



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

MVP-2022-01477-JMK

27 August 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023),¹ MVP-2022-01477-JMK MFR 1 of 1

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.² AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.³

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

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁴ the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

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

² 33 CFR 331.2.

³ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁴ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

MVP

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVP-2022-01477-JMK

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).
 - i. Wet Ditch A, non-jurisdictional
 - ii. Wet Ditch C, non-jurisdictional
 - iii. Wet Ditch S, non-jurisdictional
 - iv. Wet Ditch T, non-jurisdictional
 - v. Wet Ditch U, non-jurisdictional
 - vi. Wet Ditch V, non-jurisdictional
 - vii. Wet Ditch X, non-jurisdictional
 - viii. Wet Ditch Y, non-jurisdictional
 - ix. Wet Ditch Z, non-jurisdictional
 - x. Wet Ditch AA, non-jurisdictional

2. REFERENCES.

- a. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”)
- b. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. ___, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA. The review area for this determination includes ten non-jurisdictional roadside ditches, as identified in Section 1(a) of this MFR and detailed in blue on the attached figures labeled 2022-01477-JMK Pages 3, 8, and 14 of 41. The review area is located at 46.5793 N, -93.4675 W in the City of Kimberly, Aitkin County, Minnesota. There are no other JDs associated with the review area.

MVP

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVP-2022-01477-JMK

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁵: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁶ N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
 - a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A
 - b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A
 - c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A
 - d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A

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

⁶ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

MVP

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVP-2022-01477-JMK

- e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A
- f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A
- g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁷
 - Wet Ditch A (0.028 acre), Wet Ditch C (0.031 acre), Wet Ditch S (0.005 acre), Wet Ditch T (0.052 acre), Wet Ditch U (0.236 acre), Wet Ditch V (0.011 acre), Wet Ditch X (0.050 acre), Wet Ditch Y (0.004 acre), Wet Ditch Z (0.025 acre), and Wet Ditch AA (0.023 acre) within the review area are linear roadside drainage ditches constructed in upland and drain only upland based on a review of the Wetland Delineation Report and desktop resources including US Geological Service 3DEP Hillshade and DEM maps. Recent aerial photos do not show relatively permanent flow in the aforementioned aquatic resources. Based on the wetland delineation and desktop resources reviewed these wet ditches are linear roadside drainage ditches constructed in upland, drain only upland, and do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water. Therefore, these wet ditches have been determined to be Paragraph (b)(3) excluded ditches and not subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water). N/A

