RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES - Groundwater and Freshwater Wetlands Protection
FRESHWATER WETLANDS PROGRAM
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WETLAND EDGE DELINEATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to § 3.9.3(E) of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act (Rules) [250-RICR-150-15-3], applicants must complete, and provide to RIDEM, documentation which describes the reasoning used to delineate wetland edges whenever requesting verification of a wetland edge. For this purpose, the applicant must complete the attached Wetland Edge Delineation Forms. These forms (see attached) are not meant to provide quantitative plot data, but rather to provide RIDEM with an outline of the reasoning used to delineate a particular **wetland edge**. While the vegetative community may change abruptly in some circumstances, other plant communities may transition very gradually to upland. In these cases, other hydrologic indicators, such as soil redoximorphic features, often must be considered in determining existing hydrological conditions. Completion of these data forms will provide RIDEM biologists with a clearer understanding of all the factors considered by an applicant or their consultant in delineating the boundary of a given wetland area.

At a minimum, one set of data forms (upland and wetland) must be completed for each wetland on the site. More than one set should be provided wherever changes in vegetative community composition, soil characteristics, topography, or other factor(s) might cause a change in reasoning for determination of the wetland edge. For example, if the edge of wetland "X" is located at the base of a steep slope with a clear vegetative break in one area (Flag Nos 1-27), but within a broad, transitional zone dominated by facultative vegetation in another area (Flag Nos. 28-56), at least two sets of data forms should be filled out for that wetland, since the reasoning behind the delineation (changes in vegetative species, topography and/or soil characteristics) is different in the two areas. If only one set of data forms is provided for a given wetland, it will be assumed that the same reasoning was used for determination of the entire wetland edge and the wetland flagging will be reviewed accordingly.

Properly completed forms which support an accurate edge only increase the speed by which RIDEM's verification can be completed. This in turn will get a quicker, less troublesome answer back to the applicant. Substantial inaccuracies can often be attributed to a lack of supporting data used to locate the wetland edge. In turn, these inaccuracies only increase delays and problems with verifying the wetland edge.

All wetland edge delineations are to be accomplished in accordance with § 3.21 of the Rules.

Wetland Edge Delineation Data Form (UPLAND)

Applicant: _____ Wetland No. _____

Project Name: _____ Flag No. Sequence: _____

City/Town: _____ Delineation Date: _____

Vegetation: List the three dominant species in each vegetative strata along with their NWI status:

Tree	Indicator Status	Herbs	Indicator Status

Saplings/Shrubs	Indicator Status	Woody Vines	Indicator Status

List other vegetative species noted which may have affected determination of the wetland edge: _____

_____

Soil: SCS Soil Survey Mapping Unit: _____

On Hydric Soils List? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Soil Profile (Note wetland flag no. nearest soil test pit): _____

Horizon	Depth	Matrix Color	Mottling Description	Depth to Saturation	Depth to Free Water

Other indicators exhibiting an absence of wetland hydrology (e.g. absence of water marks, lack of redoximorphic features, lack of oxidized rhizospheres, etc.): _____

Landscape position: _____

Altered/atypical situation? (describe): _____

_____

Comments: _____

_____

Wetland Edge Delineation Data Form (WETLAND)

Applicant: _____ Wetland No. _____

Project Name: _____ Flag No. Sequence: _____

City/Town: _____ Delineation Date: _____

Vegetation: List the three dominant species in each vegetative strata along with their NWI status:

Tree	Indicator Status	Herbs	Indicator Status

Saplings/Shrubs	Indicator Status	Woody Vines	Indicator Status

List other vegetative species noted which may have affected determination of the wetland edge: _____

_____

Soil: SCS Soil Survey Mapping Unit: _____

On Hydric Soils List? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Soil Profile (Note wetland flag no. nearest soil test pit): _____

Horizon	Depth	Matrix Color	Mottling Description	Depth to Saturation	Depth to Free Water

Other indicators exhibiting an absence of wetland hydrology (e.g. water marks, drainage patterns, root rhizospheres, etc.; see § 3.21.1 (D) of the Rules): _____

Landscape position: _____

Altered/atypical situation? (describe): _____

_____

Comments: _____

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