



**Grundy County
Administration Building
Land Use Department
1320 Union Street
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 941-3229
(815) 941-3432 (fax)**

5/16/2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Great Lakes Basin Railroad Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Navecky:

Thank you for your request for comments regarding the proposed Great Lakes Basin (GLB) rail line through Grundy County.

From the maps provided, the railroad currently is proposed to go through eight Grundy County townships: Nettle Creek, Erienna, Norman, Vienna, Mazon, Goodfarm, Garfield, and Greenfield.

I have provided a summary for those affected townships that includes the planning and zoning issues that would need to be addressed by the developer for the development of this proposed railway line. Below is that summary:

Nettle Creek:

Zoning: A- Agricultural Zoning

Transportation Effected:

Roads effected include: LaSalle Road, Nettle Creek Road, Airport Road, and West Morey Road. The I80 highway is also bisected.

Township Road Commissioners or the Grundy County Highway Engineer comments should be considered as this would have the most impact on their perspective roads.

Comprehensive Plan:

The 2030 Comprehensive plan adopted in 2014 indicates that the majority of the area should be left in A-Agricultural use with the exception of the I-80 corridor being used for CI-Commercial Interstate use.

Floodplain: Existing in this Township are 100 year or 1% annual chance of flooding that is adjacent to the section intended to the rail line.

Erienna and Norman Townships:

Zoning:

A- Agricultural Zoning

I - Industrial

A-R – Agricultural Residential

Incorporated Seneca : Incorporated Seneca is included in the proposed railroad as shown. Therefore, comments from Seneca in regard to any comprehensive planning, zoning, transportation, floodplain, and stormwater issues should be determined by the developer.

Transportation Effected:

Roads effected include: West Marseilles Road, West Long Point Road, US Route 6, the CSX Rail line, Old State Road, West DuPont Road, North Gonham, West Indian Trail Road and West Greer Road.

Township Road Commissioners, incorporated Seneca, and the Grundy County Highway Engineer comments should be considered as this would have the most impact on their perspective roads.

Comprehensive Plan:

The 2030 Comprehensive plan adopted in 2014 indicates that the majority of this area of the crossing especially adjacent to the Illinois River should remain as parks and open space to be utilized for future recreation and preservation for the residents for the areas that are north of the Illinois River. Directly to the south of the Illinois River the comprehensive plan is showing that the land should be used for heavy industrial use. All other areas in Erienna and Norman Townships directly affected by this line are indicated as A-Agricultural use.

Floodplain: Existing in these townships are both floodway areas the parallel the Illinois River both north and south and also a large expanse of 100 year or 1% annual chance of floodplain to the north of the Illinois River that parallels the south side of the CSX rail line.

Vienna/Mazon Townships:

Zoning:

A-Agricultural

Adjacent to the East of A-R- Agricultural Residential

Adjacent to the East of I-Industrial

Transportation Effected:

Roads effected include: West Greer, Buffalo Road, Intersection of Verona and Waupecan Roads, Grand Ridge Road, and South Ward Road. The BNSF Rail line is also bisected by this proposed rail line.

Township Road Commissioners or the Grundy County Highway Engineer comments should be considered as this would have the most impact on their perspective roads.

Com Ed Transmission Line:

The Com Ed Transmission Line is crossed by the proposed rail road line.

Comprehensive Plan:

The 2030 Comprehensive plan adopted in 2014 indicates that the majority of the area should be left in A-Agricultural.

Floodplain: The Waupecan Creek is bisected by this proposed railway which includes 100 year or 1% annual chance floodplain areas. The proposed railroad would have environmental impact for Bills Run and also Hog Run Creek.

Goodfarm, Garfield, and Greenfield Townships:

Zoning:

A- Agricultural Zoning throughout the Townships

A-R – Agricultural Residential zoning to the north of the proposed line in Greenfield Township

Incorporated Gardner, East Brooklyn, and South Wilmington:

Each of these towns are within a mile and a half from the proposed rail line. Comments from incorporated cities in regard to any comprehensive planning, zoning, transportation, floodplain, and stormwater issues should be determined by the developer.

Transportation Effectuated:

Roads effectuated include: Route 47, South Old Mason Road, East Gardner Road, South Wood Road, S. Filman Road, South Gorman Road, East Goodfarm Road, South Campus Road, South Storm Road, East Stonewall Road, South Reddick Road, and South Kankakee Road.

Township Road Commissioners, incorporated cities, or the Grundy County Highway Engineer comments should be considered as this would have the most impact on their perspective roads.

Comprehensive Plan:

The 2030 Comprehensive plan adopted in 2014 indicates that the majority of the area should be left in A-Agricultural with a small portion for residential neighborhood to the eastern section of the proposed rail line.

Floodplain: The railway bisects three 100 year floodplain areas for the east and west fork of Gooseberry Creek, the east fork of the Mazon Creek, and Reddick Run.

Coal Mine Areas: According to the Directory of Coal Mines in Illinois published by the Illinois State Geological Survey and the University of Illinois, published in 2014 there are two types of coal mining that existed just north of the intersection of Stonewall and Reddick Roads. The mines were both shaft (1909-1954) and strip mining (1948 through 1974). A rail line in this close a proximity with vibration could have adverse effects for the area.

General Concerns for all Townships:

Environmental Issues:

Environmental study of the area should include investigation into the following as outlined in the 2010 Unified Development Ordinance:

- ECO Cat should be included to ensure that any identified protected species are identified
- Wooded areas should be evaluated against the landscape and tree preservation

ordinance.

- Noise, vibration, and odor control should be considered in areas where dwelling units are located in either a-agricultural or ar-agricultural residentially zoned property.
- Stormwater, erosion control and floodplain management need to comply with the newly adopted County Wide Grundy County Stormwater Ordinance (adoption March 8, 2016)
- A site development permit would be required prior to the development of the rail line. The site development permit would evaluate the development against the stormwater, floodplain, wetland, and erosion control requirements of the Grundy County Stormwater Ordinance. Verification would also be needed from any state or federal agency that compliance was met (IDNR, COE, FEMA etc). Our Review Engineer would review all engineering details.

Fire Department Approvals: Any large scale project that has impact on emergency routing and response should also go through an approval process through the fire department(s) impacted. Below is a listing of the appropriate fire district that would need to approve the development:

Seneca and Morris Fire Districts: Nettle Creek, Erienna, Norman, and Vienna Townships

Verona/Kinsman Fire Districts: Vienna Township

Mazon Fire District – Mazon Township

Gardner Fire District – Mazon, Goodfarm, Garfield, and Greenfield Townships

South Wilmington Fire District – Greenfield Township

Reddick Fire District – Greenfield Township

Summary:

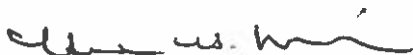
The area within Grundy County where this rail line is proposed is shown on our Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2014) as agriculturally preserved land. Since the rail line bisects several areas where there is active farming, wetland, floodplain, and floodway the developer will need to completed extensive engineering and environmental analysis to show compliance in a site development review permit.

Environmental issues should be addressed as the area in which this railway is proposed would have major impacts to many riparian areas and natural areas that are shown on our Comprehensive plan as being preserved for natural areas intended for future use of the residents of Grundy County. I have included the environmental section of the Unified Development Ordinance (adopted in 2010) for your use.

We are asking that these comments along with the comments reflected by the Grundy County Zoning Board of Appeals Committee (attached dated 5/6/16) to be considered when making your decision concerning this project.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you should have any questions concerning this response. I may be reached directly at (815) 941-3229 or by email at hmiller@grundyco.org.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi H. Miller

Land Use Director

:surfacetransportationboardmay2016

**Grundy County
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Morris, IL 60450
(815) 941-3229
(815) 941-3432 (fax)**



5/6/2016

TO: Chairman David Welter

FROM: Heidi H. Miller; Director

RE: Great Lakes Basin Rail Road Zoning Board of Appeals Comments

The Zoning Board of Appeals has asked that I reflect their views that they discussed at their April 19th meeting.

The following are their concerns:

