

SPONSOR: Leon Enres

Public Notice

ISSUED: October 8, 2021 EXPIRES: November 8, 2021

REFER TO: MVP-2020-00605-MJB

SECTION:404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: 1505 Rivershore Drive

Hastings, MN 55033

SPONSOR'S AGENT Westwood Professional Services

c/o: Matthew Vollbrecht 3701 12th Street N, Suite 206

St. Cloud, MN 56301

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 1, Township 112 North, Range 20 West, Dakota County, Minnesota. The approximate center coordinates are Latitude 44.533411 N, Longitude -93.117442 W.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area is the Lower Minnesota River Basin in Minnesota (BSA 8).

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the Endres Wetland Bank, approximately 163 acres in size, including upland buffer areas. The site currently has several CRP contracts in place but are expected to end or be terminated prior to restoration activities taking place. The bank site is shown on the enclosed figures labeled MVP-2020-00605-MJB MB Public Notice Page 1-17 of 17.

NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT: The project proposes to restore 114.38 acres of sedge meadow wetlands in BSA 8 and increase water quality benefits to downstream waters. In addition, 46.29 acres of upland buffer are proposed to be created surrounding the restored wetlands. The Cannon River Watershed has limited compensatory mitigation credits available for future impacts to aquatic resources. Westwood Professional Services expects the need for wetland compensatory mitigation credits to increase in the area.

ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT: The sponsor proposes to restore 114.38 acres of partially drained wetland to become sedge meadow wetland and establish 46.29 acres of upland buffer. The sponsor proposes to restore wetland hydrology by breaking tile, installing ditch plugs, and backfilling the remainder of a private north-south linear ditch. Separate from the north-south linear ditch, is a straightened channel that bisects the property. The proposal includes stripping off the organic topsoil approximately 3 feet to the depth of the mineral subsoil in areas where there is a lateral hydrology effect from the straightened channel that bisects the project. Mineral soil is

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proposed to be placed over this area and compacted to form 2:1 slopes to form a core-berm. Organic soils are proposed to placed over-top of the compacted soils to a final 10:1 slope.

Site preparation, seeding, and long-term invasive species control will occur with an adaptive management plan. The sponsor expects the native vegetation to become well-established and resistant to invasive species in the long term. The expected seed mix is identified as both Wet Meadow and Sedge Meadow for the sedge meadow wetlands. Areas with established reed canary grass are proposed to be seeded with a Wetland Edge/Transition-Clethodim/Sethoxydim Resistant Mix. Weed treatment and inspection is expected to occur for non-native or invasive species from May to August in the first year, with spot treatment continuing through five years.

The proposed credit allocation table is provided in the enclosed figure labeled MVP-2020-00605-MJB MB Public Notice Page 15 of 17.

OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT: The bank site is proposed to be managed long term by Endres Holdings, the property owner, with Leon Endres as the bank sponsor. Endres Holdings is planning to retain ownership of the property and will be responsible for the long-term management and maintenance of the restoration. Credit sales would be tracked by the sponsor and reported to the state as required by state law. The reported credit releases and sales would be tracked on both Corps and state databases using ledger data supplied by the state. By state law, long-term management of the property would be the responsibility of the landowner and the sponsor until all released credits have been debited. After all credits are debited, long-term management obligations would fall to the landowner under state law. Additional protections and management limitations would be spelled out in both a conservation easement and in an approved bank plan.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS: The agent and sponsor have assessed conditions of the site and developed a wetland banking plan. The agent believes the soils, hydrology, and topography of the site will support the wetlands proposed to be restored. Per the sponsor, the agent will hire qualified professionals for the native vegetation seeding and maintenance. Westwood Professional Services has worked through the permitting process on several banks in Minnesota in Aitkin, Clay, and Stearn Counties and state that they have successfully incorporated similar techniques as what is proposed for the Endres Wetland Bank.

ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: Per the agent, the site has hydric soils, a straightened channel that bisects the area, a north-south linear ditch, drainage tile, shallow groundwater table, and has been row cropped. Removal of the spoils along the straightened channel that bisects the site will allow unimpeded water flow from the watercourse into the wetlands during high flows. The characteristics of the site indicate the area has partially drained hydrology and is suitable for wetland restoration. The agent states the wetlands restored will be similar in function to historic wetlands that existed in the watershed and have been impacted by agricultural practices.

