



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

SPONSOR: *Jeremy Donabauer*

Public Notice

ISSUED: April 12, 2021

EXPIRES: May 12, 2021

REFER TO: *MVP-2021-00115-SSC*

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL
2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Jeremy Donabauer
P.O. Box 534
Waconia, Minnesota 55387

SPONSOR'S AGENT Darren Hungness
Landteam Inc.
509 22nd Avenue East, Suite 102
Alexandria, Minnesota 56308

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 1, Township 117 North, Range 34 West, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are N 4982237.470002, E 350714.130322. Latitude 44.977884, Longitude -94.893394.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area is the Middle Mississippi Basin in Minnesota (Bank Service Area 7).

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop Lake Lillian Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 30.4 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT: Bank Service Area 7, historically, has seen a great need for wetland credits given its location within/near the metro area. Specifically, this site is located in the South Fork of the Crow River, Major Watershed 19, which would provide wetland credits to those within the area of high demand.

The goal of the bank is to restore wetland hydrology in order to re-establish a self-sustaining and high functioning wet meadow/sedge meadow hydrophytic, native vegetative community and shallow marsh wetland community within the 30.4-acre banking site. The establishment of a mesic prairie upland buffer is planned for approximately 9 acres surrounding the main wetland basin and other areas of restoration.

Historical wetland functions and values are expected to return to the same level as it was before the impacts occurred. Wildlife habitat, flood water retention, and water quality improvements can be expected from the restoration project. These wetland functions are not only an asset to the project site but also add value to the watershed. Most of the wetlands within the watershed have been tiled and ditched for agricultural purposes. Restoring wetlands on the landscape will improve wetland functions and ecosystem habitats which were once lost.

The proposed Lake Lillian Wetland Bank would include the follow restoration actions and acreages, and would generate the following potential wetland credits (Map ID Column corresponds with the enclosed Figure MVP-2021-00115-SSC, Public Notice Figure 4 of 5).

Map ID	Credit Action (Subpart)	Wetland Type (Plant Community)		Acres	% Credit	Credit Amount
1	Subpart 3	3- Shallow Marsh		8.5	100.0	8.6000
2	Subpart 3	2- Fresh Wet Meadow		7.3	100.0	7.4000
3	Subpart 3	1 - Wet to Wet Mesic Prairie		4.5	100.0	5.7000
4	Buffer (2)	3 - Shallow Marsh	39%	8.6	25.0	0.8385
		2 - Fresh Wet Meadow	40%			0.8600
		1- Wet to Wet Mesic Prairie	21%			0.4515
5	Subpart 3	2 - Fresh Wet Meadow		1.5	75.0	1.1250
		Est. Easement Area		30.4		24.9750

ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT: The majority of the site currently consists of farmed row cropland, several groups of trees, and a south to north private ditch. The south to north private ditch runs through the center of the property. The ditch not only drains the site, but also drains neighboring properties. Due to this, simply filling or plugging the ditch on the site is not appropriate.

Approximately 400 feet east of the intersection of County Road (CR) 8 SE and 154th Avenue, there is a 36-inch Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) culvert under 154th Street; this culvert directs water from the south side of 154th Avenue north into the site. Once into the site, flow from this pipe combines with flows generated from the site and is channelized in a ditch that runs east approximately 500 feet along the right of way of 154th Avenue. The ditch then takes a 90 degree turn to the north; this leg of the ditch runs approximately 1,200 feet before it discharges into Branch 3 of JD1 MK. There is an additional culvert (24" CMP) under 154th Avenue that transfers overland flow into the site. This culvert is located approximately 1,250 feet east of the CR 8 SE/154th Avenue junction, near the southeast corner of the site. There is no defined ditch that accepts this flow.

It is proposed that the initial 400 feet of the east flowing leg of the ditch be left open, which will allow the 36-inch culvert under 154th Avenue to continue to act as it currently does. A 24-inch non-perforated tile will be installed in the ditch bottom at that point and the remaining ditch to the east and north will be filled—this point coincides with a topographic low that will allow water during high flow events to discharge overland into the site. The tile will run east approximately 500 feet to the southeast corner of the property, it will then turn north and run 1,200 feet where it will discharge into Branch 3 of JD1 MK. Energy dissipation will be installed at the outlet. The remaining ditch and tile alignment will be outside of the bank's easement boundary. The existing private ditch will be abandoned by filling rather than ditch plugging. If spoil piles from ditch construction are not sufficient to complete total ditch filling, two borrow areas have been designated.

