



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Mr. August Jacobs

Date: March 29, 2004

Expires: April 27, 2004

CEMVR-OD-P-2004-62

Section: 404

**Joint Public Notice
US Army Corps of Engineers
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

1. Applicant. Mr. August Jacobs, 11399 West Goldmine Road, Pearl City, Illinois 61062.
2. Project Location. Section 8, Township 26 North, Range 6 East, near Pearl City, Stephenson County, Illinois; unnamed tributary of Yellow Creek.
3. Project Description. The applicant proposes to realign a stream channel on his farm. The purpose of the project is to prevent further loss of cropland due to stream channel migration and to provide a stable stream crossing for large farm equipment. The meandering stream channel is 1200 feet long from the west property line to the farm bridge at the east end of the site. Streambed width is 10 feet. Depth from top of bank to streambed is 4 feet. The top width from bank to bank is 10 to 15 feet. The outside streambanks on the bends are vertical and unstable. Streambank vegetation, where it exists, is in poor condition and primarily weeds. The drainage area is approximately 2.0 square miles. The soil on the project site is mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as Dorchester silt loam (Soil Mapping Unit 239). This soil is somewhat poorly drained to moderately well drained on flood plains. Hydric inclusions may be present in this soil. The land on both sides of the stream is in row crop production. No riparian buffer exists. Farming operations are to the top edge of the streambanks. It appears unlikely that wetland or farmed wetland exists within the project site. Therefore, no wetland delineation was requested.
 - a. A new channel will be excavated on a slight curve from the west property line to the existing farm bridge. The excavated channel will be approximately 700 feet long. This represents a 42% reduction in channel length. The soil from the channel excavation will be used to fill the bypassed channel segments. The channel bottom will be 10 feet wide. Channel depth will be 4 feet. The banks will be graded no steeper than 3 (horizontal) to 1 (vertical). Top width will be 34 feet. The graded banks will be seeded to establish permanent grass-mix cover. In addition, grass buffer strips will be seeded along both sides of the excavated channel. Each grass buffer strip will be 33 feet wide measured from the top edge of the excavated channel bank. Overall width of the project area, including the two grass buffer strips and the excavated channel, will be 100 feet.
 - b. A new farm equipment crossing will be constructed on the site for larger farm equipment. A culverted crossing will be constructed. The culvert will be sufficiently sized for in-bank flood flows. The location for the new crossing has not been decided.
 - c. Permanent fence will be installed along the edge of the grass buffer strips on both sides of the channel. The new fence will be connected to the existing pasture fence at the east end of the project site. The new fence will be 100 feet apart measured north – south. The fenced site will be added to the existing pasture. Cattle will begin grazing the site, in the second or third year after seeding, when the vegetative cover is well established.

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 Illinois. The applicant has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. A copy of the written comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions please contact IEPA at (217) 782-3362."

5. Historical/Archaeological. The Corps consulted with geographic information systems (GIS) archeological site and survey databases as maintained by the Corps and current as of August 2003. No archaeological sites or surveys are located in the permit area. The permit is for straightening a minor stream channel and has low potential for intact cultural resources due to the topographic position of the activity being in active stream channels and drainage ways. The Corps has determined that no historic properties are affected by issuance of this permit based upon the fact that "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 have 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. Based upon the information provided and available at this time, our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity would have no effect on federally-listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. While no consultation has been initiated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at this time, we are further coordinating this application with the FWS and the respective resource agencies 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.

