



Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.

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October 23, 2017

ESI Project no. W17-940

John Marchand, P.E.
Farland Corp.
401 County Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

**RE: SIMPLIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION for
61 John Vertente Boulevard; Map 133, Lot 147
New Bedford, Massachusetts
DEP File No.: 049-0770**

Mr. Marchand,

The purpose of this letter is to satisfy the comments of the Conservation Commission in regards to over-threshold impacts to wetland resource areas that require evaluation of wildlife habitat under 310 CMR 10.00. Specifically, the proposed project (Project) will alter 76 feet of intermittent stream in the vicinity of wetland flags 222 through 224, and 230 through 232. The threshold for requiring a wildlife habitat evaluation for streams is 10% of the length of bank on a single lot or 50 linear feet, whichever is less (310 CMR 10.54(4)(a)5). As such, an "Appendix A-Simplified Wildlife Habitat Evaluation," at least, is required using the forms and procedures outlined in the 2006 Massachusetts Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guidance for Inland Wetlands document. You will find a copy of the Appendix A form at the end of this letter.

The area to be altered is a narrow strip of bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) with a man-made ditch within it, presumably created when the site was originally developed. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain information on previous submittals for the site. So although it appears that the subject intermittent stream may be a man-made ditch originally created for stormwater purposes, without such evidence I will presume that the portion of the ditch within the BVW, anyway, acts as an intermittent stream. Given that my involvement with the Project started in August 2017, I have *not* personally observed flow within the stream. It has been dry both times I visited the site. The upper portion of the ditch, above the wetland flags, is rip-rapped. The ditch within the wetland portion of the site does not have riprap, but is still steep and narrow with vegetation growing on the sideslopes.

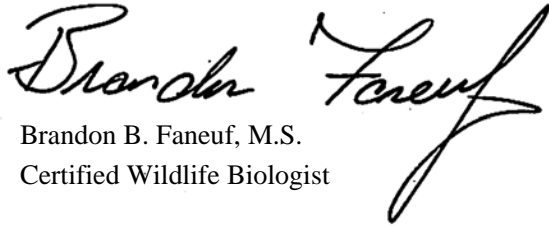
I have visited the site and have provided a list of upland and wetland species in the area of alterations, which has already been provided to the Commission by Farland Corp. All of the species are common for the area.

In summary, no "Important Habitat Features" outlined in the Appendix A form were observed within or within the distances specified on the form. It is my opinion that a crossing at the stream location will *not* impair animal movement. It is my professional opinion that wildlife habitat will *not* be adversely impacted as a result of the proposed alterations to Inland Bank, and that following two growing seasons of Project completion and

thereafter, will *not* substantially reduce the bank's capacity to provide important wildlife habitat functions listed in 310 CMR 10.60(2). I do not recommend an "Appendix B" Wildlife Habitat Evaluation at this time.

My resume and CWB are attached. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me using the information provided above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brandon B. Faneuf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brandon" and last name "Faneuf" clearly legible.

Brandon B. Faneuf, M.S.
Certified Wildlife Biologist

BF/bf



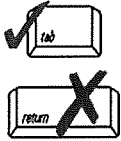
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection – Wetlands program

Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

Appendix A: Simplified Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

Project Information

Important:
When filling out
forms on the
computer, use
only the tab key
to move your
cursor - do not
use the return
key.



61 John Verteate Blvd. ; Map 133, Lot 147; New Bedford
Project Location (from NOI)
BRANDON FANEUF
Name of Person Completing Form
10/23/17
Date

Important Habitat Features

Direct alterations to the following important habitat features in resource areas may be permitted only if they will have no adverse effect (refer to Section V).

- ☐ Habitat for state-listed animal species (receipt of a positive opinion or permit from MNHESP shall be presumed to be correct. Do not refer to Section V).
- ☐ Sphagnum hummocks and pools suitable to serve as nesting habitat for four-toed salamanders
- ☐ Trees with large cavities (≥ 18 " tree diameter at cavity entrance)
- ☐ Existing beaver, mink or otter dens
- ☐ Areas within 100 feet of existing beaver, mink or otter dens (if significant disturbance)
- ☐ Existing nest trees for birds that traditionally reuse nests (bald eagle, osprey, great blue heron)
- ☐ Land containing freshwater mussel beds
- ☐ Wetlands and waterbodies known to contain open water in winter with the capacity to serve as waterfowl winter habitat
- ☐ Turtle nesting areas
- ☐ Vertical sandy banks (bank swallows, rough-winged swallows or kingfishers)

