

PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE: 6/23/14

AGENDA ITEM: 4C – PUBLIC HEARING

CASE # 2014-33

ITEM: Hammes Estates Shoreland Variance – PID 34.029.21.13.0001

SUBMITTED BY: Nick Johnson, City Planner

REVIEWED BY: Kyle Klatt, Community Development Director

MN DNR

Stephen Mastey, Landscape Architecture, Inc.

#### **SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Planning Commission is being asked to consider a request from Hammes West, LLC for a variance that would allow for a reduced riparian dedication and setback to the southern channel of Goose Lake. This request is connected to the review of a proposed 163-unit single family subdivision on the Hammes property in the I-94 Corridor Planning Area.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Applicant: Hammes West, LLC, 36 Moonlight Bay, Stillwater, MN

Property Owners: Ellie Hammes, 1187 Forest Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109, and Dorothy Lyons,

10105 10th Street North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042.

Location: Part of Section 34 in Lake Elmo, immediately west of Keats Avenue (CSAH

19), approximately 1,300 feet south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street (CSAH 10), and immediately south of Goose Lake. PID Number 34.029.21.13.0001.

Request: Variance – Shoreland Ordinance- Request for reduced riparian dedication.

Existing Land Use: Active mining and gravel operation and other vacant land.

Existing Zoning: RT – Rural Development Transitional District

Surrounding Land Use: North –Goose Lake and Stonegate Residential Estates (RE) subdivision;

west – Stonegate RE subdivision; south – Lennar Savona Urban Low

Density Residential (LDR) subdivision.

Surrounding Zoning: Residential Estates (RE), Urban Low Density Residential (LDR)

Comprehensive Plan: Urban Low Density Residential (2.5 - less than 4 units/acre)

Proposed Zoning: Urban Low Density Residential (LDR)

History: The site has been historically used as a gravel mining operation. The City received a

Preliminary Plat application for a proposed 163-unit single family subdivision. The Planning Commission reviewed the preliminary plat and held a public hearing on

5/12/14. Consideration of the preliminary plat was postponed until

additional/updated plans were submitted. The applicants have submitted updated plans, which will be reviewed at the meeting on 6/23/14.

Deadline for Action: Application Complete -6/6/14

60 Day Deadline – 8/5/14 Extension Letter Mailed – No 120 Day Deadline – 10/4/14

Applicable Regulations: 154.450 – Urban Low Density Residential (LDR) Zoning District

154.109 – Variances (Administration and Enforcement) 154.800 – Shoreland Management Overlay District

#### **REQUEST DETAILS**

The City of Lake Elmo has received a request from Hammes West, LLC for a variance to allow for reduced riparian dedication around the southern channel or finger (Wetland G) of Goose Lake. The man-made extension of Goose Lake appears to have been dredged in connection with the historic use of the site as a gravel mine. Whereas the applicants and the City originally determined that Wetland G was a man-made incidental wetland, governed under the jurisdiction of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), the DNR has submitted a review letter to the City requesting that the 150-foot required riparian dedication apply to the southern channel of Goose Lake. Due to this change in course and jurisdiction, the landowner and applicants have now requested a variance to allow for a reduced riparian dedication around the man-made channel portion of Goose Lake, as shown on the Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Hammes West, LLC has submitted a Preliminary Plat application for a proposed 163-unit single family residential subdivision for an approximately 80 acre site in Section 34 of the I-94 Corridor Planning Area. As part of preparing a plat application for this site, the applicants have completed a wetland delineation and report, identifying all the wetlands by size, type, vegetation and other characteristics. In relation to the requested variance, the wetland of consequence in this case is Wetland G, the man-made southern channel of Goose Lake. In the preliminary plans submitted, the applicants have provided the required amount of wetland buffering as determined under the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) rules. However, the change in jurisdiction from the WCA and VBWD to the Shoreland Ordinance would significantly impact the Preliminary Plat as submitted, as the required riparian dedication would extend around the southern channel of Goose Lake. As shown in the Riparian Dedication Sketch (Attachment #5), riparian dedication around the southern channel would impact 13 lots (Lots 1-6, Block 10 and Lots 1-5 and 11-12, Block 9) of the proposed Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat. In requesting the variance, the applicants are proposing to proceed with the proposed buffering as determined under the WCA and Valley Branch Watershed District rules.

It should be noted that the City updated its shoreland ordinance (Ord. 08-111) on 5/20/14. As part of the shoreland ordinance update, the concept of riparian dedication was introduced. In areas where cities are accommodating sewered growth within shoreland areas, riparian dedications or buffers have been used to ensure natural vegetative buffers for the water body while at the same time allowing for sewered growth with the minimum standards of the base zoning district. As part of the shoreland ordinance update, Goose Lake was identified as a lake requiring riparian dedication for the

previously stated purpose. Providing a riparian dedication will allow the applicant to proceed with planned development, but at the same time provide the protection to protect the natural resource. As part of the Preliminary Plat, riparian dedication is being provided for the southern shore of Goose Lake, but not the southern channel. The applicants are proposing wetland buffering that is consistent with the Valley Branch rules and WCA.

Regarding the historical use of the site as a gravel mining operation, it should be noted that there are challenges, mostly related to depressions and wetlands, present on the subject property that are unique compared to other properties guided for development. In terms of how the channel was created, based on historical aerial photography and submitted testimony and evidence, it appears that the channel was originally created to support the mining activities on the site sometime in the late 1960s or early 70s. Over time, it also appears that the channel was likely expanded. For the purpose of reviewing the variance, the important characteristic to consider regarding the channel (Wetland G) is that it is man-made and not a natural part of the original water body. In addition, it should be noted that in staff's judgment there are positive benefits in transitioning this property from a mining operation to single family residential development.

It should be noted that the proposed variance was sent out for review to the DNR and Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD). While the VBWD did not provide review comments, the DNR has reviewed the variance request and recommended denial of the variance. The DNR's review letter and follow-up email are found in Attachment #10. According to the DNR letter and email, the southern channel of Goose Lake is now considered part of the water body and therefore is subject to the same shoreland rules as the rest of the lake. According to the applicant, this decision represents a change in direction or guidance from the DNR as they were working to prepare their plat application. The applicant has provided email correspondence between their environmental consultant, Kelly Bopray, and the Area Hydrologist, Molly Shodeen to provide background information regarding these discussions. The applicant has consistently stated to staff that the DNR originally indicated that they would waive their jurisdiction of the southern channel to the local watershed district. While the email correspondence does provide background of these discussion, it should be noted that it is difficult to make conclusive determinations on this point based upon the correspondence. Finally, it should be highlighted that in the DNR's email to the City, they suggest that as an alternative to the variance, the southern channel could be blocked off via a berm to restore Goose Lake to its original boundary. As the DNR indicates, this process would require a DNR permit and would be considered a restoration.

#### PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES

In reviewing the applicable codes that apply to the subject property, Staff would like the Planning Commission to consider the following as it reviews this request:

• Comprehensive Plan. The City's Comprehensive Plan guides the Hammes site (PID 34.029.21.13.0001) as Urban Low Density Residential. Within this district, single family residential land uses are permitted at a density of 2.5 to less than 4 units per acre. One of the key arguments presented by the applicant is that if the area surrounding the channel is set aside for riparian dedication, the proposed subdivision would fall below the required density level of 2.5 units per net acre. If the proposed subdivision were reduced by 13 lots, as 13 lots are impacted by the riparian dedication as demonstrated by the applicant, and the net developable acreage remained the same, the density would be reduced to 2.37 units per acre. When removing the acreage of land in the riparian dedication that is considered unbuildable in addition to the land already in wetland buffers, the resulting net density calculation is 2.46

- units per acre. No matter how it is calculated, the applicants are correct in that the proposed project would no longer be technically consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Access to Keats Ave. N. (CSAH 19). As the applicants prepared multiple iterations of the Sketch Plan for Hammes Estates, one of the critical points of review was the location of the proposed access to Keats Ave. N. (CSAH 19). In reviewing the various iterations of the Sketch Plan, Washington County required the applicants to move the proposed access to Keats Ave. to the north to account for access spacing considerations from the future minor collector road 5<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition, when the access was proposed more to the south, the increased grade in that area also presented a concern for the County, necessitating the northern access location near the northern property boundary. The reason that this component of the development review is critical in the consideration of the variance request is that the northern access location requires that the nearby street (Street 1 in the Preliminary Plat) be located within proximity or parallel to the southern channel of Goose Lake. The applicant notes in the provided narrative that shifting the entrance street further to the south would have significant impacts on the plat, either leading to a long stretches of roads (Street 1 and Street 4) with lots on only one side of the road, or likely lot loss in other areas of the proposed plat. The applicants have presented access road location as a unique circumstance not created by the landowner. In reviewing this aspect of the variance application, staff has found merit in the access location fulfilling the requirement of unique circumstances for the granting of a variance.
- Wetland Buffering. As shown on the plat and described in the wetland delineation report, Wetland G requires an average buffer of 75 feet per Valley Branch Watershed District rules. Per the Preliminary Wetland Buffer Plan (Attachment #2), the applicants are proposing to increase the existing wetland buffer from 92,054 square feet to 95,313 square feet, with an average buffer width of 85.3 linear feet. While not meeting the 150-foot riparian dedication, it should be noted that the applicants are providing buffering that meets the watershed's requirements per wetland type/classification. In addition, if the variance is granted, staff is recommending that the applicants install and maintain additional vegetation and/or prairie mix to prevent or mitigate any potential erosion or surface runoff into the southern channel. The recommended planting schedule is outlined in the memorandum from the City's landscape architect consultant (Attachment #9). Staff would recommend that if the variance moves forward, the recommendations of the City's landscape architect consultant are incorporated into the updated Landscape Plan for the Hammes Estates development.
- Shoreland Setbacks. The newly adopted shoreland ordinance requires a 200-foot structure setback for areas subject to riparian dedication requirements. Given the request for a reduced riparian dedication, a request for a reduced structure setback would also be included. Per the newly adopted ordinance, the structure setback for a sewered property without riparian dedication would be 100 feet. In reviewing the 13 lots impacted by riparian dedication, 8 would be able to meet a 100-foot structure setback in staff's judgment, while the other 5 (Lots 3, 4, 5 and 6, Block 10 and Lot 3, Block 9) may have difficulty meeting a 100-foot setback to Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL). However, it should be noted that without a riparian dedication, the minimum lot sizes would need to be larger to be eligible for the reduced setback.
- Infrastructure and Planning Efforts. One additional aspect for consideration of the variance application relates to the significant efforts of the City to plan and install the current infrastructure that will serve the site. Currently, water and sewer has already been extended

to the northeast corner of the site just to the north of the access road (Street 1), and a lift station has been installed in this location as well. In addition to the City expending significant resources planning and bonding for these improvements, the landowners are being assessed for the sewer and water improvements. Staff offers these points of consideration to highlight the fact that significant efforts have been made to plan for these improvements, the location of which was selected to serve the proposed development on the Hammes site, including the areas around the southern channel. Finally, it should be noted that the City has planned for growth on this site since the adoption of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. Staff offers these considerations to the Planning Commission as they weigh their recommended action.

#### **REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

An applicant must establish and demonstrate compliance with the variance criteria set forth in Lake Elmo City Code Section 154.017 before an exception or modification to city code requirements can be granted. These criteria are listed below, along with comments from Staff regarding applicability of these criteria to the applicant's request.

1) **Practical Difficulties**. A variance to the provision of this chapter may be granted by the Board of Adjustment upon the application by the owner of the affected property where the strict enforcement of this chapter would cause practical difficulties because of circumstances unique to the individual property under consideration and then only when it is demonstrated that such actions will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of this chapter. Definition of practical difficulties - "Practical difficulties" as used in connection with the granting of a variance, means that the property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner not permitted by an official control.

Under this standard, the City would need to find that allowance for a reduced riparian dedication or buffering around the man-made channel of Goose Lake is a reasonable use of the property not otherwise permitted under an official control. Proposed findings related to this criterion are as follows:

FINDINGS: That the proposed use of thirteen single family residential lots with a reduced riparian dedication and structure setback to Ordinary High Water Level around the southern channel is reasonable because the applicants are planning for a significant riparian dedication along the southern shore of Goose Lake to meet the intent of the City's shoreland ordinance. In addition, the access location to Keats Ave. N. as required by Washington County represents a unique circumstance to the individual property. Finally, the Comprehensive Plan guides the Hammes site as Urban Low Density Residential, and the variance would meet the intent of the Comprehensive Plan.

2) **Unique Circumstances**. The plight of the landowner is due to circumstances unique to the property not created by the landowner.

In order to demonstrate compliance with this standard, the Planning Commission would need to identify those aspects of the applicant's property that are unique and not created by the landowner. In this case, staff has identified two circumstances related to the required location of the access road to Keats Ave. N. (CSAH 19) that are not created by the landowner. Again, Staff is suggesting some findings that could be considered by the Planning Commission as follows:

**FINDINGS**: That the applicant's property is unique in that the required access road to Keats Ave. N. needed to serve the proposed development must be located at the northern boundary of the

property. The access location circumstance is not created by the landowners, as 1) the access must meet County access spacing guidelines to 5<sup>th</sup> Street, the location of which was not selected by the landowner, and 2) the steeper grades along Keats Ave. N. to the south of the proposed access also prevents a more southerly access location. The access location to Keats Ave. N. has been directed and approved by Washington County.

3) **Character of Locality**. The proposed variance will not alter the essential character of the locality in which the property in question is located.

Compared to other water bodies in urban sections of other communities, the vast majority of the land uses around Goose Lake are a residential estates subdivision, an Open Space Preservation (OP) subdivision, and other open/agricultural land. If the City were to grant the variance application, the vast majority of the land around Goose Lake will remain low impact rural land uses. In the judgment of staff, the proposed variance will not alter the essential character of the locality. Proposed findings related to this standard is suggested as follows:

FINDINGS: As the subject parcel is planned for Urban Low Density Residential (LDR) development, and the provided wetland buffering consistent with Valley Branch Watershed District rules should protect the southern made-man channel of Goose Lake, the proposed variance will not alter the essential character of the locality.

4) **Adjacent Properties and Traffic**. The proposed variance will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to property adjacent to the property in question or substantially increase the congestion of the public streets or substantially diminish or impair property values within the neighborhood.

Proposed findings for this criterion are as follows:

**FINDINGS**. No impacts to the adequate supply of light and air to adjacent properties would be expected should the variance be granted. In addition, the proposed variance would not substantially increase congestion of public streets or substantially diminish property values within the neighborhood.

Please note that the applicant has also provided a set of findings as part of the attached narrative and supporting documentation included with the application.

Considering the potential findings of fact as suggested in the preceding section, Staff is recommending approval of the variance request based on the findings noted in items 1-4 above and with conditions of approval related to the continued protection, preservation and maintenance of the southern man-made channel (Wetland G).

#### **DRAFT FINDINGS**

Please refer to the comments in the previous section. Staff will be reviewing these findings with the Commission at its meeting.

#### **RECCOMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the request from Hammes West, LLC for a variance to allow a reduced riparian dedication and reduced structure setback from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) around the southern channel of Goose Lake for Lots 1-6,

Block 10 and Lots 1-5 and 11-12, Block 9 of the Hammes Plat. This recommendation includes the following conditions of approval:

- 1) The applicant shall provide the required wetland buffering for the southern channel (Wetland G) per the rules Valley Branch Watershed District and Wetland Conservation Act.
- 2) Any and all buffering around the southern channel of Goose Lake shall be marked and monumented to prevent encroachment of the channel (Wetland G), as recommended by the DNR.
- 3) The applicant shall landscape the buffer area around the southern channel as specified in the review memorandum by the City's landscape architect consultant (Attachment #9). The recommended treatments and plantings for the southern channel buffer area shall be incorporated into the updated Landscape Plan for the Hammes Estates development.

The suggestion motion for taking action on the Staff recommendation is as follows:

"Move to recommend approval of the request for a variance to allow a reduced riparian dedication around the southern channel of Goose Lake and reduced structure setbacks from OHWL for Lots 1-6, Block 10 and Lots 1-5 and 11-12, Block 9 of the Hammes Estates Plat based on the findings of fact outlined in the Staff Report, and subject to the conditions of approval as recommended by Staff."

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. Location Map
- 2. Application and Project Narrative
- 3. Wetland Delineation Report
- 4. Historical Aerial Photography
- 5. Riparian Dedication Sketch
- 6. Applicant Email Correspondence w/DNR
- 7. Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat and Preliminary Wetland Buffer Plan
- 8. Site Visit Photos, 6/18/14
- 9. Landscape Architect Review Memorandum
- 10. DNR Review Letter and Email

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

-	Introduction	Community Development Director
_	Report by Staff	Community Development Director
_	Questions from the Commission	Chair & Commission Members
_	Open the Public Hearing	Chair
-	Close the Public Hearing	Chair
-	Discussion by the Commission	Chair & Commission Members
-	Action by the Commission	Chair & Commission Members

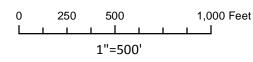


Location Map: Hammes Estates Plat (PID: 34.029.21.13.0001)



Data Source: Washington County, MN 5-9-2014







Date Received:	
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### LAND USE APPLICATION

LAND USE APPLICATION	CITY OF LAKE ELM
☐ Comprehensive Plan ☐ Zoning District Amend ☐ Zoning Text Amend ☐ Variance*(see below) ☐	Zoning Appeal
☐ Conditional Use Permit (C.U.P.) ☐ Flood Plain C.U.P. ☐ Interim Use Permit (I.U.P.) ☐ Excavati	ng/Grading
☐ Lot Line Adjustment ☐ Minor Subdivision ☐ Residential Subdivision Sketch/Concept Plan	
☐ PUD Concept Plan ☐ PUD Preliminary Plan ☐ PUD Final Plan	
Applicant: Hammes West, LLC	
Address: 36 Moonlight Bay, Stillwater, MN 55082	
Phone #	
Email Address: brianjmcgoldrick@hotmail.com	
The Hammes Family	
ree Owler.	5109
Address: C70 Eleanor Hammes, 1107 Frost Avenue, Maplewood, Min 35  Phone # 651-774-1761	
Email Address: jbg@aftonlaw.net	
Property Location (Address and Complete (long) Legal Description: South 1/2 of the NE 1/4, Township 29, Range 21, except the East 60 feet of the North 967	reer and
except Parcel 3 of Washington County Highway Right of Way Plat 4	J-13D,
Washington County, Minnesota	
Detailed Reason for Request: A variance to the Shoreland Ordinance, and the of a 150-foot buffer around the man-made channel (wetland G) off	e DNR request, the
southern portion of Goose Lake.	
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*Variance Requests: As outlined in Section 301.060 C. of the Lake Elmo Municipal Code, the applicant must opractical difficulties before a variance can be granted. The practical difficulties related to this application are a See Variance Narrative (f and q) previously submitted	demonstrate s follows:
In signing this application, I hereby acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the applicable provision ordinance and current administrative procedures. I further acknowledge the fee explanation as outlined in the procedures and hereby agree to pay all statements received from the City pertaining to additional application of the control of	application
Signature of applicant: Date:	
Signature of fee owner: (land X/amme Date: 0/0/17	

#### HAMMES ESTATES VARIANCE NARRATIVE

#### a. **Contact Information**:

Owner: Hammes West, LLC

c/o Brian McGoldrick 36 Moonlight Bay Stillwater, MN 55082

651-387-1000

Owner: Eleanor Hammes

1187 Frost Avenue

Maplewood, MN 55109

With Copy to:

The Afton Law Office 3121 St. Croix Trail South

Afton, MN 55001 651-436-8656

Owner: Dorothy Lyons

10105 – 10<sup>th</sup> Street Lake Elmo, MN 55042

With Copy to:

Brian D. Chmielewski

6043 Hudson Road, Suite 340

Woodbury, MN 55125

651-330-7191

Engineer: Westwood Professional Services

Attention: Ryan Bluhm, PE, LEED, AP

7699 Anagram Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55344

952-906-7432

#### b. Site Data.

Parcel Size: The parcel size is 78 acres (3,397,680 square feet)

PID: 34.029.21.13.0001

Zoning: Rural Development Transitional District and guided

Low Density Residential in the Comprehensive Plan,

Planned Use section

Legal Description: South ½ of the Northeast Quarter, Section 34, Township 29,

Range 21, except the East 60 feet of the North 967 feet, and except Parcel 3 of Washington County Highway Right of

Way Plat 49-19B, Washington County, Minnesota.

c. **Variance Request**: Hammes Estates would like a variance to the Shoreland Ordinance, and the DNR request, of a 150-foot buffer around the manmade channel (wetland G) off the southern portion of Goose Lake.

- d. **Proposal.** To provide a 75-foot average buffer around the manmade channel in Goose Lake as required by Valley Branch watershed.
- e. **Pre-Application Discussions with Staff**. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, we met with staff to discuss the 150-foot buffer requested by the DNR, and how it would impact the project. Our site plan has always intended a buffer from the existing southern shoreline of the lake, but the channel, being as it is manmade (see attached Wetland Delineation report), was believed to be held to alternate buffer requirements. After reviewing the impact of the 150-foot buffer to the proposed site plan (see attached DNR buffer sketch), and based on our discussions with city staff, it was agreed that a variance of shoreland ordinance would be appropriate in this case.

#### f and g. Practical Difficulties of this site/Circumstances Unique to the property

The buffer would impact approximately 13 lots, which will limit the overall density of the project to levels below what was required by the Met Council. Due to the presence of additional onsite wetlands, required wetland buffers, and a 100-foot green space buffer, the additional density cannot be made up onsite. Additionally, the location of the project entrance along Keats Avenue was required by Washington County. The proximity of this entrance location to that of the proposed buffer creates further difficulties. Street 1 would need to be redesigned to be shifted further south, and a number of streets would no longer have lots on both sides of the street. The resulting design would no longer have the neighborhood feel that was intended. Please refer to the attached DNR Setback sketch shows the proposed impact of the 150' foot buffer for additional information.

- h. **Granting of this Variance.** By granting this variance, we would be able to design this project to the concept plan supported by city staff. The project would not change from what has previously been reviewed.
- i. The proposed project does not conflict with any of the nearby land uses. Significant efforts have been made to minimize disturbance to the adjoining development to the north and west. By granting this variance, we would be able to comply with the density requirements of the city and met council of this parcel. We are only hoping to preserve our project density, not increase it beyond what has been previously proposed. A 75' foot average buffer would be placed around the man-made channel. The buffer would be planted with native grasses, and would comply with Valley Branch watershed district. Our project would provide a 150-foot buffer from the southern shoreline of Goose Lake, excluding the man made channel.

