

## AERIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR Hodges and Otter Creek <br> Macoupin County

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The DRAFT TMDL study of Hodge’s Creek completed by Limno-Tech, Inc in July 2005. The report lists Otter Lake, a 765 acre water supply reservoir, as impaired by manganese, however Hodges Creek watershed is yet to be addressed in a TMDL report. Hodges Creek has been identified by IEPA as a waterbody impaired by Dissolved Oxygen (DO).

## Assessment Procedure

Low level geo-referenced video was taken of Hodges and Otter Creek in March, 2004. Video taping was completed by Fostaire Helicopters, Sauget, IL, using a camera mounted beneath a helicopter to record data from just above tree top level in DVD format for further evaluation and assessment. Video mapping began at the upper reaches of Otter Creek just above the Macoupin-Sangamon County line and preceded downstream to the confluence of Hodges Creek with Macoupin Creek near Rockbridge, IL. Aerial video of tributaries was not part of the project, regardless of the stream size or vegetation.


Fig. 1 Aerial Assessment Map of Hodges Creek
After videotaping the stream, the DVD tapes were processed by USGS to produce a georeferenced DVD showing flight data and location. Next, USGS identified features from the video and created shapefiles containing the GPS location, type of feature identified, and the time on the DVD to allow cross referencing. The shape-files along with the DVD
were then used to identify and locate the points where ground investigations were needed to verify aerial assessment assumptions and gather additional data.

The ground investigations or "ground truthing" is intended to accomplish two primary functions. First, it provides those viewing videos the opportunity to verify the correct interpretation of the video. Second, the video allows the user to identify and gather field data at the most appropriate locations to more closely represent the entire study portion of the stream.


Fig. 2 Channel Profile Hodges and Otter Creek
Detailed elevation data is not available; therefore the channel slope is calculated from USGS topo maps by measuring the channel length between contour lines. The report refers to this as "valley profile" although a true valley profile would use a straight line distance down the floodplain rather than channel length. However, this method is used because it incorporates sinuosity into the calculation and allows the channel slope to be assume equal to "valley slope" in order to estimate channel capacity, velocity, etc., although there are short segments where the channel slope may differ significantly near roads, logjams, knickpoints, etc.

| CHAPTERS ON DVD AND ASSESSMENT REPORT <br> Otter Creek |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DVD |  | Beginning | Report | Cross |
| Disc | DVD chapter | Time | Chapter | Section |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $10: 00$ | 1 | $8,9,10$ |
| 1 | 3 | $20: 00$ | 2 | 6,7 |
| 1 | 4 | $30: 00: 00$ | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 5 | $40: 00: 00$ | 4 | $*$ |
| 2 | 2 | $10: 00$ | 4 | 3,4 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | 3 | $20: 00$ | 5 | $*$ |
| 2 | 4 | $30: 00: 00$ | 6 | 1,2 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | 5 | $40: 00: 00$ | 7 | $*$ |

Note: Flight path is from upstream to downstream

## Fig. 3 DVD Chapters and Report Guide

The DVD has been divided into "chapters" of approximately five minutes of video (Fig. 3) to enhance the ability to navigate within the flight video and provide a simple way to identify and discuss different stream segments. Although the report will begin with a broader more general assessment of the entire study reach, it will also provide an assessment and treatment recommendations by chapter or group of chapters. The chapter divisions are clearly arbitrary and do not reflect "change points" in the stream characteristics or treatment recommendations. For clarity the conclusions and recommendations are presented for each stream "chapter".

## Chapter Division and Cross Section locations

Figures 4 thru 10 below show the locations of the seven (7) chapters and the ten (10) cross sections used to develop the analysis of Hodges and Otter Creeks.