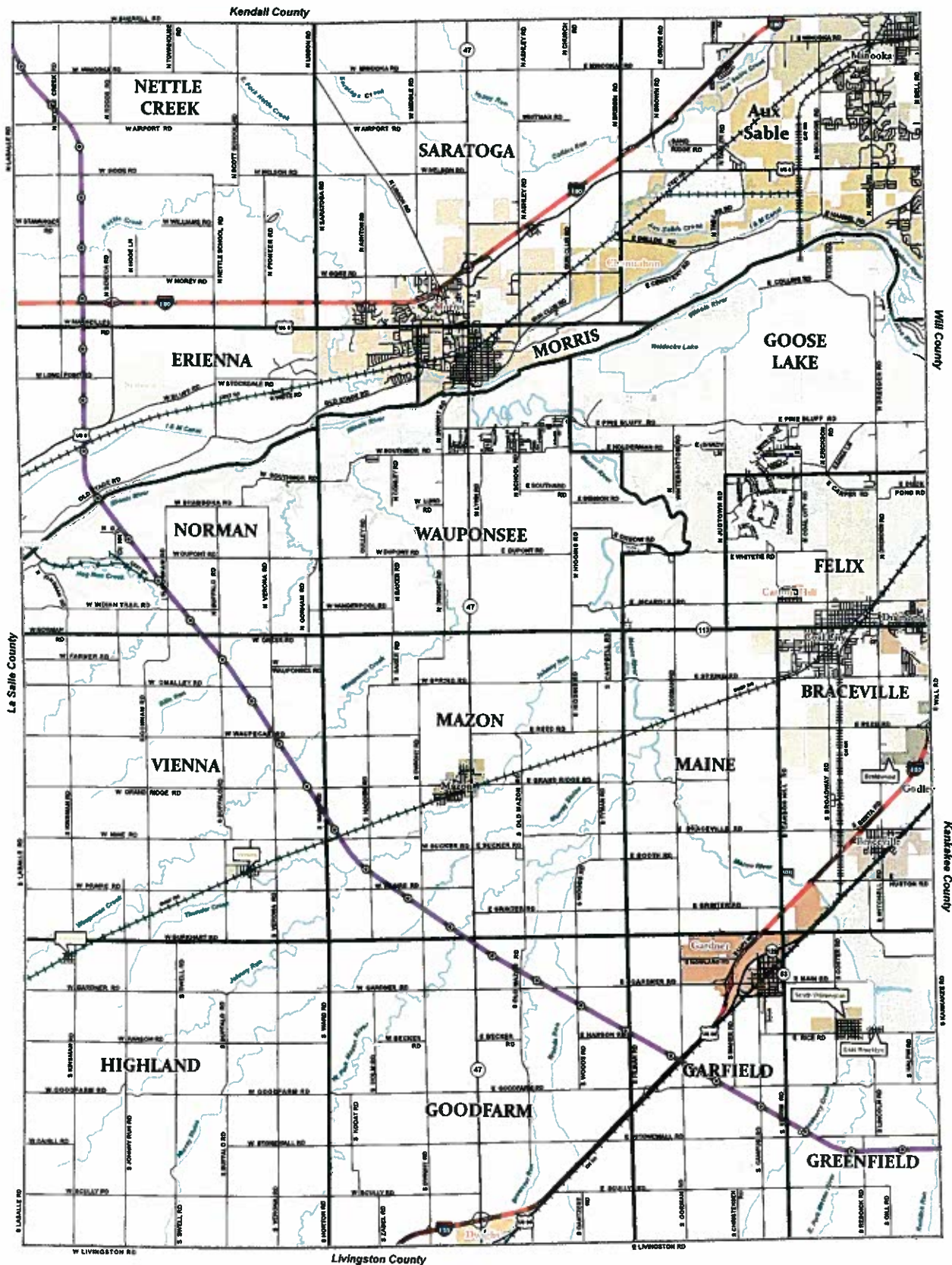
- Eminent Domain issues for farmers.
- Floodplain effects on adjacent home owners/farmers.
- Safety issues and how emergency vehicles would be able to respond.
- Road Commissioners have expressed to members that they would be concerned about road maintenance and conditions.
- Field tiles cut for farmers.
- Routing effects – 60 miles from centerline of proposed line.
- Farm loss – best soil conditions are located in the proposed area.
- Nuclear evacuation routing being effected.
- Restoration of area after construction.
- Reclamation if the railroad begins but is not completed. Similar to guarantee with wind farms.
- Pollution and quality control of safety for residents living in the adjacent area.

These concerns were motioned by Nancy Bjelland, and seconded by Joe Bexon.

Motion for these comments to be represented to Great Lakes Basin Railroad was approved unanimously by all members present.

Great Lakes Basin Railroad

Within Grundy County, Illinois (Proposed)



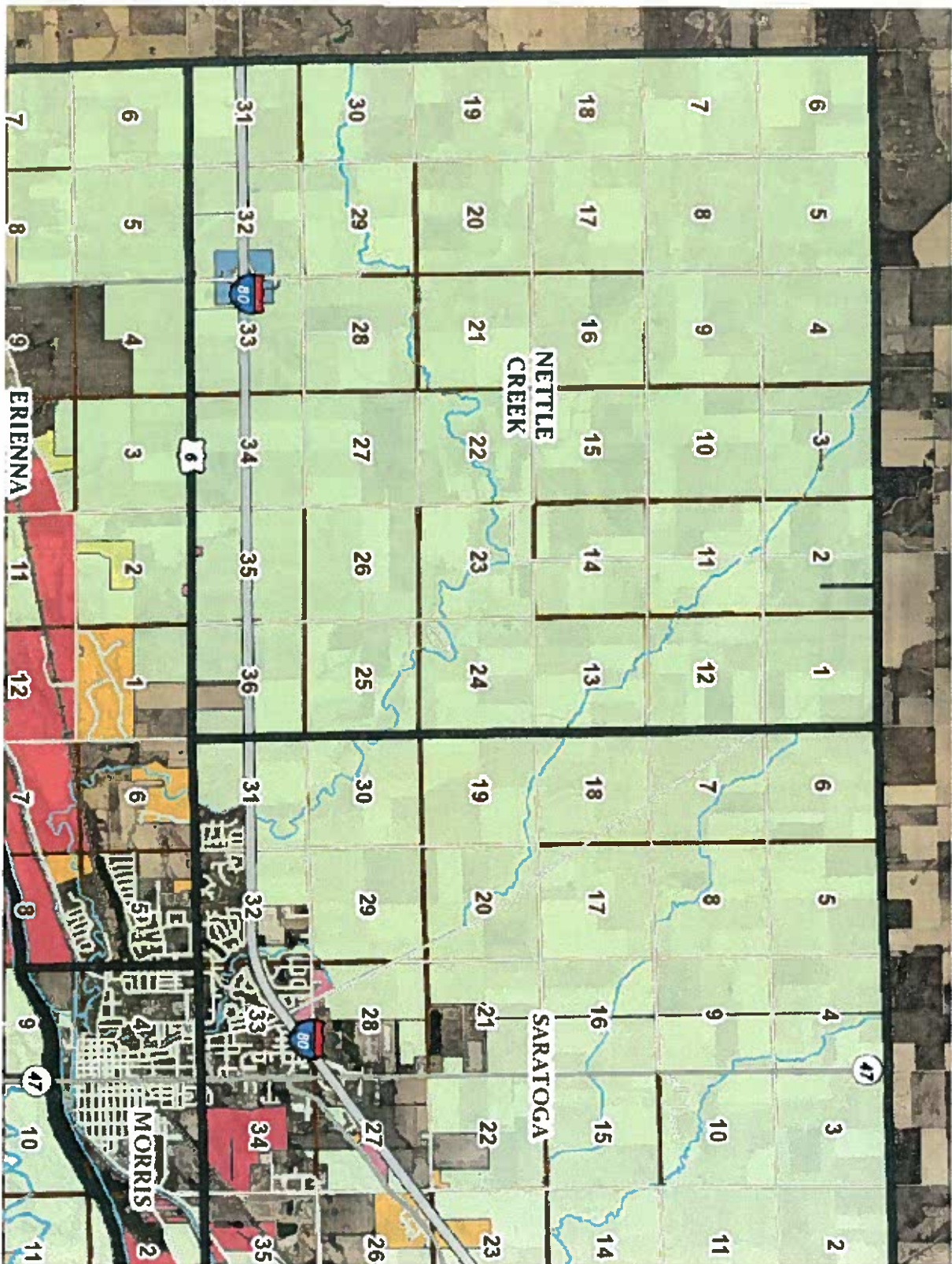
Map Symbology									
Proposed Route		Municipal Boundaries		Carbon Hill		Diamond		Gardner	
Great Lakes Basin	Bradwood	Channahon	Braceville	Seneca	Godfrey	Minooka	South Wilmington	Verona	Political Townships
									Roads
									Railroads
									Highways
									Bodies of Water

4/22/06

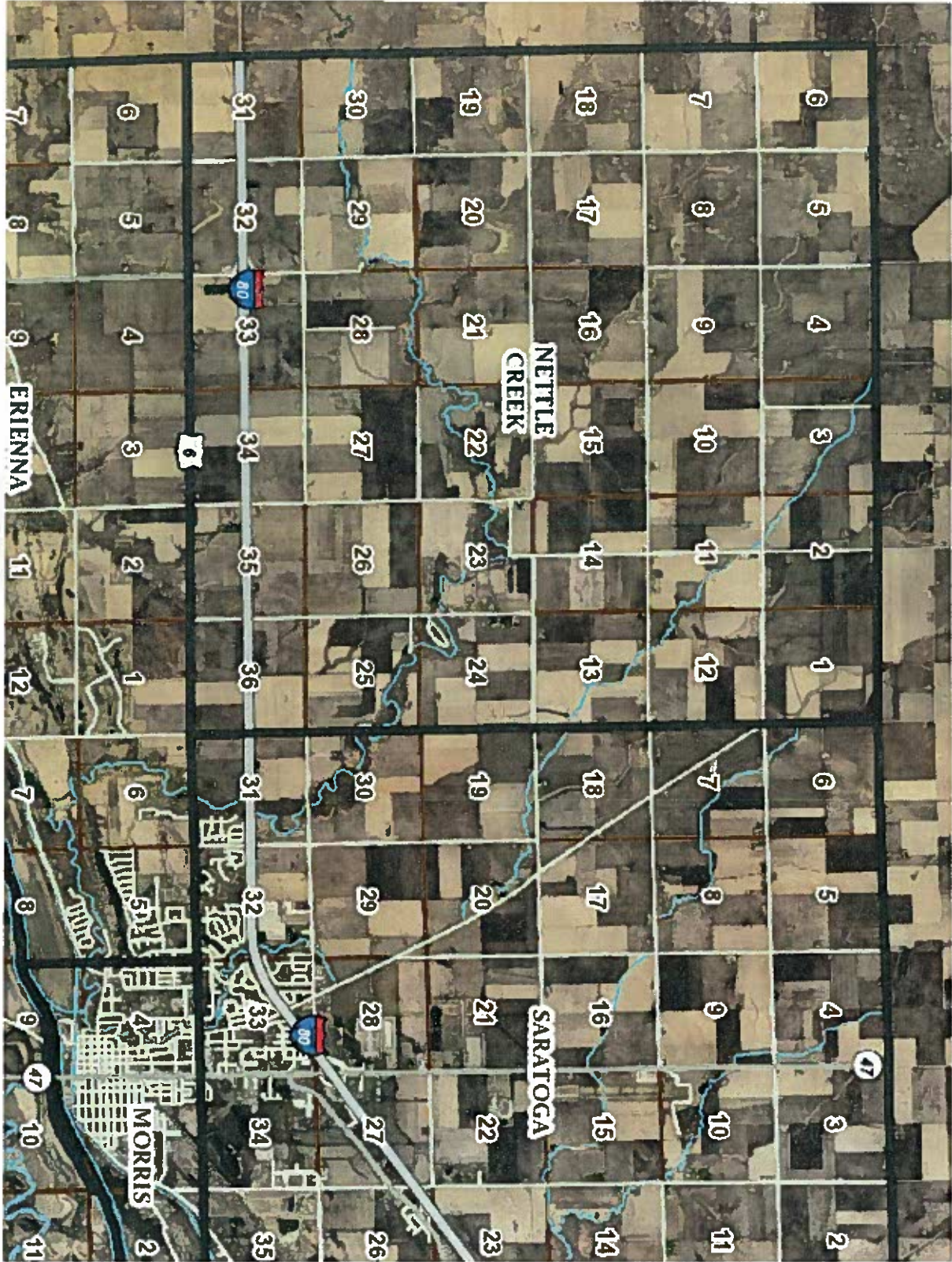
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