# **Wetland Delineation Report**

## Hammes Sand & Gravel Site Lake Elmo, Minnesota

Prepared for: FFE and Hammes Sand & Gravel



September 4, 2013





## **Wetland Delineation Report**

### **Hammes Sand & Gravel Site**

## Lake Elmo, Minnesota

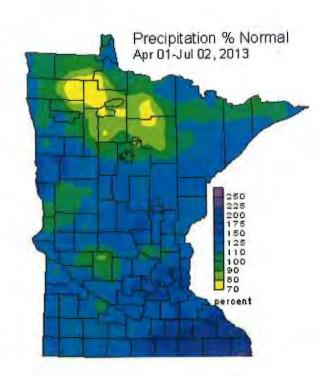
September 4, 2013

#### Background

Bopray Environmental Services LLC (BES) has completed a wetland delineation on the an approximately 80 acre site located in the S ½, NE ¼, of Section 34, T29N, R21W, Lake Elmo, Washington County, Minnesota (**Figure 1**). The site consists of active and inactive aggregate mining pits and stockpiles, agricultural fields, woodlands, and wetlands. The topography of the site is rolling to steeply sloping with about 220 feet of elevation change according to the U.S.G.S. quadrangle topographic map (**Figure 2**). On July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 BES completed a delineated of the wetland boundaries on 13 wetlands on the site. The approximate site and wetland boundaries are shown on an aerial photo in **Figure 3**. The surveyed wetland boundaries will be incorporated in to the final plat plans by Folz, Freeman, Erickson Inc (**Appendix A**). The purpose of this delineation was to identify wetlands on the site for site planning and wetland regulatory purposes.

#### Methodologies

The site was evaluated for wetlands based on the methods contained in the Level 2, "Routine Determinations" section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "Wetland Delineation Manual" (Technical Report Y87-1, 1987) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region. This is the methodology currently used to determine wetlands by both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for implementation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and by the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. Historical aerial photographs were reviewed to establish the extent of historical mining on the



site and the location of pre-mining wetlands. Soil colors described herein follow "Munsell Soil color Charts". According to the Climatology Working Groups' webpage, the area was at 150-175% of normal year to date precipitation at the time of the site visit.

#### Results

#### Wetland A

Wetland A is an isolated depression in the northwest part of the site. This wetland is a seasonally Flooded, Forested basin. The dominant vegetation in the basin is eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoides), box elder (Acer negundo) and reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea). Wetland A is a Palustrine, Broadleaf Deciduous, Seasonally flooded, (PFO1C) wetland. Soils in the basin consisted of ten inches of 10YR 4/2 loam, over 10YR 4/1 loam with 2% 10YR 4/3 iron concentrations (F3). Up to six inches of surface water (A1) was observed in the basin at the time of the site visit. Free water was observed at a depth of 16 inches and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin included water marks (A3), sediment deposits (B2), drift deposits (B3), sparsely vegetated concave surface (B8), drainage patterns (B10), and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). Most of the adjacent upland was cultivated and planted to corn (Zea maze). In the undisturbed upland the vegetation is dominated by black cherry (Prunus serotina), box elder, red-panicle dogwood (Cornus racemosa), Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia), brome grass (Bromus inermis), timothy grass (Phleum pretense) and white clover (Trifolium repens). The upland soils consisted of 20 inches of 10YR 3/2 silt loam, over 10YR 4/3 silt loam. Free water and saturated soil was not observed with 24 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland B

Wetland B is an isolated depression in the northwest part of the site and just south of Wetland A. Wetland B is a small shallow marsh surrounded by cultivated cropland planted to corn. The dominant vegetation in the basin is reed canary grass. Wetland B is a Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonally flooded, (PEMC) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of eight inches of 10YR 3/2 loam, over 10YR 4/2 loam with 3% 10YR 5/1 iron depletions (F3). Up to eight inches of surface water (A1) was observed in the basin at the time of the site visit. Free water was observed at a depth of 5 inches (A2) and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include inundation visible on aerial imagery (B7) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). Most of the adjacent upland was cultivated and planted to corn. In the undisturbed upland the vegetation is dominated by reed canary grass, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and annual ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*). The upland soils consisted of eight inches of 10YR 3/3 sandy loam, over ten inches of 10YR 3/3 loam, over 10YR 3/3 loam with 10% 10YR 5/2 iron depletions. Free water was at 21 inches and saturated soil

was observed at 18 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetlands C and D

These wetlands are isolated depressions in the edge of a wooded area just south of Wetland B. Wetlands C and D shallow marshes with a fringe of temporally flooded hardwood swamp. The dominant vegetation in the basins is box elder, and reed canary grass. These wetlands are Palustrine, Emergent/Broadleaved Deciduous Forest, Seasonally flooded, (PEM/FO1C) basins. Soils in the basin consisted of eight inches of 10YR 3/2 loam with 3% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations, over 10YR 3/2 loam with 5% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations (F6). Up to eight inches of surface water (A1) was observed in the basins at the time of the site visit. Free water was observed at a depth of 6 inches (A2) and saturation was at 3 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basins included water marks (B1), inundation visible on aerial imagery (B7) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). The adjacent upland the vegetation is dominated by red oak (Quercus rubra), box elder, Canada goldenrod (Solidago canadensis), Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis) and giant goldenrod (Solidago gigantea). The upland soils consisted of eight inches of 10YR 3/3 loam, over eight inches of 10YR 3/3 loam, over 2.5Y 5/3 sandy loam. Free water was at 18 inches and saturated soil was observed at 14 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland E

Wetland E is an isolated depression near the center of the site. Wetland E is a small shallow marsh surrounded by cultivated cropland planted to corn. The dominant vegetation in the basin is reed canary grass. Wetland E is a Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonally flooded, (PEMC) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of more than 12 inches of 10YR 4/1 silt loam with 15% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations (F3). Up to 12 inches of surface water (A1) was observed in the basin at the time of the site visit. Free water was observed at a depth of 2 inches (A2) and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include inundation visible on aerial imagery (B7) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). Most of the adjacent upland was cultivated and planted to corn. In the undisturbed upland the vegetation is dominated by black cherry, mossy cup oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and Canada goldenrod. The upland soils consisted of eight inches of 10YR 3/2 loam, over seven inches of 10YR 3/2 silt loam, over five inches of 10YR 2/1 loam, over 2.5Y 5/3 loam with 4% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations. Free water was at 18 inches and saturated soil was observed at 17 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland F

This wetland is an isolated depression just north of Wetland E. Wetland F is a shallow marsh surrounded by steep slopes that have not been cultivated and do not appear to be a result of

the gravel mining operation. The dominant vegetation in the basin is red-panicle dogwood, common buckthorn, reed canary grass and bearded sedge (*Carex comosa*). Wetland F is a Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonally flooded, (PEMC) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of five inches of 10YR 4/1 loam, over six inches of 10YR 4/2 sandy loam with 5% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations, over 10YR 5/2 sandy loam with 5% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations (F3). Up to 18 inches of surface water (A1) was observed in the basin at the time of the site visit. Free water was observed at a depth of 2 inches (A2) and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include inundation visible on aerial imagery (B7) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). The adjacent upland the vegetation is dominated by white oak (*Quercus alba*), red-panicle dogwood, amur maple (*Acer ginnala*), Kentucky bluegrass, and brome grass. The upland soils consisted of eight inches of 10YR 3/2 loam, over seven inches of 10YR 3/2 sandy loam, over 10YR 4/2 sandy loam with 5% 10YR 3/4 iron concentrations. Free water was at 26 inches and saturated soil was observed at 25 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland G

Wetland G consists of a man-made channel between Goose Lake to the north of the site and the remnants of a wetland in the gravel mining area. Goose lake, the channel and wetland area are all within an isolated depression. On site Wetland G is a shallow marsh surrounded by steep slopes that have appear to be a result of the gravel mining operation. The dominant vegetation in the basin is white willow (Salix alba), eastern cottonwood, green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), reed canary grass and Kentucky bluegrass. Wetland G is a Palustrine, Emergent, Semi Permanently flooded, excavated, (PEM/UBFx) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of three inches of 10YR 2/2 sandy loam, over 2.5Y 4/2 gravelly sandy loam with 5% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations (F3). More than 36 inches of surface water (A1) was observed in the channel area at the time of the site visit. Free water was observed at a depth of 3 inches (A2) and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include inundation visible on aerial imagery (B7), geomorphic position (D2) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). The adjacent upland the vegetation is dominated by eastern cottonwood, paper birch (Betula papyrifera), green ash, red oak, brome grass and Kentucky bluegrass. The upland soils consisted of more than 14 inches of 10YR 4/3 gravelly coarse sand. Free water and saturated soil was not observed within 14 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland H

This wetland is a small isolated depression to the east of Wetland E. Wetland H is a shallow marsh surrounded by steep slopes that appear to be a result of the gravel mining operation. The basin shape is clearly a result of excavation and rutting. The dominant vegetation in the basin is eastern cottonwood, green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*), and hummock sedge (*Carex stricta*).

Wetland H is a Palustrine, Emergent, Temporarily flooded, (PEMAx) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of three inches of 10YR 4/2 gravelly sand with 2% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations, over 10YR 4/3 gravelly sandy loam with 2% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations (F8). Up to 16 inches of surface water (A1) was observed in the basin at the time of the site visit. Free water was observed at a depth of 3 inches (A2) and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include inundation sediment deposits (B2) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). The adjacent upland the vegetation is dominated by red oak, brome grass, Kentucky bluegrass, and timothy grass. The upland soils consisted of more than 14 inches of 10YR 4/3 sandy clay loam. Free water saturated soil was not observed within 14 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland I

This wetland is a man-made sedimentation basin east of Wetland G in the gravel mining area. The basin is an isolated basin. Wetland I is a seasonally flooded basin that appears to be a result of the gravel mining operation. The dominant vegetation in the basin is narrow leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), and Pennsylvania smartweed (*Persicaria pensylvanica*). Wetland I is a Palustrine, Emergent, Temporarily flooded, excavated, (PEMAx) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of six inches of stratified 10YR 2/2 clay loam, 10YR 2/1 sandy loam and 10YR 4/2 sandy clay loam with 3% 10YR 4/1 iron depletions, over 10YR 5/3 sandy loam (A5). Free water and saturation soil was not observed within a depth of 12 inches in the soil pit. The wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include water marks (B1), sediment deposits (B2), sparsely vegetated concave surface (B8), water stained leaves (B9), surface soil cracks (B6) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). The adjacent upland the vegetation is dominated by box elder, sandbar willow (*Salix interior*), tartan honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), and common vetch (*Vicia sativa*). The upland soils consisted of more than 12 inches of 10YR 4/4 clay loam. Free water and saturated soil was not observed within 12 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland J

Wetland J developed in an area graded flat for an equipment storage yard/parking lot in front of the old mining office in the gravel mining area. The basin is a small isolated basin. Wetland I is a seasonally flooded basin that appears to be a result of the gravel mining operation. The dominant vegetation in the basin is bearded sedge, creeping spikerush, (*Eleocharis palustris*), narrow leaf cattail. Wetland J is a Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonally flooded, excavated, (PEMCx) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of six inches of 10YR 4/2 clay with 5% 10YR 5/2 iron depletions and 2% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations, over four inches of compacted 10YR 2/2 sandy loam with 15% 10YR 4/1 iron depletions and 5% 10YR 4/4 iron concentration, over compacted 10YR 4/2 sandy loam (F3, F6, F7). Free water and saturation soil was not observed within a depth of 16 inches in the soil pit. The wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include algal mat or crust (B4), moss trim lines (B16) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5).

The adjacent upland the vegetation is dominated by trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), Kentucky bluegrass, birds' foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*) and brome grass. The upland soils consisted of more than 12 inches of 10YR 4/3 clay loam. Free water and saturated soil was not observed within 12 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a slight break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetlands K and L

These wetlands are man-made wetlands in the bottom of the active mining area which have revegetated. These areas are connected by temporally flooded, unvegetated areas as well as surrounded by aggregate stock piles. The active mining area is the lowest point on the site and is an isolated basin. Wetlands K and L are seasonally flooded basins that appear to be a result of the gravel mining operation. The dominant vegetation in the basins is sandbar willow. eastern cottonwood, reed canary grass, and Kentucky bluegrass. Wetlands K and L are Palustrine, Scrub-Shrub, Temporarily flooded, excavated, (PEMAx) basins. Soils in the basin consisted of two inches of 10YR 3/2 sandy loam, over 10YR 4/2 stratified fine and coarse sand with 3% 10YR 5/1 iron depletions, and 2% 10YR 4/4 iron concentrations (A5). Surface water (A1) up to 36" deep was observed in the unvegetated area. In the two days on site the water level in the mining pit dropped at least eight inches. Free water was observed at a depth of 10 inches (A2) and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include water marks (B1), sediment deposits (B2), drainage patterns (B10) and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). Most of the adjacent uplands consist of unvegetated aggregate stock piles. The adjacent vegetated upland is dominated by sandbar willow, eastern cottonwood, red clover (Trifolium pretense), white clover and alfalfa (Medicago sativa). The upland soils consisted of three inches of 10YR 3/2 sandy loam, over six inches of 10YR 4/3 fine sandy loam, over 10YR 4/4 coarse sand. Free water was not observed in the soil pit but saturated soil was at 14 inches in the upland soil pit. Sediment Deposits (B2) were observed in the upland where water flowed through on its way to the bottom of the mine pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Wetland M

Wetland M is a man-made wetlands ponding area on top of the aggregate stock pile along the south east part of the site. Wetland M shallow marsh to shallow open water basin created by the gravel mining operation. The basin is perched at the edge of the stockpile approximately 40 to 50 feet above and on a 40%+ slope down to the surrounding landscape. The dominant vegetation in the basin is eastern cottonwood, sandbar willow, black willow (*Salix nigra*), crack willow, narrow leaf cattail, and lesser duckweed (*Lemna minor*). The east end of the basin is an open water pond with submergent vegetation. Wetland M is a Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonally to Semi Permanently flooded and Palustrine, Unconsolidated Bottom, Permanently Flooded, excavated (PEMC/Fx & PUBGx) basin. Soils in the basin consisted of one inch of N 2/0 mucky

sand, over 10YR 4/2 coarse sand (A10). Surface water (A1) up to 72" deep was observed in the east end of the basin. Free water was observed at a depth of 4 inches (A2) and saturation was at 0 inches (A3) in the soil pit. The other wetland hydrology indicators observed in the basin include water marks (B1), sediment deposits (B2), drift deposits (B3), algal mat or crust (B4), inundation visible on aerial imagery (B7), water-stained leaves (B9), aquatic fauna (B13), and a positive FAC-neutral test (D5). The adjacent upland vegetation is dominated by sandbar willow, eastern cottonwood, Kentucky bluegrass, purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*) and Canada goldenrod. The upland soils consisted of five inches of mixed 10YR 2/2 and 10YR 4/2 gravelly sandy loam fill material, over mixed 10YR 4/2 and 10YR 4/4 gravelly sandy loam fill material. Free water and saturated soil was not observed within a depth of 14 inches in the upland soil pit. The wetland boundary was generally staked along a steep break in topography and vegetation community.

#### Other areas noted

There were a few unvegetated areas where water was temporarily ponded on mining roads, active mine pits, or behind earth berms used to block access to the site. These areas were not delineated or documented as wetlands because they were clearly incidental wet areas in actively used locations that did not and will not have vegetation as long as the current land use continues.

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (Figure 4) identifies seven wetlands on the site in the general vicinity of Wetlands A, B, E, F, G and I as determined during the site visit. The DNR Protected Waters Inventory map (Figure 5) does identify Goose Lake (113W) north of the site as a public waters wetlands. Wetland G is directly connected to Goose Lake. The Washington County Soils Survey (Figure 6) shows the site is primarily mapped as Santiago silt loam (153B, 153C), Chetek sandy loam (155C, 155D), Kingsley sandy loam (342C, 342D) and gravel pits (1029) fine sandy loam (132B) with minor areas of Freon silt loam (264). The Freon silt loam soil map unit is identified as a partially hydric soil. All of the other soil map units are listed as a not-hydric soil map units.

#### Historic Wetlands and Mining Activities

Aggregate mining activities began on this site in late 1950's to early 1960's. Representative historical photographs are included in **Appendix B**. The extent of mining activity was compiled from the 1964 to the 2012 aerial photographs and plotted on the 1957 pre-mining photo. Premining wetlands and potential wetlands were compiled from the 1936 through 1957 aerial photos and plotted on the 1957 photo. Wetlands A, B, C, D, E and F appear to be outside the mined area and appear to be present prior to the beginning of mining activity. These wetlands have been subject to farming activities to some extent over the 80 years. Wetland G was

present in the mining area before mining began but the size and shape of the basin has been significantly altered as a result of mining. Wetlands H, I, J, K, L and M were not present prior to mining activity and these wetlands were apparently created as a result of the mining activities. Mining activity has eliminated any evidence of the pre-mining potential wetland along the south side of the site. Areas where water ponded in the active mining area, and that had no vegetation (Cover photo and Figure 14) were not delineated as wetlands.

#### Wetland Classification

BES' classification of the wetlands is based on observations of the site and is include in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Summary of Wetland Characteristics** 

Basin	Class	Circ. 39 Type	Isolated Y/N	Comments
Wetland A	Seasonally Flooded Basin, (PFO1C)	1	Y	Wetland A is a small, isolated forested depression within the agricultural field.
Wetland B	Shallow marsh, (PEMC)	3	Y	Wetland B is a small, isolated depression within the agricultural field.
Wetland C	Shallow Marsh, (PEMC) with a Forested fringe (PFO1A)	3/1	Y	Wetland C is a small, isolated depression between the agricultural field and woods in near the center of the site.
Wetland D	Shallow Marsh, (PEMC) with a Forested fringe (PFO1A)	3/1	Y	Wetland D is an isolated depression in the woods in near the center of the site.
Wetland E	Shallow marsh, (PEMC)	3	Y	Wetland F is a small, isolated depression within the agricultural field.

Wetland F	Shallow marsh, (PEMC)	3	Y	Wetland F is an isolated depression with steep slopes that do not appear to be created by mining activites.
Wetland G	Shallow marsh, (PEM/UBFx)	3/4	Y	Wetland G is connected to Goose Lake via an excavated channel. Much of this historical wetland has been filled by the mining operation.
Wetland H	Seasonally flooded basin, (PEMAx)	1	Y	Wetland H is a tiny, isolated depression that appears to have formed in an abandon part of the mining area.
Wetland I	Seasonally flooded basin, (PEMAx)	1	Y	Wetland I is the remnants of a man-made settling basin constructed as part of the mining operation.
Wetland J	Seasonally flooded basin, (PEMCx)	1	Y	Wetland J has developed on the overgrown, compacted parking area in front of the old mining office.
Wetland K	Shrub-Carr, (PSS1Ax)	6	Y	Wetland K is a willow thicket that has developed between aggregate stockpiles. The majority of the south part of the site drains through this area to the low point in the active mining area.
Wetland L	Shrub-Carr, (PSS1Ax)	6	Y	Wetland L is a ponded area trapped between an aggregate stock pile and the adjacent steep slopes.
Wetland M	Shallow marsh, (PEMCx) and open water pond (PUBGx)	3/4	Y	Wetland M is a ponding area constructed on top of the stockpile in the southeast part of the site.

#### Jurisdiction

Table 1 indicates whether the wetlands are isolated or not for purposes of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This determination is made by BES in the field at the time of the delineation and is essentially our best professional opinion based on the portion of the particular wetland we observed. In some cases, only a small portion of the wetland edge that is present on the property being delineated is evaluated. If no inlets or outlets are observed in the evaluated area, and none are evident on topographic maps or aerial photos, we are inclined to determine the wetland is isolated. However, since the entire wetland is sometimes not assessed, it is possible that inlets and/or outlets do exist and that the wetland has a surface connection to a federal "navigable" water and, thus, falls within the jurisdiction of Section 404. Therefore, a determination by BES of whether a particular wetland is isolated or not should not be considered a final determination with regard to COE jurisdiction until the COE concurs with the determination. All of the wetlands on the site appear to be isolated basins with no surface water connection to other wetlands or water bodies. The exception is Wetland G which is connected to Goose Lake to the north. Goose Lake itself is also an isolated basin. Per the Valley Branch Watershed District management plan the normal water level for Goose lake is 921. The OHW is 924. The 100 year flood elevation is 932. The overland outlet at the north end of the basin is at 931.7. The recorded water levels in the basin range from 917.85 to 921.82 and the water level measured on 5/3/13 during an exceptionally wet spring was 920.12. There are no stream channels or wetlands identified at the Lake outlet. Therefore the Corps should make an isolated/no jurisdiction determination for all of the wetlands on this site.

Wetland G is connected to Goose Lake to the north which is identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as public water wetland #113 on the protected waters inventory. The DNR has jurisdiction up to the Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation on Goose Lake. The OHW has been established as 924.4 and if that contour extends in to Wetland G, the DNR will likely take jurisdiction over the wetland. Wetlands A, B, C, D, E, F and G (above the OHW) will be regulated under the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) which is administered by the City of Lake Elmo and the Valley Branch Watershed District. Wetlands H, I, J, K, L and M are incidental wetlands created by the mining activities on the site and as such would not be subject to regulation under the WCA.

A copy of this report should be submitted to the Corps of Engineers and the LGU responsible for administering the WCA. Supplying these agencies with reports will serve the dual purpose of determining which agencies have jurisdiction and beginning the process of obtaining concurrence with the delineated wetland boundaries. If the on-site wetland may be affected during site construction, all necessary permits should be obtained prior to construction.