Otter Creek --Chapter 1


Figure 4

Otter Creek --Chapter 2


Figure 5

Otter Creek --Chapter 3


Figure 6

## Otter Creek--Chapter 4



Figure 7

Otter Creek--Chapter 5


Legend
( cross sections Events § Chapters

Figure 8

## Otter Creek--Chapter 6



Figure 9


Figure 10
The major factors indicating channel conditions identified from the aerial assessment have been totaled by DVD chapter in Table 1 below. This tabulation allows a general comparison of the relative dominance of features found in each chapter and provides a
means of comparing stream characteristic between chapters. A discussion of the major differences will follow later in this report.


Table 1 Features by Chapter Identified with Aerial Assessment
Ten cross sections were taken at selected locations on Hodges and Otter Creeks after viewing the DVD's. The cross sections are located at "riffle" locations to best represent the channel characteristics and to allow for comparison of width, depth, $x$-sec. area, etc. along the channel at similar geometric locations. The result of the hydraulic analysis at each site is presented in summary form in Table 2 and the approximate location of each cross section along the channel profile is found in Fig. 2. Exact locations as Eastings and Northings and more detail can be found in Appendix A.

| CROSSSECTIONSUMMARY -OTTER CREEK |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| X-sec | ADA | Q2cfs | BKFcfs | BKF/sq.m. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { BKF } \\ & \text { Wdth } \end{aligned}$ | MaxD | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Vel. } \\ & \text { PSS } \end{aligned}$ | W/D | $\begin{gathered} \text { TopBK } \\ \text { Depth } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { BKF } \\ \text { X-Area } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { TopBk } \\ & \text { X-Area } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { BKFcfs/ } \\ \text { Q2cfs } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Top BK/ } \\ & \text { BKF area } \end{aligned}$ |
| 1 | 229.92 | 5190 | 3185 | 13.90 | 80 | 15.7 | 3.9 | 10.3 | 17 | 821 | 941 | 0.61 | 115 |
| 2 | 187.81 | 4649 | 2771 | 14.80 | 85 | 126 | 3.6 | 9.4 | 13.7 | 769 | 867 | 0.60 | 1.13 |
| 3 | 11238 | 3356 | 962 | 8.60 | 61 | 9.2 | 27 | 10.5 | 9.3 | 355 | 361 | 0.29 | 1.02 |
| 4 | 105.72 | 3444 | 1800 | 17.00 | 59 | 9.4 | 4.1 | 7.9 | 112 | 442 | 564 | 0.52 | 1.28 |
| 5 | 65.38 | 2537 | 1303 | 19.90 | 44 | 10.4 | 4 | 5.9 | 128 | 328 | 463 | 0.51 | 141 |
| 6 | 58.99 | 2568 | 115 | 19.61 | 53 | 8 | 3.6 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 324 | 370 | 0.45 | 114 |
| 7 | 5267 | 2291 | 975 | 18.50 | 53 | 8.1 | 3.4 | 9.7 | 9.2 | 291 | 355 | 0.43 | 122 |
| 8 | 6.84 | 496 | 164 | 24.00 | 22 | 4 | 26 | 7.5 | 6 | 64 | 120 | 0.33 | 1.88 |
| 9 | 3.41 | 280 | 102 | 29.90 | 15 | 3 | 3.1 | 6.8 | 5.9 | 33 | 104 | 0.36 | 3.15 |
| 10 | 3.09 | 252 | 87 | 28.20 | 15 | 29 | 29 | 7.5 | 5.3 | 30 | 109 | 0.35 | 3.63 |