The following habitat characteristics when not commonly encountered in the surrounding area:

- ☐ Stream bed riffle zones (e.g. in eastern MA)
- ☐ Springs
- ☐ Gravel stream bottoms (trout and salmon nesting substrate)
- ☐ Plunge pools (deep holes) in rivers or streams
- ☐ Medium to large, flat rock substrates in streams



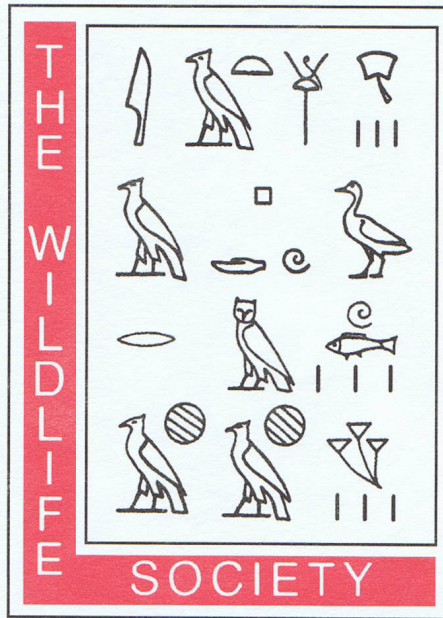
Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

Appendix A: Simplified Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

Activities

When any one of the following activities is proposed within resource areas, applicants should complete a Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation (refer to Appendix B).

- ☐ Activities located in mapped "Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance"
- ☐ Activities affecting certified or documented vernal pool habitat, including habitat within 100' of a certified or documented vernal pool when within a resource area
- ☐ Activities in bank, land under water, bordering land subject to flooding (presumed significant) where alterations are more than twice the size of thresholds
- ☐ Activities affecting vegetated wetlands >5000 sq. ft. occurring in resource areas other than Bordering Vegetated Wetland
- ☐ Activities affecting the sole connector between habitats >50 acres in size
- ☐ Installation of structures that prevent animal movement
- ☐ Activities for the purpose of bank stabilization using hard structure solutions that significantly affect ability of stream channel to shift and meander, or disrupt continuity in cover that would inhibit animal passage
- ☐ Dredging (greater than 5,000 sf)



The Wildlife Society

INCORPORATED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

grants the designation

Certified Wildlife Biologist

to

Brandon B. Faneuf

in recognition of fulfillment of all the professional requirements approved by The Wildlife Society and verified by the Society's Certification Review Board on this 14th day of October 2010. This certificate remains valid provided membership in the Society remains in good standing.

President, The Wildlife Society

Chairman, Certification Review Board

Executive Director, The Wildlife Society

Professional Resume

Brandon B. Faneuf, Principal
Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 1293 / 24 Kenmore Street
West Warwick, RI

EDUCATION

May 1997	University of Massachusetts Bachelor of Science, Wildlife Biology	Amherst, MA
May 1999	University of Massachusetts Master of Science, Wetlands Conservation	Amherst, MA
May 2006	University of Rhode Island 12 Post-Graduate Credits, Soil Science	Kingston, RI

EXPERIENCE

7/03–Present	Principal Scientist Ecosystem Solutions, Inc.	West Warwick, RI
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- Erosion & sediment control design and monitoring
 - MassHighway and RIDOT experience, including delineations, wetland restoration/replication design and construction oversight, environmental/erosion control monitoring
 - Peer Reviews for Massachusetts municipalities
 - Wetland delineations in Massachusetts, Connecticut, & Rhode Island using state and federal methodology
 - Wildlife habitat assessments under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR) & the Corps of Engineers Highway Method
 - All wetland permit application types, preparation, submission and representation at Massachusetts Conservation Commissions, Planning, and Zoning, etc.
 - Wetland replication & restoration plan creation, construction oversight, and long-term monitoring.
 - Section 404 application preparation and submission; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Section 401 Water Quality Certification application preparation and submission; Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
 - All wetland permit application types; Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, including wildlife habitat evaluations
 - Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act application preparation (ENF, EIR)
 - Guiding and offering land use planning advice and alternative design analysis to clients throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island
 - Performing soil evaluations for septic and stormwater infiltration system installation for clients throughout Rhode Island
 - Vernal pool certifications
 - Rare species studies/Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Filings
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1/02–7/03

