



Appendix A

Comments and Responses

A2: Public Scoping Meeting Information

- Agenda
- Minutes
- Public Comments





Wild Rice Watershed District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · www.wildricewatershed.org

Date: June 2, 2017
To: Landowners in South Branch Watershed
From: Kevin Ruud, Administrator
Re: **Public Meeting Regarding Watershed Planning Effort**

**Notice of Public Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2017 at 1 p.m.
Felton Community Center
253 6th Street, Felton, MN
South Branch Watershed
Public & Agency Scoping
Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD)**

The WRWD will host a public meeting at the Community Center (253 6th Street) in Felton, MN, **Monday, June 12 @ 1:00 p.m.** This public meeting is for Landowners located within the South Branch Watershed. The WRWD is proceeding as the Local Sponsoring Organization for completion of a NRCS Watershed Planning effort in the South Branch Watershed. The purpose of the meeting is to provide background of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This information will be used to determine the scope of Watershed Planning activities within the South Branch Watershed. Input may be provided through oral comments at the meeting as well as through completion of a questionnaire. For those unable to attend the meeting, the questionnaire will be made available, along with presentation material from the meeting, at the WRWD web page following the public meeting. The WRWD website is listed below:

<http://www.wildricewatershed.org/>

Comments forms will be accepted for all for all forms postmarked on or before July 12, 2017. Completed comment forms can be mailed to the WRWD office at:

Wild Rice Watershed District
11 East 5th Avenue
Ada, MN 56510



Wild Rice Watershed District

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Public Scoping Meeting/Open House Comment Form

South Branch of the Wild Rice River

NRCS Watershed Plan

June 12, 2017

Background

The Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) secured funding through the Red River Retention Authority for Watershed Planning under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RCPP funding was made available for watershed planning in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed and it is required to follow Public Law 83-566 requirements.

The Watershed Planning must also comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements. Tasks required for the NRCS Watershed Plan generally include: Identifying a Purpose and Need, Developing an Environmental Assessment, Identifying the Affected Environment (resource problems), Developing Alternatives, Identifying Environmental Consequences of the alternatives, determining a Preferred Alternative, and creating an overall Watershed Plan. Public participation will be a vital component throughout the entire planning process, beginning with this public meeting.

Purpose of Today's Meeting

The initial step in NRCS Watershed Planning, as directed by NEPA, is to allow for input from all interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies and other interested groups or persons. Initial input will be focused on resource concerns in and adjacent to the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed. In order to gather input on resource concerns, we would request that the attached comment form be completed and provided to the WRWD.

Identified Resource Concerns:

- **Flooding/Flood Damages** (i.e. agricultural effects from delayed planting, prevented planting, crop flood inundation, road damages, culvert/bridge damages, breakout flows, field erosion/deposition, floodplain management, etc.)
- **Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation** (water quality, water resources, soil resources, field erosion/deposition, channel erosion/deposition, etc.)
- **Wildlife and Habitat** (Fish and wildlife, wetlands, endangered and threatened species, invasive species, migratory birds, forest resources, etc.)
- **Other**

Please fill out the following information based on your priorities for the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed.

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Completed comment forms can be mailed to the WRWD office at:

Wild Rice Watershed District
11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

Or via email to nikki@wildricewatershed.org

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

KEY: 0 = No Concern or Not Relevant 1 = Minimal Concern 2 = Minor Concern
3 = Moderate Concern 4 = Significant Concern 5 = Severe Concern

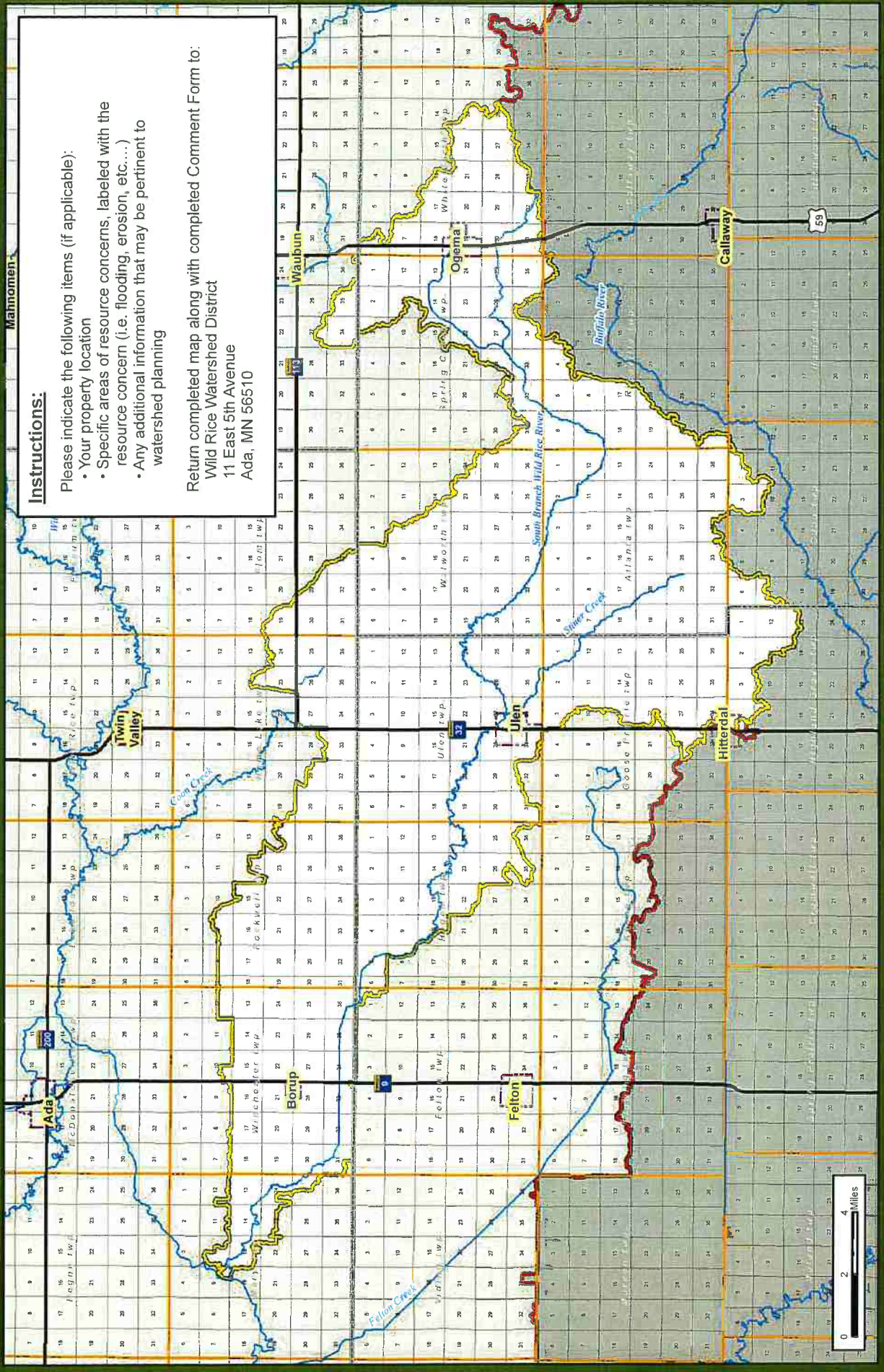
Concerns for Project Scoping:

No Concern

Severe Concern

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Flooding/Flood Damages..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Wildlife and Habitat..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Others (Please describe in comment section)..... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Additional Comments: _____



Instructions:

Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

- Your property location
- Specific areas of resource concerns, labeled with the resource concern (i.e. flooding, erosion, etc....)
- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

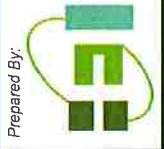
Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:
 Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
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Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

- Rivers and Streams
- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- WRWD Boundary

- City Limits
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary



Prepared By:

Wild Rice Watershed District

**South Branch Sub-Watershed
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
Public Scoping Meeting**

June 12, 2017

Public Scoping Meeting

OBJECTIVES

1. Overview - PL566 Planning process
2. Solicit Comments on the Resource Concerns
3. Inform Public of Future Steps

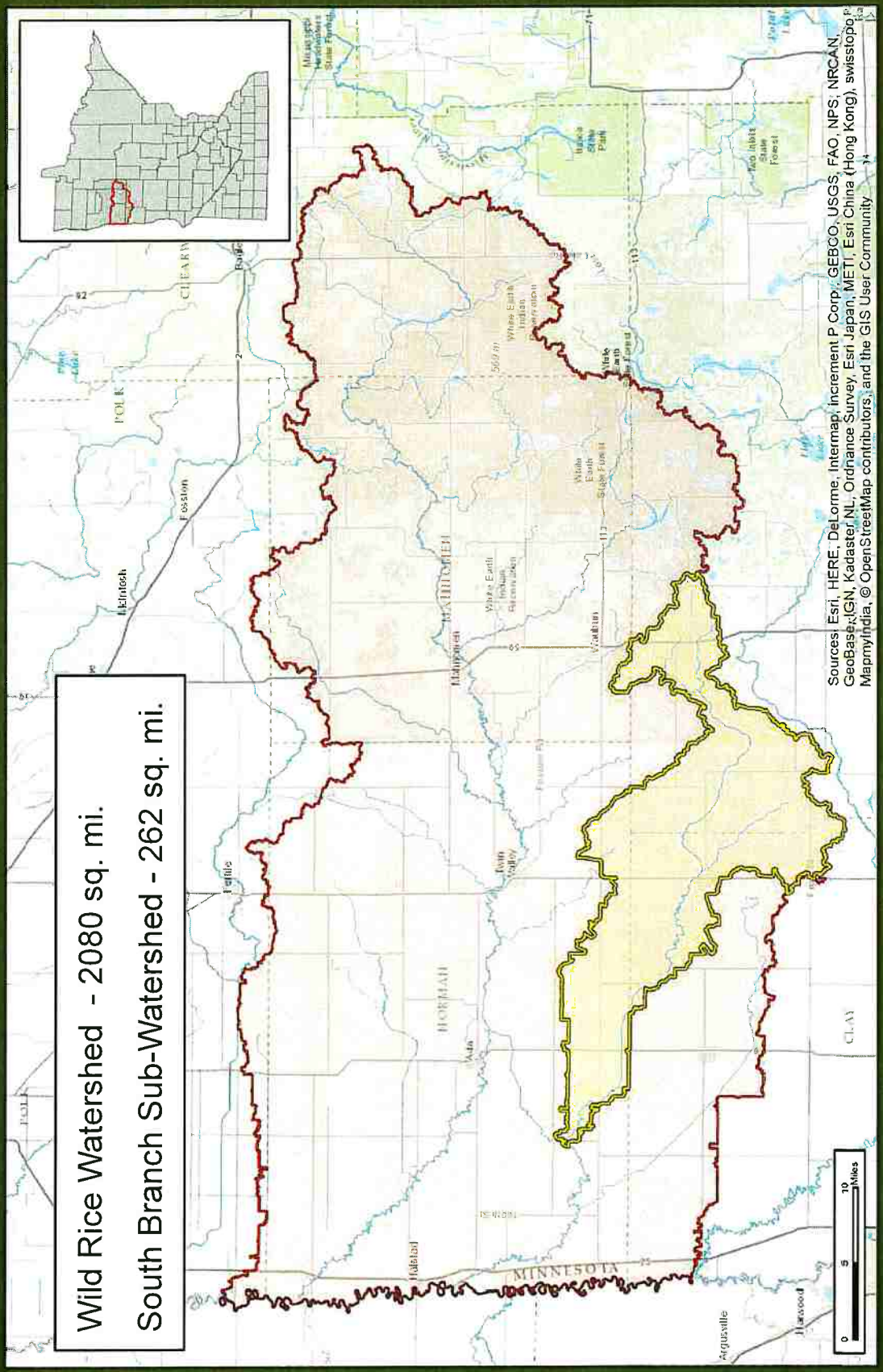
Public Scoping Meeting

AGENDA

1. Introduce Study Area
2. Public Law 566 Planning Process Overview
3. Watershed Setting and Methods for Obtaining Resource Concerns
4. Overview of Next Steps
5. Questions/Public Comment Period

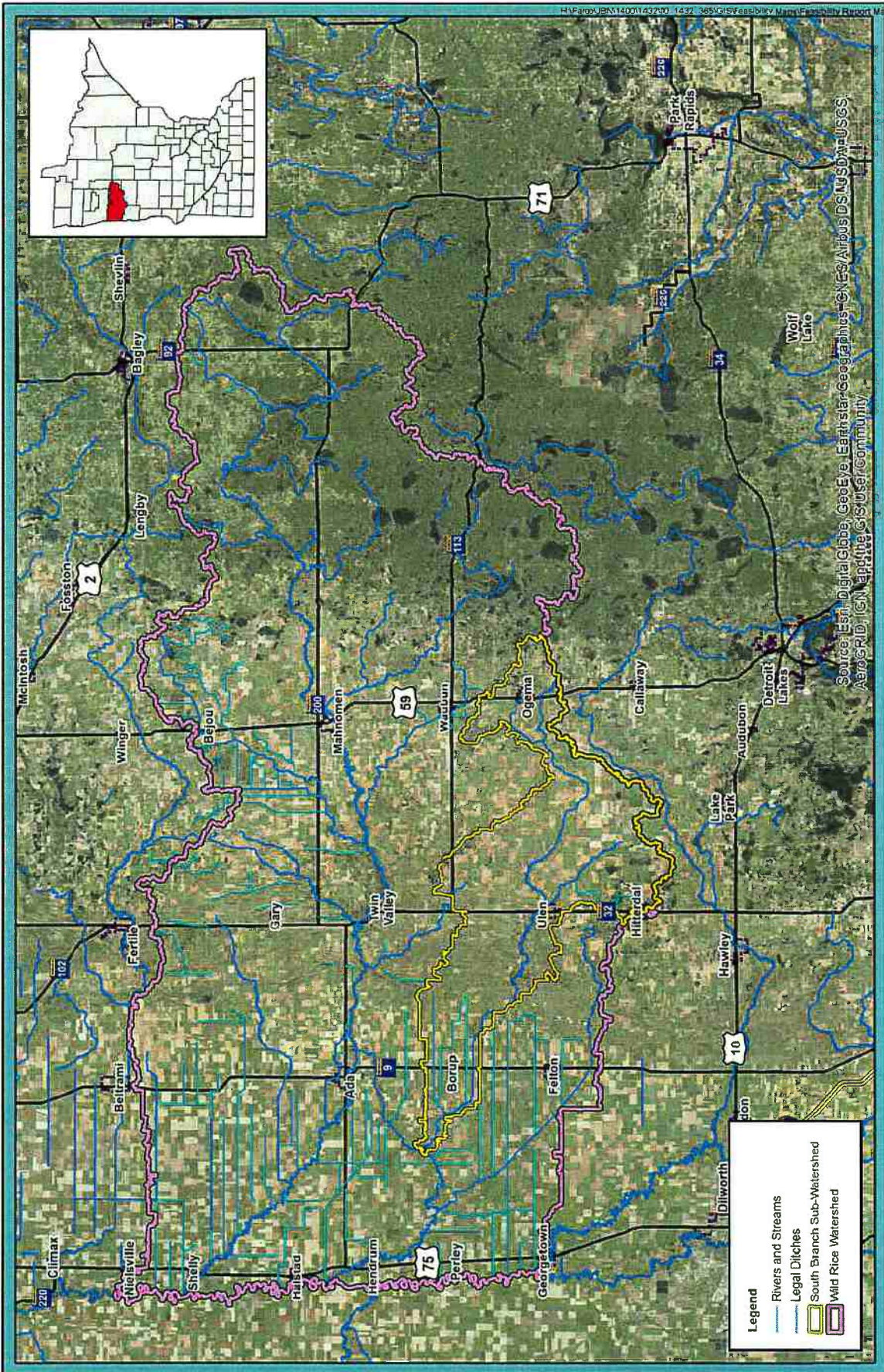
Study Area

Wild Rice Watershed - 2080 sq. mi.
South Branch Sub-Watershed - 262 sq. mi.



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster/NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Study Area



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- 2014 Farm Bill
- Red River Retention Authority awarded \$12M
- RRRRA approved 20 Watershed Planning Efforts
 - 14 Minnesota, 6 North Dakota
- WRWD
 - South Branch, Green Meadow, and Moccassin Creek

RCP Planning Process

INITIATE PLANNING

- * Discuss purpose and need for project with sponsors/Initiate study.

Step 1 - IDENTIFY PROBLEMS, OPPORTUNITIES & CONCERNS

- * Identify the need for the proposed action (quantify, extent, magnitude, timing, frequency etc.)

Step 2 - DETERMINE OBJECTIVES

- * Write purpose and need statement and Write scope of plan-EA/EIS

Step 3 - INVENTORY RESOURCES

- * Conduct detailed resource inventories and watershed assessment
- * Economics, social effects, Archeological and historic resources
- * Engineering/Geology/Support maps
- * Document problems

Step 4 - ANALYZE RESOURCE DATA

- * Geology, Hydrology & Hydraulics, Cultural, Economics and Social

Step 5 - FORMULATE ALTERNATIVES

- * Develop reasonable alternatives, mitigation strategies and costs (Preliminary plans)

Step 6 - EVALUATE ALTERNATIVES

- * Env. Resources, Geotechnical, Hydrology & Hydraulics, Economics, Significance of effects,...

Step 7 - MAKE DECISIONS (EA/EIS, Public Involvement,...)

RCPP Planning Process - NEPA

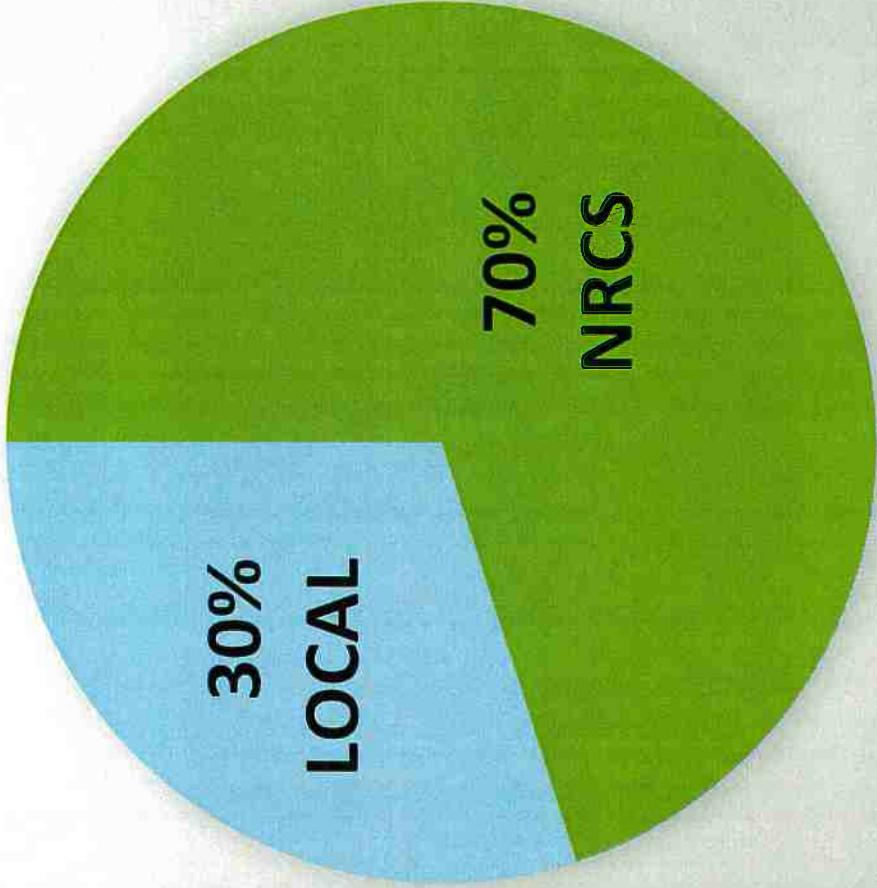
RCPP planning process will follow NEPA guidelines

- * 40 CFR 1506.6 – Public Involvement
- * Primary Goal
 - * Ensure all interested and affected parties are aware of the proposed action

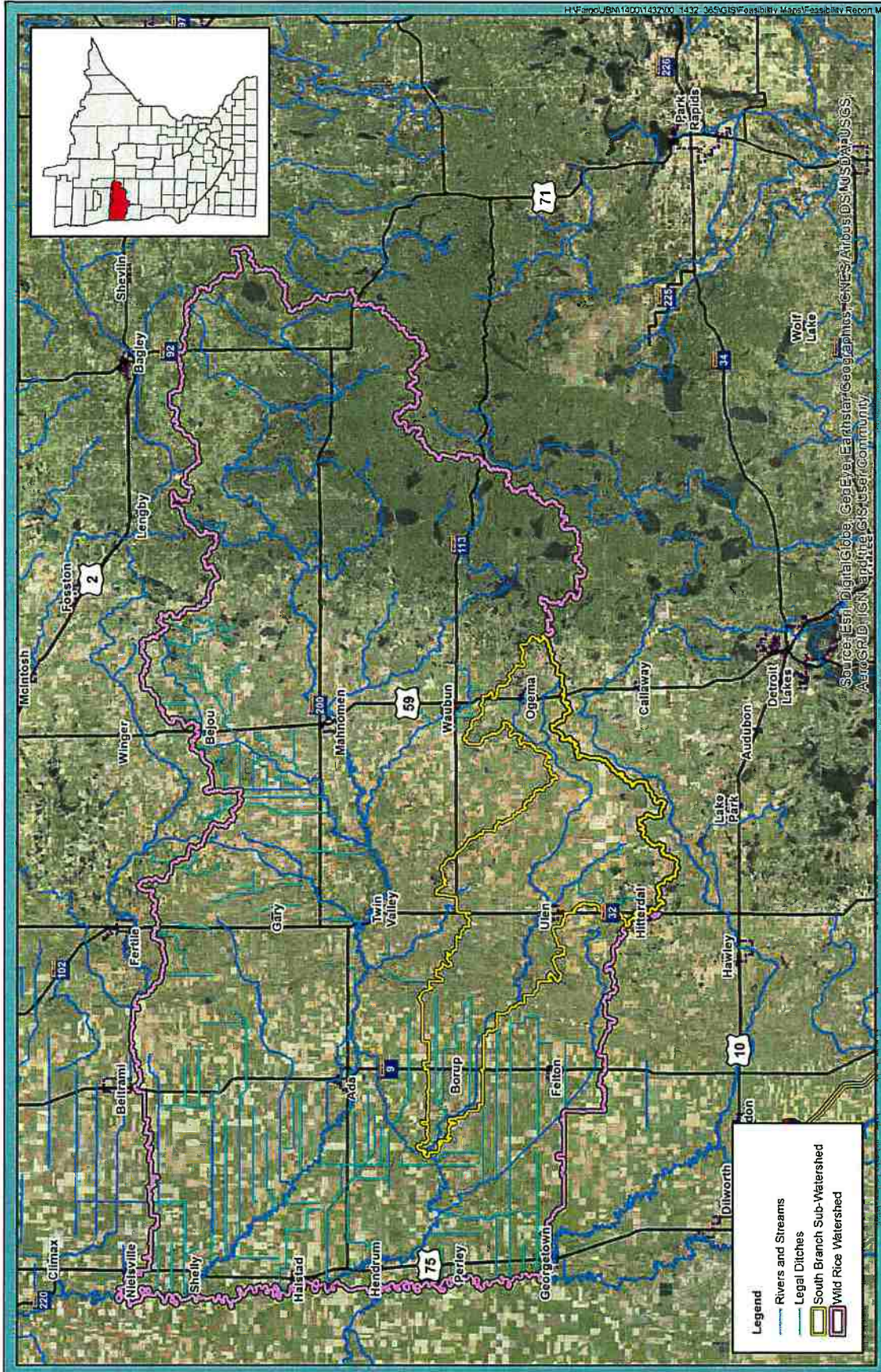
(a) “make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures.”

