



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

### MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2006

To: Lake County Certified Wetland Specialists (CWS) and Other Interested Parties  
From: Michael Warner, Chief Engineer, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC)  
Subject: **ADDENDUM** to SMC Guidance for Agricultural Land Wetland Determinations  
("Farmed Wetlands")

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On December 8, 2005, SMC issued the attached guidance for agricultural land wetland determinations on development sites in Lake County. Enclosed with that guidance was a technical reference entitled *Wetland Mapping Conventions - SCS Illinois 1994*. It has come to our attention that this technical reference is not the most current version. We apologize for this oversight and are attaching the current version of the technical reference entitled *Wetland Mapping Conventions - NRCS Illinois 1998*.

The 1998 NRCS mapping conventions appear to contain one substantive change from the 1994 mapping conventions, that being the requirement for field verification before issuing the wetland determination. In accordance with the 1998 mapping conventions, Section C. of SMC's guidance issued on December 8, 2005 includes the requirement for field verification of farmed wetland areas. Therefore, **no changes are proposed at this time to SMC's December 8, 2005 guidance.**

Please pay particular attention to the following when using the NRCS 1998 mapping conventions for agricultural land wetland determinations on development sites in Lake County:

- 1) Follow the mapping convention for *Prairie Potholes and Saturated Soils in the Glaciated Region* on pages 3-6. Use the hydrology criteria listed under *Flooded or Ponded Soils* on pages 6-7 in conjunction with this mapping convention.
- 2) A minimum of five (5) years of aerial slides for normal precipitation years are to be reviewed – refer to the SMC's December 8, 2005 guidance (attached) for the designated aerial slide years.
- 3) Note the various identifiers of "wetlands signatures" on page 2.
- 4) As stated on page 1 under *General Information – All Conventions* states: "Size of an area is not part of the wetland criteria"...The on-site investigation may revise the determination to add small wetlands missed in the off-site [i.e., maps/aerial slides review] inventory." Therefore, while the focus of the field investigation should be on the wetland signatures identified in the maps/aerial slides review process, the entire agricultural area of the site should be investigated for additional small farmed wetlands, especially areas mapped as having hydric soils or soils containing hydric inclusions (use the following link to view the updated soil mapping of Lake County, NRCS, 2005: [Web Soil Survey](#)).

If you have any questions, please contact SMC's wetland specialists:  
Glenn Westman -- (847)918-3611, [gwestman@co.lake.il.us](mailto:gwestman@co.lake.il.us), or  
Joe Hmieleski -- (847)918-5273, [jhmieleski@co.lake.il.us](mailto:jhmieleski@co.lake.il.us).

Attachments: 1. Wetland Mapping Conventions NRCS Illinois 1998  
2. SMC Guidance for Agricultural Land Wetland Determinations, December 8, 2005

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