It is proposed that a clay core trench system will be installed along the northern easement alignment and the southern remaining ditch in areas of expected wetland restoration in order to mitigate the lateral effect of the remaining ditches; the goal of this strategy is to help retain and enhance subsurface wetland hydrology on a greater percentage of the site.

Three tile outlets were identified during the topographic survey of the site. One is a 12-inch CMP outlet that enters Branch 3 in the northwest area of the site; it appears that a surface inlet that was also identified during the survey is part of this particular tile system. The second is an 8-inch PVC

outlet that was identified on the east side of the north-south ditch approximately midway between the north and south property lines—no surface inlets were identified near this outlet. An exploratory excavation will be conducted in this area to ascertain the orientation of this tile. Once found, the tile will be abandoned in accordance with the Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide. A third tile enters the site from the south under 154th Avenue; drainage from this tile will be perpetuated—its invert elevation will require it enter the 24-inch non-perforated tile. Any other tile that is encountered during exploratory excavations or construction will be properly abandoned as necessary.

Vegetation establishment and maintenance: State seed mixes used would include: Mesic Prairie General, Wet Prairie, Wet Meadow South and West, and Emergent. The site was row cropped in previous years. It is likely that some perennial vegetation (both native and non-native) could reemerge, so the site should be monitored regularly for invasives, such as Canada thistle and reed canary grass. In the first growing season, mowing may be necessary to reduce the canopy of annual weeds and allow the native seedlings to develop. This is more likely to be needed in the upland buffer than in the wetland areas. The overall management approach for the project will include a plan to control reed canary grass, which could be a problematic invasive species if not kept in check. Reed canary grass control will consist of multiple techniques, including the use of grass specific herbicides, glyphosate spot treatment and wicking, and/or fall oversprays. It will require consistent monitoring and an adaptive approach that adjusts to the ongoing observations of vegetation changes on the site. Spring controlled burns are useful management tools, especially to establish and invigorate upland native grasses and control invasive tree seedlings. Spring burns are typically conducted in year 3 or later. The frequency of burning may vary, dependent on management goals, but is typically every 3 to 5 years.

OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT: The established bank site would be owned and managed by the sponsor, Jeremy and Liza Donabauer, or their successors in property ownership. Long term management of the site shall include control measures such as spot spraying and mowing among other possible ways to control invasive species. Yearly site overviews will be conducted by the landowner and/or consultant. The sponsor is responsible for the long-term management of the site. The site will be maintained in a permanent perpetual easement for the sole purpose of a wetland restoration bank. 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/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.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS: The feasibility of the project is evident in the historic basins that can be restored without having adverse effect to surrounding landowner or landscapes.

All contractors/consultants and the landowner have been successful in developing wetland banks across Minnesota.

ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: The site is a restoration of a historic basin and the majority of the basin is proposed to be restored. It is apparent that the site is suitable in perpetuity. The intent is to resemble what was once there; this can be seen by reviewing historic photos of nearby wetlands. The surrounding land-use is agriculture and for the foreseeable future it will remain as the dominant use of the surrounding land. The main basin areas of the site are mapped as L13A Klossner muck and 1900 Okobojo-Canisteo depressional complex in addition to 112 Harps loam and 84 Brownton silty clay loam. Surface only site observations have confirmed the presence of this poorly drained soil. All soils within the site that would be in areas of wetland restoration are hydric soils.

HYDROLOGY: The site includes a west-east ditch along the northern edge of the property. According to the Kandiyohi County Interactive Map, the ditch is Meeker-Kandiyohi Judicial Ditch 1 Branch 3. The ditch generally flows east until it reaches Meeker County where it eventually empties into the South Branch of the Crow River. The county ditch will not be modified in any way.

The site also includes a private ditch that enters the property in the southwest portion of the site. The ditch runs along the north side of 154th Ave for approximately 500 feet before turning north until it meets up with the county ditch. The proposal for this ditch would be to continue the ditch to the southeast corner of the site then run the ditch north to meet up with the county ditch. A private tile line enters the property in the southcentral portion of the site and will be connected to the new tile re-route. The re-route of the tile will not negatively affect the land from the south and should allow the same drainage as present to continue.

Additionally, it is known that there is some private tile located on-site. The known location of the tile is in the northwest portion of the site but there could also be more tile around the south-north private ditch that is assisting in the drainage of the site.

CURRENT LAND USES: The proposed mitigation bank site and the surrounding lands are in annual row crop production. The land-use in the areas surrounding the bank site are agricultural, several farmsteads, and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildfowl Production Area.

