



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TURKEY CREEK REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT Eastshore – Northshore Sewer Extension Project STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT # WW 21 03 43 02

DATE: August 23, 2021

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: September 22, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the wastewater project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA, which can also be viewed at www.in.gov/ifa/srf.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The CWSRF Loan Program has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-3, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the target approval date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new EA/FNSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be achieved by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

**Amy Henninger
Compliance Officer
State Revolving Fund Loan Programs
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-6566
ahenning@ifa.in.gov**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Eastshore – Northshore Sewer Extension Project**
Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District
4852 N 1200 W
Cromwell, IN 46732

SRF Project Number: WW 21 03 43 02

Authorized Representative: Mr. James Boone, Board President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District (RSD) service area is located in Kosciusko County, Indiana; Lake Wawasee USGS Quadrangle, Turkey Creek Township, Section 9, T34N, R7E. The immediate area for this project is Eastshore Drive from Cornelius Road north to Northshore Drive, then west along Northshore Drive to Shore Drive.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The Turkey Creek RSD operates a wastewater treatment plant and collection system to the District's current service area. The service area that was defined when the District was established includes Lake Wawasee, Syracuse Lake, Boner Lake, and Papakeechee Lake. The District received a request for service to the eastern and northern portion of Syracuse Lake, an area that has approximately 183 potential residential customers that do not presently have access to sewer service. The Kosciusko County Health Department estimates 70% of the existing septic systems in this area are at least 20 years old, and past the useful life for a residential septic system.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To meet the needs of properties on the Eastshore and Northshore of Syracuse Lake, the District proposed to install a gravity sewer system in the project area, connecting to the existing collection system at the corner of Eastshore Drive and Railside Drive. The project also includes four pump stations along Northshore Drive, a pump station at the connection point on Eastshore Drive and associated force main and appurtenances. See **Figure 1**.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

Construction Costs	
Construction	\$1,972,000
Contingency	197,000
Construction Sub-Total	\$2,169,000
Non-Construction Costs	\$503,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$2,672,000

- B. The Turkey Creek RSD will finance the project with a loan from the CWSRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. The actual loan amount will depend on the bids received. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

The “**No Action**” alternative is not a feasible alternative because it will not eliminate aging and failing septic systems from the project area.

Collection System 1 – Gravity Sewers: This alternative would include the construction of gravity sewer along Northshore Drive and Eastshore Drive, connecting to the existing collection system at the corner of Eastshore Drive and Railside Drive. The project also includes four pump stations along Northshore Drive and associated force main and a pump station at the connection point on Eastshore Drive. This sewer alternative would allow the property owners to extend a gravity sewer lateral from the home to the gravity sewer in the road right of way and would not require the installation of grinder pumps. This is the selected alternative.

Collection System 2 – Low Pressure Sewers: This alternative would include the construction of low-pressure sewer along Northshore Drive and Eastshore Drive, connection to the existing collection system at the corner of Eastshore Drive and Railside Drive. One pump station would be installed at the corner of Eastshore Drive and Northshore Drive. This alternative would require each property install an individual grinder pump to force waste to the collection system. This alternative was rejected due to the added costs and maintenance requirements to homeowners.

Collection System 3 – Vacuum Sewers: This alternative would install a vacuum sewer system along Northshore Drive and Eastshore Drive, a pump station installed at the corner of Northshore Drive and Eastshore Drive, and a force main from the pumping station to the existing collection system. This alternative was rejected due to the higher cost of construction.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed/Undisturbed Land: All work proposed will be on ground previously disturbed by road construction except for the five pump stations and the gravity sanitary sewer mainline from Northshore Drive to Shore Lane. An Archaeology Survey was performed, and no archaeological sites were located in these project areas.

Structural Resources (Figure 2): The project will not impact any known historical or architectural resources. A historic marker is located near Northshore Drive, project disturbance will maintain a distance of 20-feet from the marker. 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 National Historic Preservation Act is: “*no historic properties affected.*”

Surface Waters: The project will not adversely affect waters of high quality listed in 327 IAC 2-1-2(3), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2), Salmonid Streams listed in (327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3), or waters on the Outstanding Rivers list (Natural Resources Commission Non-rule Policy Document).

Wetlands (Figure 3): The construction of the proposed project will not negatively impact wetlands. A wetland delineation was performed on December 15, 2020 by Earth Source, Inc. and there were no wetland identified within the work limits for this project. Any necessary dewater or construction run-off would need to be controlled and filtered during construction and follow stormwater best management practices.

Floodplain: The construction of the proposed project is not within the 100-yr floodplain and will have no negative impacts to the floodplain.