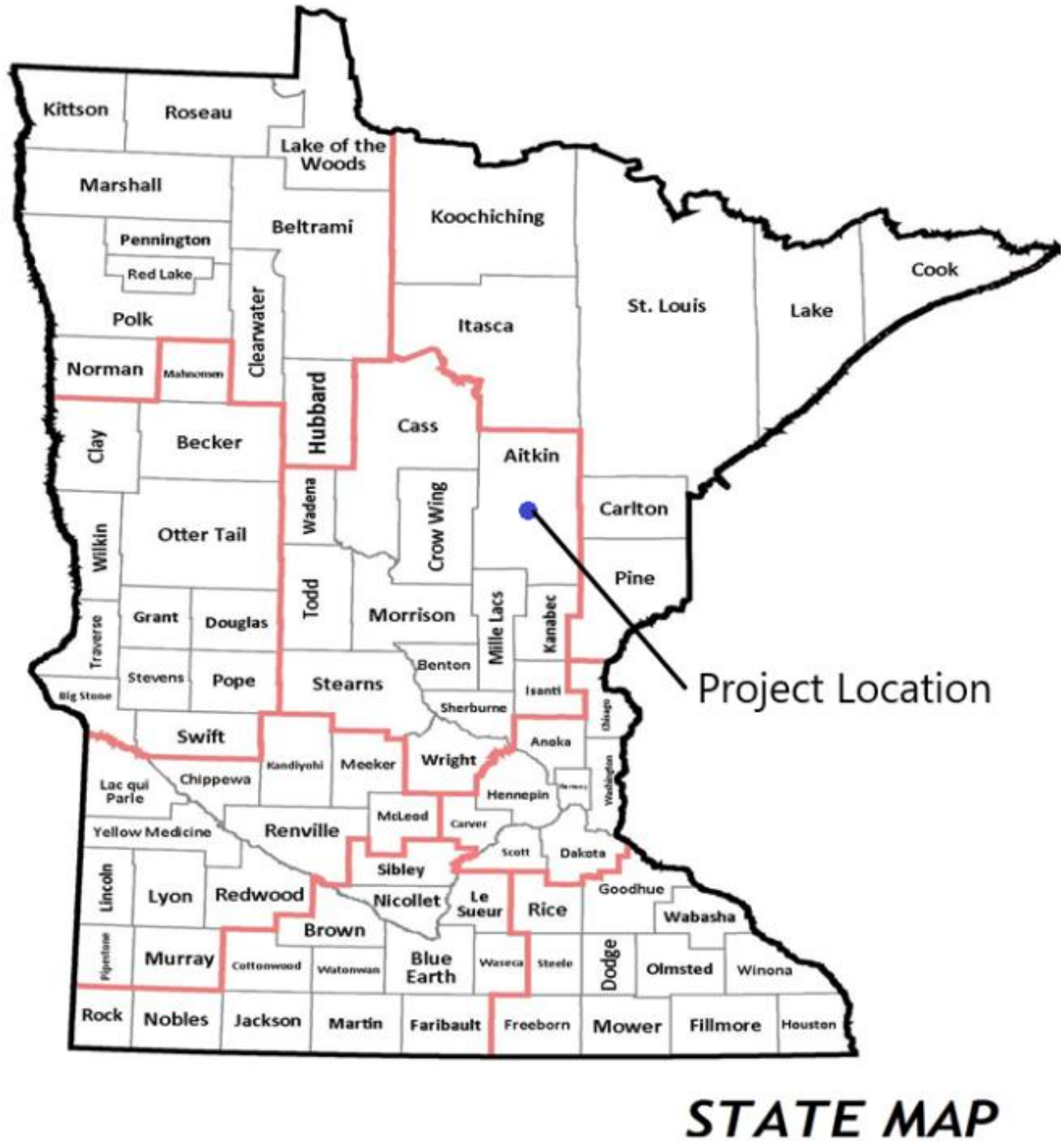
⁷ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

MVP

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9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. Figures 3, 8, and 14 of 41 titled MVP-2022-01477-JMK.
 - b. Wetland Delineation Report Aitkin County Highway 5 SAP001-605-014 SAP 001-605-015 (Rice River Bridge) dated October 5, 2022.
 - c. Minnesota Regulatory Viewer: 3DEP Hillshade and DEM layer.
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A
11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

