



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700  
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678

April 17, 2012

Operations  
Regulatory (2012-01508-RQM)

Mr. Nicholas Mueller  
FEMA, Region V  
536 S, Clark Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. Mueller:

We have reviewed the information submitted for the proposed reconstruction of the Wadena County Fairgrounds in Wadena, Minnesota. You requested our comments on the project with respect to the Corps regulatory jurisdiction.

This response is limited to our regulatory jurisdiction and does not address specific environmental impacts or mitigation.

The project would need a Department of the Army (DOA) permit, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, if the work involves a discharge of dredged or fill material into any water of the United States, including most wetlands. A review of the National Wetland Inventory mapping suggests that there are numerous wetlands in the project area.

The project would need a DOA permit, under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, if the work involves a navigable water of the United States. A preliminary review of the project map indicates that there are no navigable waters of the United States in the project area.

If the project would include any temporary placement of excavated or fill material into a waterbody or wetland, the applicant may also need authorization for that work.

Applications for permit may be addressed to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, 10867 East Gull Lake Dr. NW, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401. If you have any questions, contact Rob Maroney in our Brainerd office at (651) 290-5766. In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory number shown above.

Sincerely,

Tamara E. Cameron  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Cc: Wadena SWCD



FEMA

April 11, 2012

Robert Maroney  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
10867 E Gull Lake Drive NW  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Re: Wadena County Fairgrounds, Wadena, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Maroney:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Public Assistance Grant Program is proposing to fund the reconstruction of the Wadena County Fairgrounds, at 400 Ash Ave. NW, Wadena, MN 56482. The parcel number for the fairgrounds is R224701640. The legal description of the parcel is Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW1/4 SE1/4), Section 6, Township 134 North, Range 34 West.

The proposed federal actions involve replacing five buildings in-kind; replacing a storage building with an expanded/altered footprint; and constructing new utility infrastructure, sidewalks, parking lots, roads, and grandstand within the Wadena County Fairgrounds in Wadena County, Minnesota. The replacement and alternate projects are for buildings destroyed during an EF-4 tornado on June 17, 2010. FEMA is consulting with the United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding the potential impacts to "waters of the United States" – including wetlands.

A project description – including an aerial photo, wetlands delineation map, and existing and proposed site plans – are attached. Please review and provide comments (including permits or approvals that may be required) to Nicholas Mueller, FEMA Region V, 536 S Clark Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60605.

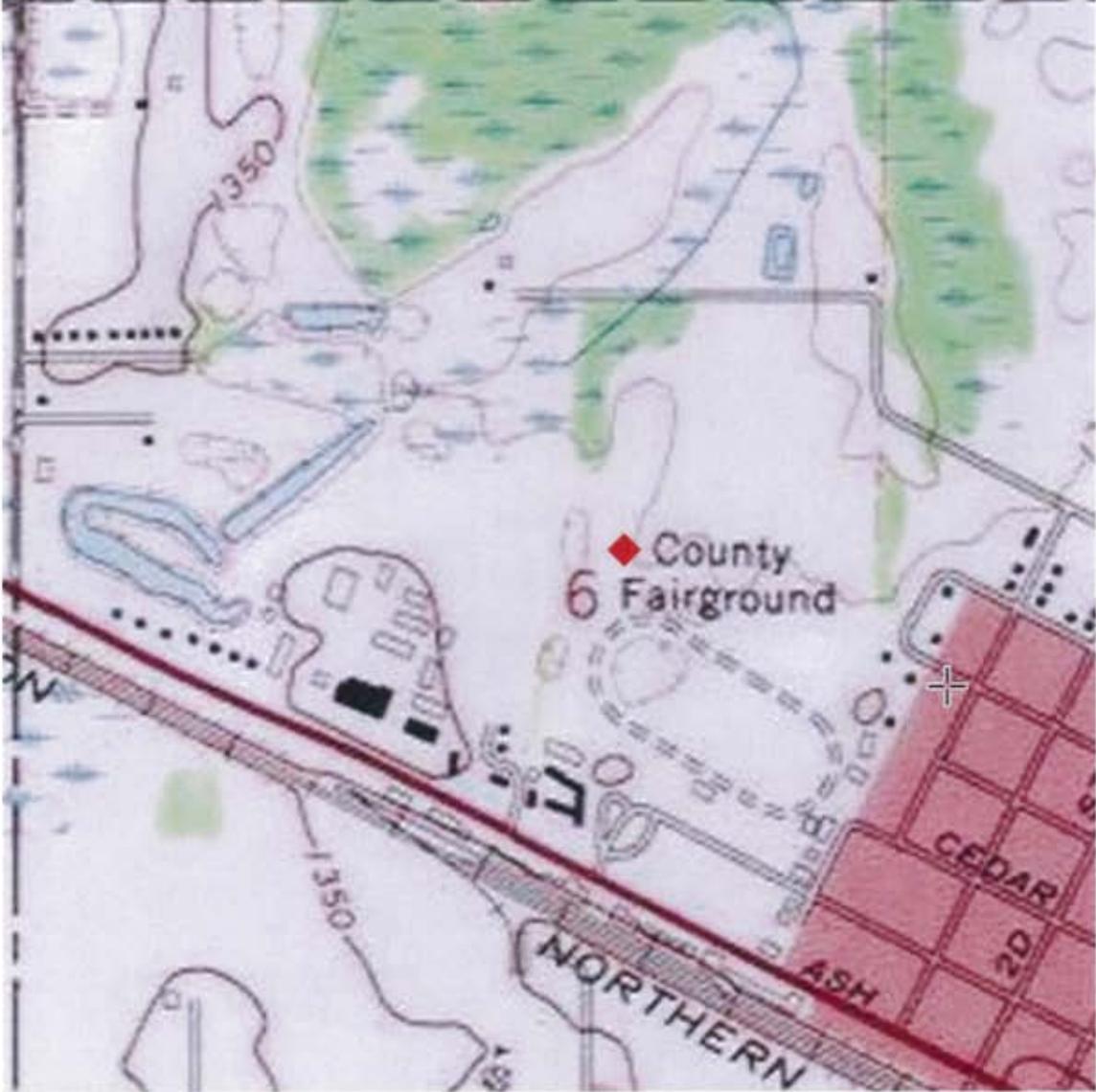
If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Mueller".

Nicholas Mueller,  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA, Region V

USGS Map "Wadena," detail showing Wadena County Fairgrounds project location.





**Environment & Land  
Resource Management**  
Main Street Government Center  
347 Central Ave Suite 2  
Long Prairie, MN 56347  
[toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us](mailto:toddplan.zone@co.todd.mn.us)  
Phone: 320-732-4420  
Fax: 320-732-4803

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December 5, 2011

RE: Wadena County Fairgrounds Wetland Delineation

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that the Wetland Delineation performed at the Wadena County Fairgrounds was conducted by myself and that the wetland areas drawn on the attached aerial photograph represent the wetland boundaries that I flagged in the field.

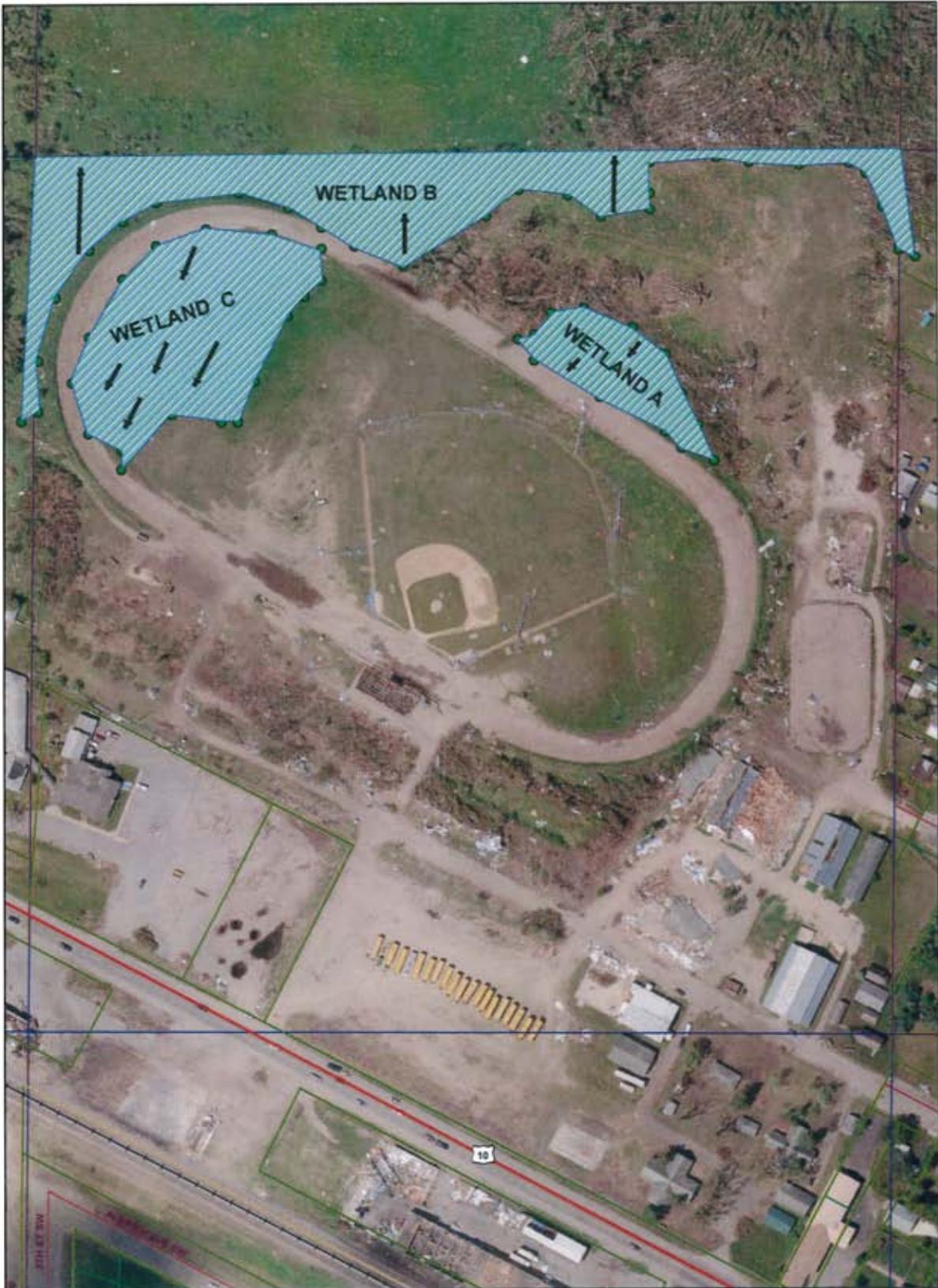
I am a Certified Wetland Delineator through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. My certification # is 1102 with an expiration date of 11-1-2012.

If you need further information or have any questions, feel free to contact me at (320)- 732-4420.