Additional information regarding the wetlands' vegetation, soils and hydrology and the site

survey is included in <b>Appendix C</b> . Ground level <b>7 through 14.</b>	photos of the wetlands are included in <b>Figure</b>			
The information contained herein represents the findings of BES during wetland evaluation activities conducted on July 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2013 at the referenced site.				
Respectfully,				
Bopray Environmental Services LLC				
Kelly J. Bopray Professional Soil Scientist Certified Wetland Delineator	Date			

Enclosures



Bopray N7831 920th St. River Falls, WI 54022 715-307-4577 kjboprey@yahoo.com Environmental

Not to Scale



Not to Scale



1991



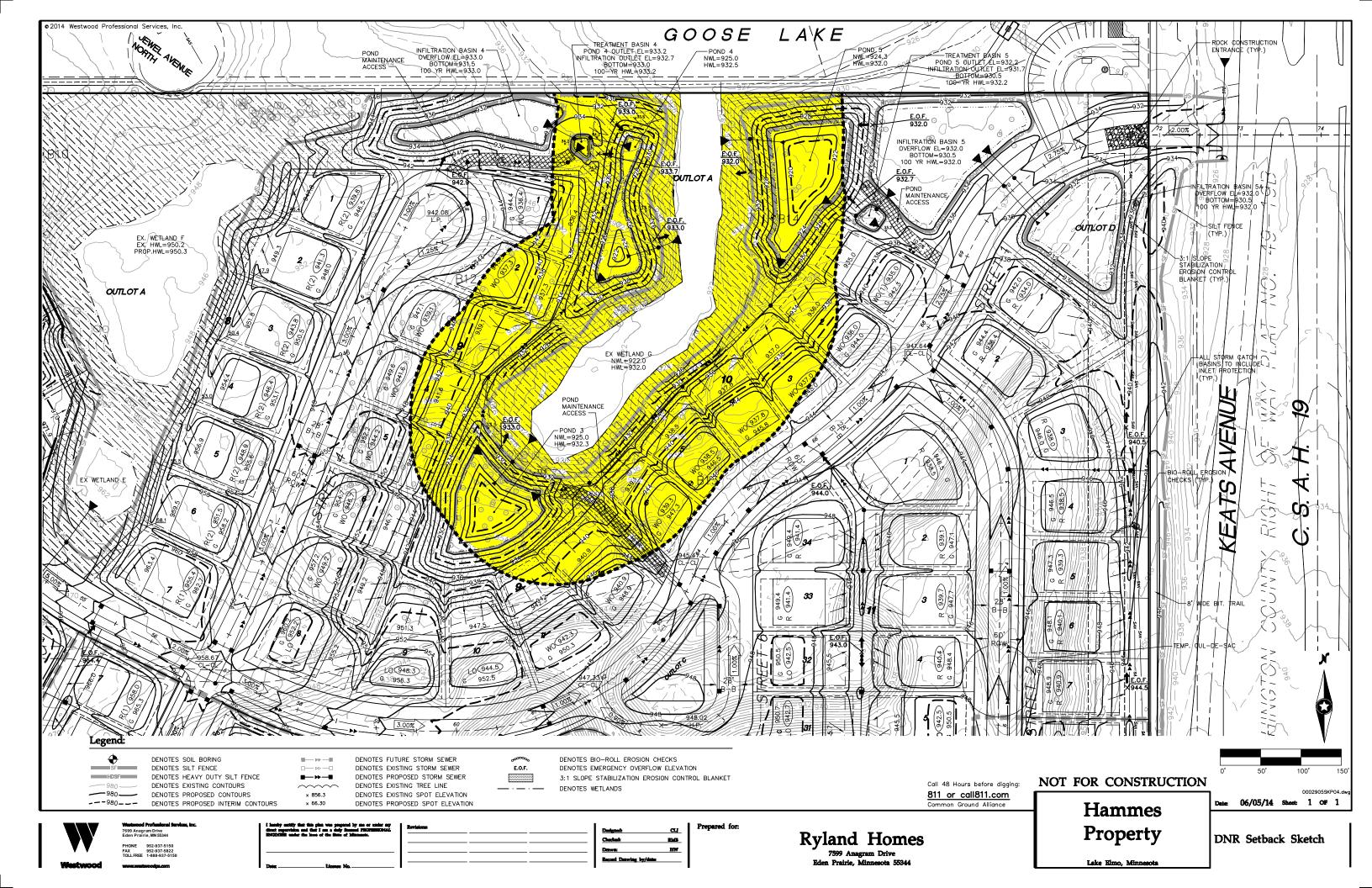
Z

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Not to Scale

N7831 920th St. River Falls, WI 54022 715-307-4577 kjboprag@gahoo.com

1964



From: Kelly Bopray
To: Ryan M. Bluhm

Subject: Fw: Hammes Sand & Gravel Site wetland delineation

**Date:** Friday, May 30, 2014 3:28:30 PM

1 of 5

Kelly Bopray Bopray Environmental Services, LLC kjbopray@yahoo.com 715-307-4577

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Shodeen, Molly (DNR)" <molly.shodeen@state.mn.us>

To: Kelly Bopray <kjbopray@yahoo.com> Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 3:05 PM

Subject: RE: Hammes Sand & Gravel Site wetland delineation

Kelly, do we have any idea when the channel was excavated? I can't believe we would issue a permit for it

From: Kelly Bopray [mailto:kjbopray@yahoo.com] Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2013 8:16 PM

To: Shodeen, Molly (DNR)

Cc: Kevin Wold

Subject: Fw: Hammes Sand & Gravel Site wetland delineation

#### Molly,

Karen Wold copied you on the NOA for the Hammes site in Lake Elmo that I'm working on. Karen's email includes a link to where you can down load the whole wetland report if you want it. I've attached a couple of the pertinent documents for you to review.

Wetland G on the site includes a man-made channel that connects Goose Lake to a preexisting wetland in a gravel mined area of the site. For WCA purposes wetlands created by mining are not regulated. But the channel area was created below the OHW of Goose Lake so that would be under DNR regulations unless you are inclined to defer jurisdiction to the LGU. The engineer is starting to work on site designs and one thought was to cut the channel off from the lake again as one way to improve water quality of the lake by protecting it from stormwater run off the development of the site. I'd like to have a discussion with you at your earliest convenience about how you like to proceed with jurisdiction and and if the DNR keeps jurisdiction how this man-made channel might be treated in the permitting process.

When you can could you give me a call or respond to this email? Thanks

Kelly Bopray
Bopray Environmental Services, LLC
kjbopray@yahoo.com <<u>mailto:kjbopray@yahoo.com</u>>
715-307-4577

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: Karen Wold < KWold@barr.com < mailto: KWold@barr.com > >

To: 'Jed Chesnut' <jchesnut@mnwcd.org <<u>mailto:jchesnut@mnwcd.org</u>>>; "'Rodacker, Dennis (BWSR)'"

<Dennis.Rodacker@state.mn.us <<u>mailto:Dennis.Rodacker@state.mn.us</u>> >; "Kelly Bopray (kjbopray@yahoo.com

<<u>mailto:kjbopray@yahoo.com</u>>)" <kjbopray@yahoo.com <<u>mailto:kjbopray@yahoo.com</u>>>; "'Shodeen, Molly (DNR)'" <molly.shodeen@state.mn.us <<u>mailto:molly.shodeen@state.mn.us</u>>>; "'Hingsberger, Thomas J MVP'" <thomas.j.hingsberger@usace.army.mil <<u>mailto:thomas.j.hingsberger@usace.army.mil</u>>>

Cc: John P. Hanson < JHanson @barr.com < <a href="mailto:JHanson@barr.com">mailto:JHanson@barr.com</a>> >; "'jbg@aftonlaw.net" < jbg@aftonlaw.net < <a href="mailto:jbg@aftonlaw.net">mailto:jbg@aftonlaw.net</a>>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 2:28 PM

Subject: Hammes Sand & Gravel Site wetland delineation

Attached is the Notice of Application for the Hammes Sand & Gravel Site wetland delineation within Valley Branch Watershed District in Lake Elmo, Washington County. The site location map is also attached. The wetland delineation report is too large to send through email. It is available on my ftp site at:

ftp://user.barr.com/ user name: ksw password: ftpksw

in the Hammes Site wetland delineation folder

If you would like a paper copy of the report, please contact Kelly Bopray at kjbopray@yahoo.com <mailto:kjbopray@yahoo.com>

Please contact me if you are interested in participating in a site review of the delineation. Let me know when you are available within the next couple of weeks.

Karen Wold Senior Environmental Scientist Barr Engineering Co. 4700 West 77th Street Minneapolis, MN 55435

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office: 952.832.2707 toll-free: 800.632.2277 cell: 651.307.4394

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kwold@barr.com <<u>mailto:kwold@barr.com</u>> www.barr.com <<u>http://www.barr.com/</u>> From: Kelly Bopray
To: Ryan M. Bluhm

Subject: Fw: Hammes sand and gravel
Date: Friday, May 30, 2014 3:28:48 PM

#### 2 of 5

Kelly Bopray Bopray Environmental Services, LLC kjbopray@yahoo.com 715-307-4577

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: Kelly Bopray <kjbopray@yahoo.com>

To: molly.shodeen@state.mn.us

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 4:03 PM

Subject: Hammes sand and gravel

#### Molly,

I'm not sure on when the channel was excavated. I think in the mid to late 60's. I included some historical aerials in my last email, and you can clearly see it's not there in 57 and 64. I 'm in the field and don't recall what year the channel shows up.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

 From:
 Kelly Bopray

 To:
 Ryan M. Bluhm

Subject: Fw: Hammes gravell mine
Date: Friday, May 30, 2014 3:26:17 PM

Attachments: 3 figure 1.doc

7 figure 5.doc

3 of 5

Kelly Bopray Bopray Environmental Services, LLC kjbopray@yahoo.com 715-307-4577

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: Kelly Bopray <kjbopray@yahoo.com>

To: "molly.shodeen@state.mn.us" <molly.shodeen@state.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2013 1:56 PM

Subject: Hammes gravell mine

#### Molly,

Aattached are a couple more maps. The Figure 1 shows the general location of the site and Goose lake to the north in Lake Elmo, just north of I94 and near the intersection of Keats Ave and 10th St. The DNR number is 113w.

At this point they are beginning concept planning for the development of the site. They would like to separate the excavated channel from Goose lake so that stormwater ponding could be done in the area before the water discharges to Goose Lake. If the DNR retaines jurisdiction and takes the position that fill can not be placed below the OHW obviously the property owner will have to make other plans. If the DNR waves jurisdiction of the channel to the LGU then part of the channel would be incidental and a berm could be built across the channel and the surrounding uplands would be excavated for ponding purposes.

I'll try to call you tomorrow morning.

Kelly Bopray Bopray Environmental Services, LLC kjbopray@yahoo.com 715-307-4577 
 From:
 Kelly Bopray

 To:
 Ryan M. Bluhm

Subject: Fw: Hammes gravell mine

Date: Friday, May 30, 2014 3:31:04 PM

4 of 5

Kelly Bopray Bopray Environmental Services, LLC kjbopray@yahoo.com 715-307-4577

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Shodeen, Molly (DNR)" <molly.shodeen@state.mn.us>

To: Kelly Bopray <kjbopray@yahoo.com> Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2013 2:02 PM Subject: RE: Hammes gravell mine

Let's talk tomorrow, I have a meeting now

From: Kelly Bopray [mailto:kjbopray@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 1:56 PM

To: Shodeen, Molly (DNR) Subject: Hammes gravell mine

#### Molly,

Aattached are a couple more maps. The Figure 1 shows the general location of the site and Goose lake to the north in Lake Elmo, just north of I94 and near the intersection of Keats Ave and 10th St. The DNR number is 113w.

At this point they are beginning concept planning for the development of the site. They would like to separate the excavated channel from Goose lake so that stormwater ponding could be done in the area before the water discharges to Goose Lake. If the DNR retaines jurisdiction and takes the position that fill can not be placed below the OHW obviously the property owner will have to make other plans. If the DNR waves jurisdiction of the channel to the LGU then part of the channel would be incidental and a berm could be built across the channel and the surrounding uplands would be excavated for ponding purposes.

I'll try to call you tomorrow morning.

Kelly Bopray
Bopray Environmental Services, LLC
kjbopray@yahoo.com <<u>mailto:kjbopray@yahoo.com</u>>
715-307-4577

 From:
 Kelly Bopray

 To:
 Ryan M. Bluhm

 Subject:
 Fw: Hammes Gravel Site

**Date:** Friday, May 30, 2014 3:31:13 PM

5 of 5

Kelly Bopray Bopray Environmental Services, LLC kjbopray@yahoo.com 715-307-4577

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: Kelly Bopray <kjbopray@yahoo.com>

To: "jbg@aftonlaw.net" <jbg@aftonlaw.net>; Todd Erickson <terickson@ffe-inc.com>

Cc: "kwold@barr.com" <kwold@barr.com>; "molly.shodeen@state.mn.us" <molly.shodeen@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2013 1:20 PM

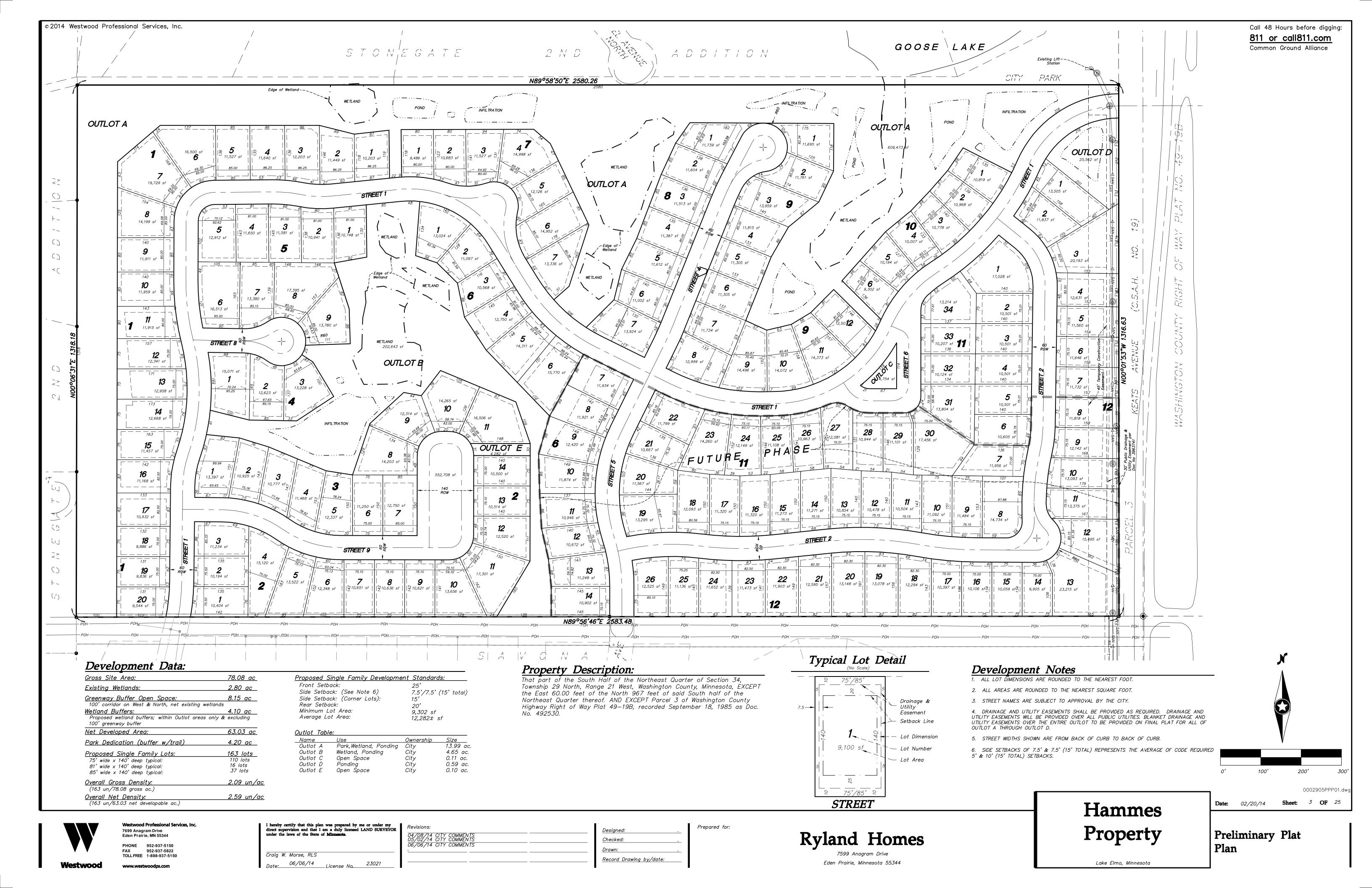
Subject: Hammes Gravel Site

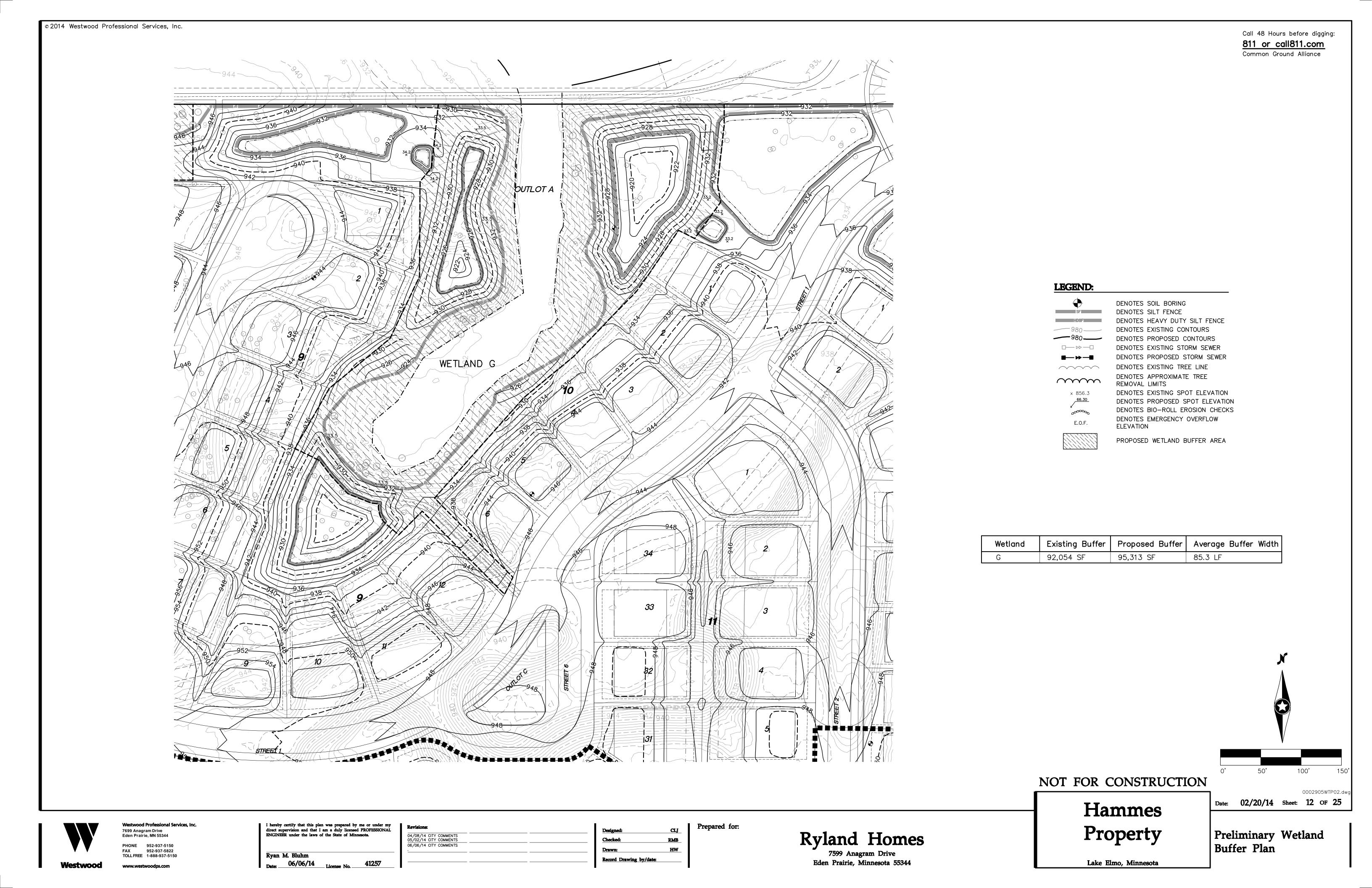
#### Jim, Todd,

After playing phone tag for a week or so, I was finally able to talk to Molly Shodeen (DNR Area Hydrologist) about the Hammes site and specifically the excavated channel from Goose Lake to Wetland G. I said we did not have any firm plans yet but we were forming our development strategy for the site. Ideally we would like to isolate the channel from Goose Lake for as part of the stormwater management when the site is developed. We believe this will help improve water quality for the lake as opposed to preserving the channel and it's direct discharge to the lake.

As we discussed, Molly indicated the DNR would likely waive their jurisdiction over the channel to the WCA LGU. That would allow the opportunity to impact the incidental portions of Wetland G (the excavated channel) to achieve the site development water management goals.

Kelly Bopray Bopray Environmental Services, LLC kjbopray@yahoo.com 715-307-4577





### **Goose Lake Southern Channel: Site Visit, 6/18/14**



Looking west across southern channel



Looking north up southern channel into towards Goose Lake



Looking south down southern channel



Southern tip of southern channel (Wetland G)



## HAMMES PROPERTY – DESIGN REVIEW REPORT LAKE ELMO, MN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW DATED JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

SITE VISIT DATED JUNE 18TH, 2014

#### Landscape Architect's Recommendations:

To maximize benefit of remaining natural space or prescribed water quality buffer area the following directive should be followed:

Preserve whatever ecologically appropriate vegetation remains.

 Remove all non-native trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation as a step to work towards establishing a sustainable and healthy water quality buffer.

 Enhance all ecologically appropriate species with other layers of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation to create a complex layering of native plant community that is planted in a manner that appears to have occurred naturally.

 Restore all remaining disturbed areas that have been graded or had non-native species removed with a complex layer of ecologically appropriate trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation.

 Reduce or eliminate the use of turf sod along the water quality buffer and replace with ecologically appropriate native shrubs or native herbaceous plantings at the rear of the adjoining lots and spaces.

SINCERELY,

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, INC.

STEPHEN MASTEY, ASLA, CLARB, LEED AP BD+C

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN

## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources 1200 Warner Road Saint Paul, MN 55106-6793



May 28, 2014

Nick Johnson City of Lake Elmo 3800 Laverne Ave. N. Lake Elmo, MN 55042

RE: Shoreland Ordinance Revisions/Hammes Plat

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have taken a preliminary look at the proposed revisions to your shoreland ordinance. It will take me more time to complete a thorough review without a redline version to compare to your old ordinance. It is also extremely time consuming to have to look in other parts of the ordinance for some of the standards. I may need to meet with you again so that you can highlight the changes.