HYDROLOGY: The site has a north-south linear open ditch, underground tile, and a straightened channel that bisects the site that provide surface and subsurface hydrology to the proposed restoration area. The open north-south ditch will be filled, the drain tile throughout the site will be broken, the existing berms alongside the straightened channel will be removed, and a soil core is proposed to be constructed parallel to the straightened channel. The soil core is proposed to allow for high flows in the channel to overflow into the wetland areas but prevent drainage of the wetland soils to the straightened channel. These actions are expected to restore wetland hydrology to the site. The agent completed a hydrologic study and concluded that the project would not have an adverse effect on neighboring properties.

CURRENT LAND USES: The proposed project site is partially in agricultural commodity crop

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production and partially enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The applicant expects to end the CRP contracts to pursue wetland restoration through the wetland banking program. The surrounding land use is also dominated by row crop agriculture. The southern border of the site abuts a county road. The north, east, and west borders abut agricultural fields.

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: This project has been coordinated with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

3. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) identified the following Federally listed species as having potential to be in the area:

Northern Long-Eared Bat Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding

wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests

during spring and summer.

Prairie Bush-clover Found in tallgrass prairie regions.

4. JURISDICTION

This proposal is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in the Regulatory Guidance Letter 16-01.

5. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL:

The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization of the work in connection with this project.

6. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

7. REPLIES/COMMENTS

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections by the expiration date above. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant. A copy of the full prospectus submitted by the Sponsor is available to the public for review upon request.

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Replies may be addressed to:

