

# **Public Notice**

### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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**Subject: Public Notice of Permit Application** 

Action ID: NWO-2017-02054-BIS

**Comments Period:** July 30, 2018 – August 20, 2018

**SUBJECT**: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the Eden Township Streambank Restoration and Stabilization Project, which would result in less than 0.1 acre impact along 140 linear feet of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in or adjacent to the Forest River. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at

http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/NorthDakota/PublicNotices.aspx

**AUTHORITY**: This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

**APPLICANT**: Walsh County Highway Department

Attn: Ms. Sharon Lipsh 600 Cooper Avenue

Grafton, North Dakota 58237

**LOCATION**: The project site is located on the Forest River in the SW¼ of Section 32, Township 155 North, Range 55 West, Latitude 48.197931° North, Longitude -97.752257° West, Walsh County, North Dakota.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**: Walsh County Highway Department proposes to stabilize 140 linear feet of Forest River bankline to protect a gravel township road from erosion. The design calls for the bank to be pulled back to a 2:1 slope, a toe key trench excavated to a depth 1 foot below the bed, then placement of geotextile material and 285 cubic yards of rock riprap. A brush layer that consists of 6-7 branches per linear foot will be set in a crisscross pattern will be incorporated into the rock at the bankfull elevation. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to protect the township road from erosion. The applicant states the benefits of the project include: 1) protection of the riverbank from further flood damage; 2) improvement to public safety and infrastructure by stabilizing the bank and roadway; and 3) improvement of water quality by mitigating riverbank erosion and decreasing sediment load downstream. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**Funding Sources:** The project will be funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds, EPA Section 319 Funds (administered by the ND Department of Health) and local funds, as necessary.

**Alternatives**. No alternatives analysis was provided with the application, nor is one necessary prior to issuance of a public notice. The analysis required by the 404(b)(1) Guidelines would likely include the current alternative, No Action (does not mean that no work would occur, only that no work requiring authorization would occur) and Other On-Site Stabilization Designs. Off-site Alternatives will not be considered as the project is site specific. Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant or their agent. Other alternatives may develop during the review process for this permit application. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered.

**Mitigation**. The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. No mitigation has been proposed by the applicant.

**OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS**: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Water Quality (NDDH), is required for this project. A copy of this public notice will be forwarded to the NDDH, along with a request for certification.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES**: Based on the available information (including applicant's report titled *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Forest River Bank Stabilization in Walsh County, North Dakota* prepared by Beaver Creek Archaeology, no cultural resources were identified within the project's area of potential effect. The Corps will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate. [ND SHPO Ref: 18-5043]

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project is located within historic or current ranges of the endangered Whooping crane (*Grus americanis*) and Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), as well as the threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). No critical habitat for the threatened Piping plover (*Caradrius melodus*) has been identified in the County. The Corps initial determination is that there would be 'No Effect' on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat as a result of this project. The project area does not provide suitable habitat for either the Whooping crane or Gray wolf. There are a few trees in the area that likely have to be removed, but they are not known hibernacula or within a ¼-mile of a known, occupied hibernacula. Removal of the trees will be required to occur outside the pup season of June 1 to July 31. The Corps will consider all information provided in response to this public notice and initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as appropriate.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT**: The proposed project would not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

**EVALUATION FACTORS**: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described 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 described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, 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 and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps 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 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 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.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Public Notice NWO-2017-02054-BIS must be submitted to the office listed below on or before August 20, 2018.

Toni Erhardt, Project Manager US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District North Dakota Regulatory Office 3319 University Drive Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

Email: Toni.R.Erhardt@usace.army.mil

The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted,

interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager Toni Erhardt, (701) 255-0015, extension 2003, or *Toni.R.Erhardt@usace.army.mil.* 

Attachments: 5 drawings

#### Attachment 1.

Project: Eden Township Streambank Restoration and Stabilization

Applicant: Sharon Lipsh, Walsh County

Agent: Danielle Gorder, Red River Regional Council

#### Block 18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features):

Upon approval, the Eden Township will procure a general contractor to implement the Eden Township Streambank Restoration and Stabilization Project. The contractor will work to restore the damaged 140'L x 10'H riverbank along the roadway by using embankment material that will be shaped and graded to match the original bank, layered with brush and erosion blanket, covered in geotextile fabric and rip rap for erosion control, and seeded with native vegetation appropriate for the site to help stabilize the embankment material. Table 1 includes bid items and corresponding estimated quantities provided by the project engineer. The Eden Township Board of Supervisors will maintain the project site annually and on an as-needed basis.

Table 1. Bid Items and Estimated Quantities provided by Project Engineer	
Bid Item	Quantity
Mobilization	1 job
Streambank Preparation	1 acre
Excavation and Earthfill – Topsoil Stripping (assumes 0 acres of borrow area)	236 Cu. Yds.
Excavation and Earthfill – Bank	750 Cu. Yds.
Excavation and Earthfill – Topsoiling	236 Cu. Yds.
Streambank Structures - Brushlayering	140 Feet
Seeding and Mulching	0.1 acres
Rock Riprap	285 Cu. Yds.
Geotextile	400 Sq. Yds.
Erosion Control Blanket	1,416 Sq. Yds.

