

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Applicant: Polk County Public Works

Date: February 23, 2021 Expires: March 24, 2021

Section 404

CEMVR-OD-P-2020-1026

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

- 1. **Applicant**: Polk County Public Works, c/o Mr. Kyle Riley, 5885 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50313.
- 2. **Project Location**: The project is located on an existing bridge on the Chichaqua Valley Trail, north of Northeast 82nd Avenue, west of Northeast 112th Street, and east of Northeast Santiago Drive, Section 26, Township 80 North, Range 22 West, Polk County, Iowa. UTM NAD-83 Zone 15, Latitude 41.710031, Longitude -93.376003.
- 3. **Project Description**: The Applicant proposes to replace a bridge on the Chichaqua Valley Trail with a culverted crossing. Impacts to Waters of the U.S., will occur through replacement of the existing trail bridge with a culverted crossing. Specifically, this project will involve the loss of approximately 150 linear feet of perennial stream. As the permanent losses do not exceed 300 linear feet of stream or 0.1 acres of wetlands, compensatory mitigation will not be required. This project does not qualify for a Nationwide Permit, as it does not meet General Condition 2, Aquatic Life Movements. There is an existing concrete flume, and once the water exits the flume it drops approximately 15 feet. The concrete flume will be replaced with a drop culvert and stilling basin. Alternatives, both on-site and off-site will be evaluated to ensure compliance with the 404 B 1 guidelines.
- 4. **Purpose and Need**: Polk County is proposing to replace a failing bridge with a culverted crossing, on the Chichaqua Valley Trail.

5. 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 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 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A copy of the comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers office (see paragraph 12., of this public notice for address).

- 6. **Historical/Archaeological**: The Corps reviewed the Iowa I-Sites online geographic information systems (GIS) archeological site and survey databases (including the HILD data layer) and a Phase 1 Cultural Resource Survey was completed. As the Phase 1 survey did not find any historic sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, it is the District's opinion that there will be **no effect to historic properties.** The Corps will coordinate its determination with the Iowa SHPO.
- 7. **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. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as occurring in Polk County, Iowa: (https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/)
 - Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) and Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) The project area is located on an existing trail that crosses over Santiago Creek which does not contain a large enough wooded area for suitable habitat. The applicant furthermore proposes to clear trees during October 1 to March 31, therefore, the Corps has made a no effect determination to these species.
 - Prairie Bush-clover (Lespedeza leptostachya) The project site does not contain dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soils; therefore, the Corps has determined there be **no effect** to this species.
 - Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (Platanthera praeclara) The project site does not contain
 mesic to wet unplowed tallgrass prairies and meadows, therefore the Corps has
 determined there be no effect to this species.
- 8. **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).
- 9. **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.
- 10. **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.

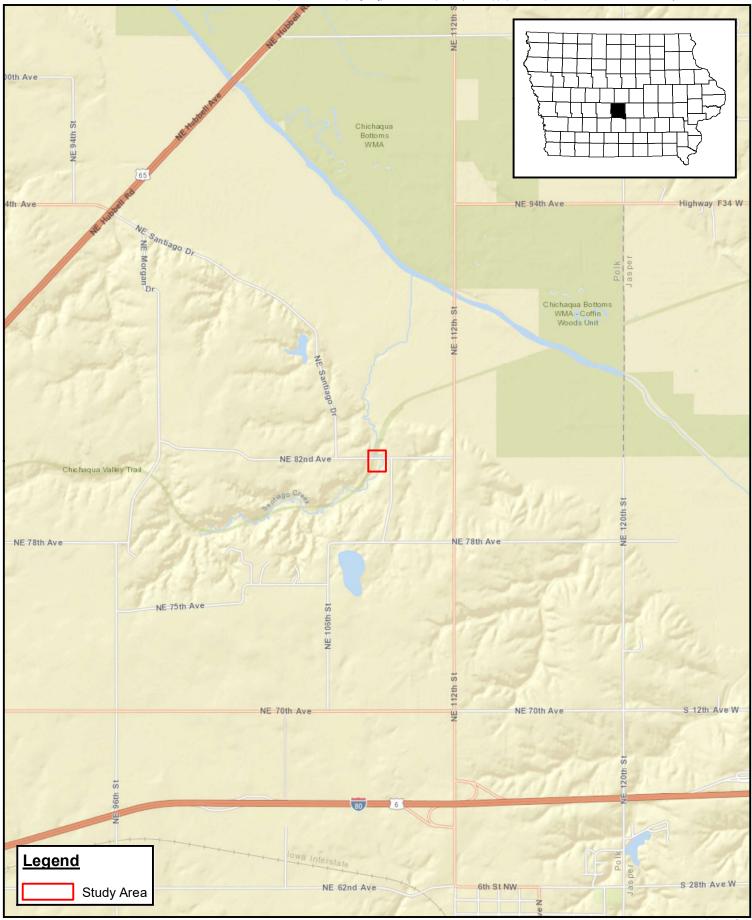
- 11. **Public Hearing Requests**: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.
- 12. **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: RD-W Alex Meincke), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact **Mr. Alex Meincke 309-794-5368**) or email: alexander.c.meincke@usace.army.mil.