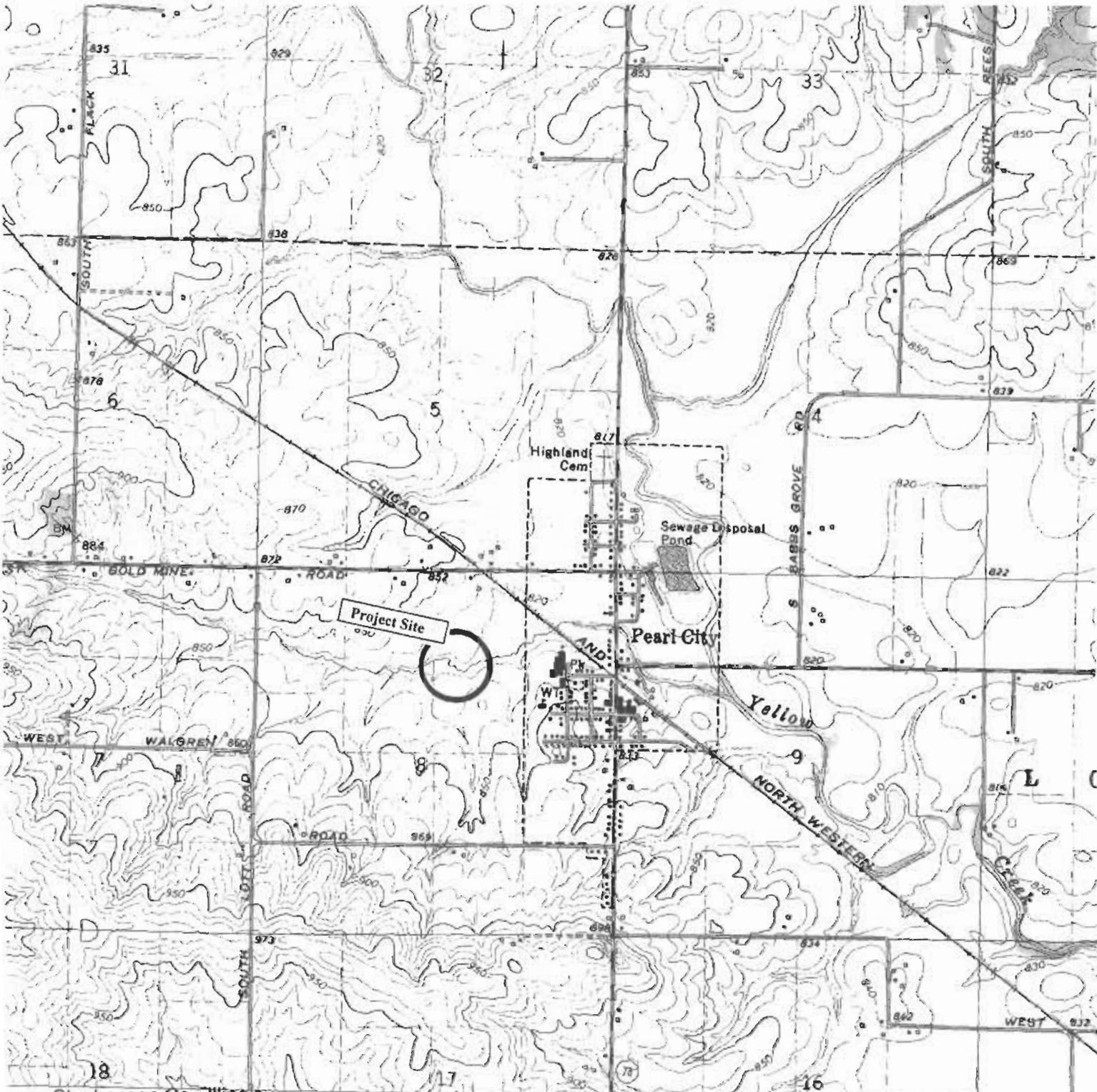
11. Reply to the Corps. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P, Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. **Mr. Marlyn W. Schafer (309/794-5377)** may be contacted for additional information (email: marlyn.schafer@usace.army.mil).

