

# Proposed Wetland Screening Process for Stormwater Program



Tom Nedland  
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Wetland Identification Coordinator



# Stormwater Program and Wetlands

## Stormwater Program's Responsibility:

- Protect state and federal waters from stormwater discharges
  - Largely implemented through BMP's
- Waters of the state include wetlands
  - Before issuing permit approval, Stormwater staff must ensure wetlands will not be adversely impacted by a project



# Reason For New Process

1. Improve Consistency
2. Eliminate Internal Program Conflicts Related to Wetlands
3. Ensure Due Diligence is Completed in Regard to Wetland Regulations



# Reason For New Process

## 1. Improve Consistency

- Develop guidelines to ensure all stormwater projects receive same level of wetland review across the state

Same process used throughout state





## Reason For New Process

### 2. Eliminate Internal Program Conflicts Related to Wetlands

- Projects will be reviewed in a manner that reduces the possibility of wetland violations through the granting of a stormwater permit
  - Hope to reduce/eliminate unintentional wetland violations
  - Eg.: NOI approved, but wetland delineation not completed or inaccurate



# Reason For New Process

Eliminate Internal Program Conflicts  
Related to Wetlands

Prevent unapproved  
conversions of this  
to.....





# Reason For New Process

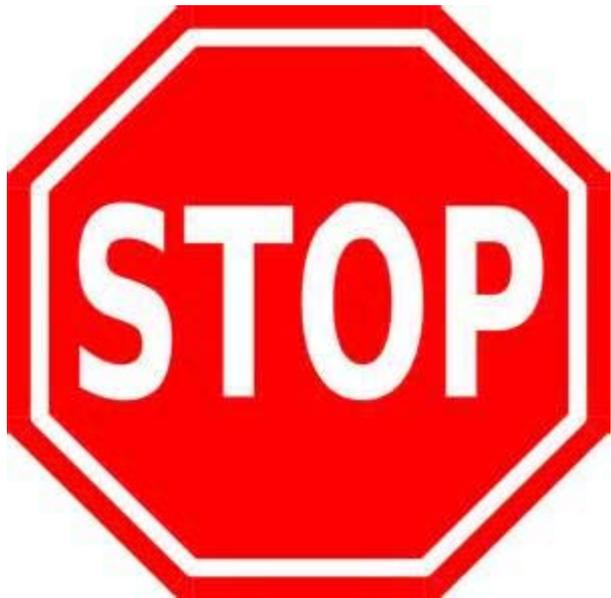
Eliminate Internal Program Conflicts  
Related to Wetlands

Prevent unapproved  
conversions of this  
to.....  
filled wetland



## Reason For New Process

3. Ensure Due Diligence is Completed in Regard to Wetland Regulations
  - Will require approved wetland delineations/wetland reviews before NOI permit is granted if "red flags" identified





# Proposed Process

## Determining Red Flags

- Will be a screening process completed for all stormwater and CAFO projects
- Based on easily accessible tools that are available on-line



# Proposed Process

- Step 1: Review Surface Water Data Viewer
  - Are mapped wetlands present?
  - Are mapped indicator soils present?
  - If so, a wetland review will need to be completed.
  - If mapped wetlands or indicator soils are not present, go to Step 2...

