

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**Coastal Resources Management Program**

**Rules and Regulations**  
**Governing the Protection and Management of**  
**Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast**



Adopted pursuant to Chapter 46-23 of the General Laws of Rhode Island

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
**Coastal Resources Management Council**

# Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast

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**Rule 1.00. Introduction And Purpose**

- 1.01** These Rules and Regulations are promulgated by Coastal Resources Management Council (the CRMC) to preserve, protect, and/or restore the purity and integrity of the freshwater wetlands of the State of Rhode Island located in the vicinity of the coast, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, so that the freshwater wetlands shall be available for all beneficial uses and thus protect the health, welfare, and general well being of the general populace and the environment of the State.

These regulations are promulgated to administer and enforce chapter 46-23 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended.

## **Rule 2.00. Authority And General Administration**

- 2.01** These Rules and Regulations are adopted pursuant to chapter 46-23 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended.
- 2.02** The CRMC shall be responsible for the protection and management of freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, as depicted on maps maintained on file at the offices the CRMC and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), and the municipal offices of each coastal city or town. The CRMC may at any time, when necessary, consult with and/or coordinate its responsibilities and duties with the DEM.
- 2.03** Any Preliminary Determination or permit to alter freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, including any terms and conditions, issued by the DEM prior to the effective date of these Rules and Regulations shall remain valid for the time specified in such determination or permit and may be renewed by the DEM.

Any application that has been assigned an application number by the DEM prior to the effective date of these Rules and Regulations shall be subject to the DEM's authority under the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act.

### **Rule 3.00. Administrative Findings And Policies**

**3.01** The declarations of intent and public policy enumerated by the General Assembly in Sections 2-1-18 and 2-1-19 of the Act are hereby adopted as the administrative findings upon which these Regulations are based. In addition, the following administrative findings are made as further basis for these Regulations:

- A. GLRI 46-23 et. seq. and Sections 2-1-18 and 2-1-19 of the Freshwater Wetlands Act serve as the general legislative mandate to preserve the purity and integrity of all freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, located in the vicinity of the coast from random, unnecessary, and/or undesirable alterations. Freshwater wetland functions and values, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains must be preserved and protected in the best public interest. Random, unnecessary, and/or undesirable alterations of freshwater wetlands or the functions and values, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, they provide and maintain are not in the best public interest.
- B. Freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'),; riverbanks, and flood plains, provide functions and values which protect the health, welfare, and general well being of the populace and the environment. These functions and values include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1) Protection of life and/or property from flooding or flood flows by retaining, storing, metering, or slowing flood waters from storm events;
  - 2) Providing and maintaining surface and/or groundwater supplies by acting as a recharge or discharge area;
  - 3) Providing and maintaining valuable wildlife habitats;
  - 4) Providing and maintaining high value recreation areas; and
  - 5) Protecting and maintaining water quality.
- C. The cumulative effect of incremental alterations to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, may be significant, even if a proposed alteration may in and of itself be insignificant.
- D. Riverbanks (as defined in Rule 5.74), flood plains, and the area of land within fifty feet (50') (as defined in Rule 5.09) are important integral components of the flowing body of water or swamp, marsh, bog or pond with which they are associated and essential to support the functions and values wetlands provide.
- E. A freshwater wetland or wetland complex, including the area of land within fifty feet (50'), flood plain, and riverbanks, as defined herein, functions as an integrated ecological unit or system, no portion or component of which is less worthy of regulatory protection than the wetland as a whole.
- F. Due to their size or nature, certain projects and activities taking place outside of freshwater wetlands and in area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, can impact wetland functions and values and can alter the natural character of the wetland. Such projects and activities include, but are not limited to, those that: result in a change to the normal surface run-off characteristics which increases the rate and/or volume of water flowing into, or draining or diverting water away from, freshwater wetlands; result in diversion of groundwater into or away from freshwater wetlands; result in a modification to the quality of water reaching freshwater wetlands which could change their natural character; and, result in construction of a "New" individual sewage disposal system as governed by the Rules and Regulations Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS Regulations), where the leaching field is within fifty feet (50') of any freshwater wetland.
- G. Buffer zones help safeguard wetland functions and values by protecting water quality, providing wildlife habitat, reducing erosion and controlling runoff.
- H. Setbacks allow for proper maintenance of structures, act as a firebreak, reduce the risk of flooding, reduce risks to structures associated with wood boring insects, and minimize adverse impacts to natural areas.

- 3.02 The declaration of public policy enumerated by the General Assembly in Section 2-1-19 of the Act is hereby adopted as a guiding policy upon which these Regulations are based. In addition, the following policies are adopted as further basis for these Regulations:
- A. It is the Council's policy to preserve freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains.
  - B. No person may alter (excavate; drain; fill; place trash, garbage, sewage, road runoff, drainage ditch effluents, earth, rock, borrow, gravel, sand, clay, peat, or other materials or effluents upon; divert water flows into or out of; dike; dam; divert; clear vegetation; grade; construct in; change; add to or take from) or otherwise change the character of any freshwater wetland, riverbank, area of land within fifty feet (50') or flood plain, as defined herein, in any way without first obtaining approval of the Council.
  - C. Unless specifically exempt (see Rule 6.00), any proposed project or activity taking place either partially or wholly within freshwater wetlands, riverbank, area of land within fifty feet (50') or flood plain, as defined herein, shall require authorization from the Council.
  - D. The Council supports a goal of no net loss of wetland area or functions and values of freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast.
  - E. Random, unnecessary and/or undesirable alterations of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, are prohibited. In determining whether a proposed project is a random, unnecessary and/or undesirable alteration the Council shall consider the following:
    - 1) Whether the applicant has demonstrated that impacts to freshwater wetlands have been avoided to the maximum extent possible;
    - 2) Whether the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed project eliminates or minimizes probable impacts that remain to the functions and values of freshwater wetlands, and the environment, health, welfare, and general well-being of the populace; and,
    - 3) Whether the proposed project will contribute to cumulative adverse impacts on wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains.
  - F. To offset unavoidable impacts, it is the Council's policy to require mitigation of adverse impacts to freshwater wetlands, the areas of land within 50 feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. Mitigation shall be achieved in accordance with the following sequence: (1) avoidance of adverse impacts; (2) minimization of any unavoidable adverse impacts that remain; and, (3) where appropriate, compensation for unavoidable adverse impacts to wetlands and flood plains after practicable minimization has taken place. The Council shall not consider compensation until the applicant has demonstrated that all impacts to freshwater wetlands and flood plains have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
  - G. Filling, removing or grading (RICRMP Section 300.2) is prohibited on any freshwater wetland in the Narrow River watershed, as defined in The Narrow River Special Area Management Plan. Relief from this prohibition may be permitted in instances where filling is required to access otherwise buildable land, no other reasonable alternatives for access exist and the applicant has satisfied the variance burdens of proof contained in RICRMP Section 140.
  - H. In order to help safeguard wetland functions and values through proper protection and management, the Council shall apply appropriate setbacks and buffer zones on a case-by-case basis. In determining setback and buffer requirements, the Council shall consider the applicant's project needs, the functions and values associated with the wetland, riverbank, area of land within 50 feet, and/or flood plain, and the potential for project impacts to these functions and values including cumulative impacts.
  - I. Applicants for Council Assents to construct, alter, extend or repair individual sewage disposal systems (ISDS) shall first obtain an ISDS permit from the Department of Environmental Management. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate the appropriate siting of ISDS with the CRMC through a pre-application meeting prior to submitting an ISDS application to the Department of Environmental Management.
  - J. Applicants are responsible for obtaining any other necessary federal, state and/or local permits.

**Rule 4.00. Application of These Regulations**

- 4.01** These Rules and Regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the CRMC to effectuate the purposes of R.I.G.L. 46-23 and the Act.
- 4.02** Not applicable
- 4.03** These Rules and Regulations apply to freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast (as depicted on maps maintained on file at the CRMC, DEM and the municipal offices of each coastal city or town), the jurisdictional resource areas which are area(s) of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbanks, and flood plains, and, all activities which could alter the character of any freshwater wetland or part thereof in the vicinity of the coast. The authority of the CRMC to apply these Rules and Regulations to freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, is that which is necessary to carry out the effective management of the resource and to ensure that the same standard of protection applies to these resource areas as under the DEM Freshwater Wetlands Program.
- 4.04** The application of these Rules and Regulations is limited to fresh water wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, as depicted on maps maintained on file at the offices of the CRMC, DEM, and the municipal offices of each coastal city or town. Persons proposing any activity which could alter the character of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, or part thereof outside the vicinity of the coast are required to obtain approval from the DEM Freshwater Wetlands Program.
- 4.05** In cases where a proposed project or activity is subject to the CRMC's jurisdiction due to the nature of the activity, its proximity to any coastal feature, or its location within the boundaries of the Narrow River or Salt Ponds watersheds (as defined in the Narrow River and Salt Ponds Special Area Management Plans (SAMP)), and the proposed project is also subject to these Rules and Regulations, the CRMC shall apply the provisions of the RICRMP and any applicable SAMP in addition to these Rules and Regulations. Where these separate regulatory programs may conflict, the more stringent definition, policy, standard and/or prohibition shall apply.
- 4.06** The definitions contained in Rule 5.00 shall apply to the CRMC's Freshwater Wetlands Program and the implementation of these Rules and Regulations. These definitions do not apply to any other activities regulated by the CRMC.
- 4.07** Except where specifically superseded in these Rules and Regulations, The CRMC Management Procedures shall apply to the implementation of these Rules and Regulations.
- 4.08** Any enforcement action taken by, or application submitted to, the DEM prior to the effective date of these Rules and Regulations shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations in effect at the time the enforcement action was taken, or application filed.

**Rule 5.00. Definitions**

**5.01** Not applicable

**5.02** **Act** means Sections 2-1-18 through 2-1-24 inclusive of the General Laws of 1956, as amended.

**5.03** Not applicable

**5.04** **Alteration** (See Alter the Character).

**5.05** **Alter the Character** means those activities which occur within or outside of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, which impact their natural character, functions and/or values. Such activities include but are not limited to the following:

Excavating; draining; filling; placing trash, garbage, sewage, road runoff, drainage ditch effluents, earth, rock, borrow, gravel, sand, clay, peat, or other materials or effluents upon; diverting water flows into or out of; diking; damming; diverting; clearing; grading; constructing in; adding to or taking from or otherwise changing the character of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, as herein defined either individually or cumulatively.

**5.06** **Applicant** means the person, firm, partnership, corporation, public utility, government agency and/or any other organization or association seeking a determination, permit, or decision from the CRMC through prescribed application procedures. The applicant must be the owner of the property or easement which is the subject of the application, or must be the government agency or entity with power of condemnation over such property or easement.

**5.07** **Approval** means a permit or authorization issued by the CRMC.

**5.08** **Aquatic Base Flow (ABF)** means those minimum river or stream flow conditions that are necessary to sustain and perpetuate indigenous aquatic fauna and flora and is based upon the following:

- A. Where a minimum of twenty-five (25) years of U.S. Geological Survey gauging records exist on a river or stream that is basically free-flowing, the ABF for all times of the year must be equivalent to at least the median August flow for the period of record unless spawning and incubation requirements exceed the median August flow; or
- B. For rivers or streams where inadequate flow records exist or for rivers or streams regulated by dams or upstream diversions, the ABF shall be at least 0.5 cubic feet per second per square mile of drainage (cfs/m), unless spawning and incubation requirements exceed this minimum; or
- C. Where concerns exist regarding spawning and incubation flow requirements, the ABF shall be 1.0 cfs/m in October/November and 4.0 cfs/m in April/May for the entire applicable spawning and incubation periods of aquatic fauna; or
- D. Where a specific in-stream flow study determines the ABF based upon the specific needs of aquatic fauna and/or flora and such study is approved by the CRMC.

**5.09** **Area of Land Within Fifty Feet (50')** means the area of land within fifty feet (50') of the edge of any bog, marsh, swamp, or pond as defined by these Rules, which is subject to regulation in order to safeguard the functions and values of freshwater wetlands. For purposes of identification, this area shall be measured horizontally, without regard for topography, from the edge of any bog, marsh, swamp, pond, or wetland complex containing any combination of these wetland types.



- 5.10 Area Subject to Flooding** shall include, but not be limited to, flood plains, depressions or low lying areas flooded by rivers, streams, intermittent streams, or areas subject to storm flowage which collect, hold, and/or meter out storm and flood waters.
- 5.11 Area Subject to Storm Flowage** means those drainage swales and channels which lead into, out of, and/or connect other freshwater wetlands or coastal wetlands, and which carry flows resulting from storm events but may remain relatively dry at other times.
- 5.12 Best Management Practices (BMP)** means practices which include, but are not limited to, schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, structural and non-structural methods, and other management practices approved by the CRMC to prevent or significantly limit any reduction of the functions and values associated with freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains,.
- 5.13 Bog** means a place where standing or slowly running water shall be near or at the surface during a normal growing season and/or where a vegetational community shall have over fifty percent (50%) of the ground or water surface covered with sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum*) and/or where the vegetational community shall be made up of one or more of, but not limited to nor necessarily including all of the following: blueberries, and cranberries (*Vaccinium*), leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*), sundews (*Drosera*), orchids (Orchidaceae), white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), bog aster (*Aster nemoralis*), larch (*Larix laricina*), bog rosemary (*Andromeda glaucophylla*), azaleas (*Rhododendron*), laurels (*Kalmia*), sedges (*Carex*), bog cotton (*Eriophorum*).
- 5.14 Buffer zone** means an area of undeveloped vegetated land retained in its natural undisturbed condition, or created to resemble a naturally occurring vegetated area which serves to mitigate impacts from human activities to wetland functions and values.
- 5.15 Completed Application** means any application which, in the opinion of the Director, provides all of the requisite information necessary to process the application.
- 5.16 Conditions** (see Terms and Conditions).
- 5.17 Cumulative Impact** means the combined impact on the wetland environment and its functions and values which may result from past, present and future alterations to the same wetland system, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such alterations.
- 5.18 Dam** means to permanently or temporarily impound surface water above the wetland surface which existed prior to dam construction or above the bottom of any river, stream or intermittent stream; or any manmade structure which permanently or temporarily impounds normal and/or storm flows.
- 5.19 Department** means the Department of Environmental Management or DEM.
- 5.20 Detention Facility** means a basin, depression, or other manmade structure excavated, constructed, or installed to intercept and temporarily store surface runoff and release the stored water at a controlled rate.
- 5.21 Dike** means a berm or structure which impedes, redirects, diverts, or otherwise controls the flow or elevation of water.
- 5.22 Director** means the Executive Director of the Coastal Resources Management Council and may be used interchangeably with CRMC or Council.

**5.23** not applicable

**5.24** **Drain** means to lower the surface water and/or groundwater elevation either temporarily or on a permanent basis.

**5.25** **ECC** means the Estimated Construction Cost (See Rule 8.03).

**5.26** **Each Violation** means any failure to comply with these Rules, or any condition of approval, assent, permit, order, or determination issued by the Council which is distinct from any other violation by:

- A. The type of wetland and/or jurisdictional resource area affected; an unauthorized alteration shall be considered one violation if it occurs in a wetland which can be identified as more than one (1) wetland type;
- B. The place, area, or time of commission of the violation; and/or
- C. The nature of the violation.