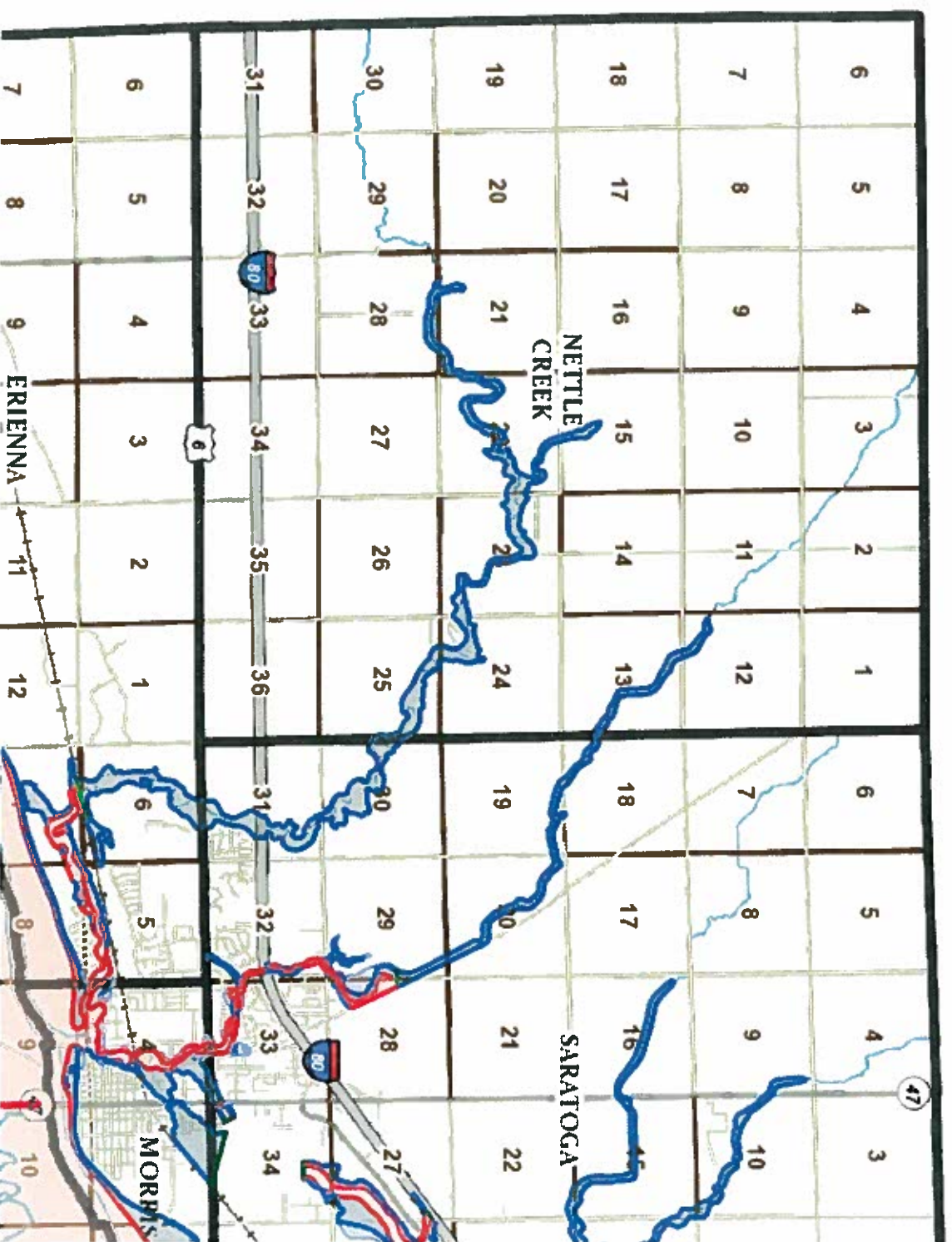
Nettle Creek



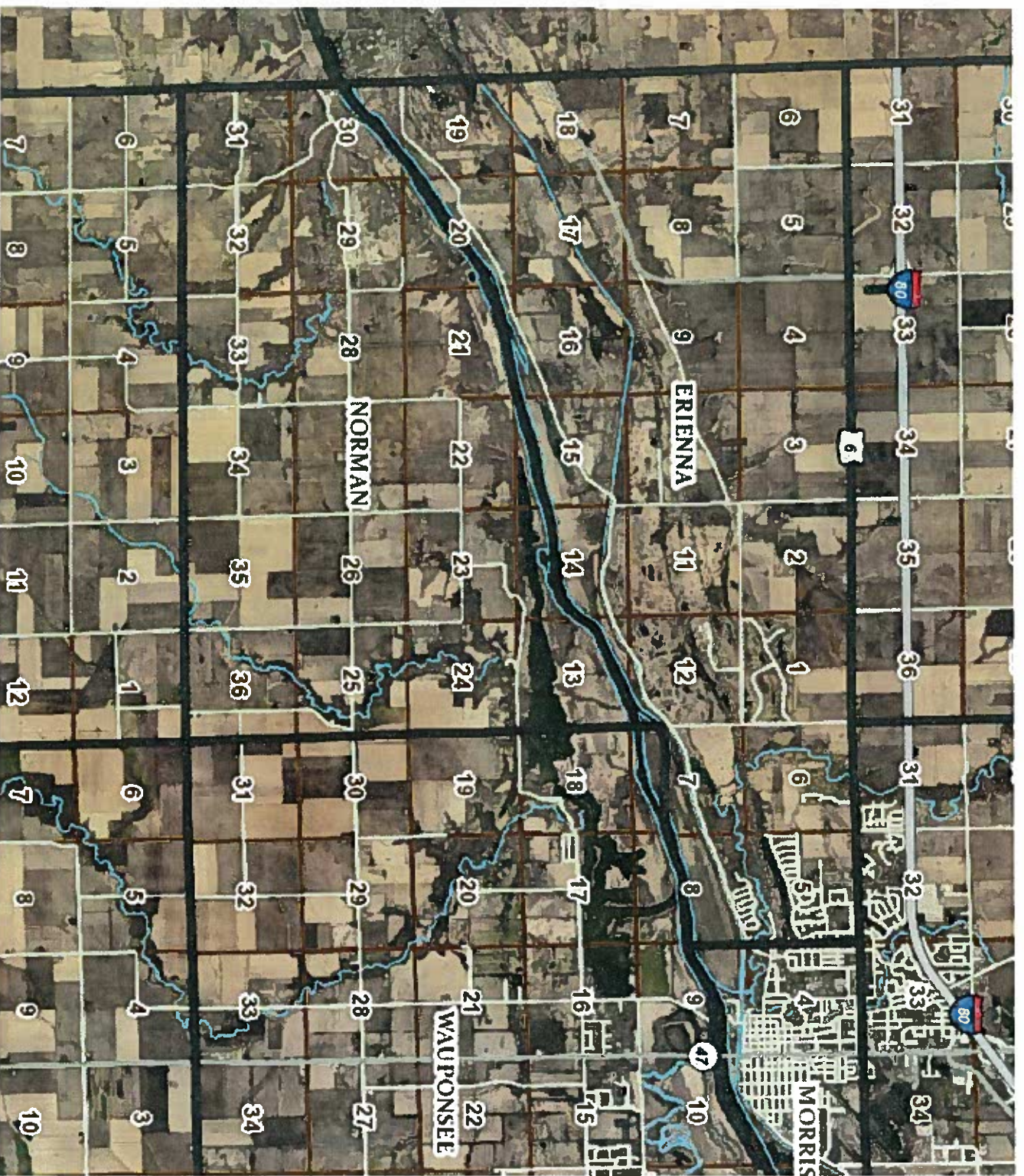
Nettle Creek



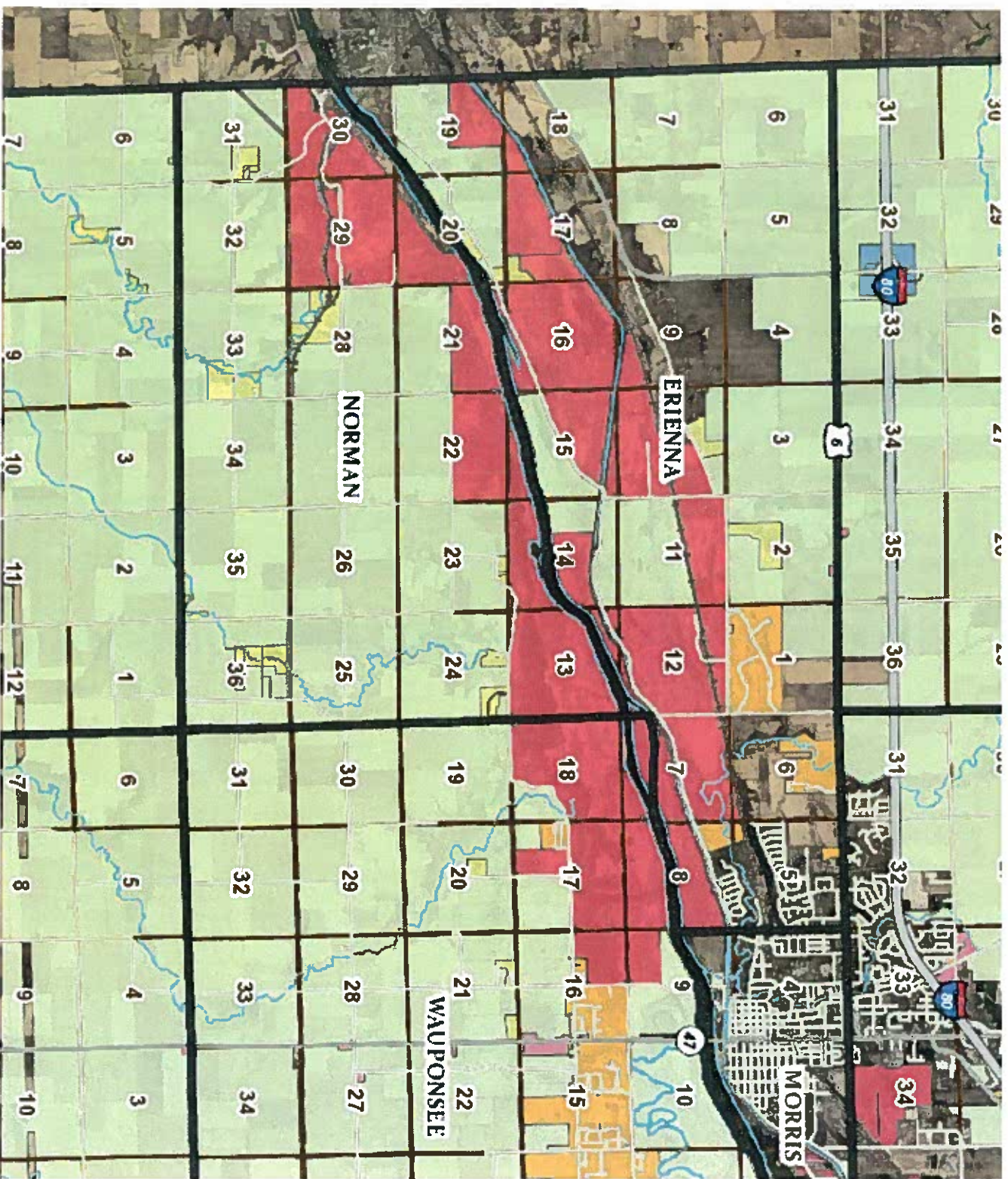
Nettle Creek Floodplain



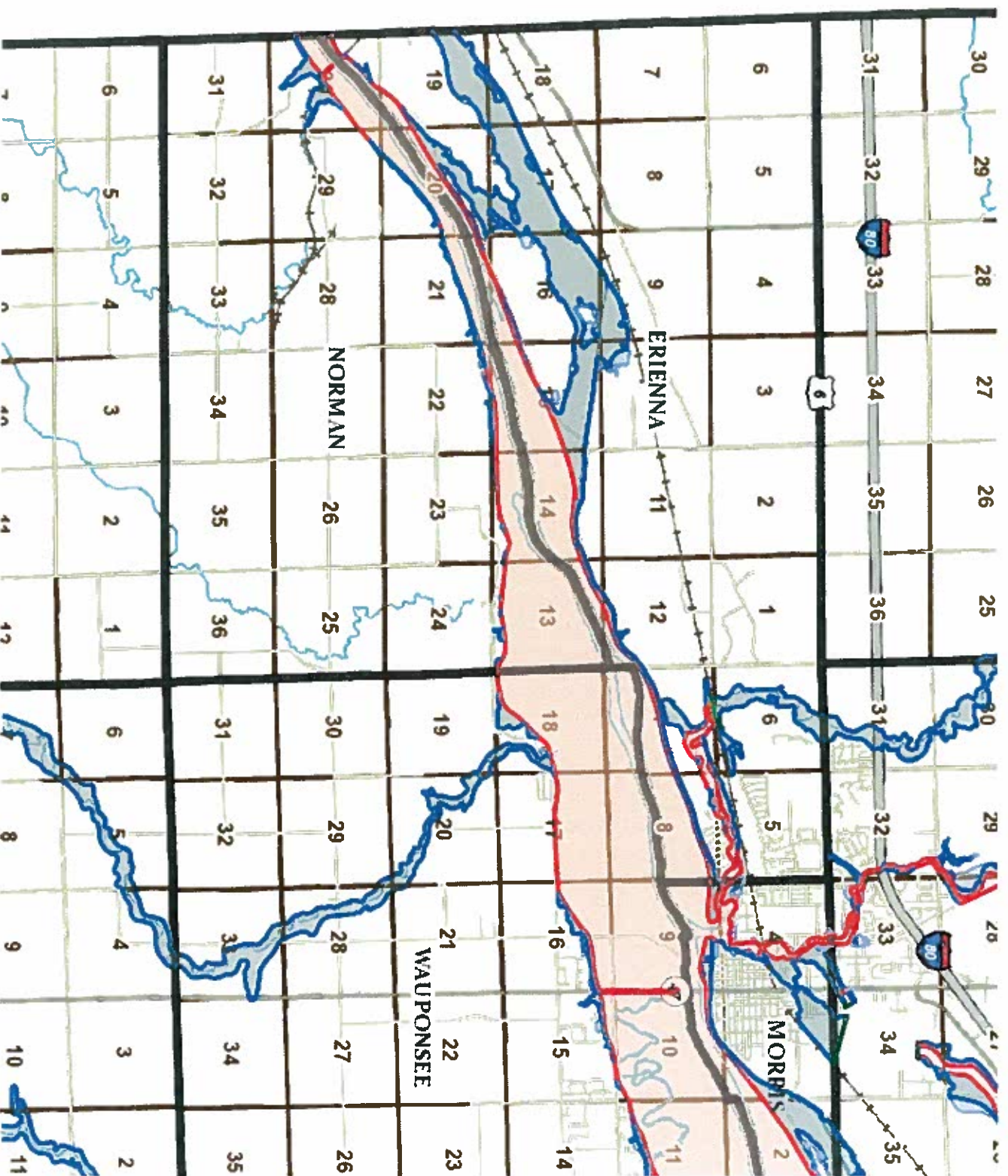
Erienna/Norman



Erienna/Norman