Why RCPP?

COST SHARE BREAKDOWN



Watershed Setting



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Figure 01: Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 Fossilibility Study
 Wild Rice Watershed District

F 01

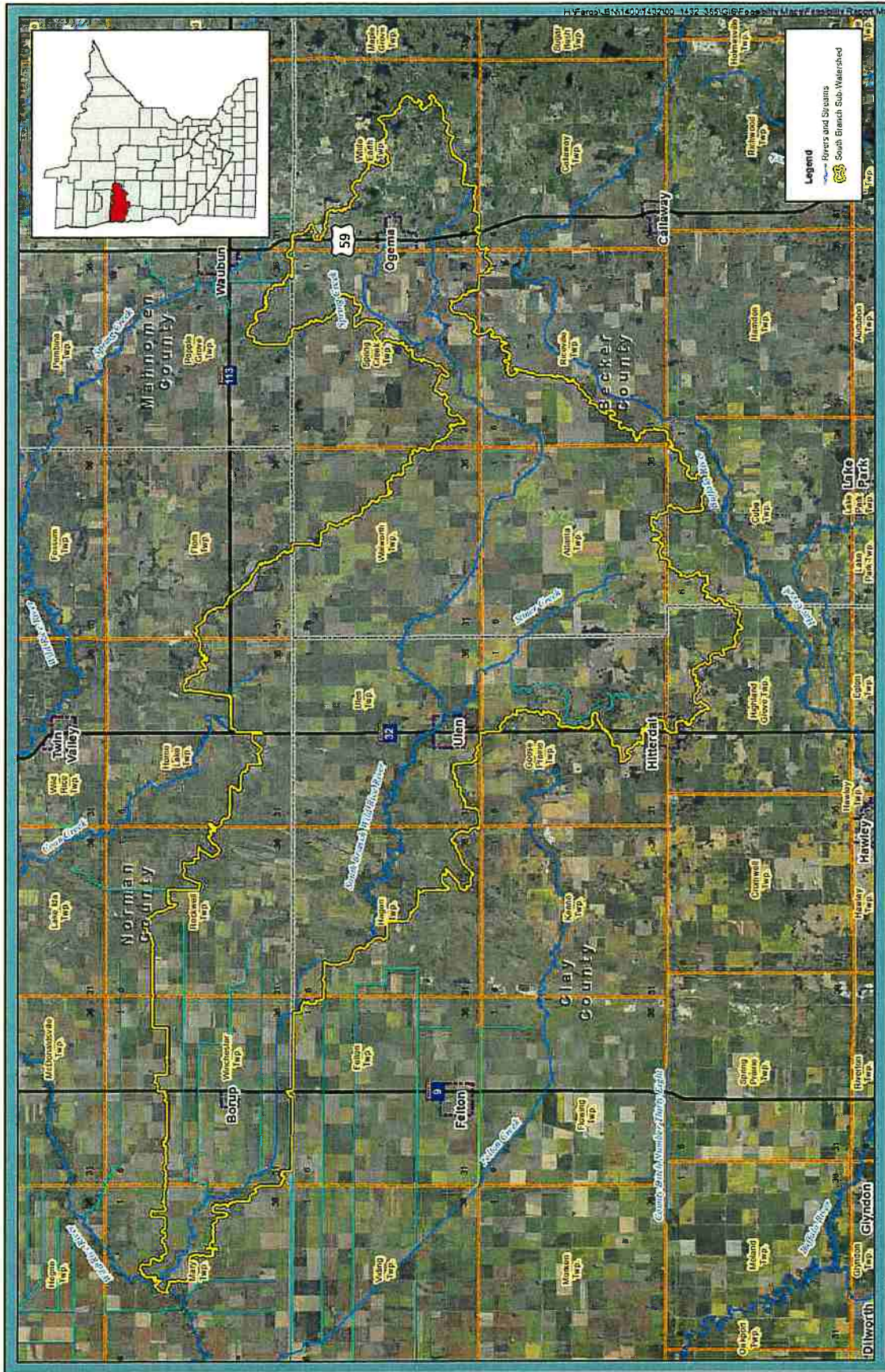


Figure 02: South Branch Sub-Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 Feasibility Study
 Wild Rice Watershed District

F-02

Houston Engineering Inc.

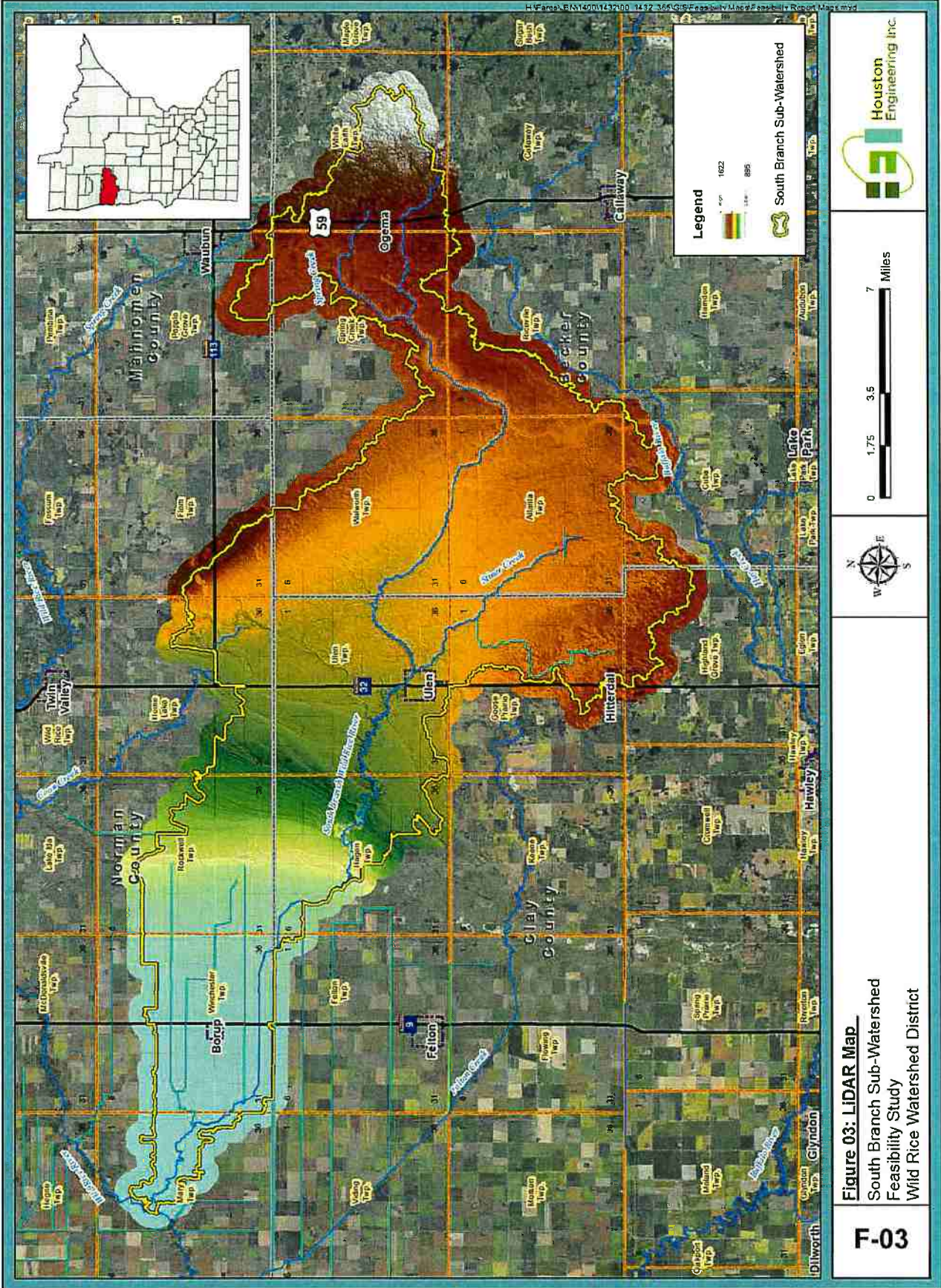
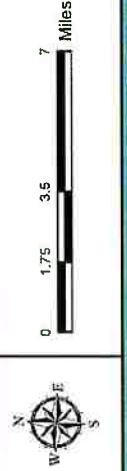


Figure 03: LIDAR Map
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 Feasibility Study
 Wild Rice Watershed District

F-03



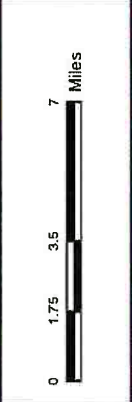
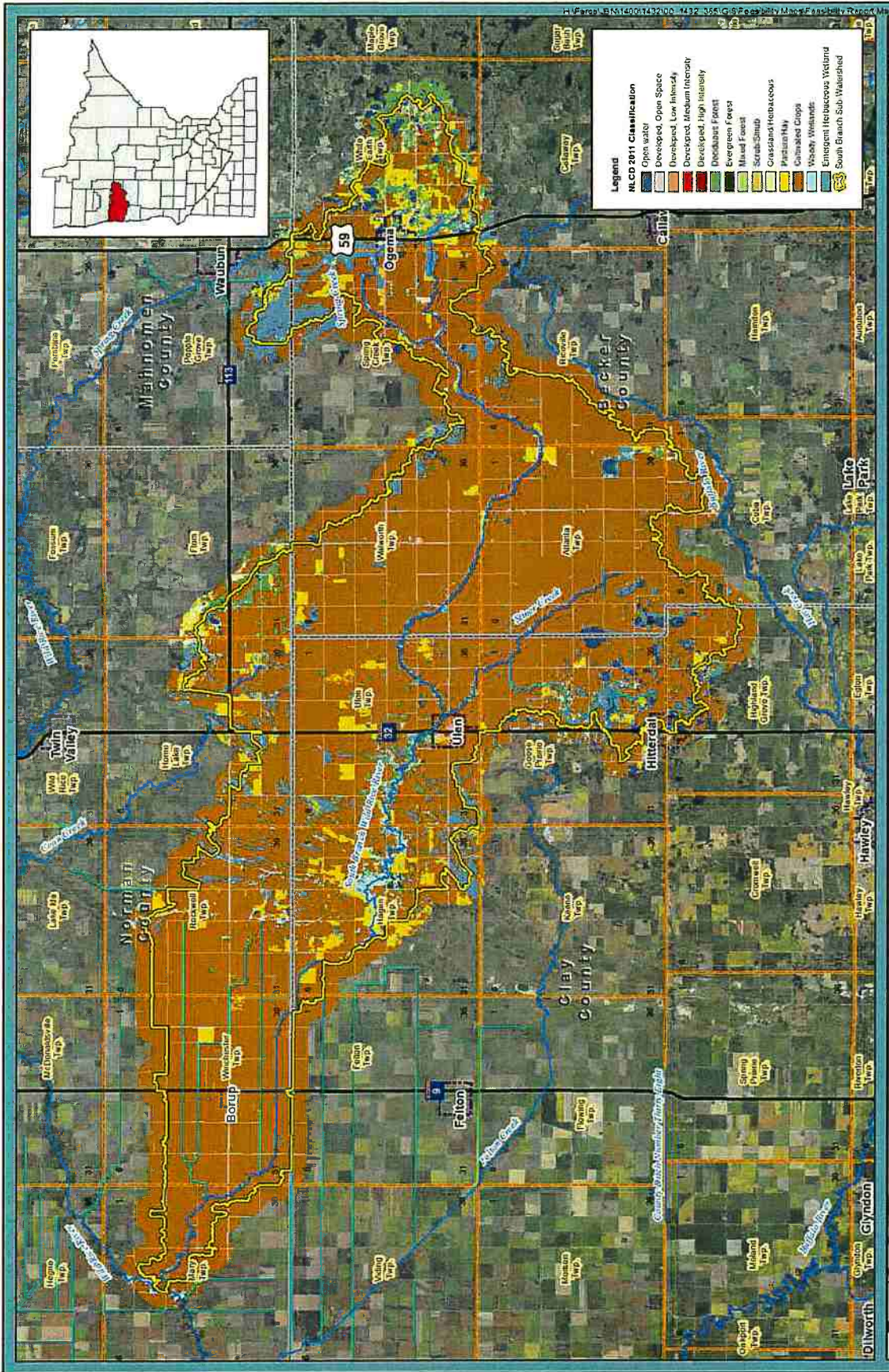
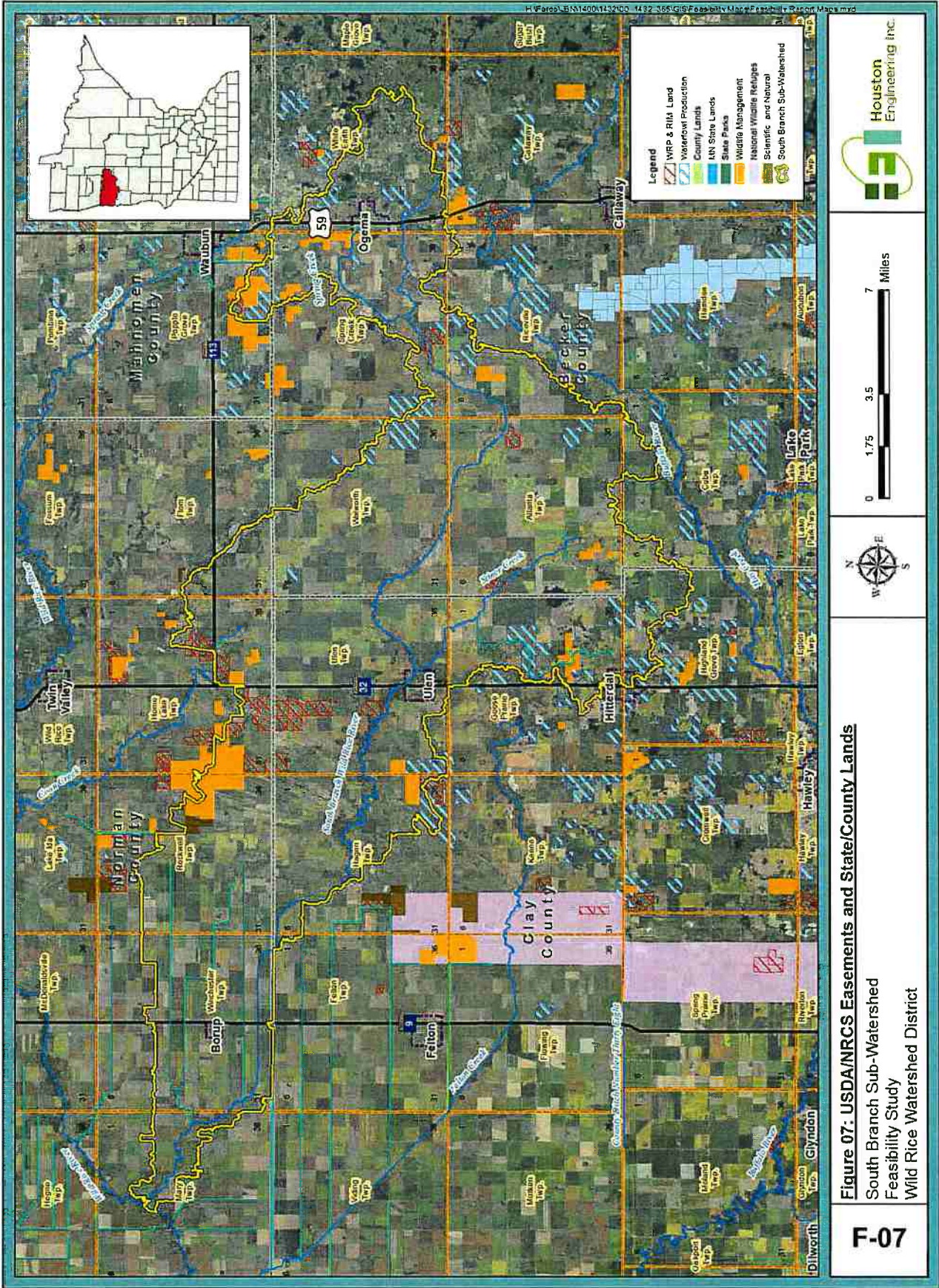


Figure 05: National Land Cover Data 2011
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 Feasibility Study
 Wild Rice Watershed District

F-05



General Resource Concern Categories

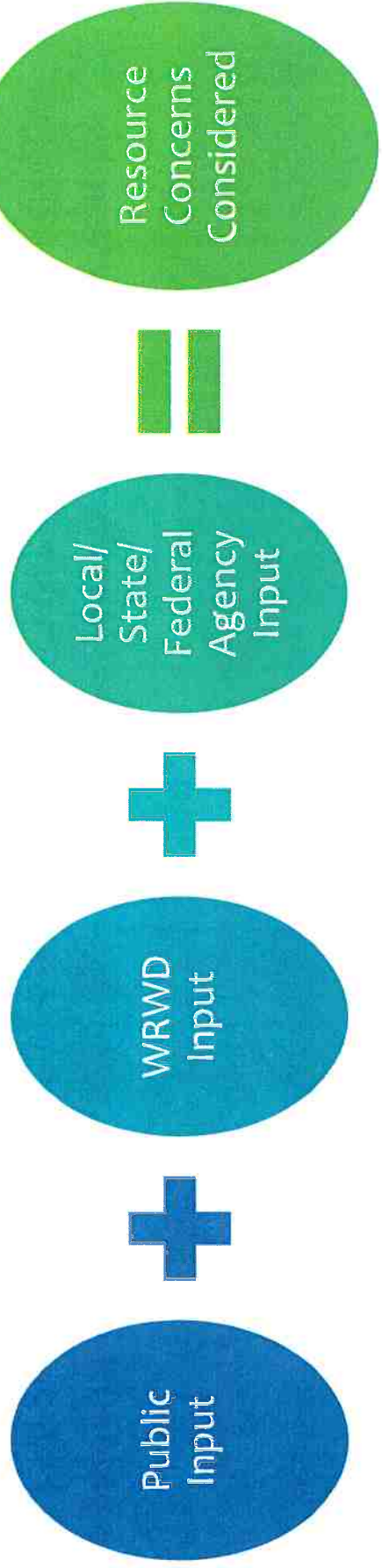


- * **Flooding/Flood Damages** (i.e. agricultural effects from delayed planting, prevented planting, crop flood inundation, road damages, culvert/bridge damages, breakout flows, field erosion/deposition, floodplain management, etc.)



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- * **Wildlife and Habitat** (Fish and wildlife, wetlands, endangered and threatened species, invasive species, migratory birds, forest resources, etc.)

