



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

CEMVP-RD

19 December 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) ,<sup>1</sup> [MVP-2015-04670-JST 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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),<sup>4</sup> the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>3</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>4</sup> 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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- 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. [Main Lake \(8.23 acre\), 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)
- d. [MVP-2015-04670-RMM](#)

3. REVIEW AREA. [The review area is located in Section 14, Township 115 North, Range 20 West, Dakota County, Minnesota. The review area is limited to the boundaries of Main Lake. The center coordinates for the site are Latitude: 44.76864, Longitude: -93.19521. The review area is located within the Minnesota Zoo adjacent to the Zoo's main building. There are no known waterways in the vicinity of the review area. There is an associated JD under file number MVP-2015-04670-RMM which determined the subject aquatic resource to be non-jurisdictional and not regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and was issued on March 29, 2016.](#)
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 WATERS<sup>5</sup>: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

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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.<sup>6</sup> [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](#)

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

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<sup>6</sup> 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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within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).<sup>7</sup> [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).

The aquatic resource within the review area identified as Main Lake is not a TNW, territorial sea, or interstate water and is therefore not an (a)(1) water. This determination is supported by the national wetland and hydrography dataset, which do not identify any aquatic resources or other potential connections between this aquatic resource and any other waters. Main Lake is located within the Minnesota Zoo adjacent to the Zoo's main building and there are no outlets, swales, erosional features, streams, or ditches connecting it to any stream or river. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination was issued on March 29, 2016, under file number MVP-2015-04670-RMM which determined the subject aquatic resource to be isolated and therefore non-jurisdictional. LiDAR data and Google Earth aeriels show the resource located within a depressional basin with no outlets. This wetland does not physically abut an (a)(2) impoundment or (a)(3) tributary and is not separated from a jurisdictional water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural landform. The wetland within the review area does not have a continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent water and as such does not meet the definition of adjacent and cannot be evaluated as an (a)(4) wetland; therefore, this aquatic resource is not jurisdictional under the 2023 Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 Final Rule.

Because the Supreme Court in *Sackett* adopted the *Rapanos* plurality standard and the 2023 rule preamble discussed the *Rapanos* plurality standard, the implementation guidance and tools in the 2023 rule preamble that address the regulatory text that was not amended by the conforming rule, including the preamble relevant to the *Rapanos* plurality standard incorporated in paragraphs (a)(3), (4), and (5) of the 2023 rule, as amended, generally remain relevant to implementing the 2023 rule, as amended.

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.

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<sup>7</sup> 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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- a. [National Hydrography Dataset \(NHD\) viewed in Minnesota Regulatory Viewer on December 13, 2024.](#)
- b. [National Wetland Inventory \(NWI\) viewed in Minnesota Regulatory Viewer on December 13, 2024.](#)
- c. [Google Earth Aerials dated 2020, 2022, 2024.](#)
- d. [USGS 3DEP LiDAR viewed in Minnesota Regulatory Viewer on December 13, 2024.](#)
- e. [MNDNR Hillshade viewed in Minnesota Regulatory Viewer on December 13, 2024.](#)
- f. [MVP-2015-04670-RMM Administrative Record](#)

### 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.





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## Location Map

Minnesota Zoo  
Waterfront Renewal

Apple Valley, Minnesota

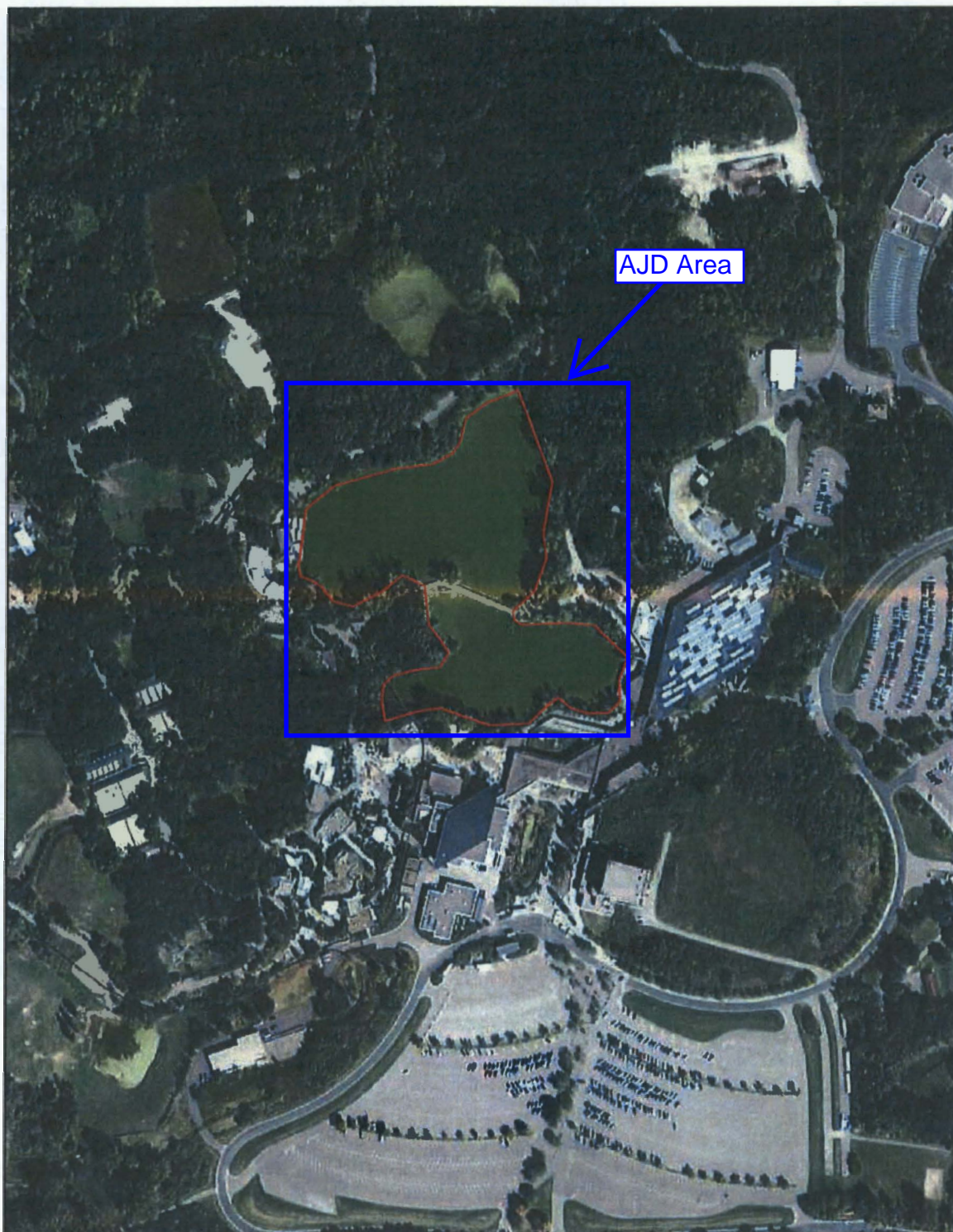
0 1,000 2,000 Feet



This map was created using Sambatek's Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It is a compilation of information and data from various sources. This map is not a surveyed or legally recorded map and is intended to be used as a reference. Sambatek is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.

Sources: MetroGIS, NRCS, LMIC





US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

0 260 520 1,040 Feet



### Legend

 Main Lake, 8.23 acres