

St Paul District

SPONSOR:

R: Andy Walser, ABC Holding, LLC

**Public Notice** 

ISSUED: 5 May 2022 EXPIRES: 6 June 2022

**REFER TO:** MVP-2021-01546-CCK

SECTION:404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS:

Andy Walser ABC Holding, LLC 59313 172<sup>nd</sup> Street Mankato, Minnesota 56001

SPONSOR'S AGENT

Eva Douma Bolton & Menk, Inc 1960 Premier Drive Mankato, Minnesota 56001

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located in Section 27 of Township 106 North, Range 25 West, Blue Earth County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are N 4867816.62, E 433752.87. Latitude 43.9604956, Longitude -93.8257423.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area is located within the Le Sueur River major watershed of the Minnesota River basin (HUC No. 32067), also referred to as Bank Service Area (BSA) 9.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the Medo Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 71.22 acres in size, including upland buffer areas. Currently the site and surrounding lands are in corn and soybeans agricultural crop production.

NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT: The objective of the project is to restore hydrology and native vegetation to 12.28 acres of fresh (wet) meadow, 51.71 acres of shallow marsh, and 0.53 acres of deep marsh; which will result in the generation of approximately 61 credits. The Medo bank will fill a need for wetland credits in the minor and major watersheds that serve the growing cities of Mankato and North Mankato. BSA 9 serves the southwest metro and growing communities such as Jordan, Shakopee, Waconia, and Carver. With the increasing population pressures in these areas, the need for wetland credits will continue. By providing fresh (wet) meadow and shallow marsh credits, this bank will be offering the two most common wetland types impacted in the BSA. At this time there are two other wetland banks in the same major watershed with publicly available federally approved credits.

ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT: The sponsor proposes to establish a wetland mitigation bank and generate wetland credits through use of the "*Alternative Method for Determining Wetland Mitigation Credit Potential for Hydrologic Restorations on Cultivated Fields in Minnesota*" methodology as developed jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District Regulatory Branch (Corps) and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Hydrologic restoration on-site would occur by disabling the existing lift stations and tile systems, enlarging and raising existing culverts (with associated filling and grading), as well as constructing a berm with clay core on the south, north, and east sides of the site. The berm will retain runoff on the site and the clay core will prevent seepage through the berm thereby preventing County Ditch 5 from drawing down the proposed wetland restoration.

Vegetation re-establishment would occur by reseeding the fresh (wet) meadow, shallow marsh, and deep marsh basins with 4-262 (Wet Prairie) seed mix, 34-181 (Emergent Wetland) seed mix, and deep marsh pilot seed mix, respectively. The upland buffer will be restored to a mesic prairie by using the 35-241 (Mesic Prairie General) seed mix. Invasive plant species on-site (reed canary grass, smooth brome, Canada thistle and hybrid cattail) will be monitored and treated extensively.

OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT: The established bank site would be managed by the sponsor or their successors in property ownership. Consistent with the recorded easement, the Sponsor will adaptively manage the site to control pest, weed, or invasive species as required by state and federal law. Credit sales would be tracked by 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: Both the sponsor, their consultant, and contractor have experience in restoring drained wetlands, with a history of constructing successful mitigation bank projects of a similar nature within the same watershed. Restoration at the site will be dependent on the success of restoring hydrology to the basin. In addition, historical aerial photographs (1950 to 1964) demonstrated that wetland hydrology was present, and the site was functioning as shallow marsh habitat, with the fringe consisting of fresh (wet) meadow habitat. Evidence of historical wetlands on site gives great confidence that wetland hydrology can be restored and maintained. Historically, the watershed basin extended to the south and east. County Ditch 5 was constructed through the historic basin to drain it to the north. This ditch system has successfully drained deep marsh wetlands along its path from the Lost Marsh State Wildlife Management Area to Severson Lake. The ditch and County Road 14 do not allow for the basin to be restored to historical limits. The restoration is effectively cut off from the historic basin by these man-made features. Although County Ditch 5 will not be re-routed, the tile system associated with this restoration will be disabled to restore hydrology and hydrology from the west being directed to the restoration.

ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: The area being proposed for restoration has signs that indicate the area was once a flooded basin, with ponding and multiple plant community types. Hydric soils are mapped in the area, including depressional complex soils. Due to the county ditch and county road having to remain functional, a full restoration of this wetland is not obtainable. The restoration will restore wetland hydrology, but not to the historic deep marsh regime. Rather, the site allows for a fresh (wet) meadow and shallow marsh regime without disrupting the surrounding infrastructure. These hydrologic regimes were found historically in the area, as evidenced by historic aerial photographs. Disabling the tiling system will allow hydrology to be held on site for longer periods than current conditions. Additionally, the entire project area is a combination of agricultural crop production. Proposed restoration of native perennial vegetation would create a larger contiguous tract of habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

HYDROLOGY: The entire site has been extensively tiled, which has successfully removed hydrology from the site. Tile lines outlet into County Ditch 5 from within the easement. The northwest portion of the easement is higher in elevation. Water overland flows from the west to a culvert that crosses under County Road 14 into an excavated stub-ditch that is directed south to County Ditch 5. Water then leaves the site to the north through County Ditch 5.

CURRENT LAND USES: The proposed mitigation bank area and the surrounding lands are in agricultural row crop production. The entire proposed conservation easement has been in agricultural crop rotation for over 80 years. 615<sup>th</sup> Avenue/County Road 14 runs along the western border. The south, east and a portion of the north property boundaries are bordered by County Ditch 5. A private ditch used by the sponsor's family also lies along the northern boundary. These ditches flow north into the Little Cobb River and Severson Lake. Eventually this flow leads to the Minnesota River via the Le Sueur and Blue Earth Rivers.

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, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR).

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, Blue Earth 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.

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

This public notice is being sent to the National Park Service and the State Archaeologist for their comments. 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, or approval, 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 are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

#### 7. REPLIES/COMMENTS

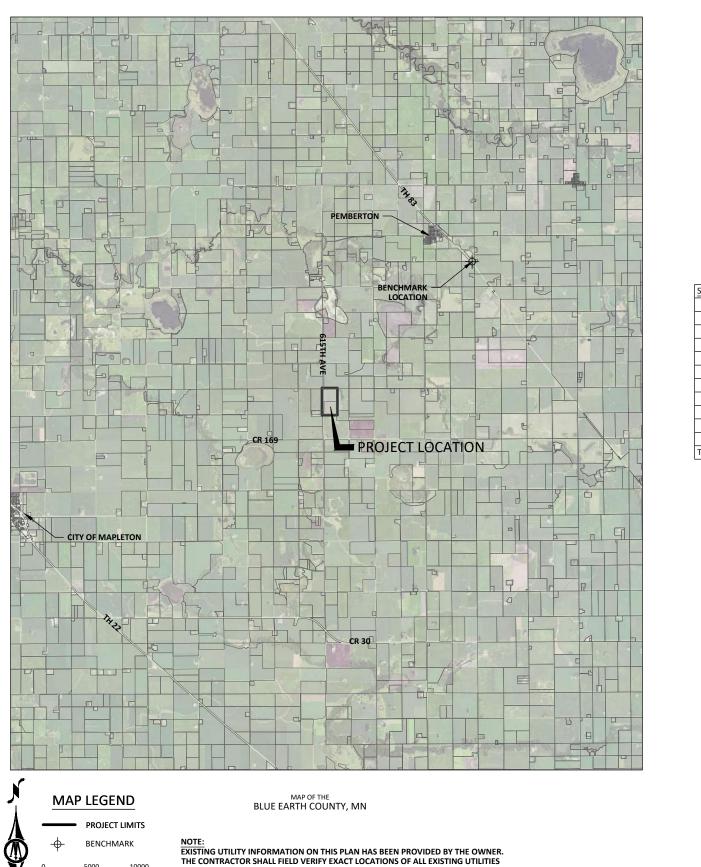
Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections by the expiration date indicated above. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

Replies may be sent to Caree Kovacevich at Caree.C.Kovacevich@usace.army.mil.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, contact Caree Kovacevich at the St. Paul office at 651-290-5329 or email Caree.C.Kovacevich@usace.army.mil.

Enclosure(s)

# CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR



WETLAND BANK **VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT & WETLAND RESTORATION** 

# BLUE EARTH COUNTY, MINNESOTA

SHEET NUMBER	SHEET TITLE			
G1.01 TITLE SHEET				
C1.01 - C1.02 CONSTRUCTION DETAILS & SPECIFICATIONS				
C1.03 OUTLET CONTROL STRUCTURE DETAIL				
C1.04-C1.05	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS & SPECIFICATIONS			
C2.01 EXISTING SITE PLAN AND REMOVAL PLAN				
C3.01 PROPOSED SITE PLAN				
C3.02 CR 14 DITCH GRADING				
C3.03	PROPOSED WETLAND CHANNEL PLAN AND PROFILE			
C4.01 - C4.15	CROSS SECTIONS			
C5.01	PROPOSED SEEDING PLAN			
THIS PLAN SET CONT	AINS <u>26</u> SHEETS.			