Public Input/Concern Identification Process



Watershed Planning Timeline

1-3 Months

- * Plan of Work
- * Develop Team
- * Feasibility Report
- * Define Concerns
- * Field Survey
- * Begin H&H
- * **Public Meeting**

3-6 Months

- * Purpose & Need
- * Scope EA
- * Field Survey
- * Ex. H&H Modeling
- * Field Inventory

6-12 Months

- * Finalize Ex. H&H
- * Without Project Conditions
- * Economics
- * Preliminary Alternative Screening
- * Preliminary Cultural Review

12+ Months

- * Alternative Screening
- * Geotech
- * Impacted Lands
- * Alternatives for Detailed Study
- * H&H
- * Alternatives
- * Detailed Survey, Geotech, Design

Questions/Comments/ Form Completion

Public Input



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Public Scoping Meeting/Open House Comment Form
 South Branch of the Wild Rice River
 NRCS Watershed Plan
 June 12, 2017

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Concerns for Project Scoping:

Concerns for Project Scoping:	No Concern	1	2	3	4	5
• Flooding/Floud Damages	0	0	0	0	0	0
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation	0	0	0	0	0	0
• Wildlife and Habitat	0	0	0	0	0	0
• Others (Please describe in comment section)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Additional Comments: _____

Public Input

Wild-Rice Watershed District

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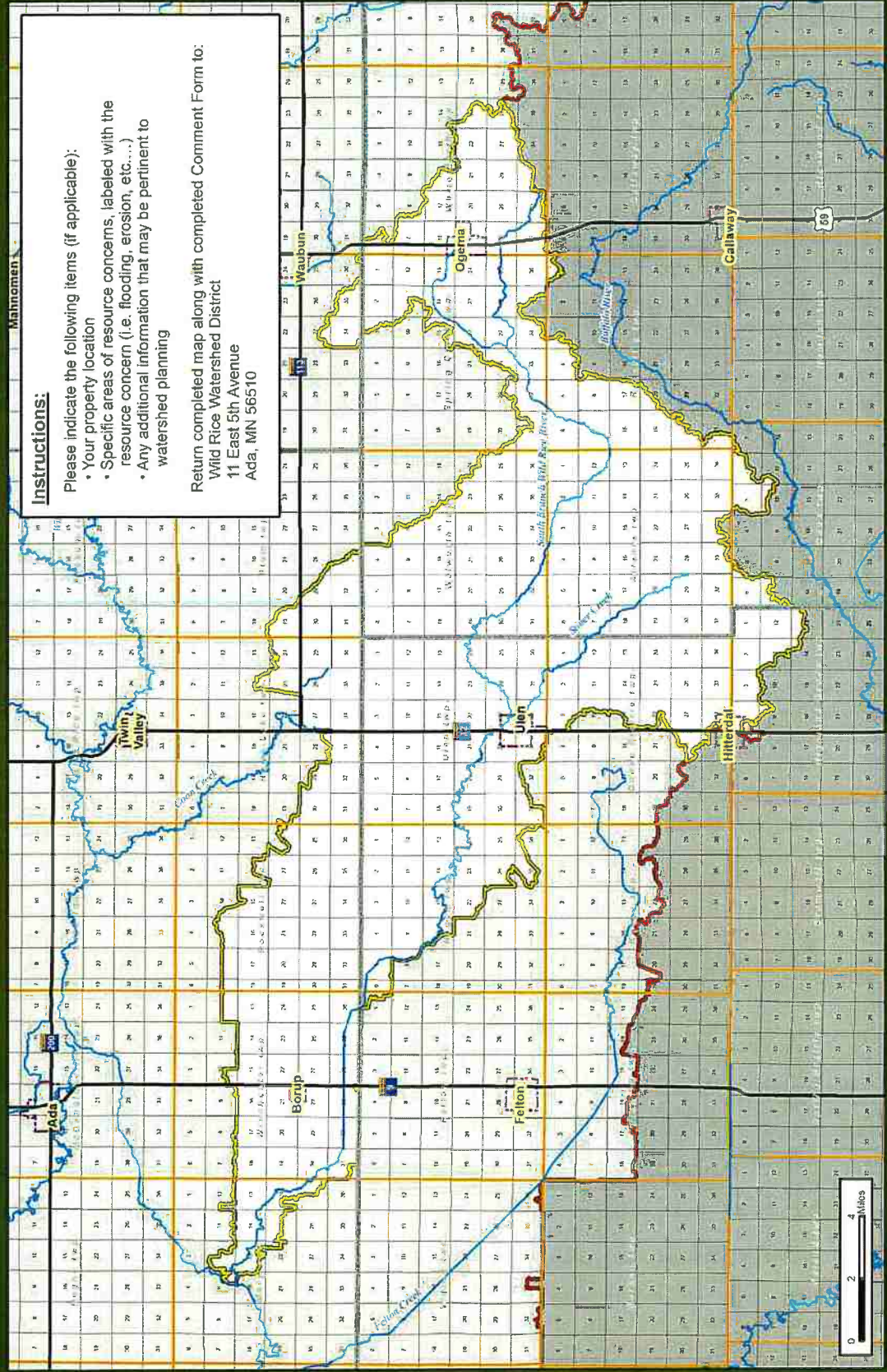
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Concerns for Project Scoping:

	No Concern	1	2	3	4	5
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5



Instructions:
 Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

- Your property location
- Specific areas of resource concerns, labeled with the resource concern (i.e. flooding, erosion, etc....)
- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:
 Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510

Prepared By:



Houston Engineering Inc.

City Limits
 Township Boundary
 County Boundary

Rivers and Streams
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 WRWD Boundary

Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

Questions

Name: Darlene Wiger, Trustee I attended the meeting on 6-12-17 at Felton.

Phone Number: 218-233-2474

Email Address: None

Mailing Address: 3433 - 29th St. So. #604 Moorhead, MN. 56560

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

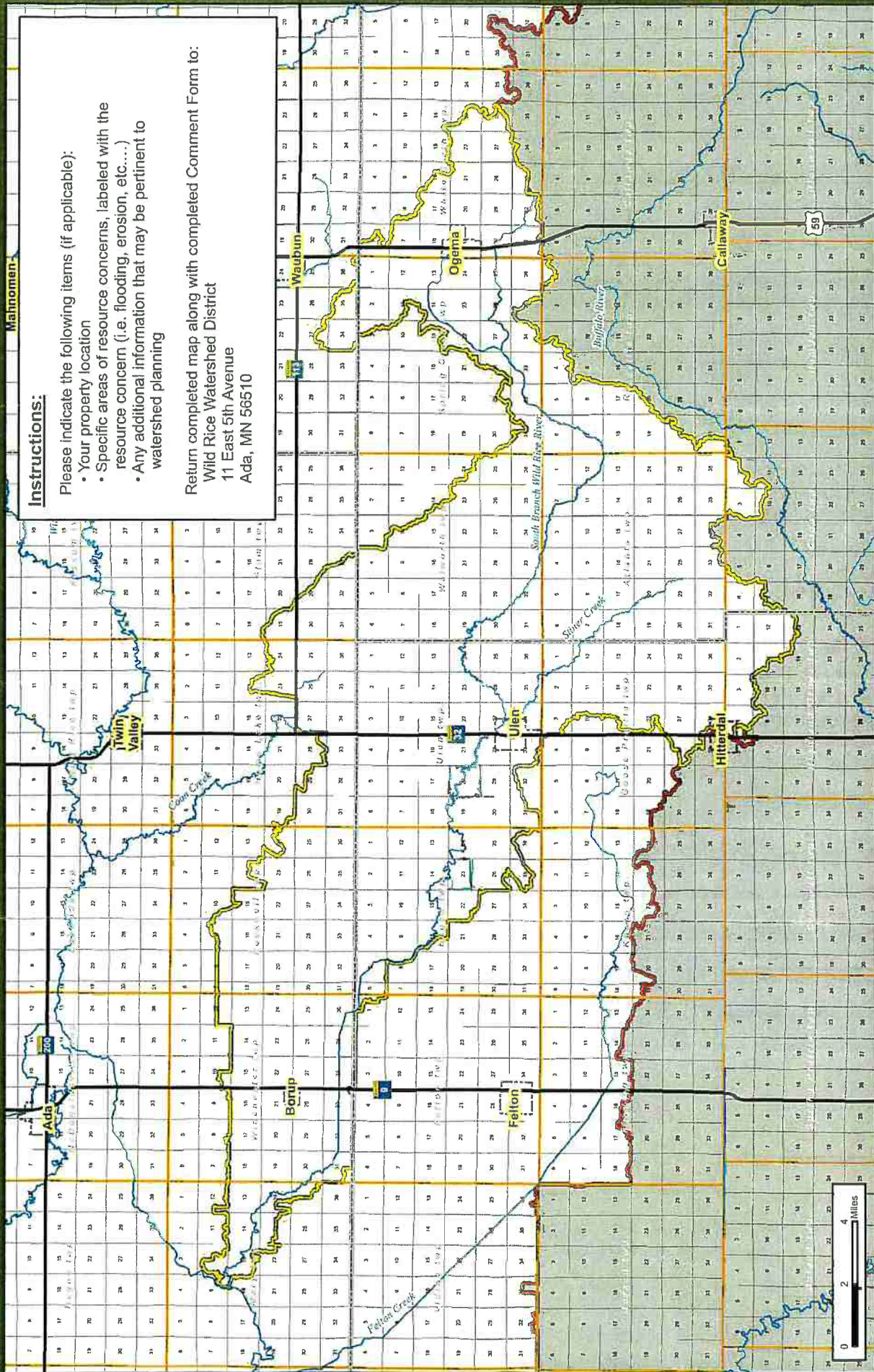
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<u>Concerns for Project Scoping:</u>	<u>No Concern</u>					<u>Severe Concern</u>				
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	④	5				
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	④	5				
• Wildlife and Habitat..... <u>Fish and harm for other large animals.</u>	0	1	2	③	4	5				
• Others (Please describe in comment section)..... <u>Water</u>	0	1	②	3	4	5				

Additional Comments: The So. Branch of the Wild Rice runs through a forested area that is separated from farmstead and field land by a daily used trail and some rows of trees and brush. The floods created a larger river through erosion that continues to under cut so that part of the trail had to be made unusable. We were made to give up the trail in part probably 10yrs. ago. I do not know to what extent the erosion continues, and that is my greatest concern.

Wildlife: Northern Pike fishing was great until the last flood. Now, no fishing at all! I would like to see the fish back.

Waterquality changes: I cannot answer about River water. We are planning to participate in the water quality test project that Clay Co. has sent out concerning Well water.



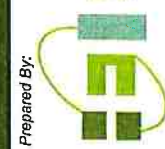
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Wild Rice Watershed
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 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

- Rivers and Streams
- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- WRWD Boundary
- City Limits
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary



Prepared By:

Name: MARK HARLESS

Phone Number: 701-261-6374

Email Address: MLHARLESS24@GMAIL.COM

Mailing Address: PO. BOX 37 BORUP, MN 56519

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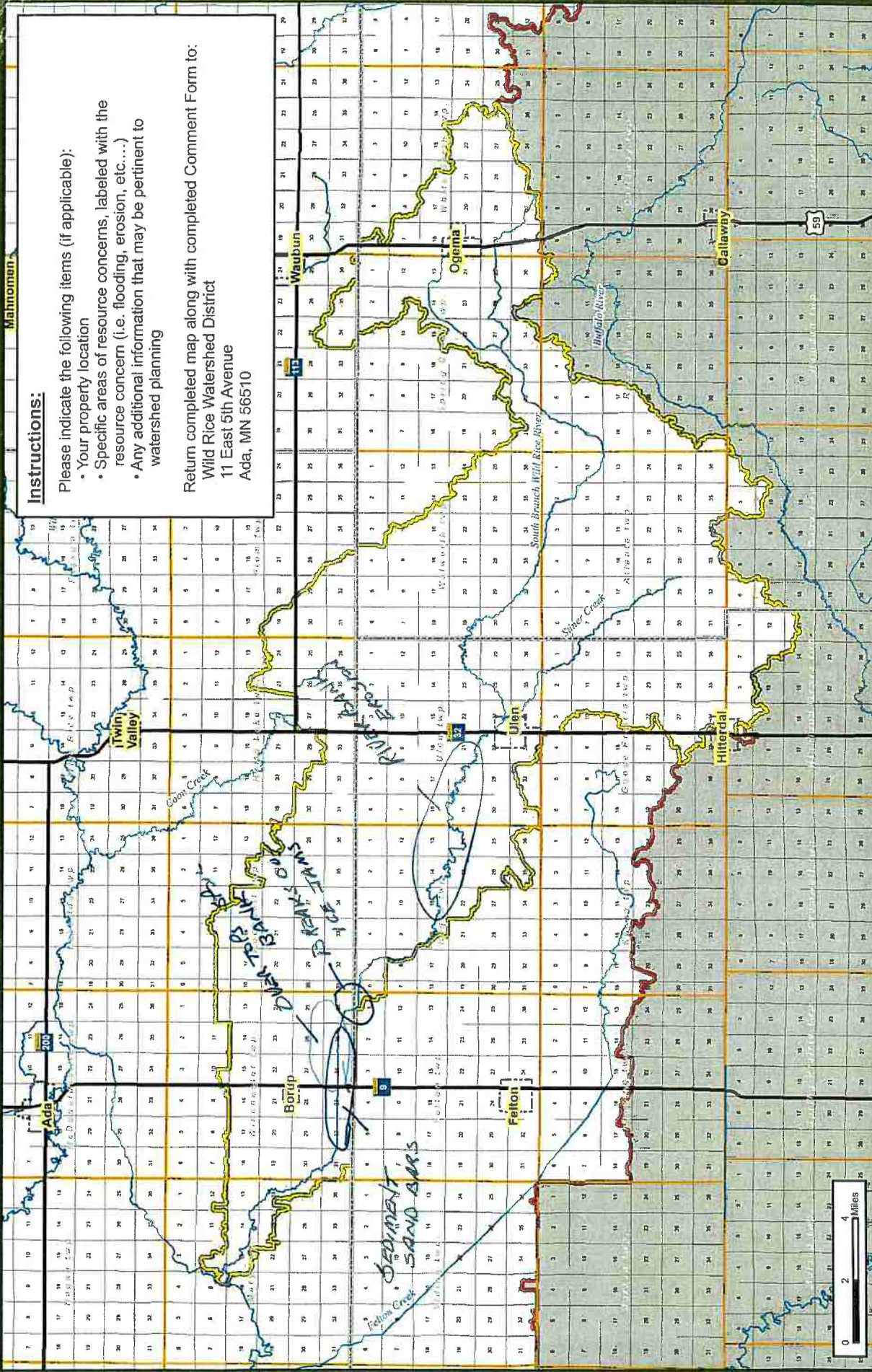
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	No Concern					Severe Concern				
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• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5				
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5				

Additional Comments: RIVER IS CUTTING THE BANKS THROUGH THE BEACH RIDGE, AND DEPOSITS SEDIMENTATION IN THE FLAT REACHES BY BORUP THE RIVER ALSO OVERTOPS THE NORTH BANK IN SECTION 35 OF WINCHESTER, SENDING FLOWS NORTH TO THE WATERSHED DITCH, WHICH THEN ALSO OVERFLOWS INTO SECTION 27 WINCHESTER. THESE FLOWS CAN IMPACT SEVERAL SECTIONS OF LAND SINCE FLOWS ARE DIVERTED AROUND BORUP, INCLUDING TO CITY OF BORUP.

THERE ARE MANY LARGE SAND BAR DEPOSITS IN THIS PORTION OF THE RIVER.

THERE ARE TWO SHARP BENDS IN THE RIVER THAT ARE PRONE TO ICE JAMS, THEN THE RIVER BREAKS OUT AND RUNS CROSS-COUNTRY.

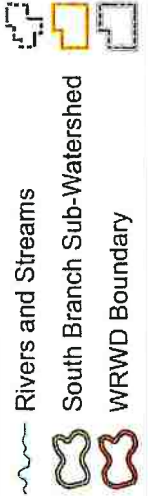
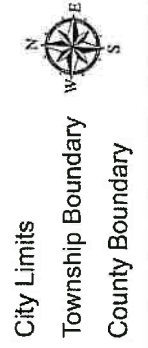


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Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form



PM

Mr. Philip Matson
13531 210th St. N.
Ulen, MN 56585

Name: _____

Phone Number: 1-218-596-8706

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: 13531 210th St N Ulen, MN 56585

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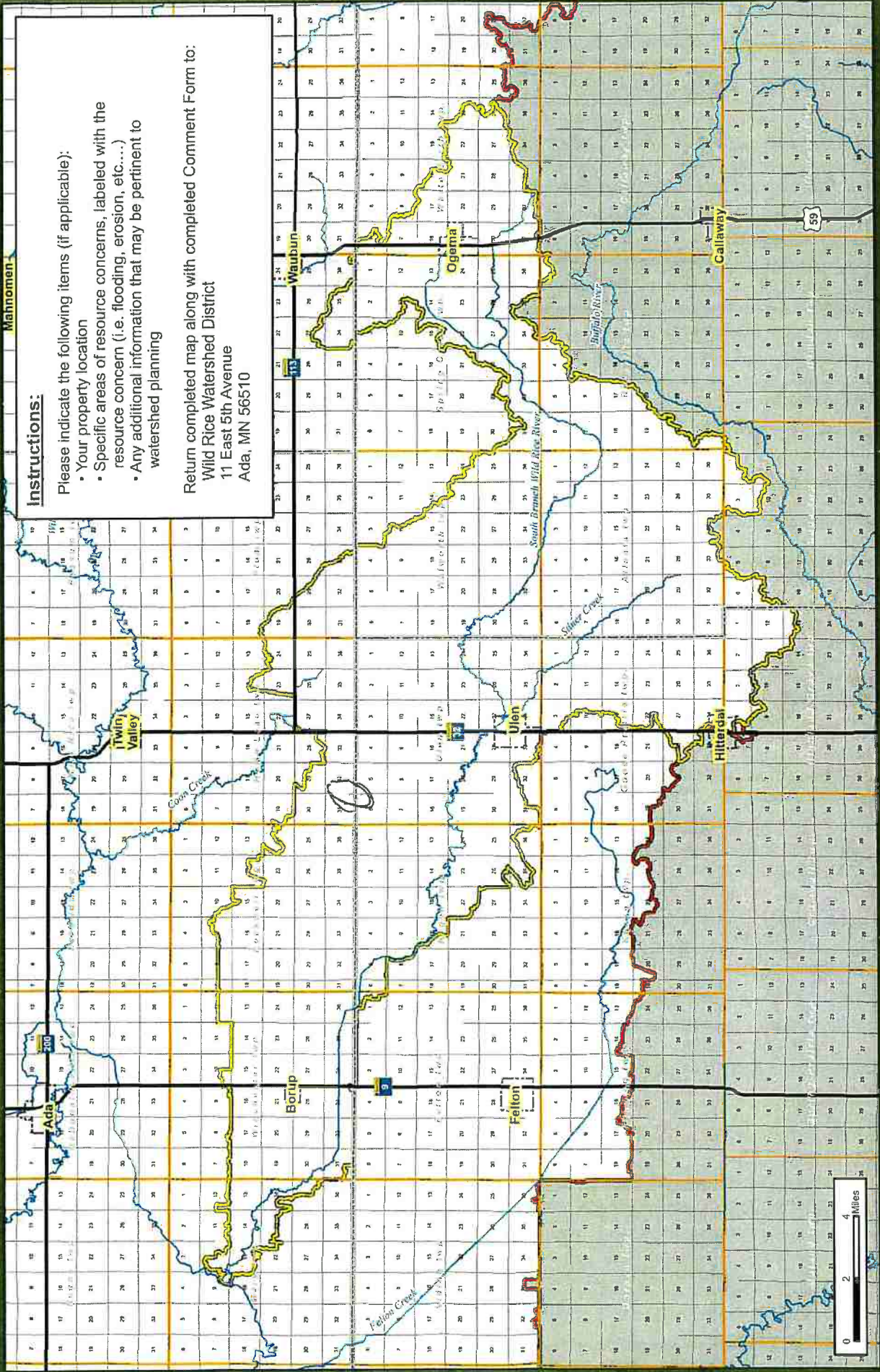
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• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Comments: water backing up on Joyce Matson's
land in 31 of Home Lake from Sec 6 WRP
Project in Ulen Township that did not provide
drainage from main land after removing existing
ditch to make for water containment pond.

Philip Matson



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 County Boundary

Rivers and Streams
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 WRWD Boundary

Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

Name: Clay County Highway Department
 Phone Number: 218-299-5099
 Email Address: david.Overbo@co.clay.mn.us
 Mailing Address: 2951 41 1/2 St So. Moorhead, MN 56529

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• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5					

Additional Comments: _____

Name: Ken D Visser

Phone Number: 784-4027

Email Address: kvisser@loretel.net

Mailing Address: 1792 County Hwy 64, Ada, MN

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

KEY: 0 = No Concern or Not Relevant 1 = Minimal Concern 2 = Minor Concern
3 = Moderate Concern 4 = Significant Concern 5 = Severe Concern

<u>Concerns for Project Scoping:</u>	No Concern				Severe Concern	
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Comments: _____

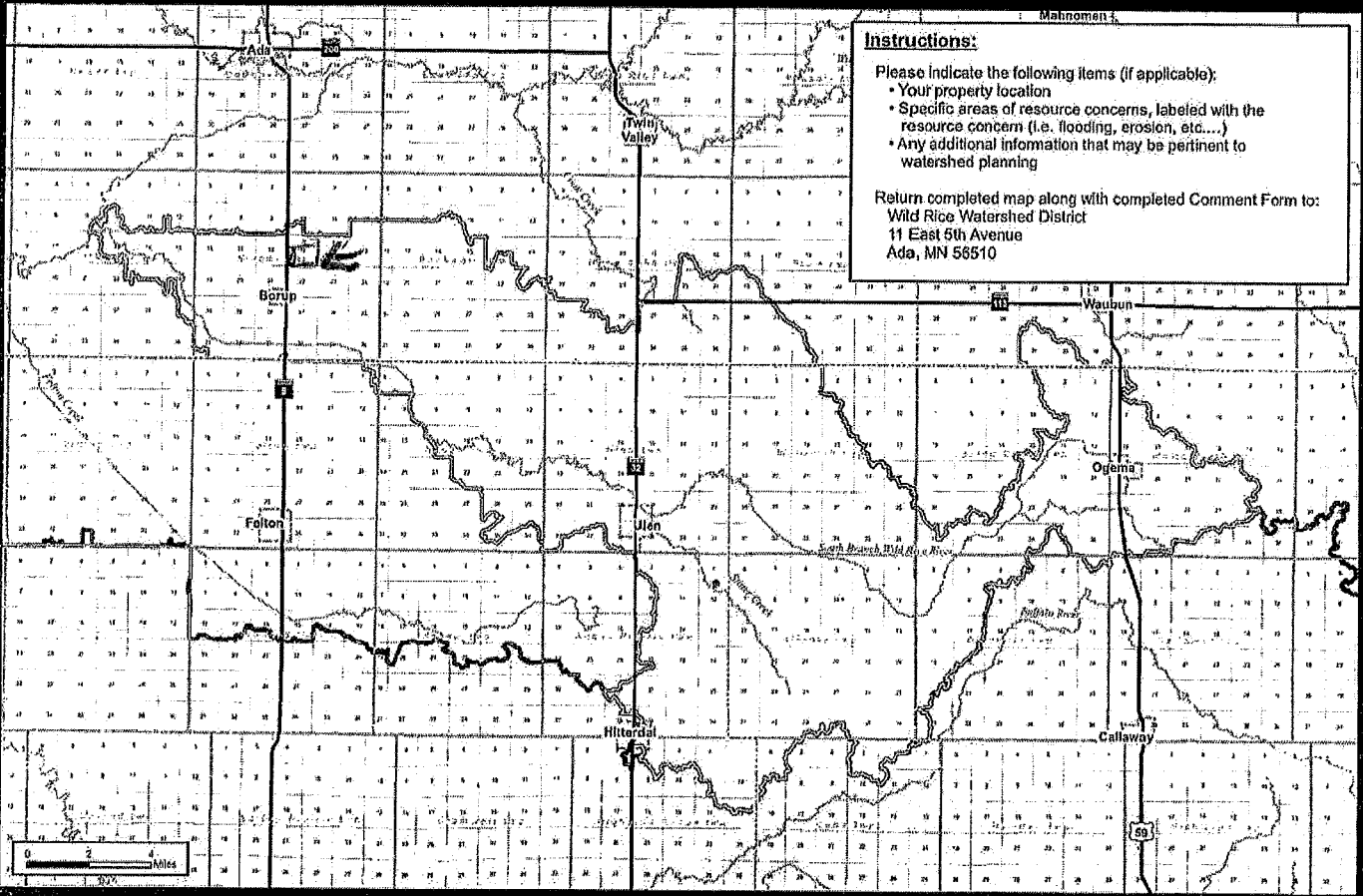
Silt in County ditches
Silt in Bodin Litch

Mathnomas

Instructions:

- Please indicate the following items (if applicable):
- Your property location
 - Specific areas of resource concerns, labeled with the resource concern (i.e. flooding, erosion, etc....)
 - Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning


Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:
 Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510



Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

- Rivers and Streams
- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- WRWD Boundary
- City Limits
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary

Prepared By:



Houston Engineering Inc.

