Village of
JOHNSBURG
Settled 1841 – Incorporated 1956

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December 1, 2014

Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)
441 G Street NW.
Washington, DC 20314–1000

Re: Village of Johnsburg, Illinois
"Johnsburg Watershed Restoration Initiative"
Proposal for a Feasibility Study
For Inclusion in the USACE Annual Report to Congress

Dear Ms Kiefel;

Pursuant to the August 5, 2014 Federal Register Notice, the Village of Johnsburg, Illinois, hereby submits a feasibility study request for inclusion in the USACE Annual Report to Congress. To ease your review of this request, we are providing the following direct answers to the 8 questions listed in the Notice.

1. *Provide the name of all non-Federal interests planning to act as the sponsor, including any non-Federal interest that has contributed or is expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.*

   Village of Johnsburg - an Illinois municipality

2. *State if this proposal is for a feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project or feasibility study and, if a modification, specify the authorized project or study.*

   This is a proposal for a new feasibility study entitled the "Johnsburg Watershed Restoration Initiative" (Study)

3. *State the project purpose of the proposed study or modification.*

   The purpose of the Study is to provide an impartial and comprehensive review of significant environmental, habitat, flood protection and stream bank stabilization issues impacting local, regional and national interests.

4. *Provide an estimate, to the extent practicable, of the total cost of the proposed study or modification.*

   $75,000

5. *Describe, to the extent practicable, the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States*

   The Village of Johnsburg exists along the Fox River, immediately downstream of the Chain O' Lakes. The Chain O' Lakes waterway system contains 15 lakes covering more than 7,100 acres of water with 488 miles of shoreline. This waterway system has the distinction of being classified as the busiest inland recreational waterway per acre in the nation. With significant Fox River and Dutch Creek shoreline are within the Village limits it is expected this Study will serve as an important impartial technical watershed management roadmap for the future.

   Attachment #1 to this letter is an Advanced Identification of Wetland Disposal Areas (ADID) Watershed Map that shows the proposed Study limits. Attachment #1 also shows various local boundaries and the relationship between the Village and the Chain O' Lakes waterway system. Additional maps of the Study Area are available that show; floodplains, natural areas and individual property boundaries.

   The scope of the Study is expected to include the following;

   - Documenting and recommending long-term improvements to natural drainage ways and natural basins that impact wildlife, flooding, properties and water quality.

   - Evaluating potential watershed improvement techniques such as dredging, vegetation management, physical cleanup, septic tank discharge elimination, groundwater pollution cleanup, artificial island creation and shoreline stabilization.

- Providing a recommendation to improve regional stormwater management plans for both the Village and others having impacts on the quality of the watershed.

- Providing recommendations for improved land management by existing land owners and provide suggestions for future public acquisition of critical lands.

The monetary benefits expected from the Study include:

- Using the data gathered from the record flood/rain event of April 2013 (http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ilx/?n=apr2013flooding) it is expected that data and recommendations from the Study will help reduce future losses in similar events. Losses incurred during this event included: permanent loss of property due to excessive stream flows, washed out local roadways, inundated potable water wellheads and building damage of structures outside of traditional floodways and floodplains.

The nonmonetary benefits expected from the Study are as follows:

- The implementation of management tools and techniques developed during the Study will help foster a better and more thorough understanding of this watershed and provide new ways to preserve it for future generations. In addition, immediate benefits are expected in the areas of wildlife habitat and water quality improvements. A significant amount of this watershed remains in its natural condition and this Study has the potential to highlight protection strategies that may be lost if development continues to encroach on certain areas.

The national significance of this Study can best be described as an overall improvement to the Fox River. In addition to being one of the nation's most popular recreational waterways, the Fox River is the primary source of drinking water for some 200,000 people. Improving the quality of its water by eliminating pollutants discharged during future flood events will insure a more stable raw water resource downstream. In addition, better stabilization of existing shore lines and reestablishing natural water storage areas will compliment ongoing efforts to clean up and restore the ecosystem of the Illinois River, into which the Fox River flows.

6. *Describe if local support exists for the proposal.*

   Significant local support exists for this proposal. Similar requests for Fox River water quality improvement projects have written support on file from:

   U.S. Senator Richard Durbin
   U.S. Representative Randy Hultgren
   State Representative Jack Frank
   Fox Waterway Agency
   McHenry County Board

7. *State if the non-Federal interest has the financial ability to provide for the required cost share.*

   The Village of Johnsburg is committed to providing payments and/or in-kind services to comply with USACE local share requirements. Both the Village and the Fox Waterway Agency view this Study as the beginning of a positive partnership in which all users of this unique water resource are benefitted.

8. *Submit a letter or statement of support from each associated non-Federal interest.*

   The submission of this letter provides the Village of Johnsburg's support for this request.

