

# ELM CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

## WETLAND MONITORING REPORT REQUIREMENTS

After completion of the wetland mitigation areas, monitoring must be conducted for a five year period to evaluate the success of the mitigation area, to identify maintenance and management needs, and to correct any identified problems with the mitigation. During the growing season of each year, hydrologic and vegetative parameters should be measured in each of the mitigation areas.

A monitoring report must be prepared annually during the five-year monitoring period. The report should describe the status of the wetland mitigation, summarize the results of the vegetative and hydrologic monitoring, and discuss management activities and corrective actions conducted during the previous year as well as activities planned for the upcoming year. **The report must be submitted to the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission by December 31 of each year.** At a minimum, the annual report must include the following information:

In the first report only, a comparison of the as-built specifications with the design specifications and an explanation for significant modifications.

A brief description of the wetland mitigation areas, including location, size, vegetative and hydrologic monitoring reports, current wetland types and desired wetland types.

For each subsequent year, a comparison of existing conditions in the wetlands with as-built specifications and an explanation for any significant differences.

A summary of water level measurements or soil pit data collected to date and a determination as to whether the hydrology in the wetlands meets the design elevations and wetland hydrology criteria as defined in federal wetland delineation manuals. If standing water is expected, the hydrology of the mitigation areas will be monitored by installing staff gauges immediately upstream from each control structure and measuring water levels on a monthly basis during the growing season. In cases where there is little or no standing water, soil pits must be dug, depth of standing water recorded, and the location of each soil pit located on a site plan of the mitigation site.

Measurements should be taken at least three times, evenly distributed during the period April through October. Data for at least one soil pit near the wetland edge must be submitted.

A summary of plant species growing in each wetland and a determination whether the vegetation meets the wetland criteria as defined in federal wetland delineation manuals. For wetland mitigation areas greater than 0.5 acres, plant species data from at least two sample locations must be collected and their locations indicated on a site plan included with the monitoring report. Mitigation areas less than 0.5 acres only need plant species indicated for one sample location. Wetland vegetation must be both quantitatively and qualitatively evaluated once per year during the period of July through August in each mitigation area. Percent dominance should be recorded at each location with emphasis placed upon dominant species present.

A summary of management activities and/or corrective actions conducted in the wetlands during the previous year and activities planned for the following year (i.e. burning, retilling, regrading, herbicide application, reseeding and mulching). Buffer areas and installation of buffer signage must be monitored.

Color photographs of the wetland mitigation sites taken in July through August of each year at the designated photo-reference points. At least one photo should be taken from each reference point. Photo-reference points should include views of any control structures and enough additional points to adequately depict the entire project. The direction in which the picture is taken should be specified.

- At the end of the five years, a wetland delineation must be conducted at each mitigation site to verify that the areas have met federal wetland criteria and the results of the delineation are addressed in the final report submitted.

**NOTE:** The Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission reserves the right to extend the wetland monitoring period beyond five years and withhold or cash any monitoring escrow required as part of an approved wetland replacement plan in the event that the wetland monitoring requirements are not met. It is possible that wetland establishment criteria will be achieved prior to completion of the five-year monitoring period at which time monitoring report requirements will be terminated.

If the project involves wetland banking, the monitoring and reporting must comply with the BWSR requirements in effect.