

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Applicant: Ross Weymiller

Date: May 19, 2020 Expires: June 17, 2020 Section 404

CEMVR-OD-P-2020-467

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

- 1. Applicant: Ross Weymiller, 1282 Hartley Drive, New Albin, Iowa 52160.
- 2. Project Location.
  - Section 31, Township 100 North, Range 4 West;
  - Allamakee County, Iowa
  - Datum NAD-83; UTM Zone 15
  - Latitude: 43.4331; Longitude: -91.3657

3. **Project Description and Purpose**. The applicant proposes to stabilize 2,785 linear feet of the Upper Iowa River by placing riprap, erosion control blankets and seeding the disturbed area. The three attached map and drawings show the location and how the work is proposed to be performed.

4. Avoidance and Minimization Statement. The applicant is limiting the stabilization activity to the area adjacent to the Upper Iowa River. Minimization will be accomplished by reseeding it with native grass seeding. This will reduce the overall impact to the river.

5. Agency Review. 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). 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).

## 6. Historical/Archaeological.

A. The District Archaeologist consulted with the Iowa geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online. Including the Historic Indian Location Database (HILD) layer. The HILD layer indicates there is some limited potential for early historic resources in the vicinity of the project area. No previous cultural resource surveys have been completed in the permit area. Though there are a large number of resources identified in the overall vicinity they tend to be located on other land forms.

B. The soils for the project area are Camp Creek deposits indicating an active floodplain. In addition, in 2008 a project to install 75 hard points along the bank line was completed. Based on the soils and topography it appears this area has a low likelihood to have been an attractive living surface in the prehistoric/early historic periods.

C. With the previous disturbance in the project area factored in, it is the opinion of the District Archaeologist there is low to no potential for intact historic properties to be affected by the proposed action. As such 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.

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 Allamakee County, Iowa:

- Northern Long-eared Bat	- Rusty patched bumble bee
- Iowa Pleistocene snail	- Northern monkshood
- Prairie bush-clover	- Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
- Higgins' Eye Pearly Mussel	- Spectaclecase mussel

B. The proposed project is being coordinated with the FWS through this public notice. According to plans, designs and information provided by the Applicant, the project will not affect dry/mesic/wet prairies or sedge meadows so neither of the plant species will be affected. The project will not require the removal of trees therefore has no potential to impact bats. Because of this our preliminary determination is that this project *"has no potential to affect federally endangered, threatened or candidate species, or Critical Habitat."* Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.

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-P (Hardy), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. **Mrs. Donna Hardy** may be contacted for additional information at (309) 794-5378 or email at <u>donna.r.hardy@usace.army.mil</u>.

Donna R Hardy

Attach Plan Mrs. Donna Hardy Project Manager, Iowa Section Regulatory Branch

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

**NOTICE TO EDITORS**: This notice is provided as background information for your use in formatting news stories. This notice is not a contract for classified display advertising

If a cultural resource is identified during construction, stop immediately and notify the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

Contractor is required to follow lowa One Call law. lowaOneCall.com or Call 811 Ticket # \_\_\_\_\_

Note:

Landowner shall obtain all Federal, State, and Local permits before construction.

Beginning and End of Project will be staked by NRCS



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Quantities Excavation Seeding

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ntractor:	Date:	I have reviewed and agree with the content of the plans and specifications prepared by the NRCS.					<i>TBM ⋕1</i>	647.87	Hub 22'
CS Rep.:	Date:	Landowner:		Date:	_		ТВМ #2	645.81	Hub 82'





