



PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District

Applicant: Galena Boat Club

Date: March 9, 2021

CEMVR-RD-2021-284

Expires: March 30, 2021

Section 10

Public Notice US Army Corps of Engineers

1. **Applicant.** Galena Boat Club (Attn: Charles Marsden)
9320 Saturn Lane
Galena, Illinois 61036.

2. **Project Location.**

- IL – Galena USGS quad sheet
- Section 26, Township 28 North, Range 1 West
- Jo Daviess County, Illinois
- Mississippi River mile approximately 566.8
- Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 15
- Northing: 4695829, Easting: 707998
- Latitude: 42.3870 Longitude: -90.4729

3. **Project Description.**

a. Previous Authorization. CEMVR-OD-P-2010-1534.

b. Current Request. The applicant proposes to renew their Department of the Army permit number CEMVR-OD-P-2010-1534 to perform maintenance dredging activities. The purpose of the project is to provide adequate depths in an access channel through Harris Slough for recreational boats. An area 1,500 feet long and 25 feet wide will be mechanically dredged to a depth of 5 feet. The excavated material (approximately 400 to 500 cubic yards at each dredging occurrence) will be loaded onto a barge and then transported by truck to an upland agricultural field (42.458792, -90.562122) in an area 400 feet long by 150 feet wide. Maintenance dredging will occur on an as needed basis and there will be no “return water.” The material will be disposed of as stated above.

c. Permit Area. The permit area consists of the Harris Slough on the Mississippi River and previously disturbed upland agricultural field.

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 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

b. State of Illinois.

(1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review.

(2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5). Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the Office of Water Resources at dnr.dworm@illinois.gov or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at <http://dnr.state.il.us/owr>.

5. Historical/Archaeological. The District consulted with the Illinois geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online. In addition, the District consulted “An Investigation of Submerged Historic Properties in the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway” (October 1997) prepared by American Resources Group, Ltd., for the Corps (Contract No. DACW25-93-D-0012, Delivery Order No. 37). The area has been subjected to previous maintenance dredging efforts in the past and the current project will only be removing recently accumulated sediments. The dredge disposal area is an upland agricultural field that has been highly disturbed and no known cultural resources in the vicinity. Based on this information it is the opinion of the District there is low to no potential for intact historic properties to be affected by the proposed action and 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. 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. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as occurring in Tazewell County, Illinois:

(<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/illinois-cty.html>)

- Indiana bat. The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. Indiana bats migrate seasonally between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitats. Winter hibernacula include caves and abandoned mines. Females form nursery colonies under the loose bark of trees (dead or alive) and/or cavities, where each female gives birth to a single young in June or early July. A single maternity colony may utilize a number of trees during the summer, typically a primary roost tree and several alternates. The species or size of tree does not appear to influence whether Indiana bats use a tree for roosting provided the appropriate bark structure is present.
 - As no trees will be removed associated with this dredging project, there will be **no effect** to Indiana bats.
- Northern long-eared bat. The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is listed as threatened. It hibernates in caves and mines and swarms in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. It roosts and forages in upland forests and woods.
 - As no trees will be removed associated with this dredging project, there will be **no effect** to northern long-eared bats.

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- Higgin’s Eye (pearly mussel). The Higgin’s Eye (*Lampsilis higginsii*) is listed as endangered. An inhabitant of large rivers, it can be found in deep water with moderate currents.
 - The project is maintenance dredging of a backwater channel that periodically silts in during high flows, there will be **no effect** to Higgin’s Eye mussels.
 - Sheepnose mussel. The Sheepnose Mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*) is listed as endangered. This mussel inhabits large rivers but in shallow rivers with moderate to swift current.
 - The project is maintenance dredging of a backwater channel that periodically silts in during high flows, there will be **no effect** to Sheepnose mussels.
 - Pleistocene Snail. The Pleistocene Snail (*Discus macclintocki*) is listed as endangered.
 - The upland disposal site is not suitable habitat as it is historically a dredge disposal site, there will be **no effect** to Pleistocene Snails.
 - Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. The threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) may potentially be found in any Illinois county. It occupies wet prairie remnant habitat. There is no critical habitat designated for this species.
 - Since there is no wet prairie remnant habitat to be affected by the project, there should be **no effect** on the eastern prairie fringed orchid.
 - Prairie Bush-clover. The Prairie Bush-clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) occurs in upland and dry prairie habitats. There is no critical habitat designated for this species.
 - Our preliminary determination as this is a maintenance dredging project is there will be **no effect** to Decurrent False Aster.

b. The proposed project is being coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be considered in the final assessment of the proposed project. Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.

