



PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District

Sponsor: Jeff McCorkle
P.O. Box 543
Lake View, Iowa 51450

Issued: Oct 14, 2020

Expires: Nov 13, 2020

Corps Project Number: CEMVR-OD-P-2016-0023
Proposed Project: McCorkle Wetland Mitigation Bank

WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK MBI MODIFICATION

This notice is issued in accordance with the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule (the Mitigation Rule) described in the Federal Register dated April 10, 2008, (33 CFR Parts 325 and 332).

- 1. Project Location:** The bank site is located within Section 2, Township 86 North, Range 36 West, Sac County, Iowa. See attached location maps. Latitude: 42.291077 Longitude: -94.999680.
- 2. Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI) Modification:** The bank sponsor has proposed a MBI modification that consists of the conversion of 10.19 emergent wetland credits to 10.19 forested wetland credits. This modification has been proposed due to the recent demand of forested mitigation credits within the Upper Des Moines service area.
- 3. Modification Description:** The McCorkle Wetland Mitigation Bank was approved in April of 2017. The bank has successfully restored, enhanced and created a total of 27.73 acres of emergent wetland. The restoration, creation, and enhancement of emergent wetlands and the creation of a buffer generated 31.22 emergent wetland credits. The modification to the original MBI proposes to convert the remaining emergent wetland credits to forested wetland credits. The most recent credit release took place in September of 2019, bringing the total credits released to 21.84. Of those credits, 21.02 credits have been withdrawn, leaving 10.2 credits available to be converted to forested wetland. The sponsor proposes to convert these credits by planting native wetland tree species in 7.68 acres for forested wetland credit and by planting native upland trees in 10.06 acres for forested buffer credit.
- 4. Service Area:** The bank's service area will now be the Upper Des Moines service area, which is a part of the Standard Iowa Service areas that are outlined in the Iowa Mitigation Guidance Package dated July 12, 2019.
- 5. Agency Review:** Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineer is participating in this matter as the chair of an Interagency Review Team. The Interagency Review Team consists of the Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. If this modified MBI is approved, the bank would provide forested wetland credits for future, Section 404, authorized projects that require compensatory mitigation. Formal authorization of the bank modification occurs through Corps approval.

6. **Archaeological/Historical:** The District has previously coordinated a determination of no historic properties affected for the project. In support of this determination a Phase IA assessment of the proposed bank with the IA SHPO (January 2017). In addition, the District has received comments from the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma and the Upper Sioux Community in response to the original Public Notice regarding the proposed project (January 2017).

The majority of the proposed project area consists of low, wet ground that that has a very low likelihood for significant historic properties to be present. There are two moraine ridges present in the eastern portion of the project area. However, these areas are listed as moderately eroded on the crests (probably due to heavy plowing on what were and thin outwash soils) and have fairly steep sides. These are both factors that lead to a low likelihood for significant, intact historic properties to be present.

Based on the assessment of the soils in the project area and the previous comments received on the project it remains the opinion of the District 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).

7. **Endangered Species:** Section 7 was previously reviewed before the original MBI was approved. The Corps has made a determination of no effect on federally threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for this project. All work will be completed within the same project area.

8. **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 modified activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to approve the proposed MBI modification. Any comments received will be distributed to the members of the Interagency Review Team. Comments should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. Comments should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable. Any person may also request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

9. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers:** Comments or questions concerning this notice may be directed to Abby Steele by phone: (309/794-5377), email: Abigail.a.steele@usace.army.mil or mail: US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P (Abby Steele), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.





10. **Proposed MBI Modification:** The proposed MBI modification can be found on our public website at: https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:4810291209751::NO:RP,278:P278_BANK_ID:4350

matthew a zehr

Attach
Plan

Mr. Matthew Zehr
Chief, Western Branch
Regulatory Division

Legend

-  Conservation Easement
- Plant Community**
 -  PEM1B
 -  PEM1C
 -  Prairie Buffer

0 200 Feet
Bolton & Menk Drone Imagery
SRI Base Imagery



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Existing Location

Planting Zones

Zone 1: 2,300 Trees - 5.1 acres

- Sycamore
- Shellbark Hickory
- Peachleaf Willow
- Swamp White Oak

Zone 2: 1,150 Trees - 2.6 acres

- Burr Oak
- Hackberry

Zone 3: 1,450 Trees - 3.3 acres

- Sugar Maple
- American Linden

Zone 4: 2,900 Trees - 6.8 acres

- Black Cherry
- Red Oak
- White Oak
- Bitternut Hickory

Total:

Trees = 7,800

Acres = 17.8

Legend


 Conservation Easement

Planting Zones

 Zone 1 - 2,300 Trees - 5.1 acres

 Zone 2 - 1,150 Trees - 2.6 acres

 Zone 3 - 1,450 Trees - 3.3 acres

 Zone 4 - 2,900 Trees - 6.8 acres

0 175
Feet

Source: Bolton & Menk Drone Imagery (2020),
ESRI Base Imagery

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Forested Wetland Planting Plan

Mitigation Bank Service Areas in Iowa