**5.27** **Edge** means the line of intersection or division between:

- A. Any swamp, marsh, pond, bog, or any wetland complex and the adjacent upland where the inland (upland) limit of wetland shall be determined consistent with the definition of freshwater wetland contained in Rule 5.40 and the specific criteria for identifying wetland edges contained in Appendix 4.
- B. Any flowing body of water and the adjacent upland where the inland (upland) limit of the flowing body of water shall be determined consistent with the definition of “flowing body of water” contained in Rule 5.38 and the specific criteria for identifying wetland edges contained in Appendix 4.
- C. Any wetland other than those listed above, and any adjacent non-wetland area.

The edge of wetlands shall be identified according to those procedures set forth in these Rules. (See Appendix 4).

**5.28** **Emergency Alteration** means an activity or alteration authorized by the Director within any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, area which must be undertaken to protect the health and safety of the public from actual or threatened imminent harm.

**5.29** **Emergent Plant Community** means a wetland characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytic vegetation which is present for most of the growing season in most years, and which may be persistent or non-persistent in nature.

**5.30** **Excavate** means to dig into, cut, quarry, uncover, remove, displace, relocate, or grade any earth, soil, sand, gravel, rock, peat, organic, inorganic or any other similar material.

**5.31** **Existing** means: (1) a condition that was present as of the enactment of the Freshwater Wetlands Act or its applicable amendments and has continually remained in the same condition; or (2) a condition that is present and was approved under the Freshwater Wetlands Act or its applicable amendments; or (3) a condition that has naturally occurred and is currently present.

**5.32** **Facultative Wildlife Species** means wildlife which utilize wetlands as habitat, but generally do not require wetlands for survival or reproduction.

**5.33** **Farmer** means, as defined in Section 2-1-22(i) of the Act, an individual, partnership or corporation who operates a farm and has filed a 1040F U.S. Internal Revenue Form with the Internal Revenue Service, has

a state of Rhode Island farm tax number, and has earned Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) gross income on farm products in each of the preceding four (4) years.

- 5.34 Feasible** means capable of being done, executed, accomplished or brought about by engineering standards.
- 5.35 Fill** means to place dirt, soil, stones, gravel, sand, sediment, tree stumps, brush, leaves, solid waste, debris, garbage, trash, pollutants, or any other material, substance, or structure, either foreign or related, on or in any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, or in such a way as to alter the natural character, function and/or value of any wetland.
- 5.36 Flood Plain** means that land area adjacent to a river or stream or other body of flowing water which is, on the average, likely to be covered with flood waters resulting from a one hundred (100) year frequency storm and which is subject to regulation in order to safeguard the functions and values of freshwater wetlands and flood plains. A one hundred (100) year frequency storm is one that is to be expected to be equaled or exceeded once in one hundred (100) years; or may be said to have a one percent (1%) probability of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Rainfall intensity data for a one hundred (100) year frequency storm are those established for New England locations by the National Weather Service (formerly the U.S. Weather Bureau).
- 5.37 Floodway** means the channel of a river or stream, plus any immediate adjacent areas that must be kept free of encroachment in order that the 100-year flood waters can be carried without increase in flood heights or flows and without endangering life and/or property.
- 5.38 Flowing Body of Water** means any river, stream, or intermittent stream which flows long enough during the year to develop and maintain defined channels and generally has flowing waters at times other than those periods immediately following storm events. Such watercourses have defined banks, a bed, and maintain visible evidence of flow or continued reoccurrence of flowing water.
- 5.39 Forested Wetland** means a wetland dominated by woody plants (trees) greater than twenty feet (20') tall.
- 5.40 Freshwater Wetland** means the following:
- A. Bog, pond, marsh, swamp, river, area(s) subject to flooding, area(s) subject to storm flowage, floodway, flowing body of water, stream, intermittent stream, submergent and emergent plant communities, special aquatic sites, and shrub and forested wetland located in the vicinity of the coast;
  - B. Those areas located in the vicinity of the coast, that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and
  - C. Any or all wetlands located in the vicinity of the coast, created as part of, or the result of, any activity permitted or directed by the DEM after July 16, 1971 including, but not limited to: restored wetlands; value replacement wetlands created to compensate for wetland loss such as flood plain excavations; biofiltration areas; and any wetlands created, altered or modified after July 16, 1971.

The Director has the sole authority to determine which areas are freshwater wetlands located in the vicinity of the coast.

- 5.41 Growing Season** means the period from April 1 to November 15 of any calendar year.
- 5.42 Hydrophyte/Hydrophytic Vegetation** means a plant (plant life) that grows in water, or in or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.

- 5.43 Insignificant Alteration** means, in the opinion of the Director, a proposed alteration, limited in scope, area and/or duration, which appears to result in no more than a minimal change or modification to the natural characteristics, functions, and/or values of any freshwater wetland(s), area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and is not random, unnecessary and/or undesirable.
- 5.44 Intermittent Stream** (See Stream).
- 5.45 Lentic** means a habitat or ecosystem characterized by standing water.
- 5.46 Lotic** means a habitat or ecosystem characterized by flowing water.
- 5.47 Low Flow Period** means, under normal conditions, the period from July 1 to October 31 of any calendar year.
- 5.48 Maintenance Activities** means those actions necessary to ensure the upkeep of manmade structures which were constructed with all necessary federal, state and/or local permits; and other limited activities as set forth in Rule 6.03.
- 5.49 Marsh** means a place not less than one (1) acre in extent wholly or partly within the state of Rhode Island where a vegetational community shall exist in standing or running water during the growing season and/or shall be made up of one or more of, but not limited to nor necessarily including all of the following plants or groups of plants: hydrophytic reeds (*Phragmites*), grasses (*Gramineae*), mannagrasses (*Glyceria*), cutgrasses (*Leersia*), pickerelweeds (*Pontederiaceae*), sedges (*Cyperaceae*), rushes (*Juncaceae*), cattails (*Typha*), water plantains (*Alismataceae*), bur-reeds (*Sparganiaceae*), pondweeds (*Zosteraceae*), frog's bits (*Hydrocharitaceae*), arums (*Araceae*), duckweeds (*Lemnaceae*), water lilies (*Nymphaeaceae*), water-milfoils (*Haloragaceae*), water-starworts (*Callitrichaceae*), bladderworts (*Utricularia*), pipeworts (*Eriocaulon*), sweet gale (*Myrica gale*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).
- 5.50 Mitigate/Mitigation** means a process undertaken as an individual action or by cumulative actions to avoid or lessen the damaging effects of human activities upon freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and the functions and values that they provide prior to, during, and/or after the completion of any freshwater wetland alterations or projects.
- 5.51 Near or at the Surface** means within thirty-six inches (36") of the surface.
- 5.52** Not applicable.
- 5.53 Objection of a Substantive Nature** means any written comment offered in opposition to a proposed project which:
- A. Relates to the functions and values of the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; and
  - B. Has not been clearly addressed by the applicant in his or her application; has not been assessed by the CRMC during its review of the application; and cannot be resolved by the CRMC's evaluation of the application.
- 5.54 Obligate Wildlife Species** means wildlife which depend upon wetlands for all or part of their life cycle.
- 5.55 Open Standing** means those surface water areas which are not dominated by persistent vegetative cover (i.e., less than fifty percent (50%) of the water body surface is dominated by persistent emergent, shrub, or tree vegetation either as a single life form group or in the aggregate).

- 5.56 Ordinary High Water Mark** means the line separating land flooded at high water from land exposed at high water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line exposed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of soil; absence of terrestrial vegetation; the presence of water-borne natural litter and debris; or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.
- 5.57** Not applicable
- 5.58 Permit** means an authorization, in the form of an assent issued and signed by the Director, which allows the conditional alteration of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- 5.59 Person or Agent Responsible** means any individual; firm; industry; company; corporation; city; town; municipal; state or federal agency; fire district; club; nonprofit agency; other individual, group, or association; or any combination of the above that conducts, allows to be conducted, or maintains any activity or condition in violation of the Act, and/or any order, Rule, or Regulation of the CRMC, without first obtaining the approval of the CRMC.
- 5.60 Pollutant** means any material or effluent which may alter the aesthetic, chemical, physical, biological, or radiological characteristics and/or integrity of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, including, but not limited to, dredged spoil; solid waste; incinerator residue; sewage; garbage; sewage sludge; munitions; chemical wastes; biological materials; radioactive materials; heat; wrecked or discarded equipment; rock; sand; dirt; sediment; industrial, municipal, agricultural or other wastes; and petroleum or petroleum products including, but not limited to, oil.
- 5.61 Pollution** means the alteration of the aesthetic, chemical, physical, biological, or radiological characteristics and/or integrity of any freshwater wetland as a result of the introduction of any pollutant to any freshwater wetland.
- 5.62 Pond** means a place not less than one-quarter (1/4) acre in extent, natural or manmade, wholly or partly within the state of Rhode Island, where open standing or slowly moving water shall be present for at least six (6) months a year.
- 5.63 Preliminary Determination** means a notification, in the form of a letter issued and signed by the Director, which informs the applicant as to whether or not a proposed project represents a significant alteration as defined herein.
- 5.64 Property Accessory** means a structure that has an ancillary or supplementary function to the main use of the property. Property Accessories shall include: amateur radio towers, flag poles, swing sets, slides, decks, patios, gardens, sheds, in-ground or above-ground swimming pools, fences that do not span or obstruct public access to rivers streams and other waterbodies (along and within boundaries or areas such as existing home lawns and driveways), treehouses, drinking water wells with a volume of withdrawal to be no greater than 500 gallons per day, walls, stairs, walks, and pervious driveways.
- 5.65 Proposed Project** means the outemost boundary of the proposed alteration of wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains,. Such area must include at least the following:
- A. The extent of all physical disturbance in regulated areas;
  - B. The extent of any impoundment and/or raising of water elevations in wetlands;
  - C. The extent of drainage of wetlands including lowering of surface and sub-surface water elevations;
  - D. The relocation of flowing bodies of water or watercourses including the original and proposed locations; and

- E. The expansion of any regulated areas into adjacent properties.
- 5.66 Random Alteration** means any alteration for which the applicant does not specify in writing through design plans and drawings, the final developed use of the property upon which an application is predicated; or any alteration proposed which is arbitrary or without justification.
- 5.67 Rare Species or Rare Wetland Type** means those invertebrate and vertebrate animals or plant species (which exist either individually or as a group) or wetland types listed as threatened, endangered, of special interest or of special concern by DEM's Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program; by DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife; and/or under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- 5.68 Reasonably Available** for purposes of Rule 10.00 *et seq.*, means properties which, either in whole or in part, are financially obtainable without excessive cost based upon individual circumstances, or may be obtained without excessive hardship such as property owned or controlled by the same family, company, group of affiliated companies or corporate entities, or other organizations, municipality or state or federal governments.
- 5.69 Recreational Activities** means those activities which include, but are not limited to, the following: education or nature studies, hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, camping, trapping, waterskiing, swimming, ice skating, hiking, bird watching or other wildlife observations, photography, cross-country skiing, harvesting of natural foods or plant materials, and visual/aesthetic appreciation of natural wetland environments as a whole or in part.
- 5.70 Renewal/Permit Extension** means any approval or permit which has been reaffirmed or extended by the CRMC prior to the expiration date of the original permit granted.
- 5.71 Restoration - Complete Restoration** means the result of actions which, in the opinion of the CRMC, reinstates or will reinstate, insofar as possible, the functions and values of a wetland which has been altered.
- 5.72 Retention Facility** means a basin, depression, or other manmade structure excavated, constructed, or installed to hold stormwater flows or runoff.
- 5.73 River** means a body of water designated as a perennial stream by the United States Department of Interior Geologic Survey on 7.5 minute series topographic maps and which is not a "pond" as defined in these Rules.
- 5.74 Riverbank/River Bank** means that area of land within two hundred feet (200') of the edge of any flowing body of water having a width of ten feet (10') or more, and that area of land within one hundred feet (100') of the edge of any flowing body of water having a width of less than ten feet (10') during normal flow.
- 5.75 Sediment** means any organic or inorganic material that is in suspension, has been deposited, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice.
- 5.76 Sediment Facility** means any basin, depression or other manmade structure excavated, constructed or installed to retain sediment and/or debris, and prevent sediment and/or debris from entering any freshwater wetlands.
- 5.77 Selective Cut/Cutting** means the cutting of trees or the mowing or cutting of shrubs and/or emergent vegetation which would result in:
- A. At least 60% stocking of trees remaining in any forested wetland. Stocking shall be based upon the applicable northeastern tree stocking guide for the dominant tree type within the forested wetland;

- B. At least 75% crown cover of shrubs remaining within any shrub or forested wetland;
- C. At least 80% cover remaining in any emergent community.

- 5.78 Shrub Wetland** means a wetland dominated by woody plants less than twenty feet (20') tall.
- 5.79 Significant Alteration** means, in the opinion of the Director, a proposed project which by its area, scope and/or duration, appears to represent more than a minimal change or modification to the natural characteristics, functions and/or values of any freshwater wetland(s), area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; may be detrimental to the basic natural capabilities or values associated with any freshwater wetland(s), area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; and/or appears to be random, unnecessary and/or undesirable.
- 5.80 Significant Part of the Growing Season** means that period of the growing season when water is present long enough to support a plant community of predominantly hydrophytic vegetation.
- 5.81 Special Aquatic Site** means a body of open standing water, either natural or manmade, which does not meet the definition of "pond" but which is capable of supporting and providing habitat for aquatic life forms as documented by:
- A. presence of standing water during most years as documented on site or by aerial photographs; and
  - B. presence of habitat features necessary to support aquatic life forms of obligate wildlife species, or the presence, documented use, or evidence of aquatic life forms of obligate wildlife species (excluding biting flies).
- 5.82 Standing Water** means any water above the ground surface regardless of its depth.
- 5.83 State Highway Project** means a highway project proposed by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation which has been submitted under a single application for CRMC review.
- 5.84 Stream/Intermittent Stream** means any flowing body of water or watercourse other than a river which flows during sufficient periods of the year to develop and maintain defined channels. Such watercourses carry groundwater discharge and/or surface runoff. Such watercourses may not have flowing water during extended dry periods but may contain isolated pools or standing water.
- 5.85 Submergent Plant Community** means a wetland characterized by plants that grow principally below the surface of the water for most of the growing season. Submergent plants are either attached to the substrate or float freely in the water.
- 5.86 Surface Water** means water present above the substrate or soil surface.
- 5.87 Swamp** means a place not less than three (3) acres in extent wholly or partly within the state of Rhode Island where groundwater shall be near or at the surface of the ground for a significant part of the growing season, or where runoff water from surface drainage shall collect frequently, and/or where a vegetational community shall be made up of a significant portion of one or more of, but not limited to nor necessarily including all of the following: red maple (*Acer rubrum*), elm (*Ulmus americana*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), ashes (*Fraxinus*), poison sumac (*Rhus vernix*), larch (*Larix laricina*), spice bush (*Lindera benzoin*), alders (*Alnus*), skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), sphagnum (*Sphagnum*), azaleas (*Rhododendron*), black alder (*Ilex verticillata*), coast pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), blueberries (*Vaccinium*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), willow (*Salicaceae*), water willow (*Decodon verticillatus*), tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), laurels (*Kalmia*), swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), or species indicative of marsh.

