



Project File Memorandum

From: Tom Gruis

8/1/2019

**Subject: Iowa Watershed Approach: Iowa County Program Area—CDBG 13-NDRI-006
Environmental Review/Floodplain and Wetlands (8-Step Process)**

This Eight-Step Decision Making Process for floodplain and wetlands evaluation is prepared for a proposed pond and grassed waterway to be installed at the East Iowa Bible Camp, 1433 F52 Trail, Deep River, Iowa, within the English River Watershed as part of the Iowa Watershed Approach project, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Competition. The practices implemented will restore provide flood hazard mitigation and other environmental benefits.

The Eight-Step Decision Making Process is comprised of the following actions:

1. Determine if the proposal is located in a wetland or the 100-year floodplain (or in the 500-year floodplain for a critical action, i.e. actions for which even a slight chance of flooding would be too great). If the proposal will not be conducted in these areas, then no further compliance with this part is required.
2. Notify the public of the intent to locate the proposed action in the floodplain or wetland. The notice must be published at least once in a local newspaper of general circulation (in cities where there is no newspaper of general circulation, notices must be displayed in the local post office and its substations). The public must be given at least fifteen days to comment. The notice is titled *Notice of Proposed Project to be Located in a Floodplain or Wetland*.
3. Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating in the floodplain. This requires the applicant to consider whether the floodplain or wetland can be avoided either through selecting alternative sites, choosing alternative actions to serve the identical project objective, or taking no action. Note that specific, actual alternative site must be identified and evaluated.
4. Identify potential direct or indirect impacts associated with the occupancy or modification of the floodplain or wetland.
5. Identify methods where practicable, to design or modify the proposal to minimize the potential adverse impacts within the floodplain or wetland and restore and preserve its natural and beneficial value.
6. Reevaluate the alternatives, taking into account the identified impacts, the steps necessary to minimize these impacts and the opportunities to restore and preserve floodplain values.

7. If the recipient determines the only practicable alternative is locating in the floodplain or wetland, a final public notice shall be published. This public notice MUST be published at least 8 days before the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF) or Concurrent Notice whichever is applicable. A sample notice that is titled Notice of a Decision Regarding Project to be Located in a Floodplain or Wetland can be found on the following pages. The notice will include the reason for locating the project in a floodplain or wetland, the alternatives that were considered, and any mitigation measures that are planned.
8. The proposed action can be implemented after steps 1 through 7 have been completed and all other requirements are met. There is a continuing responsibility to ensure that any mitigation measures identified in Step 7 are implemented.

Proposal

A 7-acre pond expansion, project ID ER-004-EASTIOWABIBLECAMP, of an existing 2-acre pond at the East Iowa Bible Camp is proposed. The proposed project is located east of Millersburg, in Iowa County, Iowa. The legal description is SE ¼, SW ¼, Section 2 and northeast corner of NW ¼, NW ¼, Section 2 T78N, R12W. The project site is within the Middle English River subwatershed. The existing pond is a designated freshwater pond wetland. Refer to Map 1 for a map of the proposed location and Map 2 for a map of the project footprint and designated wetland. The proposed grassed waterway, project ID ER-005-EASTIOWABIBLECAMP, does not intersect a floodplain or designated wetland. The proposed project area effect (APE) is a seasonal, recreational camp. The proposed project will mitigate gully erosion, improve water quality, and reduce flood risk.