Groundwater: Dewatering may be required to temporarily lower the groundwater table in some areas during construction. Any dewatering would be short term, no more than six to ten feet in depth and limited to the area of pipe installation. Minor fluctuations in groundwater levels will be temporary in nature and groundwater quality will not be impacted by the construction or operation of the proposed project.

Plants and Animals: The project will not negatively impact State or Federally listed endangered species or their habitats. An estimated six trees are expected to be removed during this project. The sanitary sewer alignments will be largely located within the existing pavement. The project will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat as well. Mitigation measures that may be cited in comment letters from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services will be implemented.

Prime Farmland: The project will not convert prime farmland.

Air Quality: Construction activities may generate noise, fumes and dust, and impact short-term air quality. Long-term air quality impacts are not expected, and the project will not impact compliance with air quality standards.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The project will neither create nor destroy open space or recreational opportunities.

National Natural Landmarks: Construction and operation of the proposed project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

Lake Michigan Coastal Management: The project is not located in the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone and will have no impact on this resource.

B. Indirect Impacts

The District's PER states: *The TCRSD, through the authority of its Trustees, intends to ensure that future collection system or treatment works projects connecting to SRF-funded facilities will not adversely affect wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes, archaeological/ historical/ structural resources or other sensitive environmental resources. The TCRSD intends to require new treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated August 12, 2021, the Natural Resources Conservation Service states: *The proposed project to proceed with sanitary sewer placements in Kosciusko County, Indiana as referred to in your letter received July 29, 2021, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

This document is the first notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the DNR Environmental Unit, and the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The Turkey Creek RSD's PER states:

In order to maintain compliance with all applicable laws regarding contamination and/or proper waste disposal, the TCRSD agrees that:

- *If a project site is found to contain any areas used to dispose of solid or hazardous waste. The Office of Land Quality (OLQ) will be contacted.*
- *All solid wastes generated by the project, or removed from the project site, will be taken to a properly permitted solid waste processing or disposal facility.*
- *If any contaminated soils are discovered during this project, they may be subject to disposal as hazardous waste.*
- *If PCBs are found on the project site, the Industrial Waste Section of OWQ will be contacted.*
- *If there are any asbestos disposal issues related to this project, the Industrial Waste Section of OLQ will be contacted.*
- *If the project involves installation or removal of an underground storage tank, or involves contamination from an underground storage tank, the IDEM Underground Storage Tank program will be contacted.*
- *Access for emergency vehicles must be provided at all times.*
- *If, during the course of construction, evidence of deposits of historical and/or archaeological interest are found, the operator will cease operations and notify the TCRSD. The District will then notify the Indiana DNR. No further disturbance of the deposits will occur until an official from ISHPO has surveyed the find, made a determination of the value of the find and effect of continued construction disturbances, and submitted the results of the determination to the District.*
- *Any site preparation that will involve earth moving (such as clearing and grubbing) will not begin more than two weeks in advance of the start of excavation. The purpose of this restriction is to prevent the existence of large areas of exposed soils for an extended period of time when construction is not proceeding.*
- *All motorized construction equipment will be equipped with proper emission control equipment, mufflers, and intake silencers, as appropriate to minimize noise pollution.*
- *All construction will take place during normal weekday, daylight working hours, and not on weekends or holidays unless necessary to resolve an emergency situation.*
- *Only water or calcium chloride will be used as dust palliative.*
- *Stockpiled topsoil and fill material shall be protected with erosion control barriers or temporary seeding.*
- *No fill, topsoil, or heavy equipment shall be stored within 200 feet of a stream bank or within the drip-line of a treed area*
- *If, due to weather, final grading cannot be accomplished immediately, mulching and temporary seeding, if feasible, or some type of temporary erosion control measures, must be used within 30 days until long-term restoration can occur.*
- *Excess soil that is stockpiled must be either removed or regraded within 15 days of the completion of construction.*