MA	PLEGEND	MAP OF THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY, MN		CONTACTS				
0 SCALE	PROJECT LIMITS BENCHMARK 5000 10000 FEET	NOTE: EXISTING UTILITY INFORMATION ON THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PROVIDE THE CONTRACTOR SHALL FIELD VERIFY EXACT LOCATIONS OF ALL EJ PRIOR TO COMMENCING CONSTRUCTION AS REQUIRED BY STATE L GOPHER STATE ONE CALL 1-800-252-1166 OR 651-454-0002 REFERENCE MINDOT 2020 SPECIFICATIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOT	ISTING UTILITIES IW. NOTIFY	PROJECT ENGIN PROJECT TECHN WETLAND SPEC	507.6		3295	MnD
			Interest certify that this plan, specification, on report was prepared   BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED   BOOM DELATION, ON REPORT WAS PREPARED   MATTHEW D. SIMON   UC NO. 57832   DATE   DATE	1960 PREMIER DRIVE MANKATO, MINNESOTA 56001 Phone: (507) 625-4171 Email: Mankato@bolton-menk.com	DESIGNED BAN DRAWN BAN CHECKED MDS CLIENT PROJ. NO. 0T6.124937	NO. ISSUED FOR	DATE	-

# MEDO

MARCH 2022

SEQ

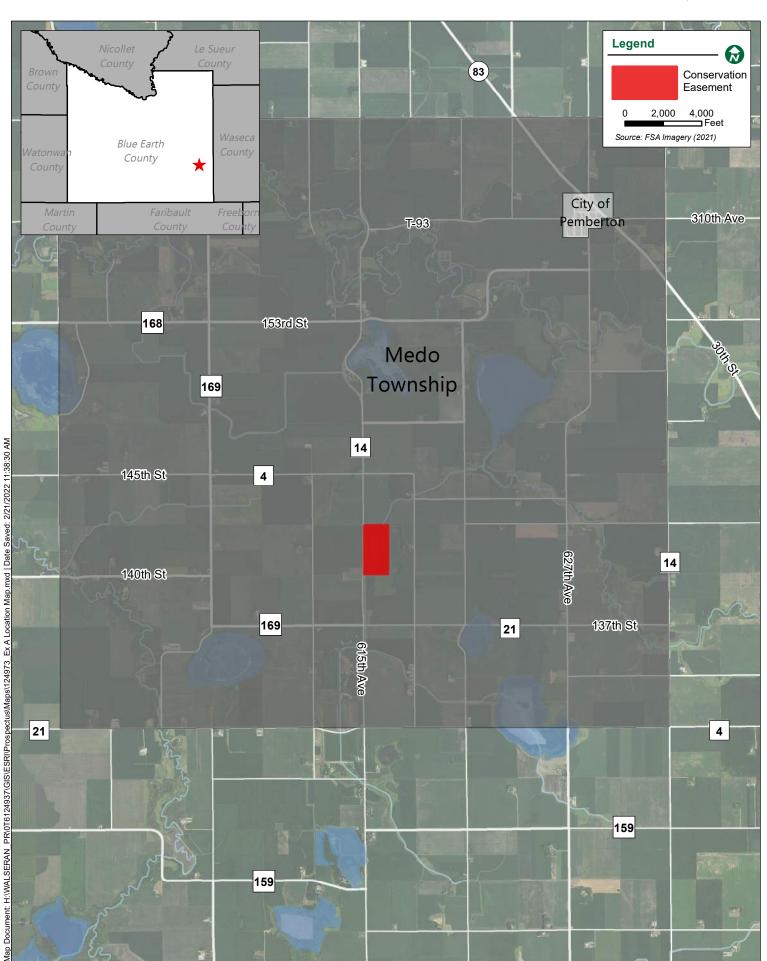
+ BM=1043.400	PROJECT DATUM:		D DRAWING RMATION
DOT GEODETIC MARKER: 13 KED	HORIZONTAL: BLUE EARTH COUNTY COORDINATE	OBSERVER:	
CONCRETE POST (NAVD 88)	SYSTEM, NAD83 (2011)	CONTRACTOR:	
	VERTICAL: NAVD 1988	DATE:	
	ANDY WALSER		SHEET
	MEDO WETLAND BANK		G1.01
	TITLE SHEET		01.01

Medo Twp, Blue Earth County, MN

February 2022



Real People. Real Solutions.



