



### Wetland Banking & Monitoring for Consultants



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### Wetland Banking & Monitoring for Consultants Course Agenda

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Day One</b>                              | <b>Day Two</b>                   |
| - Overview of Wetland Bank Approval Process | - Vegetation Sampling            |
| - Performance Standards Exercise            | - Vegetation Sampling Exercise   |
| - Lunch                                     | - Lunch                          |
| - Setting up a Monitoring Program           | - Vegetation Data Interpretation |
| - Monitoring Well Installation Exercise     | - Monitoring Reports             |
| - Hydrology Monitoring                      |                                  |

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### Wetland Banking Process

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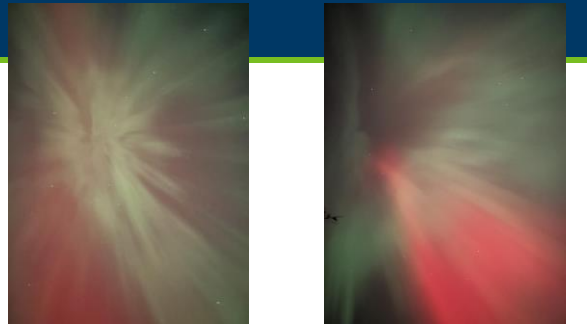
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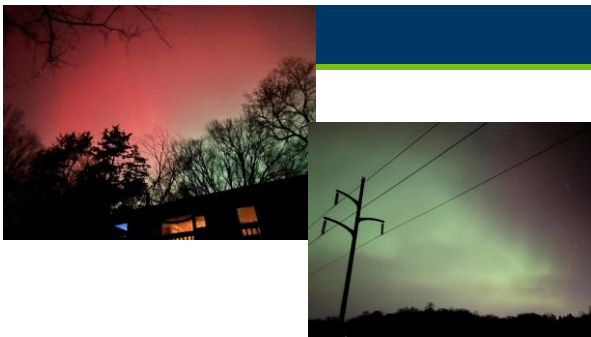
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### Wetland Replacement

State and Federal regulations require wetland impacts to be offset by actions that add or improve wetlands on the landscape (aka...mitigation)



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### Wetland Replacement

#### Replacement Types

- PRM (Permittee Responsible Mitigation or Project-specific)
- ILF
- Wetland Bank



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### Wetland Replacement

#### Replacement Types

- PRM (Project-specific)
- ILF
- Wetland Bank

- The person impacting a wetland is fully responsible for providing replacement
- Design, build, manage, maintain, and monitor
- Directly tied to the replacement site for at least 5 years

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### Wetland Replacement

• Replacement Types

• PRM (Project-specific)

• ILF

• Wetland Bank

• Once the fee is paid (ILF) or credits are purchased (Bank), the person impacting a wetland is done.

• The ILF or bank "Sponsor" takes on the replacement responsibility and must manage, maintain, and monitor the site.

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### Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program

- 1996 State Statute requires BWSR to provide compensatory mitigation for local road authorities
- These wetland credits also satisfy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 404 permit requirements.

Local Road Authority Impacts Wetland for Road Repair/Rehabilitation



BWSR Provides Wetland Mitigation Required by State and Federal Permits



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### Wetland Bank

Market-based commodity system (Price not determined by BWSR)

Wetlands are restored, enhanced, created, or preserved to generate wetland "credits"

Credits deposited into account

Credits sold to others to offset wetland losses somewhere else

Goal is no-net-loss

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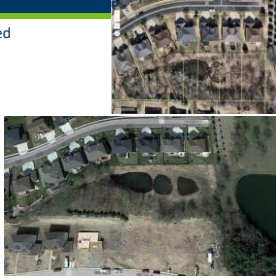
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### Why Wetland Banks

2008 Federal Rule – wetland banks are preferred replacement type

- Larger more ecologically valuable sites (> 5 ac)
- Bank instrument/plan approved using rigorous scientific and technical analysis, planning, and implementation
- Entire site is permanently protected by a conservation held by BWSR (State)
- Success must be demonstrated BEFORE credits are released
- No temporal loss of wetland function or area
- Reduced risk and uncertainty



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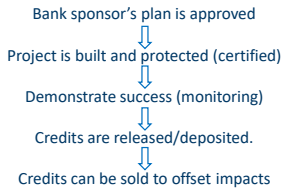
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### Why Wetland Banks



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### Why Wetland Banks



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### How are Credits Generated

- Preserve (>80% area)
- Vegetation
- Hydrology
- Area
  
- Offset wetland losses elsewhere



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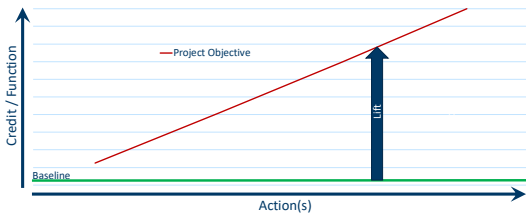
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### How are Credits Generated



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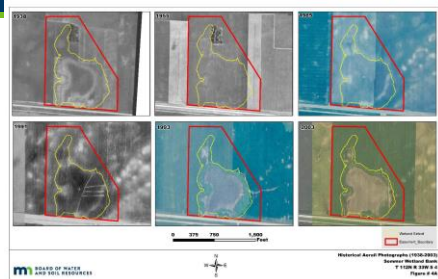
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### How are Credits Generated



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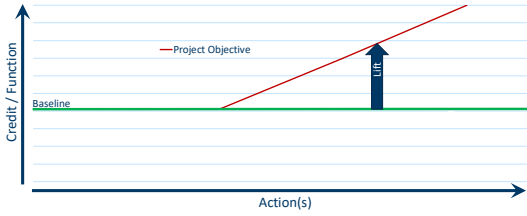
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### How are Credits Generated



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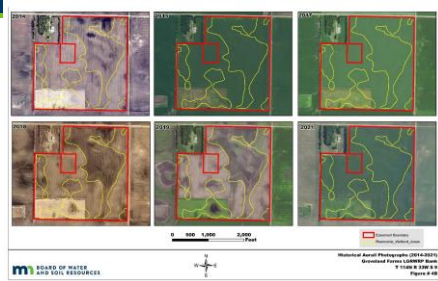
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### How are Credits Generated



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### How are Credits Generated

General Action Categories

- Restoration
- Enhancement
- Creation
- Preservation
- Buffer



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### How are Credits Generated

#### General Action Categories

- Restoration
- Enhancement
- Creation
- Preservation
- Buffer

- Fully or partially drained wetland
  - Vegetation, Hydrology, and Area\*
  - High credit yield (typically 50-100%)
- Re-Establishment\* vs. Rehabilitation

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### How are Credits Generated

#### General Action Categories

- Restoration
- Enhancement
- Creation
- Preservation
- Buffer

- Wetland with no significant drainage
- Vegetation only
- Low to moderate credit yield (33-50%)

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### How are Credits Generated

#### General Action Categories

- Restoration
- Enhancement
- Creation
- Preservation
- Buffer

- Wetland created where none existed
- Vegetation, Hydrology, and Area
- Moderate to high credit yield (50-100%)



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### How are Credits Generated

#### General Action Categories

- Restoration
- Enhancement
- Creation
- **Preservation**
- Buffer

- Existing high-quality unique wetland protected and sustained
- Under credible threat of loss, important functions, contributes to watershed sustainability
- No Vegetation, Hydrology, or Area
- Low credit yield (12.5%)

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### How are Credits Generated

#### General Action Categories

- Restoration
- Enhancement
- Creation
- Preservation
- **Buffer**

- Upland adjacent to wetland improved or protected.
- Improves or protects wetland function and sustains functional improvements from adjacent actions
- Required when feasible (don't fill in wetland to create buffer)
- Low credit yield (10-25%)

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### How are Credits Generated

#### WCA Credit Actions

- Subp. 2 – Buffer
- Subp. 3 – Restoration, completely drained
- Subp. 4 – Restoration, partially drained
- Subp. 5 – Vegetation on farmed wetland
- Subp. 6 – Protection, previously restored
- Subp. 7 – Creation
- Subp. 8 – ENRV
- Subp. 9 – Preservation

#### Corps Credit Actions

- Buffer
- Re-Establishment
- Rehabilitation
- Enhancement
- Extended Restoration
- Establishment
- Any or None
- Preservation

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### What about the new Cultivated Field Credit (CFC)?