Table 2 Cross Section Summary

## General Observations

1. No USGS flow data is available for Hodges or Otter Creeks. The flow data from Macoupin Creek would appear to be the best available showing a 1.5 yr. R.I discharge of approximately 9.2 cfs/sq. mile of drainage area. Hodges Creek discharge appears to be somewhat higher at 14 to 20 cfs/sq. mile below Otter Lake. This discharge determined from field indicators appears to be consistent given drainage on Hodges Creek is much smaller ( 50 to 230 sq. miles compared to 868 sq. miles at the Macoupin gage site) and smaller watersheds tend to have higher per unit discharge rates.
2. Width/Depth ratios throughout Hodges and Otter Creeks are narrow with the largest ratio being 10.5 and 5 of 10 cross sections have a W/D ratio of less than 8.0. Combined with the incision that has already occurred and the presence of active downcutting these low ratios indicate a very unstable channel dimension.
3. Previously identified degradation on the receiving waters of Macoupin Creek will continue to drive the degradation process in spite of treatment applied to the Hodges Creek watershed.
4. Gradient below Otter Lake drops to $4.6 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{mile}$ from $14 \mathrm{ft} / \mathrm{mile}$ above Otter Lake. The steeper gradient above Otter Lake is degrading also although Otter Lake obviously acts as a grade control to prevent any degradation below Otter Lake from impacting the area above the dam.
5. Larger cobble founding the bed above Otter Lake may be armoring the bed and reducing or halting degradation, however the channel has already incised approximately 3 times its bankfull flow depth and will continue to cause the channel to widen as predicted by the Channel Evolution Model (CEM).
6. The low Width/Depth ratios make use of redirection techniques for lateral migration very limited. Therefore all lateral migration will be assumed to need Stone Toe Protection.
7. Rock Riffle Grade Control Structures are being recommended throughout this study reach. As the gradient decreases below Otter Lake and continues to decrease downstream the riffle heights can be increased without negatively impacting flooding or backwater conditions. Riffle heights can reach 4.0 ft . or more in the lower reaches which impact the cost but also are more effective in dissipating energy and providing better aquatic habitat.

## Recommendations

## Chapter 1

Chapter 1 is the very upper end of the aerial assessment and represents the only portion inventoried above Otter Lake. Cross section 8, 9 and 10 are in this segment. Cross sections 9 and 10 show incision to a depth of over 3 times the bankfull depth. Section 8 is nearer to Otter Lake and influenced by its backwater effects limiting incision to slightly less than twice the bankfull depth. Cross section 8 is depositional in CEM stage 5 while 9 and 10 are degrading although they are partially armored by the heavy cobble eroded from the glacial till exposed in this reach. There are 16 breakpoints and 23 erosion sites identified in chapter 1.

The recommendation is to install Rock Riffle Grade Control structures above cross section 8 to a point about one half mile above cross section 10 . While preliminary analysis shows that riffle more than 0.6 ft . in height will increase the water surface profile significantly this segment is incised approximately 2.5 to 3.0 ft . and therefore riffles 2.0 ft . high can be safely installed without increasing out of bank flow. Lateral bank treatment is recommended using Stone Toe Protection at the 23 identified sites. Table 3 shows the estimated treatment costs and quantities required for this segment.

| TREATMENT --CHAPTER 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lateral Bank Treatment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chapter | Erosion <br> Sites | Average <br> Length(ft) | Total <br> Length | Average <br> Cost/foot | Total <br> Cost |
| 1 | 23 | 75 | 1725 | $\$ 25.00$ | $\$ 43,125.00$ |
| Total | 23 |  | 1725 |  | $\$ 43,125.00$ |


| Rock Riffle Grade Control |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chapter | Number <br> Riffles | Average <br> Tons Stone | Total <br> Tons Stone | Average <br> Cost/ton | Total <br> Cost |  |  |
| 1 | 125 | 90 | 11250 | $\$ 30.00$ | $\$ 337,500.00$ |  |  |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 2 5}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 2 5 0}$ |  |  |  |  | $\$ 337,500.00$ |

Table 3. Treatment for Otter Creek Chapter 1

Otter Creek --Chapter 1


Figure 11. Chapter 1 Features

## Chapter 2

This segment begins below Otter Lake and extends downstream approximately 4 miles. Cross sections 6 and 7 are located in chapter 2 . There are 30 erosion sites, 20 geotechnical failures and 11 logjams identified in this reach as well as 29 breakpoints. The identification of such a large number of problems indicate a very unstable channel in this segment, although the cross sections do not indicate significant degradation. Cross sections 6 and 7 have bankfull elevations within one foot of the floodplain elevations and the diameter of the bedload is less than 1 inch however no exposed residual material was found in the "breakpoints" identified.

