

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Applicant: City of Clinton, IA

Date: October 17, 2018 Expires: November 15, 2018

CEMVR-OD-PP-2018-904 Sec

Section 10/404

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

- 1. **Applicant**: City of Clinton, Iowa, c/o Mr. Jason Craft, City Engineer, 611 South 3rd Street Clinton, Iowa 52732.
- 2. **Project Location**: The project is located in Joyce's Slough just west of the Mississippi River in Clinton County, Iowa. In Section 6, Township 81 North, Range 7 East. The approximate center of the project is located at: UTM NAD-83 Zone 15. Northing 4637530.210548, Easting 733948.467443. Latitude 41.854797, Longitude -90.183273.
- 3. **Project Description**: The project includes the mechanical maintenance dredging of accumulated sediment within Joyce's Slough. Dredging operations shall span approximately 4,000 linear feet beginning at the Clinton Marina boat slips proceeding north up to the last dock within the slough. Approximately 22,050 cubic yards of sediment shall be removed from the slough. Spoil material will be transported by barge to a previously utilized sand pit located in Fulton, Illinois. Spoil material may also be stockpiled in a City owned, non-wetland area located at 221 13th Avenue South. The project also includes the removal of accumulated sediment on the upstream side of an existing box culvert connecting the Mississippi River & Joyce's Slough. Excavation involves forming a 2:1 slope to assist in channelizing water flow. Following sediment removal, revetment stone is proposed to armor the banks of the slope for approximately 400 linear feet on both sides of the channel. The excavation and armoring will permanently impact 0.63 acres of emergent wetland. The applicant is proposing to purchase emergent wetland credits from a mitigation bank to offset the wetland impacts. An active dredge permit exists along approximately 2,500 linear feet of the southernmost portion of the proposed dredge area and is currently authorized by Corps of Engineers permit number CEMVR-OD-PP-2016-0401.
- 4. **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 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.** The District consulted with the Iowa online geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases. Historic and current aerial photos, topo maps, the HILD database / Culture Map, and soils data, and the report "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) were also reviewed. The terrestrial portion of the permit area has been previously surveyed in 1976 with negative results. There is a shipwreck

indicated within the vicinity of the dredge location and the HILD / Culture Map review also come back with a positive result for the location of the project. However, the permit activities include maintenance dredging, removal of recently accumulated sediments and a stockpile location for the dredged material. The dredging and sediment removal from the culvert will have no impact on cultural resources as they are only removing recently accumulated sediments. The dredged material will be stockpiled on the surface at an existing sand and gravel operation area on the other side of the river. This area was surveyed in 2001 (Report #12,268). Survey activities included surface, subsurface and geomorphological evaluation prior to the area being approved for use as a sand and gravel operation. Based on the prior disturbance in the stockpile location it has no potential to contain historic properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places that could be impacted by the proposed dredge stockpile operation. Therefore, 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**. 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 Clinton County, Iowa:
 - Prairie bush clover. The threatened prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) is considered to
 potentially occur statewide based on historical habitat. It occupies dry to mesic prairies with
 gravelly soil.
 - Western prairie fringed orchid. The threatened western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) is considered to potentially occur statewide in Iowa based on historical records and habitat distribution. It occupies wet to mesic grassland habitats.
 - Northern long-eared bat. The threatened northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) is considered to potentially occur statewide. It hibernates in caves and mines and swarms in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. It roosts and forages in upland forests during late spring and summer.
 - <u>Iowa pleistocene snail.</u> The endangered Iowa pleistocene snail (*Discus macclintocki*) habitat includes north-facing algific talus slopes of the driftless area.
 - Eastern massasauga. The threatened eastern massauga (Sistrurus catenatus) lives in open to
 forested wetlands and adjacent upland areas. It often hibernates in crayfish burrows but may also be
 found under logs and tree roots or other small burrows.

The Corps has made a determination of "no effect" for the above mentioned species.

Higgins eye pearlymussel. The endangered higgins eye pearlymussel (Lampsilis higginsii) is potentially located within all portions of the Mississippi River in Clinton County. It typically occupies deep water with moderate currents over sand or gravel substrate. The substrate in the area to be dredged consists of three to six feet of silt over rock. An active dredge permit exists along approximately 2,500 linear feet of southernmost portion of the proposed dredge area (4,000 linear feet) and is currently authorized by Corps of Engineers permit number CEMVR-OD-PP-2016-0401. The Corps has made a determination of "not likely to adversely affect" higgins eye pearlymussel based on the presence of unsuitable habitat and recent dredging activities.