#### WCA Credit Actions

Subp. 2 – Buffer

**Subp. 3 – Restoration, completely drained**

**Subp. 4 – Restoration, partially drained**

Subp. 5 – Vegetation on farmed wetland

Subp. 6 – Protection, previously restored

Subp. 7 – Creation

Subp. 8 – ENRV

Subp. 9 – Preservation

#### Corps Credit Actions

Buffer

**Re-Establishment**

**Rehabilitation**

Enhancement

Extended Restoration

Establishment

Any or None

Preservation

28

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### What about the new Cultivated Field Credit (CFC)?

#### Guidance Document

- Wetlands must be drained
- Subject to effects of cultivation
- Read and use the guidance document

Call it “CFC – Reestablishment or Rehabilitation”



29

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### Review Teams

- WCA LGU and Corps use review teams
- Review teams provide comments to each program lead
- Public comments can be received
- Program lead responds to the bank sponsor



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### Review Teams

#### WCA Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP)

- LGU
- SWCD
- BWSR
- DNR

#### Corps Interagency Review Team (IRT)

- Corps
- EPA
- BWSR
- DNR
- FAA
- Others

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### Review Teams

#### BWSR Review Roles:

- WS is BWSR's lead and coordinates BWSR comments to TEP
- Evaluate easement issues
- Engineering comments
- Statewide consistency
- Technical answers and interpretations
- Coordinate with Corps

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### Bank Review Phases

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## Bank Phases



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## Draft Prospectus

- Optional
- No decisions required
- Complex or difficult projects
- Minimal investment
- New Form!

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## Draft Prospectus

**WCA Review Process:**

- LGU distributes document to TEP member for review
- Optional phase for WCA, no NOA or 15.99 time-limits
- TEP members comment and discuss the project's potential
- No engineering review
- TEP plans a site visit

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Draft Prospectus

WCA Outcome:

- Comments received and project discussed at TEP meeting
- TEP writes Findings and recommendation for bank sponsor
- Sponsor decides what to do
  
- Goal of TEP findings within 30 days

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Draft Prospectus

Corps Outcomes:

- IRT comments received and meeting held if needed
- Recommendation: contact Corps to schedule a site visit if you're within the growing season
- Corps PM writes letter to bank sponsor indicating whether the site has good potential for approval or not.
- Goal: Corps determination on potential within 30 days.
- Sponsor decides to proceed or not

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Draft Prospectus

General Outcome Options

- Your project has potential to generate bank credits! Proceed to the Prospectus phase!
- Or...here are some opportunities and obstacles to address as you move forward.
- Or...there are some significant challenges you face, and we recommend you not proceed
  
- Comments are commensurate with information provided

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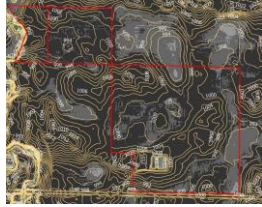
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## Site Considerations

What makes a good bank

- Look at historical conditions...was it historically wetland?
- Soils data (hydric soil/drainage classification)
- Restoring hydrology (tile blocks and/or ditch plugs)
- Lidar
- Will it affect neighboring properties
- Minimal grading or construction (costs add up quickly)
- Look at Restorable Wetland Index (NRRI – U of M)




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## Prospectus

- Required by Corps
- Not required by WCA
- Baseline Information
- Concept Plans
  - Justify Credit Actions
  - Justify Credit Allocation

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41

## Prospectus

WCA Review Process

- LGU distributes Prospectus to TEP members for review
- Optional phase for WCA, no NOA or 15.99 time-limits
- Engineering review requested
- TEP site visit if needed
- TEP members assemble comments for meeting and discussion

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Prospectus

General Considerations

- Baseline information must justify credit actions and allocations
- Some credit actions require more information
- Use the form and read the headings to provide what is requested
- Project concept considered but no detailed plans required
- Comments commensurate with information provided\*

43

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Prospectus

- No performance standards needed
- No credit release schedule needed
- No monitoring plan needed
- Focus on Baseline Conditions and credit eligibility
- Title opinion recommended

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Prospectus

- WCA Outcome:
  - TEP and engineering comments received and project discussed at TEP meeting
  - TEP writes Findings based on comments and discussion
  - Sponsor decides to proceed or not
- Goal of TEP findings within 60 days

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## Prospectus

### COE Outcome:

- Remember, Prospectus REQUIRED by COE
- Outcome is the Initial Evaluation Letter (IEL) stating whether or not the site has potential to provide compensatory mitigation
- Should receive IEL within 90 days of a complete submittal

46

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## Mitigation Plan/MBI

**Wetland Mitigation Proposal**  
**Mitigation Plan (Full Application) BWSR**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name	
Project Location	
Project Description	
Project Sponsor	
Project Contact	
Project Start Date	
Project End Date	
Project Status	

**MITIGATION PLAN INFORMATION**

Mitigation Type	
Mitigation Location	
Mitigation Size	
Mitigation Species	
Mitigation Start Date	
Mitigation End Date	
Mitigation Status	

**PROJECT CHECKLIST**

Project Description	
Mitigation Plan	
Mitigation Site Map	
Mitigation Species List	
Mitigation Schedule	
Mitigation Budget	
Mitigation Monitoring Plan	
Mitigation Final Report	

- Required for both programs
- NOA required
- Section 15.99 time-limits!
- LGU Decision Required\*
- "Attachment A" to Corps MBI
- Plan Details and Final Crediting

47

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## Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI)

### What is an MBI?

- Required by the Corps (it is not a WCA document)
- Legal agreement signed by bank sponsor and the Corps
- Dictates operation, establishment, and conditions of the bank
- MBI includes a Mitigation Plan as an attachment

48

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Comprehensive Obligations Flow  
 "Timeline for Bank or LGU Instrument Approval"

Phase	Activity	Start	End	Responsible Party
Phase 1	Initial Review of Application	01/01/2025	01/15/2025	Bank
	Initial Review of Application	01/01/2025	01/15/2025	Bank
Phase 2	Review of Application	01/15/2025	02/15/2025	Bank
	Review of Application	01/15/2025	02/15/2025	Bank
Phase 3	Review of Application	02/15/2025	03/15/2025	Bank
	Review of Application	02/15/2025	03/15/2025	Bank
Phase 4	Review of Application	03/15/2025	04/15/2025	Bank
	Review of Application	03/15/2025	04/15/2025	Bank
Phase 5	Review of Application	04/15/2025	05/15/2025	Bank
	Review of Application	04/15/2025	05/15/2025	Bank

### Draft MBI/Mitigation Plan

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49

### Draft MBI/Mitigation Plan

#### WCA Review Process

- 15.99 applies so LGU reviews for completeness and sends NOA
- LGU distributes to TEP members for review
- Engineering review if construction included
- TEP site visit if needed
- TEP members assemble comments for meeting and discussion
- 15.99 time limit extension should be planned

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### Draft MBI/Mitigation Plan

- Button-up baseline information
- Accurate credit calculations needed
- Credit release schedule needed
- Performance standards needed
- Detailed vegetation plans needed
- Detailed construction plans needed
- Detailed monitoring plans needed

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Performance Standards

Performance standards determine "if" credits can be released

- Observable or measurable physical, chemical, and/or biological attributes confirming project objectives are met
- Demonstrate improvement beyond baseline condition
- Show progression to the Final release
- All credit areas and actions need to achieve their standard(s) for credits to be released

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Performance Standards

Common hydrology metrics\*

- Meet standard for 2 full growing seasons
- Reference site ( $\pm$  20%)
- Water table/inundation timing and duration measurements
- Expect wells with daily readings

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Performance Standards

Common vegetation metrics:

- Interim 1 met for 2 consecutive seasons
- Interim 1 NNI relative cover  $\geq$  50%
- Final NNI relative cover  $\geq$  70% - 90%
- Species richness of 5, 10, and 15 NNI species for most communities
- > 50% hydrophytes for wetland communities
- Maximum bare ground/open water area
- Multi-strata communities may have metrics in each stratum

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Draft MBI/Mitigation Plan

WCA Review Results

- Expect multiple MP submittals
- Track 15.99 time-limit and extend as needed
- TEP and engineering comments received and discussed at TEP meeting
- TEP writes Findings and recommendations to LGU based on comments and discussion
- If plan approval is not recommended the TEP instructs the sponsor to resubmit a revised MP to address findings