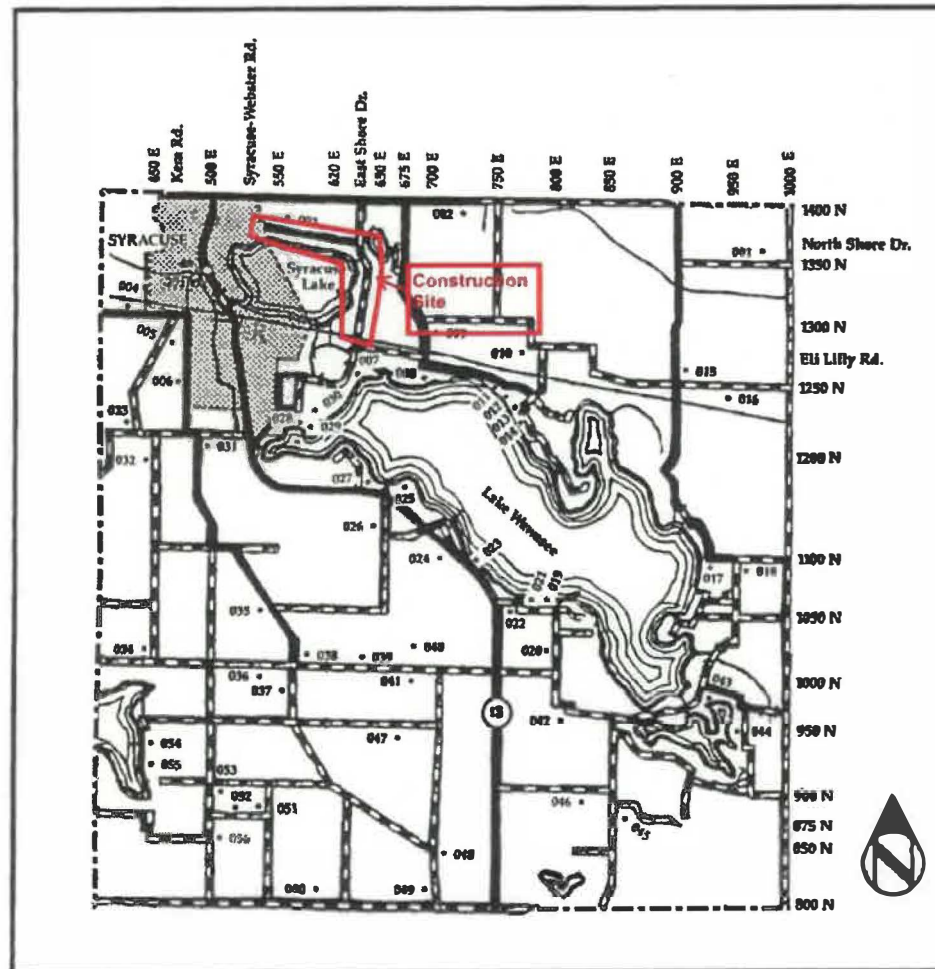
IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on June 15, 2020, at 7:30 pm at the District's office at

4852 N 1200 Cromwell, IN 46723 to discuss the PER. Comments at the hearing included monthly rate concerns, costs of the installation of laterals, and questions on documentation of septic system failure. No written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.



Turkey Creek Township (00001-056)



In 1832 when the first white settlers came to what is now known as Turkey Creek Township, the region was densely wooded with flat marshy ground in the northeast and gently rolling hills to the west and south. The largest natural body of water in Indiana, Lake Wawasee (formerly Nine-Mile Lake), and two adjacent lakes, Syracuse Lake and Papakeechie Lake, stretched from the northwest corner of the township to the southeast. The area's heavy growth of timber provided ample building material for early construction although it was mostly gone by the late nineteenth century leaving farmland surrounding the central lakes.

During the 1830s, Henry Ward and Samuel Crosson built a dam which powered their gristmill on Turkey Creek, the outlet from Lake Syracuse. Crosson constructed the township's first cabin near this site in 1833 and others soon followed. William Cassidy erected a small frame store and house. These early entrepreneurs contributed to the growth of what was to become the village of Syracuse, founded and platted in 1837.

Organized in 1836, Turkey Creek Township's economy was based primarily on farming. Early settlers shared the land with Native Americans. These pioneers found an open-air burial place on the north side of Syracuse Lake. "Indian Hill" (00003) was a sacred spot where the dead were wrapped and hung in trees. Thirty-six square miles of land (00001) were set aside by the U.S. government for the Miami Chief Papakeechie (whites dubbed him "Flat Belly") and his people. The group occupied this land from 1828 until they were removed in 1834.

Turkey Creek Township has retained several buildings from its formative years. One of the township's earliest remaining structures is the John Strieby House (00053) which was built about 1850. This single-pen, hewn-log structure is still occupied by the descendants of John Strieby. A house (00010)

on Eli Lilly Road served as an early inn and house. The Sloan-Morris House (00015) is one of the township's earliest hall-and-parlor houses.

A noteworthy example of a turn-of-the-century farmstead is the Niles Farm (00026) located on 630 E. The Grady Farm's (00040) American four-square house and collection of outbuildings are fine representatives of the township's agricultural life into the present century.