Alex Meincke

Attach Plan Mr. Alex Meincke Project Manager, Western Branch Regulatory Division

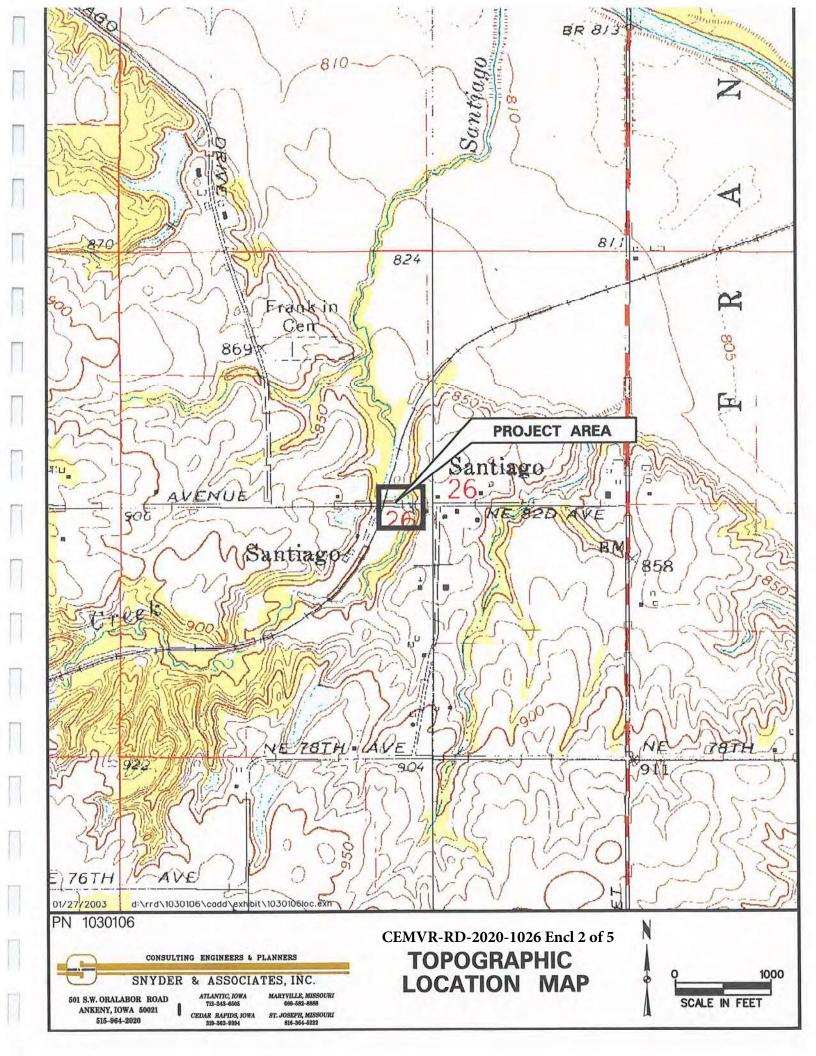
REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

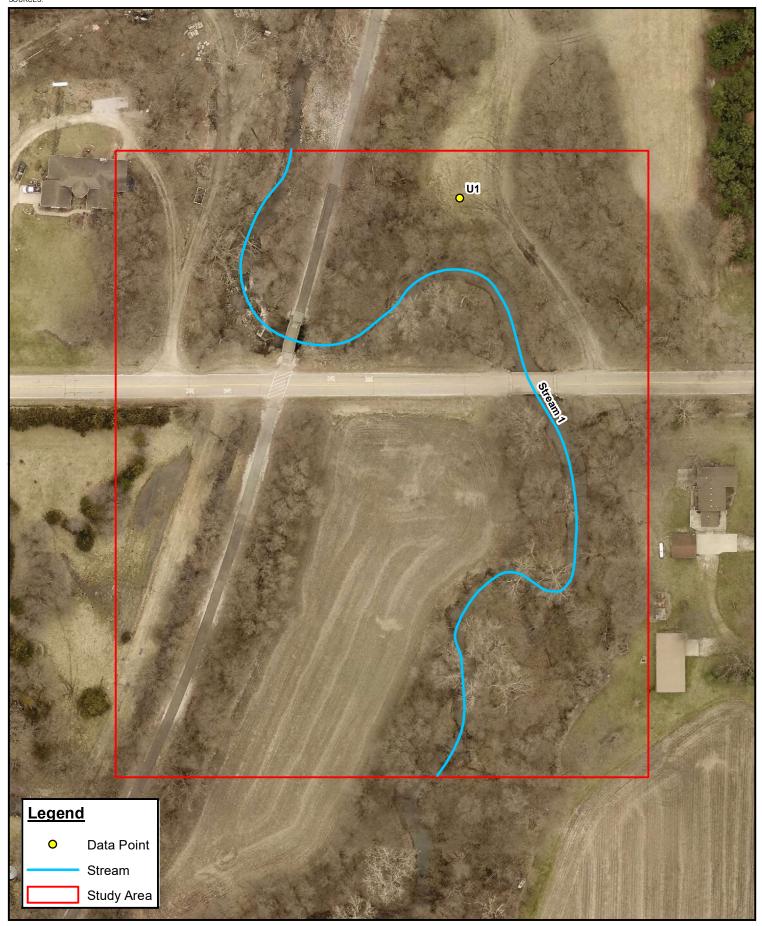
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Exhibit 5 - Wetland Delineation