Regulatory Division

St. Paul District Corps of Engineers

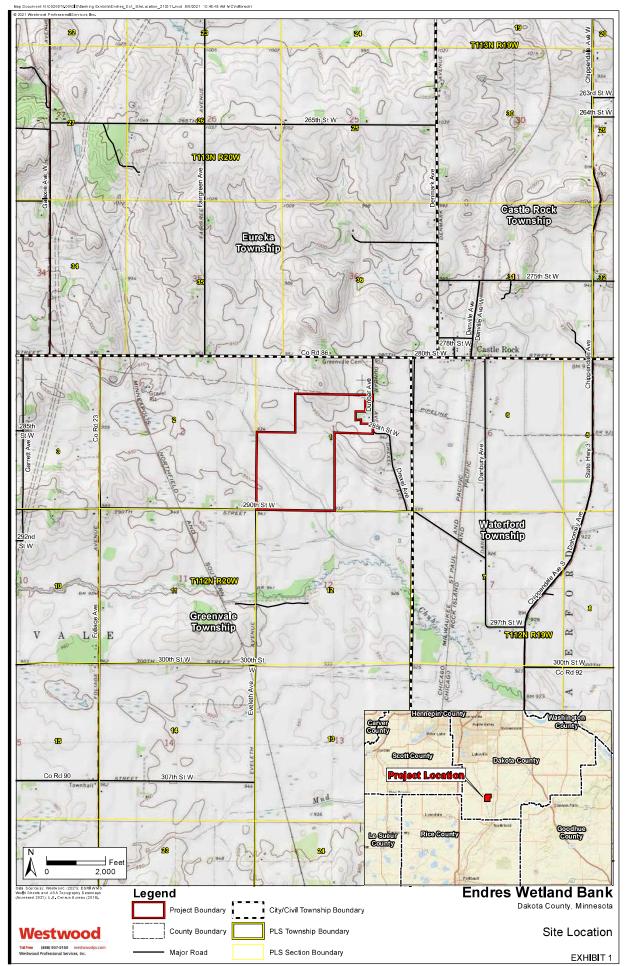
c/o Meghan Brown 1114 South Oak Street

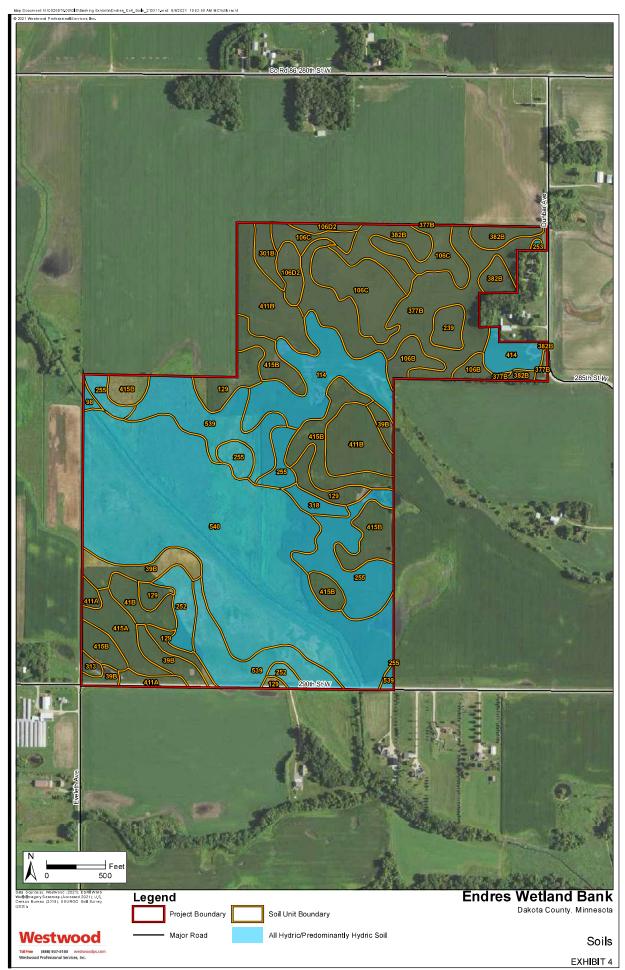
La Crescent, MN 55947-1560 Meghan.J.Brown@usace.army.mil

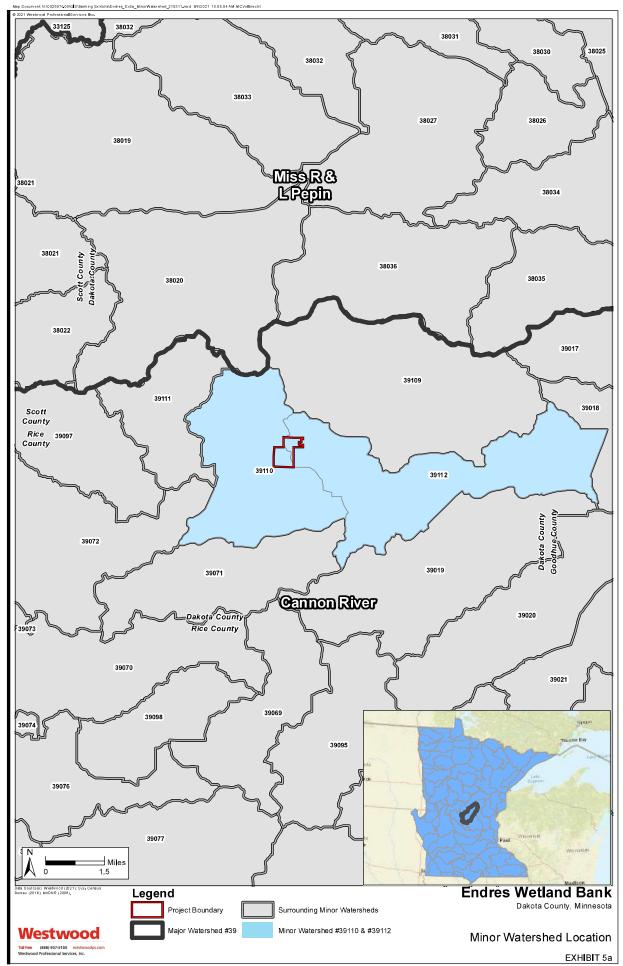
Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Meghan Brown at the La Crescent office of the Corps, telephone number 651-290-5688.

