

**APPLICANT:** City of Ranier, Minnesota

Public Notice

**ISSUED:** October 28, 2024 **EXPIRES:** November 11, 2024

US Army Corps of Engineers St Paul District

**REFER TO:** MVP-2024-00198-TMS

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO construct a permanent dock structure in Rainy Lake to provide improved facilities for boaters.

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

AGENT

SEH, Inc. c/o Ericka Massa 418 West Superior Street #200 Duluth, Minnesota 55802

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 30 of Township 71 North, Range 23 West, Koochiching County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are N 474332.160265, E 5384873.039717. Latitude 48.616403, Longitude -93.348263.

The project site is located to the north of the Spruce Street and Finstad Lane intersection where Spruce Street meets the Rainy Lake shoreline.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The applicant is proposing to replace and expand their existing boat dock in Rainy Lake. The proposed dock would have a T-dock design with eight (8) floating fingers for additional docking. The proposed dock was designed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act design standards.

The primary walkway and T-section of the dock are designed to be permanent structures in the water that would withstand seasonal ice flows. The T-section of the dock is also designed as a breakwater structure to reduce wave action around the dock.

The primary walkway for the dock would be 20 feet wide and extend 266 feet from the shoreline and would include four (4) square sheet pile cells driven into bedrock to support the main structure. The T-section of the dock would be parallel to the shoreline and would be 15 feet wide by 199 feet long. The T-section would be supported by one sheet pile cell. Six (6) 46-foot-long and two (2) 28-foot-long floating docks would also be connected to the main dock with gangways. Floating docks would be 6 feet wide. In total the dock structure would be 10,297 square feet in size.

The dock would include amenities for boaters including electrical hookups, freshwater services, and a sewage pump out station.

Proposed work includes installing a sand soft launch area to launch smaller hand-propelled watercrafts such as kayaks, canoes, etc., installation of sheet pile cells to support the structure, the primary walkway and T-section for the docks, and floating dock fingers.

QUANTITY, TYPE, AND AREA OF FILL: The proposed project would result in the permanent discharge of fill material into 5,029 square feet (0.12 acre) of Rainy Lake to

construct a 600 square foot soft boat launch area along the shore for canoes, kayaks, etc., four (4) 19-foot by 19-foot sheet pile cells to support the primary walkway for the dock, and one (1) 15-foot by 199-foot sheet pile cell to support the T-section of the dock.

VEGETATION IN AFFECTED AREA: The project site primarily consists of the developed shoreline area where an existing dock and boat launch are present and the immediately adjacent open water area of Rainy Lake. The project site is generally void of emergent vegetation.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: Fill material would be sourced from a local licensed facility by the contractor selected to construct the project.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The surrounding land use along the Rainy Lake shoreline primarily consists of private residential and commercial properties.

DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE: The primary walkway for the dock would be 20 feet wide and extend 266 feet from the shoreline and would include four (4) square sheet pile cells driven into bedrock to support the main structure. The T-section of the dock would be parallel to the shoreline and would be 15 feet wide by 199 feet long. The T-section would be supported by one sheet pile cell. Six (6) 46-foot-long and two (2) 28-foot-long floating docks would also be connected to the main dock with gangways. Floating docks would be 6 feet wide. In total the dock structure would be 10,297 square feet in size.

DESCRIPTION OF DREDGING OR EXCAVATION: Lakebed material would be excavated to bedrock from the areas where the sheet pile cells would be constructed. Excavated material would be hauled offsite to a waste disposal site. In total approximately 4,429 square feet of lakebed would be excavated.

THE FOLLOWING POTENTIALLY TOXIC MATERIALS COULD BE USED AT THE PROJECT SITE: The applicant has not indicated the presence of any toxic materials within the project area. Toxic materials like petroleum or hydraulic fluid could come from construction equipment.

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE APPLICANT: The applicant would be required to apply for and receive an Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) Permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as well as create a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that would be used to comply with MPCA's erosion control and storm water BMPs. The appropriate BMPs would be utilized during construction and periodically inspected after qualifying rainfall events.