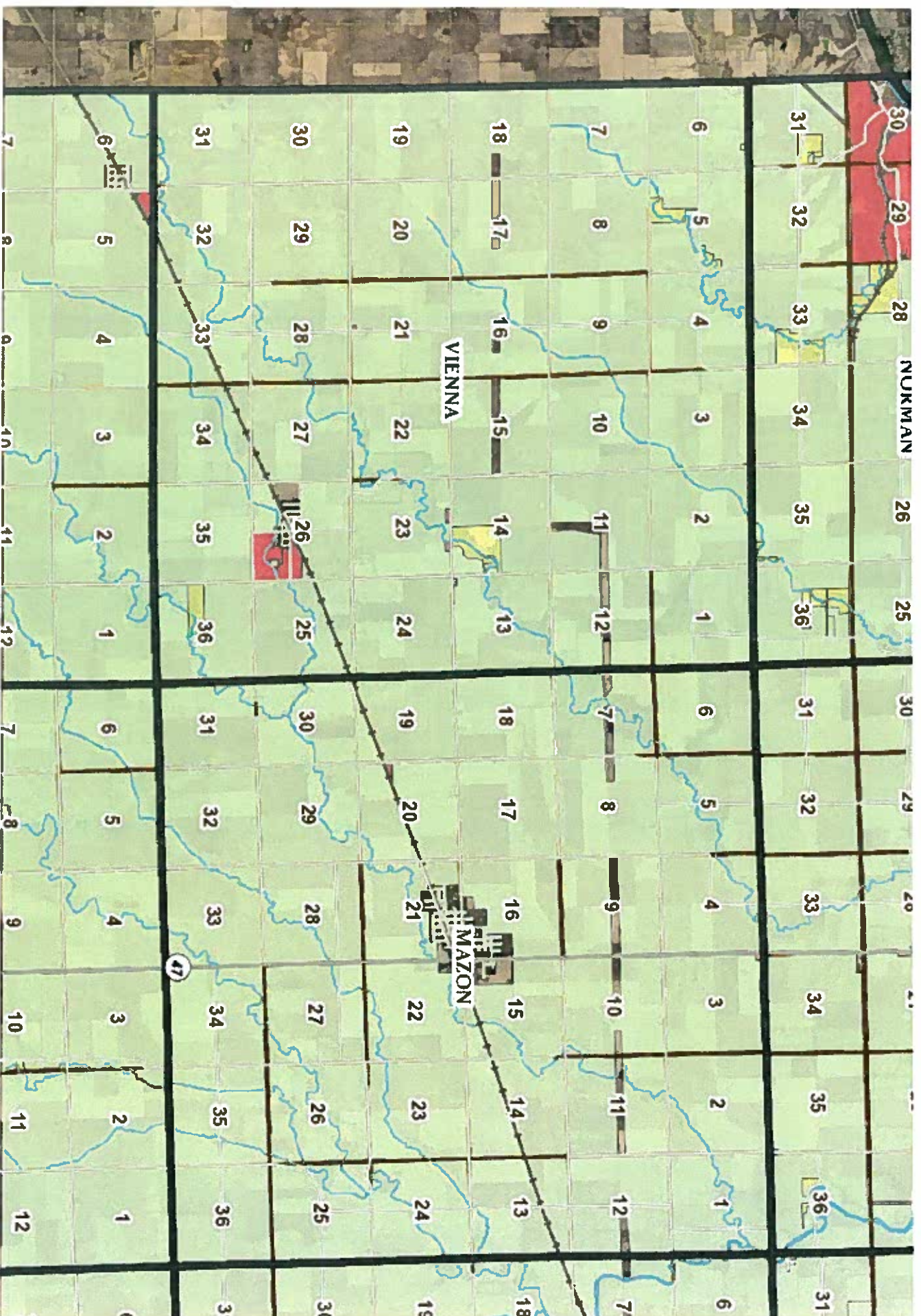
Erienna/Norman Floodplain



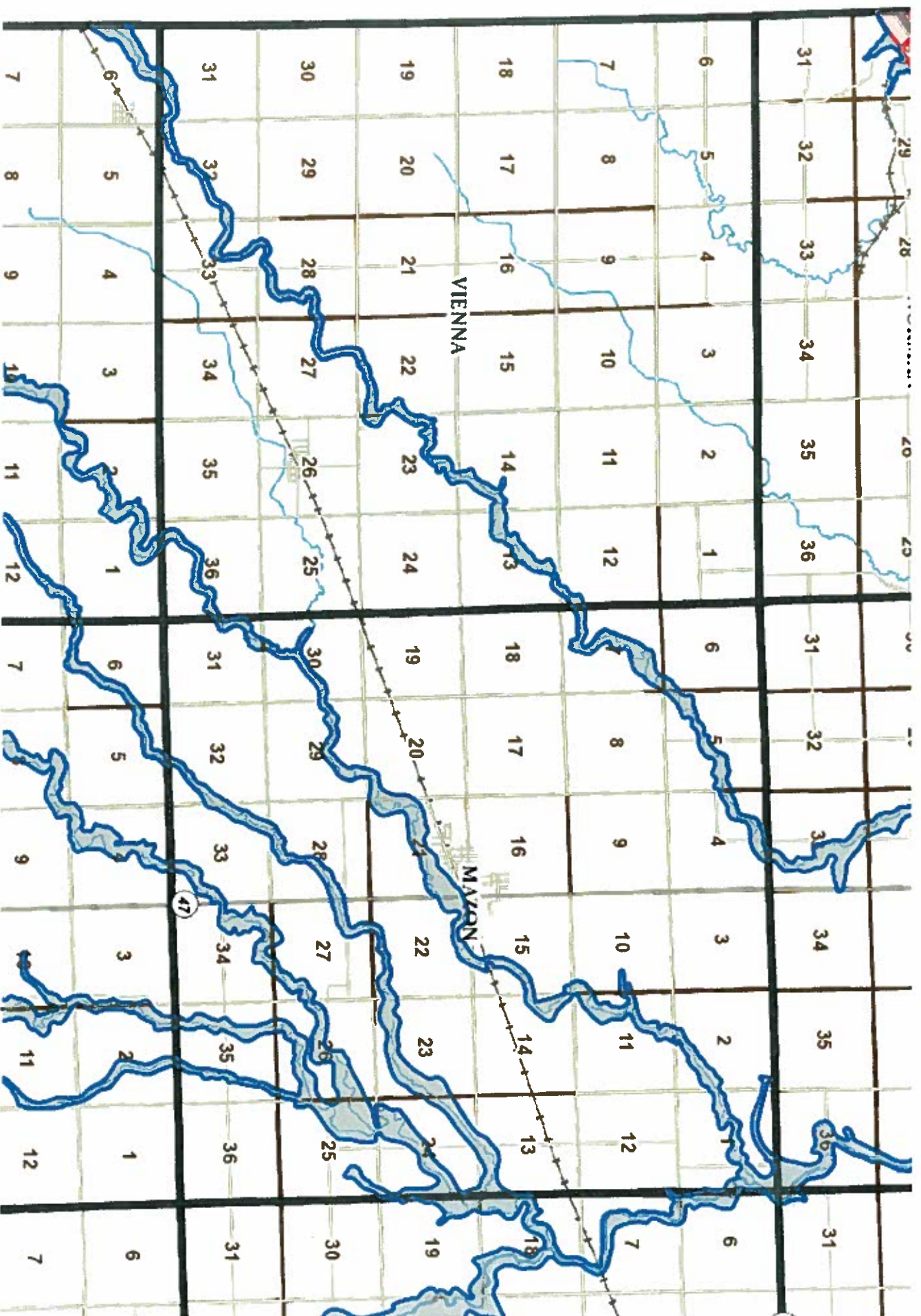
Vienna/Mazon



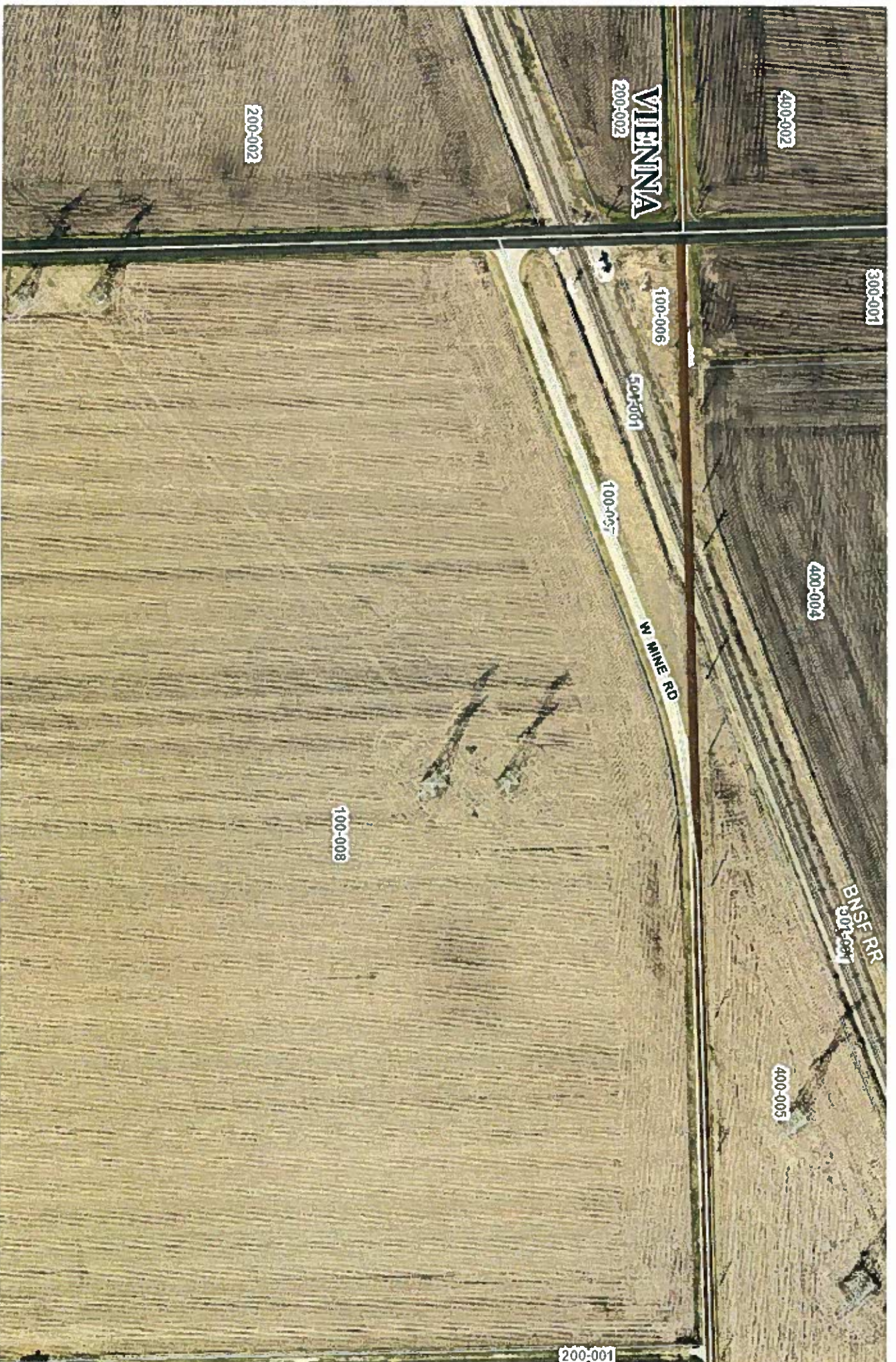
Vienna/Mazon



Vienna/Mazon/Floodplain



Transmission Line