The revision you are most interested in I think, is the riparian dedication so that you can apply it to the Hammes plat to increase density. You also mentioned that there may be other developments coming up. That is the section I will comment on at this time. Riparian buffers do have value when applied to undeveloped lakes so that the buffer functions to protect the riparian zone from individual property owner alterations that effect water quality and habitat. The city really only has 1 partially developed and one mostly undeveloped water body that these would be applicable to. The other water bodies are fully developed.

If approved, the riparian dedications areas must remain largely undeveloped and free of impervious surfaces. It seems like the standards for use contained in the ordinance would allow significant alteration for common spaces. For the Hammes Plat, the riparian dedication is small compared to the size of the lake. Such uses should be clustered for minimal impact and restricted to the greatest extent possible. Facilities and alterations must be setback the greatest amount possible to keep the buffer nearest the lake intact. It is also extremely important that the buffer areas be marked with monuments and signs to prevent yard creep. There should be deed restrictions and clear rules and enforcement.

Regarding the Hammes plat, we noticed that the riparian dedication does not cover the southern-most extension of the lake. As this is part of Goose Lake, the riparian dedication should also extend to protect the entire south end of the lake, including the extension. It is unknown to me whether this was natural or manmade, but at this point, it is considered part of the lake. It is unlikely that we could approve a flexibility request by the city to allow a riparian dedication of a 150' buffer without including the whole portion of the lake contained within the proposed plat.

Another consideration for flexibility approval will be to evaluate the section of the ordinance regarding water oriented structures. We would still like to receive a written response to our letter regarding the Leonard structure. We appreciate that the city has revised the height to conform to the state standard in the new ordinance, but if our interpretations differ, we need to assure that we are on the same page going forward. This may involve inserting some additional language.

We likely need additional conversations regarding the steps forward in order to implement and approve flexibility for reduced standards. Unfortunately our time is very limited for land use related activities, but we are sensitive to the fact that the city needs to move forward and will try to prioritize reaching a conclusion of these issues.

Please contact me at (651) 259-5845 or <u>molly.shodeen@state.mn.us</u> to discuss your thoughts.

Sincerely.

Molly Shodeen Area Hydrologist

ec: Kyle Klatt, City Planni

Holly Shodeen

Kyle Klatt, City Planning Director Dan Petrik, DNR EWR Land Use Unit From: Shodeen, Molly (DNR)

To: <u>Nick Johnson</u>

Cc: Kyle Klatt; Dean Zuleger; Petrik, Daniel (DNR)

**Subject:** RE: June Land Use Review

Date: Monday, June 16, 2014 12:07:19 PM

Attachments: <u>image002.jpg</u>

Thanks Nick, as I said in my last letter, we believe that the 150' riparian dedication must be applied to the manmade channel/southern extension of the lake. DNR permit rules consider anything that is dredged and attached to the lake to be part of the lake, and as such must meet any setback requirements, as well as in this case, the 150' buffer requirement. We do not see that there are practical difficulties beyond financial for issuing the variance and we recommend that the variance be denied. We consider the Met Council argument to be a bit weak as there are other developments coming up that will get you to your projections.

As an alternative, we would request that a berm be placed across the access channel to restore the Goose Lake basin to what it was. The photos show that it was excavated sometime between the 60's and 90's without any DNR permits. A permit would be needed to close it off, but we would consider it to be a restoration. The photos also show that originally in 1991 there was a very narrow connection which was again illegally widened since 1991 to its current configuration.

As far as the ordinance goes, we need to meet to discuss any and all changes that you have made unless you have a strike through version to show the changes. I need to discuss your reaction to my suggested changes that were not made in the final ordinance. For any buffer implementation, we request that it be marked and monumented to prevent encroachment over time. As previously stated, we would like to see that right in the ordinance.

You also need to request implementation flexibility as part of the request to approve the ordinance. It is a letter asking that we consider allowing flexibility for the city to deviate from the statewide standards. The letter needs to detail what the request is, and how it will afford additional protection for the resources to justify the flexibility.

From: Nick Johnson [mailto:NJohnson@lakeelmo.org < mailto:NJohnson@lakeelmo.org > ]

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 12:07 PM

To: Shodeen, Molly (DNR); John Hanson (jhanson@barr.com < mailto:jhanson@barr.com > )

Cc: Kyle Klatt; Dean Zuleger Subject: June Land Use Review

Molly and John,

Please see the attached land use review for the June 23rd Planning Commission meeting. If possible, please send review comments by Wednesday, June 18th. Hard copies are being placed in the mail today to your office.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Nick M. Johnson | City Planner

City of Lake Elmo, Minnesota

 $njohnson@lakeelmo.org < \underline{mailto:njohnson@lakeelmo.org} >$ 

 $(w)\ 651\text{-}747\text{-}3912\ |\ (f)\ 651\text{-}747\text{-}3901$ 

www.lakeelmo.org < <a href="http://www.lakeelmo.org">http://www.lakeelmo.org</a>>



PLANNING COMMISSION DATE: 6/23/2014

AGENDA ITEM: 5A – BUSINESS ITEM

CASE # 2014-14

ITEM: Hammes Estates Residential Subdivision – Preliminary Plat cont.

SUBMITTED BY: Nick Johnson, City Planner

REVIEWED BY: Kyle Klatt, Community Development Director

Jack Griffin, City Engineer

#### **SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Planning Commission is being asked to consider a Preliminary Plat application from Hammes West, LLC for a 163-unit single family residential development to be located on 78.1 acres immediately west of Keats Avenue (CSAH 19) and within Stage 1 of the City's I-94 Corridor Planning Area. The Planning Commission previously reviewed the application and held a public hearing on 5/12/14, at which time consideration of the plat application was postponed. The applicant has since resubmitted preliminary plans to address outstanding issues identified in the review on 5/12/14. Staff is recommending approval of the request subject to compliance with 15 conditions as noted in this report.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Applicant: Hammes West, LLC, 36 Moonlight Bay, Stillwater, MN 55082.

Property Owners: Ellie Hammes, 1187 Forest Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109, and Dorothy Lyons,

10105 10th Street North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042.

Location: Part of Section 34 in Lake Elmo, immediately west of Keats Avenue (CSAH 19),

approximately 1,300 feet south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street (CSAH 10), and immediately south

of Goose Lake. PID Number 34.029.21.13.0001.

Request: Application for preliminary plat approval of a 163-unit single family residential

subdivision to be named Hammes Estates.

Existing Land Use and Zoning: Active mining and gravel operation and other vacant land.

Current Zoning: RT – Rural Development Transitional Zoning

District; Proposed Zoning: LDR - Urban Low Density

Residential

Surrounding Land Use and Zoning: North –Goose Lake and Stonegate Residential Estates (RE)

subdivision; west – Stonegate RE subdivision; south – Lennar Savona Urban Low Density Residential (LDR) subdivision.

Comprehensive Plan: Urban Low Density Residential (2.5 – 4 units per acre).

*History*: Preliminary Plat review and public hearing on 5/12/14. Sketch Plan review by

Planning Commission on 6/24/13. Sketch Plan review by the Park Commission on

7/15/13 and 1/30/14.

Deadline for Action: Application Complete -5/2/2014

60 Day Deadline – 6/30/14 Extension Letter Mailed – No 120 Day Deadline – 8/29/14

Applicable Regulations: Chapter 153 – Subdivision Regulations

Article 10 – Urban Residential Districts (LDR) §150.270 Storm Water, Erosion, and Sediment Article 17 – Shoreland Management Overlay District

#### **REQUEST DETAILS**

The City of Lake Elmo has received a request from Hammes West, LLC for a preliminary plat to subdivide approximately 78 acres of land located within the I-94 Corridor planning area into 163 single family lots. The proposed plat would be located on property currently owned by the Hammes family, and would be located immediately west of Keats Avenue (CSAH 19), approximately 1,300 feet south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street (CSAH 10), and approximately ½ of a mile north of the I-94 right-of-way. The Planning Commission previously reviewed the Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat on 5/12/14, at which time a public hearing was held. At the meeting, the Planning Commission postponed consideration of the plat application until revised plans were submitted to address critical outstanding issues. The applicant resubmitted Preliminary Plans (Sheets 1-18) on 6/6/14 to address the concerns identified by the Planning Commission. Staff has found that the resubmitted plans address many of the more glaring concerns of the previous plat submission. Based upon review of the plat, the resubmitted plans will meet all applicable City requirements for conditional approval, and any deficiencies or additional work that is needed is noted as part of the review record. It is staff's expectation that all the deficiencies and requested revisions will be resolved in advance of Final Plat.

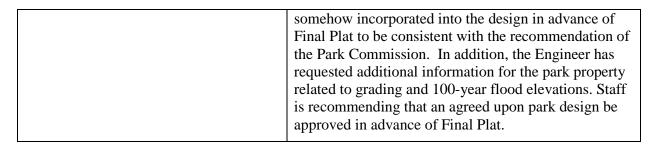
#### **REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

In order to clearly present how the applicant has addressed the issues identified by the Planning Commission, as well as the other conditions of approval identified in the Staff Report dated 5/12/14, staff has provided the below table to identify how the various issues have been resolved. In order to review the previous Staff Report, dated 5/12/14, the materials for the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting our posted on the City's website under Planning Commission agendas. In addition to the staff explanation, the applicant has also identified how the previously recommended conditions of approval have been addressed with a response letter dated 6/11/14 (Attachment #2). The resubmitted plat has addressed the several of the conditions of approval in the following manner:

Condition (Staff Report dated 5/12/14)	Response/Result
<b>Condition #4:</b> The approval of the	The City of Lake Elmo adopted a new shoreland
Preliminary Plat is contingent upon the	ordinance (Ord. 08-111) on 5/20/14, allowing for use
City approving a revised shoreland	of base zoning district standards with riparian
ordinance that would allow for the lot	dedication. However, the DNR has submitted a letter

sizes proposed in the portion of the Hammes Estates subdivision located within the shoreland district.	requesting riparian dedication around the southern man-made channel of Goose Lake. The applicant has applied for a variance to allow reduced riparian dedication around the southern channel. If the City grants the variance, this issue will be resolved. If the City does not grant the variance, the plat can be recommended for approval conditioned upon the southern channel being closed off from Goose Lake via a berm as recommended by the DNR.
Condition #5: The applicant shall submit evidence that a Phase I Environmental Review if the site has been completed and that further environmental review is not necessary.	The applicant has provided a City with a certified copy of the Phase I Environmental Review for the Hammes site. The report was produced by Element Materials Technology on March 10, 2014. The conclusions of the environmental assessment identify no recognized, controlled or historical environmental conditions of the property. The Assessment concludes that no additional investigation or evaluation is warranted based on the findings of the Phase I Environmental Review.
Condition #7: The applicant shall provide for a minimum green belt/buffer of 100 feet around all of the adjacent Stonegate subdivision, and must either revise the preliminary plat in the vicinity of Lot 16, Block 1 to properly account for this buffer or provide evidence to the City of any acquired open space easements from the adjacent property in the Stonegate subdivision.	The applicant has revised the preliminary plat in the southwest corner of the plat to provide a continuous 100-foot green belt, as specified in the City's Comprehensive Plan.
Condition #9: The utility plan shall be updated to relocate/add fire hydrants to meet spacing requirements and ensure ideal operational effectiveness per the direction of the Lake Elmo Fire Chief.	The utility plans have been revised to add and relocate fire hydrants per the specifications of the Fire Chief.
Condition #13: The developer shall be required to submit an updated parkland dedication calculation in advance of Final Plat.	The applicant has submitted an updated parkland dedication calculation (Attachment #4), resulting in an eligible dedication of approximately 5.7 acres. With this level of eligible dedication, the developer would be responsible to pay fees in lieu of land dedication in an amount equal to the fair market value of the remaining required dedication of 2.1 acres (7.8 acres (required dedication) – 5.7 acres (provided) = 2.1 acres remaining)
Condition #14: Any land under which trails are located will be accepted as park land provided the trail is located within a	This condition is no longer necessary as the applicant has submitted an updated parkland dedication calculation documenting the areas that will be

dedicated outlot and the developer constructs the said trails as part of the public improvements for the subdivision.	accepted as parkland dedication. For trails that are constructed by the developer but not located within dedicated outlots, staff would recommend the City consider some parkland credit for the construction and dedication of these trails to the City's public trail system.
Condition 16a: For trails in wetland buffers, the applicant must present a suitable design that is acceptable to the City and Valley Branch Watershed District.	The applicants are currently showing the limited trail segment in wetland buffer as a mowed or woodchip trail, which would meet VBWD rules. The City would recommend that this design is finalized in advance of Final Plat (Condition #12).
Condition 16b: The trail segment aligned to the north of Wetland A must be revised to be aligned to the south of the wetland due to concerns of the High Water Level.	The applicant has revised this segment of the trail to be located to the south of Wetland A.
Condition 16c: The trail segment between Lots 14 and 15, Block 2 shall be located on a 30-foot outlot dedicated to the City.	The applicant has provided the requested outlot (Outlot E) for the trail in between Lot 14, Block 2 and Lot 11, Block 3 at the end of Street 9.
Condition 18a: The Preliminary Plat must be revised to meet City standard requirements for utility easements.	The applicant has revised the Preliminary Plat to provide the requested utility easements.
Condition 18c: The Preliminary Plat must be revised to remove the Street 1 right-of-way from the minimum 25-foot Wetland Buffer of Wetland B. The entire street right-of-way must be relocated outside of the minimum wetland buffer.	The applicant has revised the Preliminary Plat to shift Street 1 to the north to maintain a 25-foot minimum wetland buffer outside of the Street 1 right-of-way.
Condition 18e: The Grading and Storm Water Management Plan must be revised so that the subgrade of Street 1 is above the HWL for infiltration basin 5A on Outlot D.	The applicant states in his narrative that they will work with the City Engineer on a suitable design to effectively protect the road subgrade. Staff is comfortable making this a conditional approval through addressing the review comments found in the City Engineer's review memo dated 6/16/14 in advance of Final Plat.
Condition 18f: Maintenance access roads must be relocated or improved to meet City standard requirements.	The applicants has revised the Preliminary Plat to provide maintenance access roads that meet City standards.
Condition 18g: The Preliminary Plat must be revised to provide additional details for the proposed improvements to the City park property at Goose Lake.	The applicants have provided an illustrative park plan to show their desired vision for the park property. The proposed park still does not contain a play structure. Staff would recommend that a play structure is



The conditions and their status outlined in the above table highlight the key revisions to the plat that were included as part of the resubmitted Preliminary Plans. In Staff's judgment, the applicants have met the City's request for updated Preliminary Plans. However, it is important to note that some of the original conditions that were recommended as part of the Staff Report dated 5/12/14 still apply, while others may need to be slightly modified. In order to further explain some key issues and review items that inform the recommended conditions of approval, staff would offer the following review comments:

- Goose Lake Southern Channel Shoreland Variance. In the previous review of the Preliminary Plat, staff recommended that approval of the preliminary plat be conditioned on the City adopting a new shoreland ordinance. Since that time, the City adopted new shoreland regulations (Ord. 08-111) that include provisions requiring riparian dedication around lakes within close proximity to urban planning areas in Lake Elmo. By dedicating more than 150' of riparian area on the southern shore of Goose Lake, staff determined that the riparian dedication requirement had been met. However, the City received a review letter from the DNR stating that the shoreland provisions would apply to the southern man-made channel of Goose Lake in addition to the southern shoreline. According to the applicant, previous discussion with the DNR led them to believe that the Wetland Conservation Act and Valley Branch Watershed District would have jurisdiction over the southern channel, necessitating the rules of the WCA and VBWD. However, the DNR is recommending that the shoreland provisions apply to the southern channel. In order to address this request, the applicants have submitted a variance application citing practical difficulties and unique circumstances. Staff is recommending approval of the variance. If the City grants a variance to the applicant to allow reduced riparian dedication around the southern channel, then the shoreland issue will be resolved. However, if the City recommends denial of the variance, then an alternative design or mitigation strategy will be required. In the DNR's review letters (Attachment #7), they recommend as an alternative to the variance that a berm be used to close off the channel from Goose Lake. This action would be considered a restoration and would need permitting from the DNR. If the variance application related to the shoreland provisions around the southern channel is recommended for denial, Staff would recommend to the Planning Commission to add a 16<sup>th</sup> condition requiring the applicant to restore original shoreline of Goose Lake per the recommendation of the DNR. This path should allow the preliminary plat to move forward as it is currently designed with the condition of completing the restoration of Goose Lake.
- Landscaping and Tree Preservation. As part of the effort to resubmit Preliminary Plans, the applicant did not resubmit new Landscaping and Tree Preservation Plans. In reviewing these plans as part of the previous Preliminary Plat submittal that was reviewed on 5/12/14, the City's landscape consultant noted that the provided landscape material did not meet the requirements of the City's ordinance (landscape consultant's memo is Attachment #6). At

the meeting on 5/12/14, staff recommended a condition of approval that the Landscape Plan shall be updated per the recommendations of the City's landscape consultant. As the landscape plans have not been resubmitted, it should be noted that staff is recommending that this condition (#6) remain in place per the review of the City's landscape consultant.

- *City Engineer Review*. The City Engineer has provided the Planning Department with a detailed review memorandum (Attachment #5), dated 6/16/14, as a summary of his review of the Preliminary Plans. The vast majority of the issues identified are technical in nature, mostly relating to storm sewer and storm water management. Staff is confident that these issues can be resolved in advance of Final Plat. To resolve these issues in advance of Final Plat, Staff has included a general condition (Condition #4) that all issues identified in the City Engineer's memo dated 6/16/14 must be addressed by the applicant prior to approval of a final plat for any portion of the Hammes Estates subdivision. In addition, in regards to storm water management, the applicants still are required to meet the rules and regulations of the Wetland Conservation Act and Valley Branch Watershed District (Condition #8)
- Improvements to Keats Ave. N. (CSAH 19). Washington County previously submitted a memo, dated May 6, 2014, detailing the required improvements to Keats Ave. at the access location for the Hammes Estates neighborhood. Staff is recommending that the Preliminary Plat approval is conditioned upon the applicant completing the requested improvements to Keats Ave. (Condition #7)

Based on the above Staff report and analysis, Staff is recommending approval of the preliminary plat with 15 conditions intended to address the outstanding issues noted above and to further clarify the City's expectations in order for the developer to move forward with a Final Plat. The recommended conditions are as follows:

#### Recommended Conditions of Approval:

- 1) Within six months of preliminary plat approval, the applicant shall complete the following:
  - a. The applicant shall provide adequate title evidence satisfactory to the City Attorney.
  - b. The applicant shall submit a revised Preliminary Plat and plans meeting all conditions of approval. All of the above conditions shall be met prior to the City accepting an application for Final Plat and prior to the commencement of any grading activity on the site.
- 2) The City Engineer shall review and approve all revised Preliminary Plans that are submitted to the City in advance of Final Plat to satisfy Condition #1.
- 3) The Preliminary Plat approval is conditioned upon the applicant meeting all minimum City standards and design requirements.
- 4) All required modifications to the plans as requested by the City Engineer in a review letter dated June 16, 2014 shall be incorporated into the plans prior to consideration of a Final Plat.
- 5) Prior to the acceptance of the public improvements for the Hammes Estates plat, all wetland buffers shall be delineated and identified via staking or signage that is acceptable to the City.

- 6) The landscape plan shall be updated per the recommendations of the City's landscape consultant in a review memo dated 5/7/14.
- 7) The applicant shall be responsible for the construction of all improvements within the Keats Avenue (CSAH 19) right-of-way as required by Washington County and further described in the review letter received from the County dated May 6, 2014. The required improvements shall include, but not be limited to: construction of a modified median crossing, construction of a trail/sidewalk to the south side of the median, turn lanes, and other improvements as required by the County.
- 8) The developer shall follow all of the rules and regulations spelled out in the Wetland Conservation Act, and shall acquire the needed permits from Valley Branch Watershed District prior to the commencement of any grading or development activity on the site.
- 9) Landscape islands shall be platted as part of the right-of-way and shall be maintained by the Home Owners Association. The applicant shall enter into a maintenance agreement with the City that clarifies the individuals or entities responsible for any landscaping installed in areas outside of land dedicated as public park and open space on the final plat.
- 10) With an eligible parkland dedication of 5.7 acres provided, the applicant is responsible to pay a fee in lieu of land dedication for the equal market value amount of 2.1 acres of land at the time of the Final Developers Agreement. The City will work with the developer to clarify any and all park fee payments at the time of the Final Developers Agreement.
- 11) No more than 100 units may be approved as part of a final plat until secondary access is provided to the subdivision via a connection to 5<sup>th</sup> Street through the Savona subdivision.
- 12) For trails proposed to be located in any wetland buffer, the applicant must present a suitable design or material that is acceptable to the City and Valley Branch Watershed District.
- 13) The applicant must enter into a separate grading agreement with the City prior to the commencement of any grading activity in advance of final plat and plan approval. The City Engineer shall review any grading plan that is submitted in advance of a final plat, and said plan shall document extent of any proposed grading on the site.
- 14) The applicant must incorporate a play structure into the proposed park at Goose Lake per the request of the Lake Elmo Park Commission. Furthermore, the applicant must submit an updated design of the park property that meets City approval in advance of Final Plat.
- 15) The applicant shall work with the Planning Staff to name all streets in the subdivision prior to submission of a Final Plat.

#### **DRAFT FINDINGS**

Staff is recommending that the Planning Commission consider the following findings with regards to the proposed Hammes Estates preliminary plat:

• That the Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat is consistent with the Lake Elmo Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Map for this area.

- That the Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat complies with the City's LDR- Urban Low Density Residential zoning district.
- That the Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat complies with the City's subdivision ordinance.

#### **RECCOMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat with the 15 conditions recommended in the Staff Report. Suggested motion:

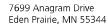
"Move to recommend approval of the Hammes Estates Preliminary Plat with the 15 conditions of approval as drafted by Staff based on the findings of fact listed in the Staff Report."

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. Westwood Response Letter, dated 6/11/14
- 2. Updated Preliminary Plat and Plans (18 sheets)
- 3. Illustrative Park Plan
- 4. Land Credit Exhibit w/Area Calculation
- 5. City Engineer Review Memorandum, dated 6/16/14
- 6. Landscape Consultant Memorandum, dated 5/7/14
- 7. DNR Review Letters

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

-	Introduction	Planning Staff
-	Report by Staff	Planning Staff
-	Questions from the Commission	Chair & Commission Members
-	Discussion by the Commission	Chair & Commission Members
-	Action by the Commission	Chair & Commission Members



PHONE 952-937-5150 FAX 952-937-5822 TOLL FREE 888-937-5150

www.westwoodps.com



June 11, 2014

Nick Johnson City of Lake Elmo 3800 Laverne Avenue North Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Re: Hammes Property

Residential Subdivision, Lake Elmo, MN

Westwood No. 0002905.01

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Westwood has completed revisions to the preliminary plat set. Attached are full-size copies for your review.