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

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

None were identified by the bank sponsor or are known to exist in the action area. However, Kandiyohi County is within the known historic range for the following Federally-listed species:

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.
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This notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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.

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.

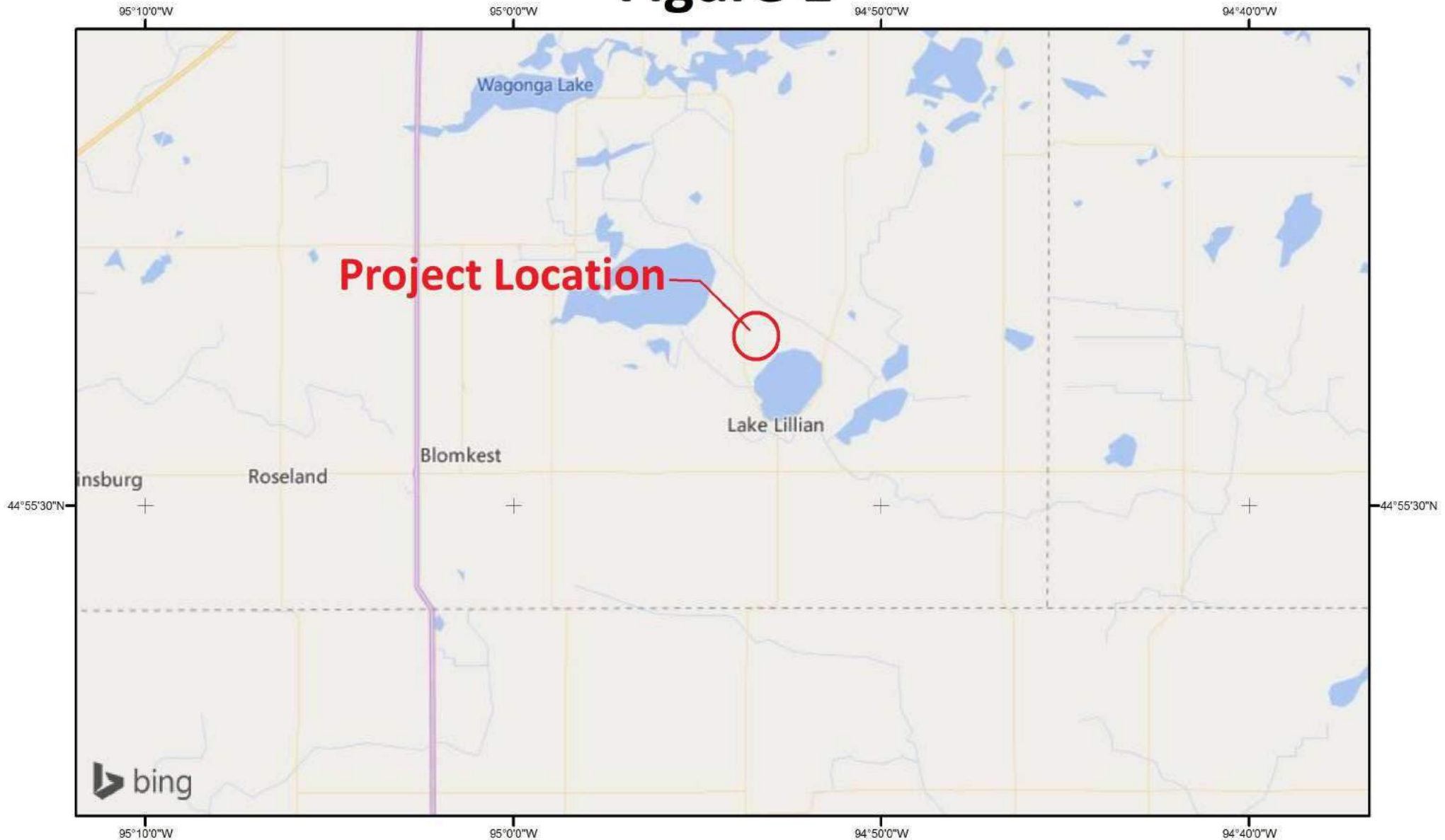
Replies may be addressed to:

Regulatory Branch
St. Paul District Corps of Engineers
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, contact Samantha Coungeris in the St. Paul office of the Corps at (651) 290-5268 or email Samantha.S.Coungeris@usace.army.mil.

