

SPONSOR: Justin Zenanko

Public Notice

ISSUED: July 17, 2024 EXPIRES: August 16, 2024

REFER TO: 2021-02553-LED SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Justin Zenanko

900 County Road 92 Minnetrista, MN 55359

SPONSOR'S AGENT John Smyth

Stantec

733 Marquette Ave, Suite 1000

Minneapolis, MN 55359

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 6, Township 117 North, Range 24 West, Hennepin County, Minnesota. See the enclosed Figure 1 for details. The approximate coordinates are Latitude: 44.964597, Longitude: -93.762257.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area (BSA) is 7, within the South Fork Crow River (19) watershed.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the Zenanko Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 27.6 acres in size, including 13.8 acres of upland buffer.

NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT: The sponsor's objective for the project is to restore 13.2 acres of historic shallow marsh and fresh wet meadow wetlands onsite by removing drainage tiles, blocking to disable tiles, ditch blocking, and restoring diverted flows back into the wetland areas. In addition to generating wetland credits onsite, this restoration would reconnect the wetlands on site to the historical wetland complex to the west. Wetland functions that were lost when the site was historically converted to crop field would be restored. The site, if approved, would provide compensatory wetland mitigation credits that applicants for Department of the Army permits could purchase to offset unavoidable losses of wetland or stream functions. The sponsor states that this bank is needed as the wetland credit demand in this BSA is high.

ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT: The sponsor proposes to restore via rehabilitation partially drained wetlands by disabling the existing subsurface drain tile system onsite and by restoring diverted flows back into the wetland areas. The project has the potential to hydrologically impact the property owner to the west. The sponsor states they have coordinated with the neighboring property owner and received permission to restore wetlands on their property. The anticipated restoration acreages, wetland types, and projected wetland and upland buffer credits are outlined in the table below.

Wetland Credit Allocation Table 1

		Acres ³		Credit Amount ³
Map ID	Credit Action ²	(x.x acres)	% Credit	(x.xxxx)
Fresh (Wet) Meadow - Reestablish	Subp. 3 - Reestablishment	6.3	100	6.3000
Fresh (Wet) Meadow – Rehab.	Subp. 4a - Rehabilitation	1.1	50	0.5500
Shallow Marsh - Reestablish	Subp. 3 - Reestablishment	1.0	100	1.0000
Shallow Marsh Rehab.	Subp. 4a - Rehabilitation	4.8	50	2.4000
Prairie – Upland Buffer	Subp. 2 - Buffer	13.2	25	3.300
Existing Wetland - No Credit	No Credit	0.6	100	0.000
Extra Buffer - No Credit	No Credit	0.6	100	0.000
	TOTAL EASEMENT	27.6	TOTAL:	13.55

OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT: The site is currently owned by the sponsor. The sponsor proposes to be the long-term manager of the site, with technical assistance provided by Stantec.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS: Stantec was contracted as the sponsor's agent to design the site and would provide assistance with construction, monitoring and maintenance during the monitoring period. Stantec states that it has successfully completed over 25 wetland banks in Minnesota, including the Engstrom Dayton Wetland Bank, Marquardt Wetland Bank, Woodhill Wetland Bank, and Forsman Farm Wetland bank. The design and restoration activities proposed are comparable to those completed on other farmed wetlands affected by drainage infrastructure.

ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: The site is currently comprised of fully drained and partially drained wetland impacted by the subsurface drain tile system onsite, ditches, and diversion of surface water. The current conditions of the site indicate that it has been historically farmed. A majority of the soils within the bank are mapped as hydric, consisting of Muskego and Houghton Soil (L50A) located within the lowest areas and Hamel (L36A) located along the fringe. This indicates that these areas of the site historically contained a shallow marsh/wet meadow wetland complex. The sponsor anticipates that the removal of drainage infrastructure onsite and rediverting surface water will restore hydrological conditions to wet meadow/shallow marsh communities.

HYDROLOGY: The current site conditions consist of a drainage tile system and ditches that divert surface flow to the west which has fully drained the historical wetland of this area. Topography of the site indicates that surface water should flow south, however, a tile outlet directs flows to the west offsite rather than south. The sponsor proposes to remove the drainage tiles and block ditches to restore wetlands onsite and reconnect the wetlands to the historic wetland complex to the west.

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CURRENT LAND USES: The parcel is wholly in agricultural production and a majority of the adjacent parcels are under similar cultivation and drainage condition.

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: The Corps is coordinating this proposal with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

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

None were identified by the bank sponsor or are known to exist in the action area and no critical habitat currently exists onsite. However, Hennepin County is within the known historic range for the following Federally-listed species:

Northern Long-Eared Bat Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding

wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests

during spring and summer.

Rusty patched bumble bee Grasslands with flowering plants from April through October,

underground and abandoned rodent cavities or clumps of grasses above ground as nesting sites, and undisturbed soil for

hibernating queens to overwinter.

The Corps is coordinating this notice with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Corps will consider any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plans or their critical habitat in our final assessment of the described work.