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Draft MBI/Mitigation Plan

WCA Review Results

- If plan approval is recommended the LGU makes their decision and sends NOD
- Clearly identify and retain the approved Mitigation Plan
- WCA and Corps should approve the same plans whenever possible
- Goal of TEP findings within 90 days (for each version)

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Draft MBI/Mitigation Plan

Corps Outcome

- Corps PM considers IRT comments and notifies sponsor whether the Draft MBI is generally acceptable and whether they can proceed to Final MBI or not ([Status Update Letter aka SUL](#))
- Options:
  - If the Draft MBI is acceptable the sponsor can proceed to the Final MBI phase, usually with minor edits
  - If the Corps determines the draft Instrument is NOT generally acceptable, the sponsor cannot automatically proceed to FMBI.
  - There may also be times when the Corps wants to review just a couple parts of a DMBI before letting the sponsor proceed to FMBI (ex. Updated performance standards)

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## Final MBI

- This is a Corps only step and is required
- Sponsor submits Final MBI to IRT members
- FMBI content:
  - All the same items as were needed for a complete Draft Instrument, updated
  - PLUS "other information deemed necessary by the DE"  
...aka...items identified in previous Corps letters
  - PLUS a narrative from the sponsor documenting how they addressing previous Corps and IRT comments

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## Final MBI



Day 0 - Sponsor submits Final Instrument to All IRT members



By Day 30 - Corps notifies IRT of intent to approve/not approve, thus initiating their opportunity to initiate the "dispute resolution process"



IRT has 15 days from notification to dispute Corps decision



Corps arranges for signatures from the IRT if no dispute

= 45 days

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## After Approval

Once both programs approve the MBI/Mitigation Plan a check should be completed to identify programmatic differences.

Bank sponsor implements their plan, monitors the site, and if performance standards are achieved they request credit deposits in accordance with approved release schedule

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Here is what I do...

- Submit Prospectus (Phase 1)
- Receive IEL/TEP Comments
- Address IEL/TEP Comments in "Draft" Full Application/DMBI (not formerly requesting approval from WCA as this is draft) (Phase 2)
- Receive Status Update Letter (SUL)/TEP Comments
- Address SUL/TEP Comments in "Final" Full Application/FMBI (now I request WCA approval) (Phase 3) – This is where I submit the joint application
- This avoids WCA approval before SUL/FMBI
- 3 phases (4 if you do draft prospectus)

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Questions?



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Overview of Wetland Bank Process – Generating Credits

Ben Carlson – BWSR Wetland Mitigation Coordinator



MWPCP

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Your plan is approved....now what?

- Easement Acceptance
  - Held by the State of MN
- Site Certification
  - As-Built Survey
  - Seed Tags
  - Monumentation
- Monitoring Process
  - Duration of monitoring
  - Performance Standards
  - Deposit of Credits
- Maintenance Responsibilities/Corrective Actions
  - Vegetation Issues
  - Hydrology Issues
  - Encroachment
- Close Out
  - Delineation
  - Final Deposit

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Easement Acquisition

1. Preliminary Ownership Review (Section 1 Documents – Likely started during bank application process)...start with Brittany
2. Legal Boundary Survey
3. Title Insurance Commitment
4. Easement Execution (Review by BWSR and AGO)
5. Easement Recording & Final Title Insurance Policy




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Easement Acquisition

Key Step	Description	BWSR Processing Time	Cost
Easement Initiation	Preliminary ownership and boundary review	15 - 30 Days	\$1,000 (Initial Easement Acquisition Fee)
Legal Boundary Survey	Easement boundary surveyed; certificate of survey provided for BWSR review and comment	30 - 60 Days	\$3,000 - \$6,000 (Surveyor defined)
Title Commitment	Title commitment prepared for BWSR review and comment; title must be cleared by landowner as directed by BWSR	45 - 90 Days	\$1,500 - \$3,000 (Title Agent defined)
Easement Recording / Title Insurance Policy	Easement executed by landowner and state and sent to title agent for recording and title policy	30 - 60 Days	\$2,400 (Final Easement Acquisition Fee)
		120 - 240 Days	\$7,900 - \$12,400

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### Easement Acquisition

Title opinion highly recommended to identify title issues early

- Liens and other easements
- Severed rights
- Mortgage holders must consent to BWSR easement

Access – must be able to access the site

Multiple easements = more complicated



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### Easement Acquisition/Acceptance

- Typically initiated after Mitigation Plan approval
- Sponsor/landowner initiates the easement acquisition process
- Managed by BWSR Easement staff, not Wetland Specialists
- May take 6 months or more, generally 1-2 months
- No easement = no bank = no credits

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### Site Certification – Initial Deposit (15%)

- As-Built Survey
- Seed Tags
- Monumentation Posts
- Recorded Easement/Title Insurance  
(includes legal survey)
- Monitoring wells installed (installation logs)
- Other considerations (public tile abandonment, flowage easement, etc).

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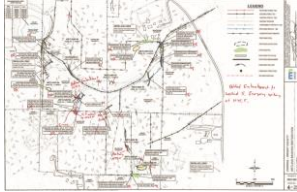
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### Site Certification – Initial Deposit

- As-Built Survey



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### Site Certification – Initial Deposit

- Seed Tags
- Actual tags or PDF of mix use with any adjustments

Seed Size	Rate	Size
Alfalfa	1500	100000
Barley	1500	100000
Beard Grass	1500	100000
Brome	1500	100000
Claytonia	1500	100000
Crabgrass	1500	100000
Fescue	1500	100000
Flourgrass	1500	100000
Goatgrass	1500	100000
Grass	1500	100000
Hard Fescue	1500	100000
Intermediate Fescue	1500	100000
Johnsongrass	1500	100000
Kentucky Bluegrass	1500	100000
Orchardgrass	1500	100000
Panicum	1500	100000
Perennial Ryegrass	1500	100000
Proso Millet	1500	100000
Red Top	1500	100000
Smooth Bromegrass	1500	100000
Sudangrass	1500	100000
Tall Fescue	1500	100000
Timothy	1500	100000
Wheat	1500	100000

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### Site Certification – Initial Deposit

- Monument signs/Posts
- BWSR Template
- Where to get them...



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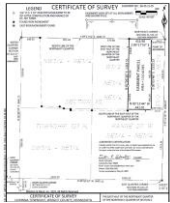
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### Site Certification – Initial Deposit

- Recorded Easement/Title Insurance (includes legal survey)



48) Shall not place anything on the Easement Parcel(s).

49) Shall not place any material, substance or other objects on the Easement Parcel(s), or once or continue any type of structure, whether temporary or permanent, on the Easement Parcel(s).

50) Shall not allow vehicular traffic on the Easement Parcel(s) except for the purpose of implementing construction or maintenance activities specifically authorized in the Plan.

51) Shall not allow the occupancy of the Easement Parcel(s) for any uses including planting, building, filling, mining or drilling and

52) Shall not modify the topography of the Easement Parcel(s) in any way or by any means, including grading, drilling, digging, filling, removing or diverting surface or ground water into or out of the Easement Parcel(s).

53) Acknowledges that it is not liable or responsible, on their own, for total control on the Easement Parcel(s) by complying with various local, state, and for emergency control of ports necessary to protect the public health.

54) Acknowledges that this Easement may be modified only by the joint written approval of the LCO and State. If the Easement Parcel(s) have been used to mitigate wetlands under FURCA, the Easement Parcel(s) must also agree to the modification in writing and must be recorded with at least one advance notice before the date it is to be used on the Easement Parcel(s). If the Easement Parcel(s) have been used to satisfy construction compliance responsibilities for agricultural production under federal farm programs, the NRCB must also agree to modification of this Easement in writing.

55) Acknowledges that this Easement may be amended, or law or is subject to the LCO or State. The LCO and State may be modified to require or amend of easement holder's from time to time. Easement holder agrees to the modification in writing and must be recorded with at least one advance notice before the date it is to be used on the Easement Parcel(s). The right to modify the terms of this Easement is the whole of any amendments or modifications to act on the part of the LCO or State. If the Easement Parcel(s) on to be used partially or wholly in order to meet requirements under the FURCA or federal farm programs, the provisions of this Easement relating to the LCO or State may also be outlined by the federal government in

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### Site Certification – Initial Deposit

- Monitoring Wells/Log



Well ID	Well Name	Well Type	Well Construction		Well Status
			Depth (ft)	Screen Length (ft)	
W001	Monitoring Well 1	3-inch Diameter	15.0	10.0	Active
W002	Monitoring Well 2	3-inch Diameter	15.0	10.0	Active

Well ID	Date	Water Level (ft)	Water Temp (°F)	Flow Rate (gpm)
W001	11/12/2025	12.5	68.0	0.5
W002	11/12/2025	12.5	68.0	0.5

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### Make sure to get plenty of ATV's stuck




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### Site Certification – Initial Deposit

- Other considerations
- Public tile abandonment
- Flowage easement/agreement
- Others??