Attach
Plan

Marlyn W. Schafer
Project Manager
Regulatory Division

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

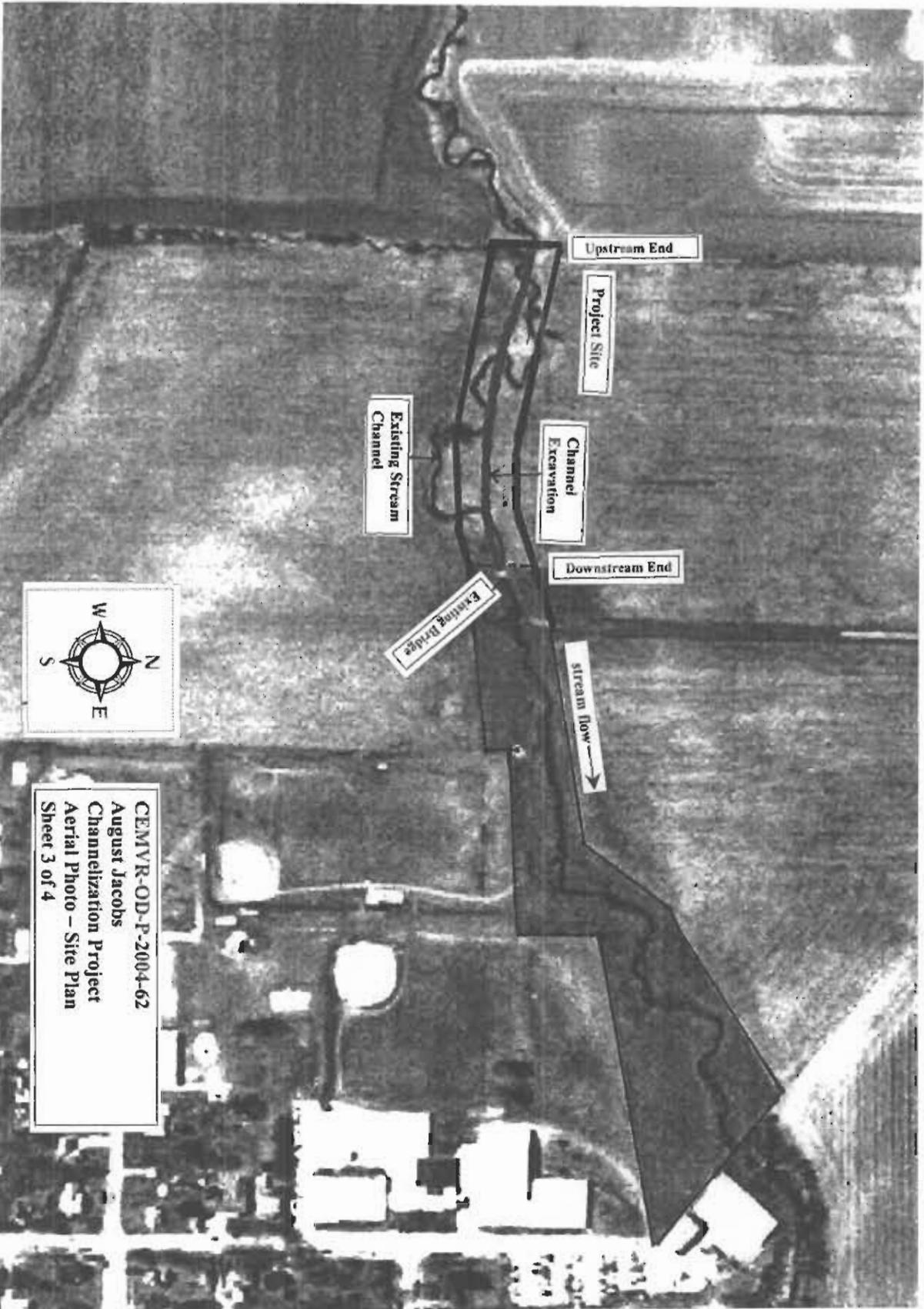
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Stephenson Co., Illinois
1:22420



CEMVR-OD-P-2004-62
August Jacobs
Channelization Project
Location Map
Sheet 1 of 4