This segment is in CEM stage 4 where the channel is both degrading and widening resulting in the multiple problems of bank failure through lateral erosion and geotechnical failures.

The recommended treatment is to install Rock Riffle Grade control structures approximately 2.5 ft . above the riffle (breakpoint) elevations. The increased pool depths created will dissipate energy, halt downcutting and improve aquatic habitat. Lateral bank erosion is severe and will require additional treatment with Stone Toe protection. The estimated treatment needs and cost are presented in Table 4 below.

| TREATMENT --CHAPTER 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lateral Bank Treatment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chapter | Erosion Sites | Average Length(ft) | Total Length | Average Cost/foot | Total Cost |
| 2 | 50 | 300 | 15000 | \$25.00 | \$375,000.00 |
| Total | 50 |  | 15000 |  | \$375,000.00 |
| Rock Riffle Grade Control |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Rock Riffles | Average Tonnage | Ave. Cost Ton | Average Cost/Riffle |  |
| 3 | 70 | 300 | \$30.00 | \$9,000.00 | \$630,000.00 |
| Total | 70 |  |  | 9,000 | \$630,000.00 |

Table 4. Treatment for Otter Creek Chapter 2

## Otter Creek--Chapter 2



Figure 12. Chapter 2 Features


Logjam in Chapter 2 caused by failing banks

## Chapter 3

This reach is about 4.5 miles long and extends downstream approximately one half mile below Hettick Road. Chapter 3 contains cross section 5 which is located below Circle Tree Road and is located in a definite "knickzone" where degradation is severe. The channel is incised approximately 2 feet at this location and has a very narrow width/depth ratio of 5.9 indicating a very unstable channel. Chapter 3 has 35 erosion sites, plus 10 additional sites identified with severe erosion, 19 geotechnical failures and 26 breakpoints identified by the aerial assessment.

This reach is extremely unstable and will require use of Rock Riffle Grade control structures and lateral bank treatment to achieve any stability in the near future. The preliminary analysis indicates that riffles may be built to a height of 3.0 feet with no impact on out of bank flow or backwater. Given the incision that has already occurred even greater riffle heights would be feasible and perhaps desirable. For this report a riffle height of 3.0 ft . will be used to determine estimated cost. Table 5 provides the estimated treatment needs for Chapter 3.

| TREATMENT --CHAPTER 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lateral Bank Protection |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chapter | Erosion <br> Sites | Average <br> Length(ft) | Total <br> Length | Average <br> Cost/foot | Total <br> Cost |  |
| 3 | 64 | 300 | 19200 | $\$ 25.00$ | $\$ 480,000.00$ |  |
| Total | 64 |  | 19200 |  | $\$ 480,000.00$ |  |


| Rock Riffle Grade Control |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Rock <br> Riffles | Average <br> Tonnage | Ave. Cost <br> Ton | Average <br> Cost/Riffle | Total <br> Cost |
| Chapter | 79 | 350 | $\$ 30.00$ | $\$ 10,500.00$ | $\$ 829,500.00$ |
| Total | 79 |  |  | $\mathbf{1 0 , 5 0 0}$ | $\$ 829,500.00$ |

Table 5. Treatment needs for Chapter 3


Failing banks in Chapter 3 causing mature trees to collapse into channel


Figure 13. Chapter 3 Features


Severe Erosion in Chapter 3

## Chapter 4

This chapter is approximately 6 miles in length ending about a mile above the IL. Rte. 108 bridge. Cross sections 3 and 4 are located in this chapter. This segment has been extensively channelized and no doubt contributes significantly to the problems identified in chapters 2 and 3 . However, the same problems of degradation and widening are occurring below this site as well, but at a reduced intensity and are thought to be impacted by the extensive channelization and downcutting found downstream in Macoupin Creek. Cross section 3 near the end of chapter 4 appears to be well connected to the floodplain, however there is a knickpoint at this location on residual soil material indicating active downcutting is beginning to occur and will migrate upstream if left untreated.