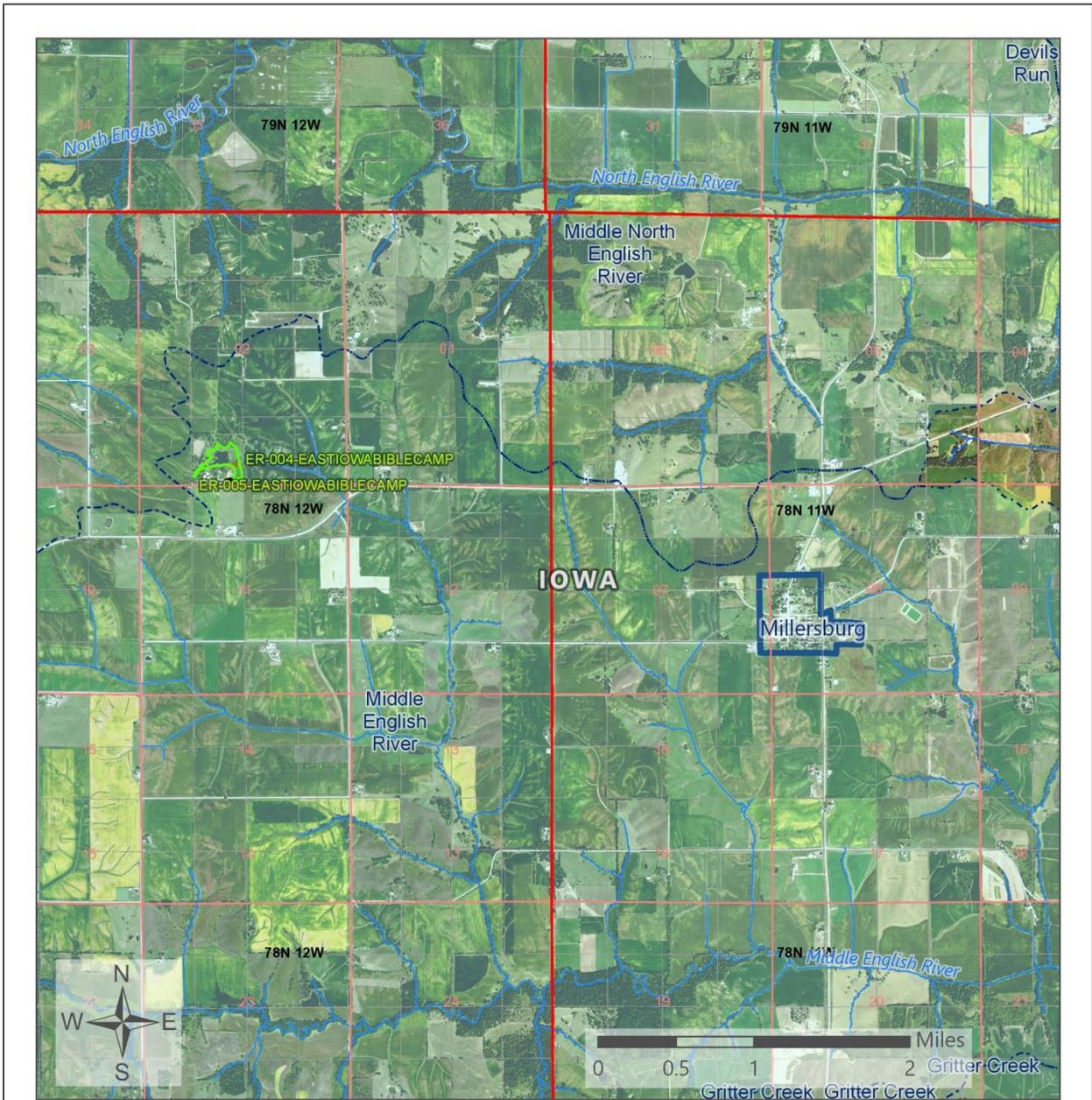
Determination (Step 1)

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) data provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), it has been determined the above proposed project site is located in a designated wetland. See Map 2.

Preliminary Notice (Step 2)

Notice of Proposed Project to be Located in a Floodplain or Wetland was published August 1, 2019 providing local opportunity for 15-day review and comment, to end August 16, 2019.