- 5.88 Terms, Conditions and Stipulations** means any requirements specified by the CRMC which are necessary to prevent any authorized or permitted project or activity from reducing the functions and values associated with any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; prevent any significant alteration which is not authorized; prevent the destruction of any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, or portion thereof; or protect the health, welfare, and general well being of the public. These terms and conditions may include, but not be limited to, the following:
- A. Soil stability, including prevention of erosion and deposition of sediment in any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains;
  - B. Flood prevention;
  - C. Protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and its functions and values;
  - D. Preservation of recreational activities and values;
  - E. Protection of water quality;
  - F. Development and maintenance of mitigative features;
  - G. Time for completion including restrictions thereof;
  - H. Statutory and/or regulatory requirements and limitations;
  - I. Construction phasing; and
  - J. Monitoring and reporting for compliance and enforcement.
- 5.89 Undesirable Alteration** means any proposed activity or alteration which is likely to reduce or degrade any freshwater wetland functions and values, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, as set forth herein. Any activity, alteration or proposed project will be considered "undesirable" unless the applicant shows that she or he has, to the maximum extent possible, mitigated for any damaging effects of the proposed project upon the functions and values provided by any freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- 5.90 Unnecessary Alteration** means any proposed alteration which is not essential, vital, or indispensable to the proposed project and which can be achieved without altering or disturbing freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. Any activity, alteration, or project will be considered "unnecessary", unless the applicant shows that:
- A. Alterations of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and the functions and values they provide have been avoided by exhausting all other non-wetland alternatives; and
  - B. The alterations planned for the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, have been reduced to the maximum extent possible to prevent any damaging or detrimental effects upon wetland functions and values from activities which could otherwise be avoided.
- 5.91 Utility** means any electric, water, sewer, gas, oil or communication transmission line or pipe.
- 5.92 Wetland Complex** means any wetland ecosystem containing more than one wetland type as defined within the Act and these Rules.
- 5.93 Width During Normal Flow** means the distance between the opposite edges of the flow channel of the river, stream, or intermittent stream. The channel edges are indicated by evidence of erosion, scouring, destruction or prevention of terrestrial vegetation, distinct banks, or other easily recognized or distinct characteristics indicating the confined area of a flowing body of water.
- 5.94 Wildlife** means any vertebrate or invertebrate animal species which may reproduce in, rest in, feed in, or otherwise utilize any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, regulated by the Act or these Rules.



**5.95 Wildlife Habitat** means those freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, that provide breeding, nursery, resting, travel or feeding areas for birds, fish, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, or invertebrates, as well as the biotic and/or abiotic characteristics of freshwater wetlands which may provide food, cover, breeding sites, or other life support systems for these forms of life.

**5.96 Additional Definitions**

- A. **Coastal Feature** means any coastal beach; barrier island or spit; dune; coastal wetland; coastal headland, bluff or cliff; rocky shore, or; manmade shoreline, as defined in the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program.
- B. **Coastal Resources Management Program** or RICRMP means the coastal zone management program adopted by the state of Rhode Island in accordance with R.I.G.L. 46-23 and approved under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.A. § §1451 to 1464).
- C. **Council** means the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council or CRMC.
- D. **Management Procedures** means the definitions and procedures adopted by the CRMC in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-35 and contained in the State of Rhode Island, Coastal Resources Management Council Management Procedures.
- E. **SAMP** means a Special Area Management Plan adopted by the CRMC.
- F. **Setback** means the minimum distance from the edge of a freshwater wetland at which an approved activity or alteration may take place.
- G. **In the vicinity of the coast** means those areas designated on maps accompanying this program under the jurisdiction of the CRMC and subject to these Rules and Regulations.

## **Rule 6.00. Exempt Activities**

### **6.01 General Conditions for Exempt Activities**

- A. Certain limited activities in freshwater wetlands, in the area of land within fifty feet (50'), flood plains, or on river banks may proceed without a specific written permit from the CRMC under the restrictions set forth below. Such restricted activities shall be considered exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit. It is strongly recommended that all exempt activities or projects occur as far away from freshwater wetlands as possible.
- B. Nothing in this Rule shall be deemed to:
  - 1) Limit or reduce, in any way, the CRMC's jurisdiction over freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; or
  - 2) Supersede any current terms or conditions to any permit, or
  - 3) Interfere with the CRMC's ability to make a determination or decision on an application, or
  - 4) Impose terms, conditions or stipulations on any permit, enforcement action or Consent Agreement. Any activities not described within this Rule which could alter the character of any freshwater wetlands require a specific written permit.
- C. Nothing in this Rule shall preclude the CRMC from initiating an enforcement action in the event of any failure to undertake exempt activities in accordance with the requirements and conditions set forth herein.
- D. The following general restrictions apply to all activities performed under this Rule:
  - 1) Exempted activities do not obviate the need to obtain other applicable federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law;
  - 2) Any structure or fill exempt under this Rule shall be properly maintained to ensure public safety, and to protect wetland functions and values;
  - 3) Best management practices for erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during the activity, and all exposed soil and other fills must be permanently stabilized at the earliest possible date. (For guidance see *Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook* and *Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual*.);
  - 4) No activity exempted herein may jeopardize the continued existence of a rare wetland type, or a rare species; likewise, no activity exempted herein may destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species;
  - 5) Following the limited activity, all equipment used in installation or maintenance activities shall be removed from any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; and
  - 6) All wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values must be protected to the maximum extent possible so as to prevent pollutants, sediment, direct discharge of stormwater run off, or any material foreign to a wetland or hazardous to life, from entering any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- E. Activities exempt in accordance with this Rule are not exempt from any applicable requirements contained in the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Program, including any applicable SAMP.

### **6.02 Limited Cutting or Clearing of Vegetation**

Limited cutting or clearing of vegetation in freshwater wetlands, in the area of land within fifty feet (50'), on river banks, or flood plains, is allowed in accordance with Rule 6.01 only when:

- A. The cutting is to remove tree limbs or dead or diseased trees or shrubs which, if left unattended, pose a threat to individuals, dwellings, structures, or safe vehicle movement over roads and driveways; or
- B. The cutting is for purposes of trimming back and removing grasses, weeds, and/or shrubs encroaching upon existing or approved landscaped areas, fields, pastures and/or recreational areas, provided that

- the cutting is not taking place in an area designated to be planted, revegetated, and/or set aside to revert to a natural wild state for any mitigation or restoration purposes as a result of any term, condition or stipulation of any permit, approval, assent or enforcement action issued by the CRMC or DEM, or any Consent Agreement entered with the CRMC or DEM; or
- C. The cutting is for obtaining firewood for non-commercial, individual use, is selective in nature, and ensures the long-term protection and stability of the forested habitat. The use of any motorized vehicle(s) for this purpose in any swamp; marsh; bog; pond; special aquatic site; or forested, shrub or emergent wetland is prohibited; or
- D. The cutting is selective, and is carried out under the supervision of and in cooperation with the DEM's Division of Forest Environment (DFE) and:
- 1) The DFE or property owner notifies the CRMC that a notice of intent to cut, or an approved written management plan submitted under the Farm, Forest and Open Space Act or the Stewardship Incentives Program is on file with the DFE; and
  - 2) The cutting operation proceeds under those best management practices developed and approved by the DFE; and
  - 3) The cutting operation results in no permanent degradation or loss of any wildlife habitat associated with any freshwater wetland, including areas of land within fifty (50) feet, and riverbanks and flood plains; and
  - 4) Equipment crossings are limited to wetland types consisting of areas subject to storm flowage or intermittent streams or a river less than ten feet (10') wide through the use of temporary "corduroy" log roads. This log crossing must not restrict natural flow patterns and wildlife movements, and must be removed immediately following the harvesting operation. All disturbed wetland areas in the vicinity of the crossing must be restored to a natural condition and stabilized; and
  - 5) Best management practices for erosion and sediment control are followed throughout the life of the project; (See *Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook*); or
- E. The cutting has been required for dam safety maintenance by the DEM's Dams Safety Program and all cutting is accomplished in accordance with that Program's specific limitations and requirements; or
- F. The cutting is for the maintenance of existing or approved footpaths or pedestrian trails, or maintaining cleared areas immediately along, but no greater than ten feet (10') from, the edges of driveways and access roads for vehicle safety and access; or
- G. The cutting is within existing or approved cleared utility rights-of-way and is restricted to only that necessary to maintain integrity of the utility line or pipe itself and to maintain access for maintenance, inspection and/or repair of poles, structures and equipment within the right-of-way; or
- H. The cutting is on or along property lines for survey purposes or is on an established transect line to allow for access on foot when conducting environmental assessments, and is no greater than five feet (5') in width; or
- I. Clearing or removal of any floating or submergent plants is limited to that area immediately adjacent to, but no more than fifteen feet (15') from, existing or permitted docks accessing freshwater; freshwater beaches; and/or freshwater swimming areas. The clearing or removal of such vegetation is accomplished only through the manual use of hand-held implements; or
- J. The cutting is restricted to existing drainage ditches, swales, and/or embankments of detention and retention facilities as a normal maintenance activity and/or best management practice; or
- K. The cutting is performed to remove individual trees or portions thereof that have fallen over or into rivers normally accessible by canoes, kayaks, or boats.

### **6.03 Limited Maintenance and Repair Activities**

The following limited repairs to, and maintenance of approved or existing structures in current use located in wetlands, in the area of land within fifty feet (50'), on riverbanks, or flood plains, are allowed in accordance with Rule 6.01 and provided that the maintenance activity does not increase either vertically or horizontally the physical size of any existing structure. However, some limited structural changes may be exempt as specifically provided below.

- A. Exterior and interior work on a structure necessary to maintain its integrity and condition; or
- B. Replacement of functional drainage structures, provided that:
  - 1) Culverts of more than fifty feet (50') are the same type, size, length, capacity and invert elevation as the present structure;
  - 2) Culverts of fifty feet (50') or less maintain the same slope, a nominally equivalent cross-sectional area and the same invert elevation as the present structure with no more than five foot (5') extensions in length on either end;
  - 3) The project does not result in sediment transport to wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, or any filling, draining, or impoundment of wetlands beyond what was approved or existing; and
  - 4) The property owner maintains site plans which detail the condition of the drainage structure as it existed prior to replacement.

A riprap scour pad not greater than ten feet (10') in length may be placed at the culvert outfall if an erosion problem is evident, provided that the access for fish and wildlife is not impeded; or
- C. Normal maintenance of existing or approved property accessories and lawns; or
- D. Cleaning of drainage pipes, culverts, catch basins and manholes; or
- E. Repaving of, or undertaking normal roadway maintenance of, paved public and private roadways or bikeways. Normal roadway maintenance includes: resurfacing and/or in-place recycling of paved surfaces; repairs to, resetting or replacing curbs, berms, sidewalks or guardrails; addition of guardrails, signing, striping or signals; adjusting manholes, catch basins or utility structures to grade; and structural repairs to, or in-place replacement of manholes, catch basins or grates. Paving or oiling of dirt roads, however, is considered an alteration which requires a permit; or
- F. Repair to or maintenance of a stream crossing, such as a stone ford and its approach, or any unpaved road which is used at least on an annual basis, provided that any increase in road surface cover does not require the expansion of any slopes further into the wetland beyond the present toe of slope, and any increase in height does not exceed two inches (2"). Repair or maintenance to any stream crossing and its approach must be done during low or no flow periods; or
- G. Repair of docks and foot bridges located outside of any area within 200 feet of a coastal feature. This does not include enlargements or extensions; or
- H. Repair to boat ramps which does not include enlargements, located outside of any area within 200 feet of a coastal feature; or
- I. Repair to any bridge located outside of any area within 200 feet of a coastal feature, provided that the repair is undertaken from the deck or roadway, that no equipment is placed in any watercourse or wetland for the purpose of the repair, and that any material removed from the structure during repair is disposed of properly; or
- J. Inspection, maintenance and repair to any water control structure within a dam provided that the CRMC receives written notification ten (10) days prior to the commencement of activity. Such notice must explain the activity to be performed, and must state the expected time of completion. The normal water surface elevation shall not be substantially lowered except for that specifically necessary to complete the inspection, maintenance and/or repair. Where possible, either normal water elevations or temporarily lowered water elevations must be maintained by the use of temporary coffer dams. Such coffer dams must remain in place until maintenance is completed and must be removed upon project completion; or
- K. Removal of manmade trash from watercourses and other wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, without causing any change in the profile or general character of any watercourse or other wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. Removal must be performed manually, or by equipment when chains or cables can be attached to the item to be removed and the equipment can be operated from a road, parking area, or other similar location. Removal of natural material such as logs, brush, or trees from the watercourses and other wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, must be limited to problem locations where lack of removal will result in erosion or blockage of culverts, obstruction of existing paths, or prevention of canoeing access; or

- L. Repair to or in-kind, in-place replacement of shoreline stabilization structures, excluding those adjacent to tidal waters, such as stone and/or masonry walls provided that there is no expansion of the structure and no material is placed in any location or in any manner that would impair surface water flow, and no material is placed in a manner such that it will be eroded by normal or expected high surface water flows; or
- M. Maintenance of soil erosion and sediment control management practices and stormwater management practices in accordance with an approved plan (as per Rule 5.07); or
- N. Maintenance of existing or approved freshwater bathing beach that does not expand or otherwise change the size or shape of the beach; or
- O. Inspection, maintenance and repair to those utility poles, structures, equipment and/or underground lines or pipes which are necessary to provide utility services to the public; or
- P. Replacement of utility poles, including changes in physical size, without any change to existing or approved cleared rights of way; or
- Q. Repair and replacement of utility lines attached to existing or approved bridges or in existing or approved roadways and railway beds provided antiseepage collars are used as appropriate to prevent subdraining effects on wetlands; or
- R. Maintenance by municipalities of surface water impoundments used for drinking water supplies, provided that all maintenance activities occur within the existing boundary perimeters of the impoundment and that the municipality provide the CRMC with twenty (20) days advance written notice of such maintenance activity; or
- S. Repair and replacement of drinking water wells and its supply lines provided that the following conditions are met:
  - 1) All cleared vegetation is allowed to regrow naturally;
  - 2) The volume of withdrawal from the replacement well is no greater than 500 gallons per day;
  - 3) The repair/replacement well is for the same use as its predecessor;
  - 4) The repair/replacement well will service the same lot as its predecessor;
  - 5) No other feasible upland alternative is available; and
  - 6) All disturbances to wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, are limited to the maximum extent possible; or
- T. Repair of failed individual sewage disposal system, made in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Individual Sewage Disposal System*; or
- U. In-kind replacement of existing or approved buildings and constructed property accessories if destroyed by fire or natural causes.

#### **6.04 Demolition of Buildings or Property Accessories**

Demolition of buildings, parking areas or property accessories is allowed in accordance with Rule 6.01 only where:

- A. Building, parking area or property accessory is not to be rebuilt;
- B. Disposal of material is accomplished in accordance with all state laws and rules and the material is not disposed of or stock piled in wetlands, in the area of land within fifty feet (50'), on riverbanks, or flood plains;
- C. All pre-demolition grades are restored and all disturbed soils are stabilized;
- D. Clean fill is used, where foundation holes or cellars of demolished buildings are to be filled;
- E. All rubble and demolition debris are removed from the soil surface when demolition is complete;
- F. Demolition activity and equipment operation are maintained within existing or approved disturbed areas on the property; and
- G. All disturbed soils are loamed and seeded.