Map prepared by Houston Engineering Inc. 1/2007

Watershed Board,

Our board members came up with a few problem areas.

- ① Ditch 18 should be completely ditched out.
- ② Bigger culverts installed, so better flow when water is high
- ③ Some culverts get or are plugged because of beaver or other debris.

RECEIVED

7.17.17

Thank You,

Jeff Bates

Goose Prairie Chair

P.S.

We circled the past problem areas on the map.

Aerial Map

South Branch

Area Name

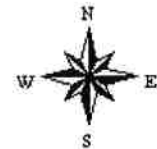


~ = Watershed Area

map center: 47° 1' 15.43, -96° 15' 17.57



15-141N-44W
Clay County
Minnesota



6/21/2017

NIKKI SWENSON
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
WIND RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT
11 5th AVE. EAST
ADA, MN 56501

JULY 12, 2017

RE: SOUTH BRANCH - WIND RICE RIVER

DEAR MS SWENSON:

First, please forgive the hand-written nature of this letter. The Clerk did not get this assignment until the Township meeting the night of July 10th. Township records were searched through on the 11th, followed by 2 committee meetings in Fargo; and on return home following the huge storm found a power outage. The power is still off.

The intent with this letter was to include a copy of a letter to the Watershed District from August of 2002 which details concerns about damage in the Township from the South Branch - Wind Rice River. So when power returns and copying is again possible that will be sent.

Briefly the Hagen Township Board believes it doesn't pay to identify small individual areas, since damage is extensive and widespread. Every landowner along the River has lost land to flooding. Well established trees, crop land, pasture, aggregate material, even a combine have been swept away.

In 1979-80 thousands of dollars, with the help of Federal Disaster Assistance Agency, were spent in bridge repairs (looks like 2 bridges) culvert replacement, embankment stabilization, and road repairs, etc. This

was after damages from an unexpected 14" rain. Also that event caused the River to cut off an oxbow and plough directly through one landowners property.

In more recent times 1997, 2000, 2001, extensive damage was done by flooding - In '97 there was only one route out of Hagen Twp due to all of the rest of bridges and roads were washed out. With the assistance of FEMA and the State of MN tons of thousands of dollars have been spent in repairs.

In 2002 the Clerk was given the task of interviewing residents and landowners re: their concerns about the River. To a person they all believed that flooding activity was due to uninhabited clearing of farmland which sent waters rapidly and uncontrolled to the river. Until measures are taken to contain water longer, before it gets to the river or to streams that feed the river, this problem will continue to worsen. Each landowner along the South Branch - Wolf Rice River would appreciate help in preventing more erosion of their property. The Hagen Township Board would appreciate preventative measures before water reaches the River.

Sincerely,
Kazell Hutter
Hagen Township Clerk

P.S. Residents of Hagen Twp are currently and increasingly concerned about center pivot irrigation drawing ground water and taking River water that might at some point affect the water tables and their wells. What recourse do they have?

just a note

Here's copy of
letters that were
mentioned in the
recent letter to you
from Hagen Twp.
Hazel

RECEIVED

7.17.17

along the Wild Rice River South Branch
District's request for response to its 6-10-

vely voiced their concerns to the
ltd. With the recent damage due to
Hagen Board and its residents are now

calling for action. The Watershed District intends to do a feasibility study. The time for study has long passed. The contributing factors to the problem have been identified and need to be dealt with. This letter will state the contributing factors and reasonable plans for their alleviation.

The Watershed District wants to place a dam on the South Branch of the Wild Rice River in Hagen Township. Again, as one voice, the Hagen Board and its residents on the river state emphatically that this plan will not work and will have dire consequences if built.

The Wild Rice South Branch was a peaceful river, a beautiful waterway lined with huge ancient oaks and cottonwoods. Residents who have lived here many decades, state that the river well handled the occasional inordinate rainfalls or heavy runoff of snow melt without changing its course. Newcomers believe this, as it is evident that the river's high banks and well-established course was able to accommodate a significant rise in water. This is no longer the case. In past decades, and likely for centuries, it would take days before a rise in the river was noticed following a heavy rain. Now the rise occurs within hours. It exceeds the river's capacity. And the effect is devastating; not only to the property in Hagen Township, but to land in the valley. **The primary reason for this dramatic change is ditching.**

In the '40s the Federal Government paid landowners to drain wetlands to convert them to farm acreage. This started a practice of drainage, installation of culverts, and ditching that allows the water to run off the land at great speed. Not only has the practice been

established, it has advanced to a sophisticated process with scrapers and lasers without respect for consequences or legal limits. The ditches are deeper than legal limits allow and they are done without permits. When permits are requested for bigger and bigger culverts and for more ditching they are granted without consideration for the effects downstream. Again, the effects are devastating - for Hagen residents, the integrity of the Wild Rice South Branch River, the landowners in the Ada and Borup areas and ultimately the people living along the Red River.

- 1) **The ditching has to stop! And violators need to be prosecuted.**
- 2) Wetlands need to be re-established. Previous ponds and swamp areas need to be turned into reservoirs and if landowners need to be reimbursed to do so, so be it.
- 3) Ditches have to be returned to reasonable depths and to have some variation of terrain so that they provide some resistance to the flow of water. Something as simple as hay bale barriers would slow the water.
- 4) Some ditches need to be gated and at times of inordinate rainfall, the gates need to be closed and water held for a few hours until the river has the capacity to bear the flow.
- 5) The best dam system is to use existing roads and reinforce them at strategic points to hold back water, as was done in one spot in Hagen Township.

If these measures are not taken, the problem of flooding will only increase.

In drought years in the future, these measures would also help retain needed moisture.

The cost of flooding has been tremendous in Hagen Township. The bridges and roads in Hagen have been washed out three times in 5 years. The flood of '97, called the flood of the Century, washed out all of the bridges and roads in Hagen. The recent flood exceeded that of '97. It was the worst ever in Hagen Township. Residents watched in horror as one bridge was totally destroyed, as huge chunks of land were taken in an instant and as water came out of the banks and raced across land tearing out roads and fields and leaving behind rocks, sand, trees and debris. Nothing like it was seen before.

The costs to Hagen Township for the last 3 floods were significant. They were partly reimbursed with FEMA funds. Helpful to our Township, but the cost is really born by all taxpayers. Now FEMA requests plans for prevention in all frequently flooded areas. Without the Watershed District's responsible action in this matter, Hagen Township can only helplessly watch as flooding destroys more and more property and we again request assistance from FEMA.

The cost to landowners is incalculable and a nightmare for insurance claims and companies. Most often it is not reimbursed by insurance and the landowner is left in shock looking at the devastated property and wondering how to deal with it. And wondering how much property will be lost in the next flood. Because there will be another one unless action is taken.

Some people downstream, seeing all the trees blocking and putting pressure on bridges in their area, believe that someone should cut down all the trees that are ready to fall into the river. These were not trees that were waiting to fall into the river. These were long

established trees, monstrous oaks and cottonwoods that were living happily far back from the river. With each flooding we all watched in horror as enormous chunks of land 8' to 16' high and 25' to 50' wide were, in one motion, swept from the landscape. The noise of the trees being ripped out, roots and all, is tremendous and frightening and it is sickening to see the previously stately trees bobbing down the river like matchsticks. Residents also watched with horror and amazement as an island of land with trees standing upright was swept downstream. One farmer had a 47' bridge across the river. The river at the same point now is 200' wide. Nothing can stop this once the flooding is in motion. Nothing.

The Wild Rice South Branch runs through an area known as the ridge of old Lake Aggasiz. The ridge holds the rock and boulders brought in eons ago by glaciers. Hagen has many gravel pits in its jurisdiction. We are all familiar with rocks and boulders. Boulders as big as small cars have been swept away by the river and we have heard their fierce rumble as they are carried through our bridges. It takes huge equipment to remove these boulders from gravel pits. The river moves them with ease like they were styrofoam.

One area in Hagen acts as a natural dam for floodwaters. Because of the high bank on one side, low land on the other, and a road intersecting the river this area holds back a tremendous amount of water. But it cannot be contained. The river drops 108' in three miles from road 11 to road 27 in Hagen causing tremendous velocity in river flow. It is not possible to contain such force. When the river at that speed is held back in any way it forces its way elsewhere and churns its way through any barrier to continue its path. When it cannot move through the river channel it flows out of the banks and rushes across the land. It has to. A volume of water 100+' wide by 22' high (or more) falling over 100 feet has an unimaginable force. The bank stabilization project completed in Hagen to hold a "hundred year flood" came through this last flood with overflowing banks, and washed out rip rap. These are reasons we know a dam in Hagen will not work. It is not known how much volume flowed per second in this last flood, but if you were somehow able to hold that flow for even two hours in Hagen Township you would have a catastrophic results. In addition, a dam in Hagen would fill with boulders, rocks, sand and earth and fail in short order.

Ring dikes and bank stabilization projects, while helpful to selected landowners, do nothing to stop the source of the problem. They deal only with its consequences. Water retention and slowing its flow are imperative.

The control of the Wild Rice South Branch needs to be done east of the city of Ulen. We think the residents of Ulen agree, when we see the damage that occurred there.

Each time heavy rains are forecast we all wait with apprehension wondering what damage will occur next. The Watershed District needs to make hard decisions and the decisions need to be made now. Action must be taken to resolve this problem.

The Hagen Board and its residents are willing to help with practical solutions. We believe, if we all do our part along the river, the Wild Rice River South Branch will return to being the peaceful river it once was.

Sincerely,

Hazel A. Hutton

Hazel A. Hutton, Clerk

cc. Township Boards along the Wild Rice River South Branch, FEMA, local media and an attny

Janet E. Green

John Nodde

Galen Nodde

Harley S. Green

Todd & Ronda Peterson

Marilyn H. Green

Diane Green

Daniel Green

Oscar Green Jr

Ronda Peterson

Arvin Sperson

Julie Sperson

Melvin J. Haug

Kathryn Tomadalen

Kenneth

Marie Tomadalen

Donald Shulka

Shirley Shulka

Barbara Shaw

Gordon O. Jorg

Karen Jevig

Debb Braseth

Daniel Braseth

Faye Green

Jennifer Green

Dean Matson

Joy Green

Lois Wright

Harold Wright

Tom Green

Edna Haslerud

Ronnie L. Tomadalen

Andrea Brommer

Walter Stromstad

Ann Green

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 East 5th Avenue - Ada, Minnesota 56510
Phone (218) 784-4085

October 6, 2002

Hazel Hutton
18221 220th Street North
Ulen, MN 56585

Dear Ms. Hutton:

On behalf of the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) Board of Managers this letter shall serve as a response to your August 2, 2002, letter. Our response is directed to your concerns as a citizen since we understand that the issues raised in your letter are not endorsed by the Hagen Township Board of Supervisors.

Back in January of 2002, Hagen Township residents met with the WRWD Board of Managers to voice concerns over erosion and flood related problems within the township. From that meeting it was decided to have Clay County Water Planning survey residents in Hagen and Ulen Townships to identify the extent of the damages and possible solutions, and it is our understanding that Clay County is in the process of completing the survey. Because the WRWD is responsible for addressing flood damage reduction measures and the Soil and Water Conservation District/Natural Resources Conservation Service are responsible for addressing erosion concerns, you will still need to work with Clay County on your erosion-related damages.

Your letter indicated a desire to get right to work, eliminating planning and/or studies to implement proposed projects. The Board of Managers also wants to begin work as soon as possible, but must proceed under applicable Minnesota law. Before a major project is implemented, the district is required to develop a revised "watershed management plan."

The various facets of a water management project as identified in the watershed management plan are then submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (MNBWSR) for its review and comments. The chances of favorable consideration by the MNBWSR are increased with proper planning/studies. Accordingly, such planning/studies become imperative. The preliminary estimate for the first phase of implementing the contemplated flood damage reduction projects is in excess of \$56 million. Because of the high cost, federal funding assistance is necessary to implement any such projects and is the reason the Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study is necessary.

Another option property owners have is to petition for projects under Minn. Stat. 103D.701, which would require the necessary signatures on a petition to the watershed district to implement specific project(s), as well as obtaining bonding authority. The considerable estimated cost of flood damage reduction projects makes such a private petition process unlikely.

Your letter indicates that the primary reason for the flooding in Hagen Township is drainage. While the WRWD Board of Managers agrees that drainage is a problem in the township, they also recognize other factors that contribute to potential floods, including, but not limited to, topography, land use, weather patterns, rainfall and size of the watershed. The presence or absence of any of these factors can dramatically change the character of a particular flood.

Wild Rice Watershed District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · www.wildricewatershed.org

Public Scoping Meeting/Open House Comment Form

South Branch of the Wild Rice River

NRCS Watershed Plan

June 12, 2017

Background

The Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) secured funding through the Red River Retention Authority for Watershed Planning under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RCPP funding was made available for watershed planning in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed and it is required to follow Public Law 83-566 requirements.

The Watershed Planning must also comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements. Tasks required for the NRCS Watershed Plan generally include: Identifying a Purpose and Need, Developing an Environmental Assessment, Identifying the Affected Environment (resource problems), Developing Alternatives, Identifying Environmental Consequences of the alternatives, determining a Preferred Alternative, and creating an overall Watershed Plan. Public participation will be a vital component throughout the entire planning process, beginning with this public meeting.

Purpose of Today's Meeting

The initial step in NRCS Watershed Planning, as directed by NEPA, is to allow for input from all interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies and other interested groups or persons. Initial input will be focused on resource concerns in and adjacent to the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed. In order to gather input on resource concerns, we would request that the attached comment form be completed and provided to the WRWD.

Identified Resource Concerns:

- **Flooding/Flood Damages** (i.e. agricultural effects from delayed planting, prevented planting, crop flood inundation, road damages, culvert/bridge damages, breakout flows, field erosion/deposition, floodplain management, etc.)
- **Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation** (water quality, water resources, soil resources, field erosion/deposition, channel erosion/deposition, etc.)
- **Wildlife and Habitat** (Fish and wildlife, wetlands, endangered and threatened species, invasive species, migratory birds, forest resources, etc.)
- **Other**

Please fill out the following information based on your priorities for the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed.

Comment forms will be accepted for all forms postmarked on or before July 12, 2017.

Completed comment forms can be mailed to the WRWD office at:

Wild Rice Watershed District
11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

Or via email to nikki@wildricewatershed.org

Name: GREG MASTELLER / MnDOT

Phone Number: 218-846-7958

Email Address: GREG.MASTELLER@STATE.MN.US

Mailing Address: 1000 US Hwy 10 west Detroit Lakes Mn 56501

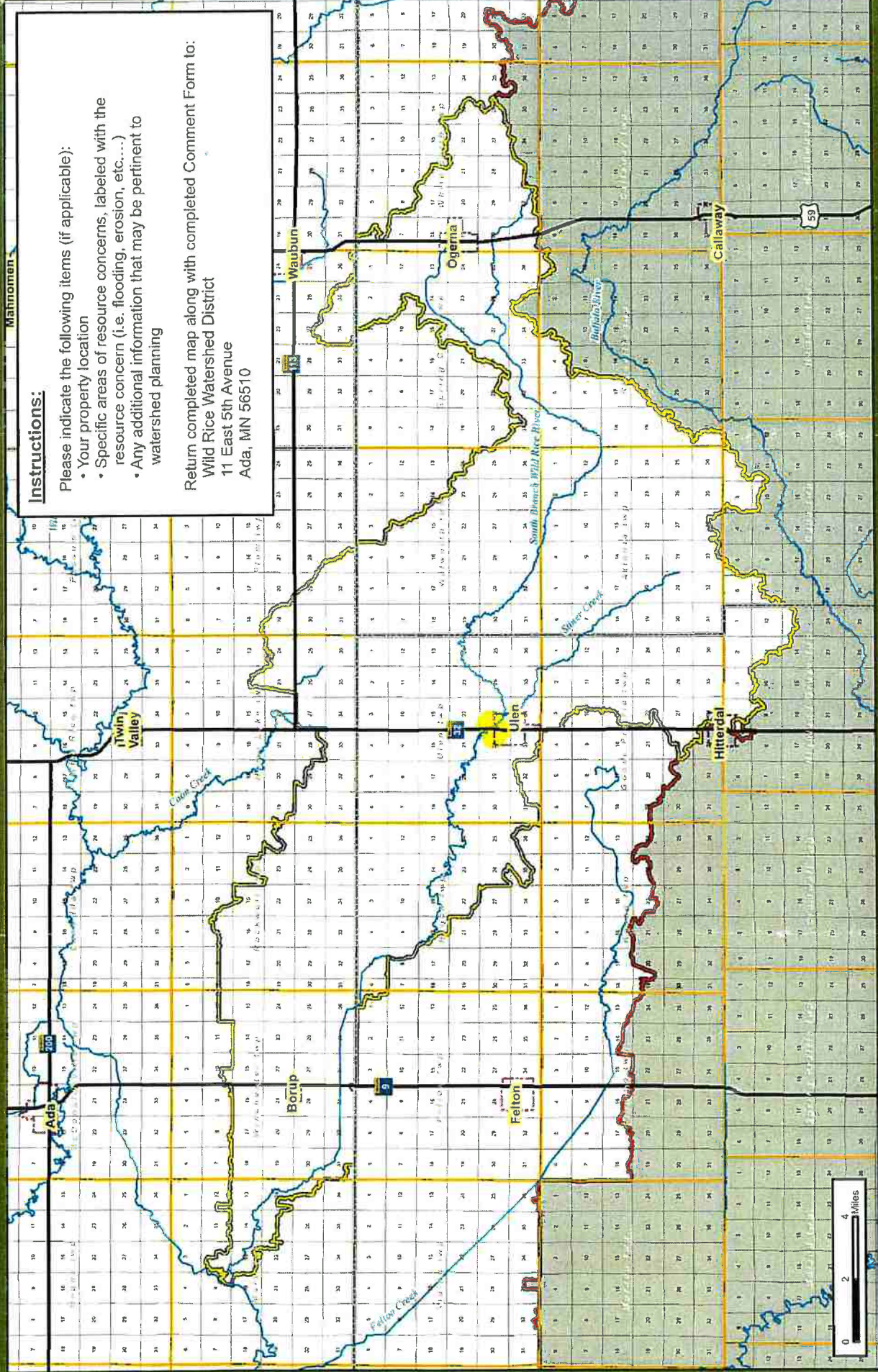
Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

KEY: 0 = No Concern or Not Relevant 1 = Minimal Concern 2 = Minor Concern
3 = Moderate Concern 4 = Significant Concern 5 = Severe Concern

Concerns for Project Scoping:

	No Concern				Severe Concern	
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Comments: STREAM BANK erosion AROUND TH 32 NEAR Ulen.



Instructions:

Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

- Your property location
- Specific areas of resource concerns, labeled with the resource concern (i.e. flooding, erosion, etc....)
- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:

Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510

Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

- Rivers and Streams
- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- WRWD Boundary

- City Limits
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary



Prepared By:



Houston
 Engineering Inc.

Wild-Rice-Watershed-District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · www.wildricewatershed.org

June 20, 2017

RE: **South Branch of the Wild Rice River**

Dear Township Chair:

The Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) secured funding through the Red River Retention Authority for Watershed Planning under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RCPP funding was made available for watershed planning in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed and it is required to follow Public Law 83-566 requirements.

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We are currently working on gathering information regarding problem areas in the South Branch Sub-Watershed area and would like your input. Attached is a map of your township that lies within the South Branch Sub-Watershed. Please take a few minutes of your time to mark the areas on the map where and what type of damages have occurred over the years. This information will be used to determine the scope of Watershed Planning activities within the South Branch Sub-Watershed. You can return the information using the enclosed envelope, must be postmarked on or before **July 12, 2017** to be accepted.

We appreciate your help in this matter. If you have any questions feel free to give us a call at 218-784-5501.