Sincerely,

Chris Arens  
Planning & Zoning Coordinator

# Fairgrounds Wetland Delineation

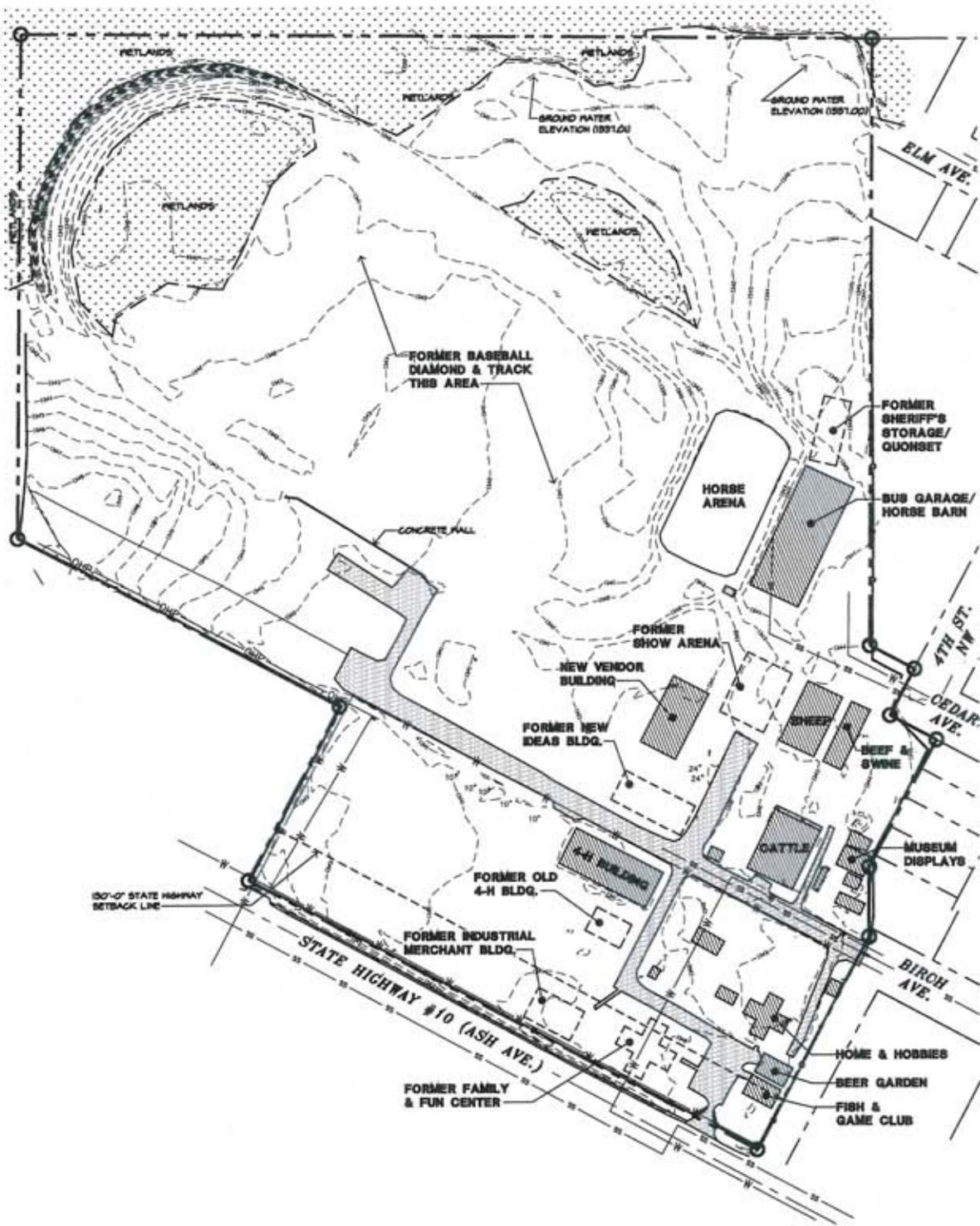


0 120 240 480 Feet

Map Created By: Gina Dahms  
GIS Coordinator  
Wadena County

● GPS Shot

Date: 9/17/2010



# EXISTING SITE PLAN

SCALE - 1" = 150'-0"



PLANNERS / ARCHITECTS

P.O. BOX 185, 650 3RD AVE SE, SUITE #10, PERHAM, MN 56573 (218) 346-4505



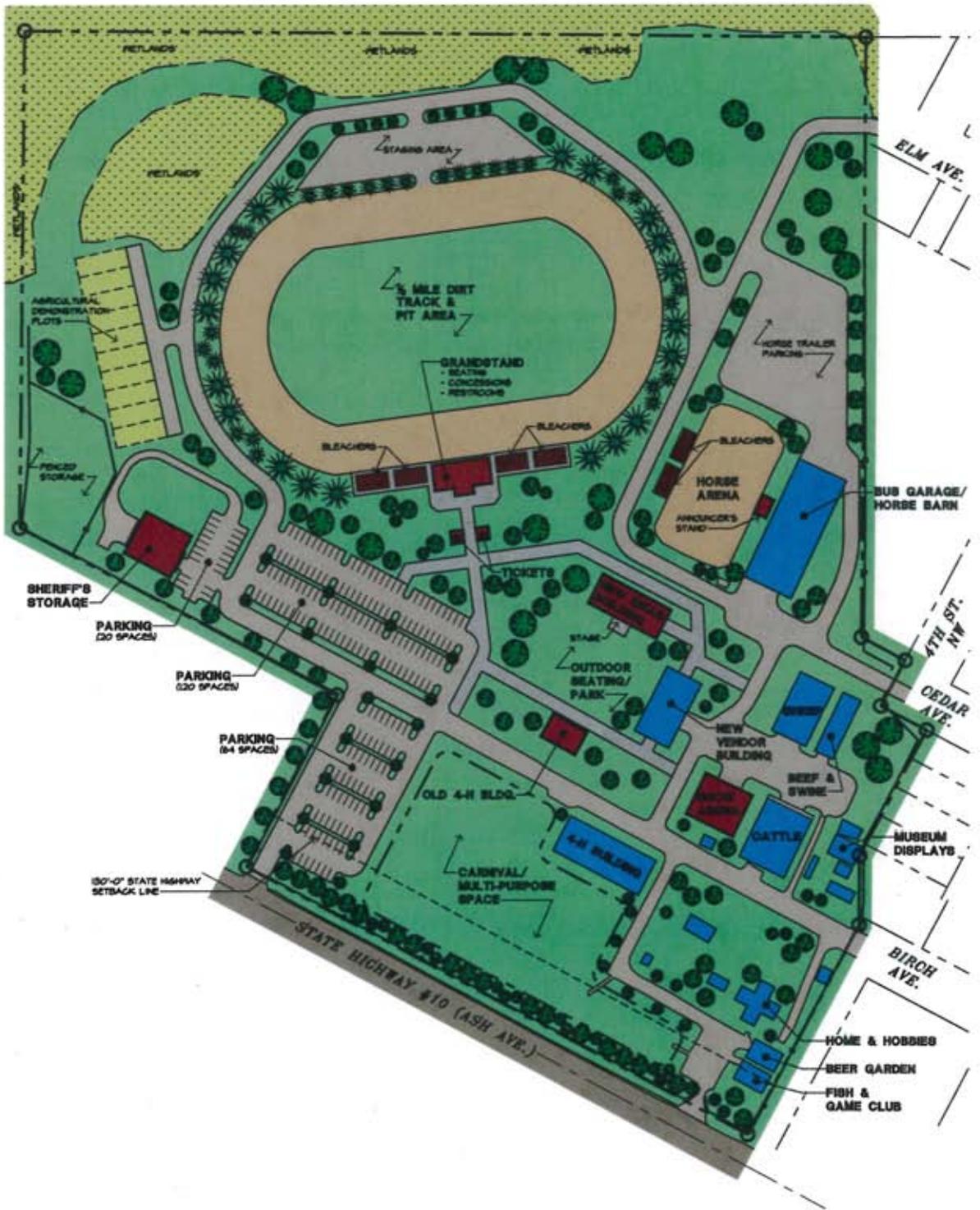
**WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MASTER PLAN**  
WADENA, MINNESOTA

JOB NO: 41141

DATE: 04/30/11

© 2011

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COPYRIGHTED AND SHALL  
NOT BE REPRODUCED  
WITHOUT ARCHITECT'S  
WRITTEN PERMISSION



# PROPOSED MASTER PLAN

SCALE - 1" = 150'-0"



NORTH



PLANNERS / ARCHITECTS

P.O. BOX 185, 650 3RD AVE SE, SUITE #10, PERHAM, MN 56573 (218) 346-4505



JOB NO: 41141

DATE: 09/30/11

© 2011

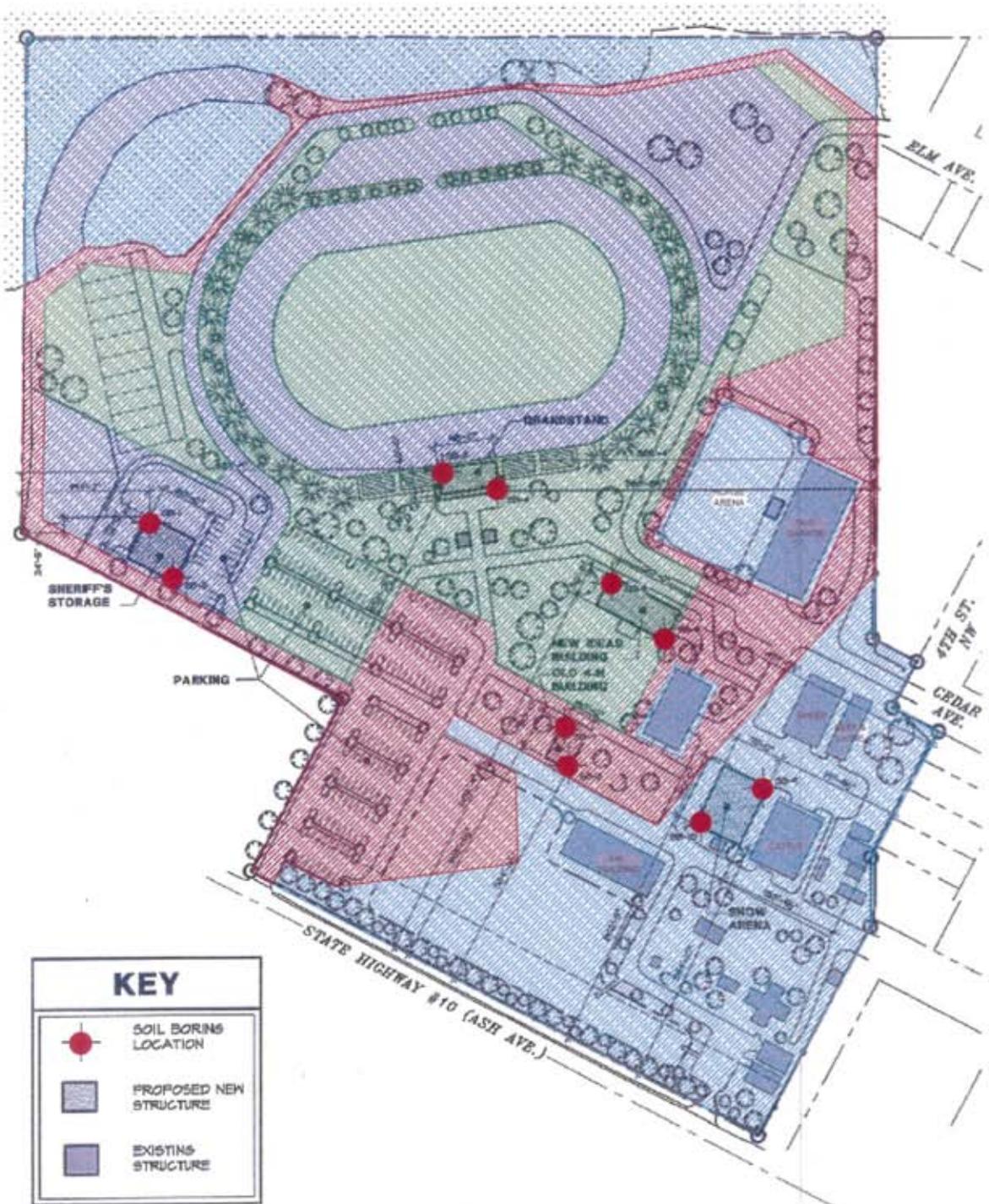
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## WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MASTER PLAN WADENA, MINNESOTA

# WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

ESTIMATED FROM PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF 3/12/12

-  NO DISTURBANCE
-  0 - 6" DISTURBANCE
-  6" - 1'6" DISTURBANCE
-  1'6" - 3' DISTURBANCE





**FEMA**

April 25, 2012

Lisa Joyal  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Heritage Information System  
Data Distribution Coordinator and Endangered Species  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025

Re: Wadena County Fairgrounds Reconstruction Project, Wadena, Minnesota

Dear Ms. Joyal:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through funds through the Public Assistance Program is proposing to fund the reconstruction of the Wadena County Fairgrounds, at 400 Ash Ave. NW, Wadena, MN 56482. Ash Avenue is also known as U.S. Highway 10. The parcel number of the fairground is R224701640 and consists of 39.40 acres. The parcel is bounded by residential lots along the east side of the property and commercial lots along the west side. The southern boundary is U.S. Highway 10 and the north side is bounded by wetlands. The legal description of the parcel is Sleeper's Addition to the City of Wadena-Part of Reserve Lot A and Reserve Lot B, Parts of the Northwest Quarter Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 134 North and Range 34 West.