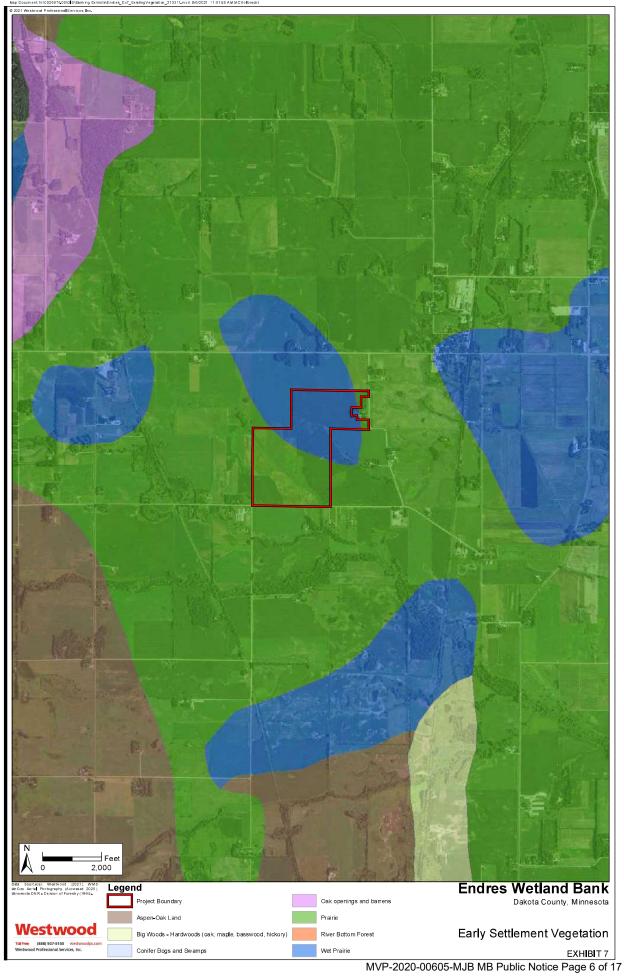
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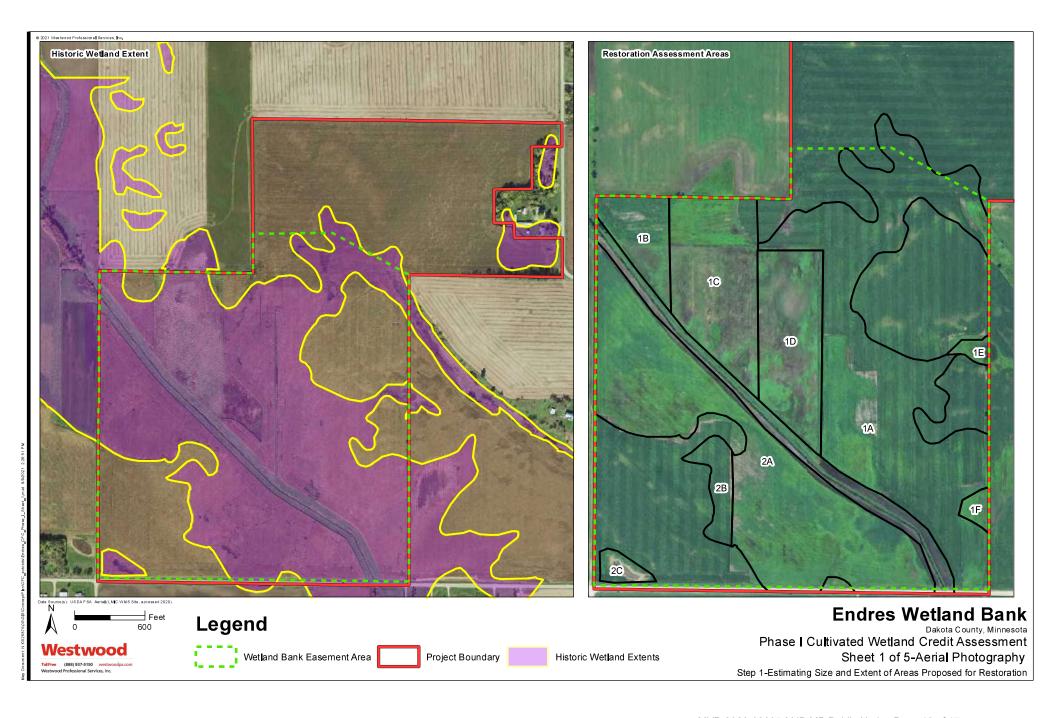
Enclosure