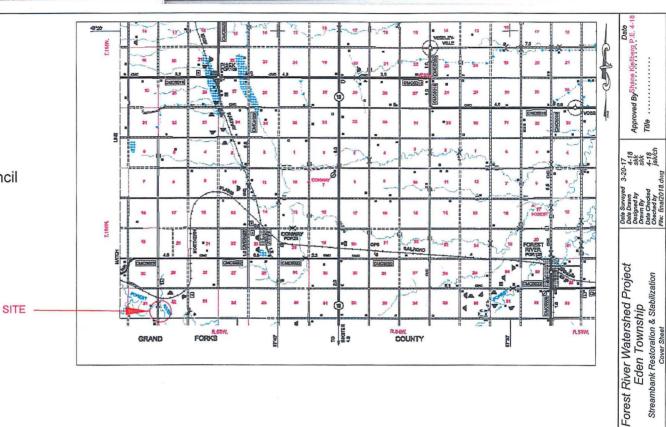
See engineering plans for further detail (Attachments 2, 3, 4, 5). Minimum and maximum elevation at the project site will not change with construction. Rather, embankment material will be shaped and graded at a 2H:1V slope to match the original bank. Stream channel width will also remain unchanged throughout project implementation. This project will not discharge dredged or fill material.

Attachment 2. Forest River Watershed Project STREAMBANK RESTORATION & STABILIZATION K2S ENGINEERING, INC.

Applicant: Sharon Lipsh, Walsh County

Agent: Danielle Gorder, Red River Regional Council

Illustration: Vicinity Map



## CONTENTS

TITLE, SITE MAP

MAIN PLAN VIEW

SHEET 3 DETAILS

SHEET 4 EROSION BLANKET DETAILS

ALL WORK SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED ACCORDING TO THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PROJECT. ANY CHANGES SHALL BE WITH PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL BY THE PROJECT APPROVER.

AT LEAST TWO FULL WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO EXCAVATION, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY THE NORTH DAKOTA ONE-CALL AT 1-800-795-0555 AND ANY OTHER LOCAL UTILITIES THAT MAY BE IN THE AREA.

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL GIVE THE PROJECT COORDINATOR AND THE LANDOWNER/OPERATOR A MINIMUM OF TWO FULL WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.

ALL CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.S.H.A. STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS PART 1910 AND 1926. ALL EXCAVATIONS SHALL BE SLOPED, SHORED, OR SHIELDED ACCORDING TO O.S.H.A. PART

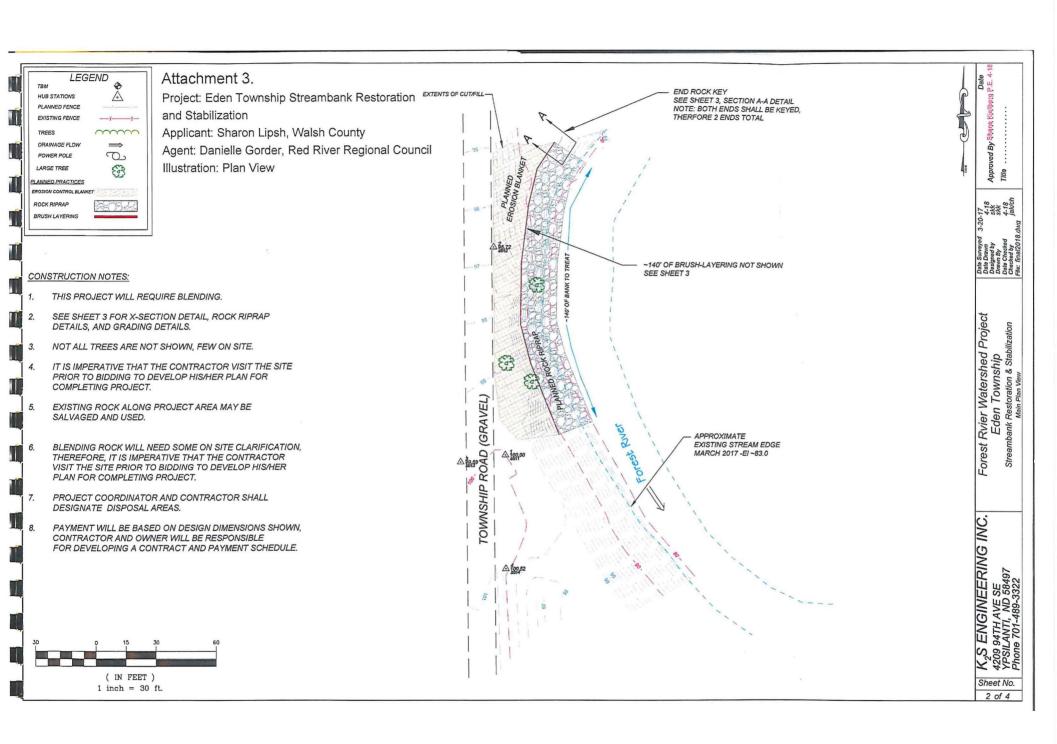
THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS (E.G. CULTURAL RESOURCES)