Medo Twp, Blue Earth County, MN

#### **Exhibit B: Proposed**

**Easement Map** 



Real People. Real Solutions.

February 2022

#### Legend $\overline{\mathbf{N}}$ Conservation Easement GROLL MARVIN J 0 200 400 Source: FSA Imagery (2021)

H:/WALSERAN PR/0T6124937/GIS/ESRI/Prospectus/Maps/124973 Ex B Proposed Easement Map.mxd | Date Saved: 2/2//2022 3:22:53 PM õ Vap |



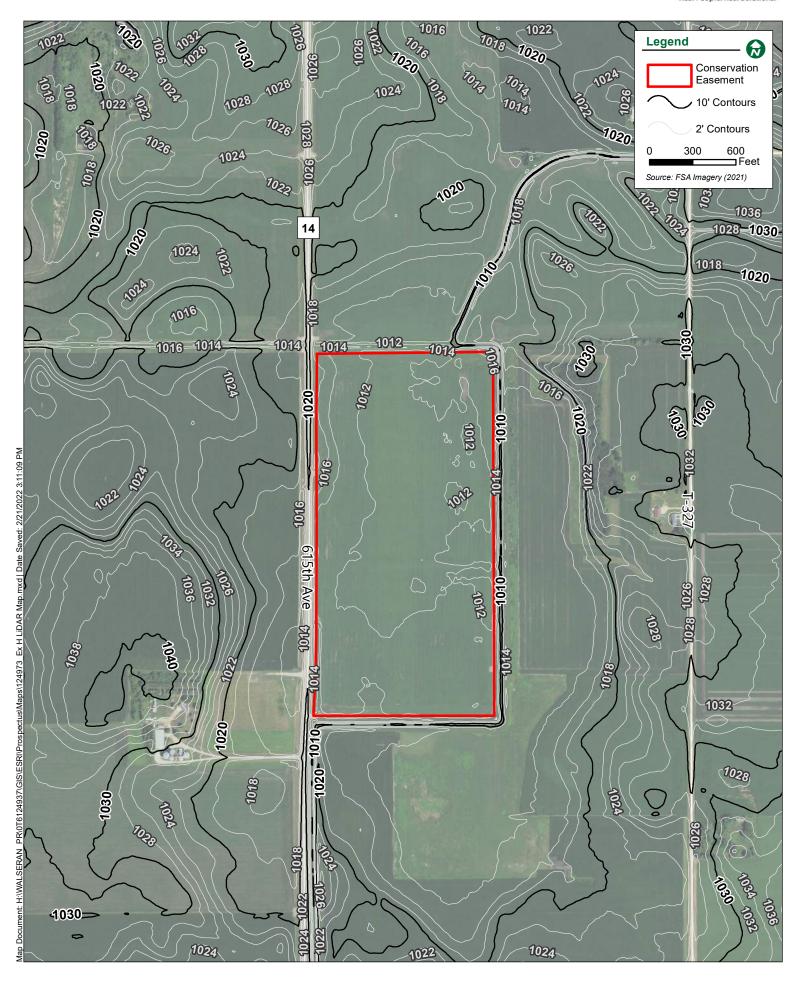
Medo Twp, Blue Earth County, MN

#### Exhibit H: 2-Foot LiDAR Contours Map



February 2022

Real People. Real Solutions.