Enclosure(s): MVP-2021-00115-SSC, Public Notice Figures 1-5 of 5

Figure 1



The State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources makes no representations or warranties expressed or implied, with respect to the use of maps or geographic data provided herewith regardless of its format or the means of its transmission. There is no guarantee or representation to the user as to the accuracy, currency, suitability, or reliability of this data for any purpose. The user accepts the data "as is."

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Note: Elevation images and contours were generated from LiDAR derived elevation surfaces acquired 2007-2012.

0 1 2 4 6 Miles

Scale: 1:270,364



Created on 1/12/2021

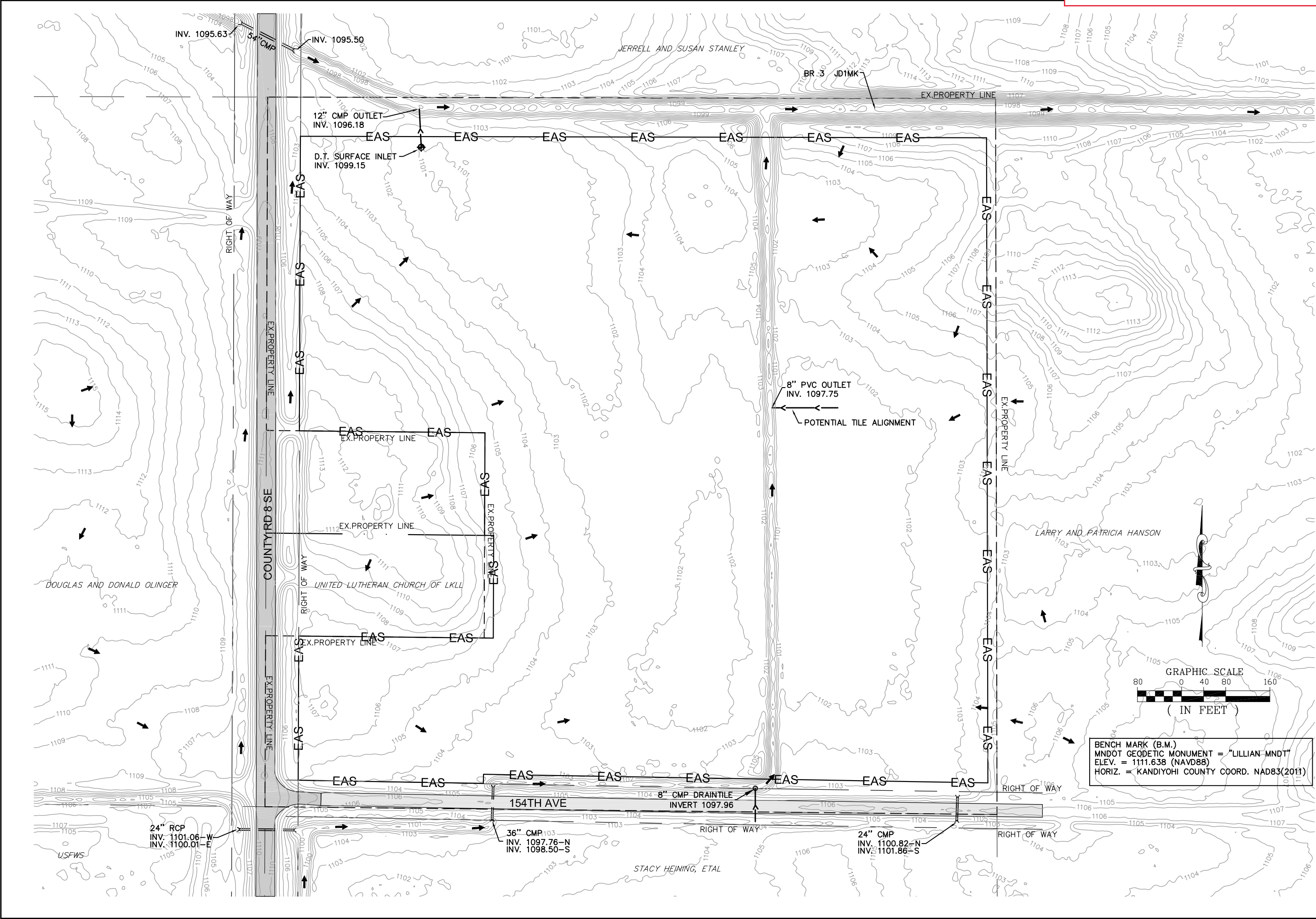


REV	DATE	REVISIONS

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EXISTING VEGETATION/LANDUSE/PROPOSED EASEMENT
LAKE LILLIAN WETLAND BANK-PROSPECTUS
JEREMY DONABAUER
SEC. 1, LK LILLIAN TWP, KANDIYOHI CO

