

MVP

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVP-2025-01168-JLK

MVP

December 12, 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-2025-01168-JLK [MFR 1 of 1]²

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	Non-Jurisdictional	None

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)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size (in acres): 0.65
- b. Location Description: The project/review area is located in Section 6, Township 15N, Range 18E, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin.
- c. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)
Latitude: 43.801866 Longitude: -88.385176
- d. Nearest City or Town: Fond du Lac
- e. County: Fond du Lac
- f. State: Wisconsin
- g. Other associated Jurisdictional Determinations (including outcomes):

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. NA

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. NA

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6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁶: 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 10.⁷ 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. NA
 - 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

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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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- 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).⁸
- 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 therefore is not an (a)(1) water. Information provided by the applicant shows Wetland 1 is in the southern portion of the review area and extends further to the west, southwest, and south outside the boundaries of the review area. Topographic maps, Google Earth Pro aerial imagery, and site photos provided by the applicant, indicates Wetland 1 is surrounded mostly by uplands involving residential development to the north and northwest, institutional development to the south, and a forested area to the east/southeast. The same data resources show the wetland continues outside of the review area to the west/southwest where it meets a stormwater pond constructed sometime before 2008. A review of Lidar data indicates the wetland and stormwater pond are confined by a berm running north to south along the western boundary while a review of aerial photos provided via Google Earth Pro and World Imagery Wayback show no evidence of a culvert continuing these aquatic resources to the west beneath the berm. Lidar data also shows a ditch-like feature extending eastward from the portion of wetland directly south of the review area. This ditch-like feature continues east under a private roadway, then branches off into several ditch-like features heading up a steep ravine until it meets the west side of Golf Course Drive. A review of historical aerial photos and Golf Course Drive-site level photos provided via Google Earth Pro show no standing or flowing water present. The lack of flowing/standing water and the steep ravine in this area, indicates these ditch-like features are erosional features and not relatively permanent waters.

Based on the above information, Wetland 1 is confined within this depressional area and does not physically abut a relatively permanent paragraph (a)(2) impoundment or a jurisdictional (a)(3) tributary and is not separated from a

