



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

March 17, 2026

CEMVP-RD

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-2026-00137-CJB, 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	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. 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 Are Size (in acres): 2.49
- b. Location Description: The project/review area is located in Section 13, Township 28N, Range 21E, Oconto County, Wisconsin.
- c. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)
Latitude: 44.893420 Longitude: -87.896590
- d. Nearest City or Town: Oconto
- e. County: Oconto
- f. State: Wisconsin
- g. Other associated Jurisdictional Determinations (including outcomes):

Action ID	Type	Outcome
N/A	N/A	N/A

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4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.⁶

N/A

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 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.

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.

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).

We have reviewed and evaluated the historical photography, LiDAR, Google Earth photography, soil mapping, and the information submitted by the applicant for the following features under the categories of waters of the United States:

- Wetland 1, non-jurisdictional

⁹ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

Wetland 1 (1.70 acres) was characterized in the Wetland Identification Report that was provided with the JD request as a ruderal swamp forest. This wetland occupies the majority of the review area. The review area is bordered to the west by an on ramp to Hwy 41 and to the east by Van Hecke Ave so the ditches associated with these roadways were reviewed. Based on current and historic aerial images and ground level site photos, these ditches do not appear to have ordinary high water marks, defined bed and banks, do not carry a relative permanent flow of water, and do not provide a continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent water (RPW). Additionally, based on historic aerial photos, these ditches appear to have been constructed in uplands. To the south, Wetland 1 appears to extend outside of the review area so this area was reviewed. Based on review of ground level and aerial photos, Wetland 1 appears to terminate at the round about intersection of the onramp to Hwy 41 and Van Hecke Ave. No discrete water conveyance features were identified at this intersection in aerial photos, ground level photos, or LiDAR, that would provide a continuous surface connection to an RPW south of Wetland 1. To the north, the majority of Wetland 1 is bordered by an upland apartment complex; however, the northeast portion of Wetland 1 appears to extend to the north of the review area between the apartment complex and Van Hecke Ave so this area outside of the review area was also reviewed. Based on review of LiDAR, current and historic aerial photos, and ground level photos, this area to the northeast of Wetland 1 appears to terminate at the entrance to the apartment complex and does not have a continuous surface connection to an RPW. Therefore, Wetland 1 does not abut a jurisdictional water, and does not meet the continuous surface requirement.

Wetland 1 is not a TNW, territorial sea, or interstate water and therefore is not an (a)(1) water. This wetland does not physically abut a relatively permanent paragraph (a)(2) impoundment or a jurisdictional (a)(3) tributary. Wetland 1 is a nontidal wetland that does not abut 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. This wetland is not an intrastate lake or pond that meets the relatively permanent standard and cannot be evaluated as (a)(5) waters: lakes and ponds not identified in (a)(1) – (a)(4). Wetland 1 does not directly abut a water of the United States; therefore, this wetland is not jurisdictional under the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 Final Rule (September 8, 2023).

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 March 4, 2026

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- b. Wetland Identification Report, completed by Chelsey Lundeen (WDNR Wetland Identification Specialist), dated October 10, 2022
- c. National Regulatory Viewer layers consisting of LiDAR (Hillshade and DEM), WI 24k Hydro Flowlines Stream Order, and NHD Plus HR, accessed on March 4, 2026
- d. Google Maps Street View, accessed on March 4, 2026

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.