#### **6.05 Single Family Residences and Property Accessories**

The following limited changes to existing or approved single family residences and property accessories are exempt in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that: (1) No vegetated wetlands, naturally vegetated riverbanks or areas of land within fifty feet (50') currently naturally vegetated are altered or artificially illuminated; (2) All construction activity is located within existing or approved cleared areas, such as parking areas, lawns or cultivated fields; and (3) All construction activity is located outside of floodplains and at least 25 feet from any pond, marsh, swamp, or wetland complex and at least 50 feet from any flowing body of water or bog:

- A. Horizontal addition, such as a family room, bedroom, attached garage, or house wing, that is no larger than 600 square feet in footprint;
- B. Vertical addition of no more than one story;
- C. Attached deck, enclosed porch, exterior ramp, or patio no more than 600 square feet in footprint;
- D. Stand-alone garage, shed, or greenhouse no more than 600 square feet in footprint;
- E. Pervious driveway of no more than 600 square feet; or
- F. Alteration to an individual sewage disposal system approved in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems*.
- G. Other property accessories (see Rule 5.64 for definition of property accessory) except as limited in Rule 6.05 (A-F).

#### **6.06 Nonresidential Buildings or Multifamily Residences and Property Accessories**

The following limited changes to existing or approved nonresidential buildings or multifamily residences and property accessories are exempt in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that: (1) No vegetated wetlands, naturally vegetated riverbanks or areas of land within fifty feet (50') currently naturally vegetated are altered or artificially illuminated; (2) All construction activity is located within existing or approved cleared areas, such as parking areas, lawns or cultivated fields; and (3) All construction activity is located outside of floodplains and at least 25 feet from any pond, marsh, swamp or wetlands complex and at least 50 feet from any flowing body of water or bog:

- A. Vertical addition limited to no more than one story with no expansion of the building footprint;
- B. Foundation and enclosure limited, per lot, to no more than: one storage cooler, one dumpster, one equipment shed, or one garage, each of which is no larger than 600 square feet in footprint;
- C. Attached exterior ramp; or
- D. Alteration to an individual sewage disposal system approved in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems*.

#### **6.07 Emergency Environmental Protection**

- A. Emergency installation of environmental protection structures, and undertaking of activities directly associated with the emergency containment and cleanup of oil and/or hazardous materials in wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, including the resolution of leaking underground storage tanks, is permissible in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that such installation or activity is undertaken under the direct supervision of the DEM or federal cleanup personnel, or the DEM's emergency response personnel. During the emergency cleanup, unnecessary alterations of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, shall be prevented to the maximum extent possible, and best management practices for erosion and sediment controls must be initiated and maintained. Where applicable, heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, and other temporary measures must be taken to minimize soil and habitat disturbance. Following emergency cleanup, the disturbed area must be stabilized and restored to the satisfaction of the CRMC.

- B. The CRMC must be notified of the initiation of emergency environmental cleanup and upon completion of emergency cleanup activities.

#### **6.08 Site Remediation**

Activities which may affect freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and which are required by the DEM for remediation of contamination resulting from releases of oil and/or hazardous materials are allowed in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that:

- A. The initial document or plan identifying potential impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and all subsequent action plans are submitted for CRMC review;
- B. All site remediation activities which may affect freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, are under the direct oversight and/or control of the DEM;
- C. The remediation activities are only those necessary to protect and/or restore freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, from impacts and/or substantial threats resulting from actual releases of hazardous materials; and
- D. The remediation activities incorporate all measures necessary to fully protect, replace, restore and/or mitigate the harm to any affected areas including best management practices, best available technologies, and any other measures which, in the opinion of the Director are necessary to:
  - 1) Comply with the substance and intent of these Rules;
  - 2) Protect the wetland environment; and
  - 3) Protect the functions and values provided by freshwater wetlands.

#### **6.09 Utility Emergencies**

Emergency access and repair or replacement of utility lines, poles, structures, equipment or facilities which is necessary as a result of storm damage, acts of vandalism, accidents or equipment failure is permissible in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that all affected wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, are fully restored following completion of the repair or replacement.

#### **6.10 New Utility Lines**

Installation, in accordance with Rule 6.01, of new utility lines, poles, structures, equipment or facilities only where installation occurs on, above, or beneath existing or approved paved roadways and their existing or approved cleared shoulders, or existing or approved railroad beds and their existing or approved cleared shoulders; and antiseepage collars are used as appropriate to prevent subdraining effects on wetlands provided that:

- A. Existing culverts and the flow of water under bridges in roads or highways are not permanently blocked or disrupted by going under or attaching to such structure;
- B. The project does not cause any diversion of ground or surface water to or from any wetlands;
- C. The preconstruction contours are restored immediately upon installation;
- D. All work in any wetlands in the easement is undertaken during low flow periods;
- E. All disturbed areas are revegetated after restoring contours; and
- F. The project design incorporates best management practices for dewatering excavated areas.

#### **6.11 Agricultural Practices**

Continuing agricultural practices in wetlands, in the area of land within fifty feet (50'), on riverbanks, or flood plains, by any property owner other than a farmer are permissible in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that the activities are restricted to existing or approved gardens, pastures, and fields which have been in use on a regular basis. Expansion of gardens, pastures, and fields within regulated wetlands, in

the area of land within fifty feet (50'), or on river banks is prohibited without written authorization except as provided under Rule 6.12.

#### **6.12 Normal Farming and Ranching Activities**

Normal farming and ranching activities carried out in wetlands, in the area of land within fifty feet (50'), on riverbanks, or flood plains, by farmers are exempt in accordance with the Freshwater Wetlands Act.

#### **6.13 Conservation Activities**

Conservation activities, such as fish and wildlife management that are carried out on state or federal property by the DEM or by the U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service are permissible in accordance with Rule 6.01. Such activities are limited to the following:

- A. Manipulation of water elevations within impoundment areas on state or federal property for the purpose of habitat and species management;
- B. Management of species and habitat conditions by cutting, clearing, planting, plowing, or prescribed burning; and
- C. The installation of in-stream structures for manipulation and management of fisheries habitat including fish ladders, fish diversions, fish traps and structures to moderate stream velocities/volumes for fisheries management objectives.

This Rule does not allow for the installation of new dams, construction of new ponds, or filling or permanent drainage of wetlands.

#### **6.14 Monitoring and Research Activities**

The following monitoring and research activities are permitted in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that there is no permanent loss of wetland, and that any soil disturbance is stabilized and the area is allowed to revert to its natural condition.

- A. Installing groundwater monitoring wells to determine the depth to the water table or the extent of subsurface contaminants; installing groundwater table test pipes necessary for the testing of individual sewage disposal system design; and taking exploratory borings for soil and ledge/bedrock assessments;
- B. Installing stream flow gauging stations by the United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Division;
- C. Harvesting limited quantities of vegetation to estimate plant productivity or biomass;
- D. Clearing footpaths or transect lines no greater than five feet (5') in width to permit wildlife surveys or access to sampling stations or plots;
- E. Excavation of temporary pits for examination of soil properties and for the collection of soil samples; or
- F. Construction of temporary blinds for wildlife observation.



**6.15 Temporary Recreational Structures**

The placement of temporary recreational structures in freshwater wetlands, on riverbanks, or in the area within 50 feet of any freshwater wetland or flood plain, for use during specific events such as water-skiing competitions and boat races is permissible in accordance with Rule 6.01 provided that such structures are removed immediately after the specific event. Such structures consist of temporary buoys, markers, floating docks under one hundred and fifty (150) square feet in size, and other similar structures.

**6.16 Moorings and Anchorage for Single Boats in Freshwater**

One mooring or anchorage (not to exceed a weight of 100 pounds) per waterfront lot for use by a single boat may be placed in freshwater in accordance with Rule 6.01.

**6.17 Emergency Water Withdrawal for Fighting Fires**

Emergency withdrawal of water from a pond or flowing body of water for the purpose of fighting fires is permissible in accordance with Rule 6.01 provide that the water withdrawal is for a specific emergency event and that other sources of water are inadequate or inaccessible at the time of the emergency.

## **Rule 7.00. Regulated Activities and General Procedures for Obtaining Permits**

### **7.01 General**

- A. A proposed project or activity which may alter freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, including a project or activity taking place in the area within fifty feet (50'), on a riverbank or flood plain, requires a permit from the CRMC. Except as exempt herein and except for farmers carrying out normal farming and ranching activities in accordance with Section 2-1-22(i)(1) of the Act, no person, firm, industry, company, corporation, city, town, municipal or state agency, fire district, club, non-profit agency, or other individual or group may excavate; drain; fill; place trash, garbage, sewage, road runoff, drainage ditch effluents, earth, rock, borrow, gravel, sand, clay, peat, or other materials or effluents upon; divert water flows into or out of; dike; dam; divert; clear; grade; construct in; add to or take from or otherwise change the character of any freshwater wetland as defined herein, the area within fifty feet (50'), a riverbank or flood plain, in any way, without first obtaining a permit from the CRMC.
- B. In addition to those projects or activities proposed either partially or wholly within freshwater wetlands, the area of land within fifty feet (50'), a riverbank, or flood plain, projects or activities which in all likelihood, due to their close proximity to wetlands or due to the size or nature of the project or activity will result in an alteration of the natural character of any freshwater wetland, require a permit from the CRMC. Such projects generally include those which:
  - 1) Result in a change to the normal surface run-off characteristics which increases the rate and/or volume of water flowing into, or draining or diverting water away from, freshwater wetlands by such activities as:
    - (a) Creating or significantly increasing impervious areas;
    - (b) Modifying run-off characteristics by grading significant amounts of land area or clearing and permanently modifying significant amounts of vegetative cover on areas draining to freshwater wetlands;
    - (c) Diversion of and concentration of surface run-off through swales, ditches, grading, drainage systems and other surface run-off conveyance systems to or away from freshwater wetlands; and/or
  - 2) Result in diversion of groundwater into or away from freshwater wetlands by:
    - (a) Installation of subdrains which will lower groundwater elevations supplying freshwater wetlands or increase flow into wetlands;
    - (b) Installation of underground utilities bedded in pervious materials which may act as a subdrain to divert groundwater away from, or concentrate such water to freshwater wetlands;
    - (c) Installation of wells, other than wells intended for a single family home, which will remove significant amounts of water supplying and/or affecting any freshwater wetland; and/or
  - 3) Result in a modification to the quality of water reaching freshwater wetlands which could change their natural character; and
  - 4) Result in construction of a "New" individual sewage disposal system as governed by the Rules and Regulations Establishing Minimum Standards Relating to Location, Design, Construction and Maintenance of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS Regulations), where the leaching field of the ISDS is located within fifty feet (50') of any emergent, shrub, or forested wetland; special aquatic site; area subject to flooding; or area subject to storm flowage.
- C. Applicants may seek a permit from the CRMC for proposed projects or activities described above in paragraphs (A) and (B) by filing either a Request for Preliminary Determination or Application to Alter.

## **7.02 Requests for Preliminary Determination - Permits**

Permits may be issued by the CRMC for those projects and activities which represent insignificant alterations to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. Applicants may obtain a permit for an insignificant alteration by filing a Request for Preliminary Determination. (See Rule 9.03). Following a determination by the CRMC that the proposed project represents an insignificant alteration, the application will be processed as a Category A application in accordance with section 110 of the Coastal Resources Management Program and Rule 9.03 of these Rules.

## **7.03 Applications to Alter - Permits**

- A. Permits for significant alterations to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, may only be issued by the CRMC following the submission and processing of an Application to Alter. Such applications will be processed as Category B applications in accordance with section 110.2 of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program and Rule 9.05 of these Rules.
- B. Prior to filing an Application to Alter, an applicant may file a Request for Preliminary Determination (see Rule 9.03) to determine whether or not a project appears to represent a significant alteration to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. The CRMC recommends that an applicant file a Request for Preliminary Determination prior to filing an Application to Alter, unless the applicant is confident that the project represents a significant alteration to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and that he or she cannot avoid and/or minimize wetland impacts so as to prevent any random, unnecessary and/or undesirable alterations to these resource areas.

## **7.04 Emergency Alterations**

- A. Applicants should refer to Rule 9.01 for requirements to obtain authorization for an emergency alteration.
- B. Applicants who are **not** considered an appropriate official of a town, city, state or federal agency or public utility responsible for correcting problems which arise on an emergency basis and pose an imminent threat to the public health and safety should contact the CRMC for consideration of individual emergency situations.

## **7.05 Extension and Modification of Determinations or Permits Already Issued**

Applicants should refer to Rules 9.07 (Application for Permit Extension) and 9.09 (Application for Permit Modification) for specific requirements and procedures.

## **7.06 Farmers**

Farmers seeking a preliminary determination or a permit to alter freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, should refer to Rule 9.04 and should contact the DEM Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing.

## **Rule 8.00: General Requirements For All Applications**

### **8.01 General Information for Applicants**

- A. Forms for making any application as set forth in these Rules are available at the CRMC, or for agricultural activities under Rule 9.04 herein, at the DEM Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing.
- B. All applications involving freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, must be submitted directly to the CRMC for processing, except that any applications involving farming activities specifically referred to in Section 2-1-22(i)(2) of the Act must be submitted directly to the DEM Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing.
- C. Each applicant shall be required to submit a complete application package including an original application form and any additional supporting information required by the CRMC. Both the form and supporting information must be complete at the time of submission and must be accompanied by full payment of the application fee. (See Rules 8.03 and 8.04).
- D. Site plans and any specifications incorporated within the application package must be designed and prepared in accordance with these Rules.
- E. It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform the CRMC of the name and address of the applicant's attorney, agent or other representative she or he wishes to receive a copy of the CRMC's decision regarding the application.
- F. Any determination, verification, or permit received from the CRMC pursuant to any application involving freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, does not preclude the need for the applicant to obtain any other necessary permits, and for the applicant and project to comply with other applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.
- G. Any applicant or subsequent transferee receiving any permit relating to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, shall comply with all conditions of the permit. Any non-compliance constitutes a violation of the permit and/or these Rules, and is grounds for enforcement action.
- H. In cases where a proposed project is subject to the CRMC's jurisdiction due to the nature of the activity, its proximity to any coastal feature or its location within the boundaries of the Narrow River or Salt Ponds watersheds (as defined in the Narrow River and Salt Ponds Special Area Management Plans (SAMP)), and freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, are present within the project area, the CRMC shall review the project as one activity and require a single application. Applicants shall submit an application which addresses the requirements contained herein as well as any additional application requirements provided for in the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program, and/or the Salt Ponds or Narrow River SAMP.

### **8.02 Signatories to Applications**

- A. All applications must be signed by the applicant and the applicant's name must be clearly printed near the signature.
- B. In cases where the property is owned or controlled by a corporation, company, partnership, city, town, municipal, state, or federal agency, fire district, association, club, non-profit agency or estate, the application shall be signed, accompanied by the titles of all signatories as follows:
  - 1) For a corporation, company, fire district, association, club, non-profit agency: by an officer with legal authority to bind the appropriate entity;
  - 2) For a partnership: by a general partner;

- 3) For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this section, a principal executive officer of a municipality or other governmental agency includes:
  - (a) The chief executive officer of the agency, or
  - (b) A senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency;
- 4) For an estate: by the executor/executrix of the estate.
- C. Written, notarized authorization must be obtained from those property owners, other than the applicant, who own property containing freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, that will be directly altered as a result of a proposed project. Such alterations include all those alterations as defined under the term "alter the character" in Rule 5.00.
- D. If the applicant is a government agency or entity with the power of condemnation, the government agency or entity must demonstrate that it has the requisite condemnation authority, or demonstrate that the proposed project area(s) lies within an easement that it maintains. In such cases, written, notarized authorization from each property owner who owns property containing freshwater wetlands that will be altered as a result of a proposed project may not be required.

