

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Applicant: Emmanuel Sang

CEMVR-OD-P-2020-361

Date: April 3, 2020 Expires: May 1, 2020

Section 404

## Joint Public Notice US Army Corps of Engineers Iowa Department of Natural Resources

- 1. **Applicant**: Mr. Emmanuel Sang, Iowa DNR, 505 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.
- 2. **Project Location:** George Wyth State Park Lake, Sections 8 and 9, Township 89 North, Range 13 West, Blackhawk County, Iowa: UTM NAD-83 Zone15, Lat: 42.5346944, Long: -92.3968111.

## 3. Project Description and Purpose:

- a. The applicant proposes to install 2,500 linear feet of shoreline restoration by armoring with class "e" revetment and flexamat to protect the eroding banks at George Wyth Lake. After construction is complete, the bank and disturbed areas will be seeded. The purpose of this project is to minimize future erosional damage and prevent the loss of land or land uses adjacent to George Wyth Lake. Wetland impacts are not anticipated. Stream mitigation will not be required due to the nature of the project.
- b. Avoidance and Minimization: The only avoidance measures considered are "No Action" and "Proceed as Originally Planned." The reason for this is that the project description and purpose is meant to reduce erosion and if allowed to proceed as planned will decrease sediment deposits while simultaneously increasing water quality of George Wyth Lake. The project plans also minimize impacts to Waters of the United States by applying riprap to strategic locations within George Wyth Lake.

## 4. Agency Review.

- a. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
- b. State of Iowa. The project plans have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Department's opinion that the proposed activity will comply with Iowa's water quality standards (Chapter 61 IAC). The applicant has also applied for authorization of work in the floodplain pursuant to Chapter 455B of the Iowa Code and other applicable state permits. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Iowa should be addressed to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A copy of the comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers office (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for address).

- 5. **Historical/Archaeological**. The District Archaeologist consulted with the Iowa geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online. The lake where the bank stabilization is proposed was constructed in the 1980's. Based on the level of disturbance that would have taken place during construction the shoreline would have been heavily disturbed. There is effectively no potential for intact historic properties within the permit areas. As such, it is the opinion of the District Archaeologist there will be no historic properties affected by the issuance of the permit because "the nature, scope, and magnitude of the work, and/or structures to be permitted are such that there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected" (33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.3.b).
- 6. **Endangered Species**. District staff has performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), Prairie Bush-clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), and Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*), all have potential habitat in Blackhawk County, Iowa. No critical habitats are listed within the project area. Our preliminary determination is that this project is "not likely to affect" Federally endangered species or critical habitat. We are coordinating this application with the FWS through this public notice. Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.
- 7. **Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines**. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).
- 8. **Public Interest Review**. The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.
- 9. Who Should Reply. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

- 10. **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, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.
- 11. **Reply to the Corps**. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-PP (J. Nelson), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. **Mr. Jeff Nelson** may be contacted for additional information at (309) 794-5559 or email at <a href="mailto:jeffrey.e.nelson@usace.army.mil">jeffrey.e.nelson@usace.army.mil</a>.

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Attach Plan Mr. Matthew A. Zehr Iowa Section Chief Regulatory Division