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### Random Thought...Things to consider

- If possible, grow crops up until construction to control weeds (generally we do fall construction)
- Be careful of herbicides used, some have 12–18-month residual effect (NDSU herbicide carryover sheet)
- Some sites we plant oats the growing season prior to construction to reduce the “herbicide effect” (generally in upland/buffer areas)




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### Let the monitoring begin...

- The first full growing season following site certification
- Generally, 5 growing seasons
- May be more or less depending on crediting action and site characteristics (preservation may be less...floodplain forest may be more), determined by the approved plan




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### Let the monitoring begin...

- May be more than 5-years if performance standards aren't being met!
- Monitoring continues until performance standards are met to get credit




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### Monitoring Techniques

- Monitoring:
- Hydrology Monitoring Techniques/Plan
    - a) Monitoring Wells (groundwater/stilling)
    - b) Reference Site
  - Vegetation Monitoring Techniques/Plan
    - a) Timed Meander
    - b) Step-Point
    - c) Sample-Plot
    - d) FQA??
  - Monitoring Duration (typically 5-years)




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### Hydrology Monitoring

- Most hydrology performance standards require hydrology met for two growing season.
- Hydrology PS must be met before vegetation credits can be released...you need to prove it's a wetland first!




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81

## Hydrology – Reference Site

- Use an existing wetland or well-established site with similar characteristics to the site being restored (hydrology duration generally within 20%)
- Same or similar soils (mineral or organic, similar soil series)
- Same wetland types
- Similar landscape position
- Look for easement land (RIM or former Bank sites)
- How far away?? Ideally the reference site would be affected by similar rain patterns. As close as possible.....



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## Bank Plan – Performance Standards (ACOE St. Paul District – Regulatory – Mitigation)

### Vegetation Performance Standards for Compensatory Wetland Mitigation



Bank Site	Wet Meadow	Shallow Marsh	Deep Marsh
Bank Site 1	100%	100%	100%
Bank Site 2	100%	100%	100%
Bank Site 3	100%	100%	100%
Bank Site 4	100%	100%	100%
Bank Site 5	100%	100%	100%
Bank Site 6	100%	100%	100%

ACOE Guidance Documents – If you meet ACOE standards you'll meet WCA

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## Bank Plan – Performance Standards - Hydrology

<b>Initial Release (25% of total projected credits)</b>  <b>Hydrology Performance Standards</b>  Release of additional 35% of total projected credits	Approval of MBI/Plan, Conservation Easement Recorded, Approval of As-Built plans, and areas initially seeded have been completed. Drainage authority approval of the public tile re-route.
	Each performance standard met for 22 growing seasons to qualify for credit release
	<b>Wet Meadow:</b> Water tables within 12-inches of the surface for 28 consecutive days or two periods of 14-days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or, Duration of water table ≤ 12 inches below the soil surface is within 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.
	<b>Shallow Marsh:</b> Water table ≤ 6 at the surface or inundation up to 12-inches in depth for at least 28 consecutive days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or, Water levels within 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.
	<b>Deep Marsh:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrology shall consist of inundation 6 to 48 inches in depth throughout the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or,</li> <li>Water levels within 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.</li> </ul>

- Hydrology credit release percent dependent on reestablishment vs rehabilitation
- Reestablishment up to 45% (fully drained)
- Rehabilitation up to 20% (partially drained)
- Combination of the two generally around 35% (delineation necessary to determine credit)
- Spring 2022 – Corps mitigation newsletter guidance

84

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### Bank Plan – Performance Standards - Vegetation

Interim 1 Vegetation Performance Standards  Release of additional 20% of total projected credits	Each performance standard met for 12 consecutive growing seasons to qualify for credit release once hydrology performance standards are met
	<b>Wet Meadow:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 50% relative cover by native non-invasive species composed of at least 8 species</li> <li>≤ 50% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>&gt; 50% relative cover by hydrophytes</li> <li>Bare ground not to exceed 5% per acre and no continuous bare areas &gt; 400 ft<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
	<b>Shallow Marsh:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 50% relative cover by native species composed of at least 3 species</li> <li>≤ 50% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>≥ 30% relative cover by hydrophytes</li> <li>open un-vegetated water not to exceed 50% absolute cover</li> </ul>
	<b>Deep Marsh:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 50% relative cover by native species composed of at least 3 species</li> <li>≤ 50% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>≥ 30% relative cover by hydrophytes</li> <li>open un-vegetated water not to exceed 80% absolute cover</li> </ul>
	<b>Upland Prairie:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 50% relative cover by native, non-invasive species composed of at least 6 species</li> <li>≤ 50% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>bare ground not to exceed 5% per acre and no continuous bare areas &gt; 400 ft<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

- Typical release schedule
- Initial release (15%)
- Hydrology (45%-20%)
- Interim 1 (Vegetation)
- Interim 2 (Vegetation)
- Final Release (Delineation/Vegetation)

85

### Bank Plan – Performance Standards - Vegetation

Final Vegetation Performance Standards  Release of final 20% of total projected credit	Approval of Final Wetland Delineation Report Each performance standard met for 21 additional growing season to qualify for credit release
	<b>Wet Meadow:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 80% relative cover by native, non-invasive species composed of at least 20 species</li> <li>≤ 20% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>≥ 70% relative cover by hydrophytes</li> <li>bare ground not to exceed 1% per acre and no continuous bare areas &gt; 100 ft<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
	<b>Shallow Marsh:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 70% relative cover by native species composed of at least 7 species</li> <li>≤ 30% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>≥ 90% relative cover by hydrophytes</li> <li>open un-vegetated water not to exceed 30% absolute cover</li> </ul>
	<b>Deep Marsh:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 70% relative cover by native species composed of at least 7 species</li> <li>≤ 30% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>≥ 90% relative cover by hydrophytes</li> <li>open un-vegetated water not to exceed 60% absolute cover</li> </ul>
	<b>Upland Prairie Buffer:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 80% relative cover by native, non-invasive species composed of at least 15 species</li> <li>≤ 20% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>bare ground not to exceed 2% per acre and no continuous bare areas &gt; 100 ft<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

- Final Release (Delineation/Vegetation)
- Make sure crediting areas match what was proposed
- >10% difference may require an MBI Modification

86

### Vegetation Monitoring - Crediting

- Initial deposit (15%)
- Hydrology deposit (20-45%)
- Interim 1 standards met for ≥ 2 consecutive growing seasons (once hydrology P5 is met)
- Interim 2 standards met for ≥ 1 growing season (once int 1 P5 met)
- Final P5 - Approval of Final Wetland Delineation Report & Final P5 Met for 12 Growing season (once int 2 is met)

Item	WCA Credit Action and Corps Type of Compensation	Acres	Type of Natural Credit	Credit Ratio	Final Projected Credits	Credit Release Schedule				
						Initial Release (15%)	Hydrology Performance Standards (Percent of additional credit of total projected credits)	Interim 1 Vegetation Performance Standards (Percent of additional credit of total projected credits)	Interim 2 Vegetation Performance Standards (Percent of additional credit of total projected credits)	Final Vegetation Performance Standards & Approval of Final Wetland Delineation Report (21% of total)
1	Rehabilitation - CFC	18.0	2 - Fresh Wet Meadow	100%	18,000	2,700	3,200	3,200	3,200	4,800
2	Rehabilitation - CFC	0.9	2 - Fresh Wet Meadow	50%	4,500	1,047.5	0.000	0.000	0.000	1,125
3	Rehabilitation - CFC	14.9	3 - Shallow Marsh	100%	14,900	2,235.0	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,750
4	Rehabilitation - CFC	10.1	3 - Shallow Marsh	50%	5,050	1,017.5	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
5	Rehabilitation - CFC	15.7	4 - Deep Marsh	100%	15,700	2,355.0	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,950
6	Buffer - 2	18.0	2 - Shallow Marsh	25%	4,500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1,050
7	Buffer - 2	18.0	3 - Deep Marsh	25%	4,500	0.000	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.900
NA	Non-Credit (Ever Upland Buffer)	10.0	NA	0%	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
NA	Non-Credit (P5)	0.10	NA	0%	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
NA	Non-Credit (Living Wetland)	0.70	NA	0%	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Total Available Credits</b>						<b>117.6</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>

87

### Corrective Actions

- If, during the monitoring period, the LGU/Corps or TEP determine that a bank site does not meet the approved plan's specifications, the LGU must require corrective actions
- BWSR can freeze accounts by restricting deposits, withdrawals, transfers until the LGU determines the site is in compliance
- Noncompliance of bank sites is subject to enforcement procedures




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### Maintenance Responsibilities

- Sponsor responsible for vegetation implementation and maintenance of the site (usually first 5 years or until closed out)
- Landowner is responsible for long-term management of the site
- Landowner's can (and do) sell (or donate) the land the bank is on




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### Vegetation Issues

- Non-native/invasives (common species)
- Bare ground
- Poor seed establishment (herbicide carryover??)
- Drought
- Other issues???