4. JURISDICTION

The Corps is reviewing this proposal in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

5. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL

The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any unidentified properties. The Corps will coordinate its determination on identification of historic properties and any effect findings with the State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties as appropriate independent of this public notice. The Corps will resolve any adverse effects on historic properties in coordination with consulting parties prior to the Corps' authorization of the work in connection with this project.

6. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that the Corps hold a public hearing to consider this proposal. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps may deny public hearing request(s) if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

7. REPLIES/COMMENTS

The Corps invites interested parties to submit written facts, arguments, or objections by the expiration date above. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. The Corps will forward comments received to the sponsor and consider all comments during our evaluation. Interested parties can find a copy of the full prospectus on RIBITS or by emailing Leslie.e.day@usace.army.mil.

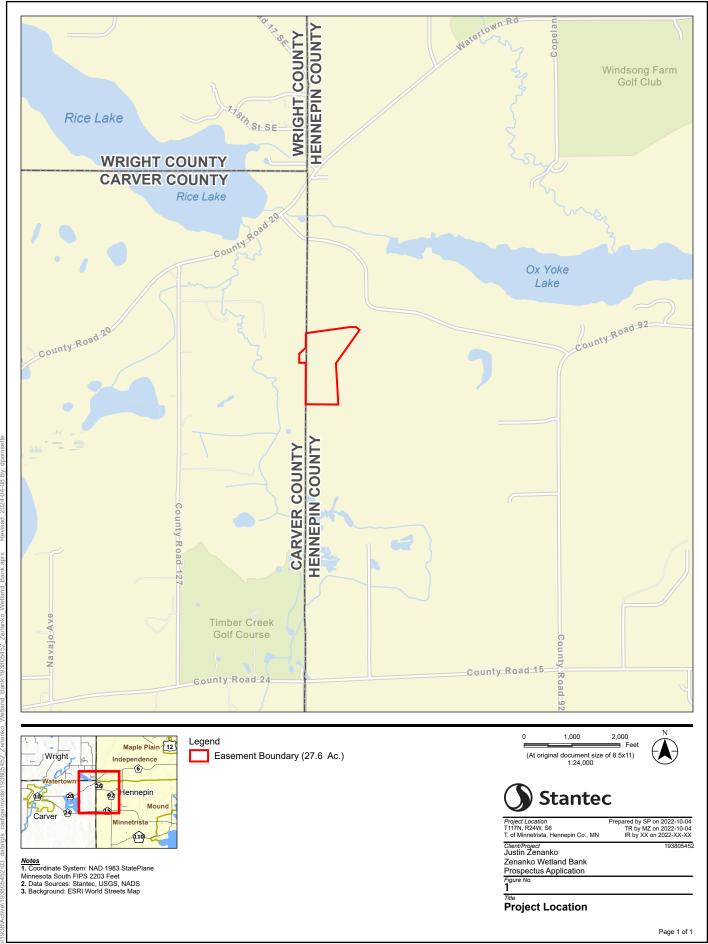
Comments can be electronically submitted to Leslie.e.day@usace.army.mil. If electronic submittal is not available, commenters should address replies to:

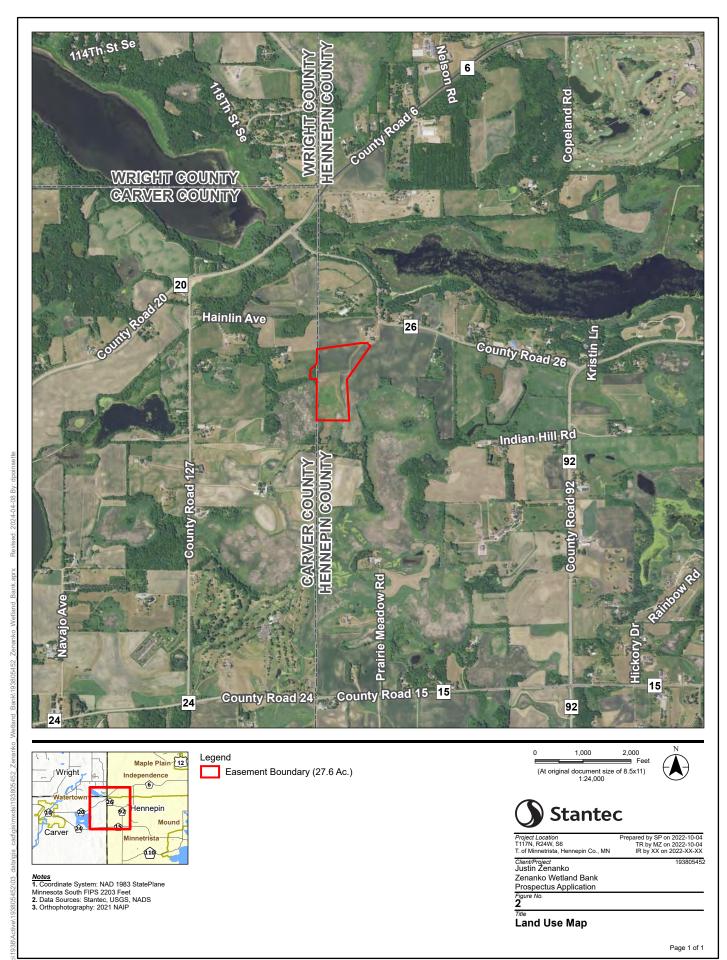
Regulatory Division St. Paul District Corps of Engineers 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500 St. Paul, MN 55101-1323