Upstream End

Project Site

Existing Stream Channel

Channel Excavation

Downstream End

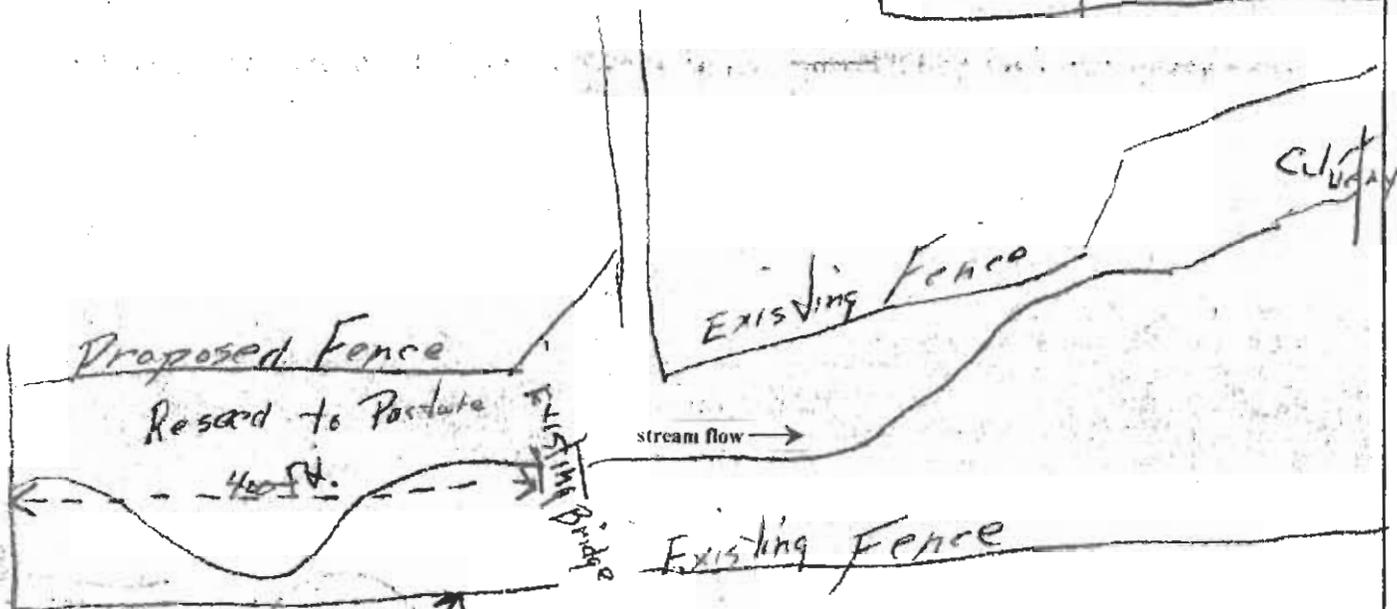
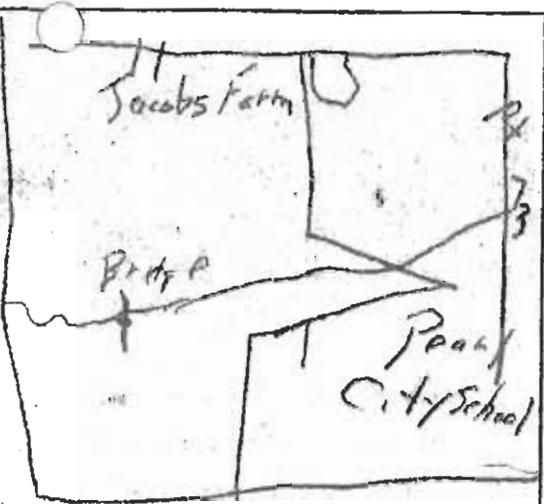
Existing Bridge

stream flow →



CEMVR-OD-P-2004-62
August Jacobs
Channelization Project
Aerial Photo - Site Plan
Sheet 3 of 4

North



Proposed Fence
 I want to straighten creek (Dotted Line)
 + put a crossover point for large equipment.
 Either end of creek according to your proposal
 would be acceptable to me. The total length of
 creek to straighten would be at 400 ft.



CEMVR-OD-P-2004-62
 August Jacobs
 Channelization Project
 Site Plan
 Sheet 4 of 4

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
 August Jacobs
 Creek Straightening
 LOCATION:
 Pearl City Ill 61662
 11399 W. Goldmine Rd