



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: City of West Des Moines

CEMVR-RD-2020-1095

Date: May 27, 2021

Expires: June 25, 2021

Section 404

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

1. **Applicant:** City of West Des Moines, POC Mr. Brian Hemesath, 4200 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265.

2. **Project Location:** The proposed project is located on Johnson Creek in Section 27, Township 78 North, Range 26 West, Dallas County, in West Des Moines, Iowa. Lat 41.5290, Long – 93.8531.

3. **Project Description:**

a. **Project History** – This segment of Grand Prairie Parkway is part of a larger road project that has been underway for the past 10 years. Several segments of Grand Prairie Parkway and other connecting roads have already been constructed. In 2011 (2011-928) the Corps permitted Grand Prairie Parkway over the Raccoon River with the construction of a new bridge. In 2014, (2014-301) a new Interstate 80 overpass and interchange was constructed with Grand Prairie Parkway extended to Mills Civic Parkway. In 2020 (2020-501) the City of West Des Moines was permitted to construct Grand Prairie Parkway from Mills Civic Parkway south to the location where Grand Avenue will extend from the east. In June of 2017, an Environmental Assessment was completed and in July of 2017 a Finding of No Significant Impact was also issued for Grand Prairie Parkway, the proposed segment included. In the FONSI, the original plan was for Grand Prairie Parkway to cross the Iowa Interstate Railroad with an at-grade crossing. Soon after the FONSI was published, it was determined that the railroad would not allow this at-grade crossing and plans for the proposed project were developed. This segment of the Grand Prairie Parkway will connect the segment permitted by 2020-501 to the segment permitted under 2011-928. It is the last remaining large piece of the Grand Prairie Parkway that connects Interstate 80 to Raccoon River Drive.

b. The current proposed project is to construct a grade separated intersection at South Grand Prairie Parkway and Raccoon River Drive, to construct Grand Avenue west of South Grand Prairie Parkway and to construct two new bridges to alleviate flooding concerns. This project, as proposed, will connect the Grand Prairie Parkway from the south to the Grand Prairie Parkway that is under construction from the north. Grand Prairie Parkway will also be constructed with pedestrian access. When complete, pedestrian and bike access will be provided on the entire Grand Prairie Parkway. The construction of the grade separated crossing will result in the need to relocate Johnson Creek.

c. To accomplish this project, the applicant proposes the following:

- (1) Construct a grade-separated intersection at South Grand Prairie Parkway:
The IAIS Railroad requested that the City construct a grade-separated intersection where South Grand Prairie Parkway crosses the railroad. As the project area continues to develop and the connection of South Grand Prairie Parkway is extended north to connect with Interstate 80, IAIS Railroad foresees increased traffic which could conflict with their train operations. Using a bridge to raise the roadway above the train tracks would eliminate conflicts between trains and vehicles/pedestrians.
- (2) New bridges will be built under the existing Raccoon River Drive and the IAIS Railroad.
- (3) Johnson Creek will be abandoned from its current location and moved to the west to accommodate the new bridge. The new channel will be approximately 2800 feet long and will include a low flow channel as well as a floodplain bench.
- (4) Grand Prairie Parkway will connect to the segment already built to the south and to facilitate traffic during construction, a “jug handle” will be built from the Grand Prairie Parkway from the south to connect to Raccoon River Drive.
- (5) Overflow water from the relocated Johnson Creek will be directed into a former slough of the Raccoon River.

d. This project will result in the loss of 2050-feet of perennial stream and 0.07 acres of forested wetlands. To compensate for the loss of stream, the applicant will purchase stream credits from an approved stream mitigation bank in the approved service area of the impacts.

4. 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 11. of this public notice for address).

5. Historical/Archaeological:

a. The District consulted with the Iowa online geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases and determined the permit area has not been previously surveyed. In addition, historic and current aerial photos, topo maps, LIDAR, and the HILD database / Culture Map were reviewed.

b. The applicant submitted a Phase I report with the application. The report covers most of the permit area. Several other survey reports that have been previously submitted and reviewed also cover portions of the permit area. The current report identified one historic property within the right of way and recommended it as not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The report will be coordinated with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office and any interested Tribal Historic Preservation Office that expresses interest in a separate coordination effort.

c. There is a small portion of the permit area that has not been covered by the associated cultural resource surveys. However, based on seven auger probes on a portion of the land form not currently covered by the surveys it has been determined that this portion of the permit area has low to no potential for intact historic properties due to being a low, wetland form in the flood plain of the Racoon River.

d. Based on the information above, 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).

