From: Sanborn, Ben A - DNR
To: Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)
Cc: Olds, Christopher J - DNR; Kielar, Allison K - DNR
Subject: RE: Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:57:16 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Karla,

Yes, I think that we could look at including some of Beau's information in our report. You can provide him my contact info highlighted below and I've also copied the Trempealeau River Watershed project manager, Allison Kielar, on this email.

Thanks,

Ben Sanborn
Phone: (608) 445-7417
ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov

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Please visit our survey to provide feedback on your experience interacting with any DNR employee.

From: Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Karla.K.Sparks@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:38 AM
To: Sanborn, Ben A - DNR <ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Olds, Christopher J - DNR <Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: RE: Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek

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Morning Ben,

Thanks for the quick response. I am not as familiar with FEMA's watershed discovery efforts. Looking forward to seeing more next year. Beau mentioned he has pictures of some of the flooding and information on impacts and reoccurrence based on observations. Would that information be helpful at this point? If so, would you mind if I provide Beau your contact information so he can follow up?

Karla

Karla Sparks, PMP
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
Floodplain Management Services, Silver Jackets, Disposition Program Manager
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Cell: 651-366-7359
karla.k.sparks@usace.army.mil

From: Sanborn, Ben A - DNR <ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 3:41 PM
To: Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Karla.K.Sparks@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Olds, Christopher J - DNR <Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek

Hi Karla,

We are not currently funded to update the FEMA floodplain maps in Trempealeau County, but we do have an ongoing discovery project for the Trempealeau River Watershed which includes Buffalo, Jackson, and Trempealeau counties. The goal of the FEMA discovery phase is to identify flood risk and needs that the communities are dealing with. The two flooding issues you mentioned below are good examples of information we would like to document and discuss further at the discovery meeting. Sometime after the discovery project is completed, FEMA will determine if a future mapping update can be funded. The Trempealeau River Watershed discovery project is projected to be completed by fall 2026.

Let me know if I can provide any further information.

Thanks,

Ben Sanborn
Phone: (608) 445-7417
ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov

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From: Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Karla.K.Sparks@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Sanborn, Ben A - DNR <ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Olds, Christopher J - DNR <Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: FW: Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek

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Ben,

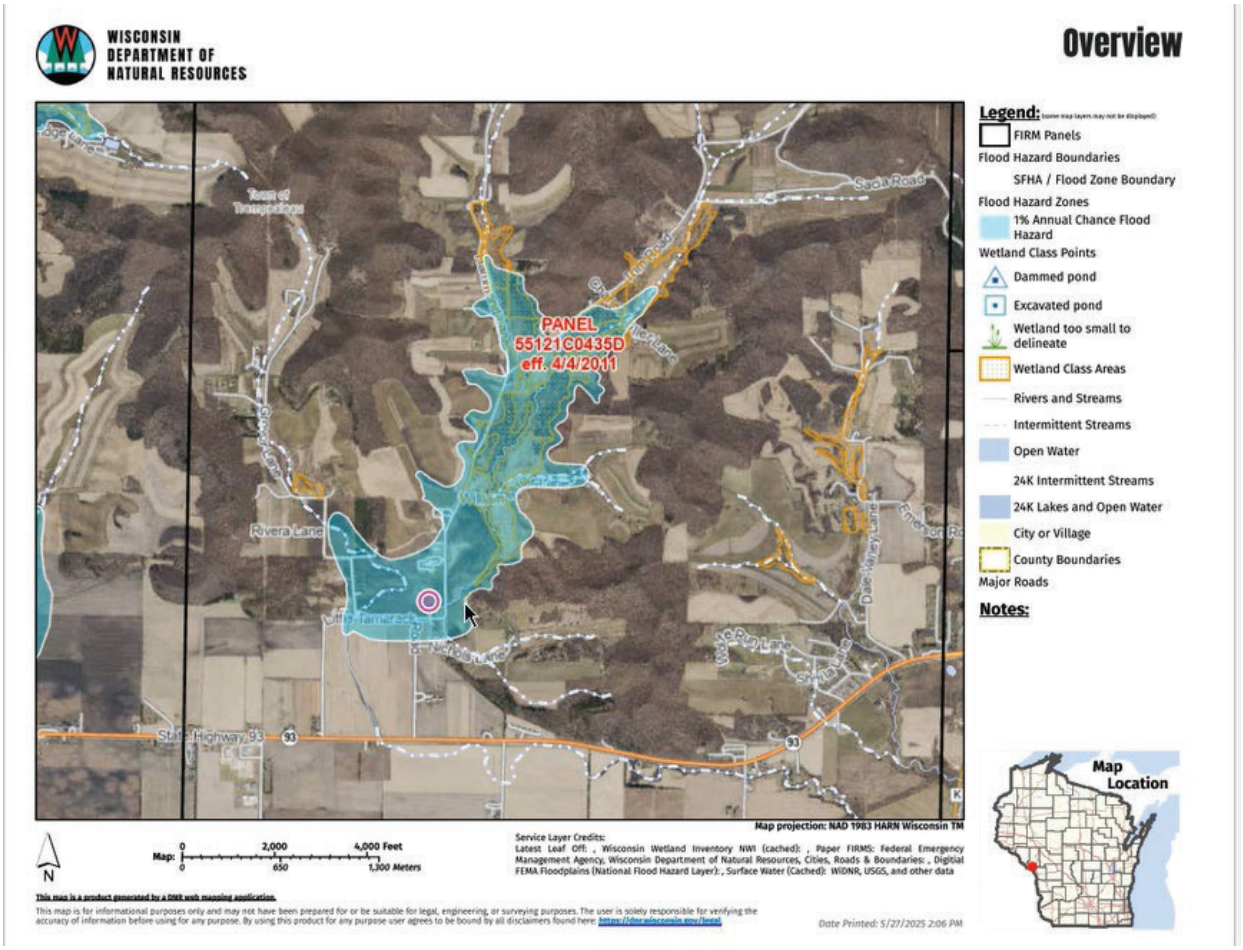
During the recent Silver Jackets (SJ) meeting you mentioned the state will be starting a update to the FEMA flood map in Trempealeau County. Can you clarify when that effort would start and when would you expect it to be complete?

Recently, during a emergency management meeting, I had discussions with Mr. Beau Tibbitts. He is a fairly new EM in Trempealeau County (past 5 months now). He mentioned two spots they are dealing with reoccurring flooding impacts on local transportation routes.

1. Litter Tamarack and flooding over little tamarack creek and Trim Road. I discussed/requested input from a hydrologist to analyze this are to provide input on what may help the flow and reduce this flooding and potential grants to assist in financing these improvements.
2. Trempealeau River flooding with river backing up from Trempealeau River Bay/Delta backflow to the Tamarack Creek north of HWY 35. Requested analysis of the Bay area and sediment deposits resulting in back flow during highwater events up to and into the Tamarack Creek area.

Specifically with item #1- I am curious if USACE could potential help evaluate some potential scenarios for revised road layout using the updated model as a starting point.

The reason I am asking is SJ projects need to be under $200k it is not likely that there would be sufficient funds to run scenarios and do a new model development.



Appreciate any input follow up. Just trying to find a path for Mr. Tibbitts.

Karla

Karla Sparks, PMP
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
Floodplain Management Services, Silver Jackets, Disposition Program Manager
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Cell: 651-366-7359
karla.k.sparks@usace.army.mil

From: Beau Tibbitts <beau.tibbitts@co.trempealeau.wi.us>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 11:42 AM
To: Ryan Hilton <chair@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>; Trempealeau Town <townoftremp@triwest.net>; Steve Sheffer <super2@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>
Cc: Casey_Bryan@fws.gov; Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Karla.K.Sparks@usace.army.mil>; sabrina_chandler@fws.gov
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek

Ryan,
Had a great first meeting with Karla from USACE. We discussed the following:

1: Litter Tamarack and flooding over little tamarack creek and Trim Road. I discussed/requested input from a hydrologist to analyze this are to provide input on what may help the flow and reduce this flooding and potential grants to assist in financing these improvements.

2: Trempealeau River flooding with river backing up from Trempealeau River Bay/Delta backflow to the Tamarack Creek north of HWY 35. Requested analysis of the Bay area and sediment deposits resulting in back flow during highwater events up to and into the Tamarack Creek area.

Request any pictures from the citizens of high-water events, pictures of high-water marks on property or buildings, and pictures of erosion of property for both issues state above.

Frequency and history of highwater events in the locations stated.

Respectfully,

Beau Tibbitts
Emergency Management Coordinator,
Trempealeau County

Primary (715) 538-1840 (Zoom # Desk and Mobile)
Alternate (715) 586-7422 (Work Cell)

18600 Hobson Street,
Whitehall, WI 54773

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." - Benjamin Franklin

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From: Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Karla.K.Sparks@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 5:34 PM
To: Beau Tibbitts <beau.tibbitts@co.trempealeau.wi.us>
Cc: Ryan Hilton <chair@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>; Casey_Bryan@fws.gov
Subject: RE: Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek

[EXTERNAL]: This email originated from outside of our organization. Please proceed with caution when opening links or attachments.
Beau,

Appreciate your patience responding to this email- I recently returned from leave and have been making my way through the backlog.

It would be helpful to get some additional background on the location of the issue and frequency of the issue.

Are you available any of the following times Monday July 14 to have a TEAMs meeting discussion
9:00
10:00
11:00

If not Monday the 14 of July, I would need to push into the week of 21 July the remainder of the week is booked unfortunately.

USACE has several models/projects within the vicinity, I would like to get a few technical people on the line with you to determine if there is already a model/tool available to help assess scenarios.

Talk soon,
Karla

Karla Sparks, PMP
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
Floodplain Management Services, Silver Jackets, Disposition Program Manager
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500

St. Paul, MN 55101

Cell: 651-366-7359
karla.k.sparks@usace.army.mil

From: Beau Tibbitts <beau.tibbitts@co.trempealeau.wi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Sparks, Karla K CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <Karla.K.Sparks@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Ryan Hilton <chair@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>; Casey_Bryan@fws.gov
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek

Karla,
How can I request the Corps of Engineers to review and assess the Trempealeau River Delta into Mississippi and Tamarack Creek.

The Delta seems to be filling with sediment, and the water is backing affecting agricultural land and potential homesteads. The Tamarack Creek is a tributary near the delta and could be contributing.

Below is some email traffic with the Trempealeau Town Chair (Ryan cc'd) and Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge manager (Casey cc'd).

Attached is the Trempealeau River Watershed Study dated 2020 but focused on the river upstream.

Respectfully,

Beau Tibbitts
Emergency Management Coordinator,
Trempealeau County

Primary (715) 538-1840 (Zoom # Desk and Mobile)
Alternate (715) 586-7422 (Work Cell)

18600 Hobson Street,
Whitehall, WI 54773

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From: Ryan Hilton <chair@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 8:44 PM
To: Beau Tibbitts <beau.tibbitts@co.trempealeau.wi.us>
Cc: Town of Trempealeau <townoftremp@triwest.net>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Neighboring property

[EXTERNAL]: This email originated from outside of our organization. Please proceed with caution when opening links or attachments.

Beau, here is a forward of an email. Casey is the refuge manager, and Sabrina who is mentioned covers 5 states. Her phone number is listed along with her email address in the original email. Dana is also an Employee. Please let me know if the Town can help further. I'll try and type up more of a back story tomorrow.

Thanks,

Ryan Hilton

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bryan, Casey J" <Casey_Bryan@fws.gov>
Date: April 30, 2025 at 8:52:24 AM CDT
To: Ryan Hilton <chair@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>, "Chandler, Sabrina" < >
Cc: "Schelling, Dana M" <dana_schelling@fws.gov>, "Town Clerk (townoftremp@triwest.net)" <townoftremp@triwest.net>, Guy Leavitt <super4@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>, "Jutz, Brandon" <Brandon_Jutz@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Neighboring property

Hi Ryan,

Thanks for reaching out. We're aware of the Klein's complaints. Like you've mentioned, there has been a lot of sediment input to the watershed along with more frequent extreme rain events, which are contributing to the Klein's issue. Our current road improvements accounted for water level, river hydrology, and state requirements. If anything, it should be alleviating issues on neighboring landowners during high water events.

Sabrina Chandler (my supervisor) is the Area Supervisor for Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and has been taking Wendell's calls on this matter. Her phone number is (507) 458-0144, if you would like to follow up with her. We can also put together a larger group call to discuss any further response if needed. Just let us know how you all would like to proceed.

Thanks again,

Casey Bryan
Refuge Manager
Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
W28488 Refuge Road
Trempealeau, WI 54661
608-539-2311 (Office)
608-780-7301 (Cell)

From: Ryan Hilton <chair@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:45 PM
To: Bryan, Casey J <Casey_Bryan@fws.gov>
Cc: Schelling, Dana M <dana_schelling@fws.gov>; Town Clerk () <townoftremp@triwest.net>; Guy Leavitt <super4@tn.trempealeau.wi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Neighboring property

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Casey,

Just starting a conversation, the Klein brothers are heavily disputing the changes to the entrance road / main entrance ever since we signed the road over to you years ago. They are arguing that everything you are doing is causing the water to rise and erode away part of there farm. I personally have lost a 1/3 of my back yard and that's way before it gets to you, the delta I feel has taken on lots of sediment and the water table has been steadily rising. Wendell is now claiming the engineer from Virginia you have hired is causing even more damage. Do you have any suggestions on how we should proceed. The DNR office months ago in LaCrosse said it's a civil issue between landowners?

Just trying to gather facts.

Thanks,

Ryan Hilton
507-450-3029

Sent from my iPhone