The proposed project is being coordinated 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.

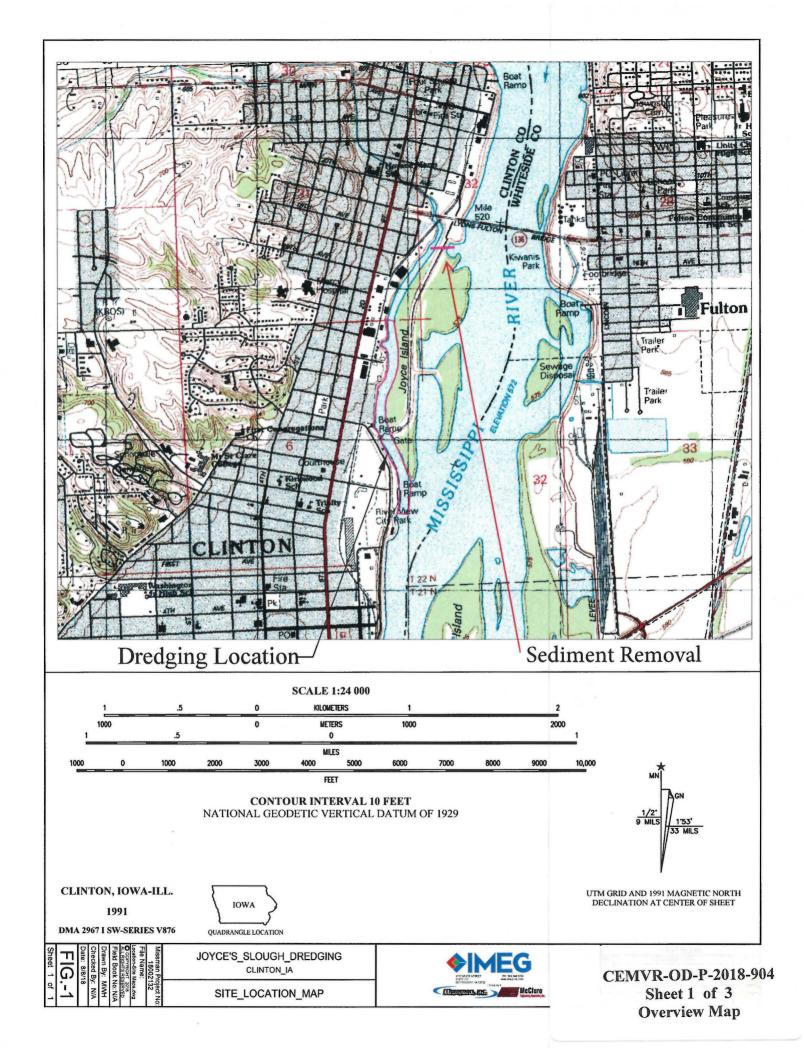
7. **Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines**. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