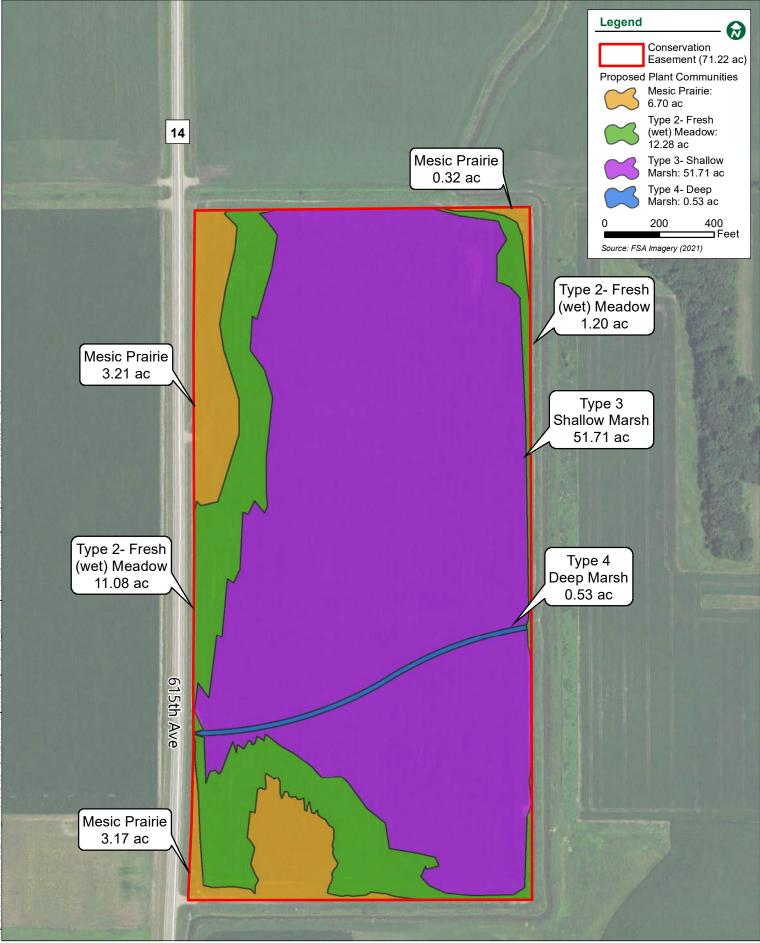


Medo Twp, Blue Earth County, MN

#### Exhibit M: Proposed Plant Communities Map



March 2022 Real People. Real Solutions.