- 5 copies-Full Size Preliminary Plan Sets, revised 06/09/14
- 10 copies-11x17 Reduced Sets, revised 06/09/14

As we discussed, only plan sheets 1-18 were revised. The landscape plans and tree replacement plans were not updated at this time. To facilitate your review, we have responded to the 19 conditions of approval, and how the plans were addressed to meet these items;

- 1) Within six months of preliminary plat approval, the applicant shall complete the following:
  - a. The applicant shall provide adequate title evidence satisfactory to the City Attorney.
  - b. The applicant shall submit a revised preliminary plat and plans meeting all conditions of approval. All of the above conditions shall be met prior to the City accepting an application for final plat and prior to the commencement of any grading activity on the site. Comment noted.
- 2) The City Engineer shall review and approve all revised Preliminary Plans that are submitted to the City in advance of Final Plat to satisfy Condition #1. Comment noted.
- 3) The Preliminary Plat approval is conditioned upon the applicant meeting all minimum City standards and design requirements. Comment noted.
- 4) The approval of the Preliminary Plat is contingent upon the City approving a revised shoreland ordinance that would allow for the lot sizes proposed in the portion of the Hammes Estates subdivision located within a shoreland district. Comment noted. An application for a variance was submitted for your consideration as well in regards to the DNR buffer requirement.

- 5) The applicants shall submit evidence that a Phase 1 Environmental Review of the site has been completed and that further environmental review is not necessary. Evidence of environmental review must be provided in advance of Final Plat. The owner will forward this directly to the city.
- 6) Prior to the acceptance of the public improvements for the Hammes Estates plat, all wetland buffers shall be delineated and identified via staking or signage that is acceptable to the City. Comment noted.
- 7) The applicant shall provide for a minimum green belt/buffer of 100 feet around all of the adjacent Stonegate subdivision, and must either revise the preliminary plat in the vicinity of Lot 16, Block 1 to properly account for this buffer or provide evidence to the City of any acquired open space easements from the adjacent property in the Stonegate subdivision. Revisions were completed to lot 16, block 1 to maintain this buffer.
- 8) The landscape plan shall be updated per the recommendations of the City's Landscape consultant. Comment noted. Landscape plan revisions will be made at a later date.
- 9) The utility plan shall be updated to relocate/add fire hydrants to meet spacing requirements and ensure ideal operational effectiveness per the direction of the Lake Elmo Fire Chief. All hydrants were relocated as requested by public works.
- 10) The applicant shall be responsible for the construction of all improvements within the Keats Avenue (CSAH 19) right-of-way as required by Washington County and further described in the review letter received from the County dated May 6, 2014. The required improvements shall include, but not be limited to: construction of a modified median crossing, construction of a trail/sidewalk to the south side of the median, turn lanes, and other improvements as required by the County. Comment noted, Keats Avenue improvements have not yet been added to the plans, but would be completed on future submittals.
- 11) The developer shall follow all of the rules and regulations spelled out in the Wetland Conservation Act, and shall acquire the needed permits from Valley Branch Watershed District prior to the commencement of any grading or development activity on the site. Comment noted.
- 12) Landscape islands shall be platted as part of the right-of-way and shall be maintained by the Home Owners Association. The applicant shall enter into a maintenance agreement with the City that clarifies the individuals or entities responsible for any landscaping installed in areas outside of land dedicated as public park and open space on the final plat. Comment noted.
- 13) The developer shall be required to submit an updated parkland dedication calculation in advance of Final Plat. Upon submission of the calculation, if the amount of eligible parkland that is dedicated does not equal the required total land dedication of 7.8 acres, the applicant will be required to pay a fee in lieu of park land dedication equivalent to the fair market value for the amount of land required to meet the total dedication requirements less the eligible land dedicated for park purposes. Any cash payment in lieu of land dedication shall be paid by the applicant prior to the release of the final plat for recording. The preliminary plat was updated to include a park dedication calculation, to only count the amount of park area that provides a trail within it.

- 14) Any land under which public trails are located will be accepted as park land provided the trail is located within a dedicated outlot and the developer constructs said trails as part of the public improvements for the subdivision. Comment noted. A park calculation has been completed and is listed on the preliminary plat.
- 15) No more than 100 units may be approved as part of a final plat until secondary access is provided to the subdivision via a connection to 5th Street through the Savona subdivision. Comment noted.
- 16) Modifications to the proposed trails in the subdivision shall include the following:
  - a. For trails proposed to be located in any wetland buffer, the applicant must present a suitable design or material that is acceptable to the City and Valley Branch Watershed District. In addition, staff recommends that the applicant limit the encroachment of trails into buffer areas to the greatest extent possible. The trail material within the buffer was modified to a permeable surface. The proposed surface of this trail is still a point of discussion, the city had indicated that a boardwalk may be preferred. This will require conversations with the watershed.
  - b. The trail segment aligned to the north of Wetland A must be revised to be aligned to the south of the wetland due to concerns of the High Water Level. The trail shall be located within an outlot dedicated to the City. The proposed trail adjacent to Wetland A was shifted south of the wetland to keep it out of the 100-year flood elevation.
  - c. The trail segment between Lots 14 and 15, Block 2 shall be located on a 30-foot outlot dedicated to the City. A Trail easement was added between lots 12 and 13, block 12. A trail outlot was added at the cul-de-sac of Street 9. A trail easement was added between lots 6,7 and 8 block 6.
- 17) The applicant must enter into a separate grading agreement with the City prior to the commencement of any grading activity in advance of final plat and plan approval. The City Engineer shall review any grading plan that is submitted in advance of a final plat, and said plan shall document extent of any proposed grading on the site. Comment noted.
- 18) All required modifications to the plans as requested by the City Engineer in a review letter dated May 8, 2014 shall be incorporated into the plans prior to consideration of a final plat. Specific requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. The Preliminary Plat must be revised to meet City standard requirements for utility easements. The site plan was altered in a number of locations to provide 30' utility easements where storm sewer, watermain or sanitary sewer was required between lots. The current lot count is now 163. The storm sewer/street plan and the utility plan were updated to include dimensioned easements, as requested.
  - b. The Preliminary Plat must be revised to incorporate the necessary improvements to Keats Ave. (CSAH 19) as required by Washington County Comment noted, Keats Avenue improvements have not yet been added to the plans, but would be completed on future submittals.

- c. The Preliminary Plat must be revised remove the Street 1 right-of-way from the minimum 25-foot buffer for Wetland A. The entire street right-of-way must be relocated outside of the minimum wetland buffer. Street 1 was shifted at Wetland B to provide a 25' minimum buffer between the wetland and the street ROW.
- d. The grading plan must be revised to meet the Valley Branch Watershed District standards for grading within wetland buffers. The grading plan was modified to provide 5:1 slopes within the proposed wetland buffers.
- e. The Grading and Storm Water Management Plan must be revised so that the subgrade of Street 1 is above the HWL for infiltration basin 5A on Outlot D. Street 1 at the intersection of Keats, and for the initial 300 feet, lies below the HWL elevation of Goose Lake. Therefore, a portion of Street 1 would also be below the HWL of our proposed basins. We will work with Engineering through the design process to look at ways to protect the road subgrade with fabric and draintile to dissipate effects of the HWL elevation within the subgrade.
- f. Maintenance access roads must be relocated or improved to meet City standard requirements. Ponds have accesses were added, at 10:1 slopes.
- g. The Preliminary Plat must be revised to provide additional details for the proposed improvements to the City park property adjacent to Goose Lake and the City's lift station to demonstrate that the improvements can be completed as shown. An illustrative plan was completed for the park area (see attached). If requested, we can prepare an alternate plan showing a tot lot, but this will require modifications to the plan.
- 19) The applicant shall work with the Planning Staff to name all streets in the subdivision prior to submission of a final plat. Comment noted.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Ryan Bluhm, PE

cc. Brian McGoldrick, Hammes West LLC Jack Griffin, Focus Engineering

# Preliminary Plans

for

Plat, Site, Grading, Erosion Control, Utilities and Landscape

for

Hammes Property Lake Elmo, Minnesota

Prepared for:

Ryland Homes 7599 Anagram Drive Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344 Contact: Mark Sonstegard

Phone: 952-229-6000 Fax: 952-229-6024

Prepared by:



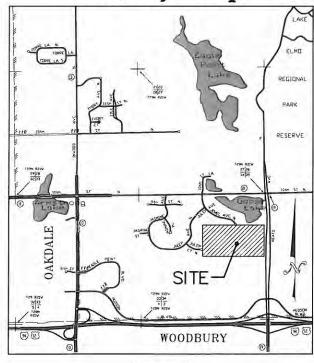
Westwood Professional Services, Inc.

Project number: 0002905.00

Contact: Ryan M. Bluhm

#### Sheet List Table Sheet Number Sheet Title Existing Conditions Preliminary Plat Plan Preliminary Street & Storm Sewer Plan Preliminary Geometric Site Plan Overall Preliminary Grading, Drainage & Erosion Control Plan Preliminary Wetland Buffer Plan Preliminary Wetland Buffer Plan Preliminary Utility Plan 13 14 Details 15 Details Details Street Profiles Street Profiles Preliminary Landscape Plan Preliminary Landscape Plan Preliminary Tree Preservation PLAN

## Vicinity Map



(Not to Scale)

NO.	DATE	REVISION	SHEETS
1	04/08/14	CITY COMMENTS	ALL
2	05/02/14	CITY COMMENTS	ALL
3	06/06/14	CITY COMMENTS	1-18

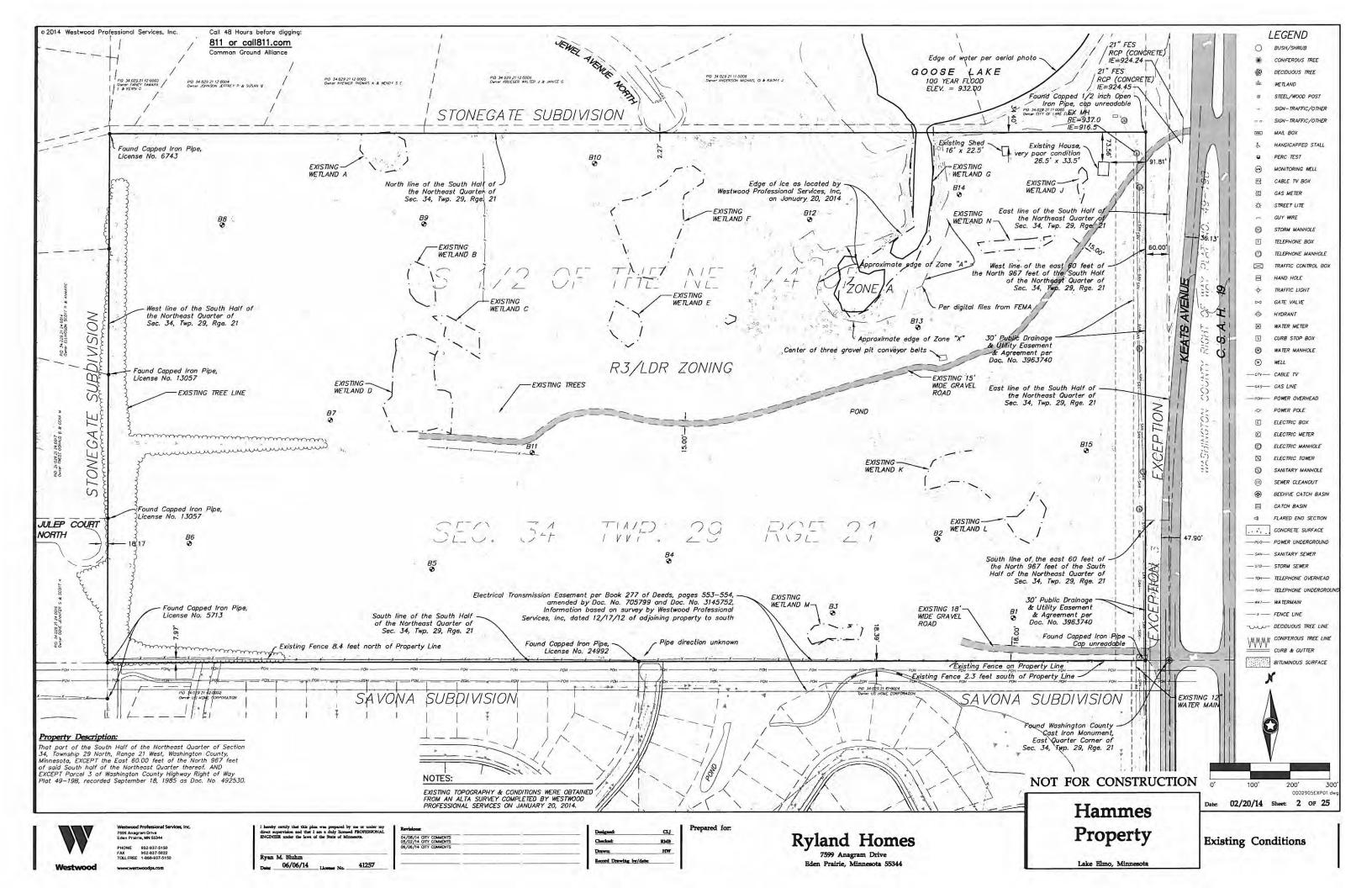
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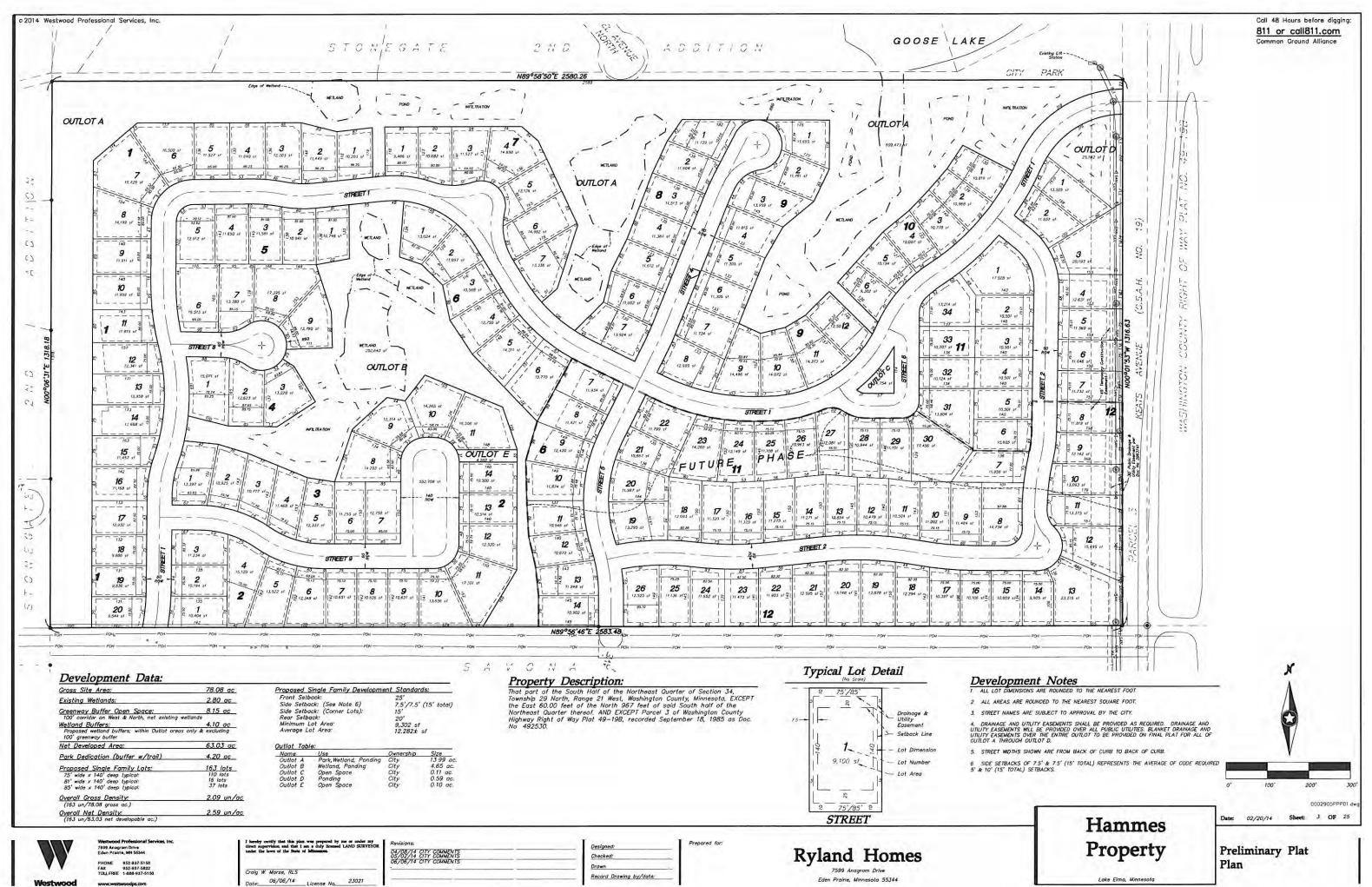
## Preliminary Plans

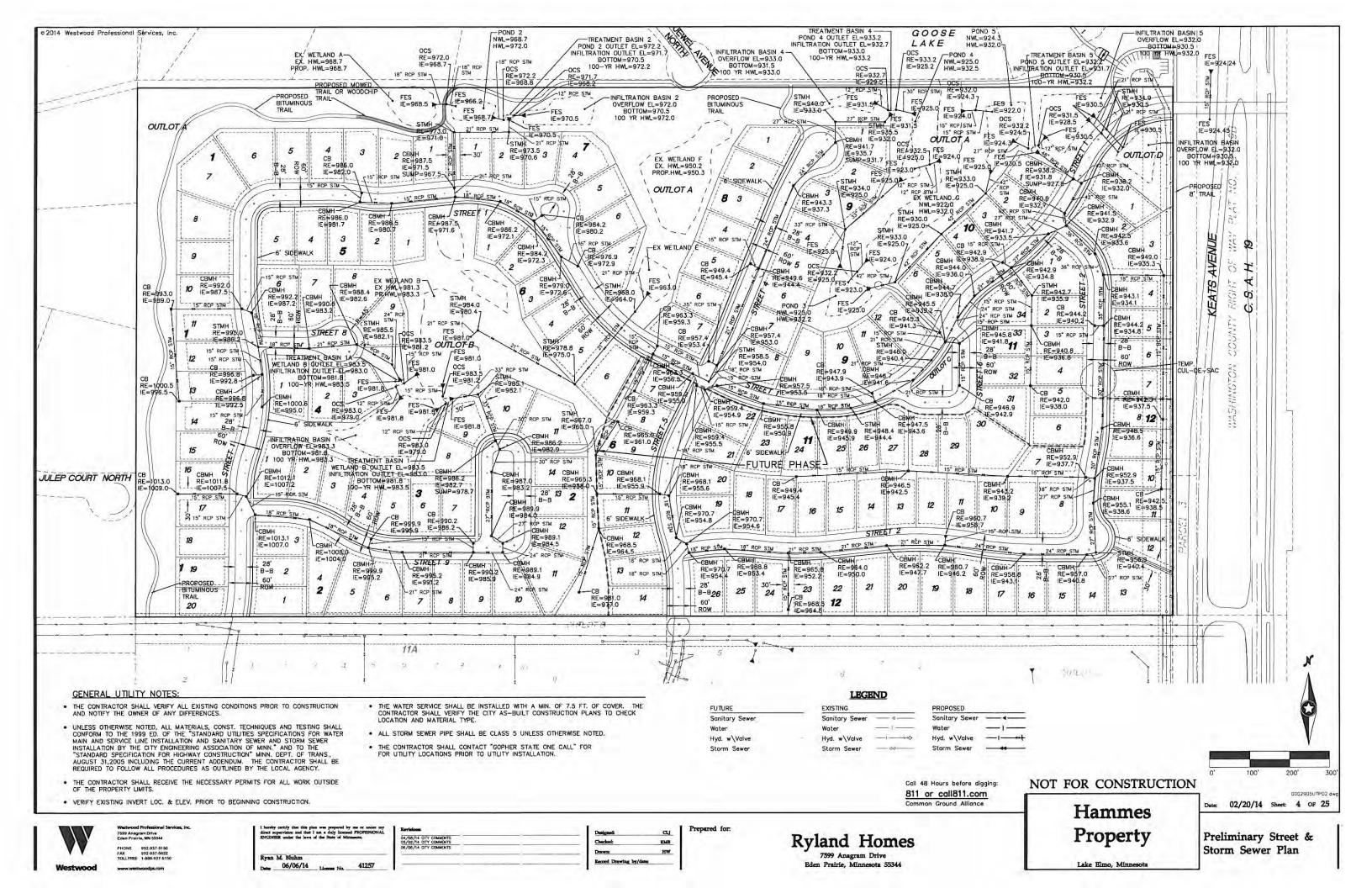
Plat, Site, Grading, Erosion Control, Utilities and Landscape