# Proposed Process

- Review Surface Water Data Viewer



WWI – Mapped Wetland Present  
Field Review Needed



Soil – Inclusion/hydric present  
Field Review Needed



# Proposed Process

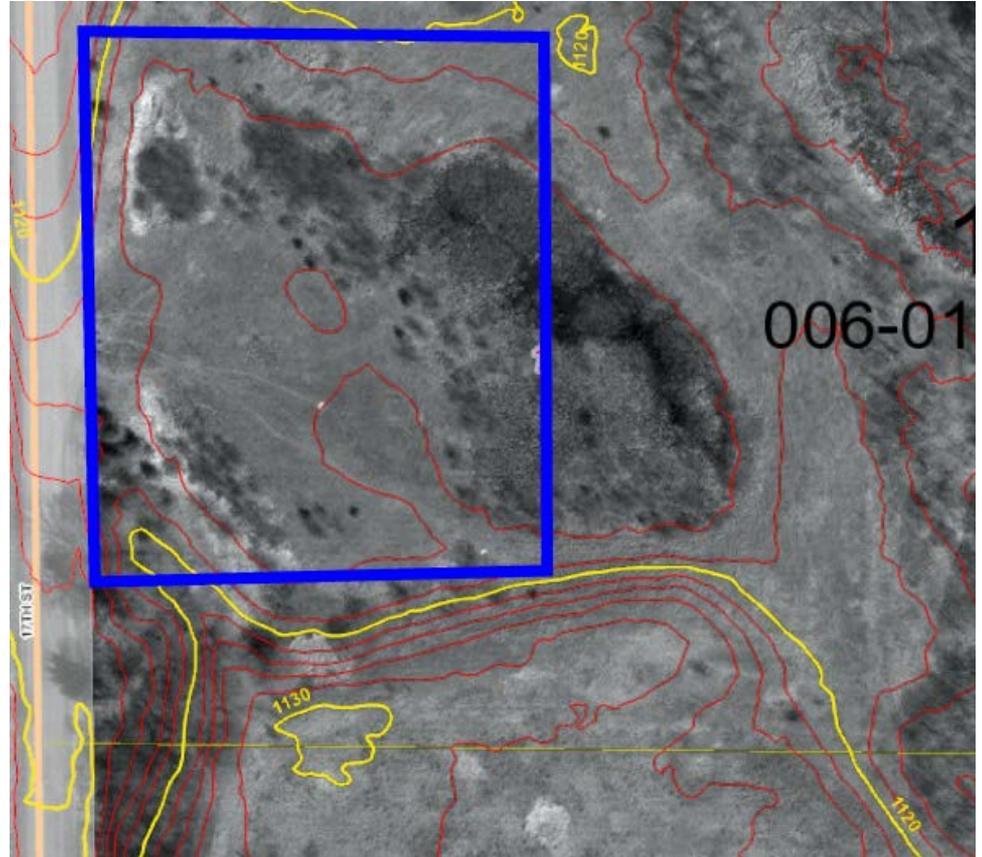
- Step 2: Review best available topography
  - Are mapped waterways present?
  - Are mapped depressions present?
  - If so, a wetland review will need to be completed.
  
  - If best available topography does not suggest wetland, go to Step 3...

# Proposed Process

- Review Best Available Topography



Surface Water Data Viewer  
No “red flags”, but topo...



Topographic Mapping  
Obvious Depression = “red flag”  
Field review required.



# Proposed Process

- Step 3: Review aerial photographs
  - Is standing water visible in review area?
  - Are drowned crops or wet areas in review area?
  - If so, a wetland review will need to be completed.
  - If no red flags observed, likelihood of wetland presence is low. No wetland review required.



## Proposed Process

- Automatic Kickouts – projects not reviewed for wetland presence
  - Areas comprised entirely of asphalt, gravel, or concrete
  - Areas at which the only potential wetlands are known exempt features
    - Will require exemption determination from agencies

# Proposed Process

- Example of projects where “red flags” are not applicable



Project area all impervious?  
No wetland concerns



Potentially exempt area?  
Will require proper approvals  
If exempt no wetland concerns



## Proposed Process

- Will require on-site and off-site reviews
  - On-site reviews: reviews conducted within a project area's footprint
  - Off-site reviews: reviews conducted outside of a project area's footprint
    - Primarily used to determine protective area requirements when access is not possible

# Proposed Process

On-site review for this area

Off-site review for this area to  
determine NR 151 Protective area

13/513

P



# Proposed Process

- If wetland delineation is needed...
  - Stormwater permit will not be approved until concurrence/confirmation is granted
    - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Concurrence
    - WDNR Confirmation Letter
    - Assured Delineator Completed Work
  - Permit considered incomplete if wetland delineation has not been approved prior to submittal



# Proposed Process



On-site review for this area.  
If wetlands delineated on site  
a concurrence letter is required  
before stormwater program can  
approve permit application.



# Proposed Process

- If wetland review shows no wetlands present...
  - Stormwater permit potentially approved without DNR/COE concurrence
    - Stormwater reviewer may need to consult with staff more familiar with Wetland Delineation protocols



## Goal For New Process

1. Less permit delays because all wetland issues will have been addressed prior to permit submittal
2. Make wetland review process consistent throughout the state



# Proposed Process – Other Programs

1. Stormwater permits. All applications:
  - Wetland Screening Process
  - Require concurrence/confirmation letters
2. C.A.F.O. permits. All applications
  - Wetland Screening Process
  - Require concurrence/confirmation letters
3. Wetland and Waterway permits:
  - Wetland/Waterway GP's: WMS decision
  - Waterway IP's: WMS decision
  - Wetland IP's: Require concurrence or confirmation letters



# Opportunity to Comment

Guidance will be shared with the public.

- Will be your chance to comment
- We are looking for your feed-back
- Anticipated public posting is May





# Questions