The federal actions involve the replacement in kind of five buildings and three alternate projects within the Wadena County Fairgrounds in Wadena County, Wisconsin. The replacement and alternate projects are for buildings that were destroyed during a F4 tornado on June 17, 2010. FEMA is consulting with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding the potential impacts to three Minnesota recognized State threatened species: Trumpeter Swan, Ram's-Head Lady's Slipper and Blanding's Turtle. Specifically, FEMA is seeking comment from the MDNR on the potential impacts to state listed threatened species and any potential project conditions to reduce potential impacts to these species.

A project description including an aerial photo, wetlands delineation map, and existing and proposed site plans are attached. Please review and provide comments, including permits or approvals that may be required to Nicholas Mueller, FEMA Region V, 536 S Clark Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60605.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Mueller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas Mueller  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA, Region V



**FEMA**

April 25, 2012

*Wadena County Fairground*  
*FEMA-1921-DR-MN PW-467, 474, 483, 485, 486, 489, 496, and 528*  
*Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society, Wadena County, Minnesota*

**Description of  
Undertaking and  
APE:**

A F4 tornado hit Wadena County on June 17, 2010, causing severe damage throughout the county. Specifically, the tornado destroyed thirteen (48%) and damaged five (19%) of a total of twenty seven pre-tornado buildings within the Wadena County Fairground.

Wadena County and the Wadena County Agricultural Society propose to use federal funds to extensively rebuild the Wadena County Fairground. This request is based on the authorities granted under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1921-DR-MN and amendments. Funding for these projects is requested through FEMA through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 100-07, section 404, as amended.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the project area was evaluated for the potential occurrences of federally or state listed threatened and endangered species. The ESA requires any federal agency that funds, authorizes or carries out an action to ensure that their action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitats.

FEMA has identified the general area of potential effect (APE) as the Wadena County Fairground. The fairground is located at 400 Ash Avenue, NW, Wadena, Minnesota 56482. Ash Avenue is also known as U.S. Highway 10. The parcel number of the fairground is R224701640 and consists of 39.40 acres. The parcel is bounded by residential lots along the east side of the property and commercial lots along the west side. The southern boundary is U.S. Highway 10 and the north side is bounded by wetlands. The legal description of the parcel is Sleeper's Addition to the City of Wadena-Part of Reserve Lot A and Reserve Lot B, Part of the Northwest Quarter Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 134 North and Range 34 West.

Eight requests for funding have been submitted to FEMA for buildings that were **destroyed** in the tornado. The area of potential effect specifically for these eight request are the direct areas of potential effect for construction as noted on the Master Plan. Three requests are for alternate projects, one request is for an improved project and four are for replacement.

Project Worksheet Number	Destroyed Building Name	Brief Project Description
PW-467	East Horse Barn	Alternate: Finish design and construct drainage, building site work, utilities, sidewalks, turf establishment, parking lots, and roads per Master Plan.
PW-474	Judges or Announcer Stand	Replacement. 10'x20' 2 story slab on grade
PW-483	Horse Barn	Improved: 80'x200'x16' post framed.
PW-485	New Ideas Building	Replacement: 50'x120' single story slab on grade design with frost footings, 14' CMU sidewalls, engineered truss rafter system (gable) with asphalt shingles.
PW-486	Show Arena	Replacement: 75'x100' open sided steel
PW-489	Quonset Storage Building	Alternate: Sheriff's Storage Facility 72'x80'5,760 square foot storage with 7 parking stalls, 540' meeting room and indoor shooting range included in SF with paved parking lot adjacent to facility
PW-496	Family Fun and Education Center*	Alternate: Covered grandstand 40'x90' with concession and bathrooms
PW-528	Old 4H Building*	Replacement: 40'x60' 2 story slab on grade.

- These buildings roofs appear on the post-tornado aerial, however, the aerial does not depict that the buildings walls were completely collapsed, their foundations cracked and shifted, and footings for the foundations completely unstable. The roofs were torn off the buildings by the tornado, airlifted and deposited adjacent to the building original location. Certification was provided to FEMA noting the destruction.

**Steps Taken to Identify Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Species:**

Research was performed to identify any potential Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate species at the proposed project site. The following resources were reviewed: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listing of Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, or Candidate species for Wadena County and the MDNR Rare Species Guide for Wadena County. The USFWS does not list any federally Threatened, Endangered, Proposed or Candidate species for Wadena County (USFWS 2012).

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MDNR lists the following species as Threatened within Wadena County:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	Threatened
<i>Cypripedium arietinum</i>	Ram's-head Lady's-slipper	Threatened
<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	Trumpeter Swan	Threatened

The MDNR Profile and Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series for the three threatened species were reviewed for descriptions of suitable habitats within the project area.

The Environmental Review Fact Sheet for the Blanding's Turtle indicates they need both wetland and upland habitats to complete their life cycle. In Minnesota, Blanding's Turtles are primarily marsh and pond inhabitants. Calm, shallow water bodies (Type 1-3 wetlands) with much bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation are preferred. Nesting occurs in open sandy uplands and they have been known to nest in areas of low density residential housing (MDNR Division of Ecological Resources, Updated March 2008).

The MDNR profile for the Ram's head Lady's slipper indicates that these plants occur in a variety of coniferous forest habitats. Several populations occur in swamps, bogs or lowland forests dominated by northern white cedar, tamarack, balsam fir and black spruce. Soil conditions appear to be weakly acidic or circumneutral, varying in mineral composition from poor to rich ([www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)).

The MDNR profile for the Trumpeter Swan indicates that during the breeding season, they select small ponds, lakes, or bays on larger water bodies. Ideal habitat includes 100 meters of open water, stable levels of unpolluted fresh water, emergent vegetation, low levels of human disturbance, and the presence of muskrat houses and American beaver lodges for use as nesting platforms ([www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)).

The project area does contain three wetlands bordered by urban residential, commercial and educational development. Project plans provided indicate that the wetlands will not be disturbed or modified. All necessary local, state, and federal permits will be obtained prior to construction of any fairground elements. The Wadena County Fairground has been in continuous operation in this location for one hundred and eighteen years. Therefore, FEMA has determined that this undertaking is not likely to affect state listed threatened species or adversely modify critical habitat.

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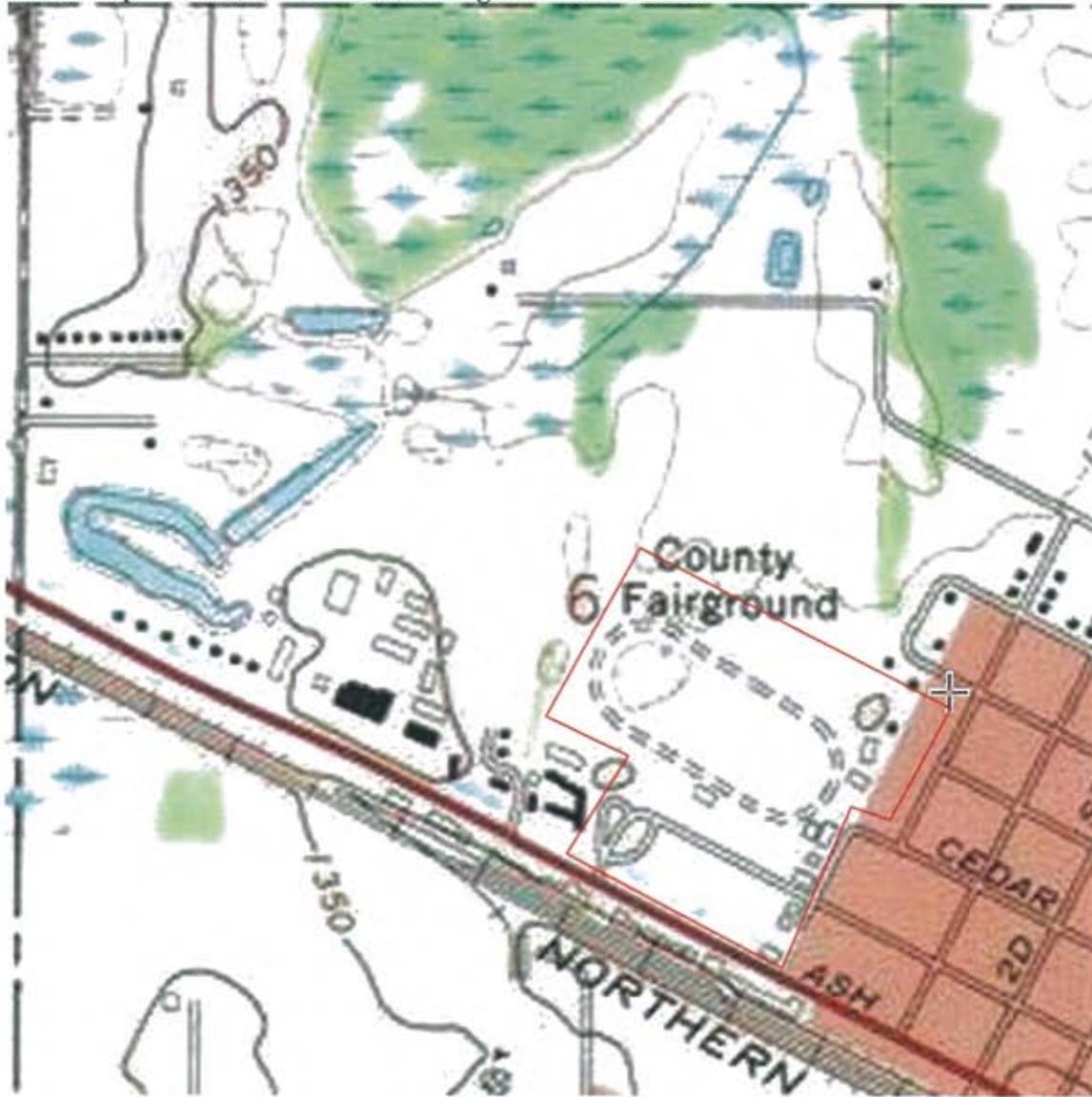
**Finding:** FEMA finds that this undertaking is not likely to affect the continued existence of a threatened species in the wild, or destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat.

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**Enclosures:** Enclosed is documentation supporting FEMA's findings:

- 
- **USGS 7.5 minute topographic map indicating approximate Wadena Fairground boundaries**
  - **General Site Location Street map**
  - **Post-Tornado Aerials Photograph Illustrating Destroyed Buildings**
  - **Wadena County Fairground Master Plan**
  - **Wetlands Delineation Map**
  - **Proposed Disturbance Map**

Approximate General Project areas noted in red.  
USGS Map "Wadena," 1:24000, enlarged to show detail.





