

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Applicant: City of Marion

Date: November 7, 2018

Expires: December 6, 2018

CEMVR-OD-P-2018-1222

Section 404

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

1. Applicant:

City of Marion c/o Mr. Mike Barkalow 1225 Sixth Avenue, Suite 200 Marion, Iowa 52302.

2. Project Location:

- Wetlands abutting Indian Creek
- Section 36, Township 84 North, Range 7 West
- City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa
- UTM NAD-83 Zone 15
- Latitude 42.041351, Longitude -91611864.
- 3. **Project Description**: The Applicant is proposing the following transportation project. The proposed project involves extending Alburnett Road across Indian Creek. Work associated with this project includes a new 201-foot-long pretensioned prestressed concrete beam bridge with two 10-foot-wide trails. A new pedestrian trail will extend from Boyson Road to the southwest and will end near the new bridge. Indian Creek will be stabilized at the bridge location with 270 feet of riprap. This project will result in the loss of 2.14 acres of forested wetland. To compensate for the loss, the applicant proposes to purchase forested wetland credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank in the approved service area at a ratio of 1:1.

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 Archaeologist consulted with the Iowa I-Sites online geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases (including the HILD data layer) and determined the proposed permit area and mitigation area has not been previously surveyed. In addition, the District reviewed the following reports:
 - "Intensive Level Architectural History Survey for the Proposed Alburnett Road Extension Project, Marion, Linn County, Iowa" dated September 2016. Mr. Jason O'Brien with Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc., of Anamosa, Iowa completed the report.
 - "Phase I Intensive Level Archaeological Survey for a Proposed Culvert Installation on Alburnett Road, Marion, Linn County, Iowa" dated April 2018. Mr. Keith Young with Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. of Anamosa, Iowa completed the report.
 - "Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey and Geomorphological Analysis for the Proposed Alburnett Road Extension Project, Marion, Linn County, Iowa" dated September 2016.

 Mr. Toby Morrow and Mr. John Hahn with Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. of Anamosa, Iowa completed the report.
 - "Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Indian Creek Trail Project (Project No. STP-U-4775(631)-70-57), Marion, Linn County, Iowa" dated September 2016. Mr. Michael Giller and Mr. Michael Finn with Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. of Anamosa, Iowa, completed the report.
- B. The reports will be coordinated with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office and any Tribe that expresses interest under a separate cover letters.
- C. Multiple historic properties were identified within the *project area*. However, none of the historic properties identified were within the boundaries of the permit area. Therefore, because there are no identified historic properties in the proposed permit area and mitigation area, it is the opinion of the District there will be **no historic properties affected** 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 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 <u>Linn</u> County, Iowa:

- Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septrionalis*
- Higgins Eye (pearlymussel) Lampsilis higginsii
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Bombus affinis
- Prairie Bush-clover Lespedeza Leptostachya
- Western Prairie Fringed Orchid Platanthera praeclara
- B. The proposed project is being coordinated with the FWS through this public notice.
 - (a) This project will have no effect on the:
 - Higgins eye,
 - Prairie Bush-clover
 - Western Prairie Fringed Orchid.
 - (b) This project May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect the:
 - Northern Long-eared Bat.
 - Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.
- C. We will coordinate the Bat Habitat Survey with the FWS. 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. **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.