Goodfarm, Garfield, Greenfield



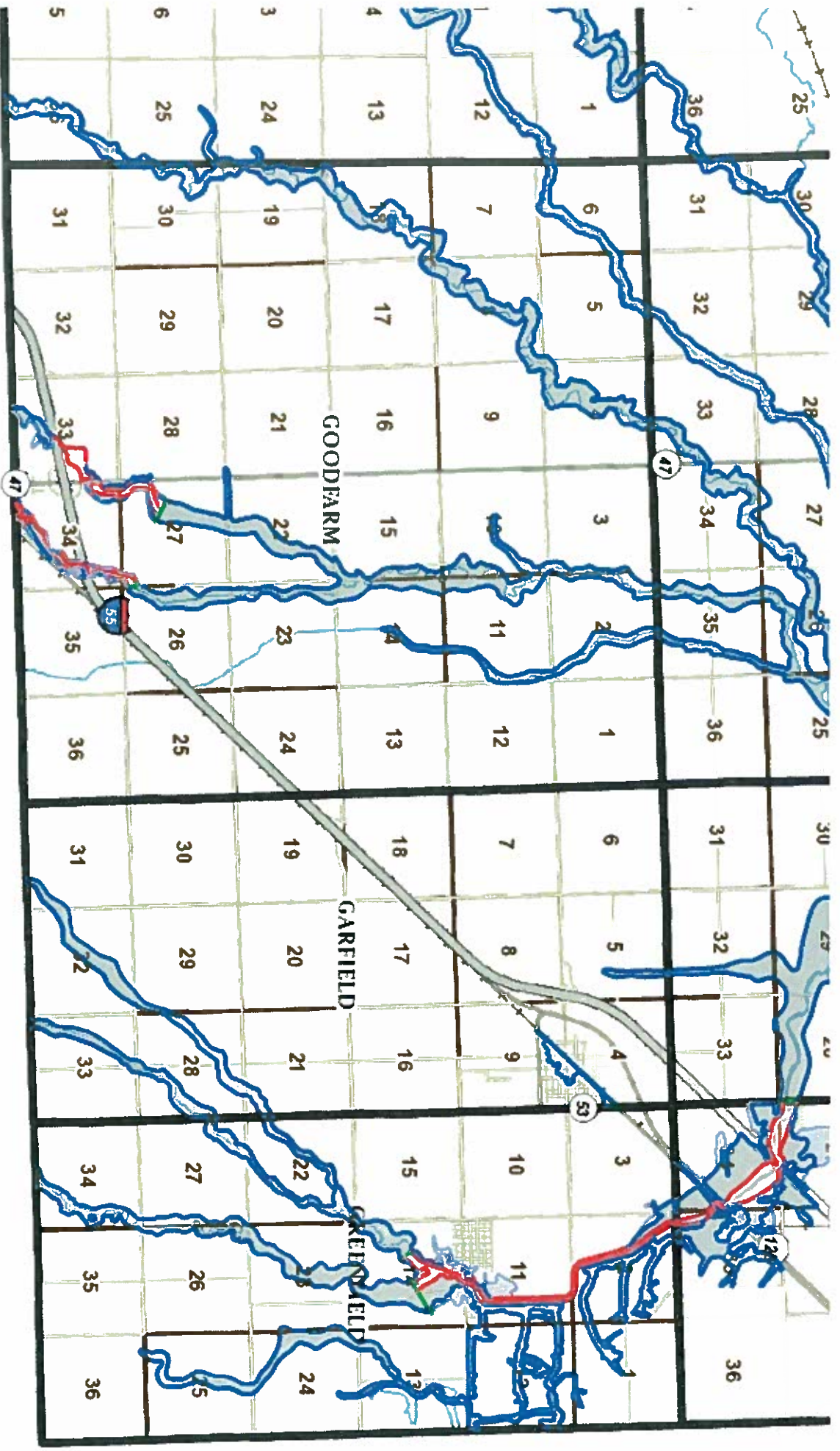
Goodfarm, Garfield, Greenfield

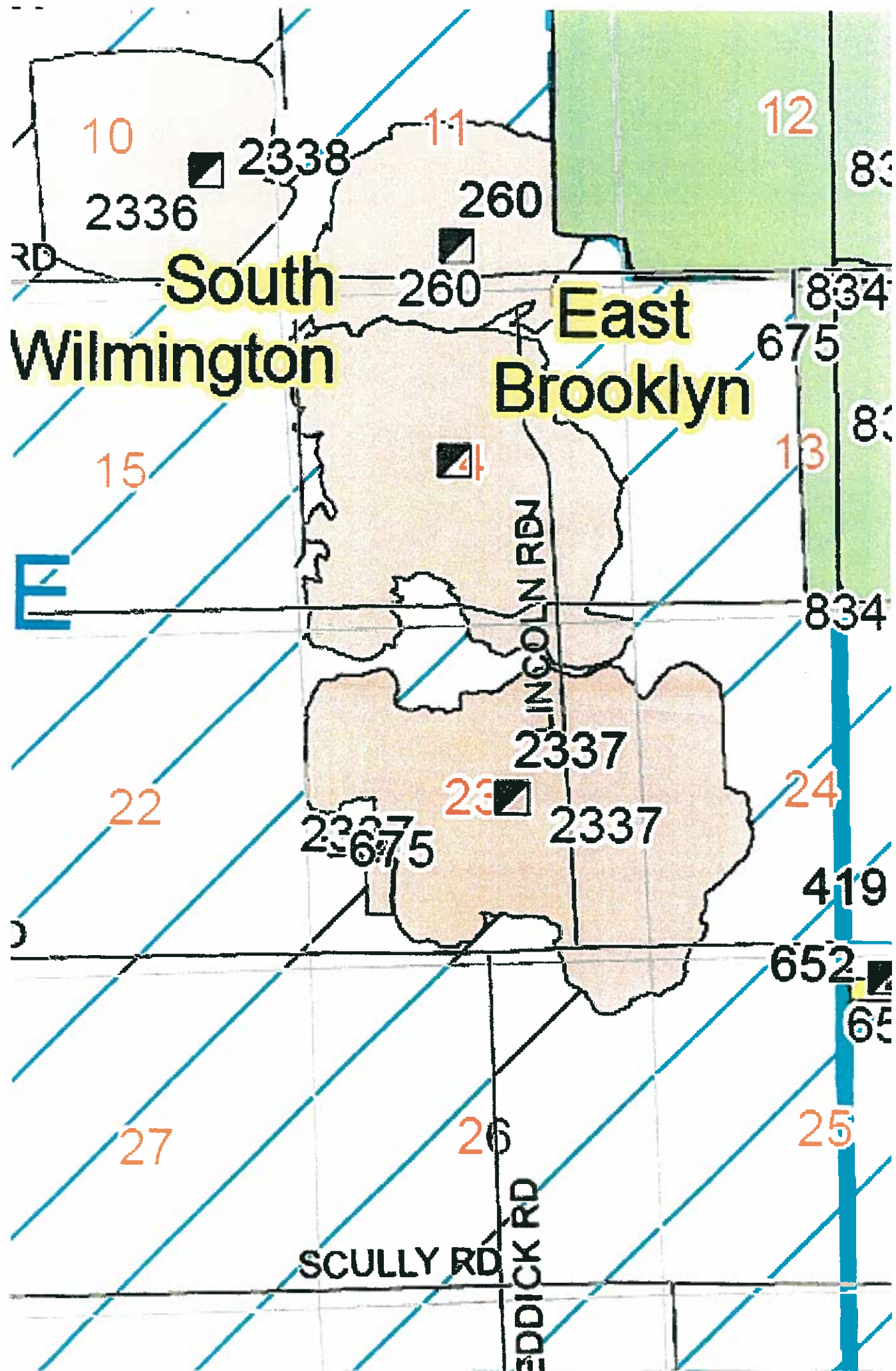


Source: Grady County Web Mapping Applications Date: 5/16/2016

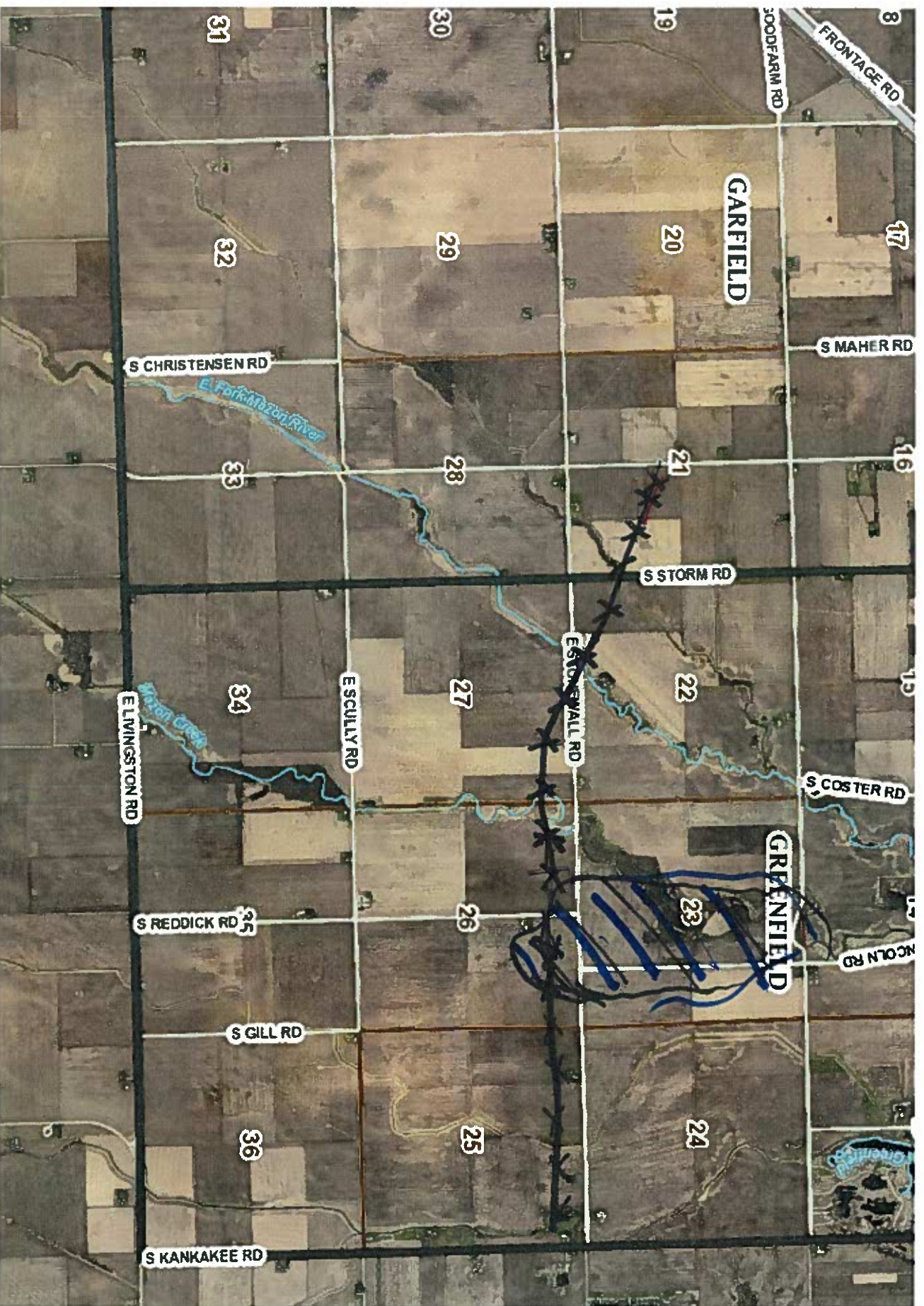


Goodfarm/Garfield/Greenfield Floodplain





coal mine location



Source: Grundy County Web Mapping Applications Date: 5/16/2016

XXXXX RR

== + Shaft + Coal mines



DIRECTORY OF COAL MINES FOR GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS (January 2015)