MITIGATION: No compensatory mitigation is proposed. The applicant states in the application that the existing dock is a barrier for littoral drift, and the new dock would improve littoral drift and restore the natural transport of sediments along the surrounding shoreline.

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

None were identified by the applicant or are known to exist in the permit area. However, Koochiching County is within the known or historic range of the following Federally listed species:

Northern Long-Eared Bat	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.
Tricolored Bat	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.
Canada Lynx	Northern Forest Habitat
Gray Wolf	Northern Forest Habitat
Monarch Butterfly	Prairies and Meadows

This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

#### 4. JURISDICTION

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

# 5. SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Valid Section 404 permits cannot be issued for any activity unless water quality certification for the activity is granted or waived pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The Section 401 authority for this project is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A Department of the Army permit will not be granted until the MPCA has issued or waived Section 401 WQC certification and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) neighboring jurisdiction process is completed. Corps Section 404 Clean Water Act decisions may not be finalized until after the USEPA completes this process.

The MPCA has indicated that this public notice serves as its public notice of the application for Section 401 water quality certification under Minnesota Rules Part 7001 Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1341 (a)(1)). The MPCA has indicated that if, at a later date, it makes a preliminary anti-degradation determination regarding Section 401 Water Quality Certification, it will at that time plan to issue an additional public notice under Minnesota Rules Part 7001.

Any comments relative to MPCA's Section 401 Certification for the activity proposed in this public notice may be sent to:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Resource Management and Assistance Division Attention: 401 Certification 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 401Certification.PCA@state.mn.us

### 6. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL

This public notice is being sent to the National Park Service and the State Archaeologist for their comments. The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

#### 7. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

# 8. PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Environmental and other documents will be available for review in the St. Paul District Office.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

### REPLIES/COMMENTS

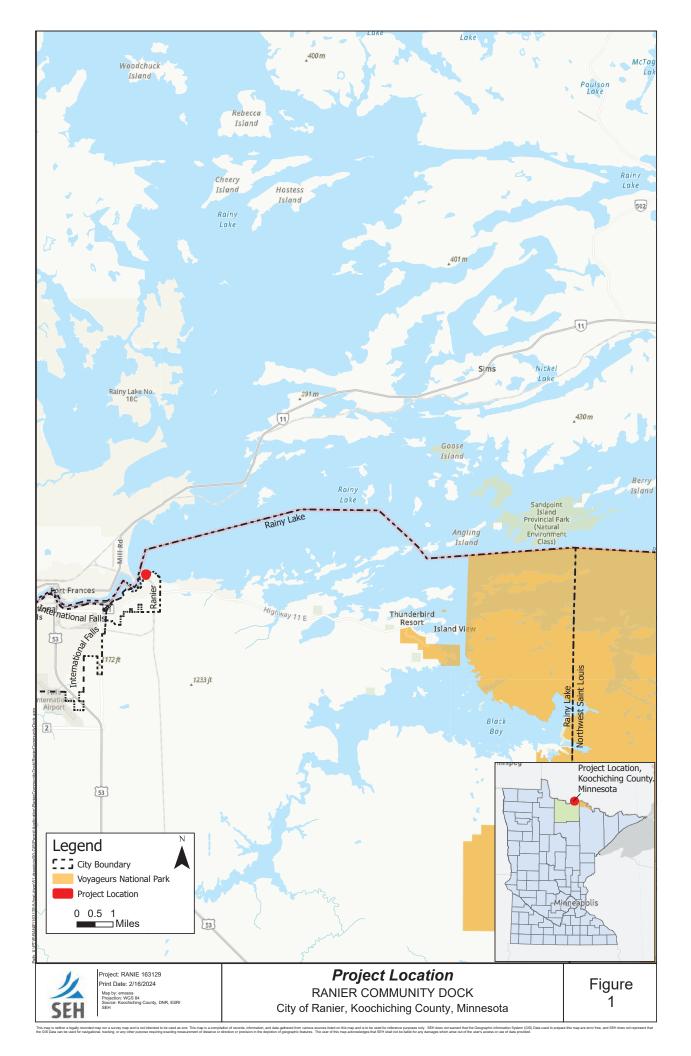
Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections by the expiration date indicated above. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