Although no significant churches remain in the township, six small, nineteenth-century cemeteries remain scattered throughout the township, recalling the area's religious life. Three rural township schoolhouses (00038, 00045, 00051) can also still be found.

The township's large number of lakes made the area a popular recreation spot during the early twentieth century. A number of resort hotels and summer cottages were built along the lakeshore. The Neoclassical style Oakwood Hotel (00029) in Oakwood Park and the Crow's Nest Inn (00017) recall the early days when visitors would ride excursion trains into the township to enjoy the area's vacation facilities.

The township's most impressive lake cottages were constructed along Lake Wawasee. Eli Lilly, founder of Lilly Pharmaceuticals, owned a large family compound which included his summer home (00014) and his son's cottage (00013). Other more modest cottages include two houses (00021, 00022) on 1060 N and a house (00023) on South Shore Drive.

No. Itg. Description

- 001 C Farm, 1350 N; House: Bungalow, c.1930; Outbuildings: English barn, drive-in corncrib; Agriculture, Architecture, Vernacular/Construction (340)
- 002 C Weybright Cemetery, 1400 N; c.1858-c.1880; Exploration/Settlement, Religion (340)
- 003 C Indian Hill Marker, N. Shore Drive; Marker denotes Indian burial ground; Indian (340)

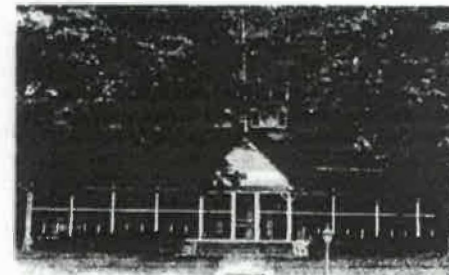
- 004 C House, 1300 N; American four-square, c.1925 (John Neff, builder); Vernacular/Construction (411)
- 005 C Kern House, Kern Road; Gabled-eil, c.1910; Vernacular/Construction (411)
- 006 C Farm, Syracuse-Webster Road; House: T-plan, c.1890; Outbuildings: summer kitchen, smokehouse, privy; Vernacular/Construction (411)
- 007 O Egbert House, Pickwick Road; Craftsman, 1916; Architecture (340)



James Egbert House (00007) The house was built for James Egbert, a Goshen lumber mill owner. The structure was moved from its lakeside location during the 1930s. It currently serves as a caretaker's residence for Pickwick Park.

- 008 C Wawasee Boat Company, Pickwick Road; Twentieth Century Functional, 1929; Commerce, Entertainment/Recreation, Vernacular/Construction (340)
- 009 C Farm, 675 E; House: gabled-eil/Queen Anne, c.1890; Outbuildings: cross-over frame barn, windmill, milk house, tool shed; Agriculture, Architecture, Vernacular/Construction (340)
- 010 N House, Eli Lilly Road; Double-pile/Greek Revival, c.1855; Architecture, Vernacular/Construction (340)