6. Endangered Species.

a. According to the Environmental Assessment completed in 2017, the following species are listed Dallas County Iowa:

- Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalist*)
- Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Topeka Shiner (*Notropis topeka*)
- Prairie bush Clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*)
- Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)

b. Surveys for the two listed bat species were positive in 2012, and species were found within the EA Study Area. The habitat to be disturbed for this project is along Johnson Creek and is very narrow. It is unlikely that the habitat contains roosting habitat. Based on the survey results and previous coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on other Grand Prairie Parkway projects, this current proposal May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect the two listed bat species. This is in part because the habitat band is very narrow and because we will include a special condition in a permit to limit cutting of the trees within the permit area to after October 1 and before March 31. For the other three species, there will be no effect.

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: RD-W Al Frohlich, Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact **Mr. Albert Frohlich @ 309-794-5859** or email: Albert.J.Frohlich@usace.army.mil.

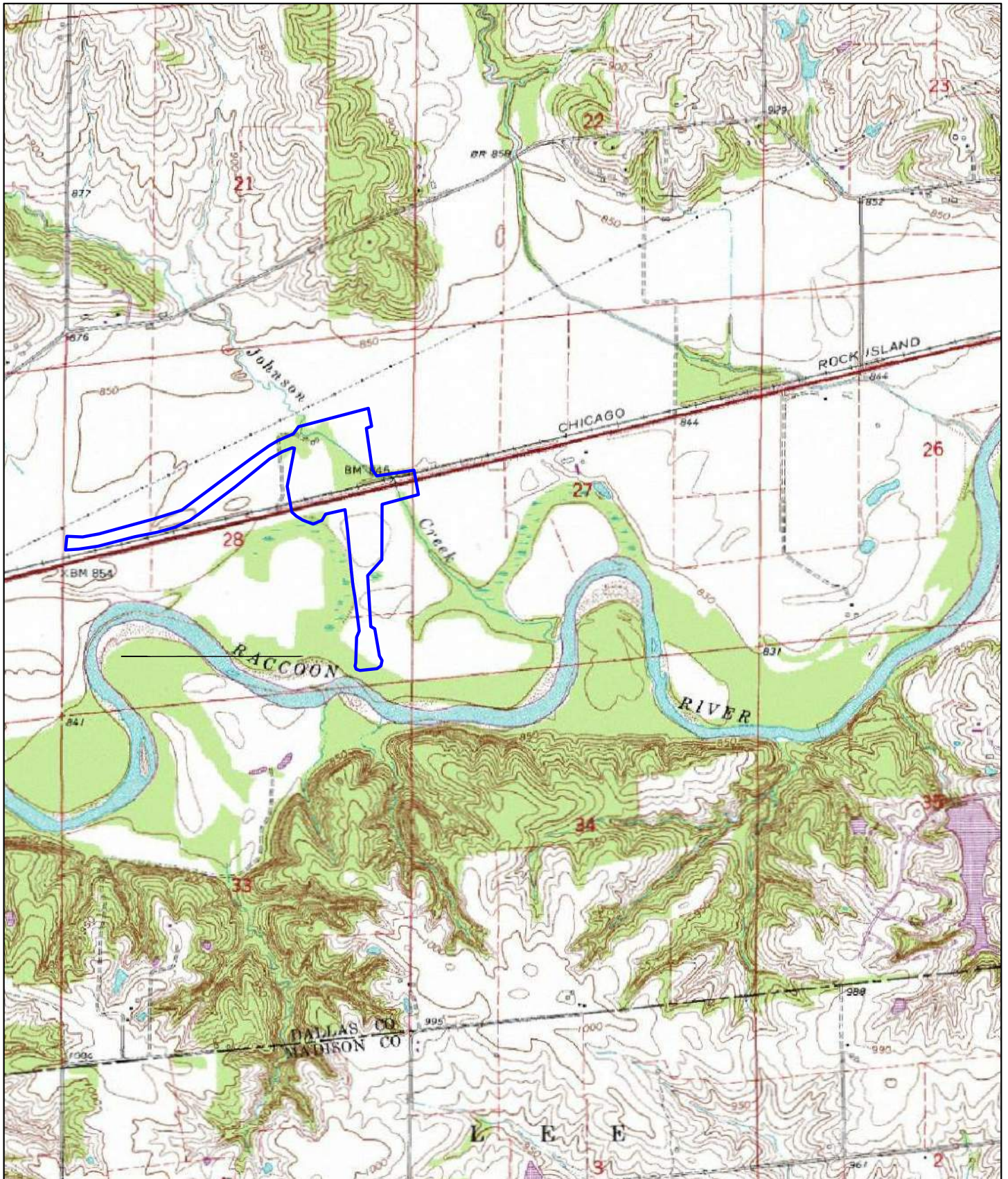


Attach
Plan

Mr. Albert J. Frohlich
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.

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.