# Wadena County Fairgrounds - After Tornado

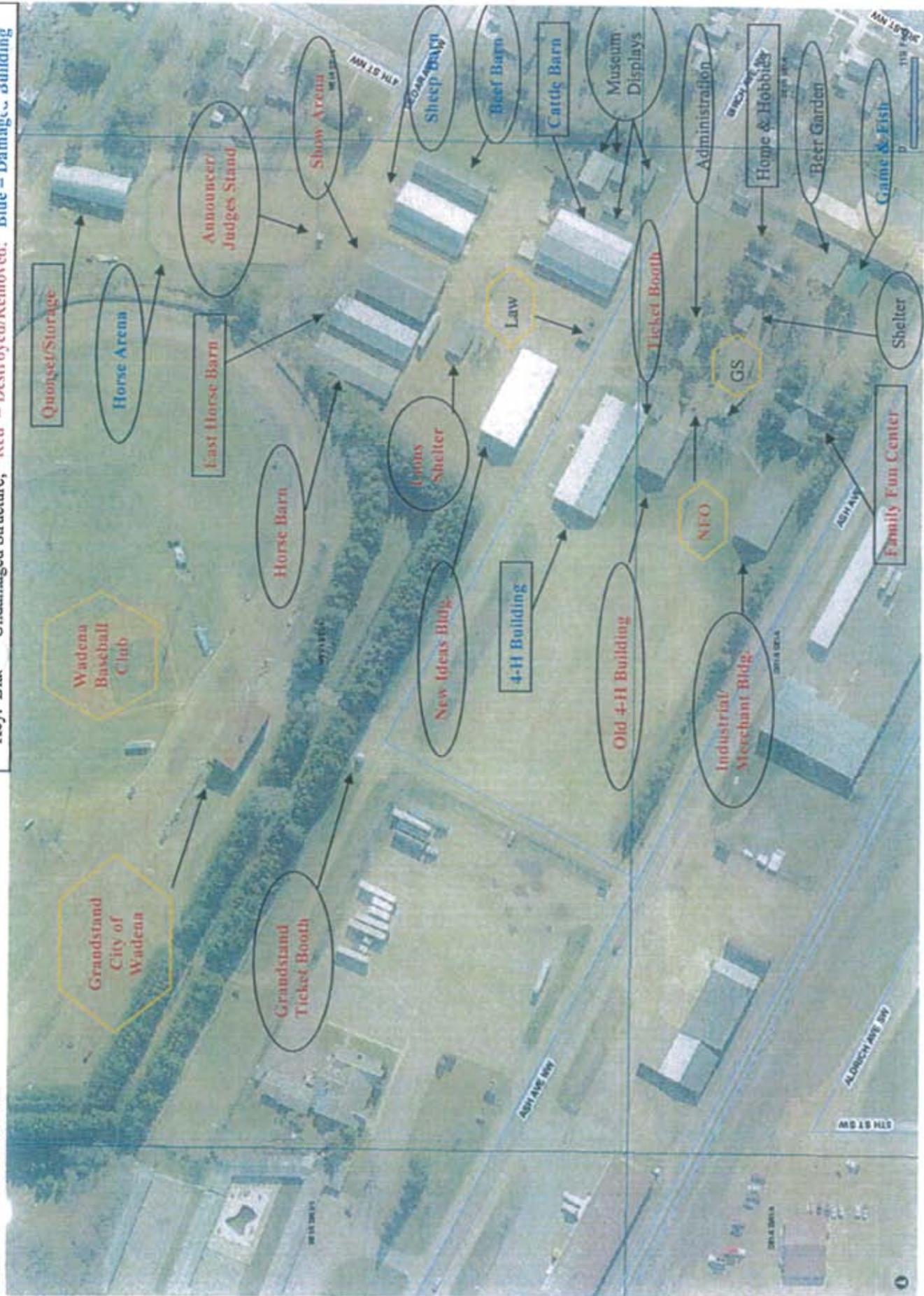


0 170 340 680Feet

1 inch = 40 feet

Map Created By: Gina Dahms  
GIS Coordinator, Wadena County

Key: Bla Undamaged Structure; Red = Destroyed/Removed; Blue = Damaged Building



Wadena County Fairgrounds  
Aerial Photo taken May 2009

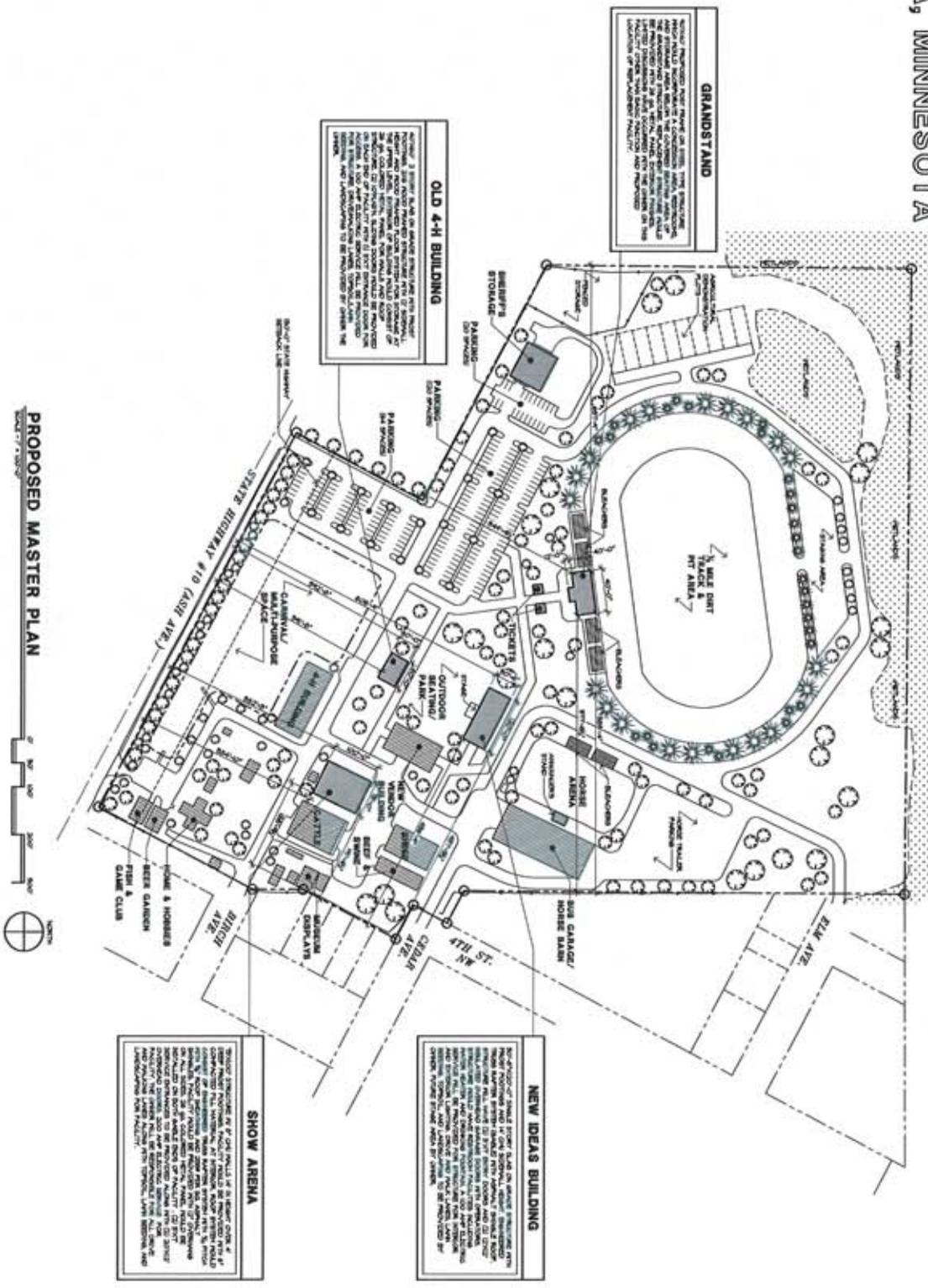
Sub-Grantee  
Wadena (County)

Sub-Grantee  
Wadena County Agricultural Society

Other Entity  
Responsibility

# WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MASTER PLAN

## WADENA, MINNESOTA



**GRANDSTAND**  
 THIS FACILITY WILL BE USED FOR SEATING AND STANDING AREA WITH THE COVERED SEATING AREA TO BE PROVIDED WITH AN OPEN PAVED EXPOSURE AREA FOR THE LOCATION OF VENDOR FACILITY.

**OLD 4-H BUILDING**  
 THIS BUILDING WILL BE RENOVATED TO BE USED AS A STORAGE AND WORK AREA FOR THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. THE BUILDING WILL BE RENOVATED TO BE USED AS A STORAGE AND WORK AREA FOR THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. THE BUILDING WILL BE RENOVATED TO BE USED AS A STORAGE AND WORK AREA FOR THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS.

**NEW IDEAS BUILDING**  
 THIS BUILDING WILL BE USED FOR THE LOCATION OF VENDOR FACILITY AND EXPOSURE AREA. THE BUILDING WILL BE RENOVATED TO BE USED AS A STORAGE AND WORK AREA FOR THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. THE BUILDING WILL BE RENOVATED TO BE USED AS A STORAGE AND WORK AREA FOR THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS.

**SHOW ARENA**  
 THIS ARENA WILL BE USED FOR THE LOCATION OF VENDOR FACILITY AND EXPOSURE AREA. THE ARENA WILL BE RENOVATED TO BE USED AS A STORAGE AND WORK AREA FOR THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. THE ARENA WILL BE RENOVATED TO BE USED AS A STORAGE AND WORK AREA FOR THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS.

**PROPOSED MASTER PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1" = 100'

DRYDEN PARTNERS  
**A-1.1**



P.O. BOX 185, 450 3RD AVE SE, SUITE #16, PERHAM, MN 56773 (218) 346-6205

### WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MASTER PLAN

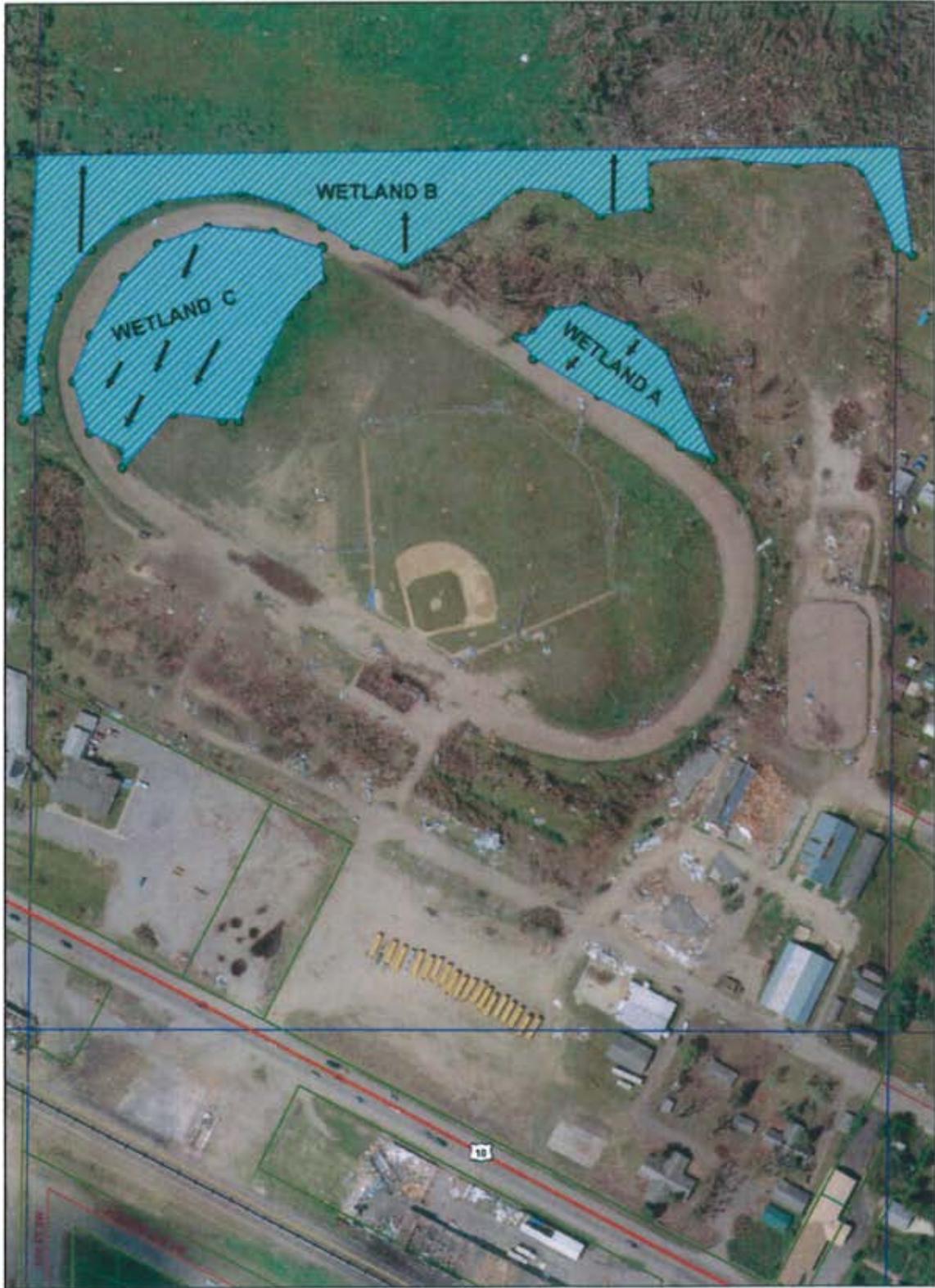
WADENA, MINNESOTA

**PRELIMINARY**  
**NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

FILE NAME:	WPLA1299
JOB NO.:	0411
DATE:	10/01
DRAWN BY:	A.A. COX, S.B.
CHECKED BY:	A.B.
REVISIONS:	