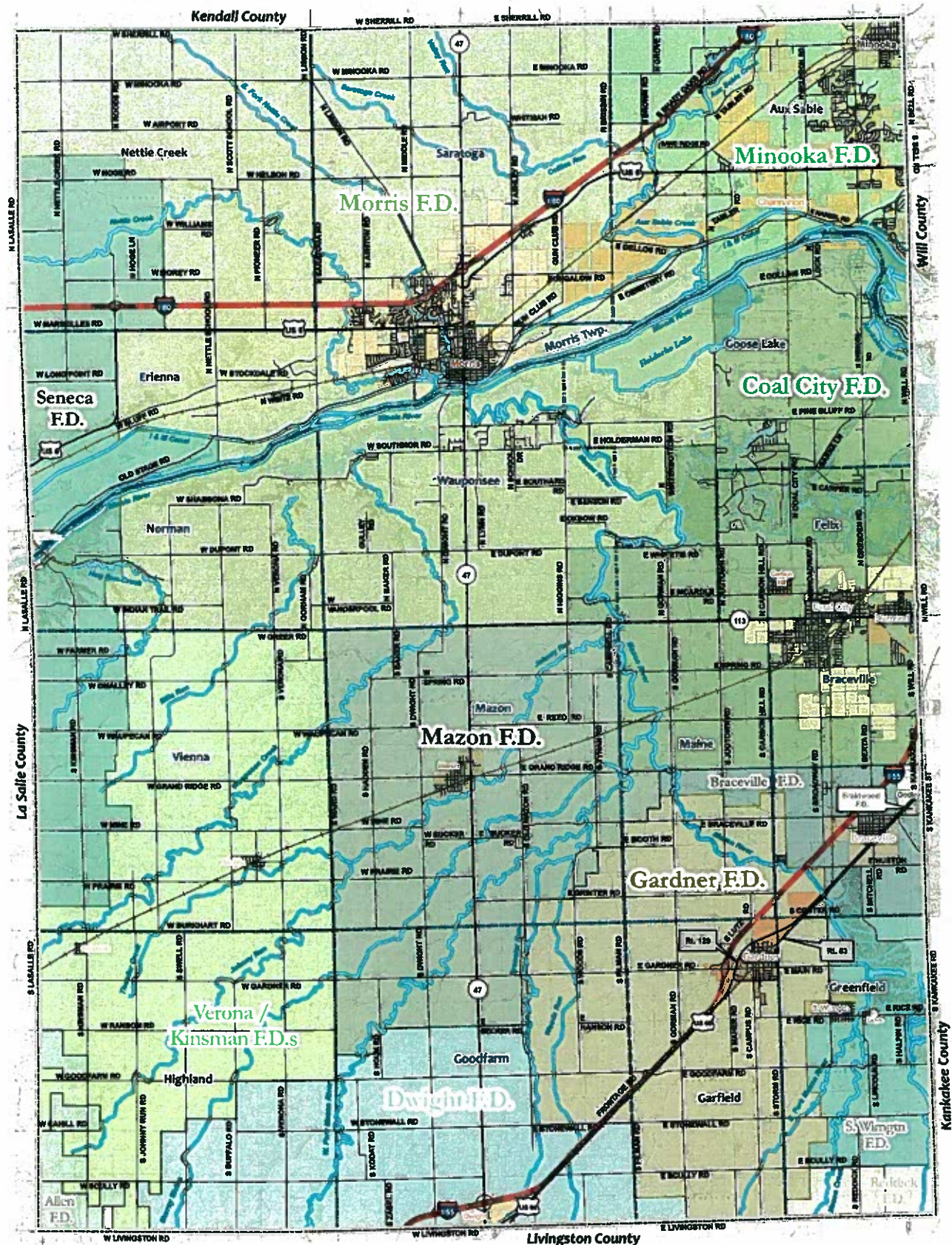
ISGS INDEX	COMPANY NAME	MINE NAME	MINE NO.	MINE TYPE	METHOD	YEARS OPERATED	SEAM MINED	COUNTY	LOCATION TWP RGE SEC
834	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN		STRIP	STR	1957-1974	COLCHESTER	KANKAKEE	31N 9E 6
2046	DAVIDSON (MAX) & SONS	DAVIDSON		STRIP	STR	1918-1921	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	34N 7E 35
2093	KAY (HARRY)	KAY	3	SHAFT	RP	1897-1900	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 7E
2093	CRYER (JOHN H.)	CRYER		SHAFT	RP	1900-1909	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 7E
2334				SHAFT			COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 3
2335	CHI.MILWAUKEE & VERM COAL CO	O		SHAFT	LW	1890-1895	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 12
2336	WILLIAMS (TAYLOR)	WILLIAMS		SHAFT	LW	1882-1889	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 10
2336	GARDNER-WILMINGTON COAL CO.	GARDNER-WILMINGTON	1	SHAFT	LW	1889-1899	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 10
2337	CHI. WILMINGTON & VERMILION	CHI. WILMINGTON & VERMILION	3	SHAFT	LW	1909-1914	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 23
2337	CHI. WILMINGTON & FRANKLIN	CHI. WILMINGTON & FRANKLIN	3	SHAFT	LW	1914-1926	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 23
2337	SKINNER COAL CO.	SKINNER	3	SHAFT	LW	1927-1938	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 23
2337	SOUTH WILMINGTON COAL CO.	SOUTH WILMINGTON	3	SHAFT	LW	1938-1947	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 23
2337	NUMBER THREE COAL CO.	NUMBER THREE	3	SHAFT	LW	1948-1954	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 23
2338	LAHERTY BROTHERS	LAHERTY		SHAFT	RP	1892-1894	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 7E 4
2338	CRYER (JAMES)	CRYER	2	SHAFT	RP	1895-1896	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 7E 4
2338	LAHERTY BROTHERS	LAHERTY		SHAFT	RP	1896-1897	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 7E 4
2338	LAHERTY (WILLIAM)	LAHERTY		SHAFT	RP	1897-1899	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 7E 4
2338	BYRNES & FLEMING	BLUFF		SHAFT	RP	1899-1913	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 7E 4
2339	VERONA COAL CO.	VERONA		SHAFT	MRP	1922-1923	HERRIN	GRUNDY	32N 6E 23
2339	LELAND COAL CO.	LELAND	7	SHAFT	MRP	1923-1924	HERRIN	GRUNDY	32N 6E 23
2339	VERONA COAL CO.	VERONA	7	SHAFT	MRP	1924-1925	HERRIN	GRUNDY	32N 6E 23
2339	SUNLIGHT COAL CO.	SUNLIGHT	7	SHAFT	MRP	1929-1930	HERRIN	GRUNDY	32N 6E 23
2340	BRAIDWOOD-WILMINGTON COAL CO	BRAIDWOOD-WILMINGTON	1	SHAFT	LW	1904-1908	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N 8E
2340	ACME WILMINGTON COAL CO.	LULLY		SHAFT	LW	1908-1911	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N 8E
2341	WILMINGTON COAL MNG & MFG CO	DIAMOND	3	SHAFT	LW	1875-1892	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N 8E 1
2342	WILMINGTON COAL MNG & MFG CO	DIAMOND	2	SHAFT	LW	-1883	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 9E 31
2344	STAR COAL MINING CO.	STAR		SHAFT	LW	1878-1879	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N 8E 11
2344	WILMINGTON STAR MINING CO.	WILMINGTON STAR	2	SHAFT	LW	1881-1885	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N 8E 11

DIRECTORY OF COAL MINES FOR GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS (January 2015)