LEGEND
 — PERMIT AREA

CEMVR-RD-2020-1095
Project Location
Sheet 1 of 5

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

JOHNSON CREEK BRIDGES, SOUTH GRAND
 PRAIRIE PARKWAY, GRAND AVENUE AND
 JOHNSON CREEK RELOCATION
 WEST DES MOINES, IOWA

0 APPROXIMATE DRAWING SCALE 2000 Feet

Project ID #: 18W045.00

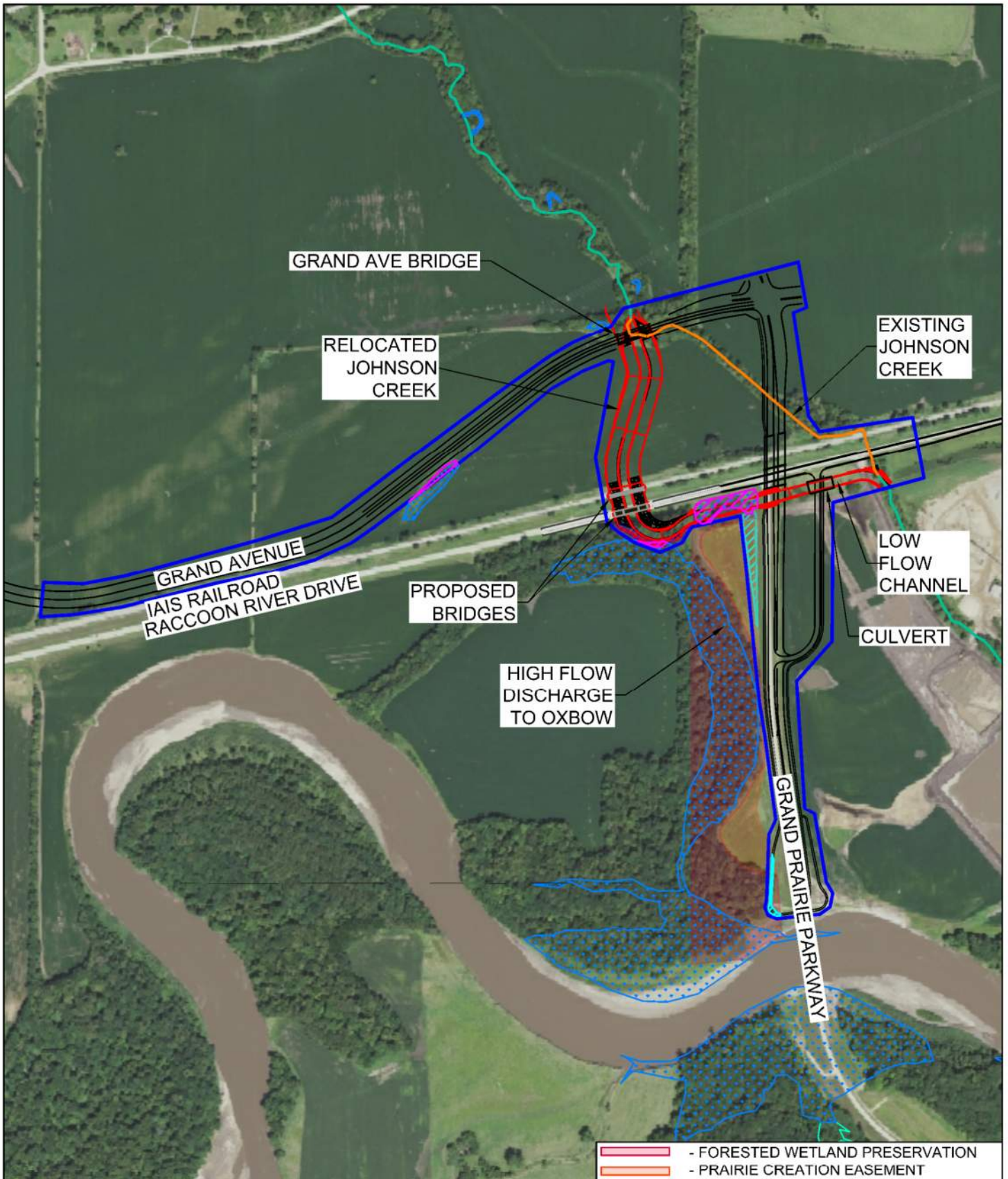
Date: 04/22/2021

Prepared By: ESM

Checked By: RPB



1



CEMVR-RD-2020-1095

Impacts
Sheet 2 of 5



LEGEND

- WETLAND AREA
- WUS
- WETLAND IMPACT
- WUS IMPACT
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT IMPACT

- FORESTED WETLAND PRESERVATION
- PRAIRIE CREATION EASEMENT

WETLAND & WUS IMPACT MAP

JOHNSON CREEK BRIDGES, SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE PARKWAY, GRAND AVENUE AND JOHNSON CREEK RELOCATION
WEST DES MOINES, IOWA