© 2011

# Fairgrounds Wetland Delineation



0 120 240 480 Feet

Map Created By: Gina Dahms  
GIS Coordinator  
Wadena County

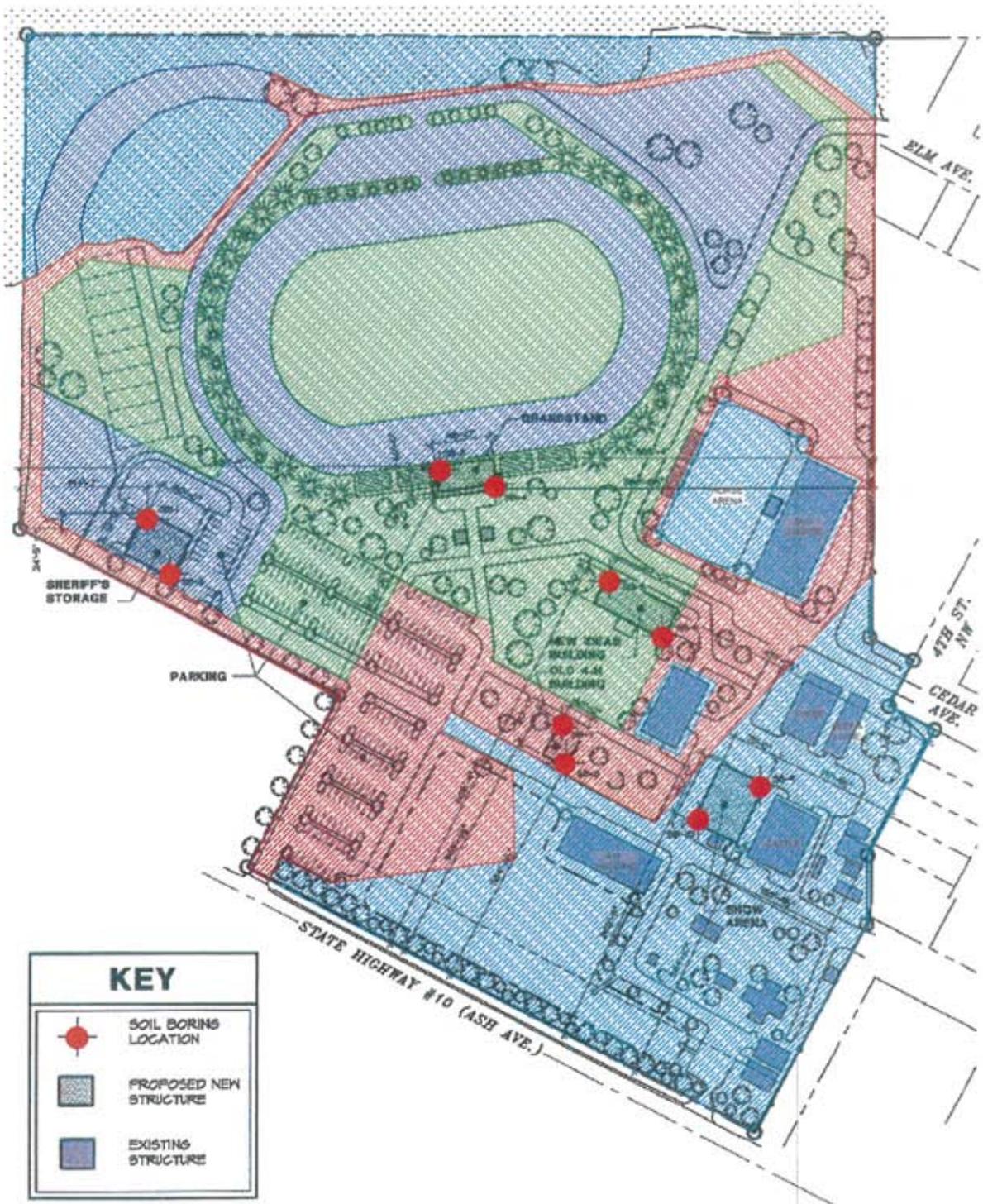
● GPS Shot

Date: 9/17/2010

# WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

ESTIMATED FROM PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF 3/12/12

-  NO DISTURBANCE
-  0 - 6" DISTURBANCE
-  6" - 1'6" DISTURBANCE
-  1'6" - 3' DISTURBANCE



KEY	
	SOIL BORING LOCATION
	PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURE
	EXISTING STRUCTURE



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

April 25, 2012

Nicholas Mueller  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA  
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Region V  
536 South Clark Street, Floor 6  
Chicago, IL 60605

RE: Rebuild the Wadena County Fairgrounds  
Wadena, Wadena County  
SHPO Number: 2012-1624

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

We have reviewed the information included in your submittal as well as documentation contained in our inventory files. The fairgrounds were looked at in 2010 after the tornado destroyed several buildings. At that time we determined that there were not enough extant structures left in the fairgrounds to be eligible for the National Register. Therefore, we concur with your determination that **no historic properties will be affected** by the proposed project.

Please contact our Compliance Section at (651) 259-3455 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary Ann Heidemann'.

Mary Ann Heidemann, Manager  
Government Programs and Compliance



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Mary Ann Heidemann, Manager  
Government Programs & Compliance  
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office  
Minnesota State Historical Society  
345 Kellogg Blvd. West, St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Wadena County Fairground  
Wadena County and the Wadena County Agricultural Society, Minnesota  
(DR-1921)

Dear Ms Heidemann:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic a Preservation Act, I am writing this letter to initiate and consultation regarding the captioned undertaking. A F4 tornado hit the Wadena County Fairground on June 17, 2010. The tornado destroyed thirteen (48%) and damaged five (19%) of a total of twenty seven pre-tornado buildings. Wadena County and the Wadena County Agricultural Society propose to use federal funds authorized under the Stafford Act to extensively rebuild the Wadena County Fairground.

In accordance with 36 CFR §800.11, I am enclosing documentation regarding the proposed undertaking and its effects on historic properties. The documentation provides the justification for FEMA's finding that no historic properties are affected; the purpose of this communication is to seek concurrence in that finding. For your convenience, we have included a response area below.

If you have questions or comments please contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@dhs.gov). Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3(c) (4), if we receive no response by mail, phone, fax or email from your office within thirty (30) days, we will assume your concurrence with our findings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Mueller".

Nicholas Mueller

FEMA Acting Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures

+++++++You may fax this page to 312-408-5551, attn: Nicholas Mueller+++++++

Re: Wadena County Fairground  
Wadena County and the Wadena County Agriculture Society, Minnesota  
(DR-1921-MN)

- Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office *concur*s with FEMA's determination that the captioned project will result in *no historic properties are affected*.
- Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office *object*s to FEMA's determination that the captioned project will result in *no historic properties are affected* for the following reasons noted below.

---

Barbara Mitchell Howard  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office

---

Date



**FEMA**

April 12, 2012

*Wadena County Fairground*  
*FEMA-1921-DR-MN PW-467, 474, 483, 485, 486, 489, 496, and 528*  
*Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society, Wadena County, Minnesota*

**Description of  
 Undertaking and  
 APE:**

A F4 tornado hit Wadena County on June 17, 2010, causing severe damage throughout the county. Specifically, the tornado destroyed thirteen (48%) and damaged five (19%) of a total of twenty seven pre-tornado buildings within the Wadena County Fairground.

Wadena County and the Wadena County Agricultural Society propose to use federal funds to extensively rebuild the Wadena County Fairground. This request is based on the authorities granted under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1990-DR-MN and amendments. Funding for these projects is requested through FEMA through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 100-07, section 404, as amended.

Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.4(a) (1), FEMA has identified the general area of potential effect (APE) as the Wadena County Fairground. The fairground is located at 400 Ash Avenue, NW, Wadena, Minnesota 56482. Ash Avenue is also known as U.S. Highway 10. The parcel number of the fairground is R224701640 and consists of 39.40 acres. The parcel is bounded by residential lots along the east side of the property and commercial lots along the west side. The southern boundary is U.S. Highway 10 and the north side is bounded by wetlands. The legal description of the parcel is Sleeper's Addition to the City of Wadena-Part of Reserve Lot A and Reserve Lot B, Part of the Northwest Quarter Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 134 North and Range 34 West.

Eight requests for funding have been submitted to FEMA for buildings that were **destroyed** in the tornado. The area of potential effect specifically for these eight request are the direct areas of potential effect for construction as noted on the Master Plan. Three requests are for alternate projects, one request is for an improved project and four are for replacement.

Project Worksheet Number	Destroyed Building Name	Brief Project Description
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PW-528	Old 4H Building*	Replacement: 40'x60' 2 story slab on grade.

- These buildings roofs appear on the post-tornado aerial, however, the aerial does not depict that the buildings walls were completely collapsed, their foundations cracked and shifted, and footings for the foundations completely unstable. The roofs were torn off the buildings by the tornado, airlifted and deposited adjacent to the building original location. Certification was provided to FEMA noting the destruction.

**Steps Taken to Identify Historic Properties:**

Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.4(a)(1-3), the fairground was evaluated using a variety of methods, including an on-site visit, aerial photographs, USGS maps, National Register files, and state inventory files. Prior consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) revealed that the fairground had been considered to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. However, after reviewing the damage wrought by the tornado, SHPO concurred that there was not enough of the fairground left to be eligible as a historic district (10.8.2010 letter attached).

The individual project funding requests listed in the above table are for buildings that were **destroyed** by the tornado (aerials attached). Therefore, none of the buildings may be assessed individually and evaluated using the Secretary of Interior Standards and Guidelines for Evaluation. As the fairground was determined to no longer be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, there will be no visual effects to a historic district with the replacement, alternate and improved projects.

FEMA initiated an archaeological site and literature search for the Wadena County

---

Fairground. No known archaeological sites were noted directly within the Wadena County Fairground; however one archaeological site (21Wdf) is located in the S1/2 of the adjacent Section 5, T134N, R35W. FEMA conducted a reconnaissance level survey of the direct areas of potential effect as noted on the Master Plan to determine if significant intact archaeological deposits to meet eligibility under Criterion D exist to be impacted by the proposed eight project activities. No archaeological artifacts were located. Due to the existence of excavated footings in sandy wet soils, uprooted trees from the tornado, existing subsurface electrical and water lines, prior earthmoving activities to berm the existing race track, graded gravel parking lots, indoor plumbing, and the nature of archaeological deposits, it is not likely that significant intact archaeological deposits exist (see attached letter report and disturbance map).

Based on these data, no historic properties are or were present in the APE.