ISGS INDEX	COMPANY NAME	MINE NAME	MINE NO.	MINE TYPE	METHOD	YEARS OPERATED	SEAM MINED	COUNTY	LOCATION TWP RGE SEC
5	WILMINGTON STAR MINING CO.	WILMINGTON STAR	7	SHAFT	LW	1904-1926	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N 8E 5
6	BIG FOUR WILMINGTON COAL CO.	BIG FOUR WILMINGTON	6	SHAFT	LW	1904-1912	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 8E 26
6	BIG FOUR WILMINGTON COAL CO.	E. EILEEN	6	SHAFT	LW	1912-1914	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	33N 8E 26
7	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	S	1	SHAFT	LW	1899-1900	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 14
7	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	1	SHAFT	LW	1900-1914	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 14
259	WILMINGTON STAR MINING CO.	WILMINGTON STAR	6	SHAFT	LW	1900-1913	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	32N 8E 4
260	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	CHI, WILMINGTON & VERMILION	2	SHAFT	LW	1901-1910	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 11
359	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1941-1956	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N 9E 29
359	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1957-1974	COLCHESTER	WILL	33N 9E 29
530	WRIGHT BROTHERS COAL CO.	WRIGHT	SLOPE	MRP	MRP	1931-1933	HERRIN	GRUNDY	32N 6E 23
530	VERONA COAL MINING CO.	VERONA	SLOPE	MRP	MRP	1934-1940	HERRIN	GRUNDY	32N 6E 23
625	MORRIS COAL & MINING CO.	MORROCO, MORRIS #2	2	STRIP	STR	1932-1954	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	34N 7E 34
652	CLARK CITY COAL CO.	CLARK CITY	SHAFT	RPB	RPB	1935-1937	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 25
652	SAVAGE (J. L.)	SAVAGE	SHAFT	RPB	RPB	1937-1937	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 25
652	CLARK CTY-WILMINGTON COAL CO	CLARK CITY	SHAFT	RPB	RPB	1938-1939	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 25
652	CLARK CITY COAL CO.	CLARK CITY	SHAFT	RPB	RPB	1939-1939	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 25
652	GRAND PRAIRIE MINING CO.	GRAND PRAIRIE	SHAFT	RPB	RPB	1939-1940	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 25
652	MORGAN & SAVAGE	MORGAN & SAVAGE	SHAFT	RPB	RPB	1941-1941	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 25
652	GRAND PRAIRIE MINING CO.	GRAND PRAIRIE	SHAFT	RPB	RPB	1942-1942	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 8E 25
675	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1948-1956	CARDIFF	GRUNDY	31N 9E 6
675	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1948-1956	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 9E 6
675	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CORP.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1948-1956	HOUGHIN CREEK	GRUNDY	31N 9E 6
675	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1957-1974	CARDIFF	GRUNDY	31N 9E 6
675	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1957-1974	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	31N 9E 6
675	PEABODY COAL CO.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1957-1974	HOUGHIN CREEK	GRUNDY	31N 9E 6
750	HEATHER & CLAYTON	HEATHER & CLAYTON	SHAFT	RP	RP	1907-1908	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	34N 7E 28
750	CLAYTON BROTHERS	CLAYTON	SHAFT	RP	RP	1908-1913	COLCHESTER	GRUNDY	34N 7E 28
834	NORTHERN ILLINOIS COAL CO.	NORTHERN	STRIP	STR	STR	1928-1956	COLCHESTER	KANKAKEE	31N 9E 6

Fire Districts

Grundy County, Illinois



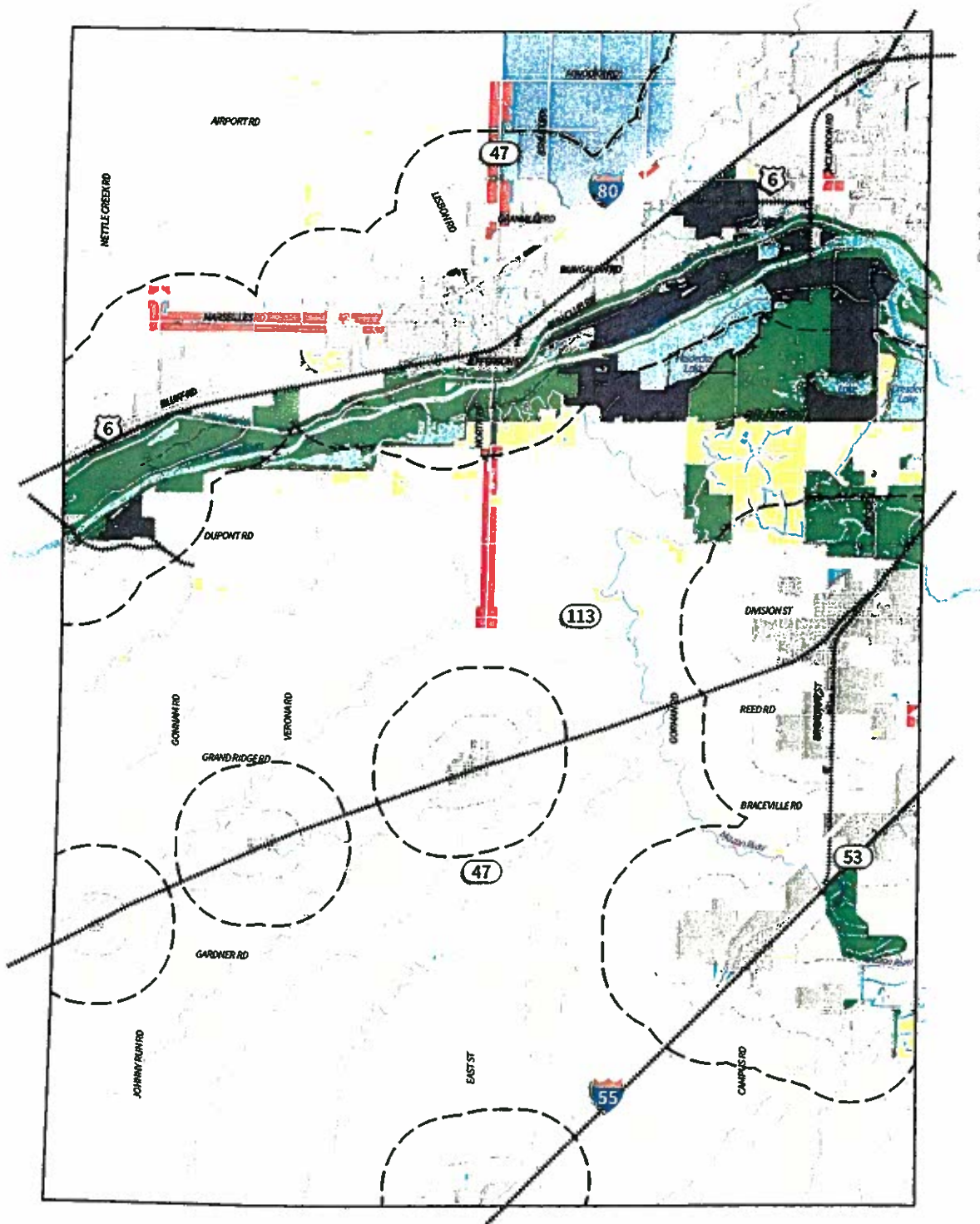
Legend

Fire Districts		
Allen Fire District	Dwight Fire District	Reddick Fire District
Braceville Fire District	Gardner Fire District	Seneca Fire District
Braidwood Fire District	Mazon Fire District	South Wilmington Fire District
Coal City Fire District	Minooka Fire District	Verona/Kinsman Fire District
	Morris Fire District	

This map is a representation of original data, and should not be used for any purpose other than information only. It is not a legal document. No warranty is made by the State of Illinois for the accuracy or completeness of the data on this map.



Prepared by Grundy County GIS Department June 14, 2010



The Land Use & Development Framework Plan for Grundy County, Missouri, describes the primary and development intentions under County jurisdiction for the foundation for county.

Land Use Framework Plan

Context

- Grundy County
- 1.5 Mile Planning Jurisdiction (ETJ)
- Incorporated Municipalities

Land Use

- Agricultural
- County
- Neighborhoods
- Managed Growth Areas
- Commercial
- Office/Industrial Park
- Heavy Industrial
- Parks & Open Space
- Public & Semi-Public
- Rail & Utilities

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

SECTION:

- 8-4-1: Purpose
- 8-4-2: Resource Protection Standards
 - 8-4-2- 1: Protected Resources
 - 8-4-2- 2: Resource Protection Levels
 - 8-4-2- 3: Delineation Of Resources
- 8-4-3: Floodplain Management And Flood Damage Prevention
 - 8-4-3- 1: Applicability
 - 8-4-3- 2: Flood Control
- 8-4-4: General Environmental Standards
 - 8-4-4- 1: Noise
 - 8-4-4- 2: Vibration
 - 8-4-4- 3: Emissions And Odors
- 8-4-5: Stormwater Drainage And Detention
 - 8-4-5- 1: Purpose
 - 8-4-5- 2: Application Of Provisions
 - 8-4-5- 3: Stormwater Management Plans
 - 8-4-5- 4: Runoff Minimization
 - 8-4-5- 5: Water Quality And Multiple Uses
 - 8-4-5- 6: Design Criteria, Standards And Methods
 - 8-4-5- 7: Flows From Upstream Tributary Areas
 - 8-4-5- 8: Early Completion Of Detention Facilities
 - 8-4-5- 9: Maintenance Responsibility
 - 8-4-5-10: Drainage System Inspection
- 8-4-6: Soil Erosion And Sedimentation Control
 - 8-4-6- 1: Findings
 - 8-4-6- 2: Purpose
 - 8-4-6- 2: Permitting

8-4-1: **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this chapter is to promote and protect public health, safety, and general welfare by protecting areas of environmental sensitivity and by regulating development to minimize the impact of development on the environment or citizens of the county.

- A. **Resource Protection:** Protecting and preserving existing natural resources by:
1. **Preserving Agricultural Land:** Growth of estate, suburban, and urban uses are directed to municipalities because services are available and higher intensities fit the context of the built environment. Compact development in municipalities minimizes the loss of agricultural land in the county that would otherwise be developed as low intensity residential (sprawl).
 2. **Reduction Of Runoff And Increase Of Groundwater Recharge:** Clustering results in the lowest possible levels of impervious surface. This allows natural runoff and recharge to take place.
 3. **Provision And Protection Of Wildlife Habitats:** Wetlands, floodplains, and steep wooded lands are protected.
 4. **Protection Or Enhancement Of Water And Air Quality:** Encouraging growth to occur in the county's established municipalities reduces trip length and road maintenance, thus enhancing air and water quality.
- B. **Flood Damage Prevention:** Minimizing public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:
1. Prohibit or restrict any development in the floodway, floodplains, or wetlands;
 2. Restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards, which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
 3. Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities that serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
 4. Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers that are involved in the accommodation of floodwaters;
 5. Control filling, grading, dredging, and other development activities that may increase erosion or flood damage;



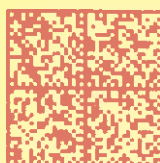
228

GRUNDY COUNTY LAND USE DEPT.

1320 Union Street

Monticello, IL 60450

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001



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