Figure 1 Wide area location map



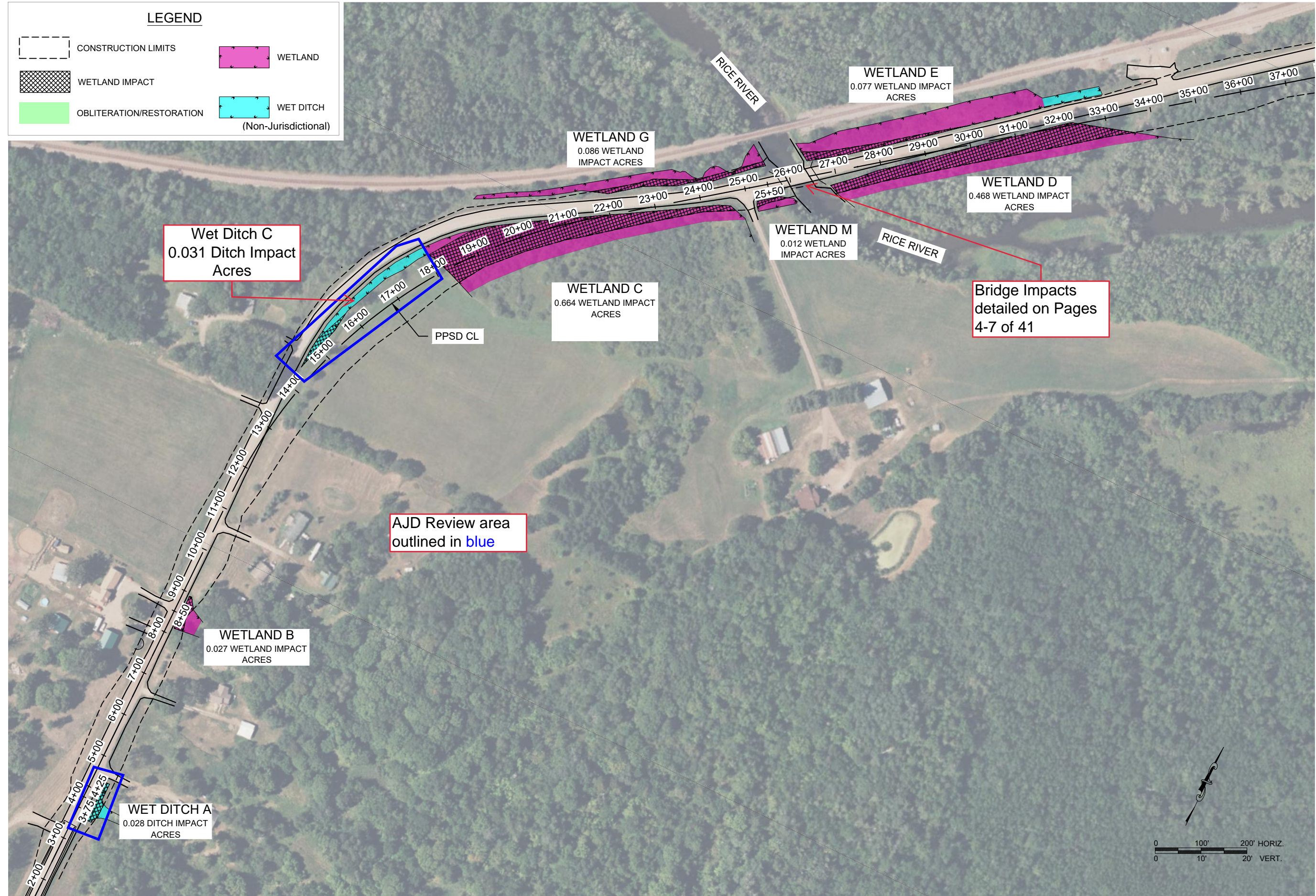
CONSTRUCTION LIMITS

WETLAND

WETLAND IMPACT

WET DITCH
(Non-Jurisdictional)

OBLITERATION/RESTORATION



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

DATE: _____

ENGINEER
PRINTED NAME: JOHN WELLE (LIC NO 24340)

PLAN VIEW

AITKIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT.
CSAH NO. 5
SP 001-605-014

SHEET NO.
01

SHEET 01 OF 35

LEGEND

CONSTRUCTION LIMITS

WETLAND IMPACT

OBLITERATION/RESTORATION

WETLAND

WET DITCH
(Non-Jurisdictional)

Wet Ditch S
0.005 Ditch Impact Acres

Wet Ditch T
0.052 Ditch Impact Acres

WETLAND S
0.108 WETLAND IMPACT ACRES

WETLAND T
0.110 WETLAND IMPACT ACRES

WETLAND Q
0.589 WETLAND IMPACT ACRES

WETLAND R
0.117 WETLAND IMPACT ACRES

OBLITERATION #4
0.127 RESTORATION ACRES

OBLITERATION #3
0.360 RESTORATION ACRES

PPSD CL

AJD Review area outlined in blue

Stationing: 190+00, 191+00, 192+00, 193+00, 194+00, 195+00, 196+00, 197+00, 198+00, 199+00, 200+00, 201+00, 202+00, 203+00, 204+00, 205+00, 206+00, 207+00, 208+00, 209+00, 210+00, 211+00, 212+00, 213+00, 214+00, 215+00, 216+00, 217+00, 218+00, 219+00, 220+00, 221+00, 222+00, 223+00

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED BY ME
OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A
DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE
LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.
DATE: _____
ENGINEER
PRINTED NAME: JOHN WELLE (LIC NO 24340)

PLAN VIEW

AITKIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT.
CSAH NO. 5
SP 001-605-014

SHEET NO.
07
SHEET 07 OF 35

LEGEND

CONSTRUCTION LIMITS

WETLAND IMPACT

OBLITERATION/RESTORATION

WETLAND

WET DITCH
(Non-Jurisdictional)

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED BY ME
OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A
DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE
LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.
DATE: _____
ENGINEER
PRINTED NAME: JOHN WELLE (LIC NO 24340)

PLAN VIEW

AITKIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT.
CSAH NO. 5
SP 001-605-014

SHEET NO.
08

SHEET 08 OF 35