Wetland Delineations and Datasheets

Regulatory Project Managers
Corps Detroit District Regulatory Office
EGLE Bay City District Office
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Delineating Wetlands

- Hydrology
- Soils
- Vegetation
Wetland Hydrology
Evidence of Water
Wetland Soils
Technical Resources
www.lre.usace.army.mil
Wetland Delineation Resources

www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgramAndPermits.aspx
Wetland Determinations & Delineations

- Wetland or upland?
- Verify wetland boundaries
Focus on probable boundaries

- Which tells you more about the wetland boundary location?
Wetland Boundaries

- Regulated wetlands do not stop at property lines.
- Paired sampling points are required to show that wetlands are not connected.
Both sets of data need to be turned in with an application or delineation.
Atypical Situations: Disturbed Sites
Atypical Situations: Disturbed Areas

- Industrial past
- Covered with fill
- Excavated
- Altered by mowing, plowing, planting, drainage, flooding, etc.
Delineation of Disturbed Areas

- Delineate early in the season
- Use procedures in the manual – and seek additional resources
- Describe the problem in the “remarks” section of the data sheets
- Provide all documentation used to inform your decisions
Automated Data Form

- Microsoft Excel spreadsheet
- Automatically generates wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soil indicators
- Contains the current indicator information
- Printed form looks like the form in the Regional Supplement

EGLE
Data Sheets: Common Issues

- Correct Data Sheets
- Missing Information – don’t leave blanks
- Data point location
  - Give accurate coordinates
  - Provide a map
- Inadequate review – if you used the fillable form double check and review
- Use the comments section – you should always share your observations
Use Correct Datasheet

- Midwest or Northcentral/Northeast
  - Datasheets that predate the regional supplements may not reflect current methodology.
  - Most recent: Version 2.0
  - Hydric soil and wetland hydrology indicators may vary
  - Plant indicator status may vary
    - Refer to USACE National Wetland Plant List for current taxonomy and indicator status
Automated Data Form

- Northcentral/Northeast Region and Midwest Region

http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Automated-Wetland-Determination-Data-Form
Hydrology Indicators

- Make sure these two sections are consistent.

- If a water table is present, then saturation is also present, usually a few inches above the water table.

- If surface water is present, a water table is usually present (0 inches depth).
Hydric Soil Indicators

How do these sections relate?

- Refer to the regional supplement for step-by-step definitions.
- Go through each indicator that may apply for the relevant soil texture (all soils, sandy, or loamy/clayey).
- More than one indicator may apply.
Wetland Verification

- Delineation may be required for application completeness

- Considering wetlands during development of plan helps with avoidance/minimization

- You may be able to avoid wetland impacts (possibly avoiding need for permit – we can help you identify areas to avoid)

- Correctly quantify impacts – minimize delays later in evaluation
Important Distinctions

- The Corps and DEQ are separate regulatory authorities and cannot speak for each other’s programs, verify wetland boundaries, or determine jurisdiction.

- **ONLY** the Corps can make a jurisdictional determination for the Corps of Engineers.
  - A consultant can provide a wetland delineation but cannot make a final jurisdiction determination.
Michigan’s Wetland Identification Program (WIP)

- EGLE offers wetland delineations to determine the regulated wetlands on the property.
- Keto Gyekis, 517-243-5002, gyekisk@Michigan.gov

Benefits:
- Jurisdictional determination
- Wetlands are clearly identified for an application
- Due diligence for property buy/sell agreements
Michigan’s Wetland Identification Program (WIP)

- Level 1: EGLE Wetland inventory maps
- Level 2: On-site review of an identified area, up to five acres, by EGLE staff
- Level 3:
  On-site verification of a delineation done by a wetland professional and/or consultant
WIP Fee Structure

- Level 1: EGLE Wetland inventory maps
- Level 2: On-site review of an identified area, up to five acres, by DEQ staff
  - $500 for 1st acre, $250 per additional acre
- Level 3: On-site verification of a delineation done by a wetland professional and/or consultant
  - $500 for 1st acre, $50 per additional wetland acre, $20 per additional upland acre
Questions?