DEM

Water Quality/Wetland Restoration Team

Land and Water Conservation Summit 2012

Regulated Wetlands







Also: Forested & shrub wetlands, emergent & submergent plant communities, special aquatic sites, intermittent streams, ASF, ASSF, flood plains, floodways, riverbanks, perimeter wetland

Invasive Plants in RI Wetlands

Multiflora Rose

Glossy Buckthorn



Common Reed



Oriental Bittersweet



Japanese Knotweed



Japanese Barberry



Purple Loosestrife



Reed Canary Grass



Newman Farm Grassland & Riparian Restoration



Smithfield DPW

Stormwater drainage & perimeter wetland restoration



Spring 2002

Spring 2008

Pawtuxet River Dam Removal



Photo by T. Ardito

Types of authorizations

- Automatic Exempt
- Request for Regulatory Applicability
- Presence of Wetlands
- Edge Verfication
- Preliminary Determination
- Formal Application
- Modification



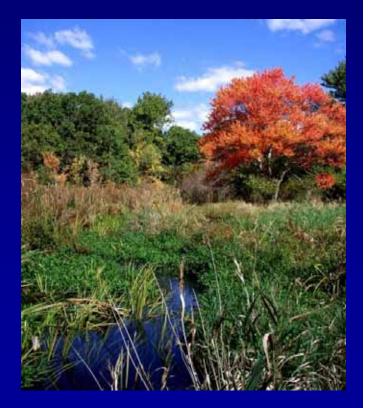
DEM Water Quality & Wetland Restoration Team

- Creates partnerships between project proponents and regulators
- Helps ensure that projects are successful and meet grant requirements
- Help with the permitting process



Work of the Restoration Team

- One hundred meetings
- Assisted on a total of 57 projects
- Project reviewer assigned immediately
- Field meetings as part of pre-app assistance
- Improved projects
- Approved in less time



Types of Projects Reviewed

- Invasive Management
- River Restoration
- Stormwater
- Wetland Restoration





What we've learned

- Project proponents value interacting with DEM staff early on in the process
- Detailed requirements should be specified
- Restoration projects can be challenging and costly
- Modified regulations
- Lower permit preparation costs, quicker permits desired by partners
- Assistance needed on defining projects



Stormwater - Wet Vegetated Treatment System - WVTS Horsley Witten Group, Inc

DEM Water Quality & Wetland Restoration Team



WATER QUALITY & WETLAND RESTORATION TEAM

Are you planning a water quality improvement or wetland/habitat restoration project? Do you know the answers to the following questions?

- Do I need a permit for a restoration project?
- What permits do I need?
- How do I get started with DEM?
- . Who should I talk with?
- What are the application requirements?

To help obtain answers to these questions, the Department of Environmental Management has formed a Water Quality and Wetland Restoration Team. The objectives of the Team are to support and encourage water quality improvement and wetland restoration projects in Rhode Island.

The Water Quality & Wetland Restoration Team seeks to:

· Create an effective partnership between project proponents and regulators

- · Help ensure that projects are successful and meet regulatory requirements
- Streamline the DEM permitting process

The Team offers enhanced preapplication assistance by working with applicants during project planning and design to help advance restoration projects to the application stage, including the identification of any necessary permits. Application review and communication with applicants are coordinated through the Team. The Team will also coordinate with CRNC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as necessary.

The Team educates applicants and others about issues of concern to DEM and will over time develop written guidance and policies regarding water quality improvement and wetland restoration projects. The Team, as resources allow, will track the progress of projects during construction and afterwards.

The Team is comprised of:

 Water quality (TMDL), wetlands restoration, sustainable watersheds, and policy staff;
 Regulatory permit staff from DEM Wetlands, Water Quality Certification, Underground Injection Control (UIC), and RI Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) programs.

To learn more about the Team, or if you are planning a restoration project, please contact Lisa McGreavy at Lisa.McGreavy@DEM.RI.GOV or (401) 222.4700, Ext. 7611. To learn more about the team, or if you are planning a restoration project, contact:

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Plan Ahead

Fact sheet available @ www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/pdfs/wqwrteam.pdf

Restoration Kit

- Wetland Restoration Resources
- Potential Sources of Restoration Funding or Technical Assistance
- Site Evaluation Worksheet
- Restoration Assessment Worksheet
- Permitting Requirements if Any
 - Application Types
 - The Process (evolving!)
 - What's the Scoop on Wetlands?
- Soil Erosion Controls/BMPs
- Wetland Buffer Plantings
- Invasive Plants in Wetlands



Handouts

"Wetland BMP Manual" Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization

"How do I know what DEM wants?" "How do I know if I will get a permit?"

The Wetland BMP Manual is a compilation of text, tips, and examples intended to help answer these questions.

Using the guidelines in this manual can help applicants and consultants:

- prepare more complete applications,
- · adequately avoid and minimize, and
- · receive speedier decisions from DEM.



The Wetland BMP Manual contains projectspecific examples and details of acceptable and permitted wetland-friendly designs and practices for many project types, including:

> Single-Family House Lots Subdivisions Commercial and Industrial Projects Golf Courses Paths and Trails Roads and Bridges Utilities

View the Wetland BMP Manual on the web at: www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/ water/permits/fresh/pdfs/wetbmp.pdf





Restoring wetlands or wetland buffers on your property can help to create wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, help to reduce flooding, and potentially increase the value of your land.

Examples of restoration project types include: trash removal, re-planting wetland or buffer vegetation, invasive species control, enhancing surface water flow, removing fill, and more.



This restoration kit contains several documents designed to help you through the process of restoring a wetland or wetland buffer, such as:

> How Do I Restore My Wetland? Sources of Funding or Assistance Site Evaluation and Assessment Restoration Permitting

View the Freshwater Wetland Restoration Kit for Landowners on the web at: http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/ water/wetlands/restkit.htm



Where team is headed

- Streamlining permitting process
- Improve customer service
- Include lake management projects
- Include "beneficial projects" such as – Trails; canoe launches, others
- More restoration exemptions
- General permits?
- Restoration Chapter in Rules
 Build on other states' lessons
- Improve, standardize monitoring; short and long term

Rhode Island Freshwater Lakes and Ponds: Aquatic Invasive Plants and Water Quality Concerns

A Report to the Governor and Rhode Island General Assembly





February 2012



State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Questions?

What would you like the WQ/Wetland Restoration Team to do or change?

Photos and images courtesy of:

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