DRAWN: JH	DATE: 02-2023	SCALE: AS SHOWN	PROJ: GE2101	APPROVED:
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EXISTING VEGETATION				

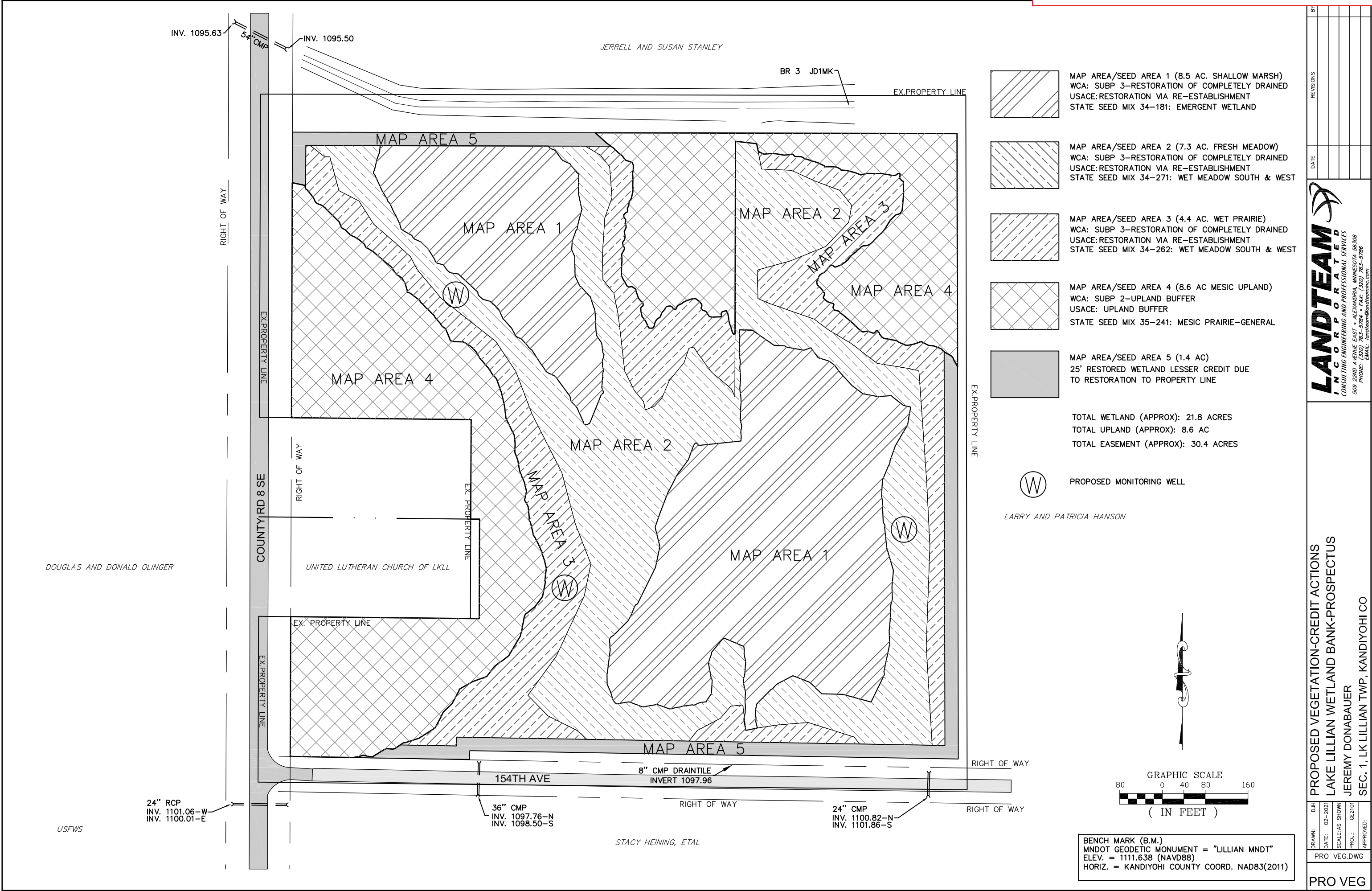


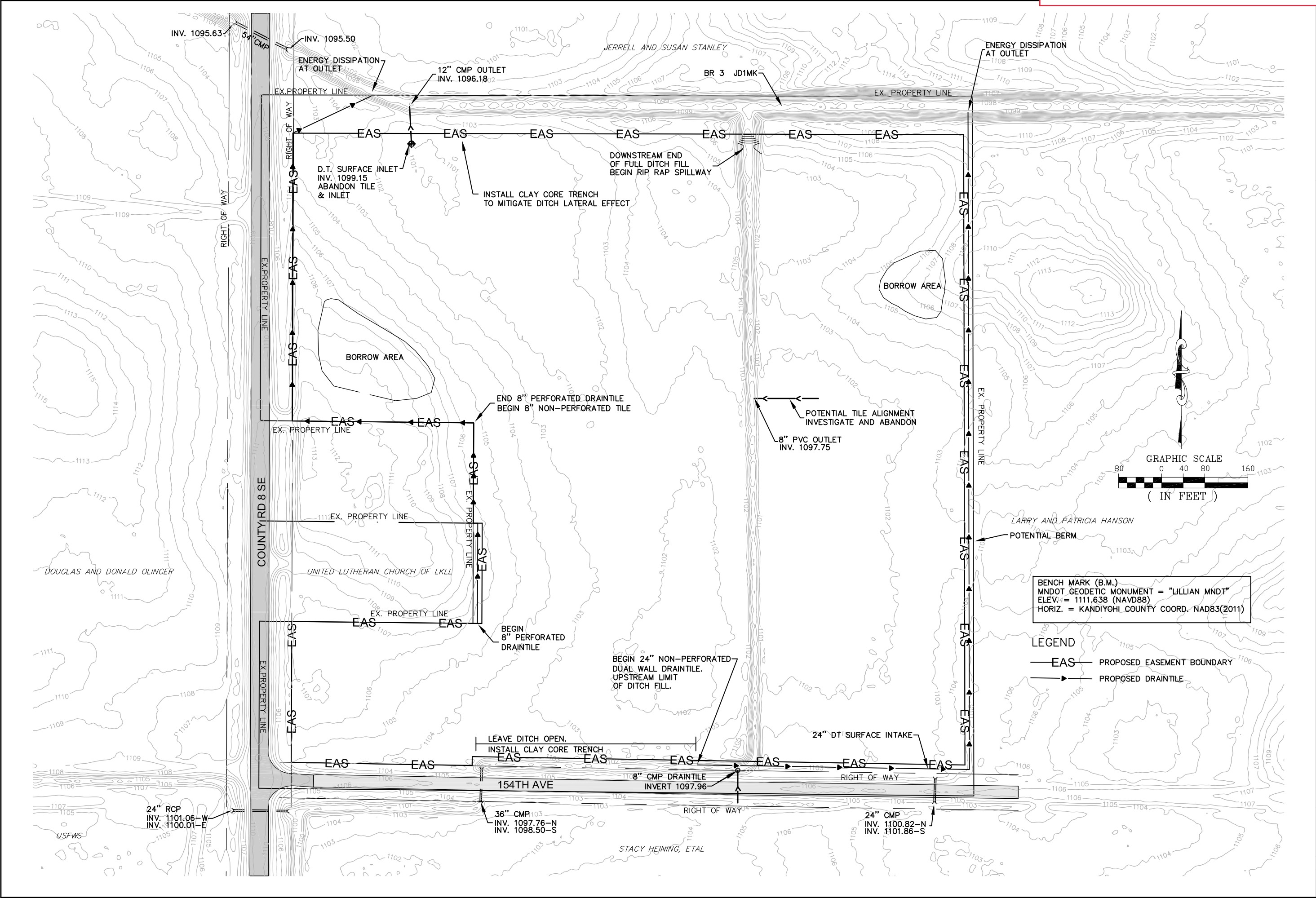
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EXISTING CONDITIONS
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JEREMY DONABAUER
SEC. 1, LK LILLIAN TWP, KANDIYOHI CO

DRAWN:	DATE:	SCALE:	PROJ.:	APPROVED:
EX COND.DWG	02-2023	AS SHOWN	GE101	
EXISTING				
CONDITIONS				





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CONCEPT PLAN
LAKE LILLIAN WETLAND BANK-PROSPECTUS
JEREMY DONABAUER
SEC. 1, LK LILLIAN TWP, KANDIYOHI CO

DRAWN:	DATE:	SCALE:	PROJ.:	APPROVED:
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