

January 5, 2018

New Bedford Conservation Commission
New Bedford City Hall
113 Williams Street, Rm 304
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Wetland Replication Monitoring Report (MassDEP File # 49-466)
2301 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear New Bedford Conservation Commission:

Goddard Consulting, LLC, is pleased to submit this inspection report on behalf of Site Design Engineering, LLC for the property known as 2301 Purchase Street in New Bedford (Parcel IDs: 97; 6, 9). This letter will cover the status of the wetland replication area and native plantings, installed in accordance with the Wetland Restoration Plan by Goddard Consulting, LLC (GC), dated May 2, 2016 with associated planting plan revised on May 13, 2016. This is the first report of two.

On June 14, 2017, the site was visited to inspect installed native plantings and the status of the wetland replication area.

Table 1: List of native plantings found

Common Name	Scientific Name	Quantity	Initial Size
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	4	2" cal
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	8	18-24" +
Common Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	8	18-24" +
Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	6	18-24" +
Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra amomum</i>	12	18-24" +
Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	10	18-24" +
Buttonbush**	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	4	24-36" +

** Species deviation from plan, though it is a native wetland plant

In general, installed native plants look to be in good condition. Though installation had only occurred a few weeks prior to the date of inspection, only two (2) plants showed minor signs of stress and they should survive. Two (2) chokeberry were heavily damaged, likely during fence installation the day prior to inspection, it seems unlikely that these plants will recuperate (Photo 2). Even with these losses survival of plantings is currently well above 90%. Wetland seed mix is doing well and has covered much of the replication area.

A few shoots of Japanese knotweed were found in the replication area and mechanically removed. The presence of this plant, and its potential to run rampant, has been noted to the client who will make an effort to keep it out of the replication area. Additionally, the presence of phragmites in the adjacent wetland means that this species will likely make its way into the replication area. While mechanical removal will be attempted this will be a difficult battle to win.


Surface soil conditions on site were a little dry towards the front of the restoration area however the approved fence had been installed the day prior to our site inspection, and soil agitation could have been the cause for observed surface conditions. Indeed, soil conditions to the rear of the replication area were observably moister. Test pits showed adequate soil moisture at 12" with saturation occurring at 14". While no standing water was observed some areas to the rear of the replication area show signs of ponding.

As noted in Table 1, no box elder were found on site, as stipulated in the planting plan. Instead buttonbush were found in their place. Buttonbush is also a native plant and should be a suitable replacement, despite the difference in plant form. The only concerns for this replacement are that soil conditions may prove too dry for this wetland obligate species. This has been taken into consideration by both GC and the client, and a careful eye will be kept on these plants during subsequent inspections.

Overall the replication area is doing well. Native plantings were installed per the planting plan, with exception of the buttonbush, and are healthy. Despite recent rains, it will be important to ensure that the plantings remain hydrated as we move into the drier months of the year, as they are newly installed and will be susceptible to overly dry conditions until they have become established. This has been noted to the client.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Goddard", written in a cursive style.

Scott Goddard,
Principal & PWS





