



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

December 8, 2005 (*Updated October 17, 2006*)

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

This guidance memorandum supercedes the previous guidance memoranda issued by SMC on December 8, 2005 and February 21, 2006. The updated sections are shown in **bold**.

- A. For isolated wetlands permitting on development sites that contain agricultural land and are under SMC's jurisdiction, we will accept one of the following for development sites: 1) a certified wetland determination (CWD) completed by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **within 5 years from the date of issuance (this is consistent with the attached U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Chicago District's revised guidance memo dated June 19, 2006)**, or 2) **if a valid CWD is not available, an agricultural land wetland determination performed by or under the supervision of a Lake County Certified Wetland Specialist (CWS) using the current NRCS procedures (see attachments) within 3 years of the initial Watershed Development Permit application date, for compliance with Article IV.E.3.a. of the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO), 1-10-06.**
- B. For the office/maps farmed wetland determination, SMC requires the years of FSA aerial slides listed below be reviewed. Determine which of the following NWS precipitation recording stations is closest to the development site: Antioch, Barrington, or Waukegan (note: you can use an internet-based mapping program to determine which station is closest to your site). Proceed to Step 1), 2), or 3) below.
- 1) ANTIOCH STATION (Antioch Wastewater Treatment Plant, 796 Holbeck Dr., Antioch, 60002): Review the following 5 "Primary Years" of slides: 2004, 2003, 2001, 1998 & 1996. If Primary Years slides are not available or have poor resolution, defer to the following 2 "Secondary Years" of slides, in order: 1990, then 1985. Recommended "Wet" indicator slide years to identify potential wetland signatures, in order: 2000, then 1999.
 - 2) BARRINGTON STATION (Crabtree Nature Center, Rt. 3 Stover Rd., Barrington, 60010): Review the following 5 "Primary Years" of slides: 2004, 2003, 2001, 1998 & 1997. If Primary Years slides are not available or have poor resolution, defer to the following 2 "Secondary Years" of slides, in order: 1995, then 1990. Recommended "Wet" indicator slide years to identify potential wetland signatures, in order: 1999, then 2000.
 - 3) WAUKEGAN STATION (Radio Station WKRS, 3250 Belvidere Rd. Waukegan, 60085): Review the following 5 "Primary Years" of slides: 2001, 1997, 1993, 1991 & 1990. If Primary Years slides are not available or have poor resolution, defer to the following 2 Secondary Years of slides, in order: 1987, then 1983. Recommended "Wet" indicator slide years to identify potential wetland signatures, in order: 2000, then 1996.

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- C. For the field farmed wetland determination, SMC requires a minimum of one (1) field data point be located in each suspected farmed wetland area within the development site limits. We recommend a minimum of two (2) field data points be taken in each suspected farmed wetland area within the development site limits, especially in areas deemed by the consultants to not meet the farmed wetland field indicators. The field data point(s) are to be "representative" of the suspected farmed wetland area, meaning the points should be located clearly within the boundary of the mapped wetland signature, not along the upper edge of the signature.
- D. The approximate location and extent of off-site farmed wetlands within 100 feet of the development site (i.e., within the maximum buffer distance from site limits) shall be identified using the current Lake County Wetland Inventory (LCWI) maps, per Article IV.E.3.b.(6)(b) of the **WDO (1-10-06)**. The LCWI maps can be viewed on the Lake County web site: <http://gis.lakeco.org/maps/>.

If you have any questions concerning this guidance, please contact SMC's wetland specialists:

Glenn Westman -- (847)918-3611, gwestman@co.lake.il.us, or
Joe Hmieleski -- (847)918-5273, jhmieleski@co.lake.il.us.

- Attachments:
1. Corps of Engineers-Chicago District Guidance Memo, Revised June 19, 2006 (.pdf)
 2. NRCS Wetland Mapping Conventions 1998 (.pdf)
 3. Wetland Criteria/Indicators/Procedures, FSA Manual Part 527.4, 3rd Edition, 2000 (.pdf)

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