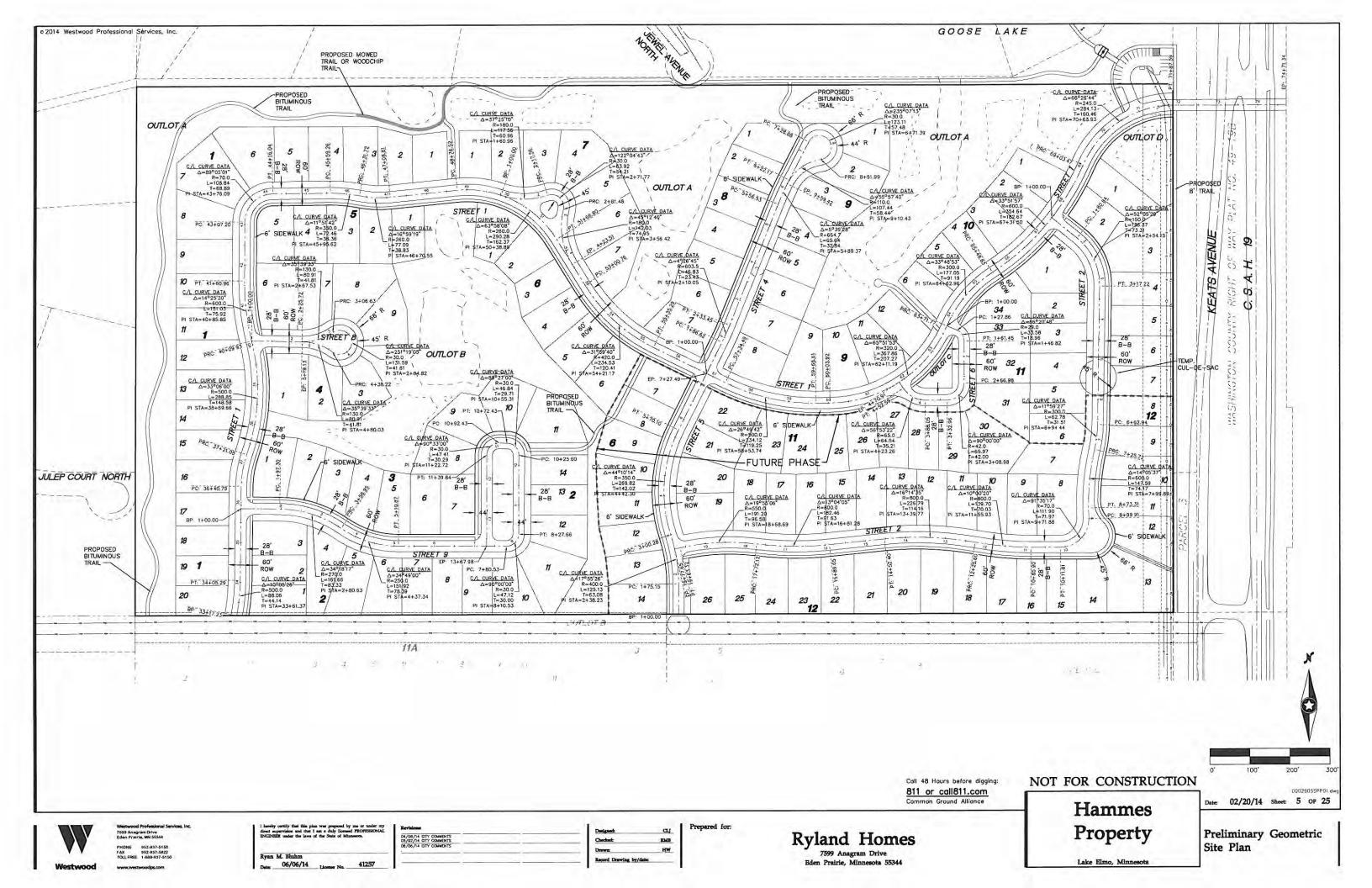
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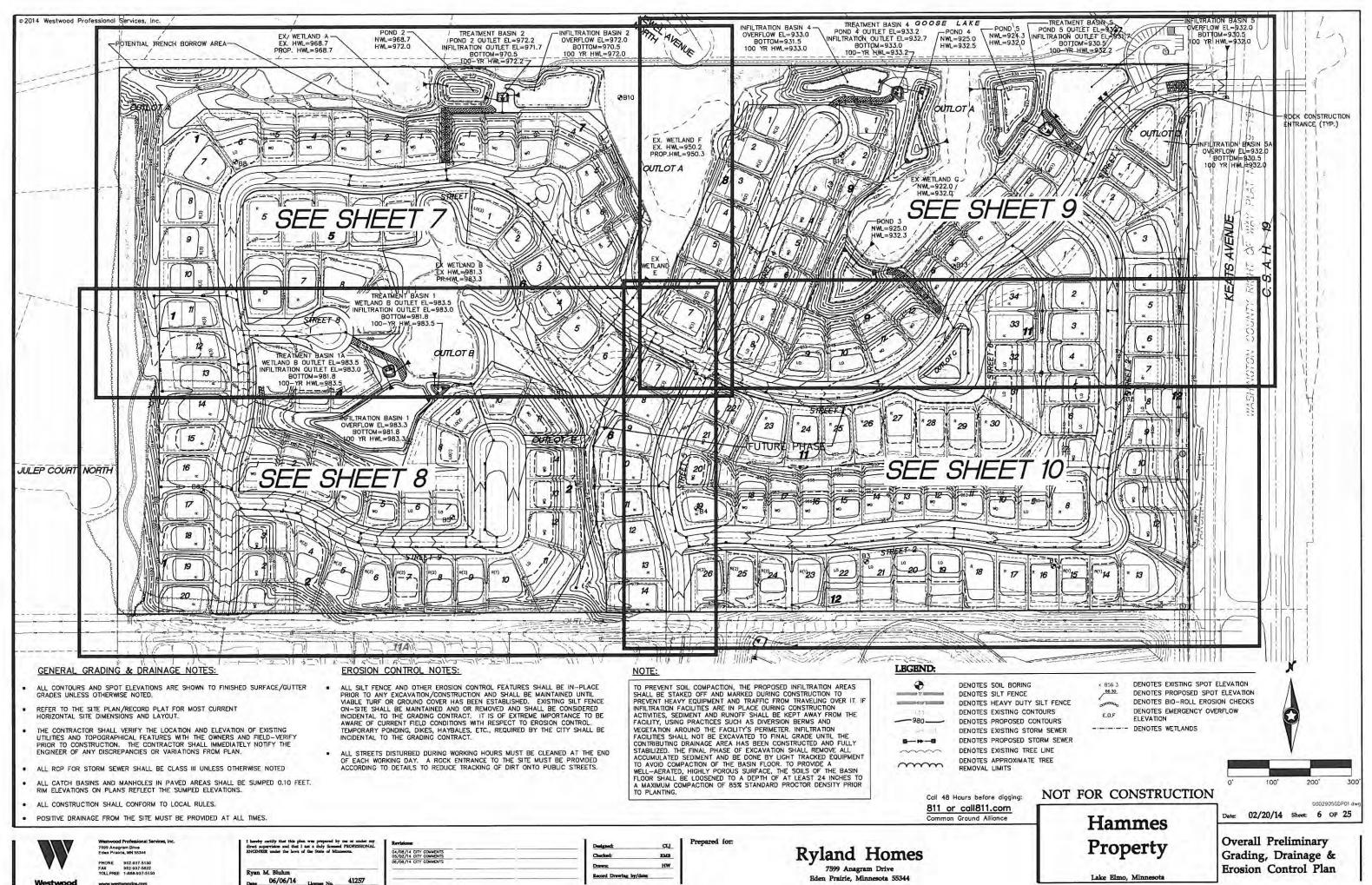
Date: 02/20/14 Sheet: 1 of 25

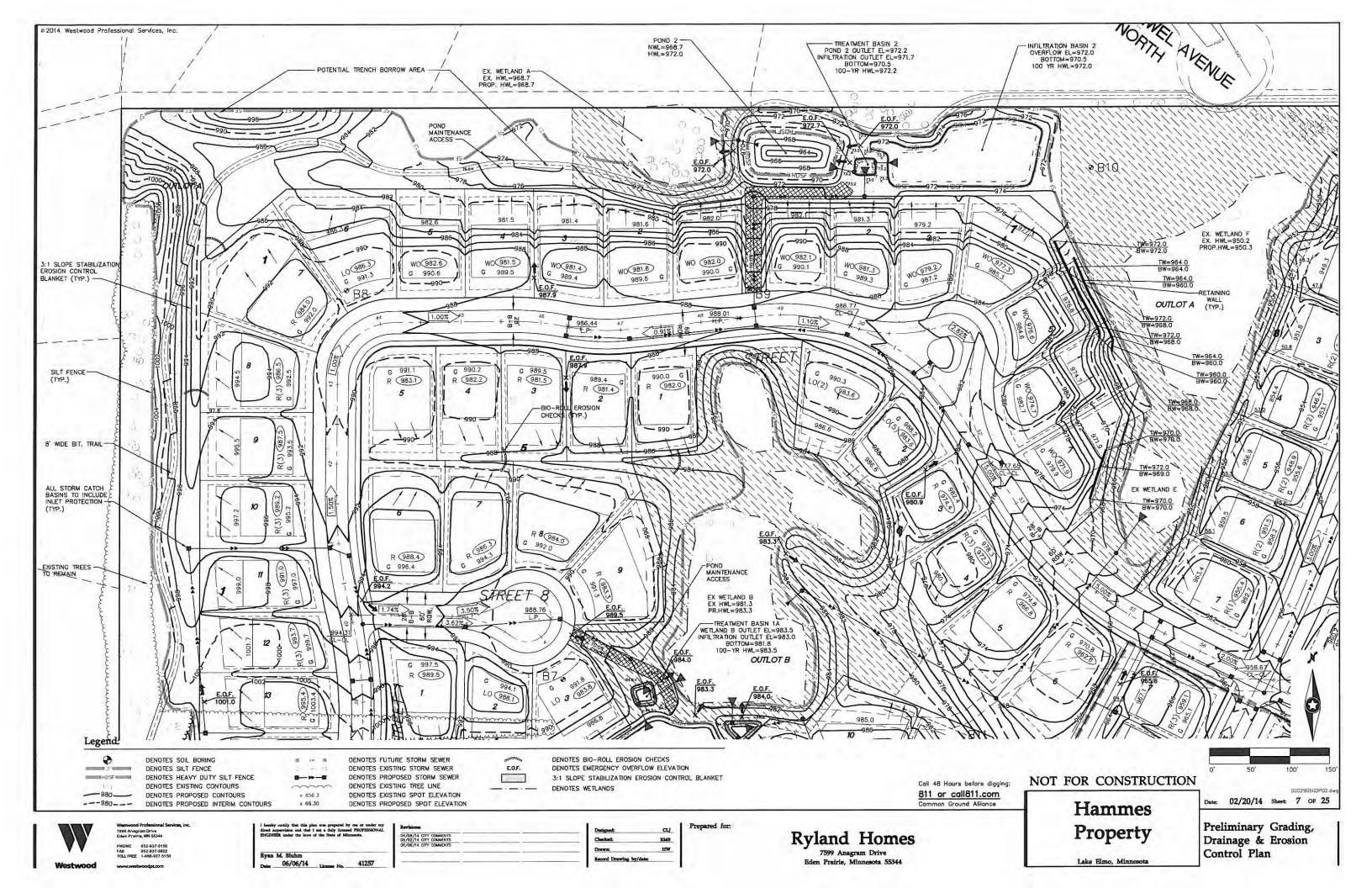


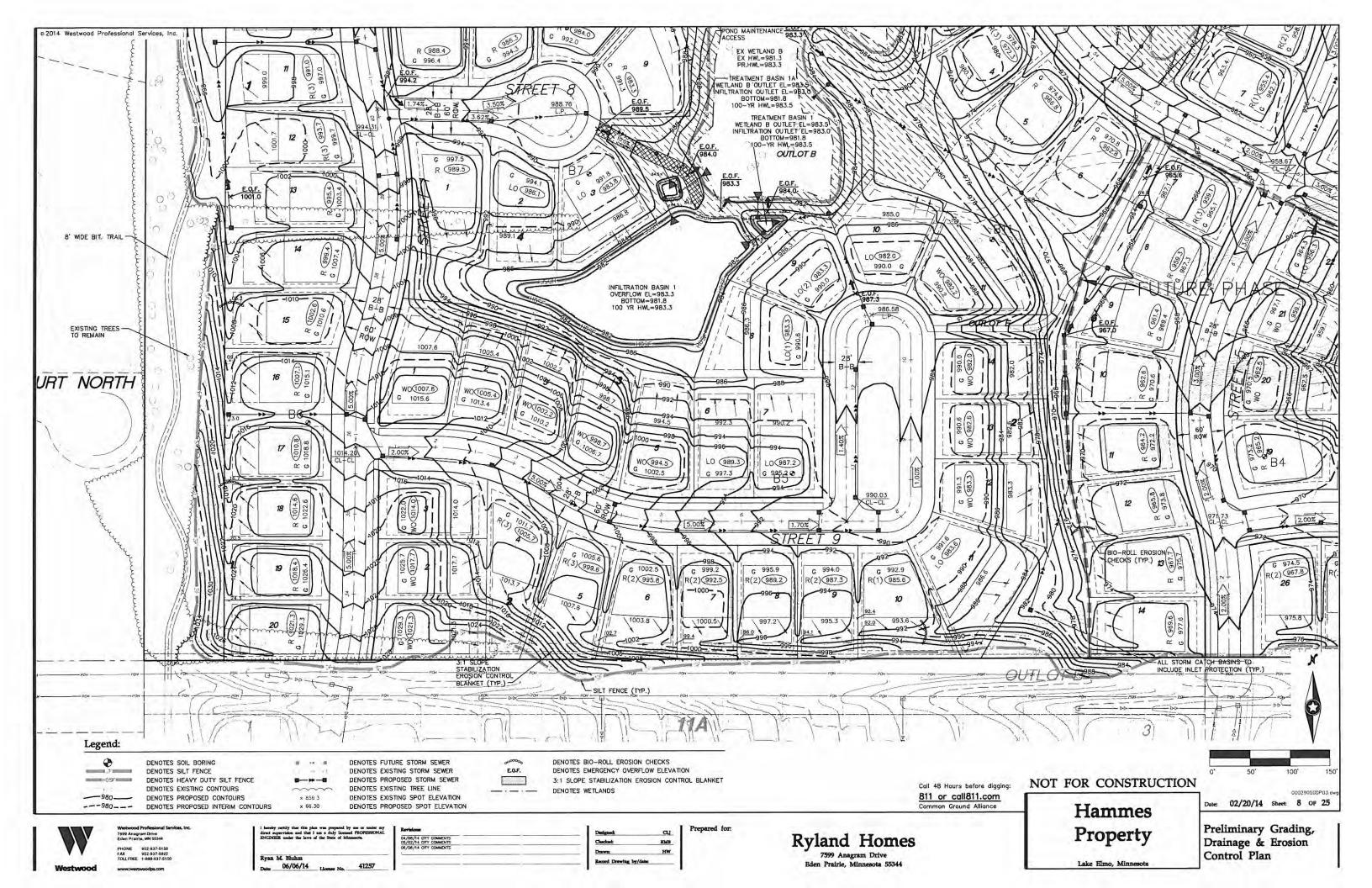


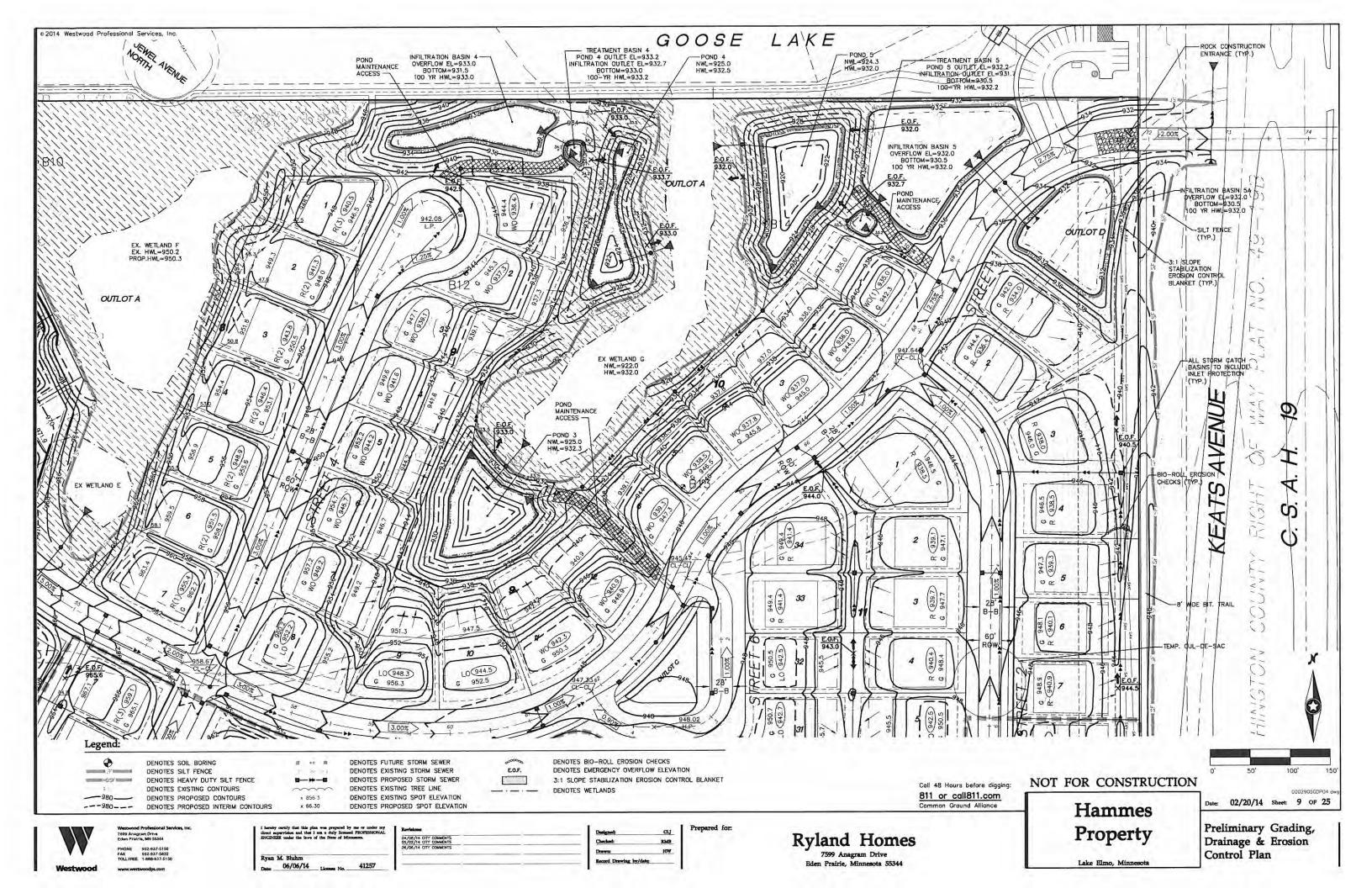


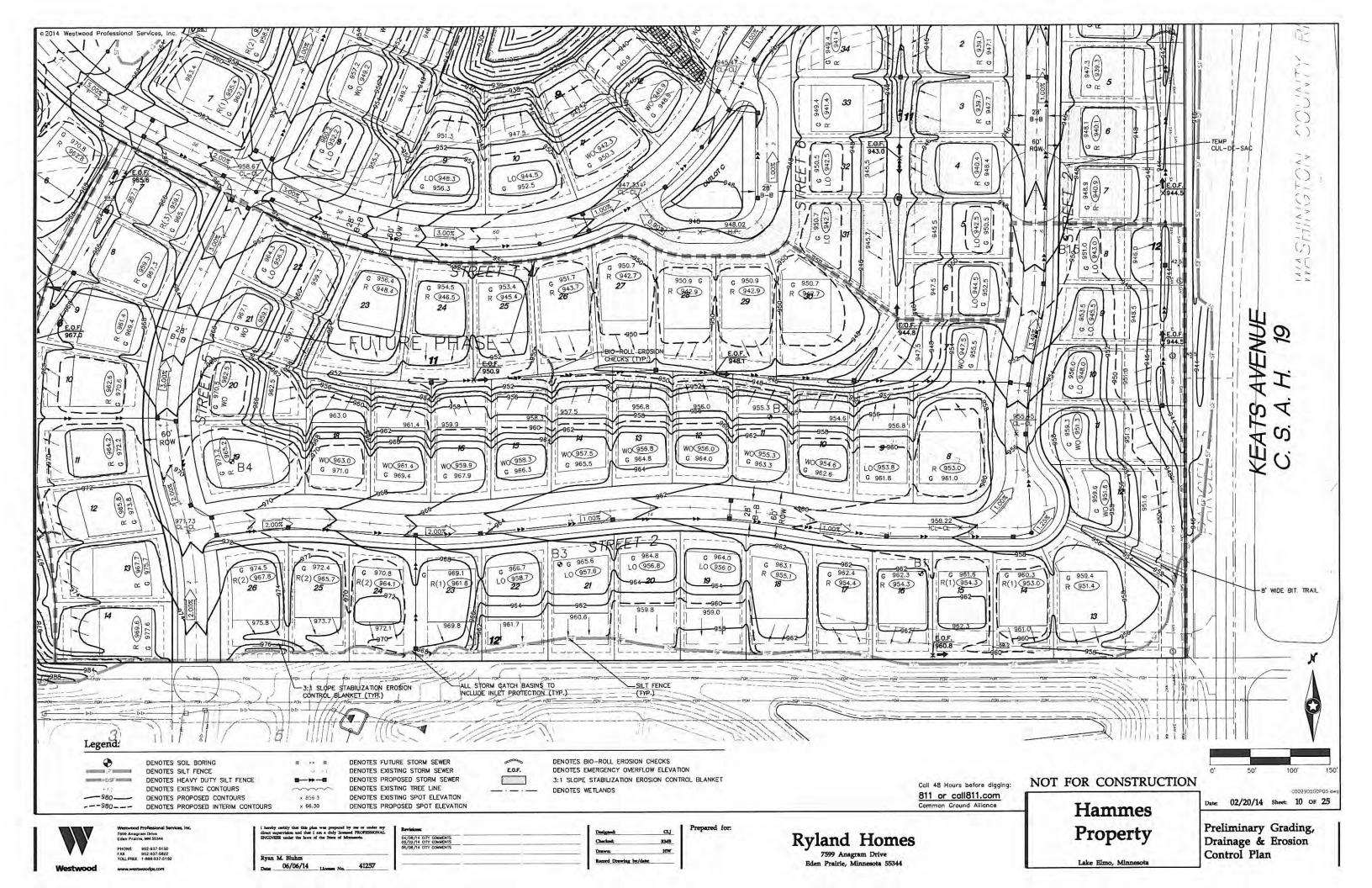


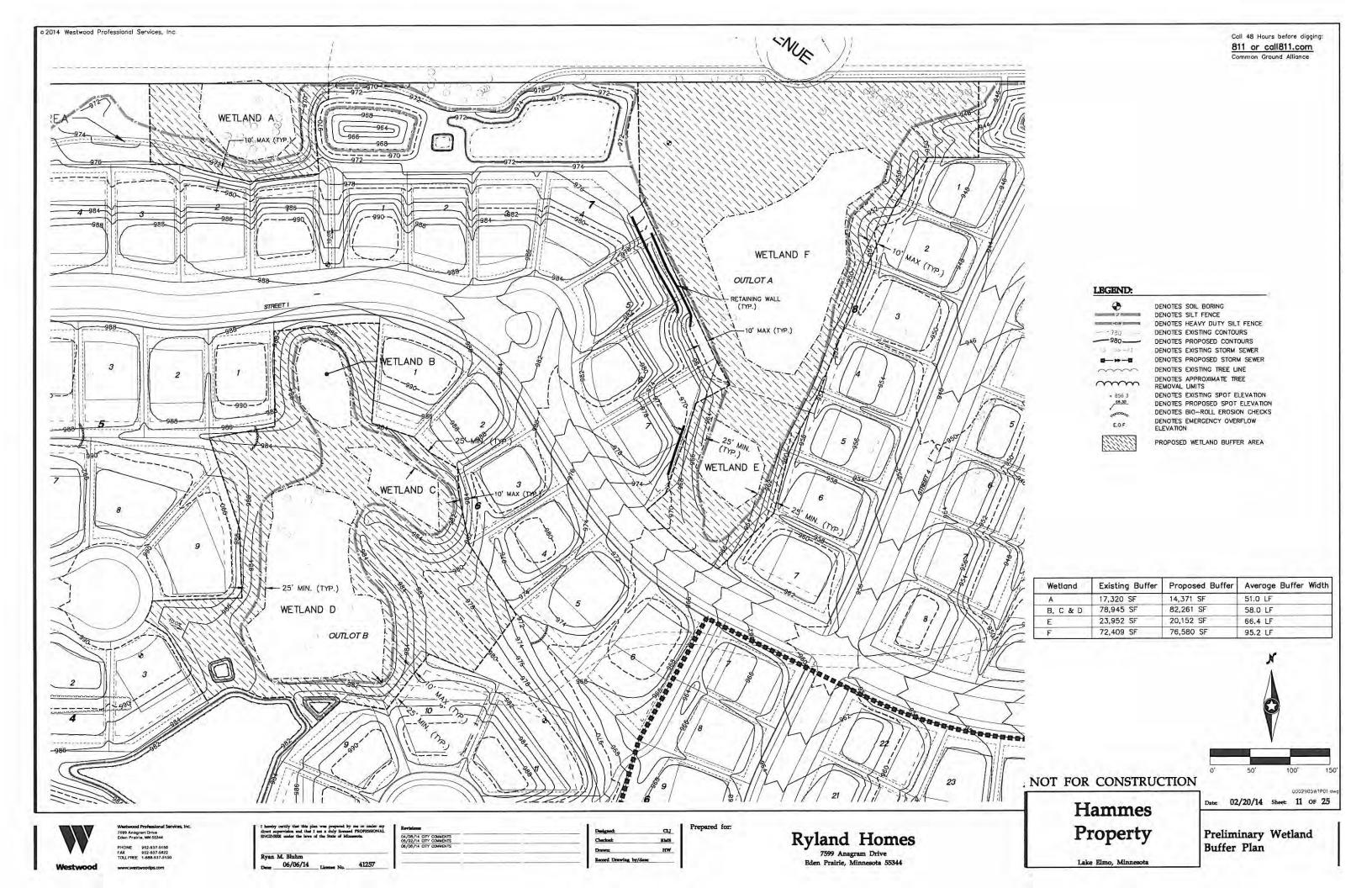














Call 48 Hours before digging: 811 or call811.com Common Ground Alliance

#### LEGEND:

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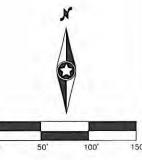
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DENOTES EXISTING CONTOURS