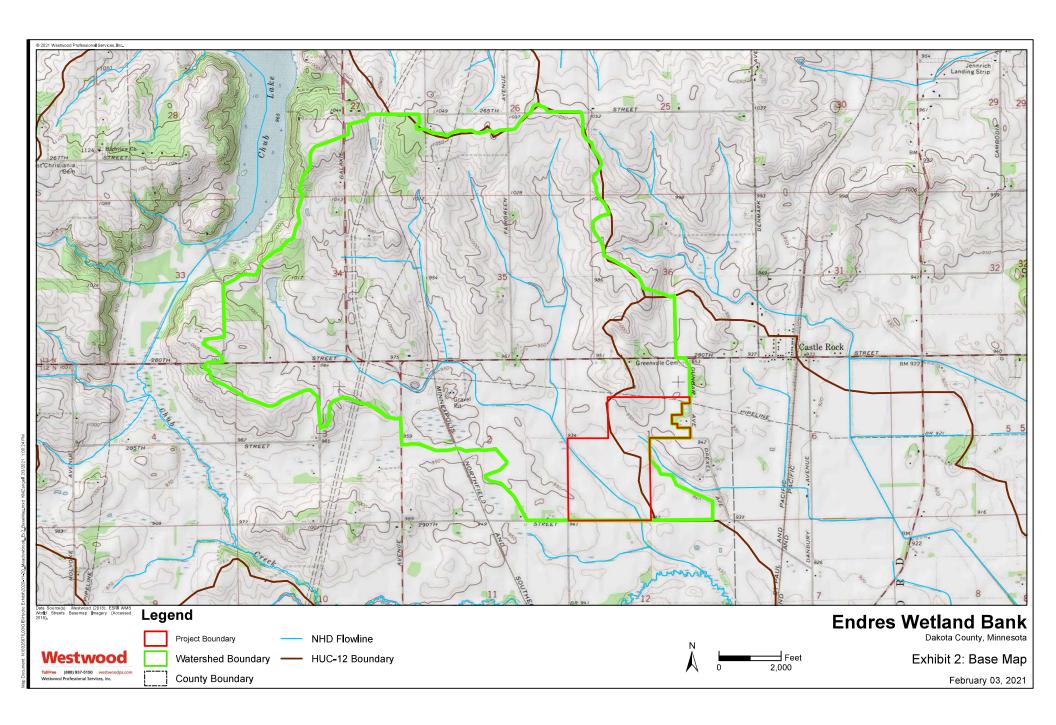




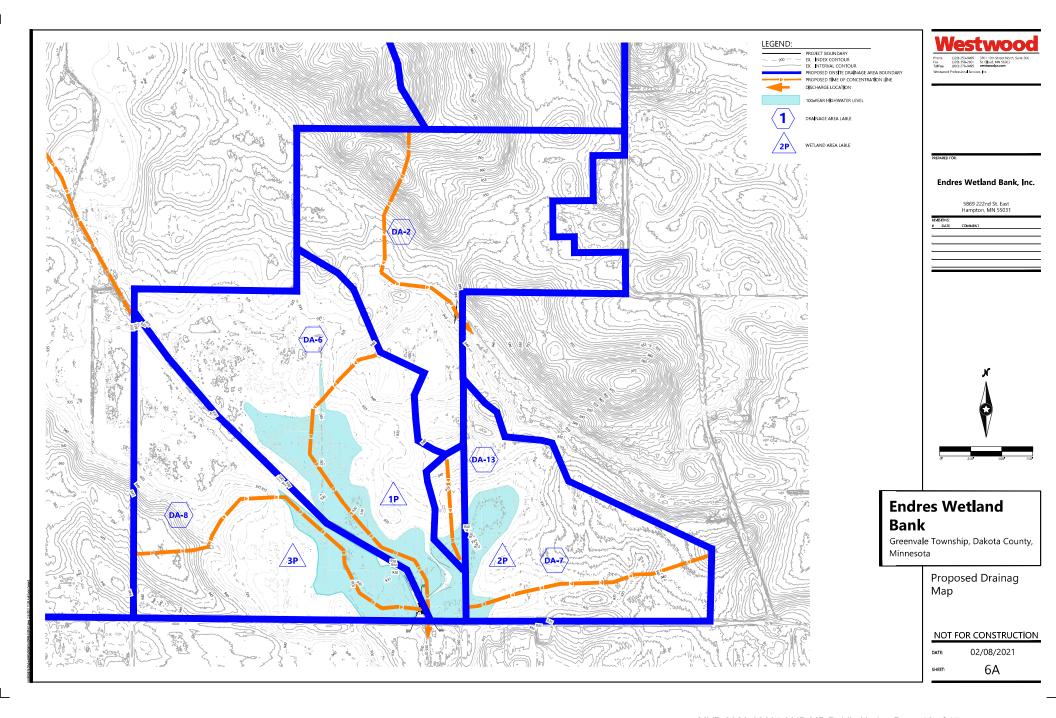








Credit Area ID	Proposed Credit Type	Proposed Credit Action	Proposed Credit Ratio	Acreage	Proposed Credit Created
1A	Type 2 Sedge Meadow	Reestablishment-Cultivated Field Method	100%	38.9419	38.9418
1C	Type 2 Sedge Meadow	75% CRP Wetland Credit Hydrology and Vegetative Rehabilitation	75%	31.2626	23.4469
1D	Type 2 Sedge Meadow	25% Credit 50-Foot Property Line Wetland Restoration	25%	3.2823	0.82057
1E	Upland Tallgrass Prairie	25% Upland Buffer	25%	24.7951	6.1988
2A	Type 2 Sedge Meadow	100% CFC Credit Area Hydrology and Vegetative Rehabilitation	100%	0.7680	0.76800
2В	Type 2 Sedge Meadow	Reestablishment-Cultivated Field Method	100%	37.1730	37.1730