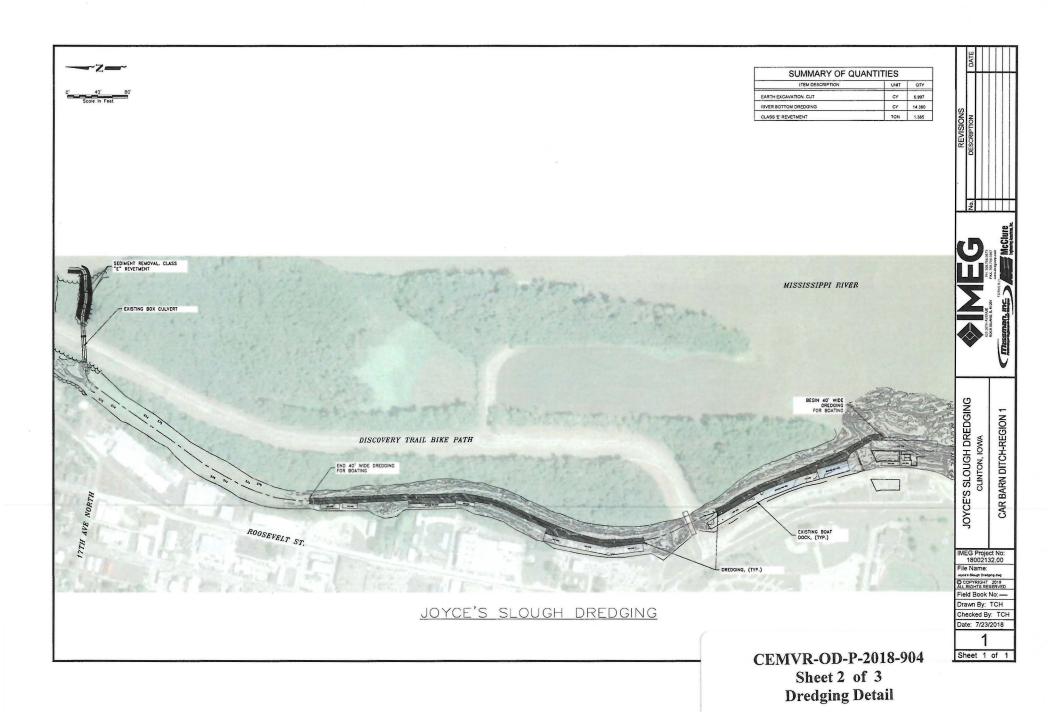
- 8. Public Interest Review. The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important 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. Section 408. The proposed activity is also under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. § 408). The decision on a Department of the Army permit application pursuant to Section 10/404/103 cannot and will not be rendered prior to the decision on the Section 408 request. Under Section 408, the applicant must receive permission to make alterations to, or temporarily or permanently occupy or use, any Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project to ensure that it does not impair the usefulness or performance of the project, and it is not injurious to the public interest. The authorized civil works projects for the purpose of this request are the Clinton, Iowa Flood Risk Management Project and the Mississippi River Navigation Channel. The proposed activity is being reviewed for compliance with the Rock Island District Section 408 Categorical Permissions 5 and 6. The granting or denial of permission pursuant to Section 408 is not a permit action handled by the Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program. Comments concerning the Section 408 jurisdiction and/or review of the activity pursuant to it should be directed to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: Section 408, Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. Mr. Paul St. Louis (309/794-5208) may be contacted for additional information (email: paul.f.st.louis@usace.army.mil).
- 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 of Engineers**. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-PP (Popkin), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. Mr. Trevor Popkin (309/794-5329) may be contacted for additional information or emailed at trevor.e.popkin@usace.army.mil.

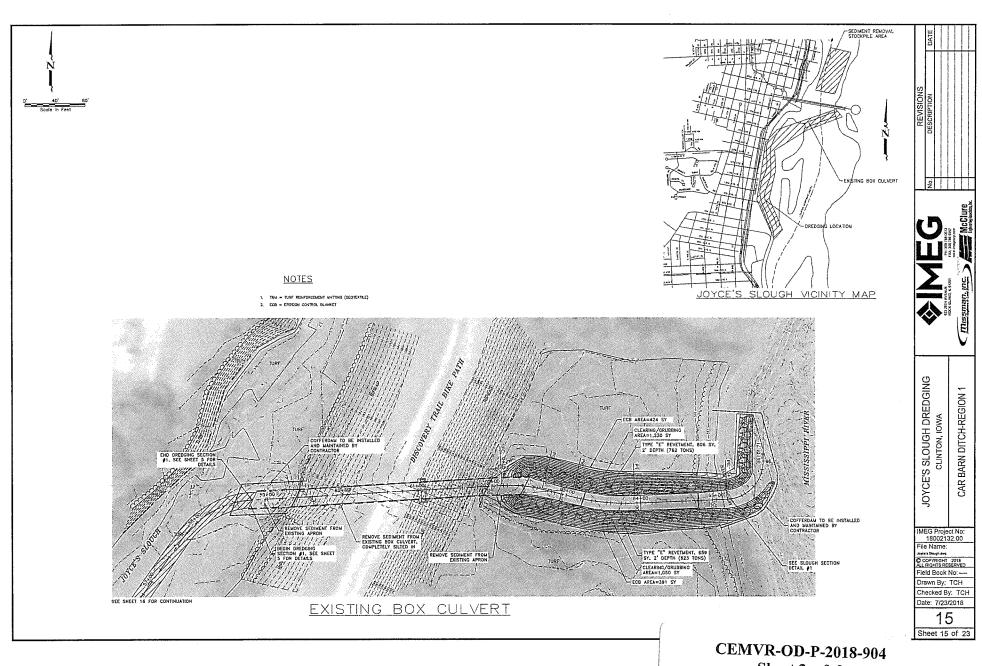
Attach Plan Mr. Trevor Popkin, PM

Iowa Section

Regulatory Branch







CEMVR-OD-P-2018-904 Sheet 3 of 3 Box Culvert – Clean Out Detail