

US Army Corps of Engineerso



Public Notice

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil

> APPLICATION NO.: EVALUATOR: PHONE NO.: E-MAIL: DATE: EXPIRATION DATE:

MVK-2019-689 Ms. Kristi Hall (601) 631-7528 Kristina.W.Hall@usace.army.mil January 15, 2020 February 5, 2020

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army permit for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.

Application also has been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with La. R.S. 30.2074(A)(93), and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Additional information is on file with the above office, and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained upon payment of cost of copying. Comments concerning the application can be filed with the Office of Environmental Services within 20 days of this notice to the following address: Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit</u>: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged and / or fill material into waters of the United States.

<u>Name of Applicant</u>: Mr. Jamie Mayo City of Monroe 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway Monroe, Louisiana 71201 Name of Agent: Mr. Matt Mixon PPM Consultants, Incorporated Post Office Box 1892 West Monroe, Louisiana 71291

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 5, T17N- R4E, Latitude 32.4928, Longitude -92.0731, within the Ouachita River Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 08050001), in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. **Description of Work:** (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the purpose of constructing a floodwall to reduce the likelihood of flooding in the Oregon Trail Community and Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School. The project would construct an approximately 2 foot high berm topped with 2 feet of corrugated vinyl floodwall. A 5 foot ditch would be constructed on the western side of the floodwall to carry water away from the structure. A 1.55 acre borrow pit would be excavated on the eastern side of the borrow pit to excavate material for the floodwall. The project is seeking funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Program.

The project would fill 0.72 acre of forested wetland associated with floodwall construction, 0.29 acres of shrub-scrub wetlands associated with floodwall construction, and excavate 1.55 acres for the borrow pit.

The vegetative communities within the project area include both shrub-scrub and forested wetlands. These wetlands are dominated by water oak, willow oak, and sugarberry. Soils within the project site consists of Herbert silt loam, Portland silt loam, and Portland clay, none of these soils are considered hydric by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); however, evidence of hydric soil indicators were observed on-site in wetland areas.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from a commercial mitigation bank.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: FEMA is the lead federal agency and is responsible for coordinating Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: In a letter dated December 16, 2019, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) coordinated with FEMA and stated that the action may affect the northern long-eared bat; however, any take that may occur as a result of the action is not prohibited under the ESA Section 4(d) rule adopted for this species at 50 CFR §17.40(o).

<u>Floodplain</u>: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The project is completely located within the 100 year floodplain.

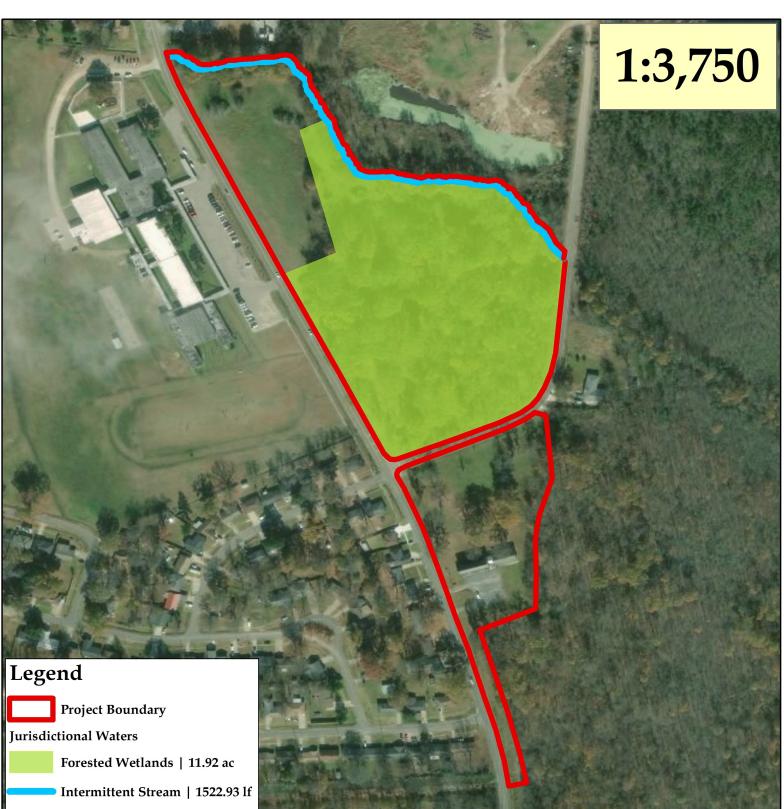
<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

<u>Opportunity for a Public Hearing</u>: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

<u>Notification of Final Permit Actions</u>: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <u>http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

Thomas A. McCabe Chief, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch









Aerial Imagery: ESRI World Imagery Preliminary

Jurisdictional Determination



Service layer Gredits: Source: Esth, Digital Globe, GeoEye, Barthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, Aeroc RD, IGN, and the GIS User Community

DRAWN BY:	TS	Legend
CHECKED BY	/: MM	Borrow Pit (1.55ac) — Unnamed Stream
DATE:	01/08/2020	Ditch Total Wetland Area (11.92 ac) Floodwall Center Road Right of Way
SCALE:	AS SHOWN	Floodwall Extent Fully Functional Forested Wetlands (11.08 ac)
CAD NO:	N/A	Impaired Forested Wetlands (0.84 ac) 0 265 530 1,060
PROJ NO:	2018.22	Feet

ESTIMATED WETLAND IMPACTS PROPOSED OREGON TRAIL FLOODWALL LOCATION OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA



FIGURE

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