DENOTES PROPOSED CONTOURS DENOTES EXISTING STORM SEWER DENOTES PROPOSED STORM SEWER DENOTES EXISTING TREE LINE DENOTES APPROXIMATE TREE REMOVAL LIMITS

DENOTES EXISTING SPOT ELEVATION
DENOTES PROPOSED SPOT ELEVATION
DENOTES BIO-ROLL EROSION CHECKS
DENOTES EMERGENCY OVERFLOW
ELEVATION

PROPOSED WETLAND BUFFER AREA

Wetland Existing Buffer Proposed Buffer Average Buffer Width 85.3 LF 92,054 SF 95,313 SF



NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

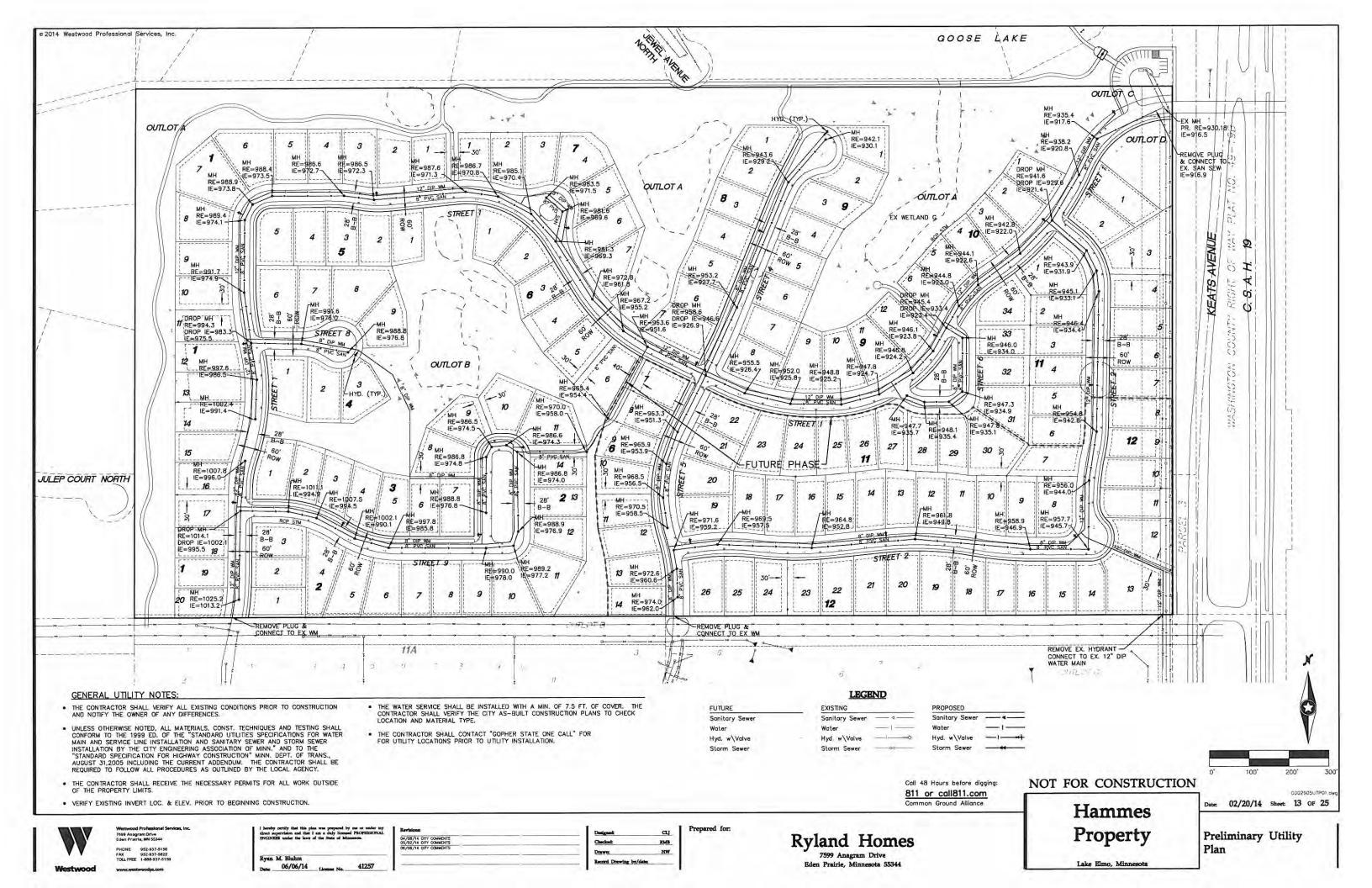
Hammes **Property**  Date: 02/20/14 Sheet: 12 OF 25

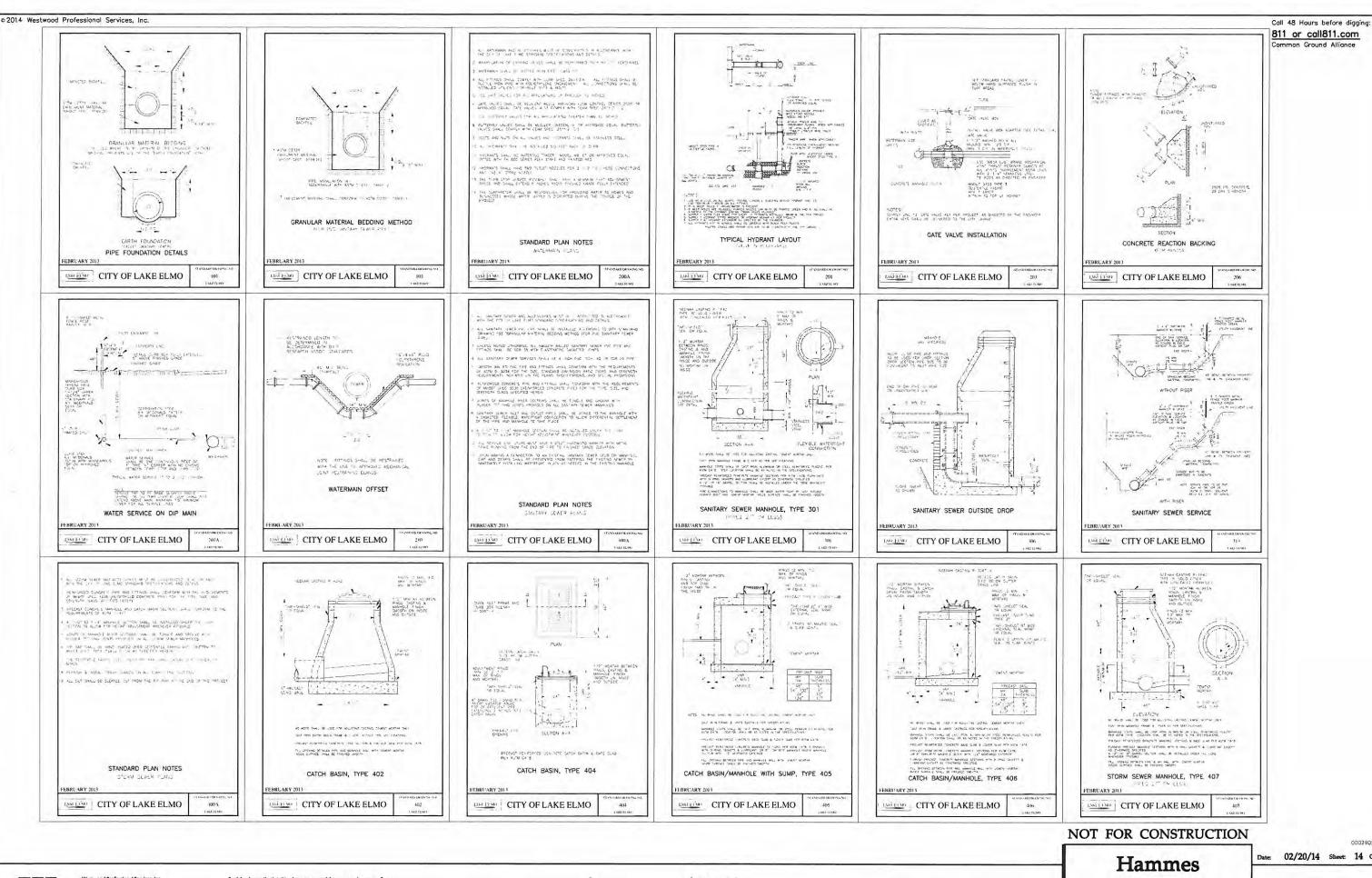
Preliminary Wetland Buffer Plan

Date: 06/06/14

Ryland Homes 7599 Anagram Drive Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

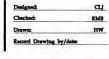
Lake Elmo, Minnesota





41257

Date: 06/06/14 License No.



Ryland Homes 7599 Anagram Drive

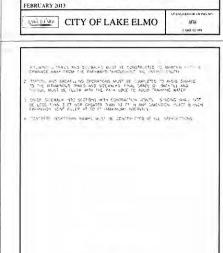
Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

**Property** 

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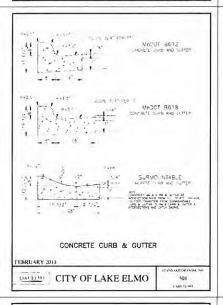
Date: 02/20/14 Sheet: 14 OF 25

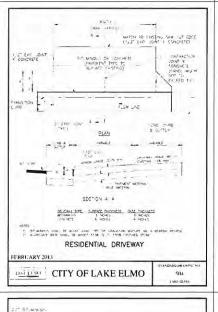
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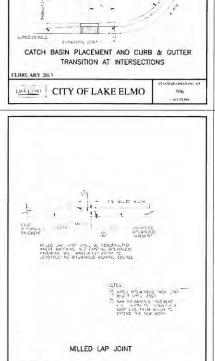


STANDARD PLAN NOTES

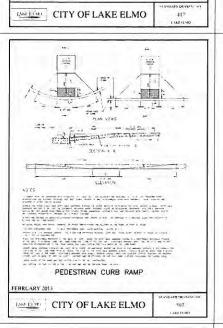
CITY OF LAKE ELMO

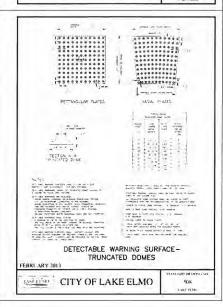


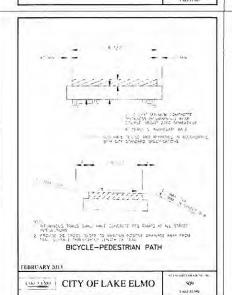


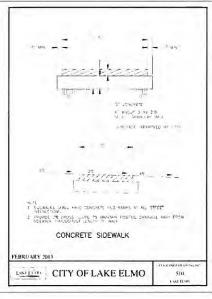


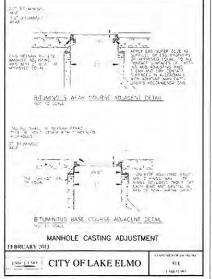
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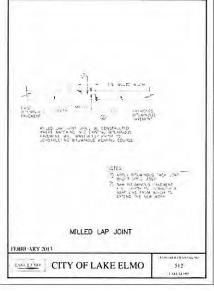


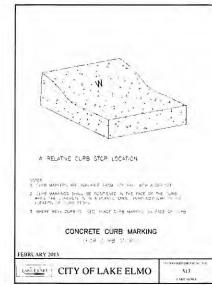












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0002905DTP04 d Date: 02/20/14 Sheet: 15 OF 25

41257

Dete: 06/06/14

Checked: RMB Drawn; HW Record Drawing by/dame

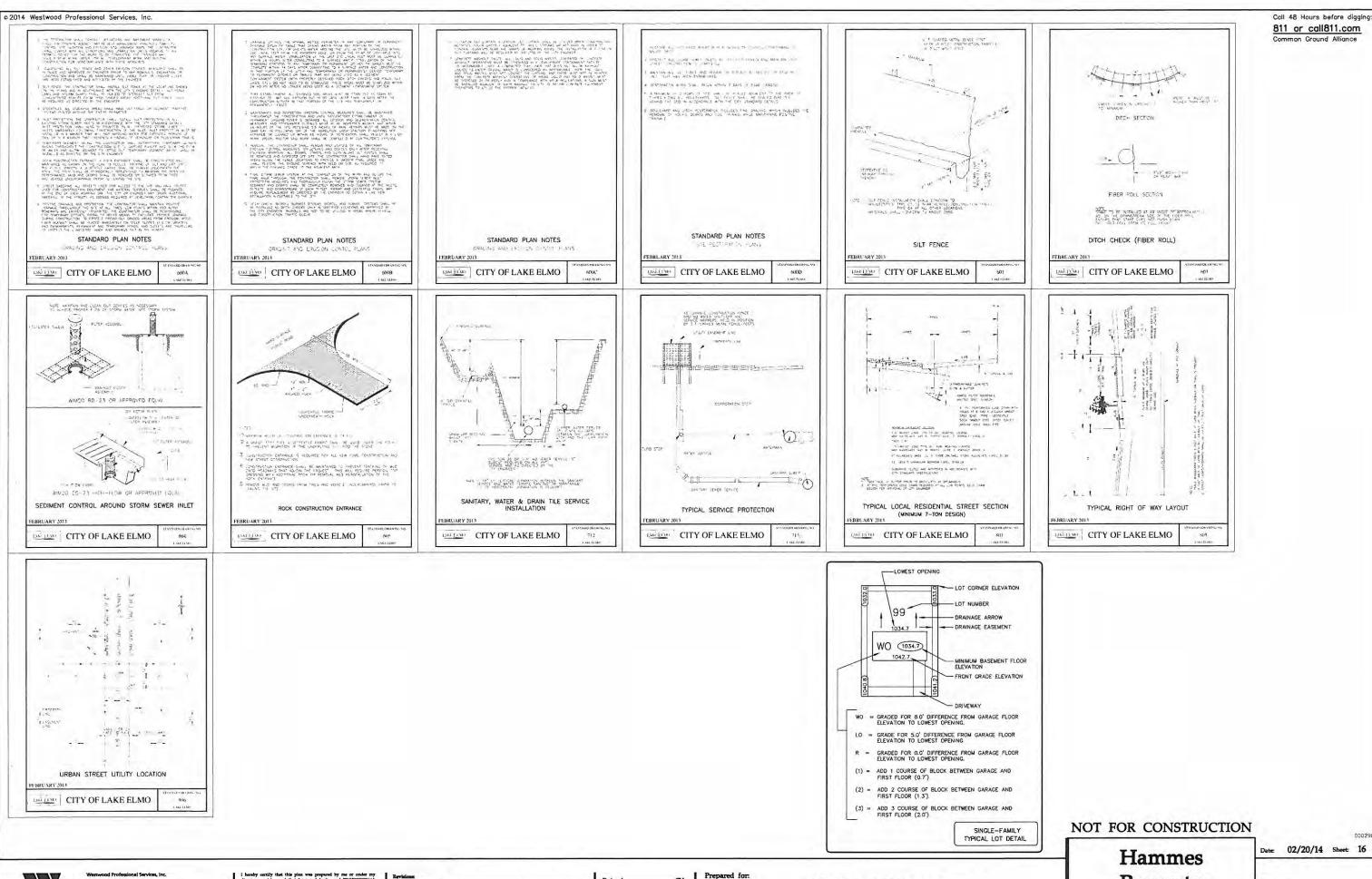
Prepared for: Ryland Homes 7599 Anagram Drive

Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

Hammes Property

Lake Elmo, Minnesota

Details



Date: 06/06/14 License No.

CLJ KMB Drawn:

Ryland Homes 7599 Anagram Drive Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