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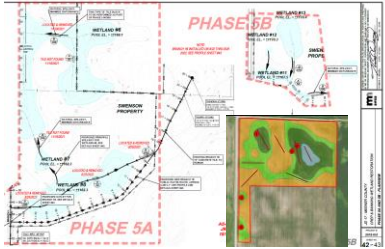
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### Hydrology Issues

- Not meeting hydrology...
- Leaky structure
- Rodent issues
- Missed tile
- Poor design
- Drought?? (reference wetland)
- Other issues???



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### Encroachment Issues

- Farmers encroaching during planting/Turn around in the easement
- ATV's
- Trespassing
- Structures (deer stands)
- Started to install T-posts every 100' (in addition to the easement posts every 500')



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### Monitoring Report = Credits

- Submitted following the first full growing/monitoring season no later than 1/31 (?)
- Then submitted as per approved bank plan (typically each year)
- May include Transaction Form to Deposit Credits (years 2, 3, and 5...)



- Contents of the report:
- Project location map
  - Description of performance standards
  - Activities completed and planned
  - Hydrology measurements
  - Plant communities' map
  - Color photographs
  - Other information specified from approved plan

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## Credit tables

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## General Monitoring roles once wetland bank is approved

**LGU/Corps roles:**

- certify construction (review as-built, seed tags, confirm easement posts up) – Contingencies (Flowage agreement, proof of public tile reroute)
- review monitoring reports
- certify credits for deposit
- may require corrective actions as needed

**Sponsor/landowner roles:**

- Sponsor responsible for maintenance
- Submitting as-built documentation
- Submitting wetland credit deposit transaction form(s)
- Submitting monitoring reports
- Paying administrative fees

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## Reviewing Monitoring Reports

**A. Success Criteria Summary**  
Summary of Success Criteria Standards and Current Metrics for 2017.

Metric	Success Criteria	Measured Criteria	Success Criteria Sheet	Comments
Hydrology - Monitored Area for 2017 - 2018				
Elevation	Water table is 1-2 feet above and one foot below ground surface	Measured hydrology is between 6 inches above and one foot below ground surface	Yes	Final hydrology monitoring not required for 2017
Duration	Majority of the growing season	Hydrology was within the desired range for the majority of the growing season	Yes	Success based on direct site observations
Vegetation				
Diversity	Minimum of five native species	75 native species have been identified	Yes	Species diversity increased from 2016 to 2017
Composition	Minimum two species and two shrubs	Eight shrubs and eight grasses have been identified	Yes	Species composition stable
Invasive	No more than 10% invasive	Total cover of invasive species is less than 10%, and has been effectively controlled	Yes	Recent invasive grass is less than 5% cover
Transect	No single areas greater than one-quarter acre in size	Invasive species control under control with no single area greater than one-quarter acre in size	Yes	Slight increase of area, but spread again in Oct 2017 treatment

- Know performance standards
- Interpret data to determine whether the site meets those standards
- If not, document with data what is not meeting standard
- Consult with TEP & Corps
- Then corrective actions should be recommended

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Reviewing Monitoring Reports

Community	Indicator/Performance Standard(s) (i.e. consecutive growing seasons)	2022	2023	2024	Performance Standard Met? (Yes/No)
Wet Meadow	> 60% N: by native non-invasive species composed of at least 15 species	67.0%	77%	90%	Yes
	> 40% N: of non-native/invasive species	32.0%	23%	10%	Yes
	> 60% N: by herbophytes	50%	70%	70%	Yes
Shallow Marsh	Bare ground not to exceed 6% AC and no continuous areas > 500 ft <sup>2</sup>	7%	3.2%	2.7%	Yes
	> 50% N: by native species composed of at least 8 species	11.4%	36.3%	77.6%	Yes
	> 50% N: of non-native/invasive species	88%	63.7%	22%	Yes
Wetland Prairie	> 80% N: by herbophytes	36%	55.9%	90.4%	Yes
	Aerial habitat of open un-vegetated water not to exceed 25% of community (per basin)	14.6%	2.1%	6.7%	Yes
	> 75% N: by native, non-invasive species composed of at least 6 species	28 species	89%	89.2%	Yes
Wetland Prairie	> 20% N: of non-native/invasive species	11%	12.1%	12%	Yes
	Bare ground not to exceed 6% AC and no continuous areas > 500 ft <sup>2</sup>	2%	0.8%	0%	Yes

- Use Tables! Easy to read and understand, can show valuable information quickly...allows TEP/COE to justify credit releases

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In Summary...

- Phase 1 – Construct Bank
- Phase 2 – ???
- Phase 3 – Profit




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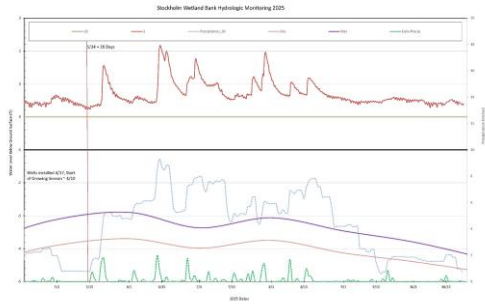
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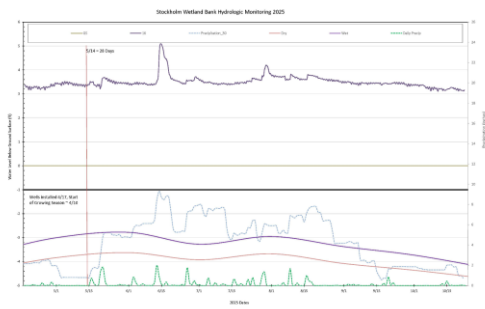
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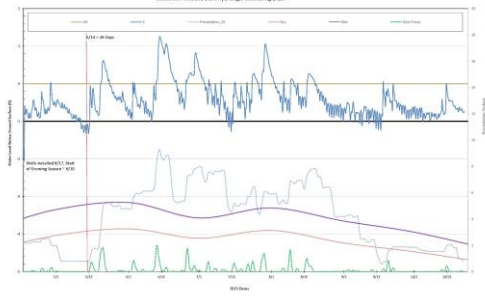
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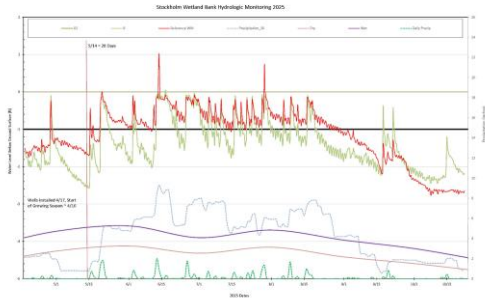


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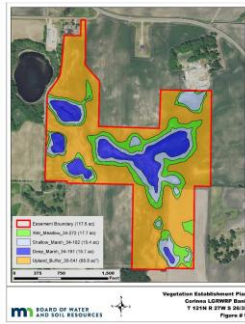
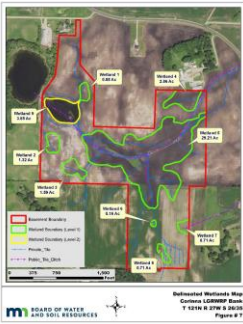