2D	Type 2 Sedge Meadow	25% Credit 50-Foot Property Line Wetland Restoration	25%	2.9630	0.7407
2E	Upland Tallgrass Prairie	8420.0526-Subp 2. Upland Buffer Areas	25%	21.4992	5.3747
NC	No Credit Proposed	Non-Credit Public Watercourse	0%	2.4250	0



PROPOSED

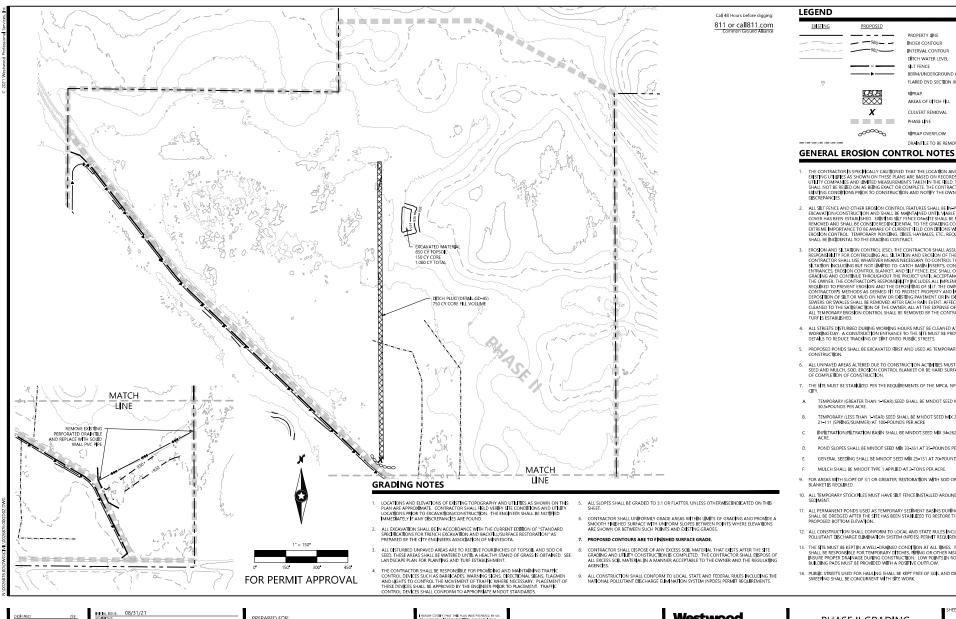
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INDEX CONTOUR INTERVAL CONTOUR DITCH WATER LEVEL SILT FENCE BERM/UNDERGROUND CORE FLARED END SECTION (WITH RIPRAP) AREAS OF DITCH FILL

CULVERT REMOVAL

DRAINTILE TO BE REMOVED

PHASE LINE



IOHN S BLENKER

DATE: 08/31/21 LICENSE NO. ____54832

DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ENDRES HOLDINGS

1505 RIVERSHORE DRIVE HASTINGS, MINNESOTA 55065

JSB JSB

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HOREZONTAL SCALE:

VERTICAL SCALE: