



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Adair County Conservation Board

Date: March 10, 2023

Expires: April 8, 2023

CEMVR-RD-2023-0064

Section 404

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

1. **Applicant.** Adair County Conservation Board, c/o Dominic Johnson, 705 NE 6th Street Suite A, Greenfield, IA 50849.

2. **Project Location.**

- Near the city of Orient
- In Adair County, Iowa
- Section 20, Township 74 North, Range 31 West
- Lake Orient
- UTM NAD-83, Zone 15
- Latitude 41.19966, Longitude -94.438836

3. **Project Description.**

a. Lake Orient is a 26-acre lake that offers Adair County park users excellent fishing and many other recreational opportunities. This 86-acre park is equipped with a 22-site campground with electric and water hookups, a shower/restroom/tornado safe room, two shelter houses, a boat ramp, playground equipment, and hiking trails. The Adair County Conservation Board leases and manages the Lake Orient Recreation Area and Lake Orient.

b. The applicant proposes to level and slope then place erosion stone along the entire shoreline of Lake Orient, approximately 4,689 linear feet, for bank stabilization. After the bank has been stabilized, grass seed will be placed on the exposed dirt to help further prevent erosion. The applicant also proposes to place approximately 4,500 square feet (0.1 acres) of rip rap at a water depth of 8 feet for fish habitat enhancement.

c. The purpose of this project is to shape and armor the shoreline to reduce sediment and nutrient delivery at Lake Orient. Fish habitat in the form of rip rap will also be placed amongst existing cedar tree piles to diversify the lake bottom. This renovation will repair some of the shoreline that has eroded away, and further protect the rest of the shoreline that is still in good condition. While armoring the shoreline from erosion, this project will provide habitat for the resident fish species including bluegill, black crappie, largemouth bass, yellow perch, black bullhead, and channel catfish. The bank stabilization erosion stone will also provide habitat for baitfish, aquatic invertebrates, and vertebrates. Shore fishing access will be enhanced with the reshaping of the shorelines.

d. Lake Impacts and Mitigation: The project will impact 4,689 linear feet of Lake Orient's shoreline with approximately 0.22 acres of impact for erosion stone placed for bank stabilization. This impact is not considered a loss of waters of the US as bank stabilization; therefore, no mitigation is required. The fish habitat enhancement portion of this project will impact 0.1 acres, but this is resulting in a net increase in aquatic resource functions and services, so mitigation is not required.

4. Agency Review and Where to Reply.

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 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). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Iowa should be addressed to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. 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 consulted with the Iowa online geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases. Including the HILD and Notable Locations layers. The review indicates that the permit area has not been previously surveyed. In addition, there are no previously recorded historic properties in the proximity of the proposed permit area. There is a relatively low potential for archaeological sites to be present in the permit area based on the location of the project high up in a small drainage and the amount of previous disturbance in the permit area from the original construction in the 1960's to 1970's as a reservoir for the town of Orient, IA and the previous bank stabilization activities along the shoreline of the lake. The reservoir itself is over 50 years old and is a standard design. However, it is locally significant as the reservoir for the town of Orient, IA. Given the information available the reservoir is currently considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the project will have **No Adverse Effect** to the resource. This determination will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office.

6. Endangered Species:

a. 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. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as occurring in Adair County, Iowa:

- Indiana Bat (endangered)
- Tricolored Bat (proposed endangered)
- Mead's Milkweed (threatened)
- Monarch Butterfly (candidate)

b. The proposed project is being coordinated with the FWS through this public notice. According to plans, designs and information provided by the applicant, there will be no tree removal as part of this project, therefore there will be **no effect** on the bat species. Lastly, there is no habitat in the project area that would support the plant species listed, therefore the proposed project will have **no effect** on these listed species.

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: 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, 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 or 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: RD (Aalbers), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact Emma Aalbers at 515-276-4656 ext.6524 or email at emma.m.aalbers@usace.army.mil.

Attach
Plans

Mrs. Wendy M. Frohlich
Acting Chief, Western Branch
Regulatory Division

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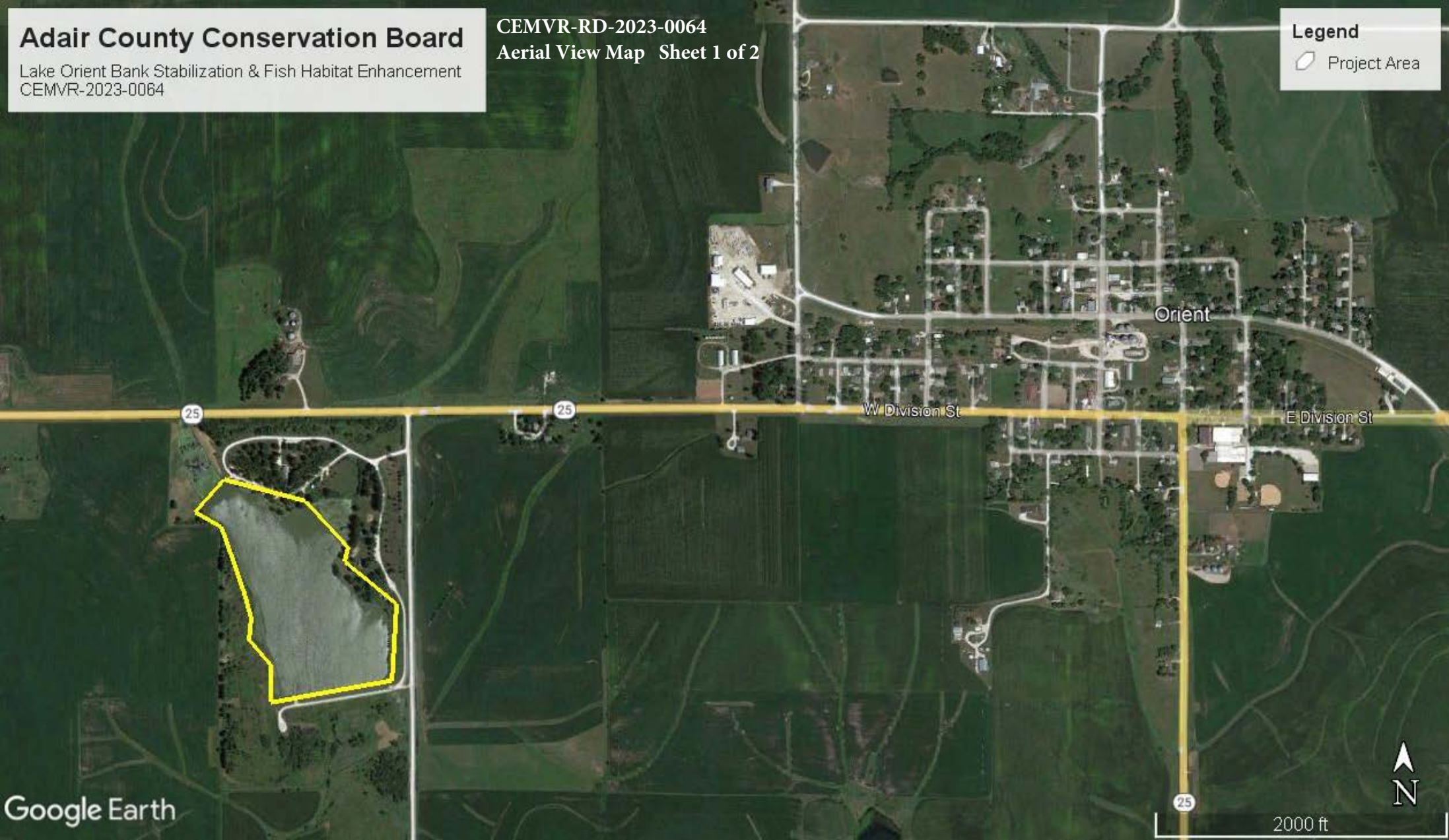
Adair County Conservation Board

Lake Orient Bank Stabilization & Fish Habitat Enhancement
CEMVR-2023-0064

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Aerial View Map Sheet 1 of 2

Legend

 Project Area





The picture above shows the locations where work will be done.

Red-Shoreline shaping and rock placing has been completed already to get our estimates

Orange- Where scattered rock is to be placed amongst existing cedar tree piles

Yellow- Little to no shoreline shaping, minimal rock placing

Green- Shoreline shaping with tractor, pushing as much of the existing scrap concrete into the lake as we can, rock placing

Blue- Extensive shoreline shaping, rock placing

Purple- Existing sediment pond dams, minimal rock placing