State of Wisconsin

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 1, 2000

TO: Pat Oldenburg
Paul Laliberte
Greg Searl
Eric Donaldson

FROM: Mark Hazuga

SUBJECT: Stream Classification for Edelweiss Cheese Inc.

Edelweiss Cheese Inc. requested effluent limits to discharge cow water from their facility to a drainage-way west of their plant that flows to an unnamed tributary of the Little Eau Pleine River. The drainage-way has a defined channel, however, it flows through a wetland before reaching the unnamed tributary. Channel braiding was observed at a couple of locations and effluent could be directed into the wetland. The facility was asked to identify an alternate discharge location following protocol outlined in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 103. The facility identified a discharge location east of their plant to a man-made pond that they currently own.

The pond was created several years ago by impounding the headwater reaches of an unnamed tributary to the Little Eau Pleine River. The tributary is identified as intermittent the entire length to the Little Eau Pleine River based on the 7.5 minute topographic map. The pond is approximately six acres in size and is located approximately two miles upstream of the Little Eau Pleine. The Little Eau Pleine River has not been formally classified, however the default "Fish and Aquatic Life" classification is probably appropriate. The watershed upstream of the pond is small and landuse is predominately agricultural. During a field inspection of the site on May 2nd there was no discharge from the pond to the tributary and water levels in the pond were approximately one foot below the top of the outfall structure. The tributary downstream of the pond had mostly standing water in pools with very little flow in the channel.

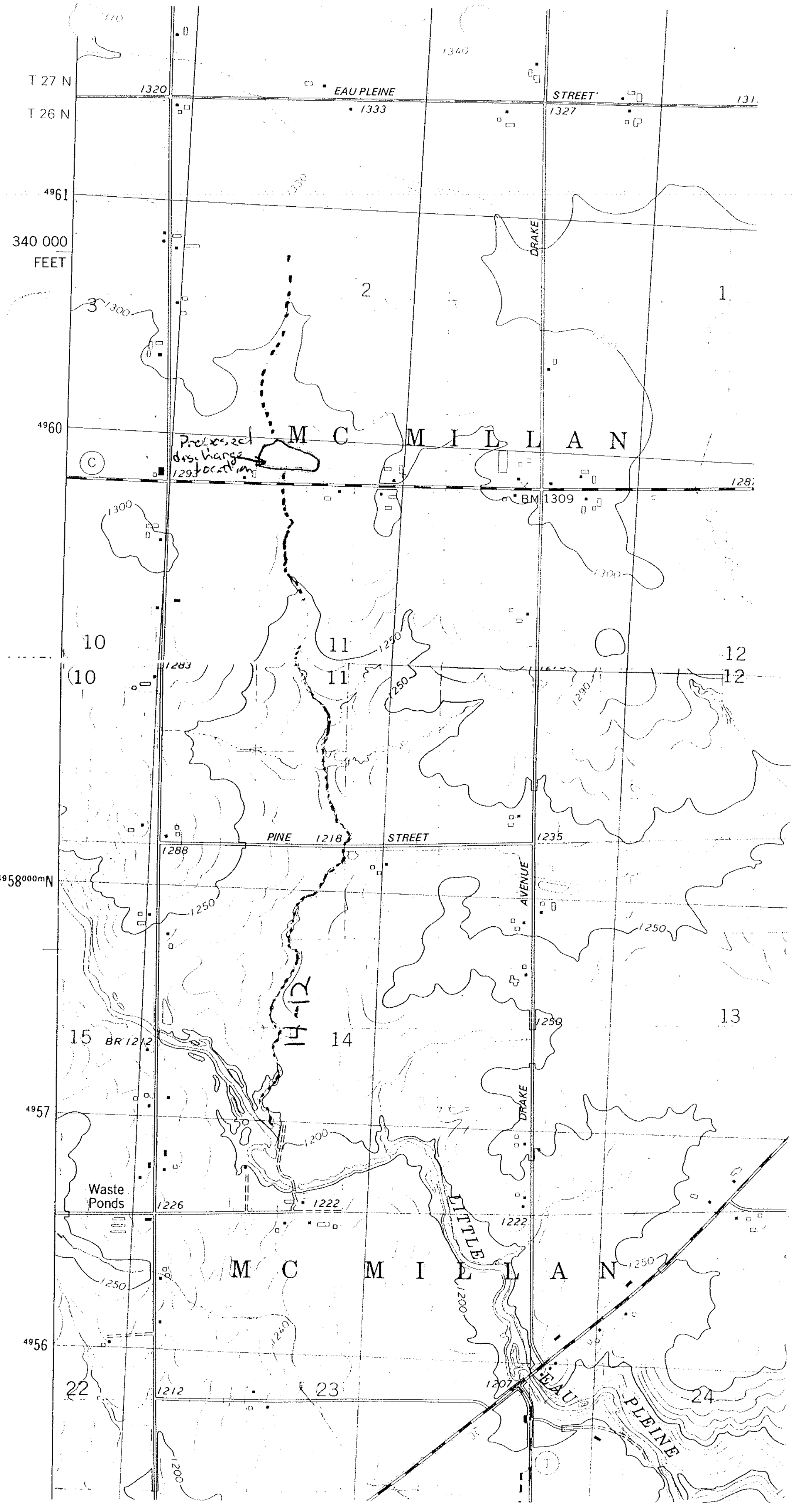
On May 25th, Eric Donaldson and I surveyed the depth of the pond to evaluate its potential to sustain a fishery. On the day of the survey water levels in the pond were at the top of the outfall structure and a small discharge was observed to the tributary, probably a result of recent rainfall. The pond was surveyed at five locations with a maximum depth of seven feet found in a small area near the outfall structure. Other readings recorded in the main basin of the pond found depths to range from four to six feet. The water was light brown in appearance and water clarity was less than 20 inches. Based on the relative shallow depth of the pond, it is unlikely the pond maintains suitable dissolved oxygen levels through the winter to support a game fishery or a diverse forage fishery.

Aquatic invertebrate samples were collected and observed in the field on March 2nd from the unnamed tributary downstream from the pond at CTH C. The sample below the pond consisted of an invertebrate population dominated by isopods and some diptera larva and leeches. A sample from Pine Road, downstream one and half miles, had an invertebrate community consisting of isopods, dipterans, leeches and a few caddis flies and riffle beetles. Based on this field inspection, it appears the unnamed tributary has a semi tolerant to tolerant aquatic insect community. The tributary at Pine Road was observed again on May 25th , however no fish were seen in the pool below the bridge. On both visits, streamflow was slightly higher at the Pine Street crossing and some forage fish would likely utilize this tributary during

higher flows. Based on conversations with the Fishery Biologist, it is unlikely this tributary is utilized by gamefish during the year.

Stream Classification Recommendation:

The pond in T26NR3E SW SW Sec 2 to the mouth of the unnamed tributary in T26NR3E SE SW Sec 14 should be classified as a Limited Forage Fish Community based on the potential for upstream migration of tolerant forage fish during wet periods.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