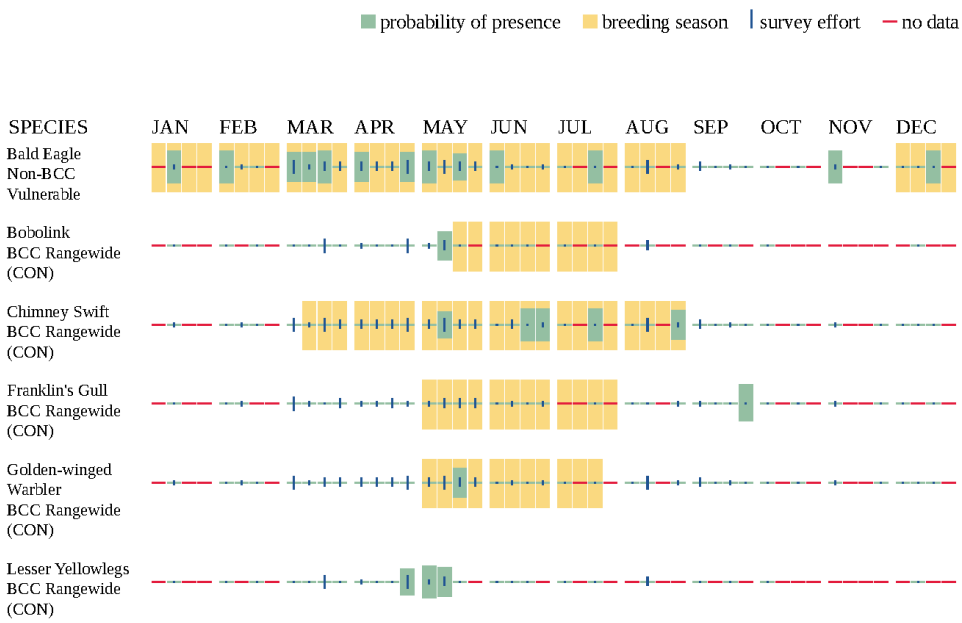
Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency:	Army Corps of Engineers
Name:	David Potter
Address:	332 Minnesota Street
Address Line 2:	Suite E1500
City:	St. Paul
State:	MN
Zip:	55101
Email	david.f.potter@usace.army.mil
Phone:	6512905713

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1659
Phone: (952) 858-0793

In Reply Refer To: 09/12/2025 15:59:02 UTC
Project code: 2024-0140835
Project Name: Chippewa River Diversion Dam Rehabilitation

Subject: Technical Assistance letter for 'Chippewa River Diversion Dam Rehabilitation' for specified threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location consistent with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Endangered Species Determination Key (Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey).

Dear David Potter:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received on **September 12, 2025** your effect determination(s) for the 'Chippewa River Diversion Dam Rehabilitation' (Action) using the Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey within the Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The Service developed this system in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

Based on your responses to the Service's Minnesota-Wisconsin DKey, you made the following effect determination(s) for the proposed Action:

Species	Listing Status	Determination
Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*)	Threatened	No effect
Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)	Proposed Threatened	No effect

Determination Information

Thank you for informing the Service of your "No Effect" determination(s).

Additional Information

Sufficient project details: Please provide sufficient project details on your project homepage in IPaC (Define Project, Project Description) to support your conclusions. Failure to disclose important aspects of your project that would influence the outcome of your effects determinations may negate your determinations and invalidate this letter. If you have site-specific information that leads you to believe a different determination is more appropriate for your project than what the Dkey concludes, you can and should proceed based on the best available information.

Future project changes: The Service recommends that you contact the Minnesota-Wisconsin Ecological Services Field Office or re-evaluate the project in IPaC if: 1) the scope or location of the proposed Action is changed; 2) new information reveals that the action may affect federally listed species or federally designated critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; 3) the Action is modified in a manner that causes effects to listed species or designated critical habitat; or 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional consultation with the Service should take place before project changes are final or resources committed.

For projects that intersect with or are adjacent to Tribal lands: The Service has federal Trust responsibilities and a strong commitment to working with Tribal governments to help sustain fish and wildlife resources for future generations. Tribal governments should be provided with sufficient opportunity to express their perspectives and/or concerns for proposed projects. If your project intersects with Tribal lands or impacts culturally sensitive resources, please engage with the federally recognized Tribe to ensure they have an opportunity to provide input on this project.

Species-specific information

Bald and Golden Eagles: Bald eagles, golden eagles, and their nests are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d) (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act prohibits, except when authorized by an Eagle Act permit, the "taking" of bald and golden eagles and defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." The Eagle Act's implementing regulations define disturb as "… to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, (1) injury to an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior."

Additional Species Requiring Review

In addition to the species described above, the following species or critical habitats may also occur in your project area and are not covered by this conclusion:

- Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* Endangered
- Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee *Bombus suckleyi* Proposed Endangered
- Western Regal Fritillary *Argynnis idalia occidentalis* Proposed Threatened

Coordination with the Service is not complete if additional coordination is advised above for any species.