Environmental Scientist

RI Department of Environmental Management Providence, RI
Shellfish Program

- Sanitary shoreline surveys for open, closed, and conditionally open/closed shellfishing waters, including the Narragansett Bay and the South County Salt Ponds
- Characterizing water pollution problems in coastal shellfishing waters, as well as designing and executing field investigations to characterize water quality conditions, determining the degree of pollution, including the collection of physical, hydrological, and biological data via manual and mechanical methods
- Reviewing staff surveys, interpreting the results of their findings; as well as preparing written shoreline survey reports (1, 3, and 12-year); and recommendations for future shellfish classification
- Working knowledge of National Sanitary Shellfish Program (NSSP) requirements

7/00-7/03

Environmental Scientist

RI Department of Environmental Management Providence, RI
Water Quality Assessments Program (TMDL)

- Development of water assessment and restoration projects (Total Maximum Daily Load-TMDL) per Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's Water Quality Planning and Management Regulations (40CFR Part 130), including project management of the Saugatucket River watershed pathogen TMDL, Indian Run Brook heavy metals (copper, lead, and zinc- using clean hands, dirty hands collection method) TMDL, Saugatucket Pond water quality and noxious aquatic plant investigation, and the Point Judith Pond pathogen TMDL within the Towns of Narragansett and South Kingstown
- Public presentations for local government and various private and public organizations, public meetings. Includes the Town of South Kingstown, the Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition, and the Salt Ponds Coalition.
- Characterization of water pollution problems in rivers, streams, and reservoirs, including the design, supervision, and execution of field investigations to characterize water quality conditions, determine the degree of pollution, including the collection of physical, hydrological, and biological data (i.e. Winkler titrations & YSI meters)
- In-depth analysis of water quality data combined with a thorough knowledge of watershed processes to assess and locate pollution sources
- Review of research proposals and reports including the review of staff surveys and investigations of TMDL's in other regions of the state, interpreting those findings, preparing written reports; and making recommendations for water quality restoration in waters throughout the state
- Coordinate between Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II Program and Municipalities regarding TMDL studies and subsequent BMP recommendations
- A working knowledge of RI Water Quality Regulations

05/98-7/00

Senior Natural Resource Specialist

RI Department of Environmental Management Providence, RI
Freshwater Wetlands Permitting Program

- Review of applications for wetland presence determinations, wetland edge delineation verification, preliminary determinations, and applications to alter wetlands
- Review of permit applications, including single-family house lots, subdivisions, condominium developments, hotels, emergency agricultural permits, golf courses, commercial properties, bridge construction, highway improvements, utility lines, sand and gravel operations, and CERCLA (Superfund) sites
- Review of permit applications throughout the State of Rhode Island.
- Fluency with the Rhode Island Freshwater Wetlands Act and Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act (Regulations)

CERTIFICATIONS & LICENCES

Certified Wildlife Biologist

The Wildlife Society, 2010

Washington, DC

Certified Professional in Soil Erosion & Sediment Control

Soil & Water Conservation Society & International Erosion
Control Association, 2003 (cert. no. 2691)

Class IV Soil Evaluator (license no. D4059)

State of Rhode Island, 2003

Professional Wetland Scientist (cert. no. 1614)

Society of Wetland Scientists, 2006

Virginia

New England Regional Soil Science Certificate

University of Massachusetts, 2006

Massachusetts

Registered Professional Soil Scientist

Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England, 2006

..... Connecticut

Certified Invasives Manager

RI Coastal Resources Management Council, 2009

Commercial Pesticide Applicator (license no. 5321)

State of Rhode Island, 2009

QUALIFICATIONS

Wetland Delineation

Qualified to perform wetland delineations under the RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands Program Guidelines, Connecticut DEP, and Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat

Qualified to perform wildlife & wildlife habitat assessments under the RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands Program Guidelines

Qualified to perform wildlife habitat evaluations under the MADEP Wetlands Protection Act

Prequalified under the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program for rare species habitat assessments (Box and Blanding Turtles).

Coverts Cooperator Training Completion Certificate, 2010

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Director (Board of Directors), 2009-2017

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Rhode Island Representative, 2010-2012

International Erosion Control Association

Rhode Island Director, 2009-2011

Soil & Water Conservation Society

Corporate Member

Rhode Island Natural History Survey

Member & Wetland Scientist

Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists

Corporate Member

Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists

Member

Society of Wetland Scientists

Member

The Wildlife Society

Member

Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England

Member

Rhode Island Forest Conservator's Org.

EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS

Expert in Wetland Science

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution.

Expert in Wetland Science

RI Coastal Resources Management Council

OTHER

Chair, IECA Northeast Chapter 2013 Annual Conference

Warwick, RI

Environmental Instructor- Wetlands, 2005-2013

Rhode Island Realtors Association