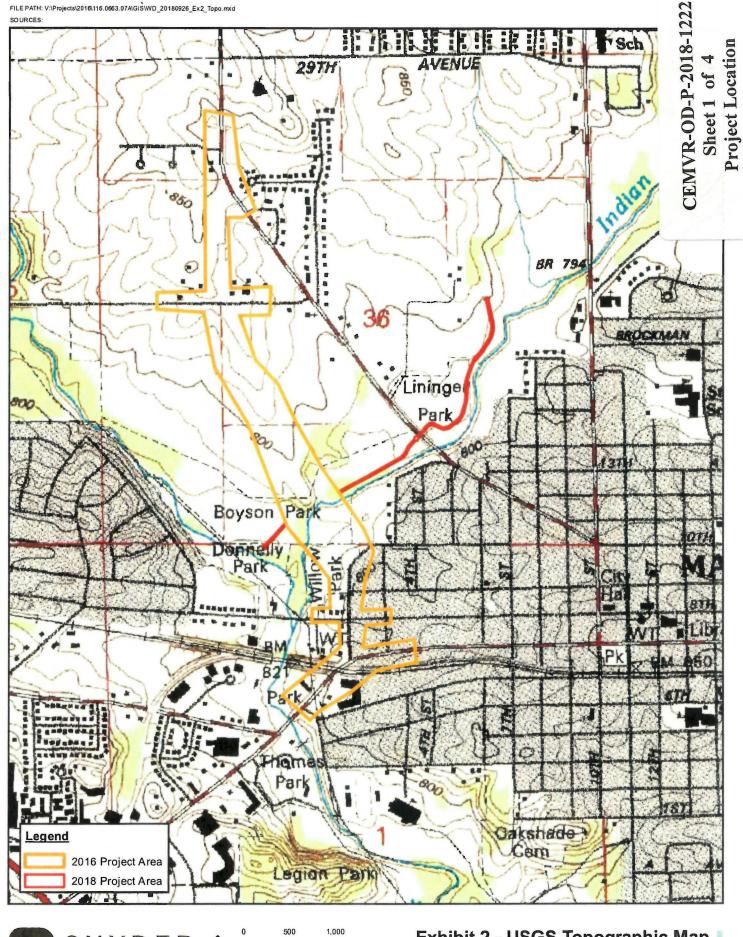
- 9. Who Should Reply: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the 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: OD-P (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 Regulatory Branch

and J. Fine

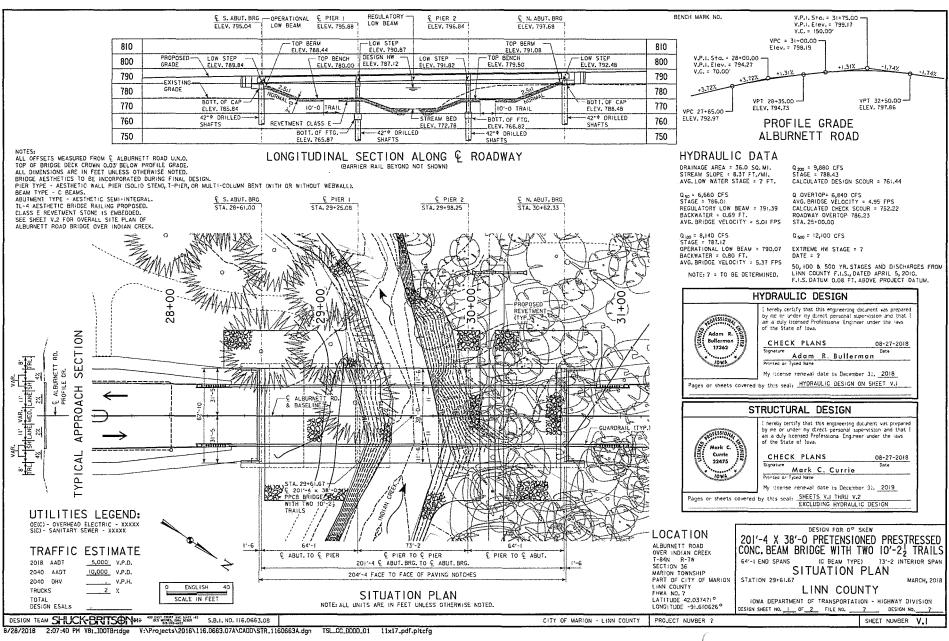
REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

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.









CEMVR-OD-P-2018-1222 Sheet 3 of 4 Situation Plan Proposed Bridge over Indian Creek