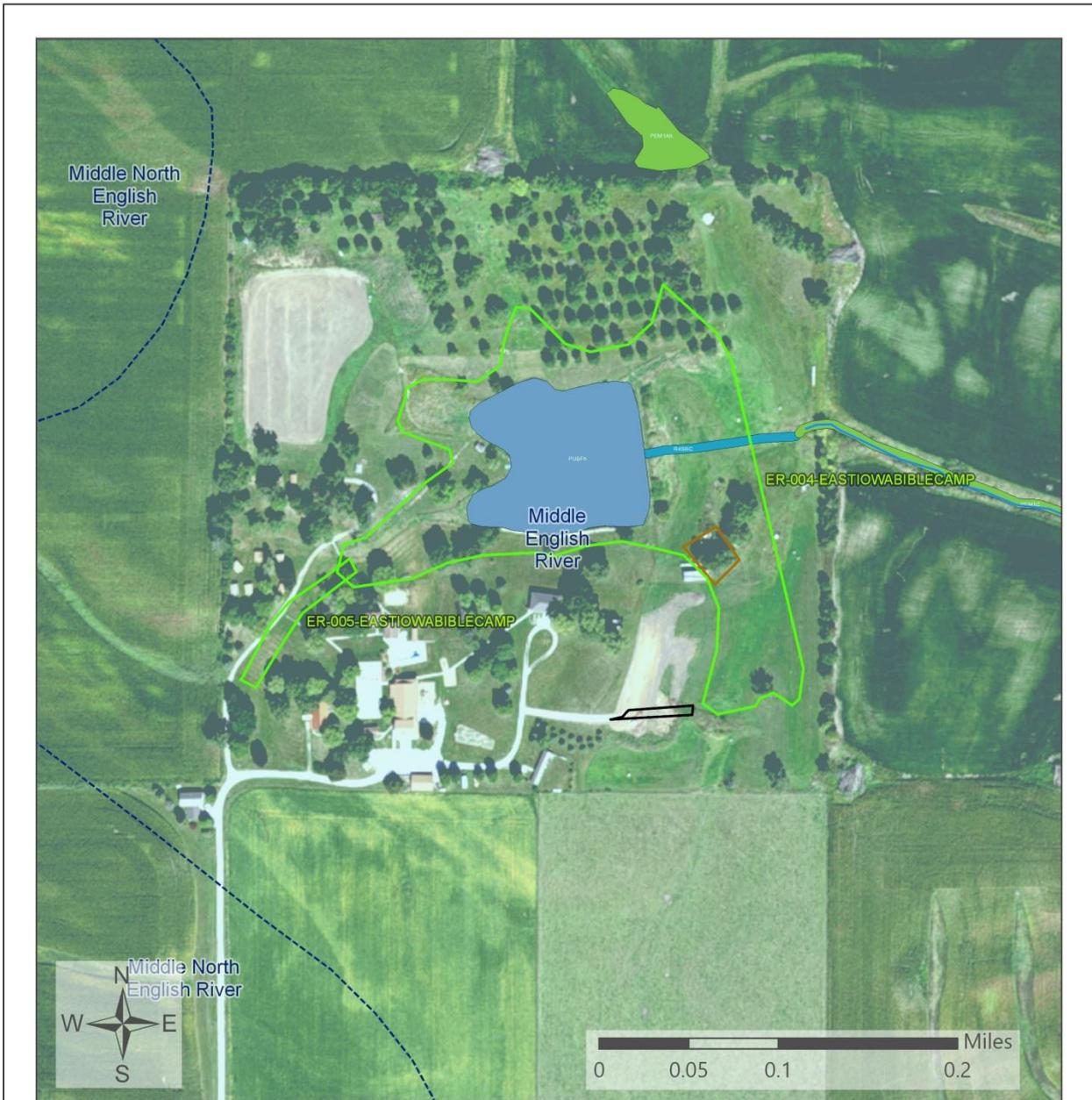
Map 1: Project Location



LEGEND

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Disturbance Type | PLSS | Targeted Subwatershed |
| Access Road | PLSS Township | Stream |
| Borrow Area | PLSS Section | Municipality |
| Estimated BMP Footprint | PLSS Intersected | County Boundary |

Map 2: Project Footprint, Floodplain, and Wetland



LEGEND

Disturbance Type

-  Access Road
-  Borrow Area
-  Estimated BMP Footprint

-  Targeted Subwatershed

-  Stream
-  Road
-  County Boundary

WETLANDS

-  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
-  Estuarine and Marine Wetland
-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  Freshwater Pond
-  Lake
-  Other
-  Riverine