Best Regards,

Nikki Swenson

Nikki Swenson
Administrative Assistant

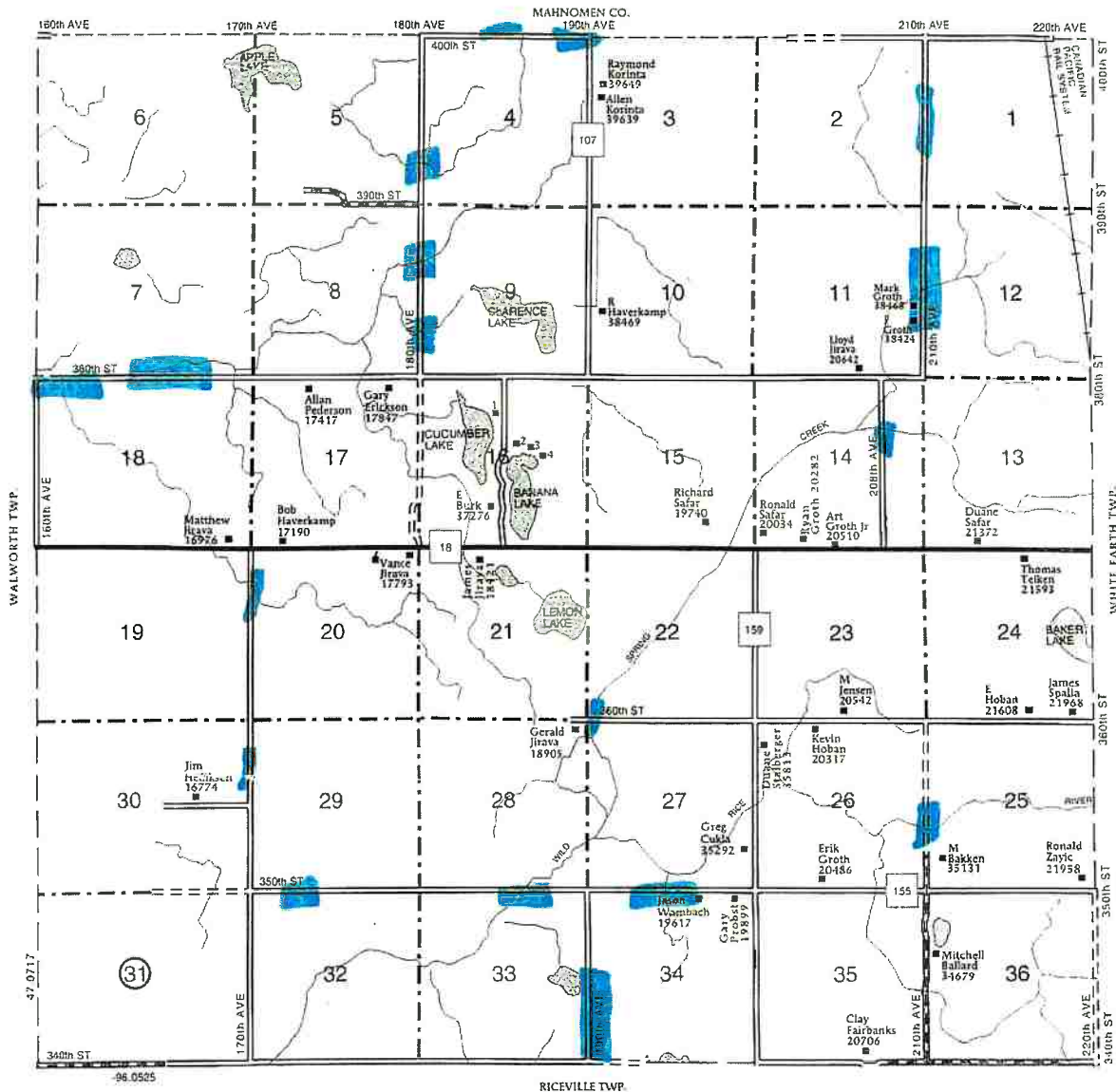
PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS

They Make It Possible For This
Directory To Come To
The Rural Residents Of This County.
Be Sure To Thank Them.

T-142-N

SPRING CREEK DIRECTORY

R-42-W



where water has washed over the grade or washed the road out.

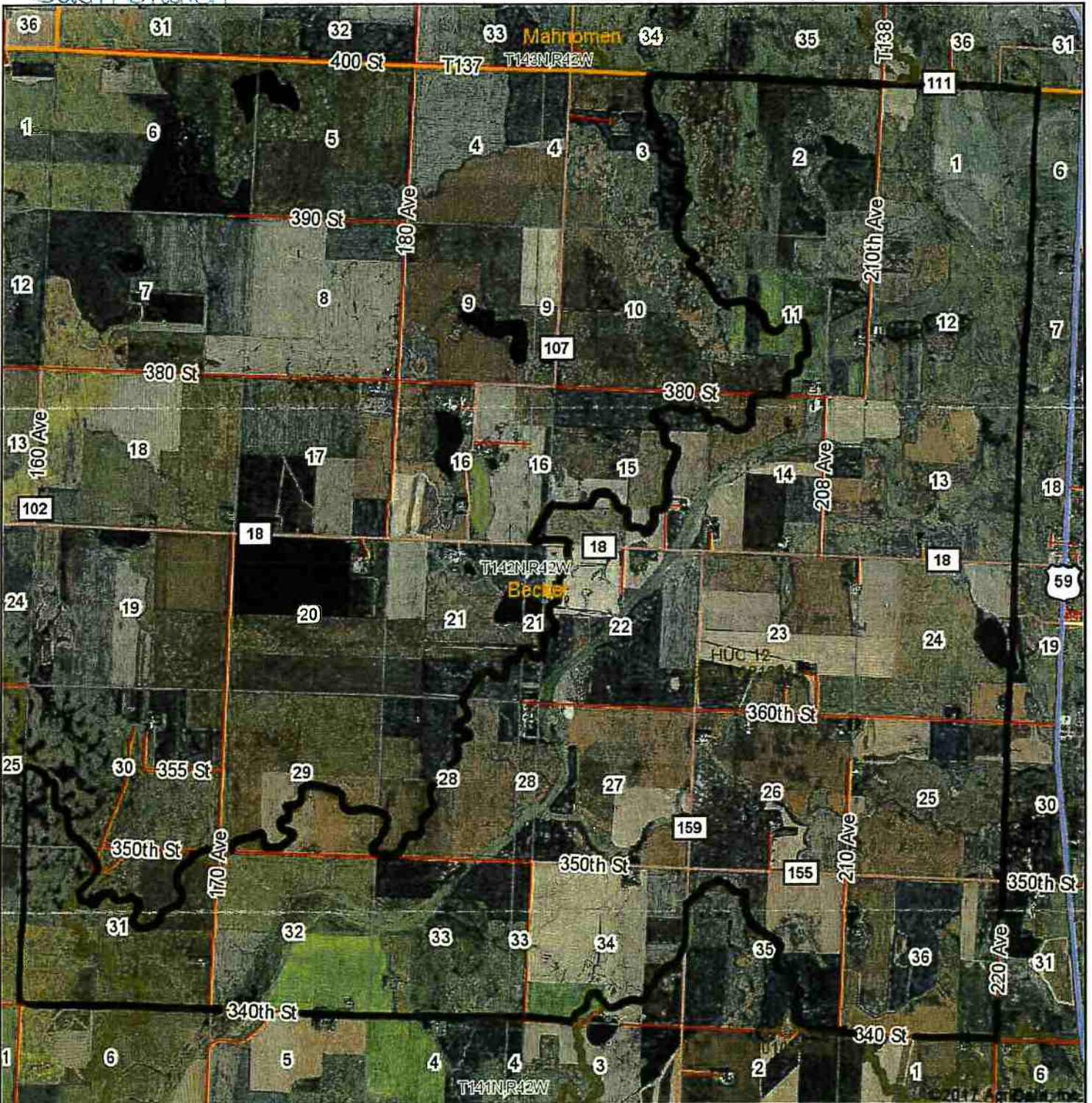
**SPRING CREEK
TOWNSHIP
SECTION 16**

- 1 Haverkamp, L 37676
- 2 Haverkamp, M 37517
- 3 Haverkamp, A 37513
- 4 Haverkamp, Maynard 37509

Aerial Map

Spring Creek

South Branch



~ = Watershed Area

map center: 47° 6' 26.22, -95° 59' 52.56



21-142N-42W
Becker County
Minnesota



6/21/2017

Name: Ken D Visser

Phone Number: 784-4027

Email Address: kvisser@loretel.net

Mailing Address: 1792 County Hwy 64, Ada, MN

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

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<u>Concerns for Project Scoping:</u>	No Concern				Severe Concern	
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• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5

Additional Comments: _____

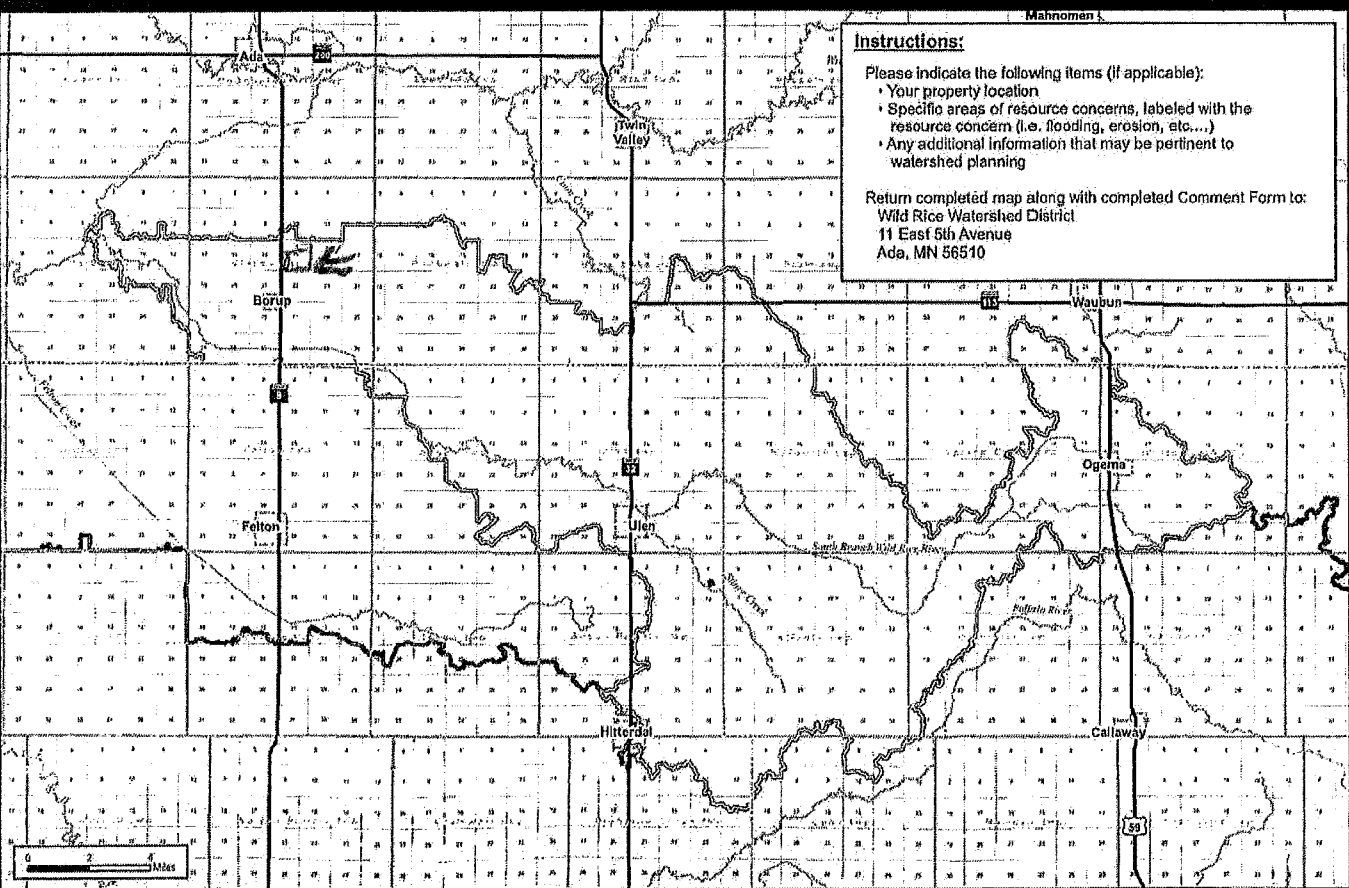
Silt in County ditches
Silt in Cods Litch

Instructions:

Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

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- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:
 Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510



Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

Rivers and Streams	City Limits
South Branch Sub-Watershed	Township Boundary
WRWD Boundary	County Boundary

Prepared By:

Houston Engineering Inc.

Wild Rice Watershed District, 11 East 5th Avenue, Ada, MN 56510

Nikki Swenson

To: Jerry Bents
Cc: Kevin Ruud; Tara Jensen; Nikki Swenson
Subject: South Branch comments

Jerred Jirava called and would like to add these comments as the Riceville Township Chair:

The township would like to see continued encouragement in working with NRCS and letting farmers install retention areas. Possibly helping farmers with part of financial end of installing the retention structures as it benefits more than just the farmer, saves the Township from having to rebuild roads and ditches, if there is money for projects. Retention structures have already helped some areas and they would like to see more of that.

Riceville Township
Jerred Jirava

Nikki Swenson
Administrative Assistant
nikki@wildricewatershed.org
11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510
218.784.5501

Name: Clay County Highway Department
 Phone Number: 218-299-5099
 Email Address: david.Overbo@co.clay.mn.us
 Mailing Address: 2951 41 1/2 St So. Moorhead, MN 56529

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

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Concerns for Project Scoping:

	No Concern					Severe Concern						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	4	5						
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5						
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5						
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5						

Additional Comments: _____



Name: _____

Phone Number: 1-218-596-8706

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: 13531 210th St N Ulen, MN 56585

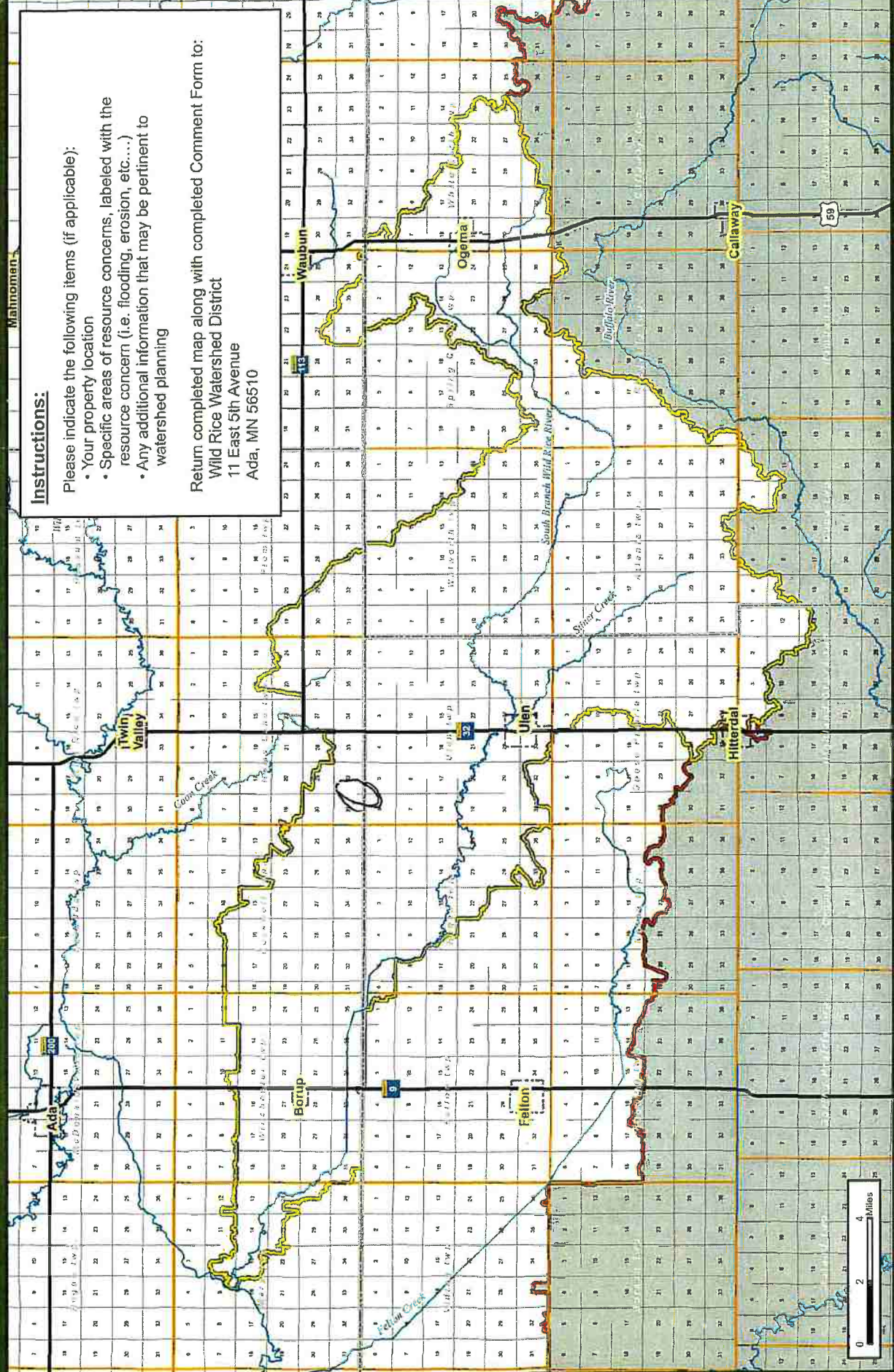
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• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5				
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5				
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5				

Additional comments: water backing up on Joyce Matson's
land in 31 of Home Lake from Sec 6 WRP
Project in Ulen Township that did not provide
drainage from new land after removing existing
ditch to make for water containment pond.

Philip Matson



Instructions:

Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

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- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

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11 East 5th Avenue
Ada, MN 56510

Prepared By:

Houston Engineering Inc.

City Limits
Township Boundary
County Boundary

Rivers and Streams
South Branch Sub-Watershed
WRWD Boundary

Wild Rice Watershed
South Branch Sub-Watershed
NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
Public Comment Form

Name: Darlene Wiger, Trustee I attended the meeting on 6-12-17 at Felton.

Phone Number: 218-233-2474

Email Address: None

Mailing Address: 3433-29th St. So, #604 Moorhead, MN. 56560

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

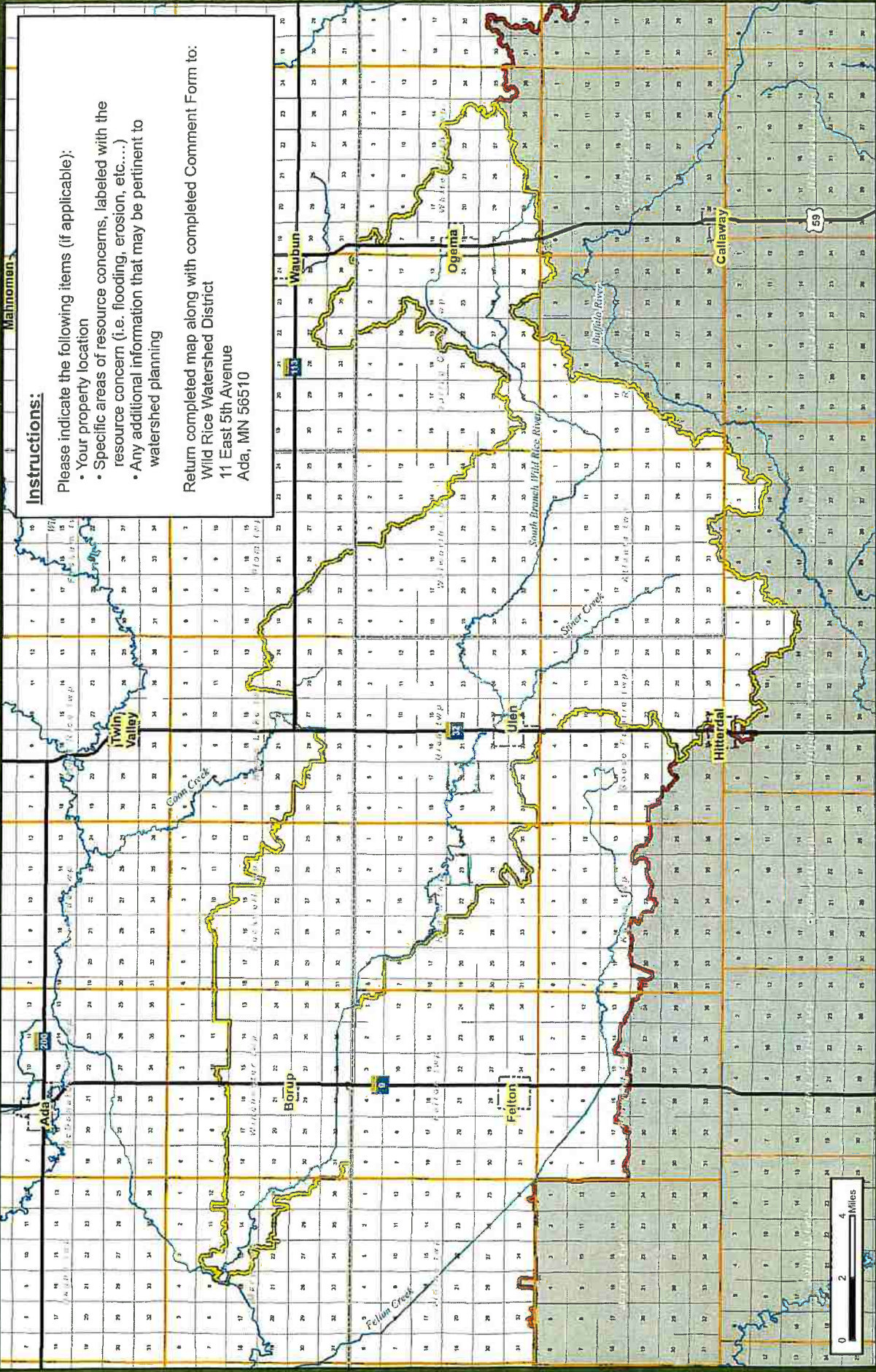
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<u>Concerns for Project Scoping:</u>	No Concern			Severe Concern	
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	④ 5
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	④ 5
• Wildlife and Habitat..... <u>Fish and harm for other large animals</u>	0	1	2	③	4 5
• Others (Please describe in comment section)..... <u>Water</u>	0	1	②	3	4 5

Additional Comments: The So. Branch of the Wild Rice runs through a forested area that is separated from farmstead and field land by a daily used trail and some rows of trees and brush. The floods created a larger river through erosion that continues to under cut so that part of the trail had to be made unusable. We were made to give up the trail in part probably 10 yrs. ago. I do not know to what extent the erosion continues, and that is my greatest concern.

Wildlife: Northern Pike fishing was great until the last flood. Now, no fishing at all! I would like to see the fish back.

Waterquality changes: I cannot answer about River water. We are planning to participate in the water quality test project that Clay Co. has sent out concerning Well water.