⁸ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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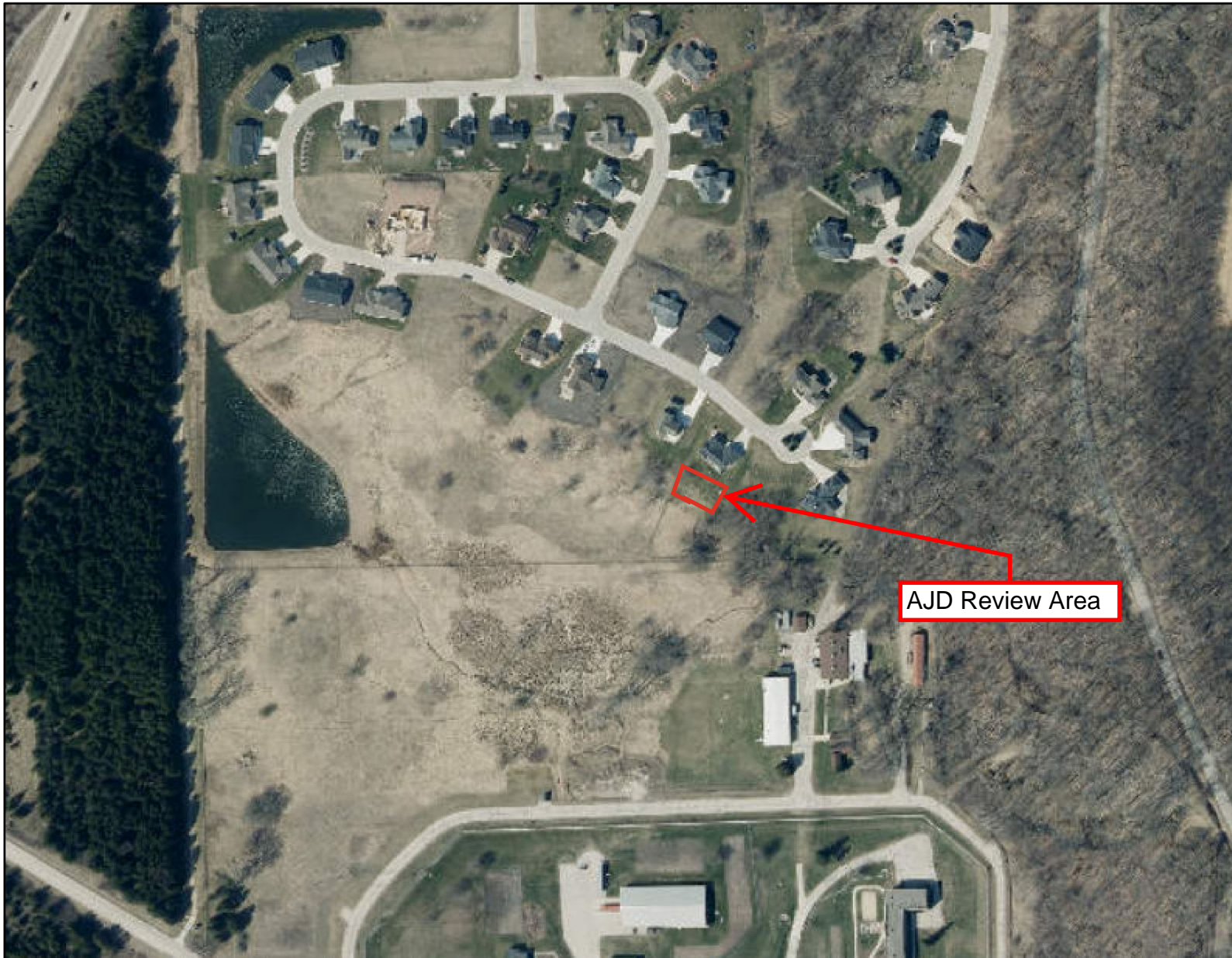
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jurisdictional water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural landform. Therefore, Wetland 1 is not jurisdictional under the 2023 Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States’: Conforming” 88 FR 61964 Final Rule.

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. Office evaluation conducted on December 2, 2025.
 - b. ATF Birschbach Wetland Disturbance Pre-Construction Notification provided by Native Range Ecological.
 - c. National Regulatory Viewer-Lidar Data and Google Earth Pro assessed December 2, 2025.
 - d. World Imagery Wayback Data assessed December 11, 2025.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. NA

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.



Legend: (some map layers may not be displayed)

Notes:



Map: 0 280 560 Feet
0 80 160 Meters

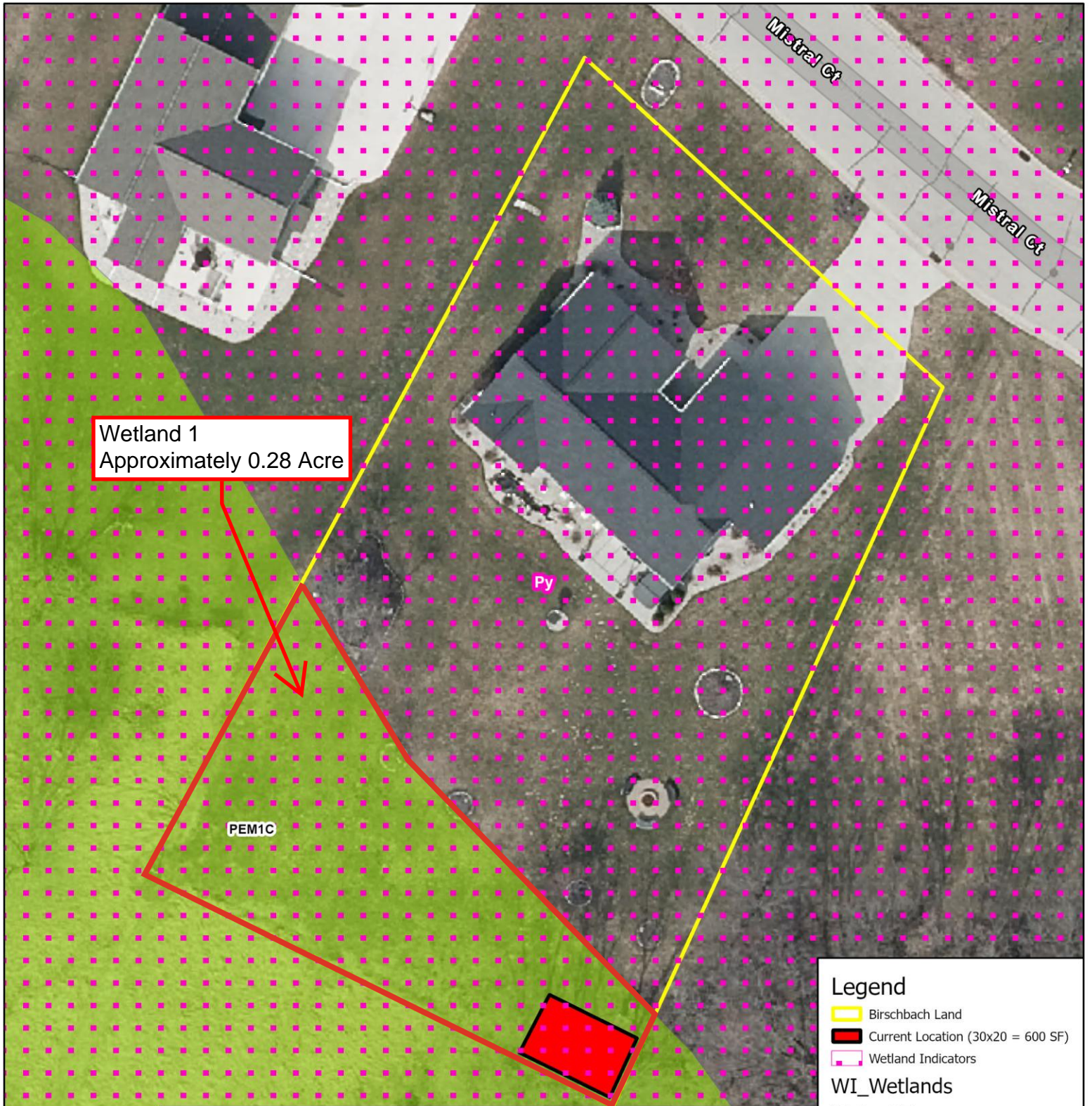
Service Layer Credits:
Latest Leaf Off, DNR Basic Feature Vector Tile Layer WTM:

Map projection: NAD 1983 HARN Wisconsin TM

This map is a product generated by a DNR web mapping application.

This map is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. The user is solely responsible for verifying the accuracy of information before using for any purpose. By using this product for any purpose user agrees to be bound by all disclaimers found here: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/legal>

Date Printed: 12/11/2025 12:12 PM



Wetland 1
Approximately 0.28 Acre

PEM1C

Py

Mistral Ct

Mistral Ct

Legend

- Birschbach Land
 - Current Location (30x20 = 600 SF)
 - Wetland Indicators
- WI_Wetlands**
- Wetland Type
- Emergent Wetland

PEM1C - Palustrine, Emergent, Persistent, Continuously Saturated



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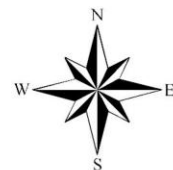
Project Location

36 Mistral Court
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
Section 06 T15N R18E
City of Fond du Lac
Fond du Lac County

-88.3851880062363
43.8019803539342

Landowner

Carissa Birschbach



Drawn By:
Daniel Fuhs

Date:
10/28/2025

1 inch equals 41 feet

Image Sources :
Fond du Lac County
2024 Imagery

Project Number:
25086

Figure Title

Birschbach Land



Figure 1