### **8.03 General Fee Requirements**

- A. All applicants must pay all required fees to the CRMC in full at the time the applicant submits any application or request for hearing.
- B. The fees for proposed projects and activities are set forth in the fee schedule. (See Rule 8.04).
- C. The fees for certain individually proposed projects (i.e., reconstruction or new construction of roads or railways and new utility installation, such as installation of major utility lines, pipes, etc.) shall be based on the Estimated Construction Cost ("ECC") of certain portions of such projects. The ECC must include the costs of construction activities such as materials, labor and equipment. The ECC shall not include the cost of land acquisition and consultant fees for planning, design and construction supervision. The ECC must be determined for all portions of the project or activity that are proposed in or above any freshwater wetlands, and those portions that are proposed in areas sloping/draining into on-site or adjacent freshwater wetlands.
- D. Determination of the ECC shall be based, where applicable, on the ECC accepted by the building official subject to acceptance by the CRMC. The ECC shall include all costs associated with site preparation (e.g. earthwork, landscaping, etc.), sewage treatment and disposal (e.g. cost of ISDS, sewer extension, sewer tie-in, etc.), and construction costs (e.g. materials, labor, installation of all items necessary to obtain a certification of occupancy, etc.). For projects where the determination is not available, the ECC shall be provided by the applicant subject to its acceptance by CRMC after review of the application. For an individual homeowner project (IHP), this can be estimated based on the best available information concerning the construction costs. Applicants for all other types of projects shall provide documentation showing the basis on which the ECC was determined. Where additional specificity in the documentation is deemed necessary by CRMC staff, a written estimate by a qualified appraiser, engineer, architect or other appropriate qualified professional will be supplied by the applicant.
- E. The CRMC will process an application only after receipt of the appropriate fee paid in full.
  - 1. Fees not based upon an ECC: If the CRMC determines that a fee not based upon an ECC is incorrect, the CRMC will inform the applicant what additional monies must be submitted. The applicant must submit any additional monies within ten (10) days of the date of the CRMC's notification.
  - 2. Fees based upon an ECC: If the CRMC determines that a fee based upon an ECC is substantially incorrect, the CRMC will so notify the applicant. Within ten (10) days of the date of the CRMC's notification, the applicant must either submit written documentation supporting and explaining the original fee, or submit additional monies to resolve any deficiency. When, in the opinion of the

- CRMC, the fee remains substantially incorrect, the CRMC will consider the application withdrawn, and will so notify the applicant.
- F. Unless specified in the Fee Schedule (see Rule 8.04), fees submitted to the CRMC are not refundable; however, the CRMC will, for the original applicant only, apply fifty percent (50%) of the fee submitted for a Request for Preliminary Determination when:
1. A determination of significant alteration was issued and the original applicant files an Application to Alter for the proposed project within one (1) year of the date the preliminary determination was issued; or
  2. A determination of a significant alteration was issued with recommendations to prevent such an alteration and the original applicant files a new (second) Request for Preliminary Determination where the applicant has modified the project to prevent a significant alteration. This application must be received within one (1) year of the date of issue of the original preliminary determination.
- G. All fees must be paid by check or money order made payable to the Coastal Resources Management Council.
- H. When, due to its location, a proposed activity is subject to these Rules and associated fee schedule, and any other regulations implemented by the CRMC that require an application fee, a single application fee shall be assessed. The application fee shall be the higher of the two fees prescribed in these Rules and in Section 4.3 of the CRMC Management Procedures.
- I. The fee schedule described herein may be waived for any public or quasi-public entity based on a finding by the Director of general public benefit.
- J. Where an applicant can demonstrate that the fee schedule described herein presents an undue hardship, the CRMC may adjust the application fee.

#### **8.04 Fee Schedule**

- A. **Request to Determine the Presence of Wetlands** (to determine presence of wetlands only) (See Rule 9.02) For this request, "area" means total property acreage of a single lot or multiple lots which border each other:
- 1) Area of less than five (5) acres = \$150.00.
  - 2) Area of five (5) acres up to twenty (20) acres = \$200.00.
  - 3) Area greater than twenty (20) acres up to forty (40) acres = \$250.00.
  - 4) Area greater than forty (40) acres = \$250.00 plus \$50.00 for every additional twenty (20) acres or less.
- B. **Request to Determine the Presence of Wetlands and Verify Location of Wetland Edge** (See Rule 9.02) For this request, "area" means total property acreage of a single lot or multiple lots which border each other:
- 1) Area of less than five (5) acres = \$300.00.
  - 2) Area of five (5) acres or greater, and/or linear easements or roads through or along multiple lots = \$300.00, plus \$0.20 for each linear foot of wetland edge to verify.
- C. **Application for Permit Renewal** (See Rule 9.07) = \$200.00.
- D. not applicable
- E. **Request for Preliminary Determination and Application to Alter**
- 1) ***Developed residential lots***: Projects associated with individual residential lots already developed (e.g., proposed additions, garages, decks, sheds, pools, tennis courts, walls, landscaping activities, alteration or repair of ISDSs, new wells, new utility lines, etc.):
    - (a) Prelim. Det. = \$150.00.
    - (b) App. to Alt. = \$300.00.

- 2) ***New residential lots:*** New development of individual residential lots (e.g., new construction of single family dwellings and duplexes, including all associated utilities, new ISDSs, garages, sheds, pools, driveways, tennis courts, landscaping activities, wells, etc.):
  - (a) Prelim. Det. = \$300.00, plus \$0.04 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
  - (b) App. to Alt. = \$600.00, plus \$0.08 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- 3) ***Developed apartments, condominiums, offices, schools, churches and commercial/industrial lots:*** Projects associated with apartments, condominiums, office complexes, schools, churches or commercial or industrial sites already developed (e.g., proposed additions, garages, decks, sheds, pools, tennis courts, walls, landscaping activities, parking areas, new wells, new utility lines, repair or alteration of ISDS, etc.):
  - (a) Prelim. Det. = \$300.00.
  - (b) App. to Alt. = \$600.00.
- 4) ***New apartments, condominiums, offices, schools, churches, commercial, industrial lots :*** New development, including all associated site amenities, utilities and infrastructure:
  - (a) Prelim. Det. = \$600.00, plus \$0.04 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
  - (b) App. to Alt. = \$1,000.00, plus \$0.08 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- 5) ***New subdivisions, multiple lots:*** New development (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, etc.), including all associated utilities and infrastructure = total of (a) and (b) below:

(a)	# of Lots	Prelim Det.	App. to Alt.
	up to 5	\$800.00	\$2000.00
	6-15	\$1800.00	\$3000.00
	16-25	\$2600.00	\$3500.00
	26-35	\$3000.00	\$4000.00
	36-45	\$3400.00	\$4500.00
	46-55	\$3800.00	\$5500.00
	56+	\$4200.00	\$7500.00

- (b) Plus, \$0.04 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, for Preliminary Determinations; \$0.08 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands for applications to Alter.
- 6) ***Miscellaneous separate proposed projects:***
  - (a) ***Driveways and/or gravel access roads not exempt under Rule 6.00*** up to one (1) lane in width:
    - (i) Prelim. Det. = \$450.00 plus \$0.50 per linear foot within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
    - (ii) App. to Alt. = \$850.00 plus \$1.00 per linear foot within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
  - (b) ***Surface mining (e.g., gravel, quarry), park or recreational area development, golf course construction, land clearing and/or grading operations:***
    - (i) Prelim. Det. = \$900.00, plus \$0.04 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.

- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$3,000.00, plus \$0.08 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- (c) *Water diversion projects* (e.g., irrigation, hydroelectric, industrial processing/cooling, subdrains, wells (other than individual wells for single family house lots), dry hydrants):

	Prelim Det.	App. to Alt.
Irrigation, Subdrains	\$300.00	\$1000.00
Indus. Proc., Hydro.	\$1200.00	\$4000.00
Wells	\$600.00	\$1200.00
Dry hydrants	\$150.00	\$500.00

- (d) *River/stream relocation and/or channelization* (includes areas subject to storm flowage (ASSF)) Note: linear foot is based upon length of river/stream/ASSF altered:

	Prelim. Det.	App. to Alt.
River, stream	\$10.00/ linear foot	\$50.00/ linear foot
ASSF	\$6.00/ linear foot	\$25.00/ linear foot

- (e) *New or replacement drainage structures/facilities* (e.g., storm drainage, culverts, detention basins):
- (i) Prelim. Det. = \$600.00.
- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$2,000.00.
- (f) *New dam construction*
- (i) Prelim. Det. = \$600.00.
- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$2,000.00 plus \$200.00 per acre of impoundment.
- (g) *New pond construction*
- (i) Prelim. Det. = \$400.00 plus \$100.00 per acre of site alteration.
- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$800.00 plus \$200.00 per acre of site alteration.
- (h) *Pedestrian/bicycle trails, paths, foot bridges*
- (i) Prelim. Det. = \$150.00 plus \$0.30 per linear foot within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$500.00 plus \$0.50 per linear foot within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- (i) *Individual docks, floats*
- (i) Prelim. Det. = \$100.00.
- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$300.00.
- (j) *Multiple docks, floats* (e.g., marinas), *or individual boat launches*
- (i) Prelim. Det. = \$300.00.
- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$800.00.
- (k) *Miscellaneous new construction; reconstruction; demolition; or modification projects other than those above*
- (i) Prelim. Det. = \$450.00 plus \$0.04 per square foot of site alterations in freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; or if linear project, \$0.40 per linear foot within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- (ii) App. to Alt. = \$850.00 plus \$0.08 per square foot of site alterations within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; or if linear



project, \$0.80 per linear foot within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.

**Fees based on ECC (see Rule 8.03 for explanation of how ECC is computed):**

- (l) *Reconstruction of existing or approved roads or railways*, including all associated drainage systems/facilities, bridges and utilities:

Prelim. Det. = Proposed projects with an ECC that is:

- (i) Less than or equal to \$200,000.00 = \$1,000.00.
- (ii) Greater than \$200,000.00 but less than \$500,000.00 = \$2,000.00.
- (iii) Greater than \$500,000.00 but less than \$1,000,000.00 = \$3,000.00.
- (iv) Greater than \$1,000,000.00 = \$6,000.00.

App. to Alter = Proposed projects with an ECC that is:

- (i) Less than or equal to \$200,000.00 = \$2,000.00.
- (ii) Greater than \$200,000.00 but less than \$500,000.00 = \$3,000.00.
- (iii) Greater than \$500,000.00 but less than \$1,000,000.00 = \$4,000.00.
- (iv) Greater than \$1,000,000.00 = \$8,000.00.

- (m) *New road or railway construction*, including: all associated drainage systems/facilities, bridges and utilities:

Prelim. Det. = Proposed projects with an ECC that is:

- (i) Less than or equal to \$200,000.00 = \$2,000.00.
- (ii) Greater than \$200,000.00 but less than \$500,000.00 = \$4,000.00.
- (iii) Greater than \$500,000.00 but less than \$1,000,000.00 = \$6,000.00.
- (iv) Greater than \$1,000,000.00 = \$8,000.00.

App. to Alter = Proposed projects with an ECC that is:

- (i) Less than or equal to \$200,000.00 = \$4,000.00.
- (ii) Greater than \$200,000.00 but less than \$500,000.00 = \$7,000.00.
- (iii) Greater than \$500,000.00 but less than \$1,000,000.00 = \$10,000.00.
- (iv) Greater than \$1,000,000.00 = \$20,000.00.

- (n) *New utility installation not exempt under Rule 6.10* (i.e., individual major utility projects)

Prelim. Det. = Proposed projects with an ECC that is:

- (i) Less than or equal to \$200,000.00 = \$800.00.
- (ii) Greater than \$200,000.00 but less than \$500,000.00 = \$1,500.00.
- (iii) Greater than \$500,000.00 but less than \$1,000,000.00 = \$2,000.00.
- (iv) Greater than \$1,000,000.00 = \$4,000.00.

App. to Alter = Proposed projects with an ECC that is:

- (i) Less than or equal to \$200,000.00 = \$2,000.00.
- (ii) Greater than \$200,000.00 but less than \$500,000.00 = \$3,000.00.
- (iii) Greater than \$500,000.00 but less than \$1,000,000.00 = \$4,000.00.
- (iv) Greater than \$1,000,000.00 = \$6,000.00.

**F. Application for Permit Modification (See Rule 9.09)**

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>App. for Permit Modification</u>	
	<u>Preliminary Det.</u>	<u>App. to Alter</u>
Indiv. resid. lot	\$100.00	\$200.00
Apartment, condo., office	\$200.00	\$400.00
Indiv. comm./indust. lot	\$200.00	\$400.00
Subdivision, mult. lot	\$200.00	\$400.00
Driveways, access road	\$200.00	\$400.00
Road, rail, utilities	\$300.00	\$600.00
Surface mining, etc.	\$200.00	\$400.00
Water diversion	\$200.00	\$400.00
Dry Hydrants	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
Stream relic.	\$200.00	\$400.00
Drainage	\$200.00	\$400.00
Dams, ponds	\$200.00	\$400.00
Trails, paths	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
Docks	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
Misc. projects	\$200.00	\$400.00

G. Not applicable

**H. Application Hearings:**

1) Public Hearings = \$2,500.00.

2) not applicable

3) not applicable

I. not applicable

**8.05 Application Processing**

- A. The CRMC shall assign an application number to each complete application for identification purposes and shall notify the applicant of the receipt of the complete application and the number assigned. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to utilize the assigned application number in all correspondence and inquiries regarding the subject application.
- B. No application will be processed unless the entire application package, including any and all forms and other information required for submission, is complete.
- C. All complete applications will be processed as closely as practicable in the order received. The Director may process applications out of sequence when those applications are submitted with a Certificate of Critical Economic Concern (see Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-117 et seq.), the primary purpose of the proposed project is to restore or enhance a degraded freshwater wetland, or at his or her discretion. Requests for Emergency Alterations (see Rule 9.01) will be processed immediately upon receipt.
- D. The CRMC may not, at the discretion of the Director, process an application for any property which the CRMC alleges contains unauthorized alterations of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, discovered either during the review of an application or during investigation of a complaint.
- E. The CRMC may not, at the discretion of the Director, process an application for property which is the subject of any unresolved violation as cited by the CRMC or DEM or which is the subject of any non-compliance with a CRMC, DEM, administrative, or judicial Consent Agreement, Order, or Judgment, or where the property subject to unauthorized alterations is not restored to the satisfaction of the CRMC or DEM.

- F. The Director may suspend the processing of any application if, in the opinion of the Director, information provided on the application form or in support of the application is misleading, false, or erroneous, or is inconsistent with these Rules. In such a case, the Department will not process the application and will so advise the applicant.
- G. The Director may suspend the processing of any application where a change of ownership occurs during processing and the new owner does not comply with Rule 8.06 within sixty (60) days of the transfer of the subject property or within ten (10) days following notification by the CRMC. In this case, a new application would be required.
- H. Any and all responses or answers to any application submitted to the CRMC will be made in writing, signed by the Director. No verbal permits or verbal authorizations of any application relating to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, shall be issued, recognized or accepted by the CRMC.

