



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2020-71
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Samantha Thompson
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5478
E-MAIL:	Samantha.H.Thompson@usace.army.mil
DATE:	May 6, 2021
EXPIRATION DATE:	May 27, 2021

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-RD, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective September 11, 2020, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a discharge from a Federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Rule part 121.6, once the applicant submits a certification request the Corps of Engineers will notify the certifying agency of the reasonable period of time for them to act upon the certification.

Law Requiring a Permit: 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.

Name of Applicant:
Mr. Tom Janway
City of Monroe
400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway
Monroe, Louisiana 71201

Name of Agent:
Mr. Matt Mixon
Wetlands Unlimited, LLC
Post Office Box 1892
West Monroe, Louisiana 71294

Location of Work: Section 33, T18N-R4E, Latitude 32.5070, Longitude -92.066044, within Boeuf Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC 08050001), 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 for conducting regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the purpose of constructing a storm water retention area to service part of the City of Monroe.

The proposed construction of the retention area would convert approximately 18.31 acres of land to a lower elevation retention area in order to provide additional storage capacity for storm water runoff during periods of high-water volumes which are often experienced during times of heavy precipitation. To allow the project to perform its intended purpose of relieving high-water levels potentially overtopping an existing concrete drainage ditch located to the west of the property, the retention area will tie into the drainage ditch in two areas along the western project boundary.

The project site includes approximately 15 acres of agricultural property, 4.14 acres of fragmented hardwood forest areas, and existing power-line rights of way. The project will require tree clearing of the affected existing hardwood forest areas and excavation of the entire footprint of the retention area to achieve an approximate depth of 8.50 feet. Fill materials excavated from the proposed retention area will be relocated to an existing City of Monroe oxidation pond that is being decommissioned. Once completed, the retention area would provide approximately 48 million gallons of additional water storage potential for the City's storm water collection system.

Upon completion of the installation of the proposed retention area, the location will be allowed to naturally revegetate likely resulting in the creation of wetland conditions throughout most, if not all, of the retention area footprint.

The vegetation within the project area is currently dominated by American elm, Eastern cottonwood, Chinese tallow, sumpweed, poison ivy, sugarberry, Eastern swamp privet, Frank's sedge, muscadine, possumhaw, Southern cutgrass, bitter pecan, green ash, water oak, sawtooth blackberry, and cedar elm. Soils within the project site consists of Herbert silt loam, Portland silt loam, and Portland clay.

Approximately 2.33 acres of forested wetlands would be impounded due to the construction of the retention area.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional wetlands through the purchase of credits from a commercial mitigation bank that services the project area.

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.

State Water Quality Permit: 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.

Cultural Resources: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, state lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties. The permit area has been so extensively modified that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

Endangered Species: The Corps has determined that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect the Red-cockaded woodpecker and may affect the Northern long-eared bat; however, this project complies with the final 4(d) rule with incidental take covered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Intra-Service Biological Opinion for the final 4(d) rule for the Northern long-eared bat. Our finding is based on utilizing the Information Planning and Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana (as per Memorandum of Agreement, signed on January 14, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Ecological Services Office).

Floodplain: 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 located within the 100-year floodplain.

Evaluation Factors: 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.

Public Involvement: 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.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: 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.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: 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, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.



Cori Carraway
Chief, Permit and Evaluation Branch
Regulatory Division

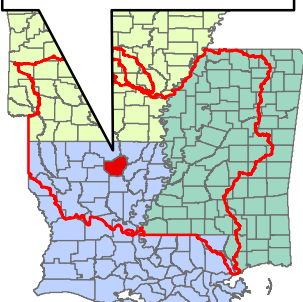
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Legend

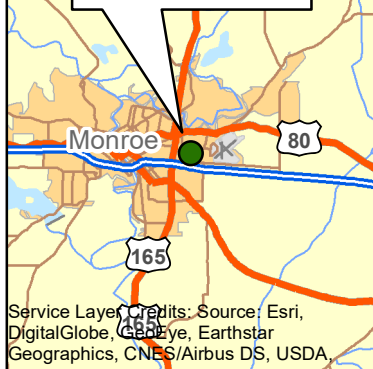
- Project Boundary
- Jurisdictional Waters**
 - Forested Wetlands | 4.37 ac
 - Intermittent Stream | 1019.62 lf
- Potential Jurisdictional Waters**
 - Drainage Canal | 2029.17 lf

Ouachita Parish, LA



32.5072°, -92.066044°

Project Location



MVK-2020-71

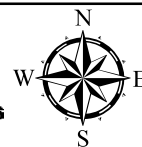
Project:
City of Monroe, LA
Proposed Airport Retention Pond
Location:
Section 33, T18N-R4E
Monroe North Quadrangle
Ouachita Parish, LA

Aerial Imagery:
ESRI World Imagery

Preliminary
Jurisdictional Determination



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



Regulatory Branch

Enforcement Section

0 70 140 280
Feet

Prepared by: Eli L. Polzer
31 March 2020

Enclosure 1