0 APPROXIMATE DRAWING SCALE 800 Feet

Project ID #: 18W045.00

Date: 05/11/2021

Prepared By: ESM

Checked By: RPB

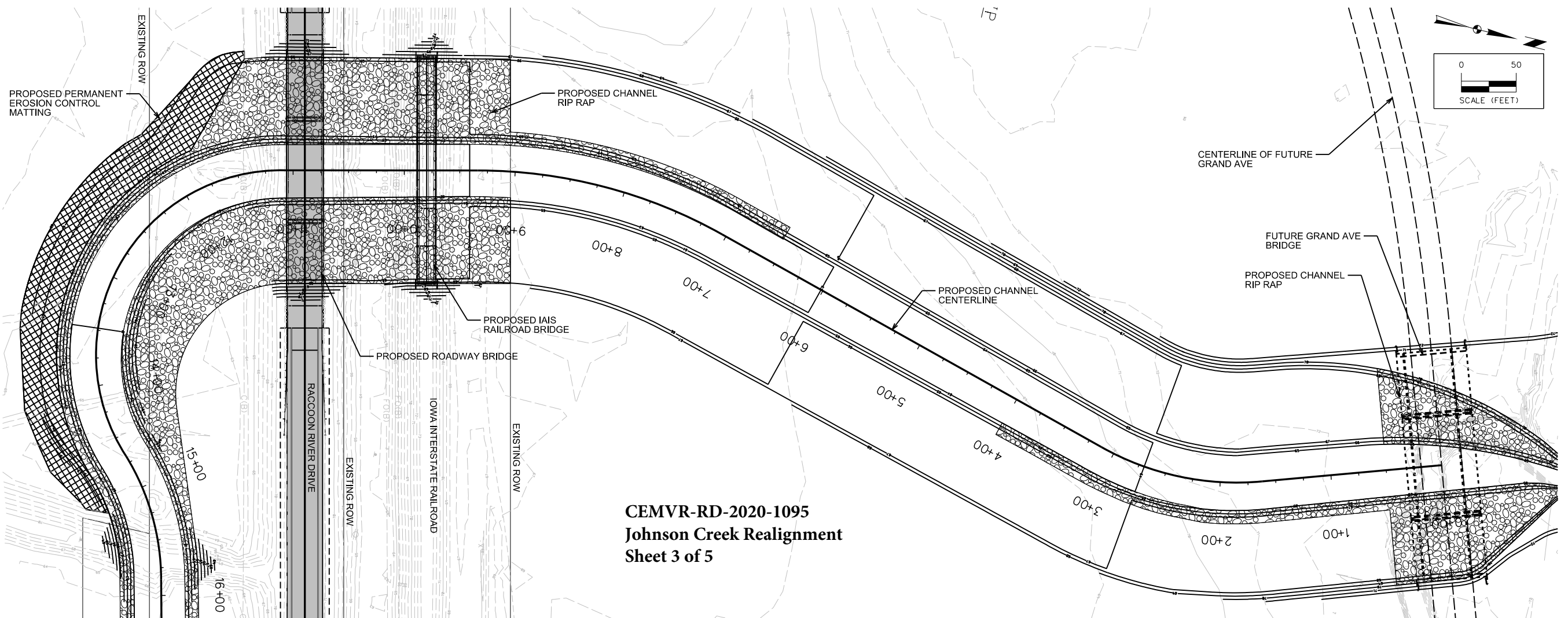


V:\Reilly\br\A\CADD\Standard\Works\Space\Standard\Printing\Per... Tables\Date.tbl
v:\Reilly\br\A\CADD\Standard\Works\Space\Standard\Printing\Per... Tables\Date.tbl