Instructions:

Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

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- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:

Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510

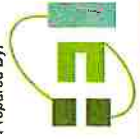
Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

- Rivers and Streams
- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- WRWD Boundary

- City Limits
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary



Prepared By:



Houston
 Engineering Inc.

Name: MARK HARLESS

Phone Number: 701-261-6374

Email Address: MLHARLESS24@GMAIL.COM

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 37 BOBUP, MN 56519

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

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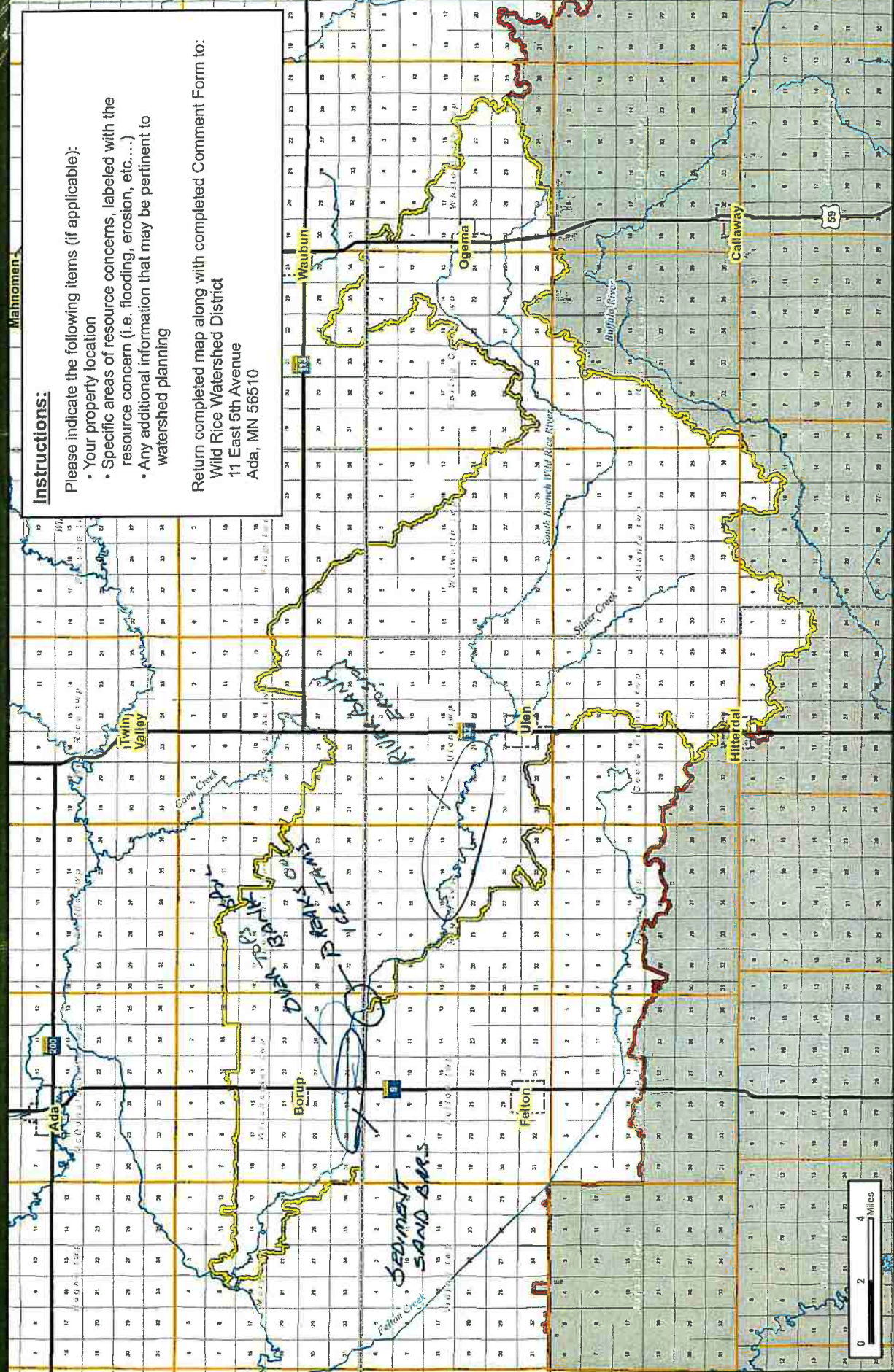
Concerns for Project Scoping:

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• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5				
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5				

Additional Comments: RIVER IS CUTTING THE BANKS THROUGH THE BEACH RIDGE, AND DEPOSITS SEDIMENTATION IN THE FLAT REACHES BY BOBUP THE RIVER ALSO OVERTOPS THE NORTH BANK IN SECTION 35 OF WINCHESTER, GOING A FLOW NORTH TO THE WATERSHED DITCH, WHICH THEN ALSO OVERFLOWS INTO SECTION 27 WINCHESTER. THESE FLOWS CAN IMPACT SEVERAL SECTIONS OF LAND SINCE FLOWS ARE DIVERTED AROUND BOBUP, INCLUDING TO CITY OF BOBUP.

THERE ARE MANY LARGE SAND BAR DEPOSITS IN THIS PORTION OF THE RIVER.

THERE ARE TWO SHARP BENDS IN THE RIVER THAT ARE PRONE TO ICE JAMS, THEN THE RIVER BREAKS OUT AND RUNS CROSS-COUNTRY.

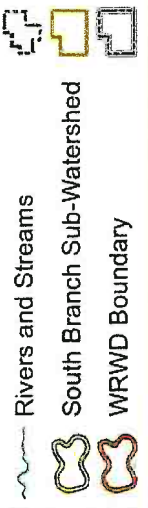
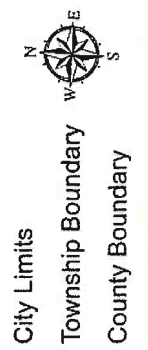


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Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

Wild Rice Watershed District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · www.wildricewatershed.org

Public Scoping Meeting/Open House Comment Form

South Branch of the Wild Rice River

NRCS Watershed Plan

June 12, 2017

Background

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11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

Or via email to nikki@wildricewatershed.org



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11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

Or via email to nikki@wildricewatershed.org

Name: David Christensen

Phone Number: 218-596-8385

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: 27070 - 190th Ave N. Ulen, MN 56585

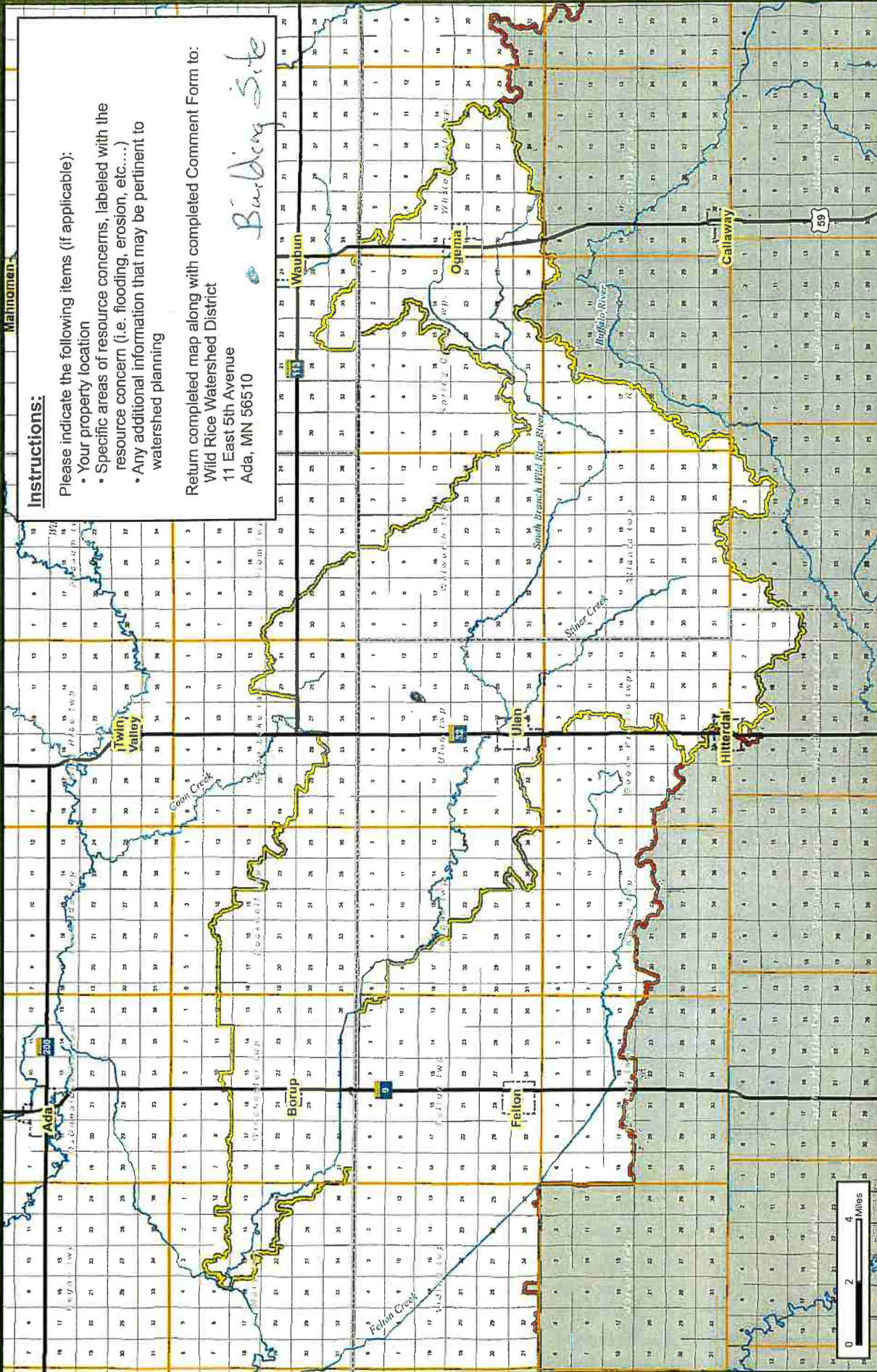
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Concerns for Project Scoping:

	No Concern			Severe Concern
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• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	①	2	3 4 5
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	①	2	3 4 5
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	①	2	3 4 5

Additional Comments: _____



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 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510

Birding Site

Prepared By:
 Houston Engineering Inc.

City Limits
 Township Boundary
 County Boundary

Rivers and Streams
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 WRWD Boundary

Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

Wild Rice Watershed District

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Wild Rice Watershed District
11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

Or via email to nikki@wildricewatershed.org

Name: Tim Weber

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

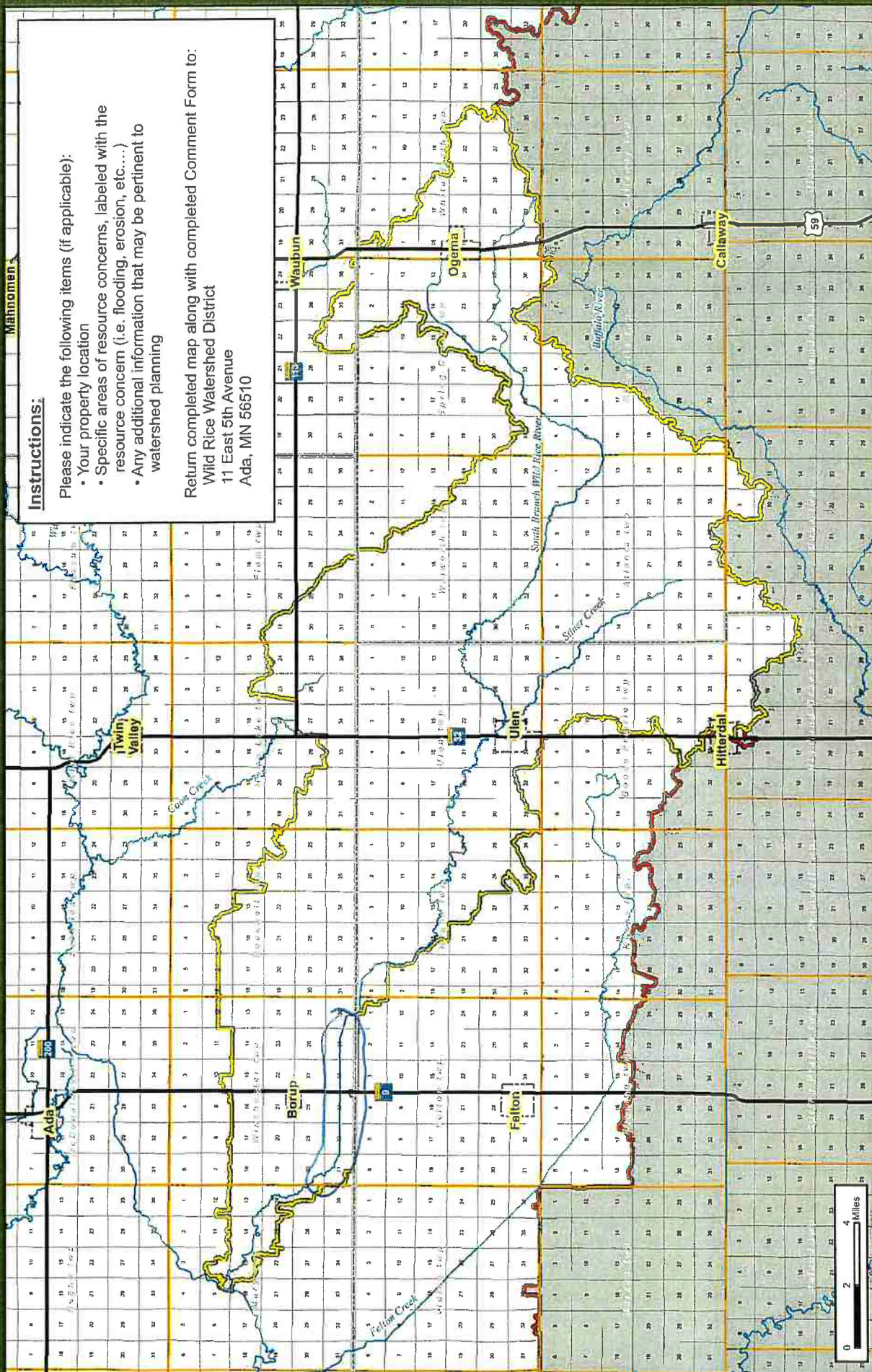
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Concerns for Project Scoping:

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• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5				
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5				
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5				

Additional Comments: Excessive sediment deposit
road flooding



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Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

- Rivers and Streams
- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- WRWD Boundary
- City Limits
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary



Prepared By:

Houston Engineering Inc.

Name: Richard Smith

Phone Number: 701-361-1094

Email Address: RMSmith@eot.com

Mailing Address: 26706 190th Ave W Uken

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• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5				

Additional Comments: I like the new attitude
of the board, listen to the people
first, not shove unwanted project down
our throats,
Thank for listening

Name: Kenneth Matson

Phone Number: 218-594-8539

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: 1063 360th St Twin Valley MN

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• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5						

Additional Comments: Water From WRP Project in section

six 40^{ac} is backing up on my mother land in section 31 Home Lake
Township

Wild Rice Watershed District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · www.wildricewatershed.org

Public Scoping Meeting/Open House Comment Form

South Branch of the Wild Rice River

NRCS Watershed Plan

June 12, 2017

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11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

Or via email to nikki@wildricewatershed.org

Name: Daryl Moore

Phone Number: 201-371-2335

Email Address: daryl.moore@westcentralag.com

Mailing Address: 1593 County Hwy 16 Ulen

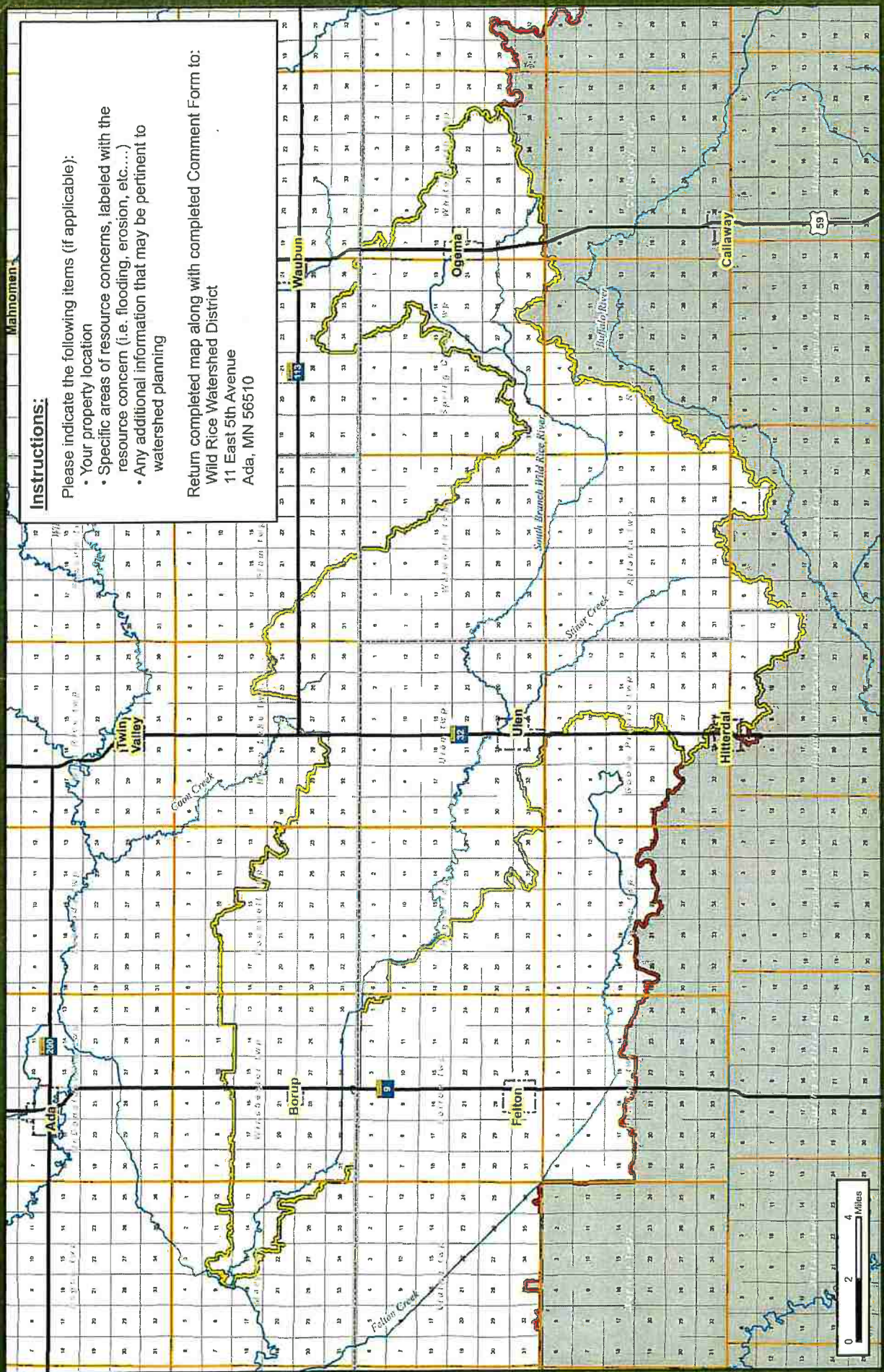
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Additional Comments: Use the money for tile projects



Instructions:

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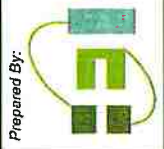
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Prepared By:

Wild Rice Watershed District

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Name: Kelly Schultz

Phone Number: 210-596-8657

Email Address: _____

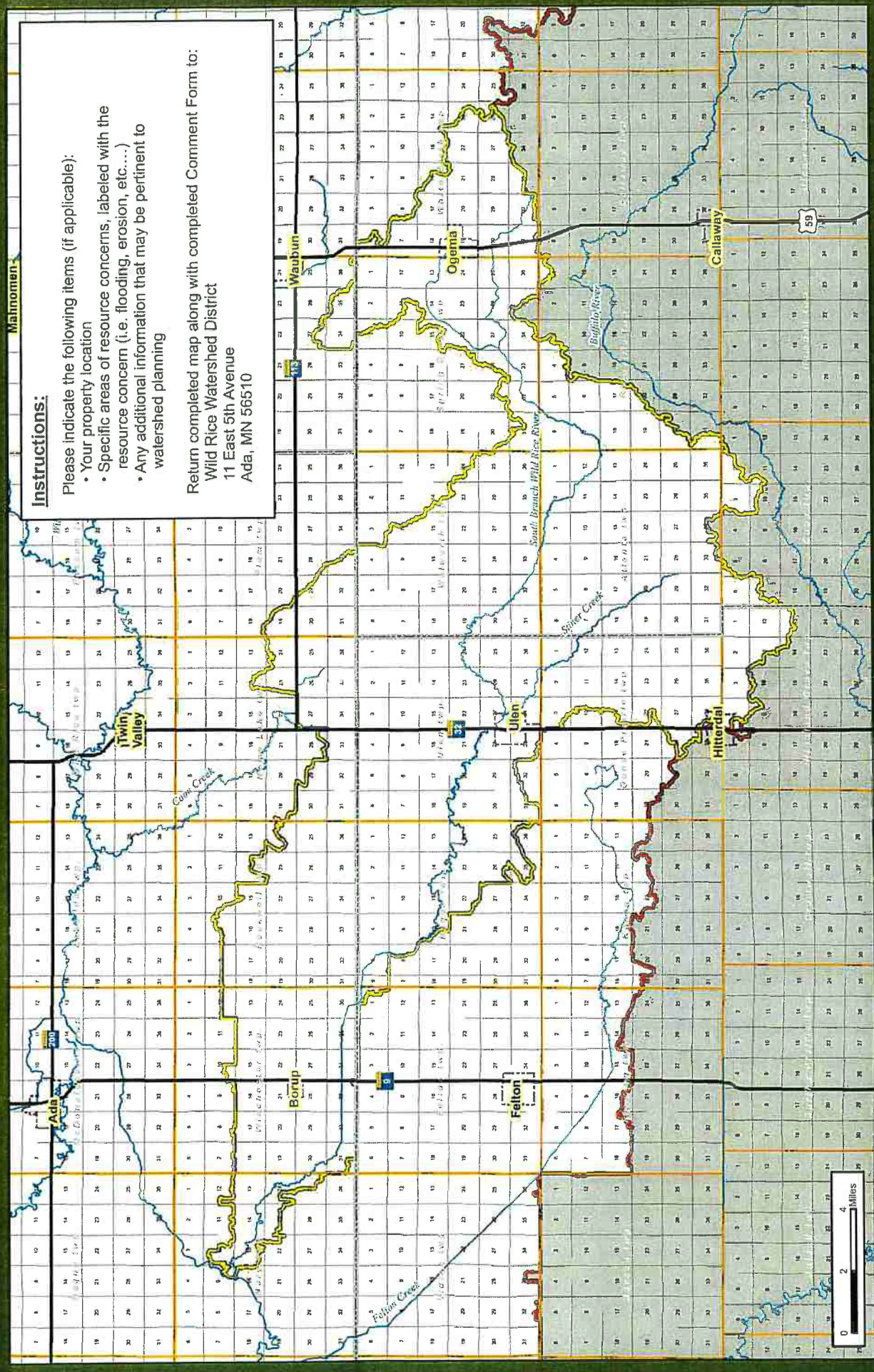
Mailing Address: Ulen Mn 27302 130 Av. N

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Prepared By:



Houston
 Engineering Inc.