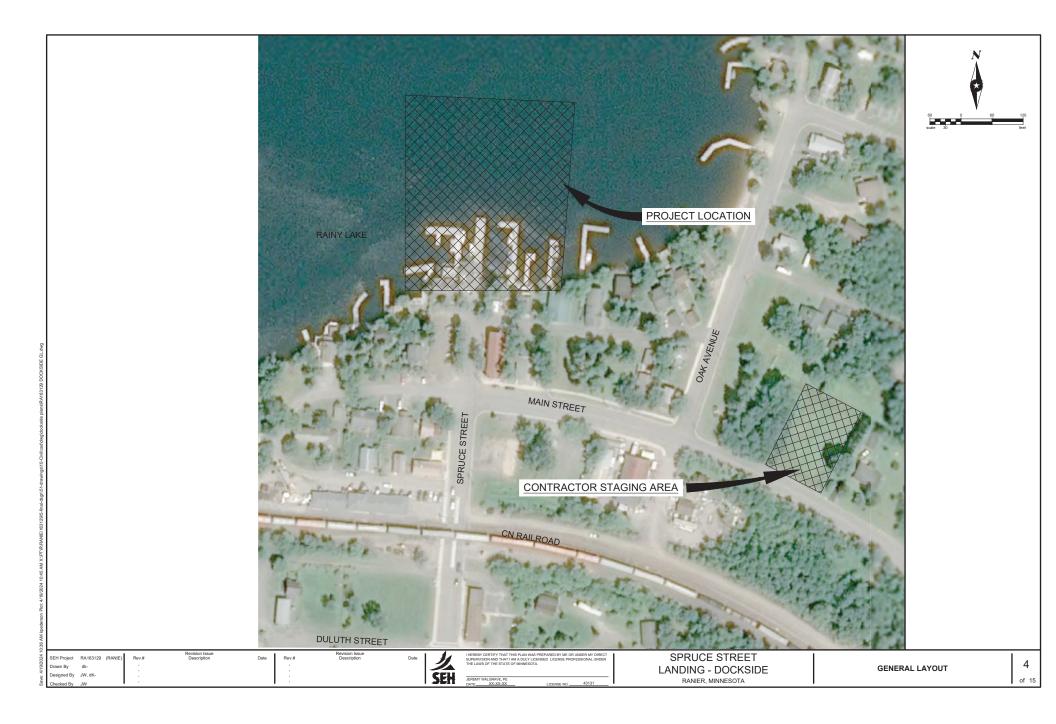
Replies may be sent to Tom Sowinski via email at Tom.M.Sowinski@usace.army.mil.

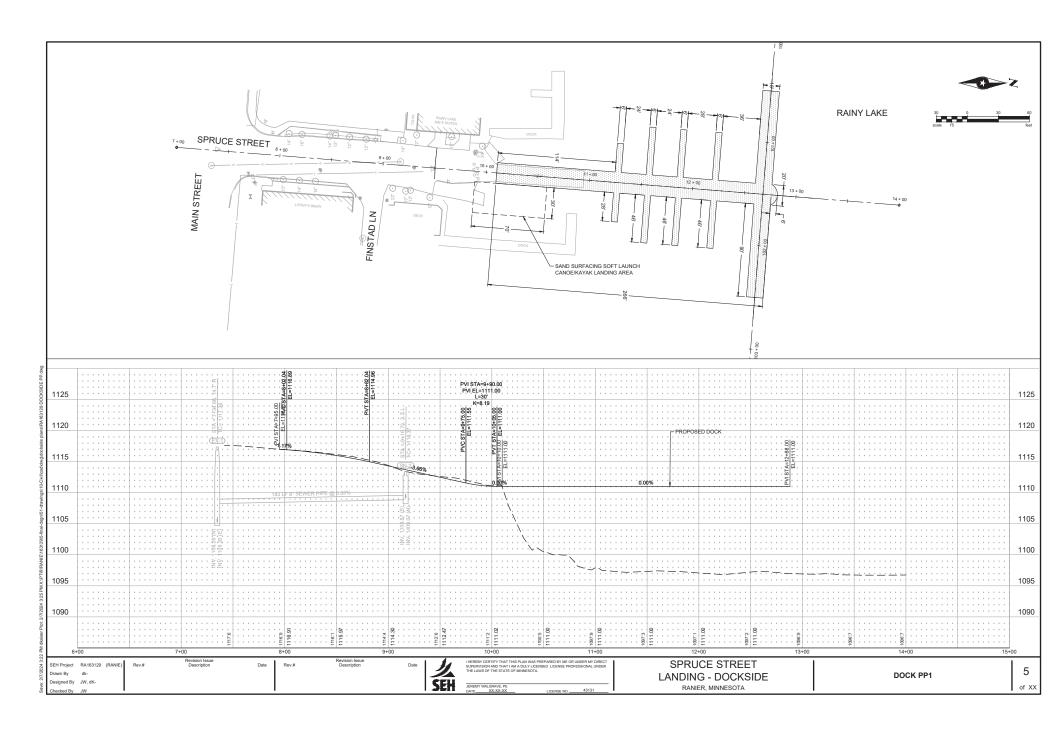
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, contact Tom Sowinski at the St. Paul District Office at 651-290-5004 *or* Tom.M.Sowinski@usace.army.mil.