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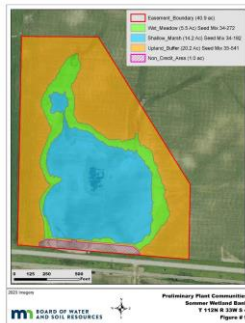
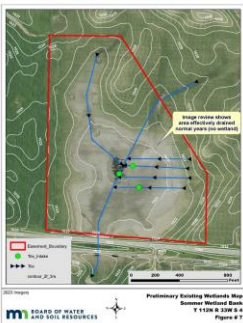




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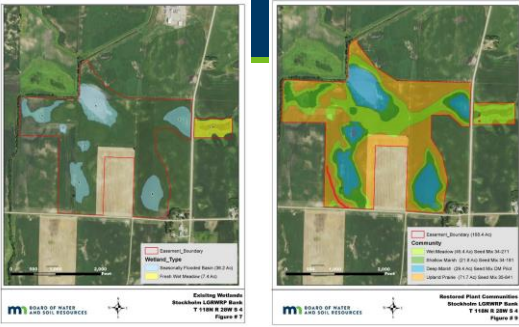


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**Developing a Monitoring Program**

**m** BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

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### Timing and Duration

- Monitoring must begin no later than the first full growing season after the LGU has determined that construction specifications have been met
- Monitoring plan must have a monitoring period that is sufficient to determine whether the wetlands have met performance standards
- Minimum 5 full growing seasons
- May be less if all performance standards are met and waived by LGU

**Monitoring may be required for more than 5 growing seasons**

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## Monitoring Report

- Monitoring Reports must be submitted consistent with approved plan and timeline
- Reports must be submitted annually unless another schedule is approved



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## Monitoring Plan Guidance

110

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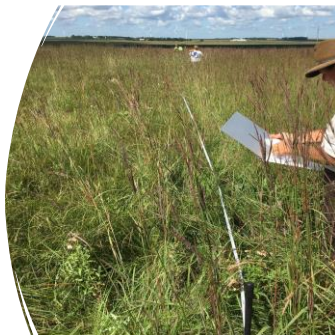
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## Vegetation Monitoring



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## Basic Overview

- Establish performance standards – **Already done**
- Identify appropriate methods for monitoring vegetation
- Select appropriate number and location of sampling locations
- Set monitoring schedule
- Monitor!

Category	Bank performance standard/level for 22 compensatory growing seasons to qualify for credit release
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% relative cover for native non-invasive species composed of at least 3 species</li> <li>• 25% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>• 10% relative cover for hydrophytes</li> <li>• 5% ground cover for emergent 22B ditch-side cover</li> </ul>
Bank Erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% relative cover for native species composed of at least 3 species</li> <li>• 10% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> </ul>
Bank Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% relative cover for native species composed of at least 3 species</li> <li>• 25% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>• 10% ground cover for emergent 22B ditch-side cover</li> </ul>
Bank Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% relative cover for native species composed of at least 3 species</li> <li>• 25% relative cover of non-native/invasive species</li> <li>• 10% ground cover for emergent 22B ditch-side cover</li> </ul>

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## Bank Site Goals



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## Vegetation Monitoring on Mitigation Sites



[Link to Vegetation Monitoring on Mitigation Sites](#)

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### Meeting Performance Standards

#### Typical performance standards

- 1. Quality/Diversity of vegetation
- 2. Percent cover of vegetation – native and non-native
- 3. Percent cover of bare ground or open water
- 4. Percent cover by hydrophytes

**Make sure to consider the needs for each community type**



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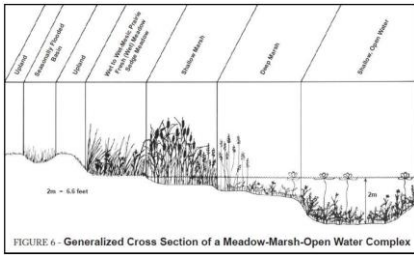
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### Vegetation Monitoring and Hydrology



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### Vegetation Monitoring – Timing



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## Plant Community Mapping



Plant communities need to be identified as Performance Standards for vegetation monitoring are usually set by the community

Mapping plant communities is also important for determining success of restoration and goals

Also important in tracking invasive species spread or reduction

118

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## Vegetation Monitoring Methods

### Vegetation Monitoring Techniques/Plan

- a) Timed Meander
- b) Step-Point
- c) Sample-Plot
- d) FQA
- e) Invasive vegetation mapping



119

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## Number of Sampling Locations

- Should be consistent with the size of the site
- Different types of sampling may require more or less sampling points
- More sampling generally can't hurt



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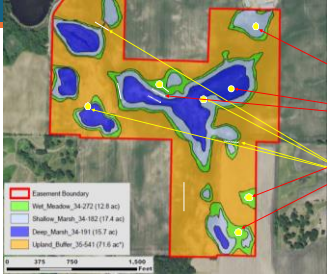
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### Representative Sampling



Finding the best sampling locations is key

- Better data on the community
- Less chance of not meeting performance standards

Sampling in transition areas can be problematic!

Transition zones can be problematic and give mixed results

Areas that are well within plant communities will give a more representative sample

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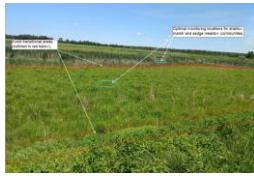
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### Other Useful Monitoring Data

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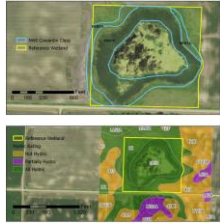
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### Reference Wetlands

- Provide a baseline to measure restored wetland function to existing wetland
- Can be used to set performance standards
- Helpful in situations when normal conditions may not be present for several monitoring periods (i.e. drought)



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### Photo Points



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### Exercise – What would you do?



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### Hydrology Monitoring

**Presenters:**  
Leslie Day, Corps  
Aiyasa Core, BWSR

**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
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128

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### Hydrology Performance Standards

- Vegetation community and soil specific
- Measures surface and/or groundwater on a daily basis (minimum)
- For a # of days within the growing season
- For a # of growing seasons with normal or wetter than normal
- Can refer to reference sites IF you identify it up front (prospectus recommended) and get it approved (typically will require monitoring)

**D. Fresh (Wet) Meadows, Sedge Meadows and Wet Prairies (Mineral Soils).** Hydrology shall consist of a water table 12 inches or less below the soil surface for a minimum of 28 consecutive days, or two periods of 14 or more consecutive days, during the growing season under normal and wetter than normal hydrological conditions (per Sprecher and Warne 2000). Inundation during the growing season shall not occur except: (1) at the start of the growing season (due to snowmelt/precipitation); and (2) following the 10-year, 24-hour—or greater—precipitation events. Depth of inundation during the growing season shall be 6 inches or less with duration of less than 14 consecutive days. An exception can be made for sites with hummocky microtopography—hollows between hummocks can have standing water depths up to 6 inches for extended duration.

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129

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**Developing Hydrology Monitoring Plans**

Hydrology drives wetland systems and is a critical component of a compensation site.

The goal of successfully restoring wetland hydrology at a compensation site is not to establish the minimum wetland hydrology, but to **establish the optimal wetland hydrology for targeted wetland communities and associated functions and services.**



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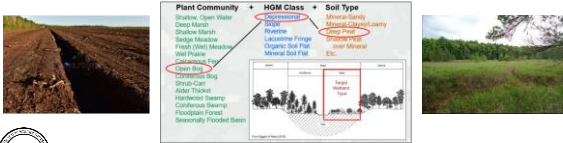



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**Developing Hydrology Monitoring Plans**

Sponsors should consider each of these variables when developing a hydrology monitoring plan for their site: **acreage, topography, plant communities, hydrogeomorphic (HGM) wetland classes, soil types, and disturbances (e.g., ditches, berms).**

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131

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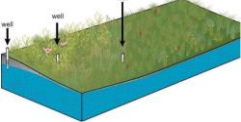
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**Developing Hydrology Monitoring Plans**

Ideally, the target hydrology for a compensation site would be determined by collecting and applying data from a **reference wetland**. If there is not an appropriate reference wetland available for a compensation site, sponsors should utilize **baseline hydrology monitoring and/or surface water runoff calculations** to determine target hydrology at the site.



Example of baseline hydrology monitoring.

Important to establish a transect of wells to determine the extent that hydrology has been altered (or would remain altered) by drainage systems at a compensation site.



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132

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**Reference Wetlands**

What should you consider when identifying a good reference wetland?