Wild Rice Watershed District

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Name: Dean Matson

Phone Number: (218) 494-3492

Email Address: _____

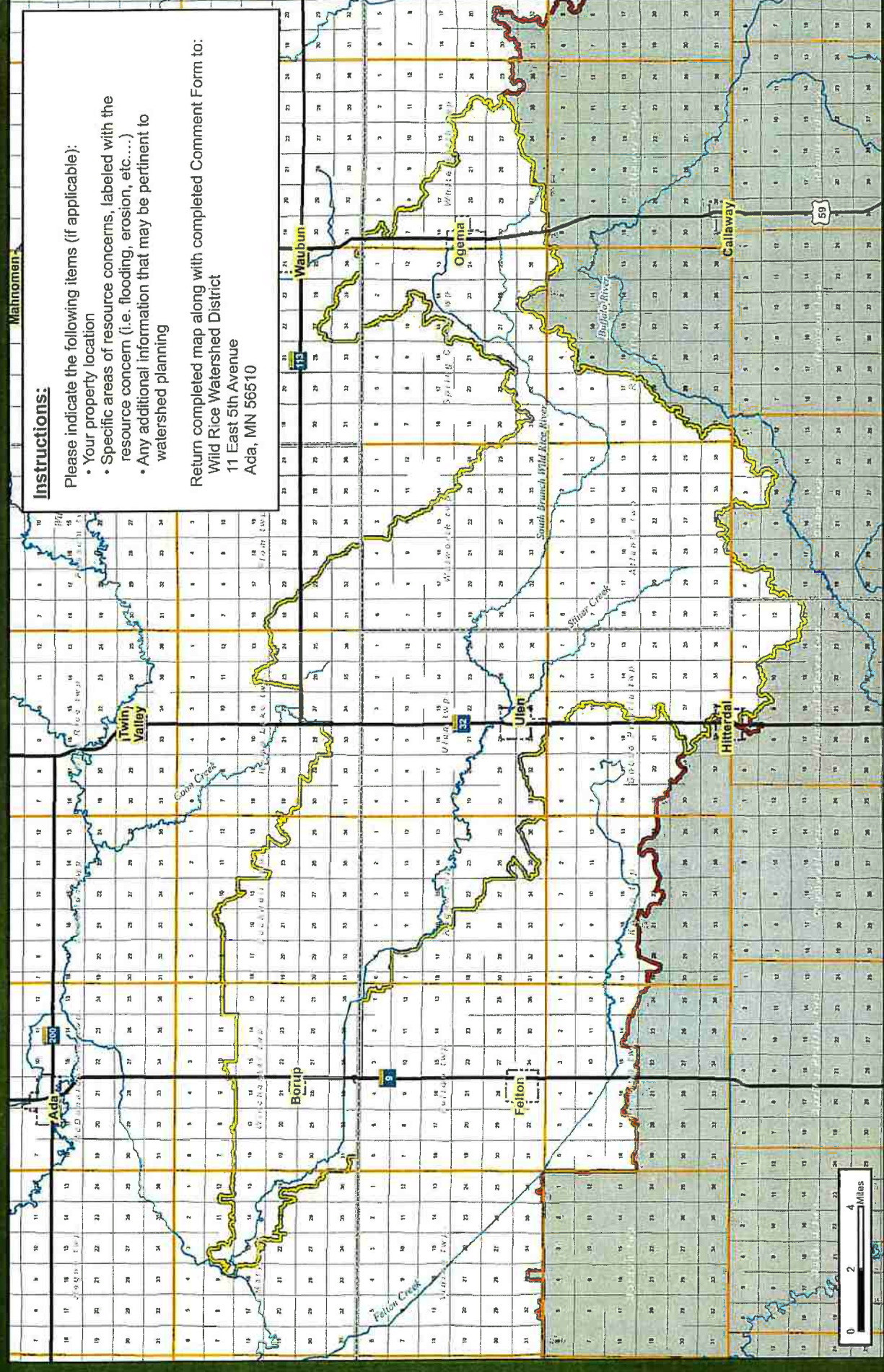
Mailing Address: 18162 210th St. N. Ulen, MN 56585

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	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	4	5						
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5						
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5						
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5						

Additional Comments: I've own my 80 since 1970 I've
watched the river decline year by year
Erosion has been bad and the beautiful
river has been changed by practices
up stream most fish are gone and
water quality has changed.



Instructions:

Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

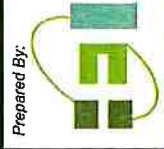
- Your property location
- Specific areas of resource concerns, labeled with the resource concern (I.e. flooding, erosion, etc....)
- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:
 Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510

Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form

- Rivers and Streams
- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- WRWD Boundary

- City Limits
- Township Boundary
- County Boundary



Prepared By:

Houston Engineering Inc.

Watershed Board,

Our board members came up with a few problem areas.

- ① Ditch 18 should be completely ditched out.
- ② Bigger culverts installed, so better flow when water is high
- ③ Some culverts get or are plugged because of beaver or other debris.

RECEIVED

7.17.17

Thank You,

Jeff Bates

Goose Prairie Chair

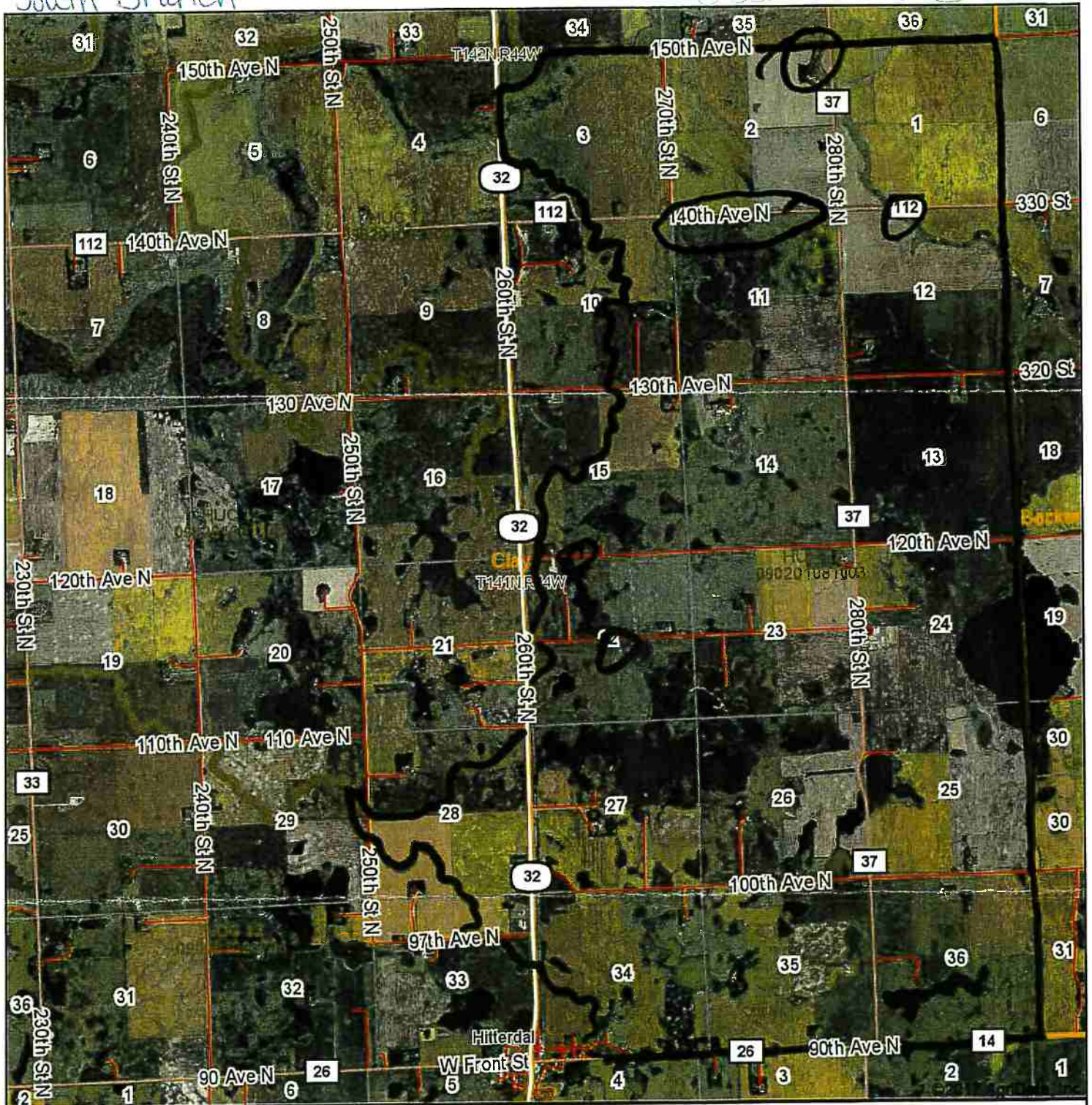
P.S.

We circled the past problem areas on the map.

Aerial Map

South Branch

Goa name



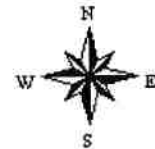
~ = Watershed Area

Maps Provided By

 CUSTOMIZED ONLINE MAPPING
 © AgriData, Inc. 2017 www.AgnDataInc.com

map center: 47° 1' 15.43, -96° 15' 17.57

15-141N-44W
Clay County
Minnesota



6/21/2017

NIKKI SWENSON
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT
11 5th AVE, EAST
ADA, MN 55401

July 12, 2017

RE: SOUTH BRANCH - WILD RICE RIVER

DEAR MS SWENSON:

First, please forgive the hand-written nature of this letter. The Clerk did not get this assignment until the Township meeting the night of July 10th. Township records were searched through on the 11th, followed by 2 committee meetings in Township; and on return home following the huge storm found a power outage. The power is still off.

The intent with this letter was to include a copy of a letter to the Watershed District from August of 2002 which details concerns about damage in the Township from the South Branch - Wild Rice River. So when power returns and copying is again possible that will be sent.

Briefly the Hagen Township Board believes it doesn't pay to identify small individual areas, since damage is extensive and widespread. Every landowner along the River has lost land to flooding. Well established trees, crop land, pasture, aggregate material, even a combine have been swept away.

In 1979-80 thousands of dollars, with the help of Federal Disaster Assistance Agency, were spent in bridge repairs (looks like 2 bridges) culvert replacement, embankment stabilization, and road repairs, etc. This

was after damages from an unexpected 14" rain. Also that event caused the River to cut off an oxbow and plough directly through one landowners property.

In more recent times 1997, 2000, 2001, extensive damage was done by flooding - In '97 there was only one route out of Hagen Twp due to all of the rest of bridges and roads were washed out. With the assistance of FEMA and the State of MN tons of thousands of dollars have been spent in repairs.

In 2002 the Clerk was given the task of interviewing residents and landowners re: their concerns about the River. To a person they all believed that flooding activity was due to uninhabited ditching of farmland which sent waters rapidly and uncontrolled to the river. Until measures are taken to contain water longer, before it gets to the river or to streams that feed the river, this problem will continue to worsen. Each landowner along the South Branch-Will Rice River would appreciate help in preventing more erosion of their property. The Hagen Township Board would appreciate preventative measures before water reaches the River.

Sincerely,
Angela Huth
Hagen Township Clerk

P.S. Residents of Hagen Twp are currently and increasingly concerned about center pivot irrigation drawing ground water and taking River water that might at some point affect the water tables and their wells. What recourse do they have?

Hagen Township
18221 220th Street North
Ulen, MN 56585

Todd Peterson, Chairman
Hazel A. Hutton, Clerk

RECEIVED

7-17-17

August 2, 2002

Jerry A. Bennett, District Administrator
Wild Rice Watershed District
11 East 5th Avenue
Ada, MN 56510

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Board of Hagen Township and its residents along the Wild Rice River South Branch speak with one voice regarding the Watershed District's request for response to its 6-10-02 memorandum.

The Hagen Board and its residents have collectively voiced their concerns to the Watershed District in the past. No solution resulted. With the recent damage due to flooding and the immensity of the problem, the Hagen Board and its residents are now calling for action. The Watershed District intends to do a feasibility study. The time for study has long passed. The contributing factors to the problem have been identified and need to be dealt with. This letter will state the contributing factors and reasonable plans for their alleviation.

The Watershed District wants to place a dam on the South Branch of the Wild Rice River in Hagen Township. Again, as one voice, the Hagen Board and its residents on the river state emphatically that this plan will not work and will have dire consequences if built.

The Wild Rice South Branch was a peaceful river, a beautiful waterway lined with huge ancient oaks and cottonwoods. Residents who have lived here many decades, state that the river well handled the occasional inordinate rainfalls or heavy runoff of snow melt without changing its course. Newcomers believe this, as it is evident that the river's high banks and well-established course was able to accommodate a significant rise in water. This is no longer the case. In past decades, and likely for centuries, it would take days before a rise in the river was noticed following a heavy rain. Now the rise occurs within hours. It exceeds the river's capacity. And the effect is devastating; not only to the property in Hagen Township, but to land in the valley. **The primary reason for this dramatic change is ditching.**

In the '40s the Federal Government paid landowners to drain wetlands to convert them to farm acreage. This started a practice of drainage, installation of culverts, and ditching that allows the water to run off the land at great speed. Not only has the practice been

established, it has advanced to a sophisticated process with scrapers and lasers without respect for consequences or legal limits. The ditches are deeper than legal limits allow and they are done without permits. When permits are requested for bigger and bigger culverts and for more ditching they are granted without consideration for the effects downstream. Again, the effects are devastating - for Hagen residents, the integrity of the Wild Rice South Branch River, the landowners in the Ada and Borup areas and ultimately the people living along the Red River.

- 1) **The ditching has to stop! And violators need to be prosecuted.**
- 2) Wetlands need to be re-established. Previous ponds and swamp areas need to be turned into reservoirs and if landowners need to be reimbursed to do so, so be it.
- 3) Ditches have to be returned to reasonable depths and to have some variation of terrain so that they provide some resistance to the flow of water. Something as simple as hay bale barriers would slow the water.
- 4) Some ditches need to be gated and at times of inordinate rainfall, the gates need to be closed and water held for a few hours until the river has the capacity to bear the flow.
- 5) The best dam system is to use existing roads and reinforce them at strategic points to hold back water, as was done in one spot in Hagen Township.

If these measures are not taken, the problem of flooding will only increase.

In drought years in the future, these measures would also help retain needed moisture.

The cost of flooding has been tremendous in Hagen Township. The bridges and roads in Hagen have been washed out three times in 5 years. The flood of '97, called the flood of the Century, washed out all of the bridges and roads in Hagen. The recent flood exceeded that of '97. It was the worst ever in Hagen Township. Residents watched in horror as one bridge was totally destroyed, as huge chunks of land were taken in an instant and as water came out of the banks and raced across land tearing out roads and fields and leaving behind rocks, sand, trees and debris. Nothing like it was seen before.

The costs to Hagen Township for the last 3 floods were significant. They were partly reimbursed with FEMA funds. Helpful to our Township, but the cost is really born by all taxpayers. Now FEMA requests plans for prevention in all frequently flooded areas. Without the Watershed District's responsible action in this matter, Hagen Township can only helplessly watch as flooding destroys more and more property and we again request assistance from FEMA.

The cost to landowners is incalculable and a nightmare for insurance claims and companies. Most often it is not reimbursed by insurance and the landowner is left in shock looking at the devastated property and wondering how to deal with it. And wondering how much property will be lost in the next flood. Because there will be another one unless action is taken.

Some people downstream, seeing all the trees blocking and putting pressure on bridges in their area, believe that someone should cut down all the trees that are ready to fall into the river. These were not trees that were waiting to fall into the river. These were long

established trees, monstrous oaks and cottonwoods that were living happily far back from the river. With each flooding we all watched in horror as enormous chunks of land 8' to 16' high and 25' to 50' wide were, in one motion, swept from the landscape. The noise of the trees being ripped out, roots and all, is tremendous and frightening and it is sickening to see the previously stately trees bobbing down the river like matchsticks. Residents also watched with horror and amazement as an island of land with trees standing upright was swept downstream. One farmer had a 47' bridge across the river. The river at the same point now is 200' wide. Nothing can stop this once the flooding is in motion. Nothing.

The Wild Rice South Branch runs through an area known as the ridge of old Lake Aggasiz. The ridge holds the rock and boulders brought in eons ago by glaciers. Hagen has many gravel pits in its jurisdiction. We are all familiar with rocks and boulders. Boulders as big as small cars have been swept away by the river and we have heard their fierce rumble as they are carried through our bridges. It takes huge equipment to remove these boulders from gravel pits. The river moves them with ease like they were styrofoam.

One area in Hagen acts as a natural dam for floodwaters. Because of the high bank on one side, low land on the other, and a road intersecting the river this area holds back a tremendous amount of water. But it cannot be contained. The river drops 108' in three miles from road 11 to road 27 in Hagen causing tremendous velocity in river flow. It is not possible to contain such force. When the river at that speed is held back in any way it forces its way elsewhere and churns its way through any barrier to continue its path. When it cannot move through the river channel it flows out of the banks and rushes across the land. It has to. A volume of water 100+' wide by 22' high (or more) falling over 100 feet has an unimaginable force. The bank stabilization project completed in Hagen to hold a "hundred year flood" came through this last flood with overflowing banks, and washed out rip rap. These are reasons we know a dam in Hagen will not work. It is not known how much volume flowed per second in this last flood, but if you were somehow able to hold that flow for even two hours in Hagen Township you would have a catastrophic results. In addition, a dam in Hagen would fill with boulders, rocks, sand and earth and fail in short order.

Ring dikes and bank stabilization projects, while helpful to selected landowners, do nothing to stop the source of the problem. They deal only with its consequences. Water retention and slowing its flow are imperative.

The control of the Wild Rice South Branch needs to be done east of the city of Ulen. We think the residents of Ulen agree, when we see the damage that occurred there.

Each time heavy rains are forecast we all wait with apprehension wondering what damage will occur next. The Watershed District needs to make hard decisions and the decisions need to be made now. Action must be taken to resolve this problem.

The Hagen Board and its residents are willing to help with practical solutions. We believe, if we all do our part along the river, the Wild Rice River South Branch will return to being the peaceful river it once was.

Sincerely,

Hazel A. Hutton
Hazel A. Hutton, Clerk

cc. Township Boards along the Wild Rice River South Branch, FEMA, local media and an attny

Janet E. Green
John Nodale
Glenn Nodale
Harley S. Green
Todd & Ronda Peterson
Marilyn H. Green
Diane Green
Daniel Green
Oscar Green Jr
Ronda Peterson
Arvin Sperson
Julie Sperson
Melvin J. Haug
Kathy Tomadalen
Ken Bull
Laris Tomadalen
Donald Shultz
Shirley Shultz

Barbara Shaw
Borden O. Long
Karen Fevig
Debb Braseth
Daniel Braseth
Joy Green
Jennifer Green
Dean Matson
Joy Green
Loge Wright
Sharon Wright

Tom Fin
Edna Haslerud
Hermit L. Tomadalen
Dandra Brommer
Violet Stromstad
Sam Brun

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 East 5th Avenue - Ada, Minnesota 56510
Phone (218) 784-4085

October 6, 2002

Hazel Hutton
18221 220th Street North
Ulen, MN 56585

Dear Ms. Hutton:

On behalf of the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) Board of Managers this letter shall serve as a response to your August 2, 2002, letter. Our response is directed to your concerns as a citizen since we understand that the issues raised in your letter are not endorsed by the Hagen Township Board of Supervisors.

Back in January of 2002, Hagen Township residents met with the WRWD Board of Managers to voice concerns over erosion and flood related problems within the township. From that meeting it was decided to have Clay County Water Planning survey residents in Hagen and Ulen Townships to identify the extent of the damages and possible solutions, and it is our understanding that Clay County is in the process of completing the survey. Because the WRWD is responsible for addressing flood damage reduction measures and the Soil and Water Conservation District/Natural Resources Conservation Service are responsible for addressing erosion concerns, you will still need to work with Clay County on your erosion-related damages.

Your letter indicated a desire to get right to work, eliminating planning and/or studies to implement proposed projects. The Board of Managers also wants to begin work as soon as possible, but must proceed under applicable Minnesota law. Before a major project is implemented, the district is required to develop a revised "watershed management plan."

The various facets of a water management project as identified in the watershed management plan are then submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (MNBWSR) for its review and comments. The chances of favorable consideration by the MNBWSR are increased with proper planning/studies. Accordingly, such planning/studies become imperative. The preliminary estimate for the first phase of implementing the contemplated flood damage reduction projects is in excess of \$56 million. Because of the high cost, federal funding assistance is necessary to implement any such projects and is the reason the Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study is necessary.

Another option property owners have is to petition for projects under Minn. Stat. 103D.701, which would require the necessary signatures on a petition to the watershed district to implement specific project(s), as well as obtaining bonding authority. The considerable estimated cost of flood damage reduction projects makes such a private petition process unlikely.