Should you need any further information or if any effort on our part will expedite review, approval or inclusion of this Study in your report to Congress, please contact me at cpeters@johnsburg.org or 815-385-6023.

Very Truly Yours,

Claudett Peters
Village Administrator

Enc: Attachment #1 - Advanced Identification of Wetland Disposal Areas (ADID) Watershed Map that shows the proposed Study limits.

Cc Tim Hartnett
Bill Viney
Don Roecker

Johnsburg Watershed Restoration Initiative

Attachment #1
ADID Wetlands

Legend

- Watershed
- JohnsburgLimits2009
- Corporate_Limits_2009

ADIDwetlands2005

Classification

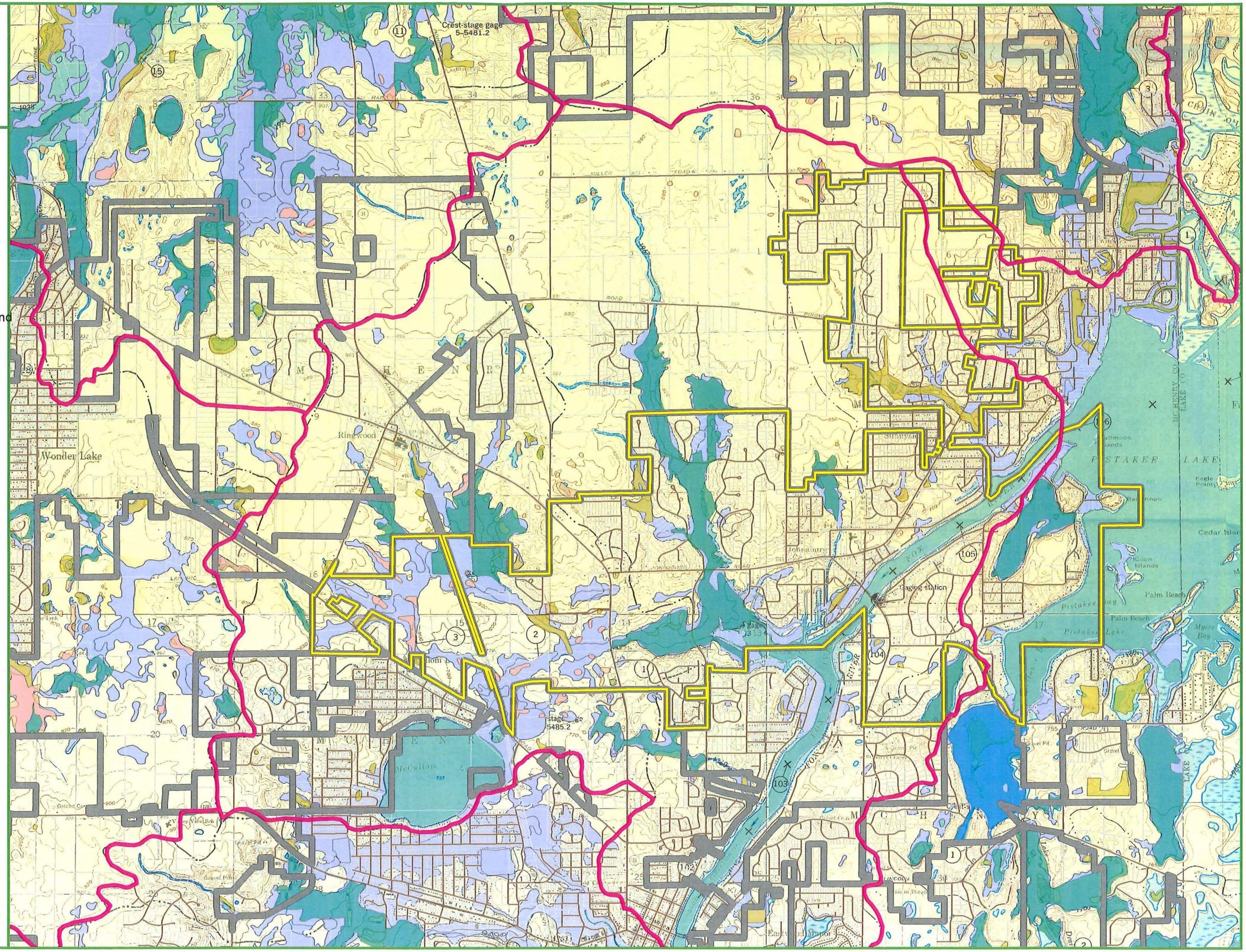
- High Functional Value Wetland
- High Quality Wetland
- Wetland
- Farmed Wetland
- High Quality Lake
- Lake
- Urban Conversion
- Non-wetland
- Hydric_Soils

N
W E
S

0 1,500
Feet
1 inch = 3,000 feet

Data Source:
Projected Coordinate System:
Projection:

HRGreen



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