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SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVP-2013-04837-SSC

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August 28, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” (8 September 2023),¹ MVP-2013-04837-SSC MFR 1 of 1²

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

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

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended,

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

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

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

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

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as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

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

Name of Aquatic Resource	JD or Non-JD	Section 404/Section 10
Wetland 1 (0.08 acre)	Non-Jurisdictional	N/A
Tributary 2 (835 linear feet)	Non-Jurisdictional	N/A

2. REFERENCES.

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

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size (in acres): 14.6 acres
- b. Location Description: The project/review area is located in Section 09, Township 108N, Range 026W, Blue Earth County, Minnesota.
- c. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)
Latitude: 44.170790 Longitude: -93.966810
- d. Nearest City or Town: Mankato
- e. County: Blue Earth

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f. State: Minnesota

g. Other associated Jurisdictional Determinations (including outcomes):

Action ID	Type	Outcome
MVP-2013-04837-ERH	AJD	All waters (Wetlands 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) were determined to be non-jurisdictional (excluded waters) under the AJD on August 4, 2015.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A⁶
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁸
N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should

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

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

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

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

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

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

Wetland 1 is not a TNW, territorial sea, or interstate water and is therefore not an (a)(1) water. Wetland 1 does not connect to any other wetlands or tributaries on or off-site. Wetland 1 was evaluated as a potential (a)(4) water but does not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water. Tributary 2 was evaluated as a potential (a)(3) water and was found to not meet this category

⁹ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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because it is not a relatively permanent water with a continuous surface connection to a paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(3) water.

The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) were both reviewed for the site and did not denote the presence of Wetland 1 or Tributary 2 on-site. Soils (Soil Survey) within the area of Wetland 1 are described as hydric (Cordova clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes) and soils within the area of Tributary 2 are described as non-hydric (Storden complex, very steep). Wetland 1 is located within a topographically low (MNDNR Lidar) area within an active agricultural field. Tributary 2 is located within a steep ravine feature that flows into an unnamed tributary.

Tributary 2 is approximately 835 linear feet in length and is located within a ravine. Historic and current topographic maps (USGS), NWI, NHD, Strahler stream mapping, and StreamStats were reviewed and did not denote the presence of Tributary 2. Tributary 2 is located within a ravine with heavy tree cover making desktop aerial review of the tributary difficult. However, the wetland delineator for the project provided narrative and photos from two different site visits. The first site visit was conducted on November 4, 2024. The field technician noted that there was standing water in some portions of the channel but no flowing water. The antecedent precipitation tool (APT) indicated that the climatic conditions for this timeframe were drier than normal. While the climatic conditions were drier than normal, the project area did experience precipitation in the days leading up to the site visit (precipitation noted on October 31, November 1, 3, and 4, 2024). The second site visit was conducted on August 12, 2025. The field technician noted flowing water within Tributary 2 at this time. The climatic conditions for this site visit (APT) were wetter than normal. The project area experienced precipitation in the days leading up to the site visit (precipitation noted on August 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11, 2025). For both site visits, the project area had experienced recent precipitation events resulting in water standing or flowing within Tributary 2. The information reviewed for Tributary 2 (APT, USGS topographic maps, StreamStats, NHD, NWI, and Strahler stream order) supports that Tributary 2 is a non-relatively permanent waterway that flows in response to precipitation events.

Wetland 1 does not have a continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent jurisdictional water and as such does not meet the definition of adjacent and cannot be evaluated as an (a)(4) adjacent wetland; therefore, Wetland 1 is a non-tidal wetland that is not jurisdictional under the 2023 Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 Final Rule. Tributary 2 is a tributary evaluated under (a)(3) and determined to not be a relatively permanent water with a continuous surface connection to a paragraph

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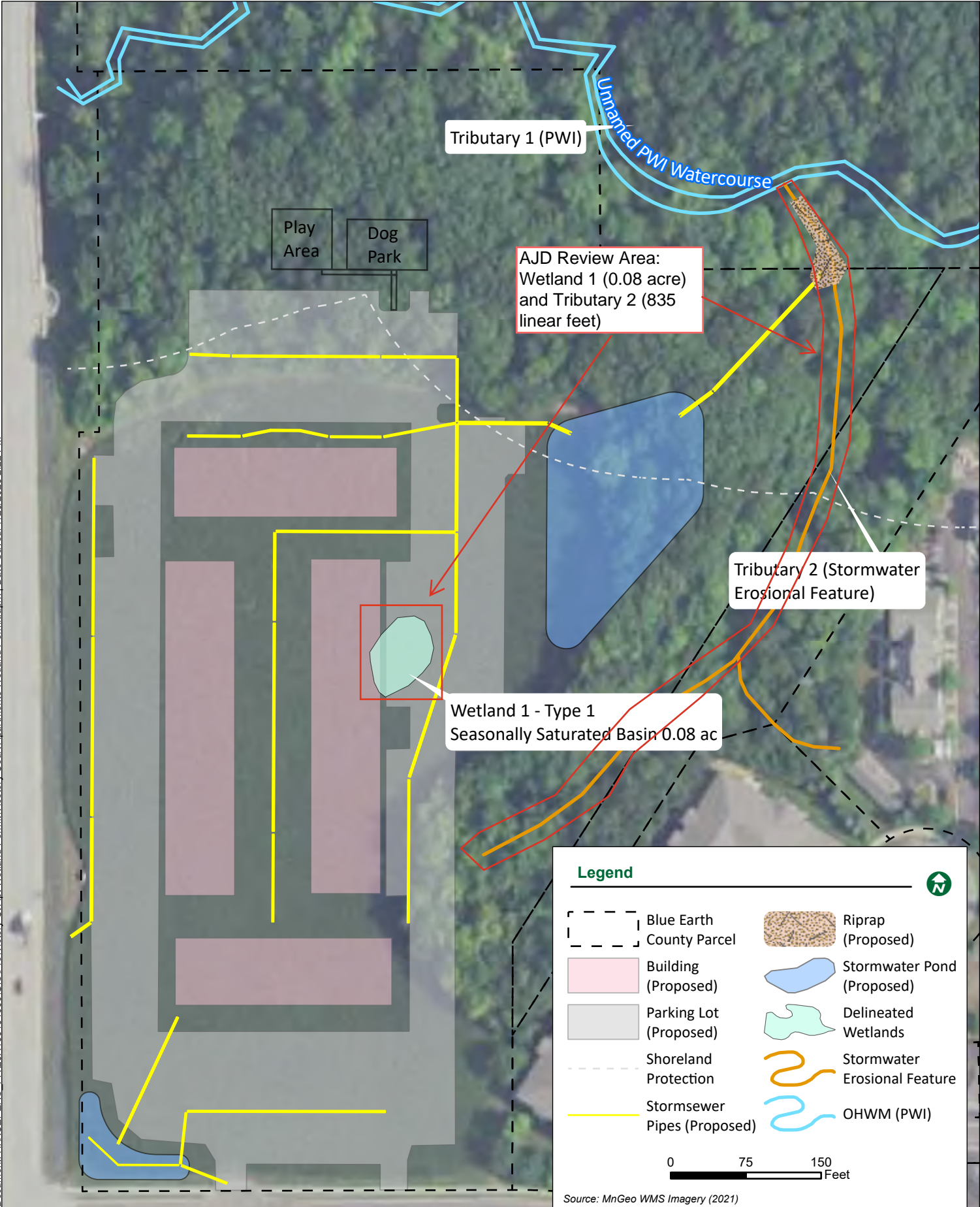
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(a)(1) or (a)(3) water; therefore, this non-relatively permanent feature is not jurisdictional under the 2023 “Revised Definition of ‘Water of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 Final Rule.

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. Victory Ridge Apartments – Replacement Plan dated July 30, 2025
 - b. Elwin Land – Aquatic Resources Delineation Report dated November 6, 2024
 - c. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetland Inventory, accessed August 27, 2025
 - d. United States Geological Survey, National Hydrography Dataset, accessed on August 27, 2025
 - e. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – 2-foot LiDAR contours, accessed on August 27, 2025
 - f. United States Geological Survey, StreamStats accessed August 27, 2025
 - g. United States Geological Survey, Topographic Maps (Mankato East 1950, 1951, 1974, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022), accessed August 27, 2025
 - h. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Stream Routes with Strahler Stream Order, accessed August 27, 2025
 - i. Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Antecedent Precipitation Tool (Version 2.9), accessed August 27, 2025
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. Wetland 1 was previously determined non-jurisdictional in the August 4, 2015 AJD discussed in Section 3 above. Under that AJD, Wetland 1 was labeled as Wetland 2.
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.



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