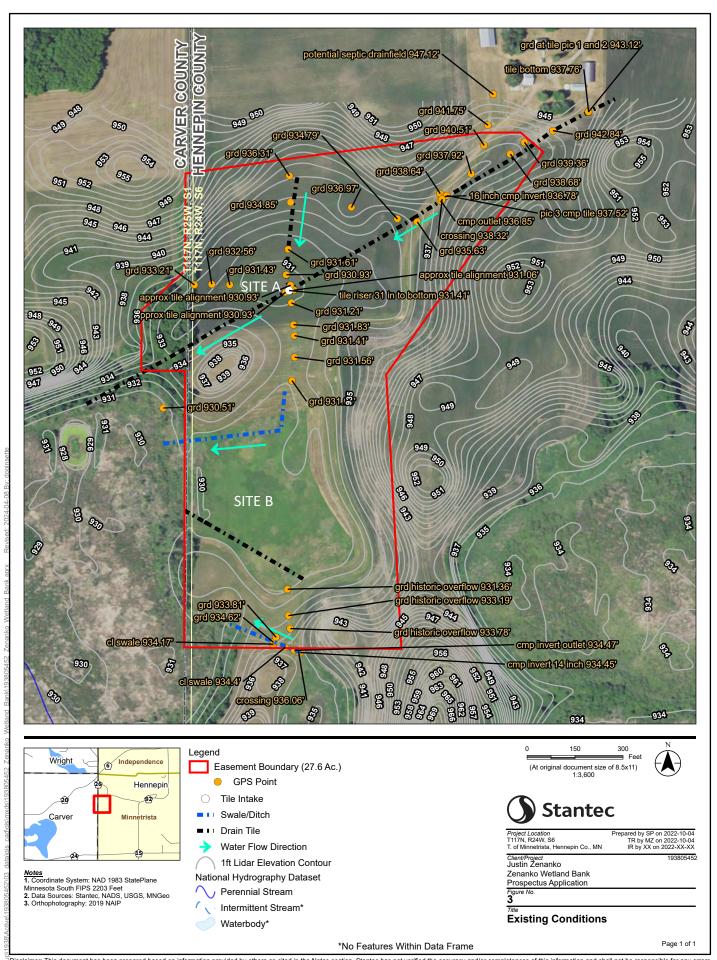
Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Leslie Day at the St. Paul District office of the Corps, telephone number 651-290-5365.

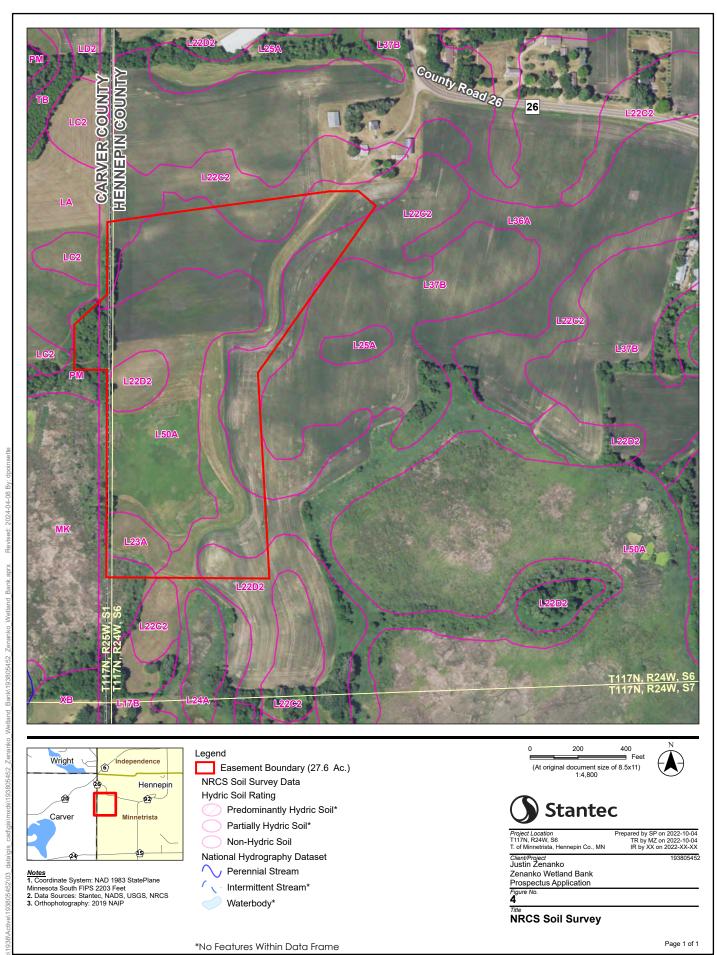
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Enclosure(s) PN Figures 1-8









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