#### **8.06 Change in Owner During Application Processing**

Any change in owner during the processing of any application will require the following:

- A. The submission of a new application form which updates the owner with appropriate signatures; and
- B. A certified copy of the deed of transfer of the property for Applications to Alter only.
- C. not applicable

#### **8.07 Meetings**

- A. An applicant may request a meeting with representatives from the CRMC to discuss regulatory procedures, modifications to project designs, or to introduce a proposed project to the CRMC for initial response and discussion.
- B. An applicant may request a meeting with representatives from the CRMC to discuss potential project design alternatives and potential areas of concern; provided that the applicant has, at a minimum, obtained a verification of the wetland edge, or a determination of the presence of wetlands on or adjacent to the subject property.
- C. All requests for meetings may be granted at the discretion of the CRMC based upon need, availability of staff, and any statutory limitations.

## **Rule 9.00. Application Types - Specific Requirements And Conditions**

### **9.01 Request for Emergency Alterations**

A letter of authorization for an emergency alteration, other than those alterations specified in Rule 6.07, may be granted by the Director consistent with the following requirements:

- A. Verbal or written request for permission to proceed with an emergency alteration must be made by an appropriate official of a town, city, state or federal agency or public utility responsible for correcting problems which arise on an emergency basis and pose an imminent threat to the public health and safety;
- B. The request must inform the CRMC of at least the following:
  - 1) An explanation of the problem necessitating an emergency alteration;
  - 2) The reason why the problem represents an imminent threat to the public's health and safety;
  - 3) The location of the area in which corrective activity is required;
  - 4) The proposed actions necessary to correct the problems;
  - 5) The person responsible for overseeing the activity including means of contact; and
  - 6) The means proposed to restore the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, area following the emergency alteration, as appropriate;
- C. Any emergency alteration undertaken shall not result in a permanent alteration of any wetland. The applicant must, in so far as possible, restore the wetland area to prevent or minimize any permanent alteration. Such restoration must be undertaken in accordance with requirements provided by the CRMC;
- D. Alteration of wetlands shall not exceed work beyond that necessary to abate the emergency;
- E. Unless otherwise informed by the Director following CRMC inspection of the site, the applicant must submit an as-built site plan and/or a plan of restoration to the CRMC no later than forty-five (45) days following the action necessary to correct the emergency problem. The site plan must illustrate the emergency activity undertaken, the wetlands affected, any alteration which resulted from the activity, and all restoration activities undertaken, or which are still required. The required site plan must comply with Appendix 5 of these Rules;
- F. The time limitation for performance of an emergency alteration shall not exceed ten (10) days following initial approval by the CRMC unless written approval for an extension is obtained from the CRMC; and
- G. Following submission of the as-built site plan required in paragraph E above, the applicant is required to comply with any additional activities necessary to prevent any permanent alteration or to finalize wetland restoration as detailed in writing by the CRMC.

### **9.02 Request to Determine the Presence of Wetlands**

- A. An application may be made to the CRMC to request a determination regarding either:
  - 1) The presence of wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, on the property which are regulated by the CRMC, or
  - 2) The verification of the delineated edge of wetlands on the property.
- B. Under Rule 9.02(A)(1) above, the CRMC will inspect the property and issue a determination stating whether or not regulated wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, are present. The purpose of this determination is not to verify the specific location of wetlands, but to generally determine whether wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, are present on the property and the type of such wetlands.
- C. Under Rule 9.02(A)(2) above, the CRMC will inspect the wetland edge(s) delineated by the applicant and, if in substantial agreement with the documentation provided by the applicant, confirm the presence of identified wetlands and the location of their delineated edges.

- D. For purposes of determining the presence of wetlands on property under Rule 9.02(A)(1) above, the applicant must submit a site plan of the subject property which clearly indicates the property location and property boundaries. The required site plan must meet all applicable site plan requirements as set forth in Appendix 5 of these Rules. If property boundaries are not clearly identifiable on the subject property, the applicant must clearly identify the boundaries on the property with labeled markers such as flags or stakes.
- E. For verification purposes under Rule 9.02(A)(2) above, the applicant must undertake the following:
  - 1) Submit site plans prepared by a qualified professional (see Rule 12.00) which identify the wetlands and their edges that the applicant wishes the CRMC to verify on the property and which conform to all site plan requirements. (See Appendix 5). Each wetland edge which the applicant wishes to have verified shall be identified on the property and recorded on the site plans as follows:
    - (a) The wetland edge on the property shall be flagged with sequentially numbered or lettered flags. Flags must be placed at the wetland edge in sufficient numbers to clearly identify the edge to be verified. The distance between flags must allow for adequate visibility from one flag to another;
    - (b) The wetland edge shall be surveyed and recorded on a site plan showing the location and number/letter of the flag corresponding with those flags at the site; and
    - (c) In addition to the surveyed wetland edge, periodic measurements (i.e., at least one (1) for every one hundred feet (100') of surveyed edge) must be recorded on the site plan which indicate the distance from the surveyed edge to fixed reference points on the property. Fixed reference points on the property shall include, but are not limited to: stone walls, watercourses, roads, trails, buildings, structures, fences, cut transects or traverse lines, survey stakes with stations or other features which allow confirmation of the location of the flagged wetland edge by field measurements;
  - 2) Identify the professional(s) conducting the delineation; and
  - 3) Provide documentation on forms provided by the CRMC which describes the reasoning used to delineate a particular wetland edge or any series of edges.
- F. Any determination regarding the presence of wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, or any verification of a wetland edge issued by the CRMC in accordance with Rule 9.02(A) shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of issue.
- G. Any determination regarding the presence of wetlands, or any verification of a wetland edge issued by the DEM within four (4) years prior to the effective date of these Rules shall be valid for a limited period of four (4) years from the effective date of these Rules. Any other determination of the presence or absence of wetlands, or other verifications of wetland edges shall be considered outdated and superseded as of the effective date of these Rules.

### **9.03 Request for Preliminary Determination**

#### **A. Purpose**

A Request for Preliminary Determination may be submitted to:

- 1) Determine whether or not a specific proposed project constitutes a significant alteration;
- 2) Obtain a permit as an insignificant alteration; or
- 3) Obtain a determination of non-jurisdiction.

#### **B. General Information**

- 1) A Request for Preliminary Determination must include the overall project proposed or contemplated by the applicant. A request for partial review or review of a phase of any overall project may be considered by the CRMC when:
  - (a) The CRMC has previously reviewed the overall project which allowed the CRMC to contemplate full project impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; and/or

- (b) The CRMC required, as a condition of a prior determination, permit, or consent agreement/judgment, separate applications for individual portions of an overall project.
- 2) The CRMC shall only issue a preliminary determination following on-site review and preliminary evaluation of the project and its anticipated impacts to the wetlands', area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, natural characteristics, functions, and/or values.
- 3) In addition to the applicant, the CRMC will notify the applicant's attorney, agent, or other representative of his/her decision on an application only when the applicant has advised the CRMC in writing, at the time of the filing of the application, of the names and addresses of the individuals she or he wishes to have notified.
- 4) A Request for Preliminary Determination file shall be considered closed under the following circumstances:
  - (a) The applicant fails to answer any notification of application deficiency or request for additional information by the CRMC within a period of six (6) months from the date the deficiency letter is issued;
  - (b) A permit or determination of non-jurisdiction or significant alteration is issued by the CRMC; and/or
  - (c) The CRMC is notified in writing of a change of ownership during the processing of the application and the new owner does not comply with Rule 8.06.
- 5) Notification of the CRMC's decisions on Requests for Preliminary Determinations will be forwarded, at least once each month, to the appropriate city or town clerk for distribution to local officials.

**C. Determination of Non-Jurisdiction**

- 1) The CRMC may determine that a project does not represent, in any way, an alteration of a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and therefore does not require a specific written permit. Such projects shall receive a Determination of Non-Jurisdiction which will be issued to the applicant in letter form.
- 2) In order to facilitate receiving a Determination of Non-Jurisdiction by the CRMC, applicants should, at a minimum, identify the type and location of all freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, on the property in question and/or those freshwater wetlands that exist on adjacent property immediately along or in close proximity to the property boundaries within which the project or activity is proposed.
- 3) Once the CRMC confirms that the project or activity does not, in any way, represent an alteration of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, the CRMC shall issue a Determination of Non-Jurisdiction for the project or activity. In such cases, no permit is required from the CRMC.
- 4) Determinations of Non-Jurisdiction may be issued by the CRMC with conditions deemed necessary to ensure that the project or activity will remain non-jurisdictional.

**D. Insignificant Alterations - Permit**

- 1) (a) The CRMC may grant a permit for proposed projects submitted under a Request for Preliminary Determination Application without requiring an Application to Alter. Such permits shall only be issued for insignificant alterations and shall be subject to such conditions, including requirements for transfer and time of completion, as the CRMC may require to protect the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.  
(b) When the CRMC determines that a proposed project represents an insignificant alteration, the application shall be processed as a Category A application in accordance with section 110 of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program.
- 2) In order to obtain a permit through a Request for Preliminary Determination, the Director must be satisfied either by supporting site plan(s) and/or documentation provided by the applicant and his/her qualified professionals, or through staff evaluation, or both, that:

- (a) Any impacts, due to projects or activities which could alter freshwater wetlands and/or wetland functions and values, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, have been avoided;
  - (b) Best management practices and other mitigative features were incorporated to avoid a significant alteration of wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and to protect these resource area functions and values;
  - (c) Any impacts resulting from physical loss or permanent change of wetland characteristics are so limited in scope, area and/or duration that they could only result in minimal change or modification to the natural characteristics, functions and/or values;
  - (d) The project and/or activities will not result in any random, unnecessary and/or undesirable alteration to any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; and
  - (e) The project and/or activities comply with the review criteria set forth in Rule 11.02.
- 3) Under normal circumstances, the alterations described in Appendix 1 represent insignificant alterations; however, other types of alterations not indicated in the Appendix may also be considered insignificant. The applicant should also be aware that certain circumstances peculiar to specific wetlands, the surrounding area, site conditions and the proposed project may result in a determination by the CRMC that a particular proposal represents a significant alteration and therefore requires the applicant to file an Application to Alter in order to obtain a permit from the CRMC. Therefore, even if a proposed project appears to conform with the examples of insignificant alterations as described in the Appendix, approval by the CRMC cannot be guaranteed. In addition, an applicant proposing a project that conforms or appears to conform with the examples of insignificant alterations still must seek a permit from the CRMC through a Request for Preliminary Determination Application before proceeding with the proposed project. The only projects altering the natural characteristics, functions, and/or values of freshwater wetlands that may proceed without CRMC approval are those described as exempt activities in Rule 6.00.
  - 4) Any permit issued under a Request for Preliminary Determination must, unless specified in the response letter, be in concert with site plans containing a CRMC stamp of approval.
  - 5) The permittee or any subsequent transferee of the property is responsible for the proper operation, maintenance, and stability of any mitigative features, facilities, and systems of treatment and control which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with these Rules and any terms, conditions, and/or stipulations of the permit and to prevent harm to adjacent wetlands. All applicants and/or subsequent transferees receiving a permit shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent adverse impacts to any adjacent wetland environment and the functions and values provided by such environments during and after permitted activities.
  - 6) Any permit for alterations of wetlands, , area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, issued under a Request for Preliminary Determination shall be valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of issue. Such permits may be renewed for one additional one (1) year period following submission of an Application for Renewal (see Rule 9.07) provided that the permittee remains in compliance with the permit.
  - 7) not applicable
  - 8) not applicable
  - 9) Any determination of permit issued prior to April 7, 1994 that contains a specific expiration date within the terms of the DEM's permit shall be valid only for the time period specified in such determinations or permit and may not be renewed.

**E. Significant Alterations**

If the CRMC determines that a proposed project appears to contemplate a significant alteration, an Application to Alter will be required. (See Rule 9.05). A determination by the CRMC that a project appears to contemplate a significant alteration is not a denial of a permit.

#### **9.04 Applications Relating to Farmers**

- A. Applications relating to wetland alterations by farmers, except in accordance with Rule 9.04(E) below, must be submitted by the farmer directly to the Department's Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing. The Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing requires documentation that the activity undertaken is in accordance with the definitions set forth in Sections 2-1-22(i) and (ii) of the Act.
- B. Applications shall be in writing and on a form prescribed by the Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing.
- C. The farmer shall include appropriate plans and drawings to a scale of not less than one inch to one hundred feet (1"=100') with the application. The Division of Agriculture and Resources Marketing requires that submitted plans, designs and drawings are in accordance with standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service or these Rules.
- D. The Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing shall review such applications in conformance with Section 2-1-22(i) of the Act. Pursuant to this review, the Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing shall notify the applicant, in writing, whether the proposal is an insignificant alteration within 30 days after the date the application was filed. If so, the Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing will prepare and issue the permit to the farmer.
- E. If the proposal is a significant alteration, the applicant must submit an Application to Alter a Freshwater Wetland to the Division of Agriculture and Resource Marketing consistent with the RIDEM Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands.

#### **9.05 Application to Alter**

##### **A. General Requirements**

- 1) An Application to Alter will be required if a significant alteration is proposed. Such an application will be processed as a Category B application in accordance with section 110.2 of the Coastal Resources Management Program.
- 2) An Application to Alter must include the overall project proposed or contemplated by the applicant. A request for partial review or review of a phase of any overall project may be considered by the CRMC when:
  - (a) The CRMC has previously reviewed the overall project which allowed the CRMC to contemplate full project impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and/or
  - (b) The CRMC required, as a condition of a prior determination, permit, or consent agreement/judgment, separate applications for individual portions of an overall project.
- 3) In order to obtain a permit through an Application to Alter, the applicant must demonstrate through plans, evaluations and supporting documentation that the proposed project does not represent a random, unnecessary, and/or undesirable alteration of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, as defined herein.

##### **B. Application Processing - Practice and Procedures**

Applications to Alter shall be processed in accordance with Section 5: Notification and Review of Permit Applications of the CRMC Management Procedures and Section 110.2 of the Coastal Resources Management Program.

1-8) not applicable

##### **C. Public Comments**

- 1) The CRMC shall consider public comments on Applications to Alter in accordance with Section 5: Notification and Review of Permit Applications of the CRMC Management Procedures.
- 2-6) not applicable



- 7) In cases where the city or town council of a municipality in which a project or activity is proposed files a substantive objection to the proposed project or activity, the Council may establish a subcommittee to review the application. The subcommittee shall make a recommendation to the full Council based upon the application, staff reports, municipal concerns and any public comments received. The Council shall then consider and act upon the application.

**D. Water Quality Certificates**

The CRMC shall require applicants to obtain a Water Quality Certificate in accordance with the DEM Water Quality Regulations (Rule 13). In addition, for those Applications to Alter where the CRMC identifies a water quality concern, the CRMC may require an applicant to obtain a Water Quality Certificate. Applicants required to obtain a Water Quality Certification may apply concurrently to the DEM.