Action Description
You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

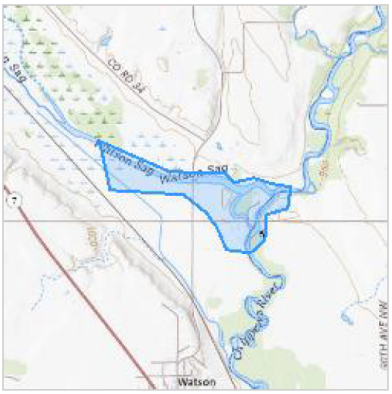
Chippewa River Diversion Dam Rehabilitation

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Chippewa River Diversion Dam Rehabilitation':

> Repairs and maintenance for the project

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@45.02375025,-95.79312518594435,14z



QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. This determination key is intended to assist the user in evaluating the effects of their actions on Federally listed species in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It does not cover other prohibited activities under the Endangered Species Act (e.g., for wildlife: import/export, Interstate or foreign commerce, possession of illegally taken wildlife, etc.; for plants: import/export, reduce to possession, malicious destruction on Federal lands, commercial sale, etc.) or other statutes. Additionally, this key DOES NOT cover wind development, purposeful take (e.g., for research or surveys), communication towers that have guy wires or are over 450 feet in height, aerial or other large-scale application of any chemical (such as insecticide or herbicide), and approval of long-term permits or plans (e.g., FERC licenses, HCP's).

   Click **YES** to acknowledge that you must consider other prohibitions of the ESA or other statutes outside of this determination key.

   Yes
2. Is the action being funded, authorized, or carried out by a Federal agency?

   Yes
3. Are you the Federal agency or designated non-federal representative?

   Yes
4. Does the action involve the installation or operation of wind turbines?

   No
5. Does the action involve purposeful take of a listed animal?

   No
6. Does the action involve a new communications tower?

   No
7. Does the activity involve aerial or other large-scale application of ANY chemical, including pesticides (insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, rodenticide, etc)?

   No
8. Will your action permanently affect local hydrology?

   No
9. Will your action temporarily affect local hydrology?

   Yes
10. Will your project have any direct impacts to a stream or river (e.g., Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), hydrostatic testing, stream/road crossings, new stormwater outfall discharge, dams, other in-stream work, etc.)?

    Yes

11. Does your project have the potential to impact the riparian zone or indirectly impact a stream/river (e.g., cut and fill; horizontal directional drilling; construction; vegetation removal; pesticide or fertilizer application; discharge; runoff of sediment or pollutants; increase in erosion, etc.)?

    Note: Consider all potential effects of the action, including those that may happen later in time and outside and downstream of the immediate area involved in the action.

    Endangered Species Act regulation defines "effects of the action" to include all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (50 CFR 402.02).

    Yes

12. Will your action disturb the ground or existing vegetation?

    Note: This includes any off-road vehicle access, soil compaction (enough to collapse a rodent burrow), digging, seismic survey, directional drilling, heavy equipment, grading, trenching, placement of fill, pesticide application (herbicide, fungicide), vegetation management (including removal or maintenance using equipment or prescribed fire), cultivation, development, etc.

    Yes

13. Will your action include spraying insecticides?

    No

14. Does your action area occur entirely within an already developed area?

    Note: Already developed areas are already paved, covered by existing structures, manicured lawns, industrial sites, or cultivated cropland, AND do not contain trees that could be roosting habitat. Be aware that listed species may occur in areas with natural, or semi-natural, vegetation immediately adjacent to existing utilities (e.g. roadways, railways) or within utility rights-of-way such as overhead transmission line corridors, and can utilize suitable trees, bridges, or culverts for roosting even in urban dominated landscapes (so these are not considered "already developed areas" for the purposes of this question). If unsure, select NO..

    Yes

15. Does the action have potential indirect effects to listed species or the habitats they depend on (e.g., water discharge into adjacent habitat or waterbody, changes in groundwater elevation, introduction of an exotic plant species)?

    No

16. [Hidden Semantic] Does the action area intersect the monarch butterfly species list area?

    Automatically answered

    Yes

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency:	Army Corps of Engineers
Name:	David Potter
Address:	332 Minnesota Street
Address Line 2:	Suite E1500
City:	St. Paul
State:	MN
Zip:	55101
Email	david.f.potter@usace.army.mil
Phone:	6512905713

APPENDIX 9. DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) REGIONAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION NORTH

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1323

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District (USACE), has assessed the environmental impacts of the following project:

CHIPPEWA RIVER DIVERSION DAM LOW-FLOW CHANNEL REHABILITATION PROJECT
CHIPPEWA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The purpose of the proposed action is to remove accumulated sediments in the Chippewa River Diversion Dam's low-flow channel so it resembles its original configuration. This work is needed so the dam can continue to function as designed and in accordance with the Lac qui Parle Project Interim Water Control Manual. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and its attachments are incorporated in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference.

This FONSI is based on the following factors: the proposed action would have temporary minor adverse impacts to noise, air and water quality, fish and wildlife, and soils. Affected resources would be expected to recover from any adverse effects shortly after conclusion of this activity. The action would have no effect on federally listed species and would have no effect to historic properties. Overall, the project would have a long-term beneficial effect to residents of the city of Montevideo, Minnesota, by maintaining functionality of the dam for flood risk management.

Best management practices and other avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented as detailed in Section 6 of the EA. No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the project.

Public review of the draft EA and FONSI was completed and List number of comments received, summarize, and state if addressed in EA. All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, USACE determined that the project will have no effect on federally listed species. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, USACE determined that the project would have no effect on historic properties, and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office concurred on March 12, 2025. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, no discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States is proposed.

For the reasons above, the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

_____
Date

_____
Jonathan Sobiech
Deputy Chief, Regional Planning
and Environment Division North