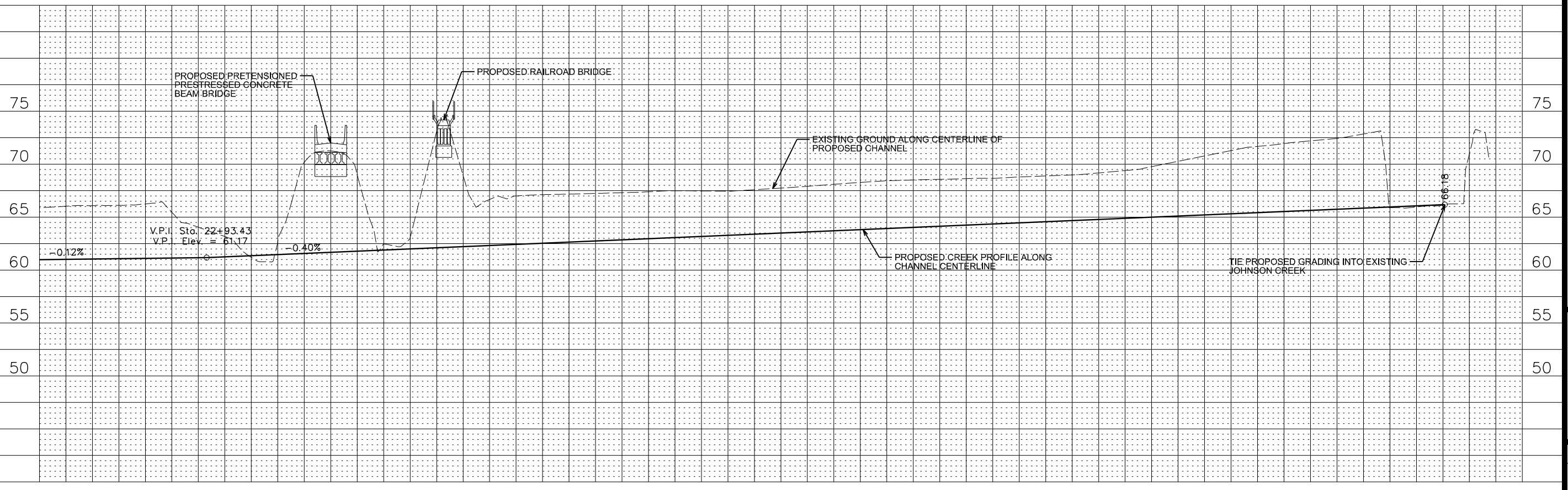
Default
1100

3/29/2021
9:25:21 AM

twr\me
V:\Projects\15-2017\117_0887\ON\CADD\CD_1170887_001.dgn



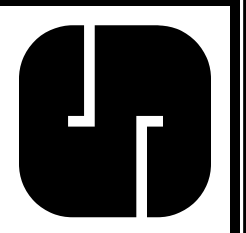
CEMVR-RD-2020-1095
Johnson Creek Realignment
Sheet 3 of 5



MARK	REVISION	DATE	BY
	Checked By:	3/29/2021	1" = 20'
	Engineer:		Field Bk:
	Technician:		Project No:

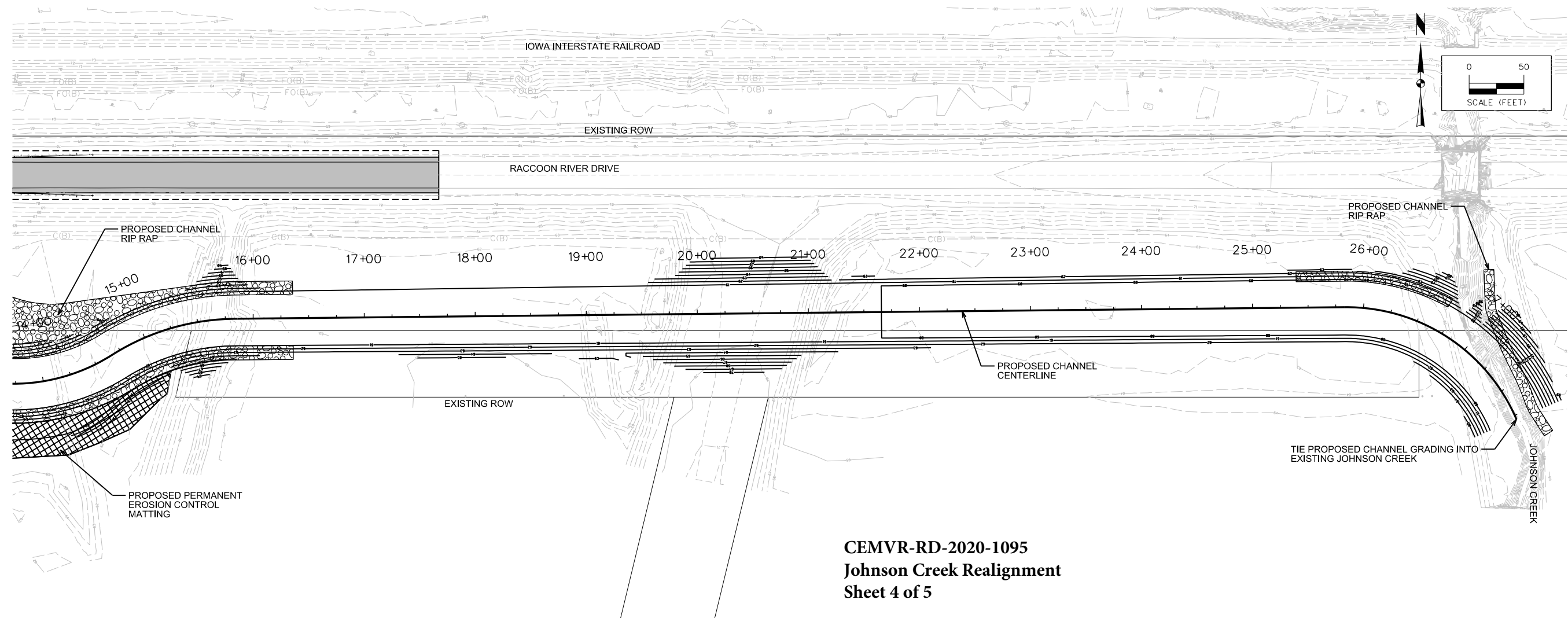
WEST DES MOINES, IOWA
2727 S.W. SNYDER BLVD.
ANKENY, IOWA 50023
515-964-2020 | www.snyder-associates.com