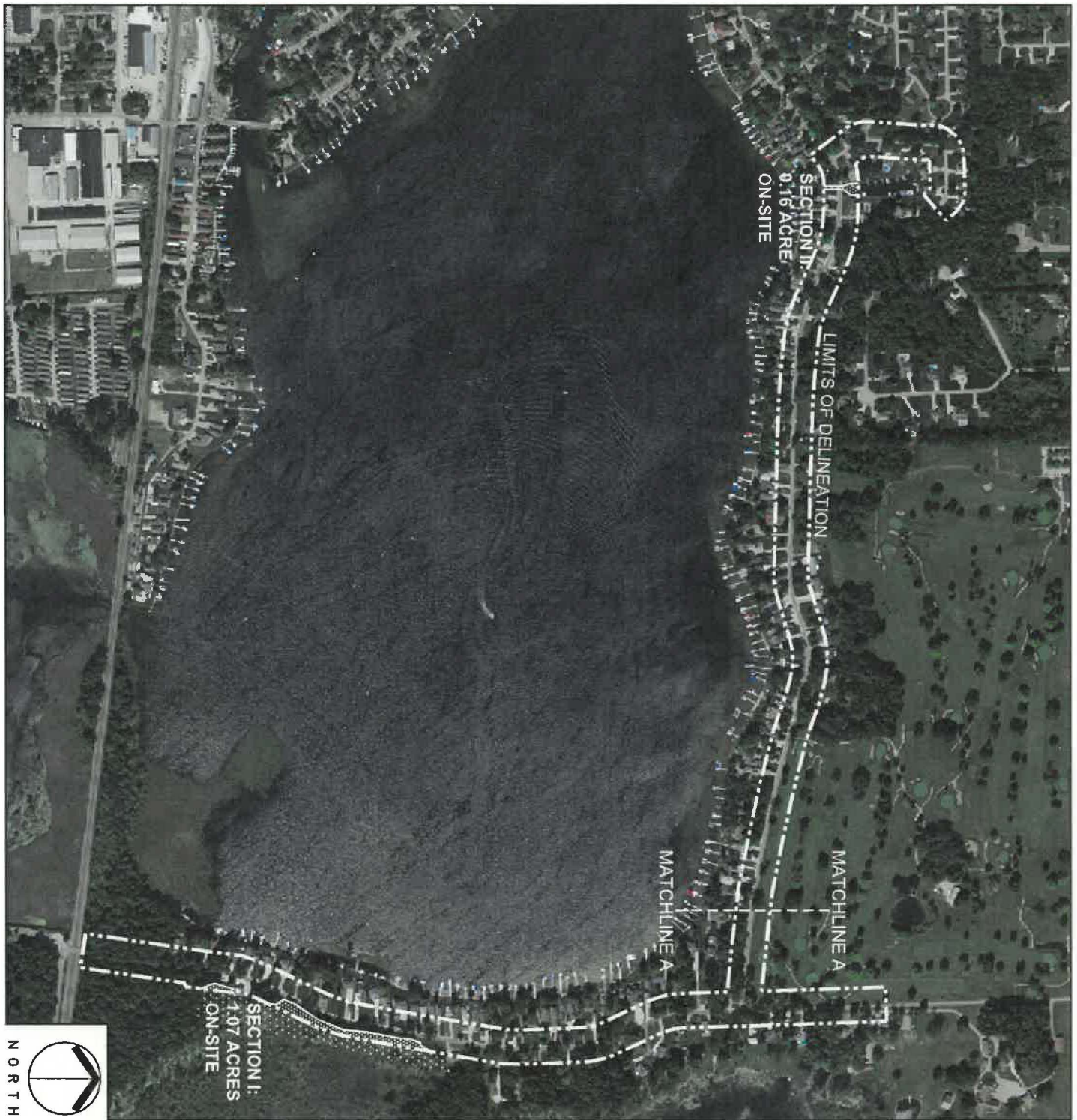
- 011 C Papakowich's Reserve Historical Marker, Eli Lilly Road; Marker states that Miami Chief Flat Belly held this land from 1828 to 1834; Indian (340)
- 012 N House, Eli Lilly Road; Classical Revival, 1938; Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, Landscape Architecture (340)
- 013 N J. K. Lilly Cottage, Eli Lilly Road; Colonial Revival, c.1937; Architecture (340)
- 014 O Lilly Cottage, Eli Lilly Road; Queen Anne, 1886; Architecture (340)



Eli Lilly Cottage (00014) Eli Lilly, founder of Lilly Pharmaceuticals had this house built in 1886. It was the first house completed on Lake Wawasee. Lilly was particularly interested in the area's history and published two books on the Lake Wawasee region.

- 015 N Sloan-Morris House, 1250 N; Hall-and-parlor, c.1865; Vernacular/Construction (340)
- 016 C Byers Cemetery, 1250 N; c.1870-c.1940; Religion (340)
- 017 N Crow House/Crow's Nest Inn; 1100 N; House: Craftsman, c.1860/1911 (Nathaniel Crow, builder); Outbuildings: livestock barn; Architecture, Commerce, Entertainment/Recreation, Vernacular/Construction (340)
- 018 C Lake Bethel Cemetery, 1100 N; c.1870-c.1940; Religion (340)





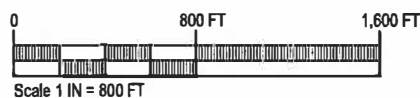
Project Name: TURKEY CREEK REGIONAL
SEWER DISTRICT - NORTHEAST

Agent:



EarthSource Inc
14921 Hand Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818
(260) 489-8511 Fax (260) 489-8607

WETLAND DELINEATION MAP



Applicant:

JONES & HENRY ENGINEERS, LTD
2420 NORTH COLISEUM BLVD
SUITE 214
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805



State: INDIANA		County: KOSCIUSKO
Township Name: TURKEY CREEK		
Township: T34N	Range: R7E	Section: SEC 4, 5, 9
Quadrangle: LAKE WAWASEE (IN)		
Latitude/Longitude (NAD 27): 41.430543°, -85.725666°		
Date: 12-21-2020	Attachment: T6	

Basemap: Farm Service Agency, 2020 Aerial, National Agriculture Imagery Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Figure 3