This chapter has 44 erosion sites, 16 geotechnical failures and 16 breakpoints identified by the aerial assessment. Treatment recommendations for this segment remain the same with a need for Rock Riffle Grade control structures approximately 3.0 ft . high and lateral bank protection with Stone Toe Protection. Table 6 provides the estimated treatment needs.

| TREATMENT --CHAPTER 4 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lateral Bank Treatment |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chapter | Erosion <br> Sites | Average <br> Length(ft) | Total <br> Length | Average <br> Cost/foot | Total <br> Cost |
| 4 | 60 | 300 | 18000 | $\$ 25.00$ | $\$ 450,000.00$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 0}$ |  | $\mathbf{1 8 0 0 0}$ |  | $\$ 450,000.00$ |


| Rock Riffle Grade Control |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chapter | Number <br> Riffles | Average <br> Tons Stone | Total <br> Tons Stone | Average <br> Cost/ton | Total <br> Cost |
| 4 | 80 | 500 | 40000 | $\$ 30.00$ | $\$ 1,200,000.00$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{8 0}$ |  | 40000 |  | $\$ 1,200,000.00$ |

Table 6. Treatment needs for Chapter 4

## Otter Creek--Chapter 4



Figure 14. Chapter 4 Features

## Chapter 5 through 7

These chapters represent the remaining length of Otter and Hodges Creeks ending at the confluence with Macoupin Creek. The total length of these segments is approximately 10 miles. In this segment there is a marked decrease in breakpoints although the number of erosion sites and geotechnical failures remains fairly consistent with the upper chapters.

Given present knowledge about the downcutting occurring in Macoupin Creek and the continued stream instability it seems highly likely that even this lower reach of Hodges Creek is degrading. Cross sections 1 and 2 located in Chapter 6 would tend to support that conclusion as the floodplain is at least 1 foot above the bankfull elevation.

Therefore, evening the absence of obvious "breakpoints" the recommendation is to continue with the installation of Rock Riffle Grade control structures to halt any current downcutting masked by low flow conditions re-depositing bedload and to prevent additional degradation on Macoupin Creek from migrating up Hodges Creek.
Rock Riffle Grade control structures can be at least 4.0 ft . high in this segment with no impact on out of bank flow (flooding) or backwater.
Table 7 provides the estimated treatment needs for this reach.

| TREATMENT --CHAPTER 5-7 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lateral Bank Protection <br> Erosion <br> Sites |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average <br> Length(ft) | Total <br> Length | Average <br> Cost/foot | Total <br> Cost |  |  |
| 5 | 63 | 400 | 25200 | $\$ 25.00$ | $\$ 630,000.00$ |
| 6 | 58 | 400 | 23200 | $\$ 25.00$ | $\$ 580,000.00$ |
| 7 | 20 | 400 | 8000 | $\$ 25.00$ | $\$ 200,000.00$ |
| Total | 141 |  | 56400 |  | $\$ 1,410,000.00$ |


| Rock Riffle Grade Control |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chapter | Rock Riffles | Average Tonnage | Ave. Cost Ton | Average Cost/Riffle | Total Cost |
| 5 | 40 | 800 | \$30.00 | \$24,000.00 | \$960,000.00 |
| 6 | 52 | 800 | \$30.00 | \$24,000.00 | \$1,248,000.00 |
| 7 | 14 | 800 | \$30.00 | \$24,000.00 | \$336,000.00 |
| Total | 106 |  |  | \$24,000.00 | \$2,544,000.00 |

Table 7. Treatment needs for Chapter 5 through 7

## Otter Creek--Chapter 5



Figure 15. Chapter 5 Features

## Otter Creek--Chapter 6



Figure 16. Chapter 6 Features


Logjam in Chapter 6


Geotechnical failure just above the confluence of Hodges and Macoupin Creek

## Otter Creek--Chapter 7



Figure 17. Chapter 7 Features

## APPENDIX A

## CROSS SECTION DATA



## Natural Open Channel Flow



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## Natural Open Channel Flow




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