**E. Decisions Resulting from an Application to Alter - Denial of Permit - Permit Issuance**

**1) General**

- (a) Decisions shall be issued by the CRMC in accordance with Section 5: Notice and Review of Permit Applications of the CRMC Management Procedures.

**2) Decision to Deny**

- (a) An application for a proposed alteration to any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, will be denied by the CRMC if the project as proposed would result in a random, unnecessary, and/or undesirable alteration of a freshwater wetland, as those terms are defined herein, as such alterations are not in the best public interest.
- (b) In determining whether a proposed alteration of a freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, is random, unnecessary and/or undesirable, the CRMC shall consider the following:
  - (i) Whether the applicant has demonstrated that impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, have been avoided to the maximum extent possible, and that those impacts which are unavoidable have been reduced to the maximum extent possible while complying with the review criteria as set forth in Rule 11.02;
  - (ii) Whether the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed project eliminates or minimizes probable impacts to freshwater wetland functions and values, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and the environment, health, welfare and general well-being of the populace; and
  - (iii) Whether the proposed project will contribute to adverse cumulative impacts on wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- (c) The decision to deny approval shall be in the form of a letter which will state the reasons for denial.

**3) Decision to Permit - Practice and Limitations**

- (a) The CRMC shall issue a permit for an application which, in the opinion of the Director, does not represent a random, unnecessary, and/or undesirable alteration of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains.
- (b) The applicant may only proceed with the approved project within freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, in strict compliance with such terms and conditions, including time for completion, as the CRMC may require to ensure the protection of freshwater wetlands and the functions and values they provide. Conditions and terms of the permit may require modification of portions of the project, as described by plans provided by the applicant.
- (c) Plans referenced within the permit letter shall be stamped approved by the CRMC.
- (d) A copy of the permit and one set of the approved site plans must be maintained at the project site at all times during construction and up to the time of project completion. The CRMC

Assent card must be maintained at the site in a conspicuous location until such time that the project is complete.

- (e) Where stipulated in the permit, the permit shall be recorded at the expense of the owner, in the land evidence records of the city/town where the subject property is located within ten (10) days of receipt of the permit letter. The applicant must submit written documentation from the city or town showing that the permit letter was received for recording immediately upon recordation.
- (f) Unless otherwise ordered by the Director or unless an extension of a permit is obtained, all permits are limited to a period of three (3) years from the date of issue and shall expire thereafter.
- (g) not applicable
- (h) Permitted activities affecting freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, occurring or ongoing at the expiration deadline of any permit or any renewal permit must cease until such time that a new permit has been issued by the CRMC in accordance with these Rules.
- (i) not applicable
- (j) not applicable
- (k) not applicable
- 4) Appeal of Decisions  
Any person who has exhausted all administrative remedies available to him or her within the CRMC, and who is aggrieved by a final decision in a contested case is entitled to judicial review in accordance with Section 13: Judicial Review of Contested Cases of the CRMC Management Procedures.
- 5) not applicable

F. Hearings

- 1) Public Hearings  
(a) When necessary, the CRMC will hold public hearings on proposed alterations to wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, when a request for such a hearing is made in accordance with Rule 9.05(C) and Section 5: Notification and Review of Permit Applications of the CRMC Management Procedures.
- 2) Adjudicatory Hearings  
Appeal of a final decision regarding an Application to Alter shall be held in accordance with Section 13: Judicial Review of Contested Cases of the CRMC Management Procedures.
- 3) Permit Issuance Following Exhaustion of Legal Remedies  
After exhaustion of available legal remedies the CRMC, when ordered, will issue a permit with terms and conditions as established by the CRMC in accordance with the requirements set forth in these Rules to ensure the protection of wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, and the functions and values they provide.

G. Closing of an Application

An Application to Alter shall be considered closed under the following circumstances:

- 1) The applicant fails to answer any notification of application deficiency or request for additional information by the CRMC within a period of six (6) months from the date the deficiency letter is issued;
- 2) A permit or a letter of denial is issued and the applicant fails to appeal the decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the decision;
- 3) The Director is notified in writing of a change in ownership during the processing of the application and the new owner does not comply with Rule 8.06; and/or
- 4) The applicant is notified in writing that a substantive objection related to the subject application was received and fails to provide a written authorization and fee for a public hearing within thirty (30) days following receipt of such notification.

- 5) An application has been brought before the Council three (3) times, and the applicant or his legal counsel has failed to appear or offer an acceptable explanation for their absences.

**9.06** not applicable

**9.07 Application for Permit Extension**

Applicants may petition the CRMC in writing for a permit extension in accordance with Section 5.11 Permit Extensions of the CRMC Management Procedures.

A.-G. not applicable

**9.08** not applicable

**9.09 Application for Permit Modification**

- A. Prior to the expiration of a valid permit, a permittee may apply to the CRMC requesting approval to incorporate minor modification(s) to the permitted project. Such modification(s) in all cases may not change the primary intent of the original permitted project and may not increase, in any way, the limits of disturbance previously permitted or increase the anticipated impacts from that previously permitted by the CRMC, and must be minor in nature in relation to the originally permitted project.
- B. The application shall be made on a form prescribed by the CRMC and must be completed and submitted with revised plans for the CRMC's review including the appropriate fee. The revised plans submitted with the application shall clearly depict the proposed modification and shall comply with all requirements stipulated in the original application and with these Rules. (See Appendix 5 for site plan requirements).
- C. In addition to revised plans and appropriate fee, the permittee must submit a written narrative and any additional data which describes and details the minor changes and/or modification proposed and the reasons for the modification.
- D. An Application for Permit Modification will not be approved if, in the opinion of the CRMC, the modification(s): are not minor in nature in relation to the originally permitted project; change the intent of the original project; increase in any way the limits of disturbance previously permitted; or increase the anticipated impacts from that previously permitted by the CRMC.
- E. Following receipt of an Application for Permit Modification, the CRMC may:
  - 1) Issue a revised permit for the modified project; or
  - 2) Inform the applicant that the modifications requested require a new application.

## **Rule 10.00. Protection of Wetland Functions And Values**

### **10.01 Impact Avoidance and Minimization Requirement**

#### **A. Impact Avoidance**

All applicants submitting an Application to Alter, or seeking a permit through a Request for Preliminary Determination must demonstrate to the CRMC in writing that all probable impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, have been avoided to the maximum extent possible. If impacts cannot be avoided, the applicant must satisfactorily demonstrate in writing that there are no alternatives to the proposed alterations which would not alter the natural character of any freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. The written evaluation must describe what steps were taken to avoid impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. At a minimum, applicants must consider and address those issues set forth in Appendix 3(A).

#### **B. Impact Minimization**

If all impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains cannot be avoided, an applicant submitting an Application to Alter, or seeking a permit through a Request for Preliminary Determination must demonstrate to the CRMC in writing that any probable impacts to wetland functions and values have been reduced to the maximum extent possible. The applicant must, at a minimum, consider and address those issues set forth in Appendix 3(B); and, where required by Rule 10.03, describe and assess the probable impacts of the proposed project on wetland functions and values, and demonstrate to the CRMC that the proposed project meets and/or exceeds the review criteria as set forth in Rule 11.02.

### **10.02 Freshwater Wetland Functions and Values**

#### **A. General Information**

The CRMC will evaluate all proposed projects which may alter the natural character of freshwater wetlands and their functions and/or values, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, to determine the extent to which the proposed project will impact wetland functions and/or values as described in this Rule.

#### **B. Functions and Values**

Freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains, provide the following functions and values:

##### **1) Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat**

Freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains are important areas for the production and diversity of wildlife. Wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains provide habitat for individual species and communities of animals and plants. Animals include both game and non-game species, which may be either obligate or facultative, and which may be permanent residents, seasonal or transient in nature. Wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains serve as travel corridors, nesting sites, feeding sites, resting sites, nursery and/or brood rearing sites, escape cover, and seasonal breeding, migration, and overwintering habitat for wildlife. Wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains provide critical habitat for some plant and animal species, and provide habitat for rare animal and rare plant species.

##### **2) Recreation and Aesthetics**

Freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains provide and potentially provide a variety of important active and passive recreational and aesthetic values to the general populace. Such active and passive recreational values include, but are not limited to activities such as; hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, ice skating, boating, waterskiing,

canoeing, camping, swimming, bicycling, hiking/walking, horseback riding, harvesting of natural foods or plant materials, bird watching, education and nature studies or other animal observations and photography. Aesthetic values include, but are not limited to, the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains visual, aural and cultural qualities such as its prominence as a distinct feature in the local area, including its prominence as open space; whether the wetland, area of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, or flood plain is a rare type; whether the wetland, area of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, or flood plain actually maintains or provides suitable habitat for any rare animal or rare plant species; whether the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains has any outstanding or uncommon geomorphological features; and whether the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains contains archaeological evidence or historic significance.

3) Flood Protection

Freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains protect life and/or property from flooding and flood flows by storing, retaining, metering out, and otherwise controlling flood waters from storm events. Further, wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains control the damaging effects of flood flows by dissipating erosive forces, providing frictional resistance to flood flows, and providing shoreline anchoring values.

4) Surface Water and Groundwater

Freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains provide and/or maintain surface and/or groundwater supplies by acting as a recharge or discharge area, or in the case of some ponds, acting as surface water reservoirs. While groundwater recharge and discharge functions and values may vary seasonally, a freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains may, either individually or cumulatively, be an important factor in replenishing ground and surface water supplies, maintaining stream flows, transporting surface waters, and storing or metering out surface waters and/or groundwater during seasons or periods of droughts.

5) Water Quality

Freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains protect and/or maintain important water quality functions and values by nutrient retention or removal; pollution filtration; sediment removal; oxygen production; turbidity reduction; maintenance or modification of stream flow; temperature and oxygen regimes in both flowing and surface water bodies, and providing and maintaining safe drinking water supplies.

**10.03 Evaluation of Functions, Values and Impacts**

A. General Requirements

1) Requests for Preliminary Determination

Applicants submitting a Request for Preliminary Determination are not required to submit a written evaluation as described below in Rule 10.03(B). However, such applicants must, at a minimum, comply with the impact avoidance and minimization requirements set forth in Rule 10.01, and will be subject to review by the CRMC to determine if the proposed project complies with the review criteria as set forth in Rule 11.02.

2) Applications to Alter

All applicants submitting an Application to Alter must submit a written evaluation which, in accordance with those requirements set forth herein, describes those functions and values provided and/or maintained by the subject freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and/or flood plain; describes and assesses any anticipated impacts to the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plain's functions and values; and describes all structural and/or non-structural best management practices, best available technologies, schedules and management plans which will be employed to eliminate, avoid, and/or reduce impacts to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood

plains to the maximum extent possible. The written evaluation must consider and fully address the review criteria as set forth in Rule 11.02.

**B. Written Evaluation - Required Elements**

The written evaluation must include the following elements: table of contents, introduction, evaluation methodology, qualifications of professional(s) performing the evaluation, identification of regulated freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s), identification of the proposed measures to reduce impact, conclusion, and any literature citations. (See Appendix 6 for content requirements for each of the above listed elements). In addition to the above listed evaluation elements, the written evaluation must also include and fully address the separately identified elements as required below in paragraphs (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), and (H).

**C. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat**

In addition to those evaluation elements required above in Rule 10.03(B), the written evaluation must include and address the following:

**1) Characteristics**

Provide the size of the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s), and describe topography, microtopography (i.e., leaf litter, mound and pool, exposed soil, rocks), soils, hydrology, dominant plant communities and vegetation in each stratum (i.e., tree, shrub, and herbaceous layers), or if a pond, special aquatic site or watercourse, the dominant aquatic vegetation; identify and describe any standing or flowing water bodies, water quality, nearby land uses within one hundred and fifty feet (150') of the edge of the subject resource area, and identify the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s) which are hydrologically connected to the on-site wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, or flood plains(s) with distances between each provided;

**2) Wildlife Indicators**

Detail and describe the indications of wildlife use (e.g., direct observation of wildlife or indicators such as burrows, scat, tree cavities, tracks, trails, nests, scrapes, and any other observable signs or vocalizations). Detail those species known to be present or that can be anticipated to use the habitat that is present. Note the presence of wildlife habitat which is likely to be used by game and/or non-game species;

**3) Values**

Identify and describe the existing and potential ability of the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains to provide and/or maintain the functions and values as defined herein relating to wildlife and wildlife habitat; and

**4) Proposed Impacts**

Identify and describe the physical, chemical and biological impacts, both short-term and long-term, to the wildlife habitat associated with the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains resulting from the proposed project which include, but are not limited to: impacts to travel, nesting, feeding, spawning, resting, nursery and/or brood rearing, escape cover, seasonal breeding, migration, and overwintering for resident, seasonal or transient species; impacts to any rare species; impacts to any game or non-game species managed by state or federal fish and game agencies; impacts to wildlife habitat functions and values due to changes associated with lighting, noise, temperature, water quality, air quality, water velocity, flow patterns, water elevations, water temperature, fragmentation of habitat, predator/prey relationships, composition of plant and/or animal communities, intrusion of exotic and/or invasive species; whether the proposed project may result in displacement, reduction or extirpation of any wildlife species; and whether the proposed project will result in any cumulative loss of wildlife habitat, wildlife species or wildlife populations.

**D. Recreation and Aesthetics**

In addition to those evaluation elements required above in Rule 10.03(B), the written evaluation must include and address the following:

**1) Characteristics**

Provide the size of the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s), and describe topography, soils, hydrology, dominant plant communities and vegetation in each stratum (i.e., tree, shrub, and herbaceous layers), or if a pond or watercourse, the dominant aquatic vegetation; identify and describe any standing or flowing water bodies, water quality, nearby land uses within one hundred and fifty feet (150') from the edge of the subject wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s), and identify the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s) which are hydrologically connected to the on-site wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s) with distances between each provided. Also, identify and describe the location of the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s) and the availability of public access and viewing sites;

2) Values

Identify and describe the existing and potential ability of the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain to provide and/or maintain the functions and values as defined herein relating to recreation and aesthetics; and

3) Proposed Impacts

Describe the probable individual and cumulative impacts of the proposed project on the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains's recreational and aesthetic values and any potential reduction in the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains's existing or potential ability to provide aesthetic values and active or passive recreational activities to the public. Consider the impacts to: wildlife habitat; rare species; vegetation and plant communities; water quality; water temperature, water velocity, water volume and water elevation; wildlife which can be fished, hunted, trapped, observed, heard, studied, or photographed; open space value; public access and public's view of the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains's prominence as a distinct feature in the local area; the use and enjoyment of watercourses or water bodies within, adjacent to, or nearby the proposed project; and the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains's functions and values as a rare type.

E. Flood Protection

In addition to those evaluation elements required above in Rule 10.03(B), the written evaluation must, where applicable, include and address the following:

1) Drainage Characteristics

Identify and describe the drainage characteristics of the proposed project site, including any areas contributing stormwater runoff to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains; describe the drainage characteristics of any surface water flows within the project site, and/or within any freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains on or off-site that may be impacted by the proposed project; and identify and describe the extent of flooding up to and including a 100-year frequency storm flood event. Include a map which delineates the watershed of: the proposed project site; any wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains receiving water from the proposed project site; and any off-site wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains which may be impacted by the proposed project.