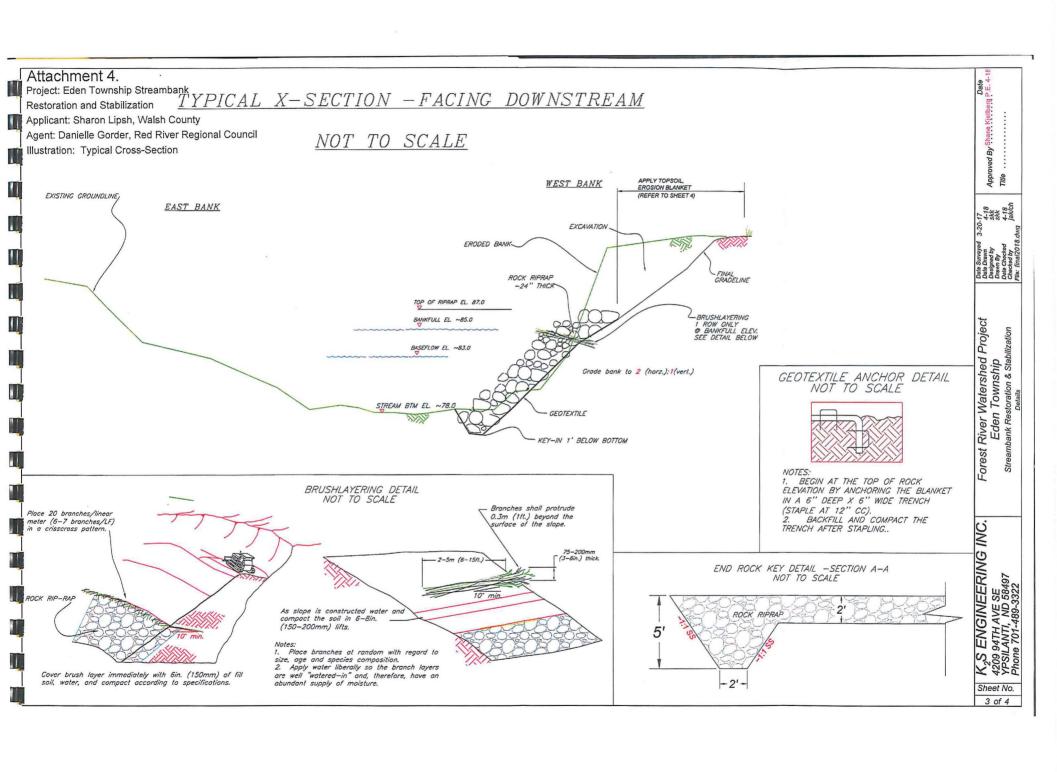
CONSTRUCTION NOTES

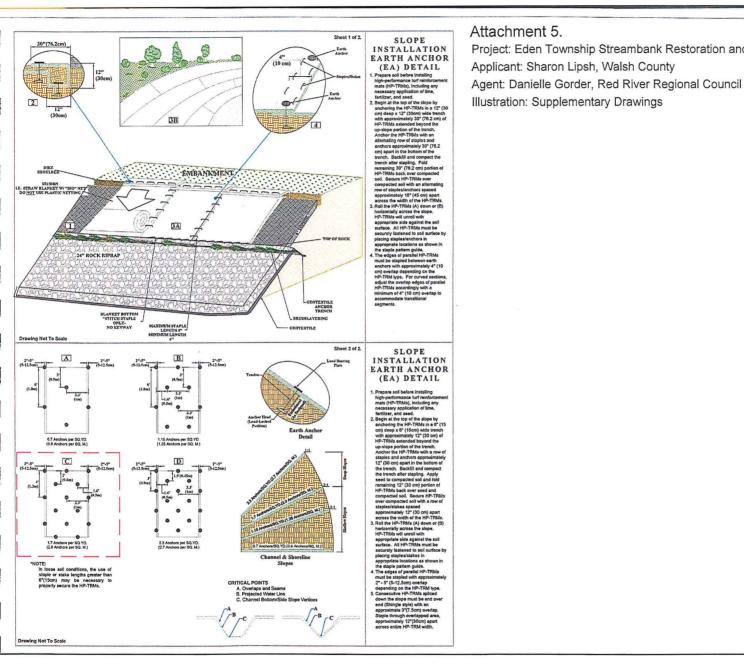
IT'S THE LAW 1-800-795-0555 GIVE AT LEAST TWO FULL WORKING DAYS NOTICE!

K<sub>2</sub>S ENGINEERING INC. 4209 94TH AVE SE YPSILANT, ND 58497 Phone 701-489-3322

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Project: Eden Township Streambank Restoration and Stabilization

Approved By Shane Kjellberg P.E. 4-1 Title

4-18 SKK SKK 1-18 ak/ch

Forest River Watershed Project Eden Township Streambank Restoration & Stabilization Datails

K<sub>2</sub>S ENGINEERING INC. 4209 94TH AVE SE YPSILANTI, ND 58497 Phone 701-489-3322

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