JOHNSON CREEK REALIGNMENT
PLAN & PROFILE
SNYDER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

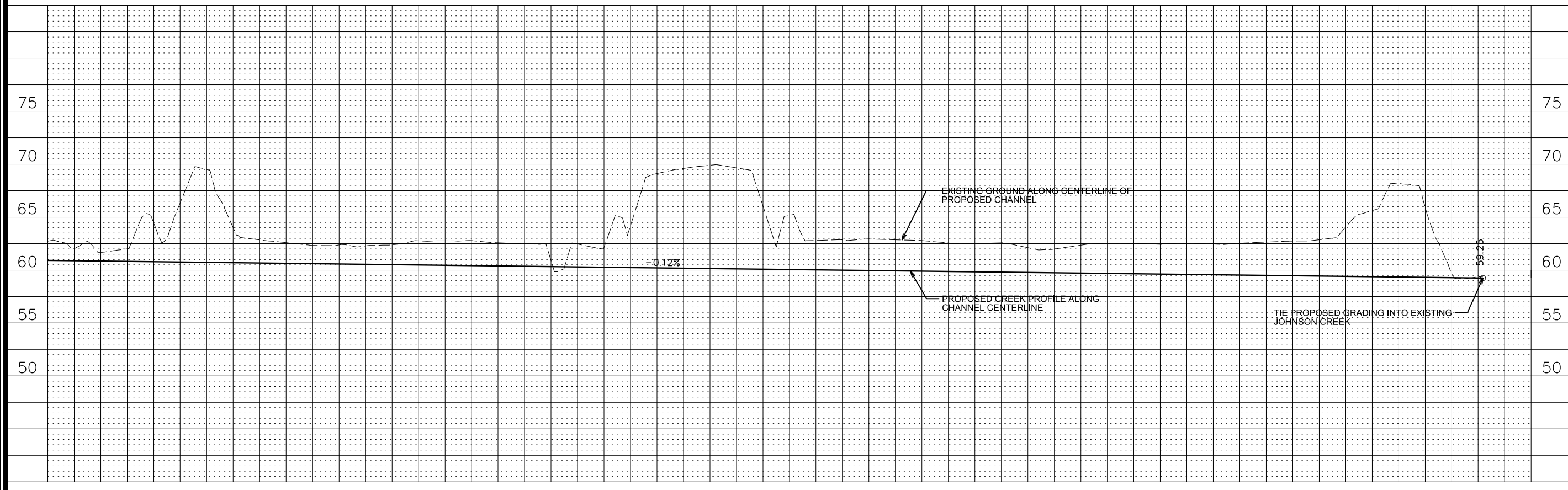


Project No: 1170887
Sheet D.01

V:\Projects\117_0887\ON\CADD\CD_1170887_002.dwg
 3/29/2021 9:25:22 AM
 Default 1/100
 V:\Repliber\A\CADD\Standard\Workspace\Spring\Per_Tables\Date.tbl
 v:\Repliber\A\CADD\Standard\Workspace\Spring\Per_Tables\Wing\FPF_Levels.plt



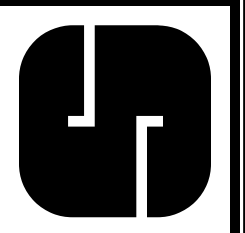
CEMVR-RD-2020-1095
Johnson Creek Realignment
Sheet 4 of 5



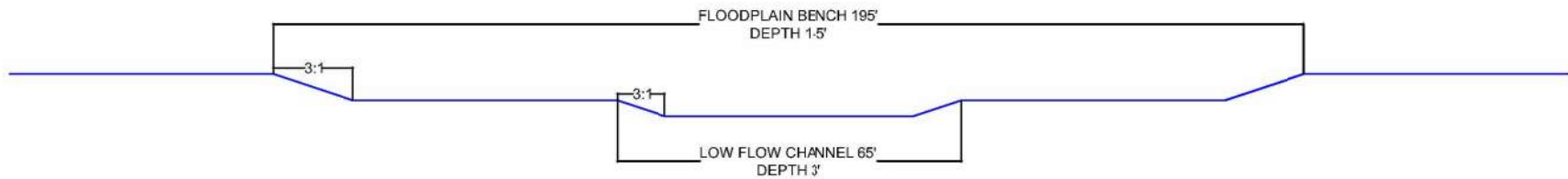
MARK	REVISION	DATE	BY

Checked By: -
 Engineer: -
 Date: 3/29/2021
 Scale: 1" = 20'
 Field Bk: -
 Project No: 1170887
 Sheet: D.02


JOHNSON CREEK REALIGNMENT
PLAN & PROFILE
SNYDER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
 WEST DES MOINES, IOWA
 2727 S.W. SNYDER BLVD.
 ANKENY, IOWA 50023
 515-964-2020 | www.snyder-associates.com



Project No: 1170887
 Sheet: D.02



CEMVR-RD-2020-1095
Johnson Creek Cross Section
Sheet 5 of 5

JOHNSON CREEK CROSS SECTION		
JOHNSON CREEK BRIDGES, SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE PARKWAY, GRAND AVENUE AND JOHNSON CREEK RELOCATION WEST DES MOINES, IOWA		
		Project ID #: 18W045.00
Date: 04/14/2021		3
Prepared By: ESM		
Checked By: RPB		