- Proximity to the compensation site
- Similar landscape positions
- Similar community types
- Similar soil types
- Natural wetland systems (undisturbed)

Compensation Site (Red) with Reference Wetland (Yellow)

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133

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**Determining Number of Monitoring Wells**

The amount of monitoring wells that should be installed at a compensation site is influenced by:

- Size of the compensation site
- Number of proposed wetland communities
- Differences in soil types (mineral vs. organic)
- Variability in topography (naturally sloping landscape, microtopography, etc.)
- Disturbances
- IRT concerns

Sponsors should carefully consider these variables to ensure that an appropriate number of monitoring wells are installed in each wetland community in order to assess if target hydrology performance standards are being met.

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134

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**Optimal Hydrology Monitoring Locations**

Sponsors should...

- Avoid transitional areas
- Target elevations that are expected to be representative of the proposed wetland community (may be difficult at sites with variable topography, e.g., slopes, drainageways, microtopography)

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135

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### Timing and Duration of Monitoring



Hydrology monitoring should begin at the start of the growing season and conclude at the end of the growing season.

- Monitoring wells should be installed before the start of the growing season (ideally when frost is out of the ground)
- Hydrology monitoring must be conducted with data loggers (manual readings should only be used to ensure data loggers are functioning properly)

Reminder... the start of the growing season can be determined by "green up", WETS tables, and soil temperature



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136




### Reporting Hydrology Monitoring Data



Hydrographs should include the following:

- Daily hydrology data for the entire growing season
- Line showing 12 inches below the ground surface
- Daily rainfall totals should be plotted along the bottom
- Highlight number of consecutive days with a water table within the upper 12 inches of the soil surface
- Title should include the well number and the wetland community



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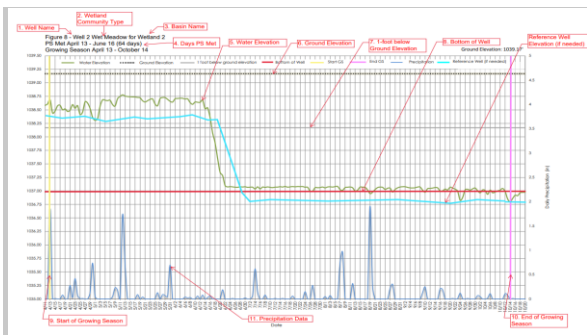
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138

**The importance of submitting well logs**

Document sound data and the danger of restrictive layers

Include:

- Diagram including depths
- Soil profile with textures and depths

Other:

- Bentonite
- Caps

139

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**Knowledge Check!**

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q: The consultant is proposing to place wells at the approximate edges of wetlands (in red) to find the wetland boundary and none in the center, is this okay?

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

A: We should address this!

- While we can use wells to find the boundary between upland and wetland (delineation) secondary indicators can also serve to fill this purpose.
- Those portions of wetland plant communities near the wetland/upland boundary would tend to be "drier" than the overall plant community,
- Wells should be in representative areas

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142

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**UNDERSTAND YOU DO NOT?**

**ASK QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD.**

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143

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Hydrology Monitoring

**m** BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

MWPCP

144

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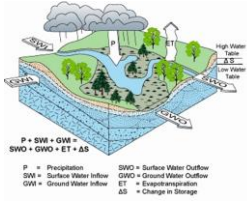
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## Hydrology - The Driving Force

Wetlands gain and lose water constantly through a variety of pathways.



"The Presence and movement of water defines, creates and sustains the wetland."

- Affects Soil chemistry, oxygen available, formation and decay
- Plants are determined by the duration and extent of hydrology (tolerance levels)

If sufficient hydrology exists over a long enough period of time, the veg and soils will follow.

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## Hydrology – Reasons to Monitor

- ID Wetland type, hydro regime, and/or boundary determination
- Provides insight into wetland function/value
- Highly variable and dynamic; snapshot is not enough
- Assess Alterations/impacts
- Determine Progress/Success of Restoration



146

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## Hydrology - Why Monitor?

- To demonstrate hydrology has returned/stabilized to some sufficient targeted depth and duration
- Most hydrology Performance Standards require hydrology met for two growing season.
- Hydrology PS must be met before vegetation credits can be released...you need to prove it's a wetland first!



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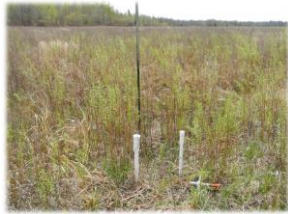
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### Monitoring Techniques - Hydrology

- Monitoring Wells
- Groundwater/Subsurface
- Stilling/Surface
- Staff Gauge



148

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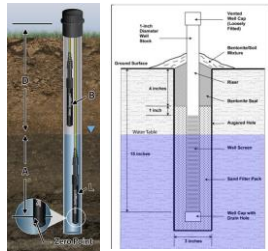
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### Monitoring Techniques - Hydrology

- Monitoring Wells
- Monitor Water table subsurface
- Perforations just below surface/seal
- Seal and/or filter fabric may be needed
- Used for pre/post project monitoring
- Depth at least 15 in for Technical Standard but often pair with deeper for trouble shooting.



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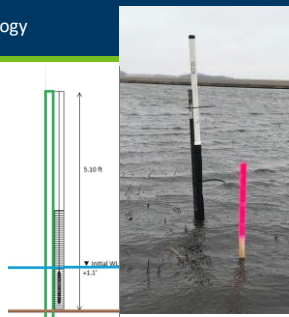
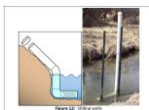
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### Monitoring Techniques - Hydrology

- Stilling Wells
- Deep Marsh
- Stabilizes measurements due to wave/turbulence/current
- Permanent/Semi-Permanent Inundation



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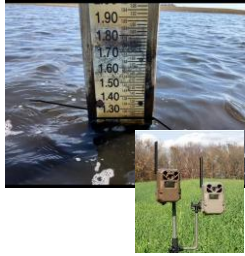
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## Monitoring Techniques - Hydrology

### Staff Gauge

- Shallow/Deep Marsh
- Permanent/Semi-Permanent Inundation
- Floodplain settings
- Pair with Programmable Camera for better data



151

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## Monitoring – Data Loggers

- Measures water levels at set intervals (programmable)
- Long-battery life
- Blue tooth capabilities or direct download
- Some require correction for pressure/temp
- Software required



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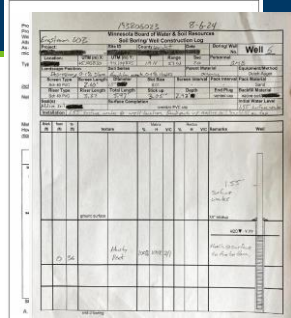
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## Well Installation Log



- Detailed Record of construction
- Includes Depth, materials, soil details, water table at time of install, elevations/hts, well test, etc
- Supports accuracy of data
- Can be used for troubleshooting

153

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Target Hydrology

**D. Fresh (Wet) Meadows, Sedge Meadows and Wet Prairies (Mineral Soils).** Hydrology shall consist of a water table 12 inches or less below the soil surface for a minimum of 28 consecutive days or two periods of 14 or more consecutive days during the growing season under normal and wetter than normal hydrological conditions (per Sprecher and Warner 2000). Inundation during the growing season shall not occur except: (1) at the start of the growing season (due to snowmelt/precipitation); and (2) following the 10-year, 24-hour--or greater--precipitation events. Depth of inundation during the growing season shall be 6 inches or less with duration of less than 14 consecutive days. An exception can be made for sites with hummocky microtopography--hollows between hummocks can have standing water depths up to 6 inches for extended duration.

**User Notes:** This hydrologic regime fits "saturated" described by Cowardin et al. (1979) [e.g., PEM#] (Table 1). If the water table within the upper 12 inches is of a shorter duration or less frequent occurrence, it would reduce the competitive advantage of hydrophytic species versus non-hydrophytic species. Specifically, a drier regime would be more conducive to colonization and competition by undesirable and/or invasive FAC and FACU species including Canada goldenrod, Canada thistle, common ragweed, giant ragweed, stinging nettle, common buckhorn, common cocklebur and garlic mustard.