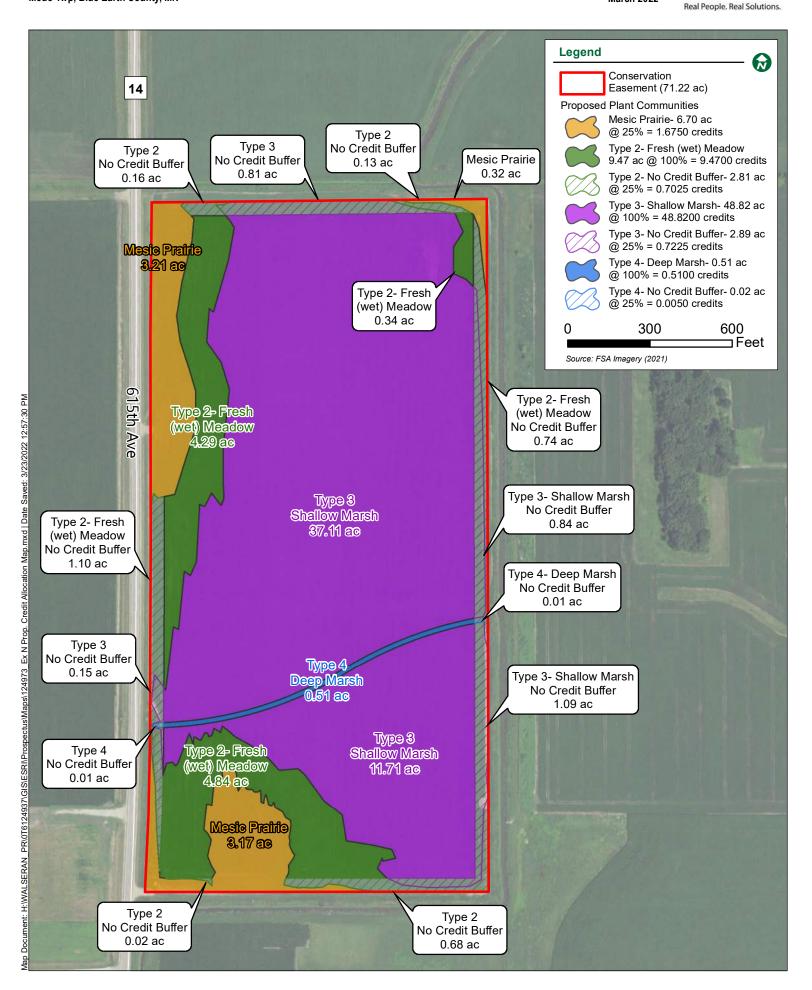


Medo Twp, Blue Earth County, MN

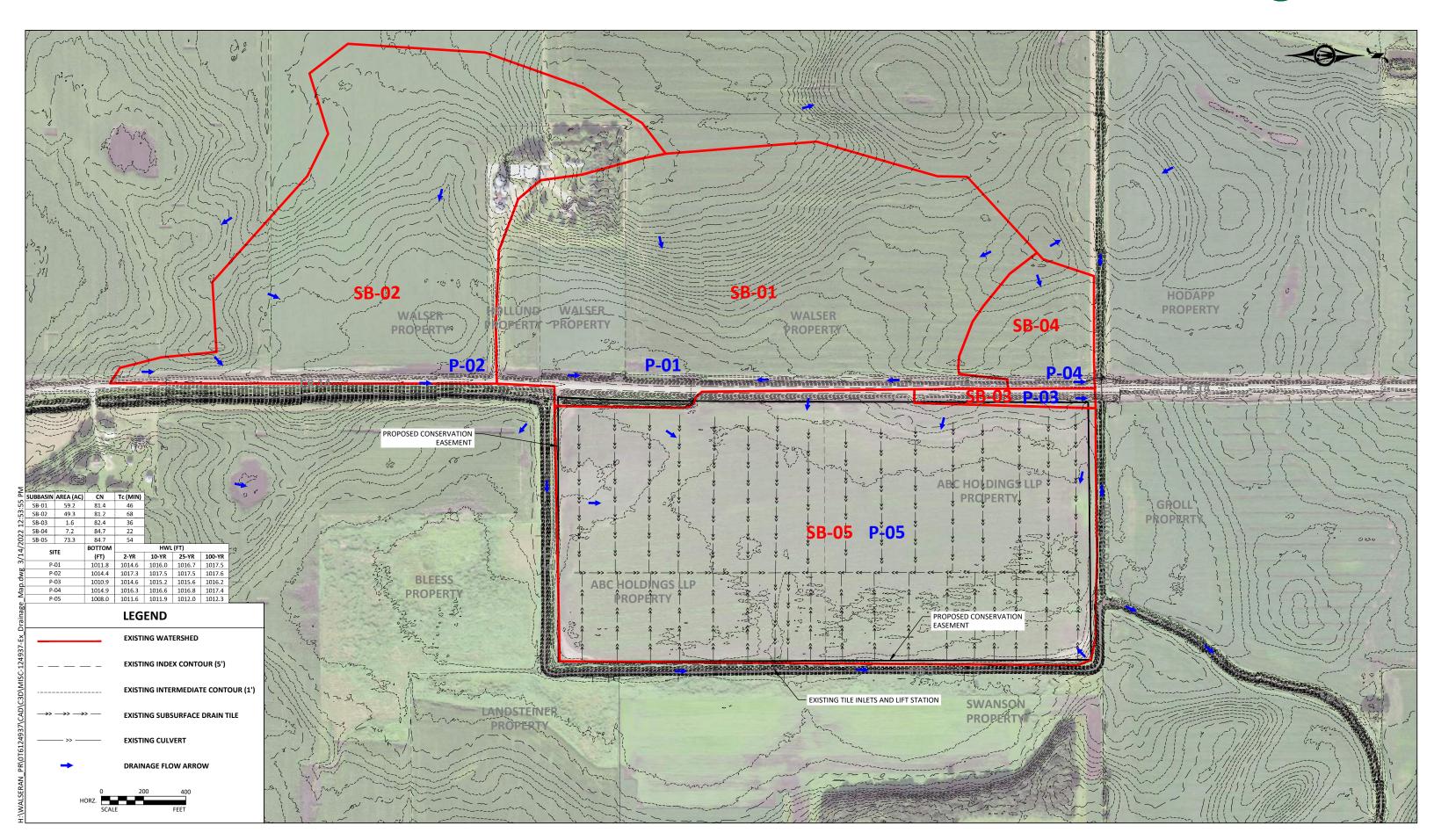
#### Exhibit N: Proposed Credit Allocation (61.9050 credits) Map