Your letter indicates that the primary reason for the flooding in Hagen Township is drainage. While the WRWD Board of Managers agrees that drainage is a problem in the township, they also recognize other factors that contribute to potential floods, including, but not limited to, topography, land use, weather patterns, rainfall and size of the watershed. The presence or absence of any of these factors can dramatically change the character of a particular flood.

Wild Rice Watershed District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · www.wildricewatershed.org

Public Scoping Meeting/Open House Comment Form

South Branch of the Wild Rice River

NRCS Watershed Plan

June 12, 2017

Background

The Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) secured funding through the Red River Retention Authority for Watershed Planning under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RCPP funding was made available for watershed planning in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed and it is required to follow Public Law 83-566 requirements.

The Watershed Planning must also comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements. Tasks required for the NRCS Watershed Plan generally include: Identifying a Purpose and Need, Developing an Environmental Assessment, Identifying the Affected Environment (resource problems), Developing Alternatives, Identifying Environmental Consequences of the alternatives, determining a Preferred Alternative, and creating an overall Watershed Plan. Public participation will be a vital component throughout the entire planning process, beginning with this public meeting.

Purpose of Today's Meeting

The initial step in NRCS Watershed Planning, as directed by NEPA, is to allow for input from all interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies and other interested groups or persons. Initial input will be focused on resource concerns in and adjacent to the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed. In order to gather input on resource concerns, we would request that the attached comment form be completed and provided to the WRWD.

Identified Resource Concerns:

- **Flooding/Flood Damages** (i.e. agricultural effects from delayed planting, prevented planting, crop flood inundation, road damages, culvert/bridge damages, breakout flows, field erosion/deposition, floodplain management, etc.)
- **Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation** (water quality, water resources, soil resources, field erosion/deposition, channel erosion/deposition, etc.)
- **Wildlife and Habitat** (Fish and wildlife, wetlands, endangered and threatened species, invasive species, migratory birds, forest resources, etc.)
- **Other**

Please fill out the following information based on your priorities for the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed.

Comment forms will be accepted for all forms postmarked on or before July 12, 2017.

Completed comment forms can be mailed to the WRWD office at:

Wild Rice Watershed District
11 5th Avenue East
Ada, MN 56510

Or via email to nikki@wildricewatershed.org

Name: GREG MASTELLER / MnDOT

Phone Number: 218-846-7958

Email Address: GREG.MASTELLER@STATE.MN.US

Mailing Address: 1000 US Hwy 10 west Detroit Lakes Mn 56501

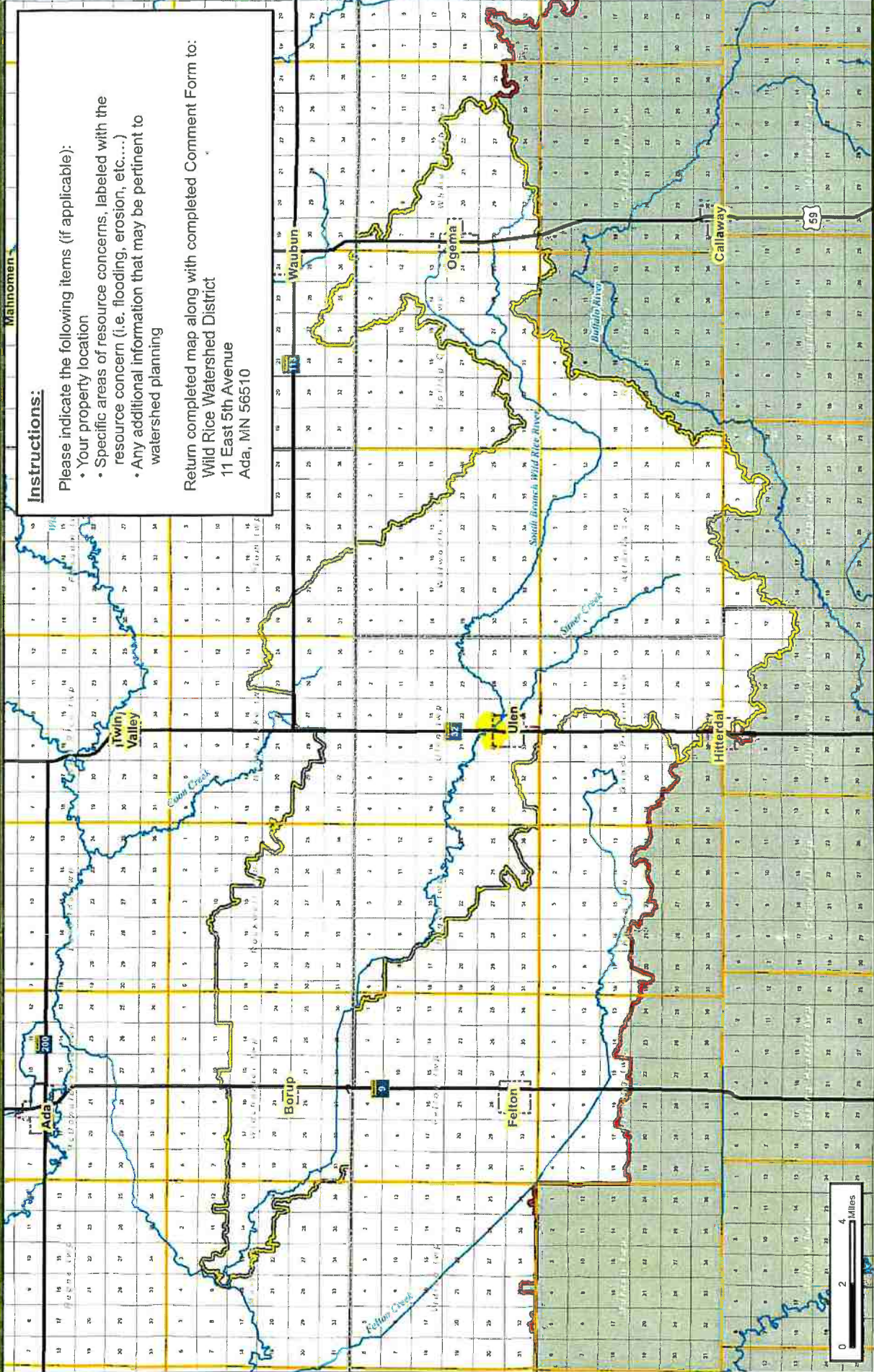
Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

KEY: 0 = No Concern or Not Relevant 1 = Minimal Concern 2 = Minor Concern
3 = Moderate Concern 4 = Significant Concern 5 = Severe Concern

Concerns for Project Scoping:

	No Concern				Severe Concern	
• Flooding/Flood Damages.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Water Quality/Erosion and Sedimentation.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Wildlife and Habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Others (Please describe in comment section).....	0	1	2	3	4	5

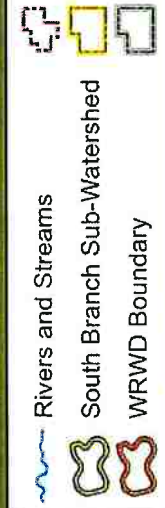
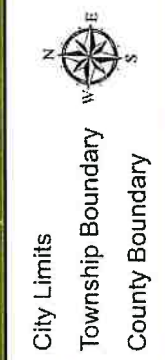
Additional Comments: STREAM BANK erosion AROUND TH 32 NEAR Ulen.



Instructions:

- Please indicate the following items (if applicable):
- Your property location
 - Specific areas of resource concerns, labeled with the resource concern (i.e. flooding, erosion, etc....)
 - Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:
 Wild Rice Watershed District
 11 East 5th Avenue
 Ada, MN 56510



Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 NRCS RCPP Watershed Planning
 Public Comment Form



PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS

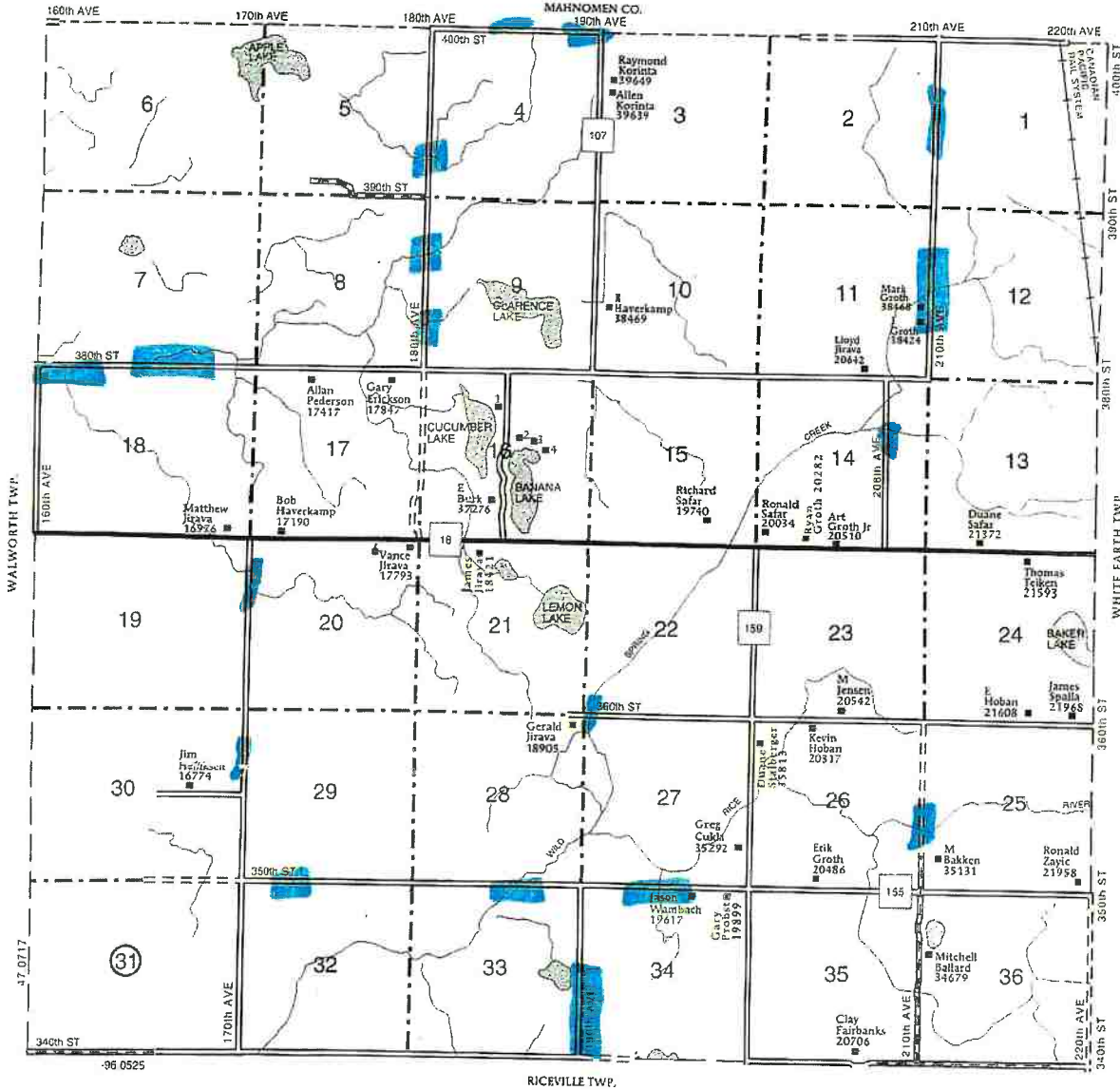
They Make It Possible For This
Directory To Come To
The Rural Residents Of This County.
Be Sure To Thank Them.


T-142-N

SPRING CREEK DIRECTORY

(Residents - Owners or Renters)

R-42-W



 where water has washed over the Grade or washed the Road out.

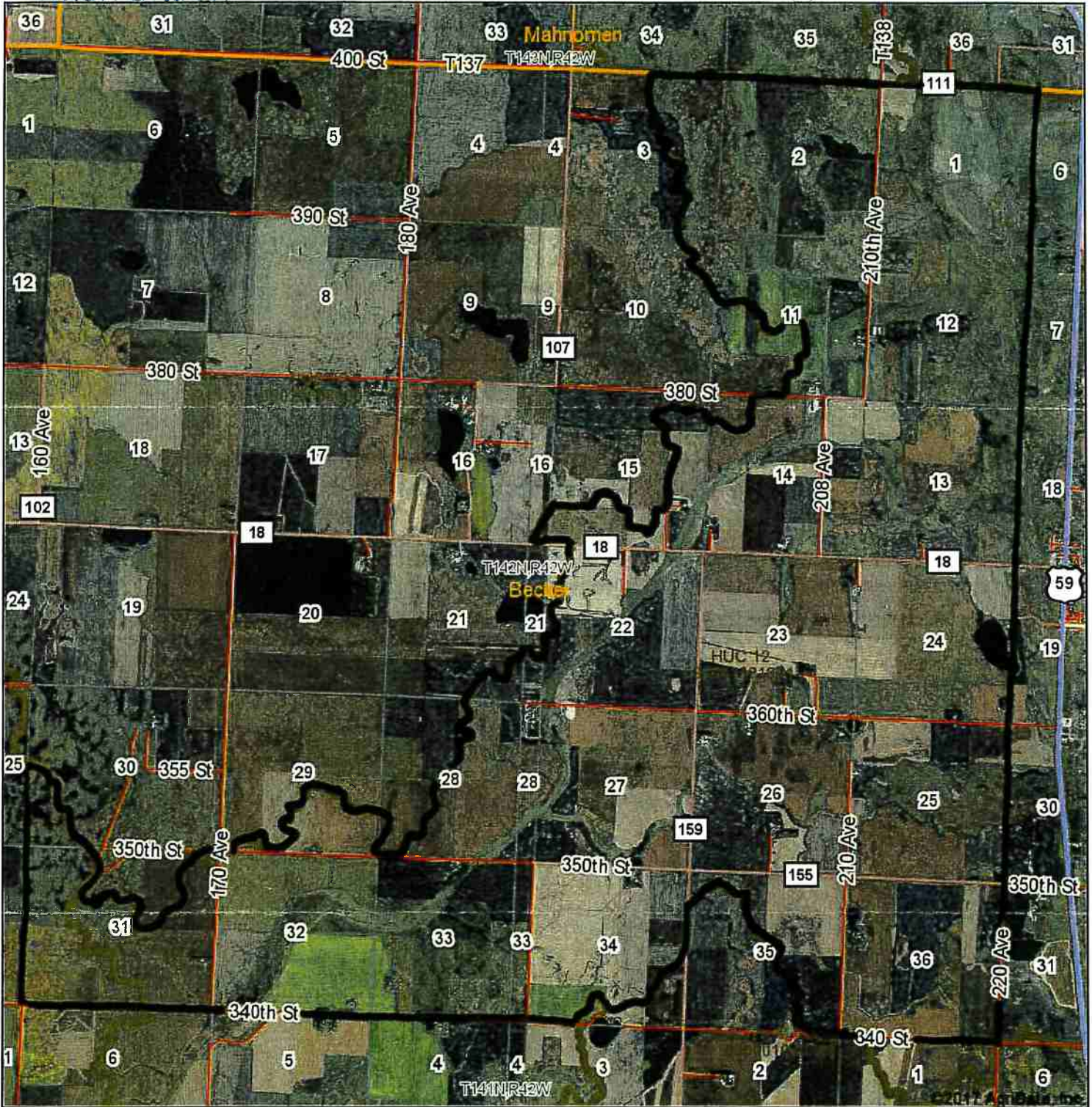
**SPRING CREEK
TOWNSHIP
SECTION 15**

- 1 Haverkamp, L 37676
- 2 Haverkamp, M 37517
- 3 Haverkamp, A 37513
- 4 Haverkamp, Maynard 37509

Aerial Map

Spring Creek

South Branch

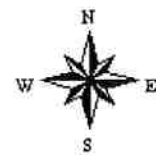


~ = Watershed Area

map center: 47° 6' 26.22, -95° 59' 52.56



21-142N-42W
Becker County
Minnesota



6/21/2017



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Wild-Rice-Watershed-District

11 5th Ave East · Ada MN 56510 · Phone (218) 784-5501 · Fax (218) 784-2459 · www.wildricewatershed.org

June 20, 2017

RE: South Branch of the Wild Rice River

Dear Township Chair:

The Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) secured funding through the Red River Retention Authority for Watershed Planning under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The RCPP funding was made available for watershed planning in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Sub-Watershed and it is required to follow Public Law 83-566 requirements.

The Watershed Planning must also comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements. Tasks required for the NRCS Watershed Plan generally include: Identifying a Purpose and Need, Developing an Environmental Assessment, Identifying the Affected Environment (resource problems), Developing Alternatives, Identifying Environmental Consequences of the alternatives, determining a Preferred Alternative, and creating an overall Watershed Plan. Public participation will be a vital component throughout the entire planning process.

We are currently working on gathering information regarding problem areas in the South Branch Sub-Watershed area and would like your input. Attached is a map of your township that lies within the South Branch Sub-Watershed. Please take a few minutes of your time to mark the areas on the map where and what type of damages have occurred over the years. This information will be used to determine the scope of Watershed Planning activities within the South Branch Sub-Watershed. You can return the information using the enclosed envelope, must be postmarked on or before **July 12, 2017** to be accepted.

We appreciate your help in this matter. If you have any questions feel free to give us a call at 218-784-5501.

Best Regards,

Nikki Swenson

Nikki Swenson
Administrative Assistant

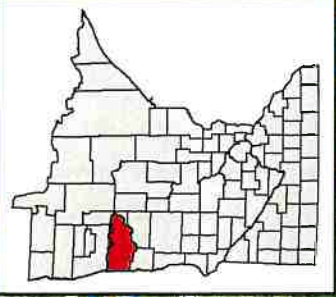


Appendix B

Project Maps

A color project map must be prepared to show the location of important project measures and the location and extent of important watershed conditions that will be affected by the works of improvement to be installed. The map must show the location and kind of measures, watershed areas above structures that have floodwater retarding capacity, and benefited areas.



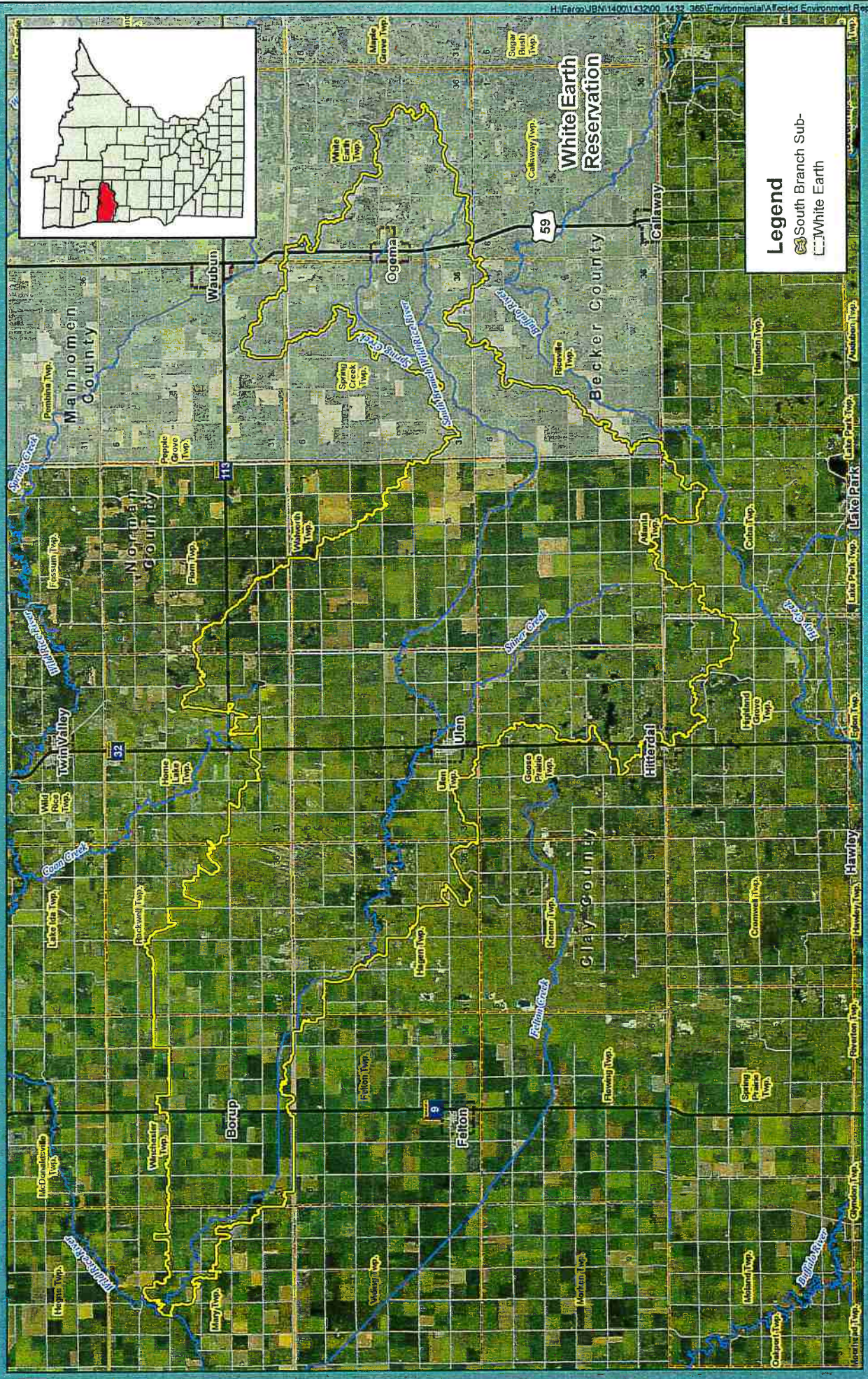


Legend

- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- Wild Rice Watershed



Wild Rice Watershed
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 Affected Environment
 Wild Rice Watershed District



Legend

- South Branch Sub-Watershed
- White Earth River



South Branch Sub-Watershed (Project Area)
 South Branch Sub-Watershed
 Affected Environment
 Wild Rice Watershed District