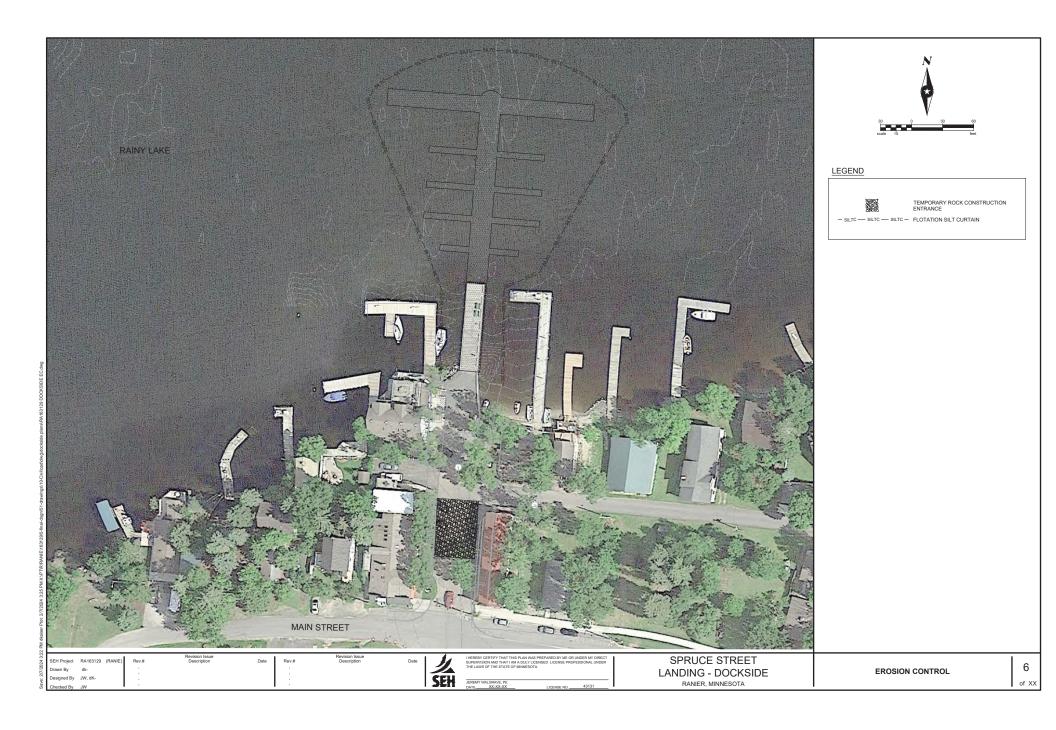
To receive Public Notice notifications, go to: https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Contact/RSS/ and subscribe to the RSS Feed for which you would like to receive Public Notices.

**Enclosures: Figures and Drawings** 









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