- The optimal hydrology needed to achieve restoration
- Mimic unaltered
  - Estimate and hydrology
  - AND/Reference
  - Highly and c

154

Hydrology Performance Standards

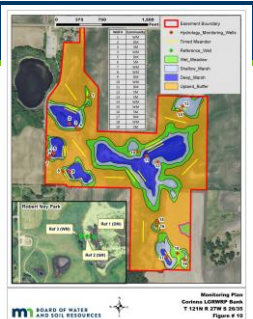
Initial Release (15% of total projected credits)	Approval of MR/Plan, Conservation Easement Recorded, Approval of As-Built plans, and areas initially seeded have been completed. Drainage authority approval of the public title re-route.
Hydrology Performance Standards	<p>Each performance standard met for 22 growing seasons to qualify for credit release</p> <p><b>Wet Meadow:</b>  Water tables within 12-inches of the surface for 28- consecutive days or two periods of 14-days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or  Duration of water table ≤ 12 inches below the soil surface is within 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.</p> <p><b>Shallow Marsh:</b>  Water table is at the surface or inundation up to 12-inches in depth for at least 28 consecutive days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or,  Water levels within 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.</p> <p><b>Deep Marsh:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydrology shall consist of inundation 6 to 48 inches in depth throughout the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or,</li> <li>Water levels within 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.</li> </ul>

- Hydrology credit release percent dependent on reestablishment vs rehabilitation
- Reestablishment up to 45%
- Rehabilitation up to 20%
- Combination of the two generally around 35% (delineation necessary to determine credit)
- Guidance on Corps Website

155

Hydrology – Reference Site

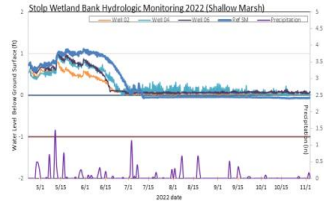
- Use an existing wetland or well-established site with similar characteristics to the site being restored
- Same/similar soils (mineral or organic, similar soil series)
- Same wetland community
- Similar landscape position
- Look for easement land (RIM or former Bank sites)
- How far away?? Ideally the reference site would be affected by similar rain patterns. As close as possible....



156

## Hydrographs

- Graphical Representation
- Displays frequency, depth and duration of inundation/water table
- Understand hydro regime
- Assess impacts
- Banking - Baseline conditions & monitoring post restoration




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157

## Hydrographs in Banking

- Items to Include**
- Well info (Name, Community Type, Basin ID)
  - Ground Elev., Water Elev. and 1 ft below Ground
  - Bottom of Well helpful
  - Reference Wetland Data
  - Precipitation Data (Normal "envelope", 30 day rolling total, Daily precip.)
  - Growing Season Start/End




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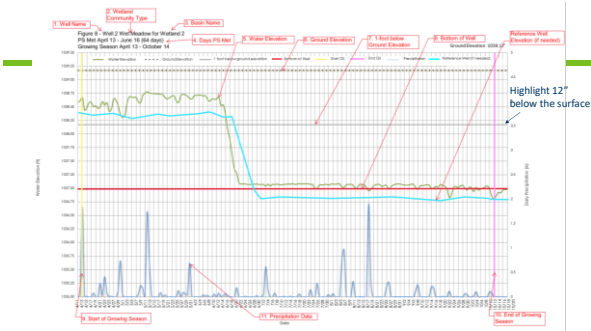
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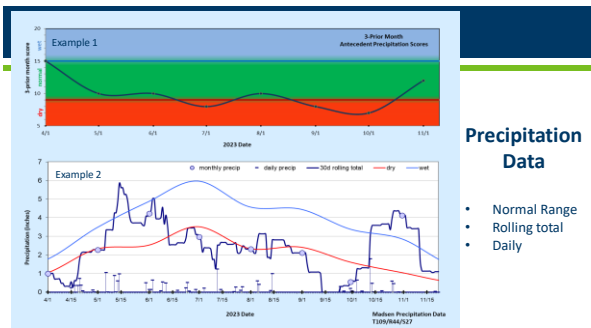
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### Precipitation Data

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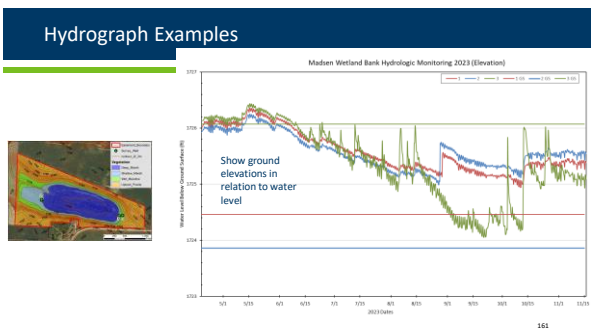
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### Hydrograph Issues in Monitoring Reports

- Insufficient figures/graphs (Clear labels/missing info)
- Data logger problems (battery/erratic readings- duplicate or check periodically?)
- Well placement (correct community? Adjust as needed)
- Performance standards not matching bank plan (include PS & Summarized..)
- Data interpretation (slight differences from PS? Add narrative to support)

162

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### Narrative Summary

The performance standard for the wet meadow community required: Water Tables within 12-inches of the surface for 28- consecutive days or two periods of 14-days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or, duration of water Table  $\leq$  12 inches below the soil surface is plus or minus 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.

- **2022 Growing Season:**
  - ✓ Well 1 (WM) showed water within 12-inches of the surface from April 22 (date of installation) to June 13 (53 consecutive days).
  - ✓ Well 3 (WM) showed water within 12-inches of the surface from April 22 (date of installation) to June 2 (42 consecutive days).
  - ✓ Well 5 (WM) showed water within 12-inches of the surface from April 22 (date of installation) to June 16 (56 consecutive days).
- **2023 Growing Season:**
  - ✓ Well 1 (WM) showed water within 12-inches of the surface from April 19 (date of installation) to June 15 (58 consecutive days).
  - ✓ Well 3 (WM) showed water within 12-inches of the surface from April 19 (date of installation) to June 14 (57 consecutive days).
  - ✓ Well 5 (WM) showed water within 12-inches of the surface from April 19 (date of installation) to June 16 (59 consecutive days).

All three wet meadow wells (1, 3, 5) met the wet meadow performance standards for two consecutive growing seasons.

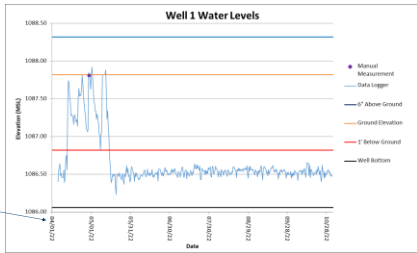
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163



### Hydrograph Examples

PS= "...water table within 12 in. of surface, min. 28 consecutive days or 2- 14 day periods..."



How do we verify that 28 consecutive days are met?

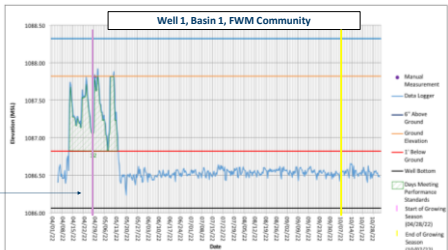
When does the growing season start?

164



### Hydrograph Corrected

PS= "...water table within 12 in. of surface, min. 28 consecutive days or 2- 14 day periods..."

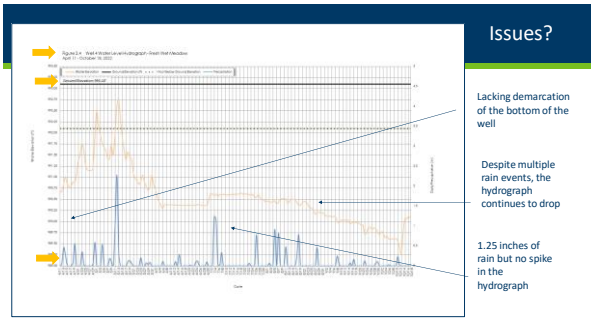


Lines depicting daily intervals

Includes Start/End of the growing season

165





Issues?

Lacking demarcation of the bottom of the well

Despite multiple rain events, the hydrograph continues to drop

1.25 inches of rain but no spike in the hydrograph

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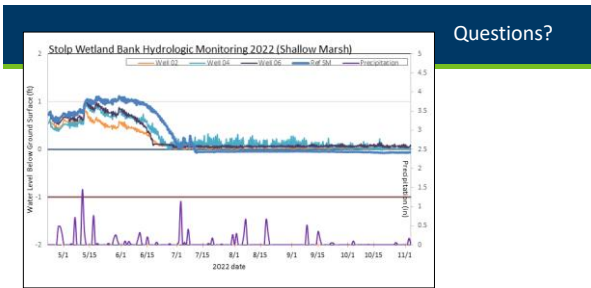
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Questions?

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