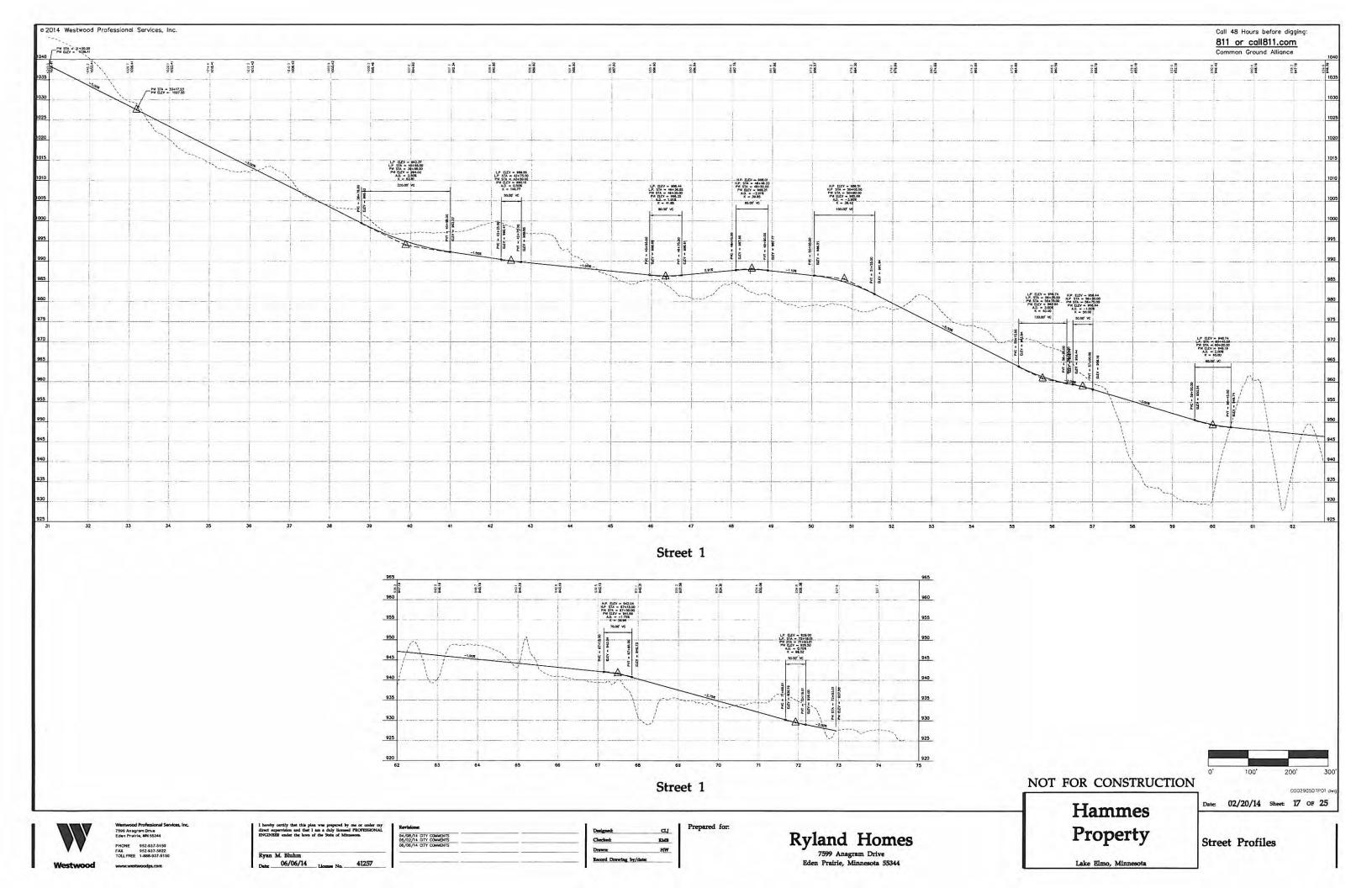
**Property** 

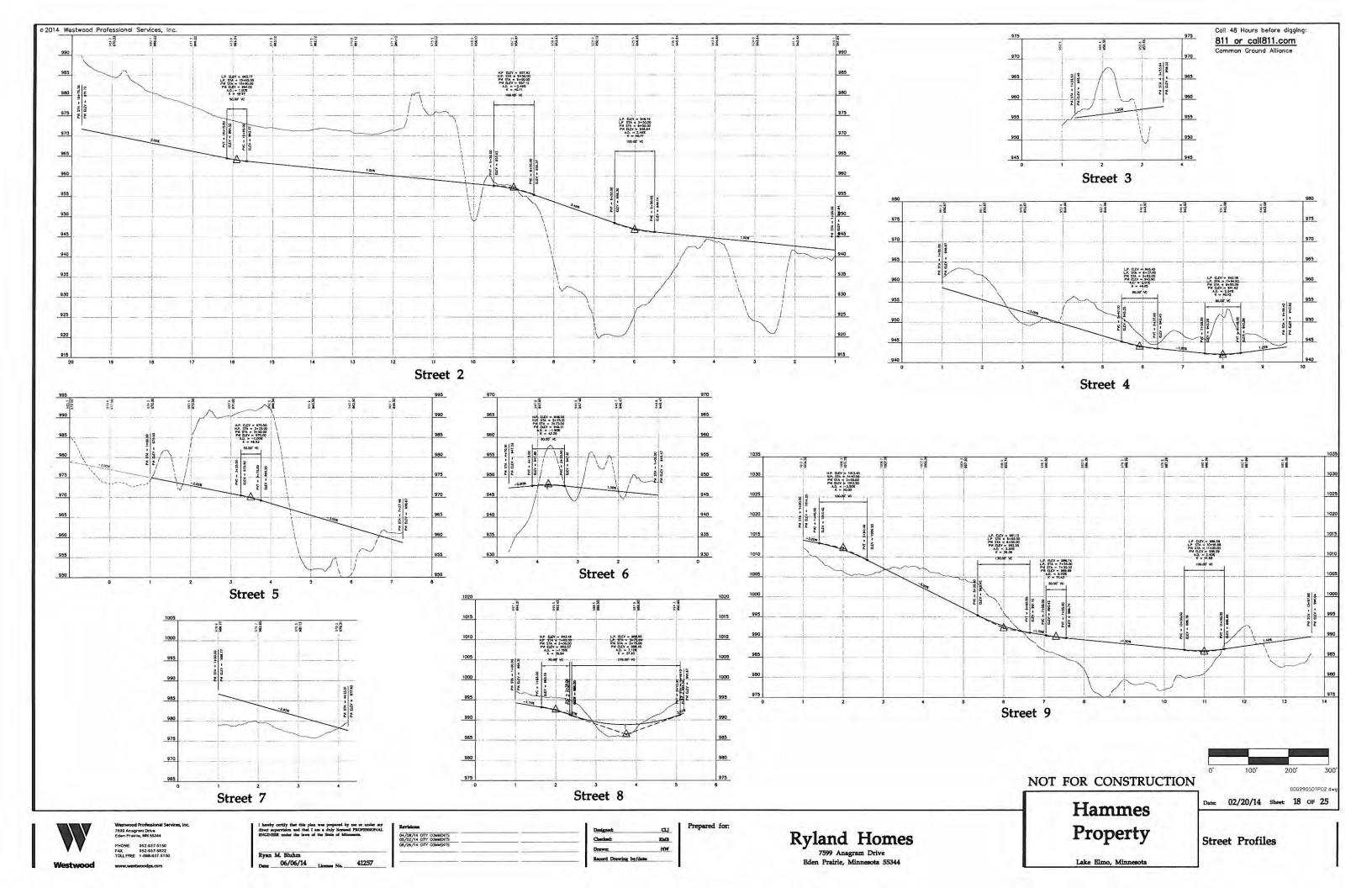
Lake Elmo, Minnesota

Date: 02/20/14 Sheet: 16 OF 25

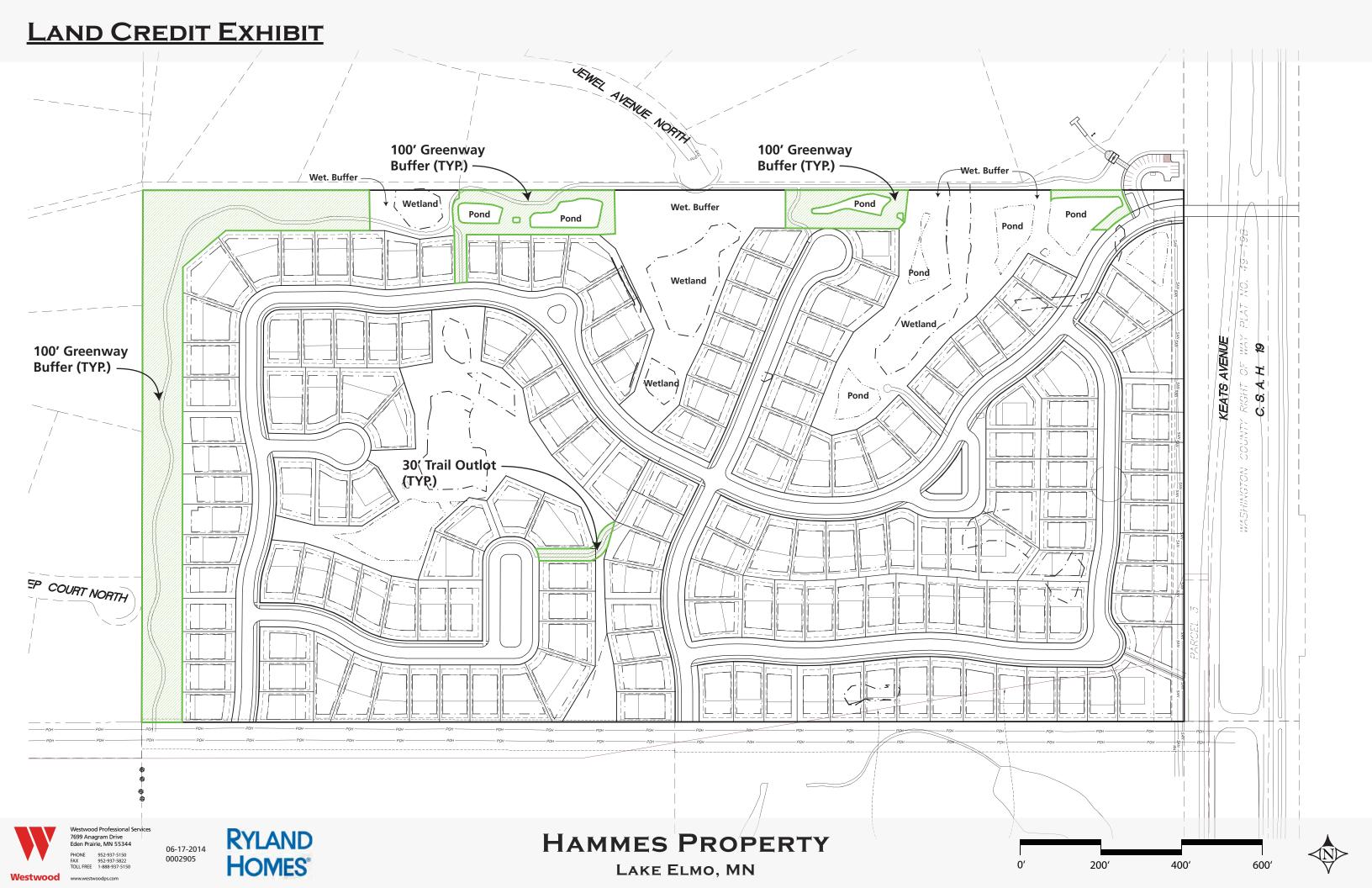
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Details









From: Ryan M. Bluhm
To: Nick Johnson

Subject: FW: 0002905 Land Credit Exhibit Update

Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 4:35:29 PM

Attachments: 0002905 Land Credit Exhibit 200sc 14-06-17.pdf

Attached is the revised plan. Thanks

----Original Message-----From: Steven Eggert

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:26 PM

To: Ryan M. Bluhm

Subject: RE: 0002905 Land Credit Exhibit Update

Total Area: 250,100 sf

5.7 ac

Steven Eggert Project Planner Landscape Architecture

Westwood Professional Services Serving clients across the Nation

DIRECT 952-906-7458 MAIN 952-937-5150 FAX 952-937-5822

WEB www.westwoodps.com

EMAIL steven.eggert@westwoodps.com

-----Original Message-----From: Ryan M. Bluhm

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:57 PM

To: Steven Eggert

Subject: FW: 0002905 Land Credit Exhibit Update

FYI, can you make the changes

----Original Message----

From: Nick Johnson [mailto:NJohnson@lakeelmo.org]

Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:38 PM

To: Ryan M. Bluhm Cc: Kyle Klatt

Subject: RE: 0002905 Land Credit Exhibit Update

Ryan,

Attached is a sketch of what I think is appropriate. Near the cul-de-sac trail, the portion of the trail that is on private lots is not eligible for land dedication credit. In addition, along the northern greenway, areas that are within wetland buffers do not qualify, as it is encumbered land that the City could not do improvements on. The same applies for land that is dedicated within a utility easement for example. If the land is encumbered, it is not eligible per our ordinance.

Does this make sense? Hopefully we can square this figure away so we are all on the same page.

Thanks for completing this work.

Nick M. Johnson | City Planner City of Lake Elmo, Minnesota njohnson@lakeelmo.org (w) 651-747-3912 | (f) 651-747-3901 www.lakeelmo.org

Original Message From: Ryan M. Bluhm [mailto:Ryan.Bluhm@westwoodps.com] Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:55 PM To: Nick Johnson Subject: FW: 0002905 Land Credit Exhibit Update
Nick,
Please see attached and the acreage below. Is this consistent with what we discussed?
Thanks
Ryan
From: Steven Eggert Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:45 PM To: Ryan M. Bluhm Subject: 0002905 Land Credit Exhibit Update
Updated Total Area: 335,500 sf
7.7 ac
PDF:
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Steven Eggert

Project Planner

## Landscape Architecture

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FAX 952-937-5822

WEB www.westwoodps.com < http://www.westwoodps.com/>

EMAIL steven.eggert@westwoodps.com < mailto:jane.doe@westwoodps.com >

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# **MEMORANDUM**



Cara Geheren, P.E. 651.300.4261
Jack Griffin, P.E. 651.300.4264
Ryan Stempski, P.E. 651.300.4267
Chad Isakson, P.E. 651.300.4285

Date: June 16, 2014

To: Nick Johnson, City Planner

Cc: Kyle Klatt, Planning Director

From: Jack Griffin, P.E., City Engineer

Re: Hammes Estates

**Preliminary Plat Review** 

An engineering review has been completed for the Hammes Estates development. Preliminary Plans were received on June 11, 2014. The submittal consisted of the following documentation prepared by Westwood Professional Services, Inc.:

- Revised Preliminary Plans dated 06.06.2014.
- Revised preliminary Storm Water Runoff Narrative, dated 06.11.2014.
- Plan revision response letter dated 06.11.2014.

STATUS/FINDINGS: Engineering review comments are as outlined below. Comments that are <u>underlined</u> indicate potential site plan changes that may impact the preliminary or final plat:

#### UTILITY PLANS AND EASEMENTS

- A 12-inch watermain stub should be extended east along Street 1 to the intersection and County R/W of Keats Avenue for future extension to the east side of CSAH 19.
- The 8-inch watermain line from the Street 8 cul-de-sac to the Street 9 cul-de-sac passes directly under infiltration basin 1 and does not maintain the state required 10-foot offset from storm sewer pipe. An alternate alignment or alternate loop connection will need to be determined as part of the final construction plans.
- The sanitary sewer segment along the east side of Lot 6, Block 6 needs to move further east to maintain additional offset from the Lot 6 property line.
- Additional plan information is needed to evaluate impacts to the City's sewer, forcemain and lift station infrastructure by the proposed Park improvements.
- A few additional easements or pipe alignment adjustments will be needed. These adjustments do not appear to create site plan difficulties and can be completed as part of the final construction plans.
  - ➤ Along the 42-inch storm sewer pipe behind Lots 2-6, Block 10.
  - At the northeast corner of Lot 1, Block 10.
  - ➤ Along the rear yard of Lot 17, Block 11.

#### STORM SEWER SYSTEM

• The storm sewer system or grading plans must be revised to provide the City standard minimum pipe cover of 3.5 feet. Throughout the site plan the storm sewer minimum cover has not been provided. It appears that additional cover can be easily accomplished in most areas. However a few areas will require

- site plan design changes to provide an acceptable storm sewer system design that integrates properly with the street section, drain tile connections and other utilities.
- Drain tile is required as part of the City standard street section at all localized low points in the street. Drain tile considerations may impact the storm sewer design and depth requirements.

#### CSAH 19 (KEATS AVENUE) IMRPOVEMENTS

- Written documentation is required to demonstrate Washington County approval for the proposed access
  to Keats Avenue together with any County requirements. Turn lane, by-pass lane and other improvements
  on CSAH 19 as required by Washington County must be identified and incorporated into the plans.
- Street 1 improvements must extend into the County Road R/W and connect to CSAH 19 including turning radii and drainage provisions.

#### WETLANDS AND WETLAND BUFFERS

- VBWD requires a minimum 25-foot buffer when buffer averaging is used. In addition, the VBWD does not allow impervious surfaces to be placed on wetlands or wetland buffers.
- The wetland buffer for Wetland G encroaches over the proposed trail between Lot 6, Block 10 and Lot 12, Block 9.

#### GRADING AND STORM WATER MANGEMENT

- Erosion Control Plans were not reviewed at this time. A detailed review will be completed with the review of the Final Construction Plans.
- The site plan is dependent upon and subject to the storm water management plan meeting the VBWD rules and regulations. Storm water facilities proposed as part of the site plan to meet VBWD permitting requirements must be constructed in accordance with the City Engineering Design Standards Manual. Plan modifications may be necessary to meet these requirements and standards and must be completed prior to grading operations or start of construction.
- Additional information is needed to complete a review of the proposed storm water management plan and to verify the proposed grading.
  - ➤ Wetland A area: The existing HWL for Wetland A appears to extend north over the entire existing adjacent property. More information is needed to describe and verify the existing conditions in this area including the existing elevation of the adjacent home.
  - ➤ Wetland A / Pond 2, Treatment Basin and Infiltration Basin 2 area: The proposed storm water plan does not identify a system EOF. More information is needed to describe and verify the proposed flood condition and emergency overflow path to ensure that flood conditions are not increased for adjacent properties.
  - Outlot A area including all wetlands, ponds and infiltration basins: More information is needed to describe and identify the proposed flood condition and emergency overflow path. All proposed ponds, treatment and infiltration basins appear to be connected to Goose Lake during flood conditions. If there is no emergency outlet, back to back storm events may need to be evaluated.
- Infiltration basin 5 and 5A on Outlot D: The HWL for these facilities (932.0) are above the adjacent Street 1 sudgrade elevation. The infiltration basin HWL must be below the street subgrade and the interconnecting storm sewer pipes must be lowered to provide additional pipe cover. This will require additional horizontal and vertical separation from the street and infiltration basins.
- Storm water pond, infiltration basin, and wetland HWLs must be fully contained within Outlots. The 100-year HWL for Wetland G encroaches proposed Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 10, and Lots 2 and 3, Block 9; and the 100-year HWL for Wetland F encroaches proposed Lots 1 and 2, Block 8.
- No HWL has been provided as required for Wetland E.
- The grading plans need to be extended to include the Park Improvements proposed near Goose Lake.



# <u>HAMMES PROPERTY – DESIGN REVIEW REPORT</u> LAKE ELMO, MN

# LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW DATED MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

REVIEWED PLAN SET DATED MAY 2ND, 2014

Required Action Items by Hammes Project Team

- Plan does not meet minimum City requirements for landscape materials. City requirements are fair and reasonable therefore, one or a combination of the following recommendations must be met. Recommendations:
  - Revise design to preserve more existing trees. Therefore, reducing tree replacement requirements.
  - Add more landscape materials on-site to meet landscape requirements.
  - Increase caliper inches or height of trees already specified to comply with aggregate landscape requirements.
  - Plant remaining required plant materials in a nearby City Park per City staff direction to meet landscape requirements.

(per tree preservation ordinance 154.257 8 a-d & landscape requirements 154.258)

- Some of the suggested plant materials specified may or may not be appropriate for this site depending on where they are utilized. We look forward to a tagged landscape plan revealing the exact locations of all the specified plant species so we can better understand and review the proposed landscape plans.
- 3. Provide landscape irrigation plans.
- 4. Reduce the use of turf sod around storm water facilities and replace with an ecologically appropriate alternative such as native shrubs or prairie.

SINCERELY,

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, INC.

STEPHEN MASTEY, ASLA, CLARB, LEED AP BD+C

DIRECTOR OF DESIGN

856 RAYMOND AVENUE SUITE C • ST. PAUL, MN • 55114 PHONE: 651.646.1020 • EMAIL: STEPHEN@LANDARCINC.COM

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources 1200 Warner Road Saint Paul, MN 55106-6793



May 28, 2014

Nick Johnson City of Lake Elmo 3800 Laverne Ave. N. Lake Elmo, MN 55042

RE: Shoreland Ordinance Revisions/Hammes Plat

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have taken a preliminary look at the proposed revisions to your shoreland ordinance. It will take me more time to complete a thorough review without a redline version to compare to your old ordinance. It is also extremely time consuming to have to look in other parts of the ordinance for some of the standards. I may need to meet with you again so that you can highlight the changes.

The revision you are most interested in I think, is the riparian dedication so that you can apply it to the Hammes plat to increase density. You also mentioned that there may be other developments coming up. That is the section I will comment on at this time. Riparian buffers do have value when applied to undeveloped lakes so that the buffer functions to protect the riparian zone from individual property owner alterations that effect water quality and habitat. The city really only has 1 partially developed and one mostly undeveloped water body that these would be applicable to. The other water bodies are fully developed.

If approved, the riparian dedications areas must remain largely undeveloped and free of impervious surfaces. It seems like the standards for use contained in the ordinance would allow significant alteration for common spaces. For the Hammes Plat, the riparian dedication is small compared to the size of the lake. Such uses should be clustered for minimal impact and restricted to the greatest extent possible. Facilities and alterations must be setback the greatest amount possible to keep the buffer nearest the lake intact. It is also extremely important that the buffer areas be marked with monuments and signs to prevent yard creep. There should be deed restrictions and clear rules and enforcement.

Regarding the Hammes plat, we noticed that the riparian dedication does not cover the southern-most extension of the lake. As this is part of Goose Lake, the riparian dedication should also extend to protect the entire south end of the lake, including the extension. It is unknown to me whether this was natural or manmade, but at this point, it is considered part of the lake. It is unlikely that we could approve a flexibility request by the city to allow a riparian dedication of a 150' buffer without including the whole portion of the lake contained within the proposed plat.

Another consideration for flexibility approval will be to evaluate the section of the ordinance regarding water oriented structures. We would still like to receive a written response to our letter regarding the Leonard structure. We appreciate that the city has revised the height to conform to the state standard in the new ordinance, but if our interpretations differ, we need to assure that we are on the same page going forward. This may involve inserting some additional language.

We likely need additional conversations regarding the steps forward in order to implement and approve flexibility for reduced standards. Unfortunately our time is very limited for land use related activities, but we are sensitive to the fact that the city needs to move forward and will try to prioritize reaching a conclusion of these issues.

Please contact me at (651) 259-5845 or <u>molly.shodeen@state.mn.us</u> to discuss your thoughts.

Sincerely.

Molly Shodeen Area Hydrologist

ec: Kyle Klatt, City Planni

Holly Shodeen

Kyle Klatt, City Planning Director Dan Petrik, DNR EWR Land Use Unit From: Shodeen, Molly (DNR)

To: <u>Nick Johnson</u>

Cc: Kyle Klatt; Dean Zuleger; Petrik, Daniel (DNR)

**Subject:** RE: June Land Use Review

Date: Monday, June 16, 2014 12:07:19 PM

Attachments: <u>image002.jpg</u>

Thanks Nick, as I said in my last letter, we believe that the 150' riparian dedication must be applied to the manmade channel/southern extension of the lake. DNR permit rules consider anything that is dredged and attached to the lake to be part of the lake, and as such must meet any setback requirements, as well as in this case, the 150' buffer requirement. We do not see that there are practical difficulties beyond financial for issuing the variance and we recommend that the variance be denied. We consider the Met Council argument to be a bit weak as there are other developments coming up that will get you to your projections.

As an alternative, we would request that a berm be placed across the access channel to restore the Goose Lake basin to what it was. The photos show that it was excavated sometime between the 60's and 90's without any DNR permits. A permit would be needed to close it off, but we would consider it to be a restoration. The photos also show that originally in 1991 there was a very narrow connection which was again illegally widened since 1991 to its current configuration.

As far as the ordinance goes, we need to meet to discuss any and all changes that you have made unless you have a strike through version to show the changes. I need to discuss your reaction to my suggested changes that were not made in the final ordinance. For any buffer implementation, we request that it be marked and monumented to prevent encroachment over time. As previously stated, we would like to see that right in the ordinance.

You also need to request implementation flexibility as part of the request to approve the ordinance. It is a letter asking that we consider allowing flexibility for the city to deviate from the statewide standards. The letter needs to detail what the request is, and how it will afford additional protection for the resources to justify the flexibility.

From: Nick Johnson [mailto:NJohnson@lakeelmo.org < mailto:NJohnson@lakeelmo.org > ]

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 12:07 PM

To: Shodeen, Molly (DNR); John Hanson (jhanson@barr.com < mailto:jhanson@barr.com > )

Cc: Kyle Klatt; Dean Zuleger Subject: June Land Use Review

Molly and John,

Please see the attached land use review for the June 23rd Planning Commission meeting. If possible, please send review comments by Wednesday, June 18th. Hard copies are being placed in the mail today to your office.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Nick M. Johnson | City Planner

City of Lake Elmo, Minnesota

 $njohnson@lakeelmo.org < \underline{mailto:njohnson@lakeelmo.org} >$ 

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www.lakeelmo.org < <a href="http://www.lakeelmo.org">http://www.lakeelmo.org</a>>