
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Waterworks Improvements Project
 Town of Schneider
 23800 Parrish Avenue
 Schneider, IN 46376

SRF Project Number: DW 13 02 45 01

Authorized Representative: Richard Ludlow, Council President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Schneider Waterworks and distribution projects are located in West Creek Township in Lake County in the Schneider Quadrangle, Township 32N, Range 9W Section 27, 28, 33 and 34; see Figure 1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The distribution system is aged and undersized. There are numerous dead-end lines which affect water pressure and flows in some areas. A number of hydrants need to be replaced and additional valves need to be installed in order to isolate the system for maintenance and emergencies.

Water quality is a concern as there is a history of high levels of hydrogen sulfide and iron. At the present time, water treatment consists solely of disinfection, which does not reduce or eliminate the hydrogen sulfide or iron levels. A treatment plant is needed to alleviate the problems and improve the quality. In addition, the two wells need to be refurbished and raised above the 100 year flood elevation.

The project scope is to loop and replace lines, hydrants, and valves in selected areas, refurbish two wells, provide standby power, and construct a treatment plant. The proposed project will improve system pressures and flows, replace undersized and aged components, improve water quality, and increase the fire protection capabilities in some areas.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

The estimated cost of the project is \$1,549,600. Schneider will borrow approximately that amount from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a 20-year term at a fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

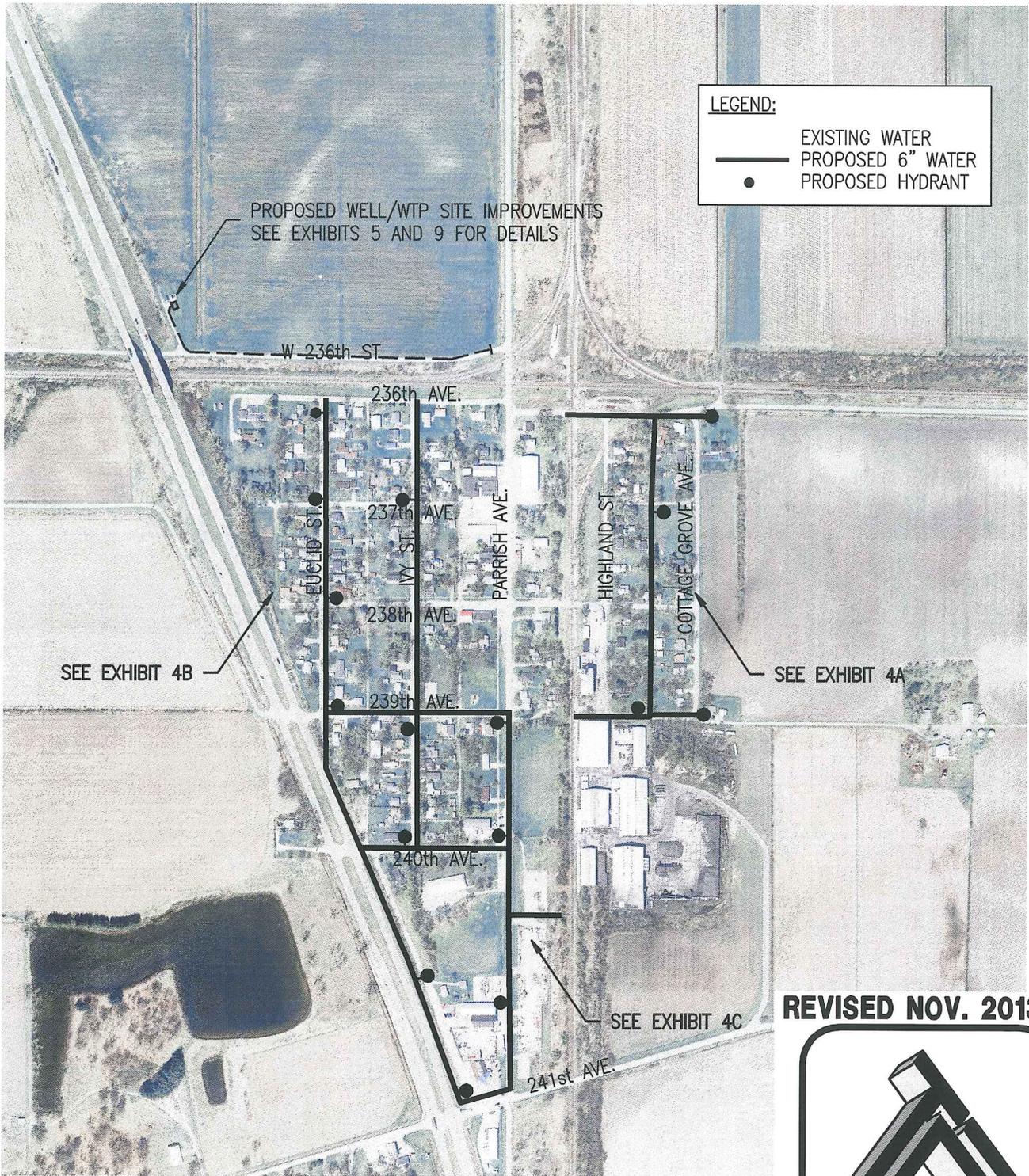
V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The entire town is in the 100-year floodplain. If practical and necessary, above ground structures will be placed above the 100-year flood level. The project will not affect streams, wetlands, wooded areas, prime farmland, or other sensitive environmental resources.

Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties, see Figures 2 and 3. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The project was discussed at a properly noticed public meeting on August 5, 2013. Several comments were answered at the public hearing, and no written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the public hearing.



PROPOSED WELL/WTP SITE IMPROVEMENTS
SEE EXHIBITS 5 AND 9 FOR DETAILS

LEGEND:

- EXISTING WATER
- PROPOSED 6" WATER
- PROPOSED HYDRANT

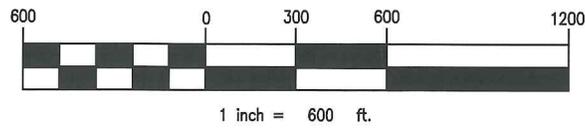
SEE EXHIBIT 4B

SEE EXHIBIT 4A

SEE EXHIBIT 4C

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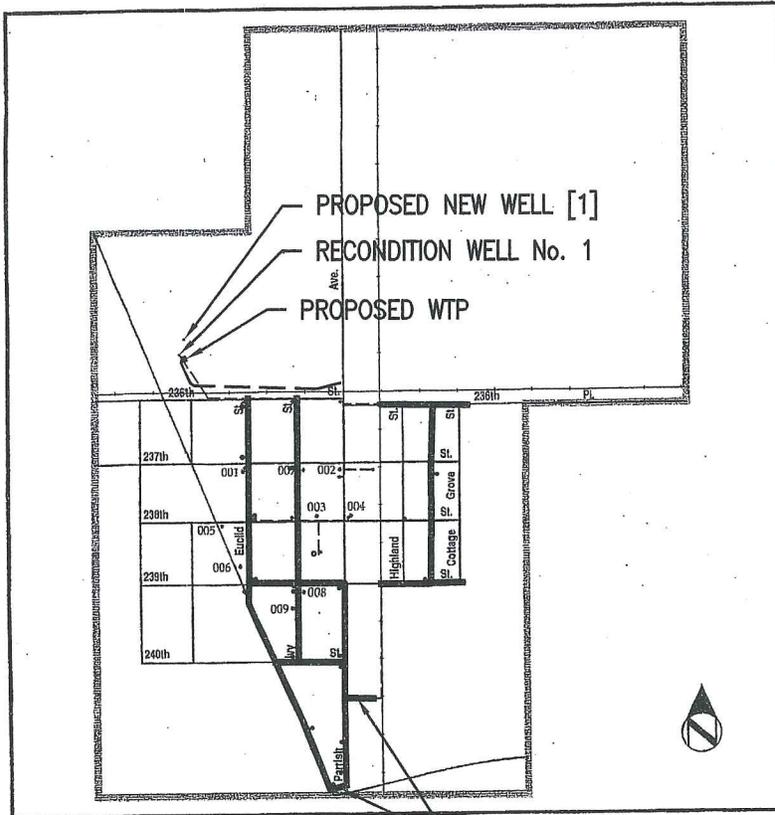
TOWN OF SCHNEIDER, IN PROPOSED WATER DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENTS



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**WATER PER
Figure 1**

Schneider Scattered Sites (86001-009)



PROPOSED WATER LINES (TYP.)

The town of Schneider is located at the southern tip of West Creek Township, on the banks of the Kankakee River. Schneider, named for a local landowner, began as a post office, established in 1902. When the railroad built its tracks through the area, the village quickly developed, and by 1915, a town board was elected.

Schneider developed as a bustling commercial center for the surrounding agricultural community: A commercial building on Parrish Avenue (86002) is one of the town's only remaining business buildings from Schneider's early years. A church at 4113 Euclid Street (86006) is one of only two extant churches in town.

The town's residential architecture is modest in scale. The house at 9783 West 238th Street (86003) typifies the town's early twentieth century homes. The two houses on Euclid Street (86001, 86005) are examples of the popular bungalow style.

As the railroad lessened in importance, many small towns such as Schneider declined. With the loss of the town's railroad depot and the school, as well as the rerouting of US 41, the town lost much of its vitality. Today, it remains as a quiet, rural community.

No. Rtg. Description

- 001 C House, 23632 Euclid Street; Bungalow, c.1930; Architecture (575)
- 002 C Commercial Building, Parrish Avenue; Commercial Vernacular, c.1900; Commerce, Vernacular / Construction (575)
- 003 C House, 9783 W. 238th Avenue; Free Classic Cottage, c.1910; Architecture (575)

407

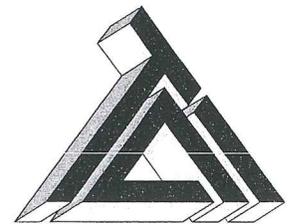
[1] LOCATION OF NEW WELL ON EXISTING WELL SITE TO BE DETERMINED

TOWN OF SCHNEIDER, IN SCATTERED SITES

SCALE: NONE



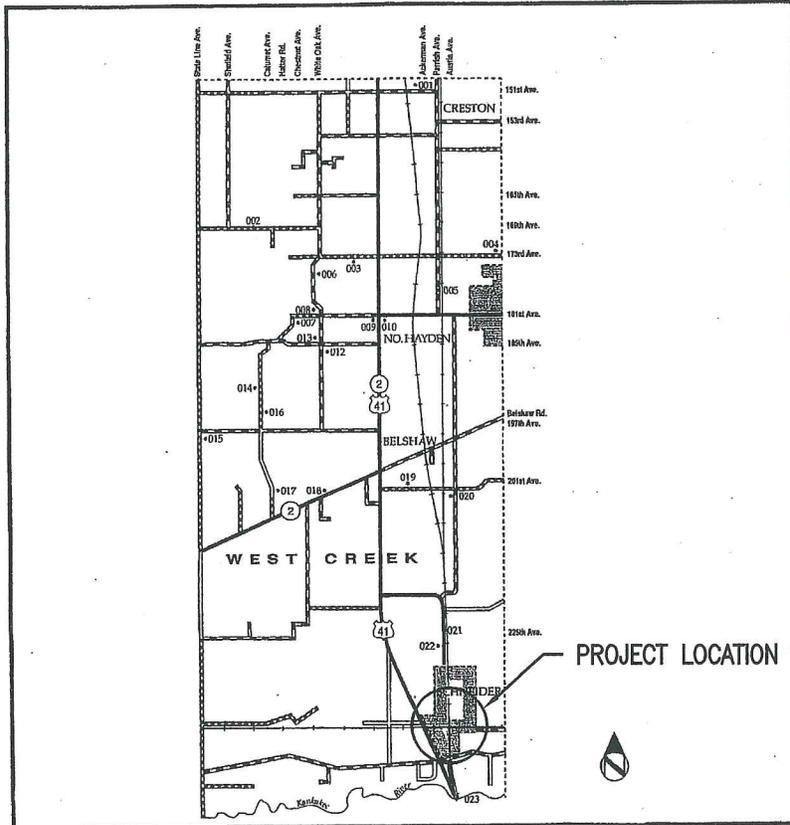
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WATER PER
Figure 2

West Creek Township (85001-023)



404

West Creek Township is located in the southwest corner of Lake County. It was organized in 1839 and was named for the stream which runs through the area. The township's rich farmland attracted settlers to the area as early as the 1830s.

In addition to agriculture, fur trapping along the Kankakee River, as well as several mills, contributed to the township's early economy. Joseph Jackson opened the township's first general store in 1838. A year later, the first post office was established. Although no structures remain from the township's settlement period, several early cemeteries, including the Sanders Cemetery (85019), the West Creek Cemetery (85017) and the Lake Prairie Cemetery (85009) serve as reminders of this early period.

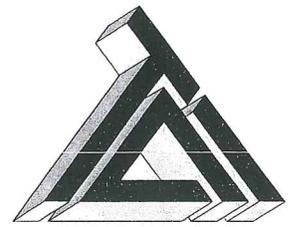
Two events would have a lasting effect on West Creek Township. The construction of an extensive drainage system during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, enabled the cultivation of large tracts of land which before this time were primarily swamps. The resulting agricultural expansion was furthered bolstered in 1905 by the coming of the railroad. The town of Schneider, founded along the rail line during the early twentieth century, developed as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural community.

The majority of the township's historic resources reflect the economic boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The farms at 11703 West 173rd Avenue (85003) and 19202 Calumet Avenue (85014), illustrate the diversity of the farmstead during this period. The grain elevator located north of Schneider (85022) dominates the landscape and represents the integral role that agriculture played in the area's way of life.

The township's only remaining rural church is the Lake Prairie Presbyterian Church (85012). The congregation organized in 1857, and its first church was completed in 1872. The present Twentieth

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WATER PER
Figure 3