7. 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.

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 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.

9. 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.

10. Reply to the Corps of Engineers. For additional information and comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to Ms. Samantha Chavez by telephone 309-794-5104 or by e-mail: samantha.j.chavez@usace.army.mil.

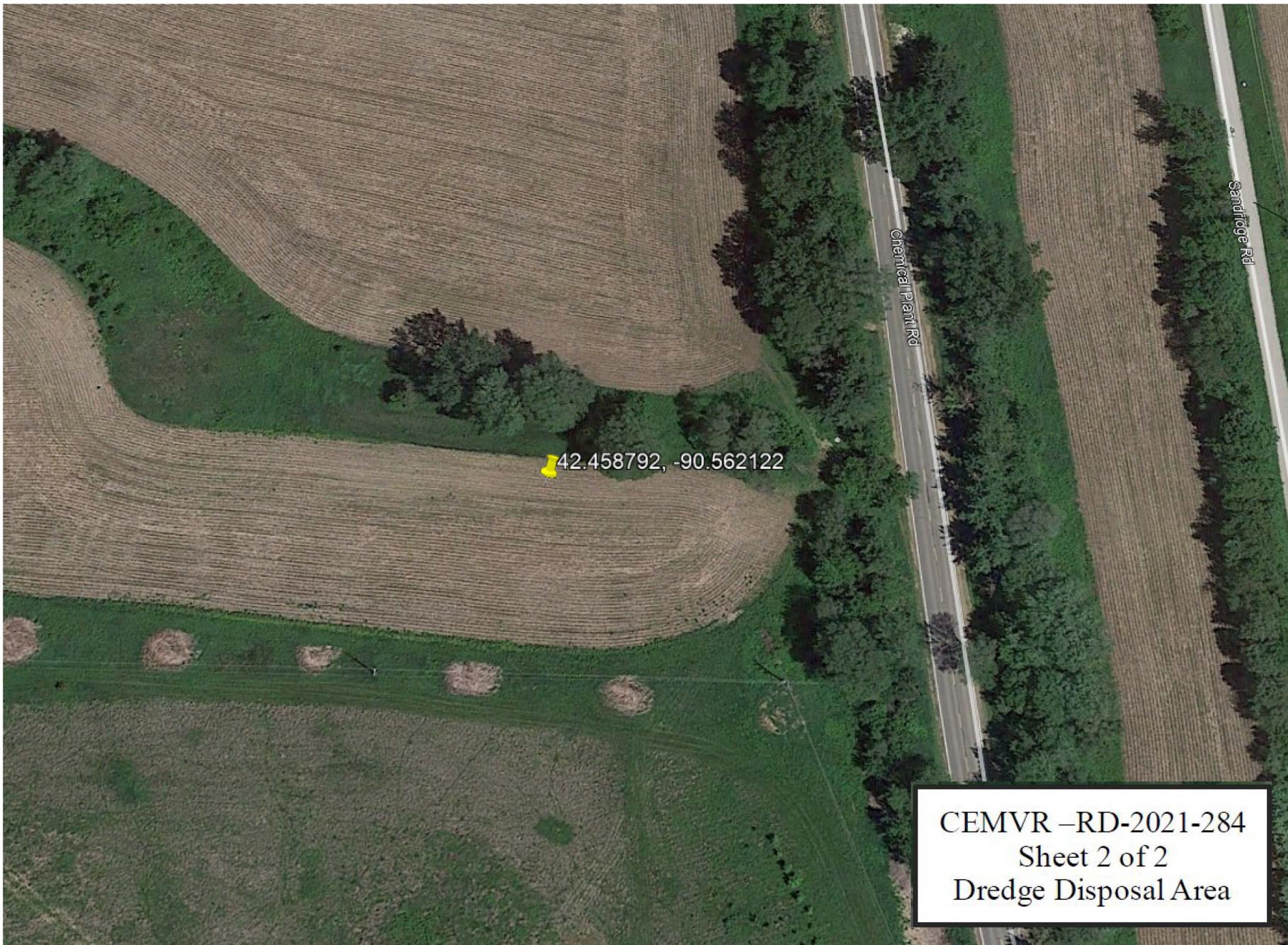
Attach
Plan

Mr. Trevor Popkin
Chief, Eastern Branch
Regulatory Division

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Dredge Disposal Area