WDNR Wetland Identification Service - Van Hecke Ave, Oconto, Oconto Co



10/10/2022, 2:22:54 PM

Wetland_ID_Data - Polygon layer

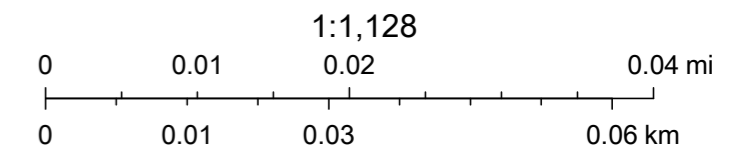
Wetland_ID_Data - Point layer

Wetland Delineation Boundary

Wetland

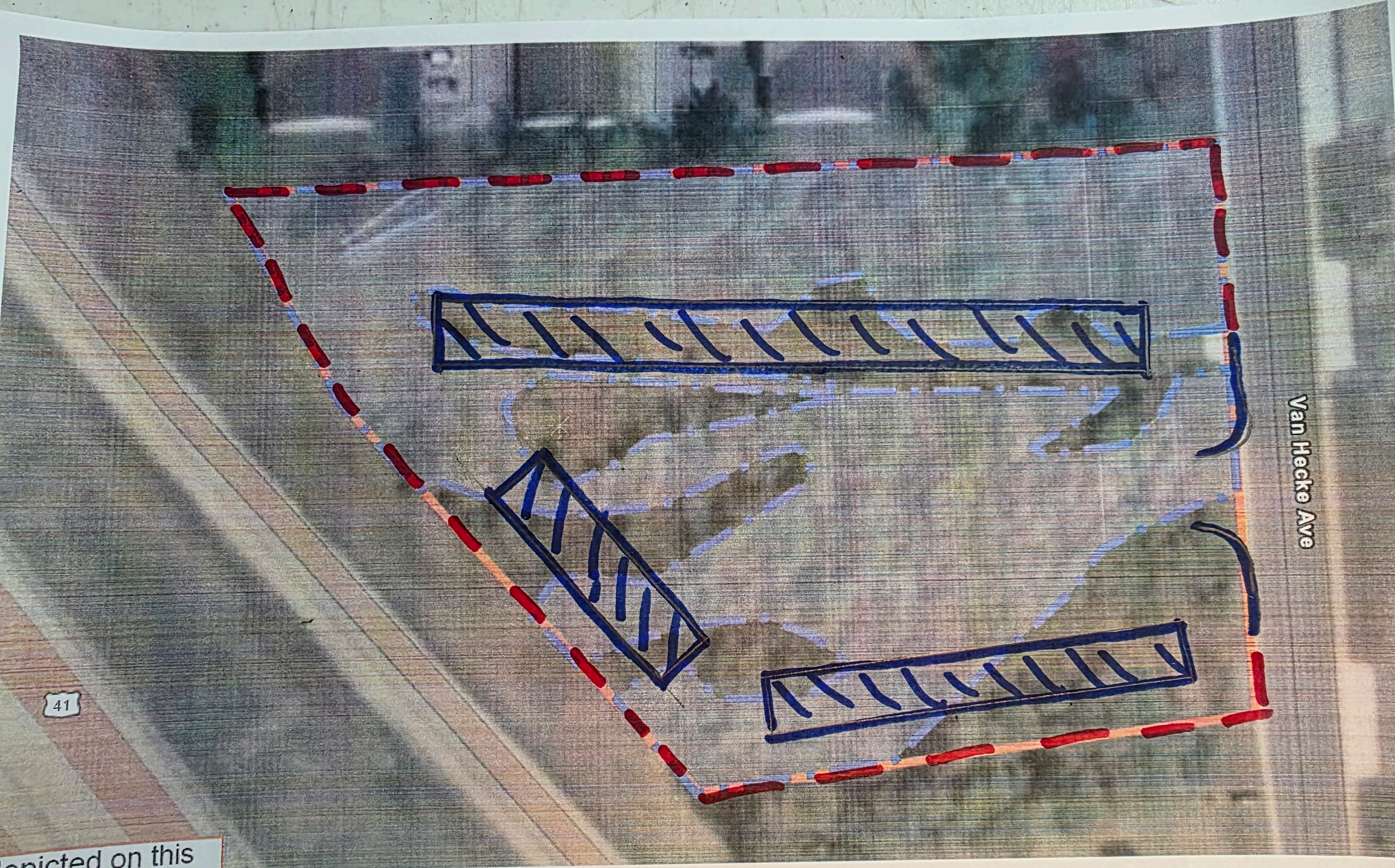
Review Area Boundary

Upland



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Van Hecke Ave

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