March 2022



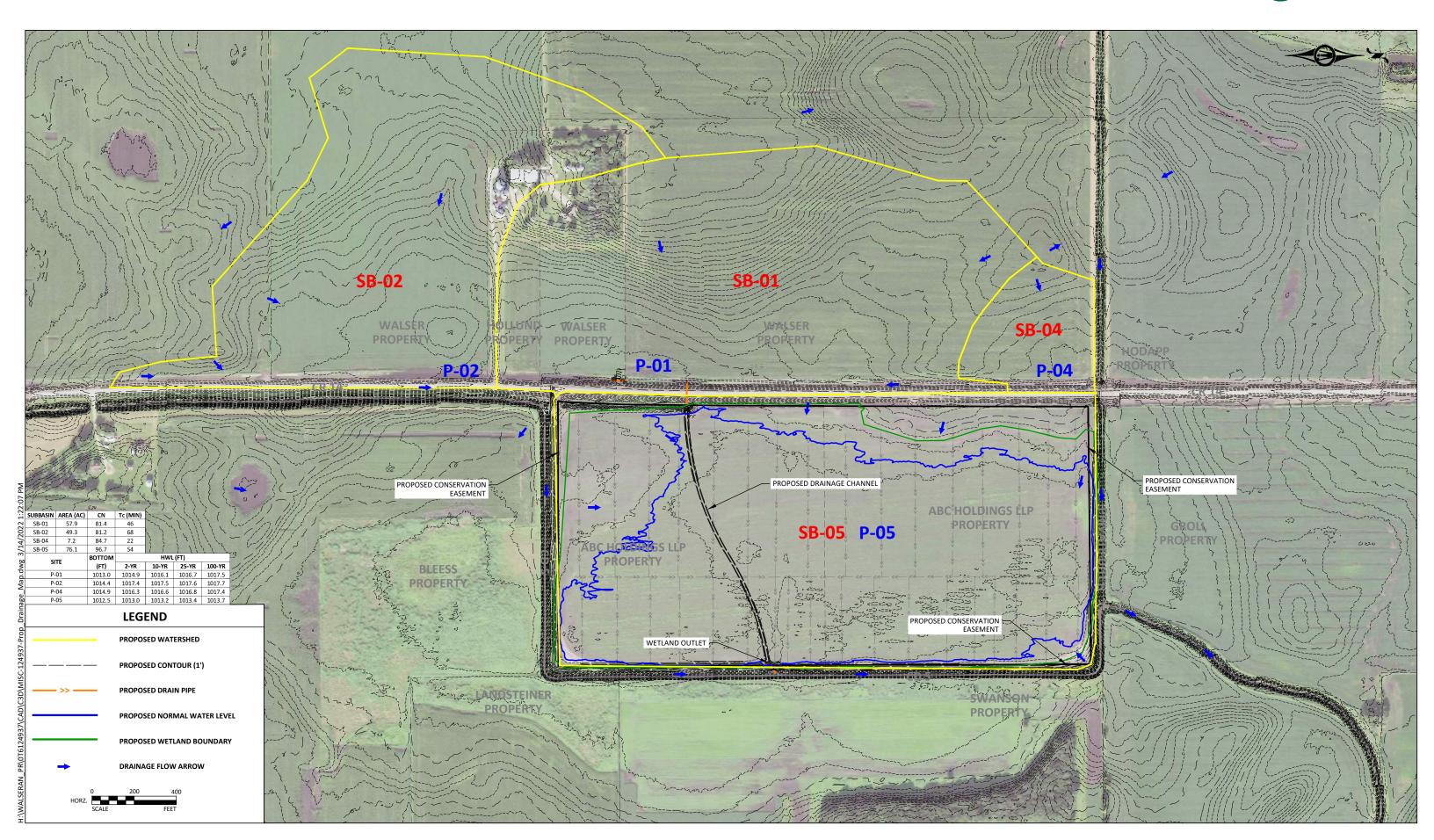
Andy Walser



**Figure 1: Existing Conditions** March 2022

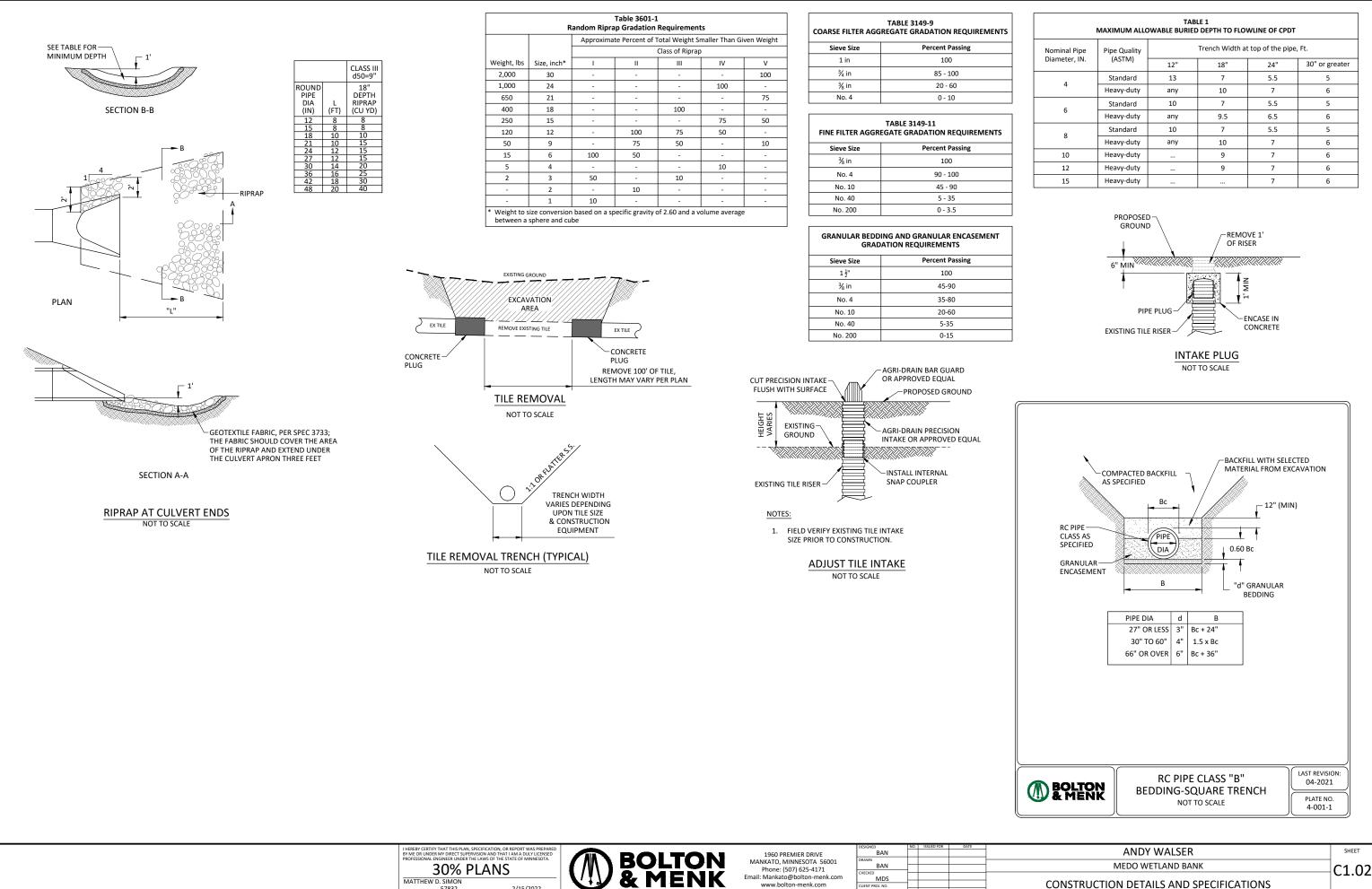


Andy Walser



**Figure 2: Proposed Conditions** March 2022





BAN MDS 0T6.124937

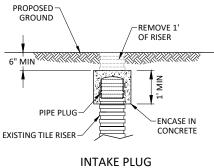




MATTHEW D. SIMON

57832

	MAXIMUM ALLO		BLE 1 D DEPTH TO FLC	WLINE OF CPDT	
Nominal Pipe Diameter, IN.	Pipe Quality	Trench Width at top of the pipe, Ft.			
	(ASTM)	12"	18"	24"	30" or greate
4	Standard	13	7	5.5	5
	Heavy-duty	any	10	7	6
C	Standard	10	7	5.5	5
6	Heavy-duty	any	9.5	6.5	6
8	Standard	10	7	5.5	5
8	Heavy-duty	any	10	7	6
10	Heavy-duty		9	7	6
12	Heavy-duty		9	7	6
15	Heavy-duty			7	6



CONSTRUCTION DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS