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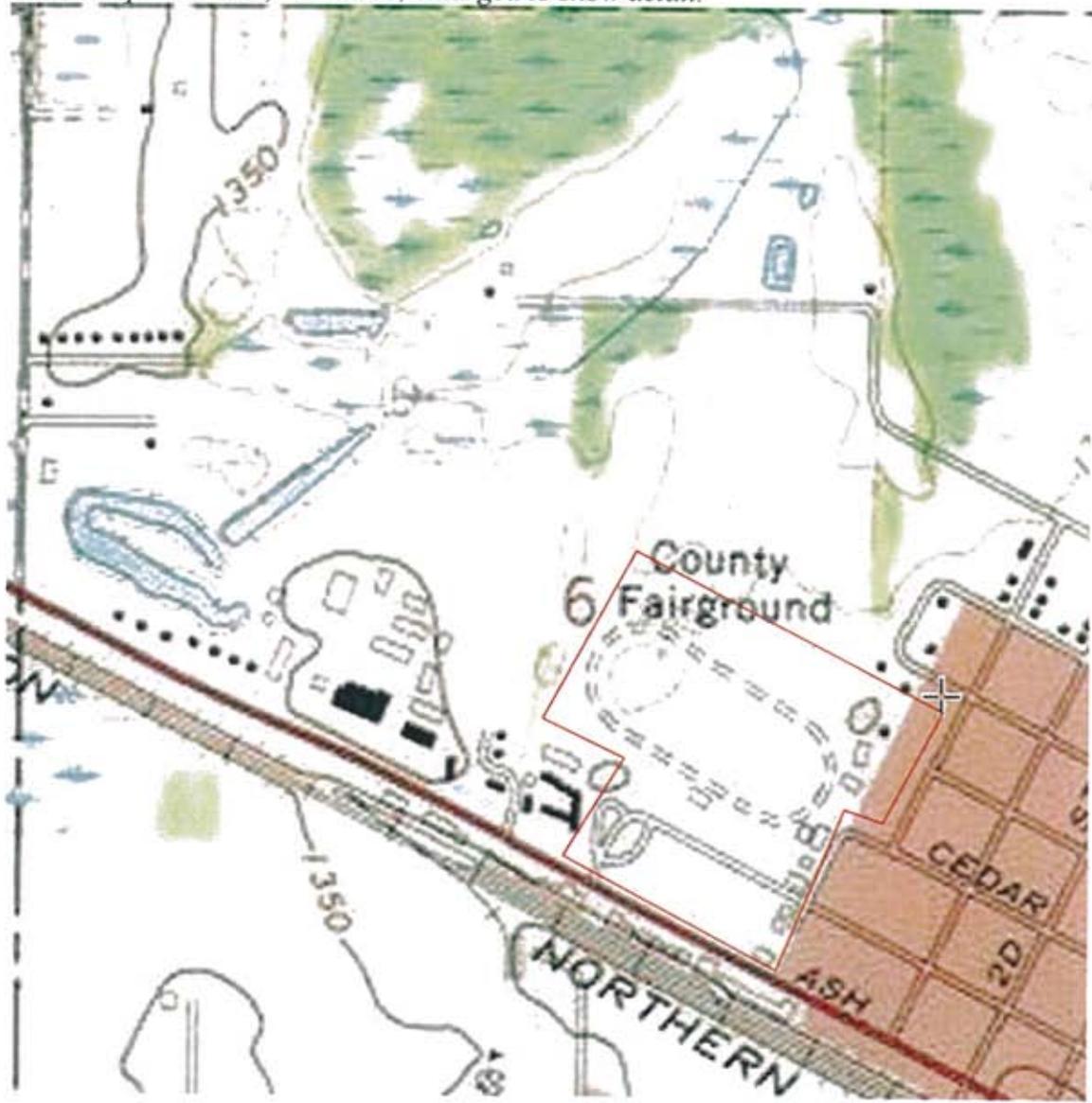
**Finding:** As there are no historic properties present in the APE, FEMA finds that *no historic properties are affected* by this undertaking.

---

**Enclosures:** Enclosed is documentation supporting FEMA's findings:

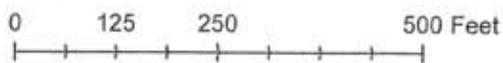
- USGS 7.5 minute topographic map indicating approximate Wadena Fairground boundaries
- General Site Location Street map
- Pre-Tornado Aerial Photograph of Building Locations
- Post-Tornado Aerials Photograph Illustrating Destroyed Buildings
- Wadena County Existing Conditions Photographs
- Wadena County Fairground Master Plan with Photo Views
- MN SHPO October 8, 2010 Concurrence Letter
- Archaeology Letter Report and Disturbance Map

Approximate General Project areas noted in red.  
USGS Map "Wadena," 1:24000, enlarged to show detail.





Wadena County Fairgrounds  
130' Setback from Center of US Highway 10



Map Created By:  
Gina Dahms  
GIS Coordinator, Wadena County

# Wadena County Fairgrounds - After Tornado

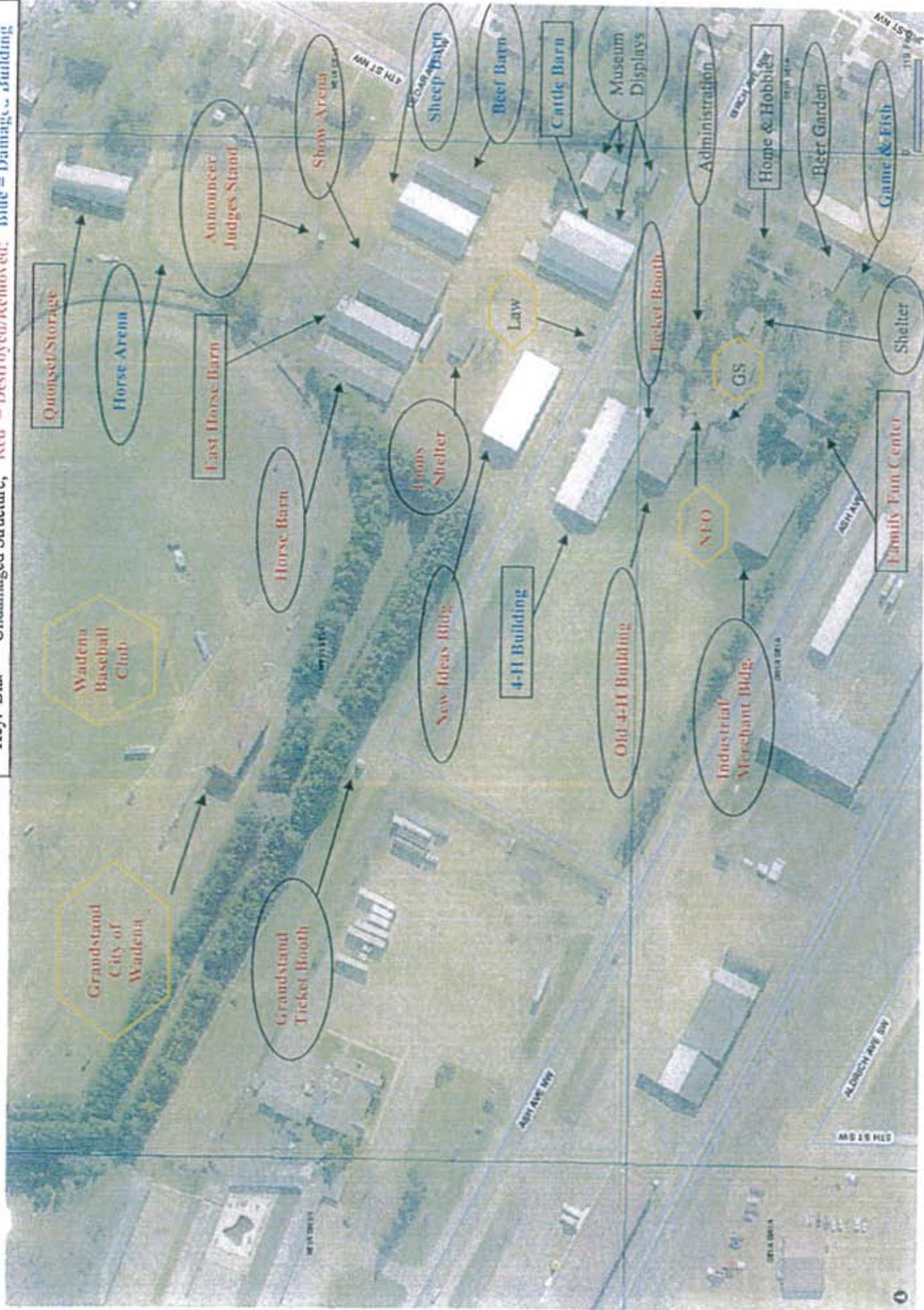


0 170 340 680 Feet

1 inch = 40 feet

Map Created By: Gina Dahms  
GIS Coordinator, Wadena County

Key: Bla. Undamaged Structure; Red = Destroyed/Removed; Blue = Damaged Building



Wadena County Fairgrounds  
Aerial Photo taken May 2009

Sub-Grantee  
Wadena (County)

Sub-Grantee  
Wadena County Agricultural Society

Other Entry  
Responsibility

DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena Fairground

Photo 1: 4H Building



Photo 2: New Vendor Building.



Photo 3: Modern Horse and Bus Barn (PW-483 Improved)



Photo 4: Bleachers



DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena Fairground

Photo 5: Sheep Building.



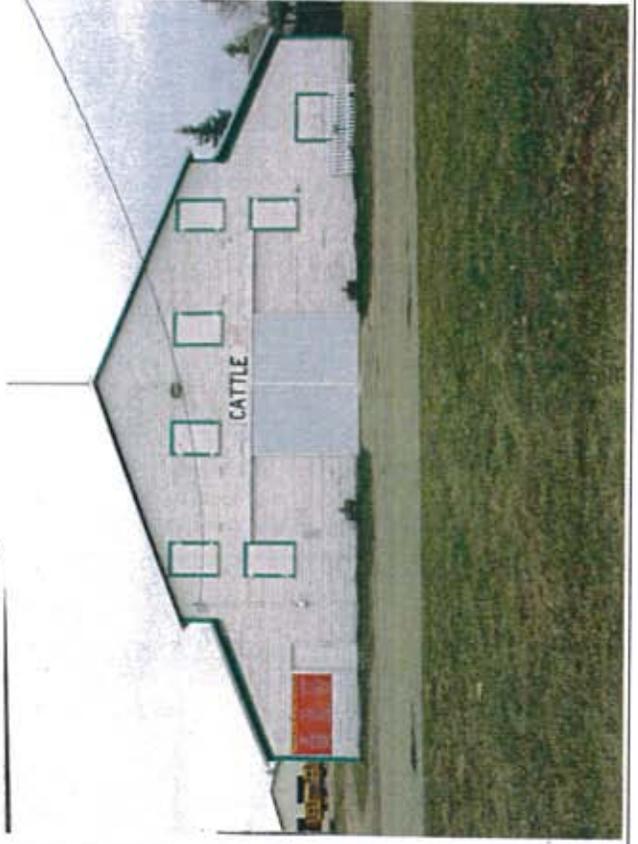
Photo 6: Beef and Swine Building.



Photo 7: Saloon Building.



Photo 8: Cattle Building.



DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena County Fairground

Photo 9: Tractor Exhibit



Photo 10: Schoolhouse (moved to fairgrounds not in original location).



Photo 11: Lumberjack Bunkhouse (moved to fairgrounds not in original location)



Photo 12: Museum (moved to fairground not in original location).



DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena County Fairground

Photo 13: Church (moved to fairground not in original location).



Photo 14: Restrooms.



Photo 15: Home and Hobbies Building



Photo 16: Beer Garden Building.



DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena County Fairground

Photo 17: Fish and Game Club Building.



Photo 18: Picnic Shelter.



Photo 19: Apples Shed.



Photo 20: Administration Building.



**DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena County Fairground**

Photo 21: Future Site of Old 4H Building Replacement (PW-528)

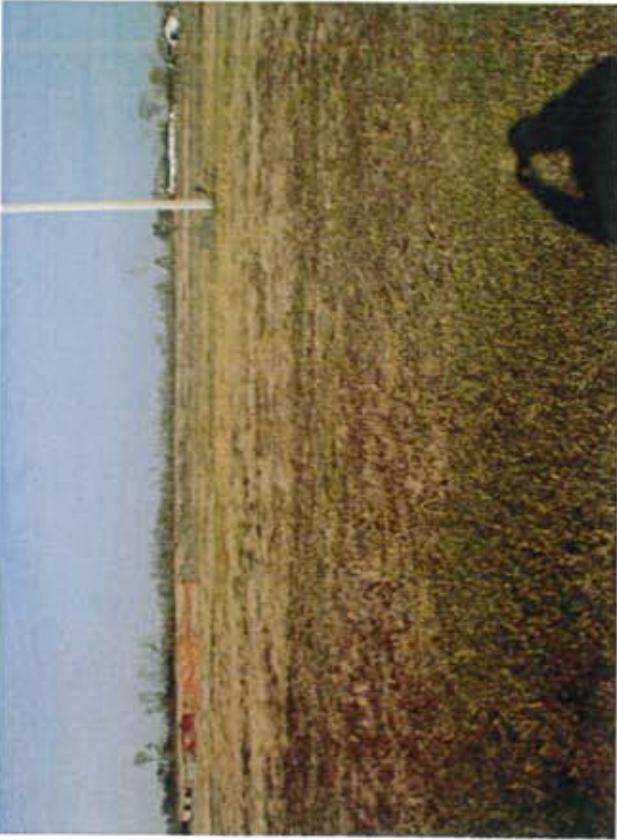


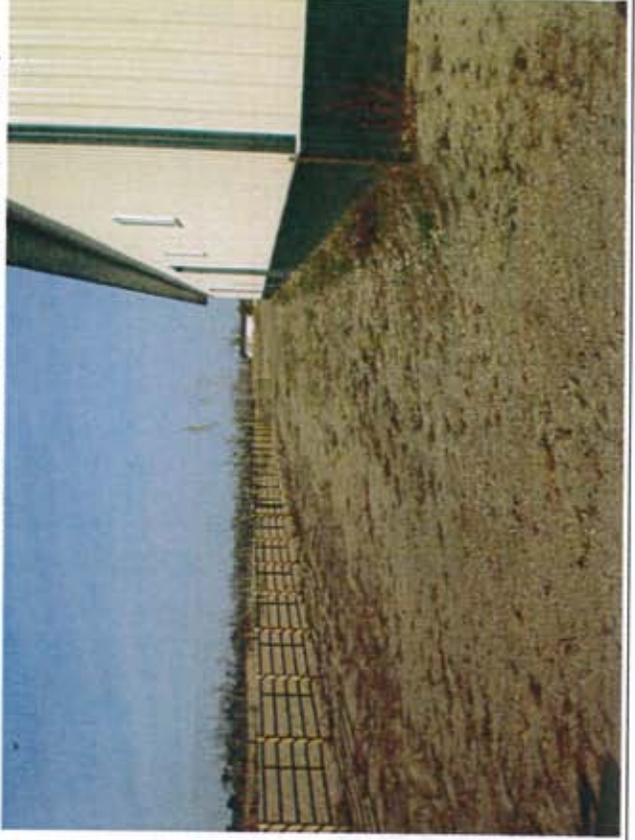
Photo 22: Future Site of Sheriff's Storage Building and Parking Lots (PW-489).



Photo 23: Future Site of Grandstands in foreground (PW-496).



Photo 24: Future Site of Judges and Announcer's Stand (PW-474)



**DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena Fairground**

Photo 25: Future Site of New Ideas Building (PW-485).



Photo 26: Future Site of Show Arena (PW-486).

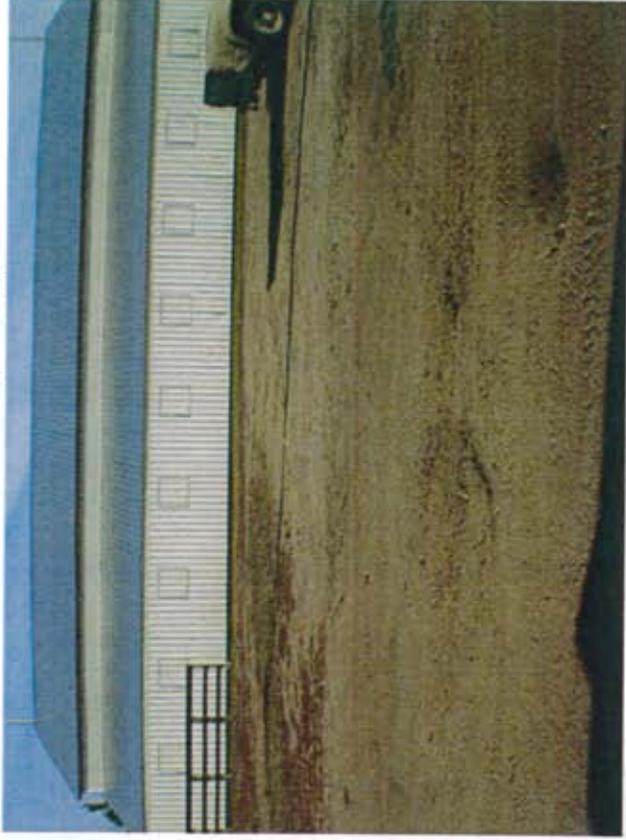


Photo 27: Future Site Work for Track (PW-467).



Photo 28: Long View to East Looking out of Fairground.



**DR 1921 Sub-Grantee: Wadena County and Wadena County Agricultural Society EXISTING CONDITIONS  
Wadena Fairground**

Photo 29: Long View to West Looking Out of Fairground.



Photo 30: Long View to North Looking Out of Fairground.



Photo 31: Long View to South Looking Out of Fairground.







STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

October 8, 2010

Mr. William Henry  
FEMA JFO  
6300 W. Old Shakopee Road, Suite 124  
Bloomington, MN 55438

RE: Repair of the Wadena County Fair Cattle Building  
Wadena, Wadena County  
SHPO Number: 2010-3772

Dear Mr. Henry:

Thank you for submitting the before- and-after aerial photos of the tornado damage at the Wadena County Fairgrounds.

The Wadena County Fairgrounds had previously been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. After reviewing the damage wrought by the tornado, we concur that there is not enough of the fairgrounds left to be eligible. Therefore, we conclude that **no properties** listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project.

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact our Compliance Unit at (651) 259-3455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Britta L. Bloomberg'.

Britta L. Bloomberg  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



FEMA

April 12, 2012

Re: Wadena County Fairground, FEMA-DR-1921  
Wadena County and the Wadena County Agricultural Society, Minnesota  
Archaeology Reconnaissance Letter Report  
Portions of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 6, T 134N, R 35W  
Wadena Township, Wadena County

On March 27, 2012 I conducted a reconnaissance pedestrian survey for archaeology sites within the Wadena County Fairground in Wadena County, Minnesota (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 6, T134N, R35W). The survey was conducted as part of FEMA-DR-1921 and eight requests for funding for buildings that were destroyed in the F4 tornado that hit the fairground on June 17, 2010. Three of the eight requests are for alternate projects, one is for an improved project and four are for replacement. The proposed projects will directly impact areas as delineated on the preliminary design plan within the fairgrounds. Areas not to be disturbed by these undertakings were not surveyed (see attached maps blue).

Prior to fieldwork, FEMA initiated an archaeological site and literature search for the Wadena County Fairground. No known archaeological sites were noted directly within the Wadena County Fairground; however one archaeological site (21WDF) is located in the S1/2 of the adjacent Section 5, T134N, R35W.

FEMA conducted a reconnaissance pedestrian survey with the application of a standard protocol to determine if significant intact archaeological deposits to meet eligibility under Criterion D exist to be impacted by the proposed project activities. Field conditions during the survey consisted of paved asphalt fairground access roads (noted in pink on attached map), gravel and sand covered open parking areas (yellow), previous heavily disturbed areas due to earthmoving activities to construct a track and baseball field (orange), wetlands (blue) and lightly vegetative grassy areas (green). Visibility in the gravel and sand covered open parking lots, previously disturbed areas in the track and baseball field and the vegetative grassy areas ranged from 75-90% with well washed soils due to recent rains. Soils ranged from sandy loamy to mucky loam depressional areas. The topography was gently rolling. The wetlands and other areas marked in blue will not be disturbed and were not surveyed. Visibility was sufficient to identify cultural remains. Pedestrian reconnaissance was conducted at 15 meter intervals throughout the fairground. The entire fairground has been heavily disturbed due to earthmoving activities for the track and baseball field, installation of water, sewer, electric lines, pavement of access roads and construction of buildings.

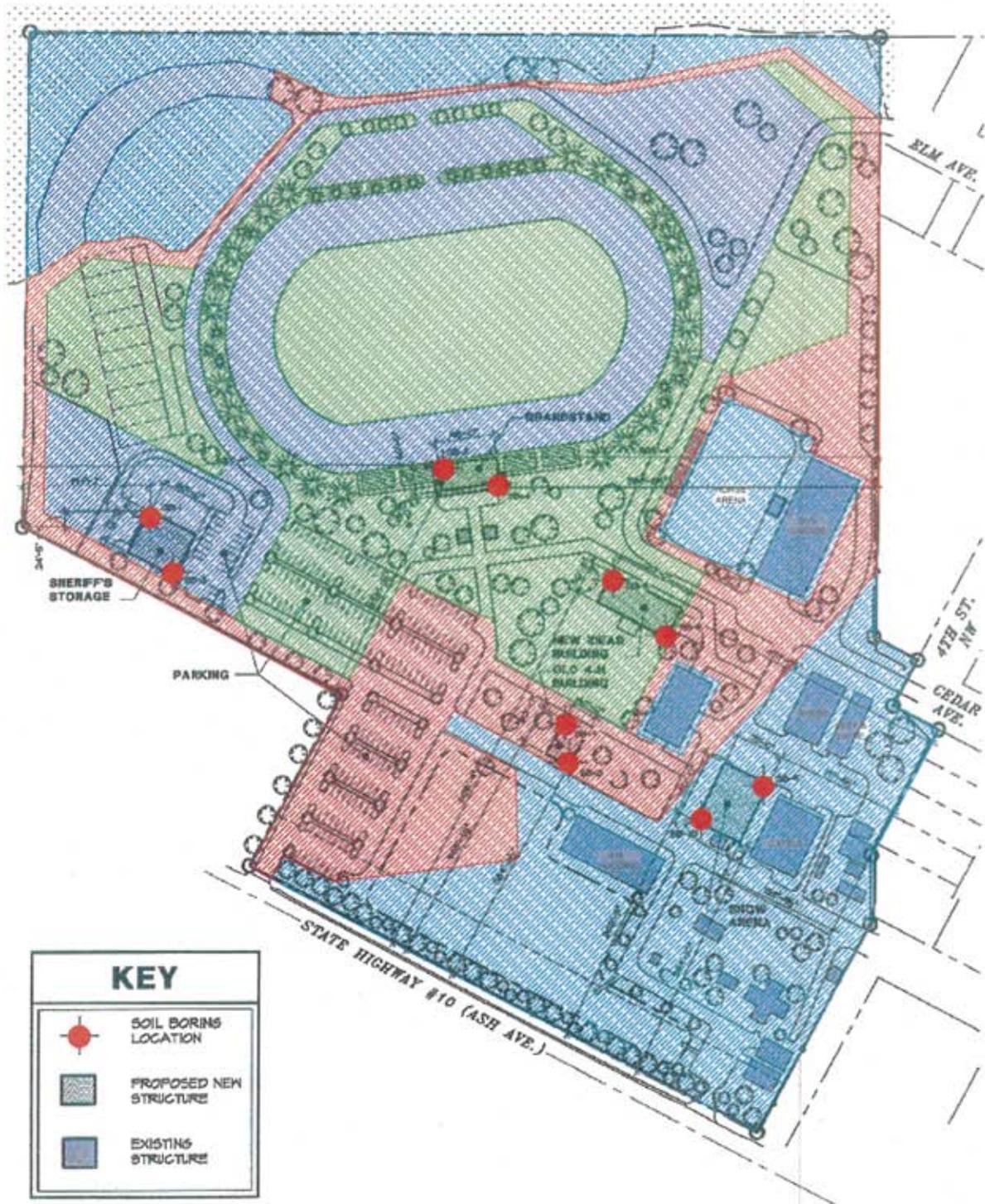
No prehistoric or historic cultural material was located. Due to the existence of excavated footings in sandy wet soils, uprooted trees from the tornado, existing subsurface electrical and water lines, prior earthmoving activities to berm the existing race track, graded gravel parking lots, indoor plumbing, and the nature of archaeological deposits, it is not likely that significant intact archaeological deposits exist

Karen Poulson, FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist and Registered Professional Archaeologist

# WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

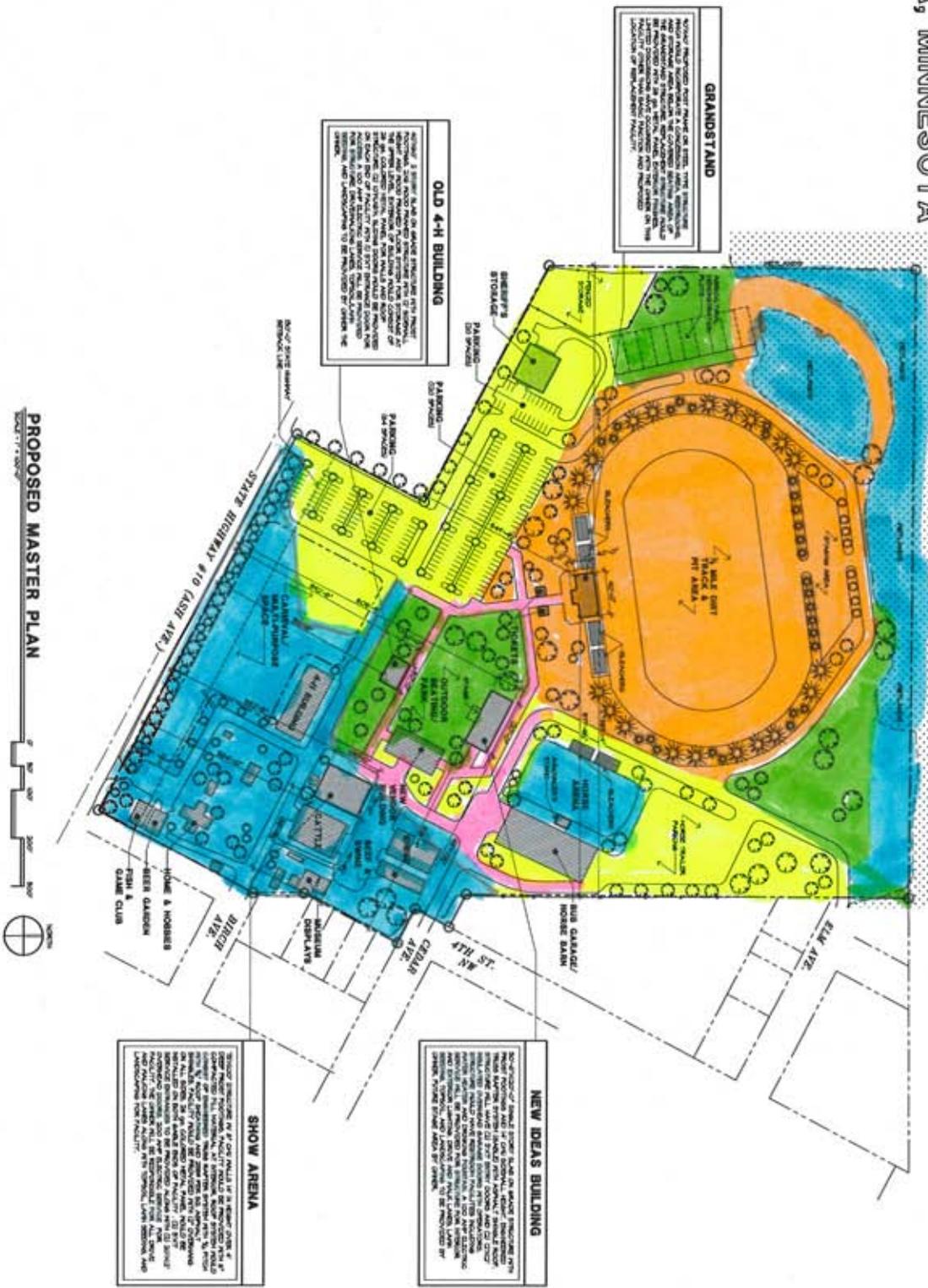
ESTIMATED FROM PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF 3/12/12

-  NO DISTURBANCE
-  0 - 6" DISTURBANCE
-  6" - 1'6" DISTURBANCE
-  1'6" - 3' DISTURBANCE



KEY	
	SOIL BORING LOCATION
	PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURE
	EXISTING STRUCTURE

# WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MASTER PLAN WADENA, MINNESOTA



PROPOSED MASTER PLAN  
SCALE: 1" = 200'



SHEET NUMBER  
**A-1.1**



PLANNERS / ARCHITECTS  
**WADENA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS MASTER PLAN**  
 WADENA, MINNESOTA

P.O. BOX 181, 450 3RD AVE SE, SLATE #18, PERHAM, MN 55773 (326) 346-4505

PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION

FILE NAME: WFLAL1299  
 JOB NO: 4047  
 DATE: 07/05  
 DRAWN BY: A.A., C.C., B.K.  
 CHECKED BY: A.B.  
 REVISIONS:  
 © 2011



**FEMA**

April 12, 2012

Ronald Johnson, President  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Re: Wadena County Fairgrounds, Wadena, Minnesota

Dear President Johnson:

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined that the captioned activities will constitute federally assisted undertakings, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

The federal actions involve the replacement in kind of five buildings and three alternate projects within the Wadena County Fairgrounds in Wadena County, Minnesota. The replacement and alternate projects are for buildings that were destroyed during a F4 tornado on June 17, 2010. FEMA is consulting with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the cultural resources destroyed by the tornado and those potentially affected by these projects.

FEMA recognizes the special and unique legal relationship that exists between the Federal Government and Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes (Tribes). FEMA also recognizes that Tribes may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties located on ancestral, aboriginal or ceded lands that are not contiguous with reservation lands. As part of the review process, FEMA consults with Tribes regarding the possible effects of disaster recovery efforts on cultural properties of historic or traditional significance, referred to as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

We invite your comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Prairie Island Indian Community or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county.

- Prairie Island Indian Community, Welch, Minnesota
- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Cass Lake, Minnesota

Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Prairie Island Indian Community, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an interest in the designated counties would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the area noted on the enclosed maps.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties of interest to your people, don't hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Prairie Island Indian Community and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,

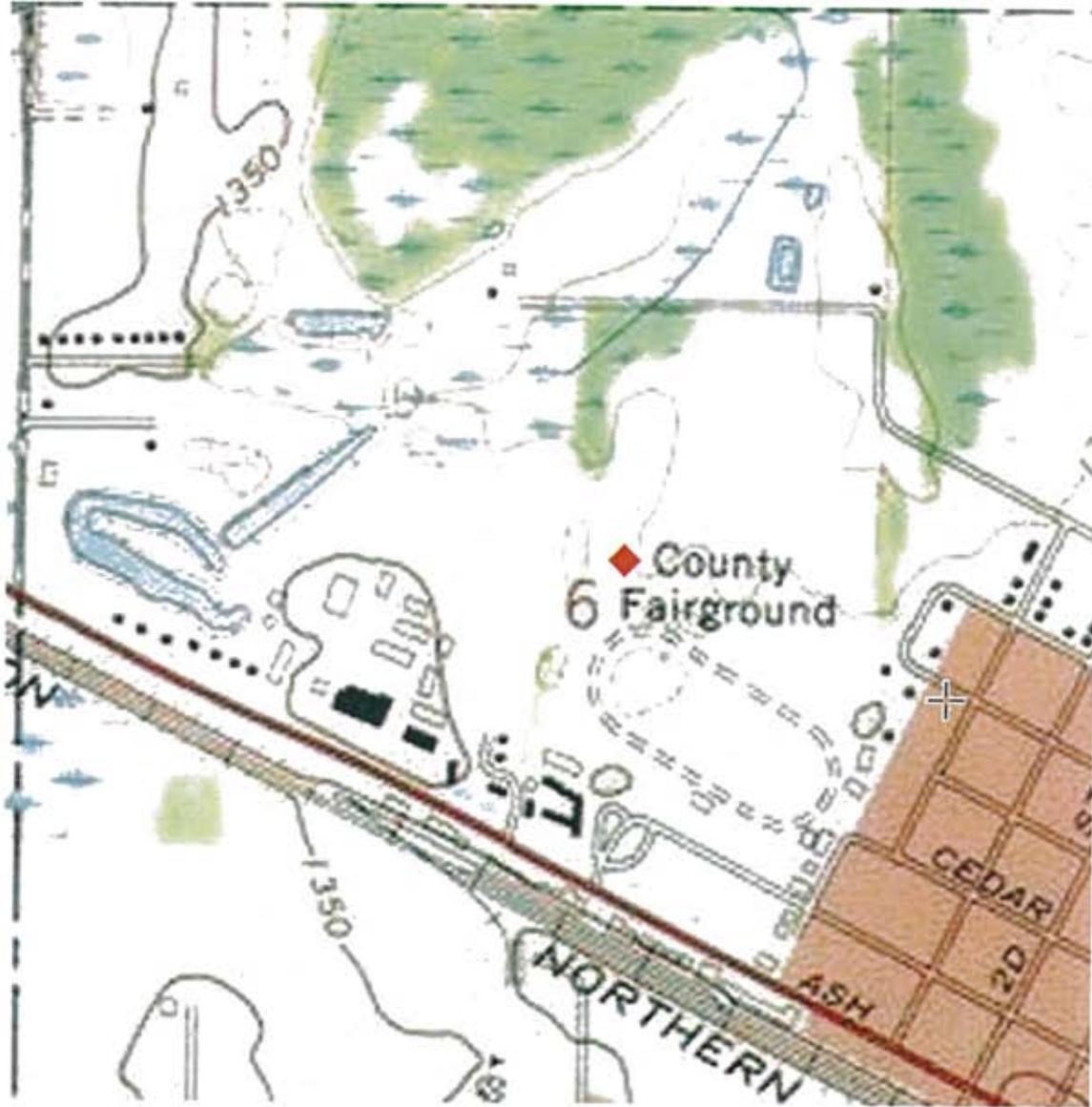


Nicholas Mueller,  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA, Region V

*Map of Minnesota Showing Wadena County  
(Wikimedia Commons)*



USGS Map "Wadena," detail showing Wadena County Fairgrounds project location.





FEMA

April 12, 2012

Norman Deschampe, President  
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe  
P.O. Box 217  
Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633

Re: Wadena County Fairgrounds, Wadena, Minnesota

Dear President Deschampe:

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other legislation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined that the captioned activities will constitute federally assisted undertakings, requiring a Section 106 Review under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

The federal actions involve the replacement in kind of five buildings and three alternate projects within the Wadena County Fairgrounds in Wadena County, Minnesota. The replacement and alternate projects are for buildings that were destroyed during a F4 tornado on June 17, 2010. FEMA is consulting with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the cultural resources destroyed by the tornado and those potentially affected by these projects.

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We invite your comments on the potential impacts these activities may have on lands traditionally used by or sacred to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe or other Native American groups. We understand the sensitive nature of much of the information regarding TCPs and assure you in advance that any information you provide will be considered privileged and confidential. In order to safeguard cultural resources or TCPs of interest to Native Americans, we are contacting the following Tribes requesting information regarding their interests in the affected county.

- Prairie Island Indian Community, Welch, Minnesota
- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Cass Lake, Minnesota

Receiving information from you regarding any areas of interest to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, or notice of Tribes other than those listed above that may have an interest in the designated counties would improve FEMA's efforts to protect resources that may exist in the area noted on the enclosed maps.

If you have questions or information that will help us protect properties of interest to your people, don't hesitate to contact me at 312-408-5438 or [nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nicholas.mueller@fema.dhs.gov). We would appreciate a response by mail or email from your office within thirty (30) days. If we receive no response within that time, we will assume that this project has no impact to TCPs of interest to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and will move forward with the project.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mueller,  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA, Region V

*Map of Minnesota Showing Wadena County  
(Wikimedia Commons)*



USGS Map "Wadena," detail showing Wadena County Fairgrounds project location.