2) Values

Identify and describe the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values as defined herein relating to the ability of these areas to temporarily store and/or meter out flood waters from storm events, and to accommodate surface water and drainage through and/or within the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains under pre-project conditions.

3) Analysis of Proposed Impacts

(a) Projects proposing changes in run-off towards freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains:

Submit a stormwater analysis for pre- and post-project runoff rates based upon the 2-year, 10-year, 25-year and 100-year, 24-hour, Type III storm events. The analysis must be performed using acceptable methodology (e.g., U.S. Soil Conservation Service TR-55 or TR-20 as appropriate, or other widely accepted methods). In the event that the stormwater analysis reveals any increase above pre-project runoff rates, or any increase in peak flood elevations within receiving waters/wetlands/flood plains, identify and describe the effect such proposed increase may have upon all wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values as defined herein. Describe the anticipated impacts to the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains using supporting calculations, data, diagrams, graphs, and observations.

- (b) Projects proposing changes in drainage characteristics of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains and/or affecting the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains ability to store, meter out, or reduce the damaging effects of flooding and flood flows:

Identify and describe all project components that may decrease the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains flood storage capacity, decrease the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains ability to meter out flood waters, and/or decrease the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains ability to maintain surface flows and natural drainage characteristics. Such project components include, but are not limited to: changes in topography from filling or excavation; changes in vegetative characteristics; additions of buildings or structures; and piping, culverting, bridging, excavating, channelization, relocation, filling, damming or diking. Identify and describe the effects the proposed project may have upon all wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values as defined herein. Describe the anticipated impacts of all projects using supporting calculations, data, diagrams, figures, graphs and/or observations as appropriate. Such impact evaluation must be supported by a flood flow analysis based upon the 2-year, 10-year, 25-year and 100-year, 24-hour, Type III storm event for pre- and post-project conditions.

4) Compensation for Loss of Flood Storage

Projects which propose filling and/or placement of structures in a flood plain or area subject to flooding may provide compensatory flood storage in order to comply with the review criteria as set forth in Rule 11.02 by excavation or by permanently eliminating structures which currently displace flood waters; however, compensatory storage may not be proposed beneath or within the confines of any building or structures. Where applicable, compensatory flood storage must be proposed in accordance with the following requirements:

- (a) The volume of compensatory flood storage must be equal to or greater than the volume of flood waters displaced by the proposed project;
- (b) The compensation area must have an unrestricted hydraulic connection to the affected wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains and provide the same rate of flood storage capture and discharge over the course of the flood event as in pre-project conditions;
- (c) Compensatory storage must be located within the same reach of the river or flowing body of water (i.e., between the nearest features controlling the flood water elevations upstream and downstream from the proposed displacement area) as the proposed project involving flood water displacement, and must be located as close to the proposed displacement area as possible;
- (d) Compensatory storage must precede the construction of any portion of the proposed project which displaces flood waters;
- (e) Where the applicant proposes a compensatory storage area on property owned by others, the applicant must submit a written agreement between such landowner and the applicant wherein the landowner agrees to convey an easement or other property interest or right to the applicant allowing compensatory storage, and to permanently maintain such area for flood storage purposes in the event that the CRMC approves the applicant's proposed project; and



- (f) The design must include all features and best management practices to ensure that impacts to other freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values have been mitigated.

F. Groundwater and Surface Water Supplies

In addition to the evaluation elements required above in Rule 10.03(B), the written evaluation must, where applicable, include and address the following:

1) Drainage Characteristics

Identify and describe the existing drainage characteristics, including both surface and groundwater flows, within and to any wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s) that may be affected by the proposed project. Identify the pre-project elevation range of the surface and/or groundwater on a seasonal and annual basis in the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s) and in the vicinity of the proposed alteration. Describe the extent to which the surface and/or groundwater levels deviate from long-term ranges and averages. Include a map delineating the watershed of: the proposed project site; any wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains receiving water from the proposed project site; and any off-site wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains which may be impacted by the proposed project.

2) Functions and Values

Identify and describe the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values as defined herein relating to surface water and/or groundwater supplies.

3) Proposed Impacts

Identify and describe all proposed project components and activities that may directly or indirectly divert, reduce or contain surface and/or groundwater flow to, away from, or within any wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains(s), including a description of the volumes of water which may be diverted, reduced or contained, and the rate and duration of such diversion, reduction or containment. Identify and describe the effects the proposed project may have upon all wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values. Describe the anticipated impacts to the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains using supporting calculations, data, figures, diagrams, graphs and observations as appropriate.

G. Water Quality

In addition to the evaluation elements required above in Rule 10.03(B), the written evaluation must, where applicable, include and address the following:

1) Drainage Characteristics

Identify and describe the existing drainage characteristics of the proposed project area, including any on- or off-site wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains that may be impacted by the proposed project.

2) Functions and Values

Identify and describe the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values as defined herein relating to water quality; and describe the present water quality classification of any water body as set forth in the most recent edition of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management 3.05(b) Report, State of the State's Waters. Include a description of the water quality conditions of all freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains within the project area, as well as any off-site wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains that may be affected by the proposed project.

3) Water Quality Analysis

Submit a water quality analysis which:

- (a) Calculates the quantities of pollutants in stormwater runoff for both pre- and post-project conditions by utilizing the most recent edition of Rhode Island's Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual or by another widely accepted method. If the methods used

incorporate the best available technology, but are different from those in the manual or deviate from its guidelines, the applicant must describe why they were used and submit and document all data, calculations, and methods used. The acceptance of these alternative methods is subject to CRMC approval; and

- (b) Calculates the pollutant concentrations or loadings from land uses or pollutant sources other than stormwater run-off, including, but not limited to, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or any other chemical or organic matter for both pre- and post-project conditions by utilizing the best available technology. The acceptance of the method utilized for such calculations is subject to CRMC approval.

4) Proposed Impacts

Identify and describe all proposed project components and activities that may result in any degradation of water quality associated with freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains by increasing pollutant sources; nutrient loading; increasing turbidity; decreasing oxygen; altering temperature regimes; reducing stream or river flows; altering the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains's ability to retain or remove nutrients; or by withdrawing water from or near any wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and/or flood plains. Identify and describe the effects the proposed project may have upon all wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values as defined herein. Describe the anticipated impacts to the wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains using supporting calculations, data, figures, diagrams, graphs and observations.

H. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

The written evaluation must identify and describe all proposed land disturbance activities; existing site conditions, including soil conditions and topography; drainage characteristics of the proposed project site; any critical erosion areas; and all proposed non-structural and structural temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control methods. Further, describe how and why such erosion and sediment control measures will protect wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values and meet the review criteria as set forth in Rule 11.02. The written evaluation must include supporting calculations, data, figures, diagrams, graphs and observations. (See Appendix 6 for proposed measures to reduce impact).

## **Rule 11.00 - Review Criteria**

### **11.01 General Requirements**

- A. All proposed projects which may alter the natural character of freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains and their functions and values are subject to the review criteria contained herein. If the CRMC determines that a project submitted as a Request for Preliminary Determination does not comply with the impact avoidance and minimization requirements set forth in Rule 10.01 and/or does not comply with the review criteria contained herein, the CRMC may determine that the project represents a significant alteration to freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains. If the CRMC determines that a project submitted as an Application to Alter does not comply with the impact avoidance and minimization requirements set forth in Rule 10.01 and/or does not comply with the review criteria contained herein, the CRMC may deny approval for the project.
- B. All projects proposing activities which may alter the natural character of freshwater wetlands, the area of land within fifty feet (50'), river banks, and flood plains shall not adversely affect the ability of any wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains to provide and/or maintain those freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains functions and values as identified in Rule 10.02. All applicants proposing such projects must incorporate those best management practices, best available technologies and any maintenance and/or inspection schedules necessary to comply with the review criteria contained herein.

### **11.02 Review Criteria**

Before issuing a permit, the CRMC must be satisfied that a proposed project will not result in:

- 1) Significant reduction in the overall wildlife production and/or diversity of a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain;
- 2) Significant reduction in the ability of a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain to satisfy the needs of a particular wildlife species;
- 3) Significant displacement or extirpation of any wildlife species from a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain or surrounding areas due to the alteration of the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain;
- 4) Any reduction in the ability of the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain to ensure the long-term viability of any rare animal or rare plant species;
- 5) Any degradation in the natural characteristic(s) of any rare wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain type;
- 6) Significant reduction in the suitability of any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain for use by any resident, migratory, seasonal, transient, facultative, or obligate wildlife species, in either the short- or long-term as a travel corridor; feeding site; resting site; nesting site; escape cover; seasonal breeding and/or spawning area;
- 7) Any more than a minimal intrusion of, or increase in, less valuable, invasive and/or exotic plant or animal species in a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain;
- 8) Significant reduction in the wildlife habitat functions and values of any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain which could disrupt the management program for any game or non-game wildlife species carried out by state or federal fish, game, or wildlife agencies;
- 9) Significant reduction in overall existing or potential ability of a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain to provide active or passive recreational activities to the public;
- 10) Significant disruption of any on-going scientific studies or observations;

- 11) Elimination of, or severe limitation to traditional human access to, along the bank of, up and/or down, or through any rivers, streams, ponds, or other freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains;
- 12) Any reduction in water quality functions and values or negative impacts to natural water quality characteristics, either in the short- or long-term, by modifying or changing: water elevations, temperature regimes, volumes, velocity of flow regimes of water; increasing turbidity; decreasing oxygen; causing any form of pollution; or modifying the amount of flow of nutrients so as to negatively impact wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values;
- 13) Any placement of any matter or material beneath surface water elevations or erection of any barriers within any ponds or flowing bodies of water which could cause any hazards to safety;
- 14) Significant loss of important open space or significant modification of any uncommon geologic or archaeological features;
- 15) Significant modification to the natural characteristics of any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain area of unusually high visual quality;
- 16) Any decrease in the flood storage capacity of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain which could impair the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain's ability to protect life and/or property from flooding and/or flood flows;
- 17) Significant reduction of the rate at which flood water is stored by any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain during any flood event;
- 18) Restriction or significant modification of the path and/or velocities of flood flows for the 2-year, 10-year, 25-year, or 100-year frequency, 24-hour, Type III storm events so as to cause harm to life, property, or other functions and values provided by fresh water wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains;
- 19) Placement of any structure or obstruction within a floodway so as to cause harm to life, property, or other functions and values provided by freshwater wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains;
- 20) Any increase in run-off rates over pre-project levels or any increase in receiving water/wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains peak flood elevations for the 2-year, 10-year, 25-year, or 100-year frequency, 24-hour, Type III storm events which could impair the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain's ability to protect life and/or property from flooding and/or flood flows;
- 21) Any increase in run-off volumes and discharge rates which could, in any way, exacerbate flooding conditions in flood-prone areas;
- 22) Significant changes in the quantities and discharge rates of surface and/or groundwater to or from isolated wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains (e.g., those wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains without inlets or outlets);
- 23) Placement of any structural best management practices within wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains, or proposal to utilize wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains as a detention or retention facility;
- 24) Any more than a short-term decrease in surface water and/or groundwater elevations within any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain;
- 25) Non-compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Water Quality Regulations for Water Pollution Control; and/or
- 26) Any detrimental modification of the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain's ability to retain and/or remove nutrients or act as natural pollution filter.

## **Rule 12.00 - Requirements Regarding Professionals**

### **12.01 General**

- A. It is the responsibility of the applicant, or the respondent in matters concerning enforcement actions, to engage or employ any and all qualified professionals necessary to comply with these Rules.
- B. Where required by state law, all plans, specifications and documents must be prepared by the appropriate licensed professional(s). Such licensed professionals shall affix their stamp, signature and date of signing upon those plans, specifications and/or documents, or portions thereof, for which they are responsible.
- C. Professionals utilized to identify and delineate freshwater wetland edges which are predominantly characterized by the presence of wetland vegetation in conjunction with hydrologic characteristics should have the educational background and experience necessary to accurately delineate such wetlands. The CRMC maintains guidelines describing minimum qualifications for professionals that delineate such wetlands. These guidelines are available upon request.
- D. Professionals utilized to evaluate freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions, values, and impacts thereto should have the educational background and experience necessary to competently comply with the requirements of these Rules. The CRMC maintains guidelines describing minimum qualifications for professionals involved in evaluations related to wildlife and wildlife habitat. These guidelines are available upon request.
- E. Professionals who have completed assessments, evaluations, recommendations, or reports on behalf of an applicant or respondent in matters concerning enforcement must document their participation in such matters.

## **Rule 13.00. Identification And Delineation of Freshwater Wetlands**

### **13.01 General**

- A. For purposes of review by the CRMC, the edge of freshwater wetlands shall be identified by a qualified professional as specified in Rule 12.00, and shall be delineated in accordance with the specifications set forth in Appendix 4. All wetland edge delineations submitted to the CRMC for its review must be fully supported by written documentation.
- B. Any delineation or identification of freshwater wetlands in the vicinity of the coast, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains completed by a person other than the Director or his/her duly authorized agent shall be valid only after review and written approval by the CRMC in accordance with the procedures outlined in Appendix 4.
- C. The delineation or identification of a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains is not an assessment of function or value. The functions and values of a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain shall be assessed in a manner consistent with Rule 10.00 et seq.

## **Rule 14.00. Site Plan Requirements**

- 14.01** Site plans must be designed in accordance with the specifications set forth in Appendix 5, and/or any specifications incorporated within the applicable application package requirements. The CRMC may reject any site plan which does not comply with all applicable requirements.

**Rule 15.00. Enforcement Actions**

**15.01 General**

As set forth in R.I.G.L. Section 46-23-7 through 46-23-7.5, the CRMC shall have the power to issue enforcement notices, orders and/or requirements to ensure compliance with these Rules.

**15.02** not applicable

**15.03** not applicable

**15.04** not applicable

**15.05** not applicable

**15.06** not applicable

**15.07** not applicable

**15.08** not applicable

**15.09 Notice of Revocation/Suspension of a Determination or Permit**

The CRMC may revoke permit for noncompliance with or violation of its terms after written notice of intention to do so has been given the holder, and the holder, in return, has been given the opportunity to present evidence to the contrary to the CRMC. Financial hardship on the part of the holder shall not be a defense to the revocation of a permit. The CRMC may also revoke a permit if it finds that the holder or his agent submitted relevant false information to the CRMC.

A.-D. not applicable

**15.10 Appeal of Enforcement Actions; Request for Preliminary Hearing; Summary Suspensions**

Appeals of any CRMC enforcement action shall be in accordance with R.I.G.L. 46-23.

A.-C. not applicable

**15.11 Negotiated Settlements - Consent Agreements**

- A. In resolution of a contested enforcement action, the CRMC and alleged violator may enter into negotiated settlement discussions. The purpose of such discussions will be to formulate an acceptable resolution of the enforcement action by a Consent Agreement executed by all parties.
- B. As a result of negotiated settlement discussions, a Consent Agreement may be executed by the parties addressing the disposition of any orders raised in the enforcement action.
- C. A Consent Agreement executed by the parties involved is deemed a final order of the Director and is enforceable by resort to Superior Court.

**Rule 16.00. Public Access to Records**

- 16.01** Information, forms, or other materials related to the Act, these Rules, and actions taken are available at the CRMC. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily except Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays. As appropriate, an appointment during office hours may be scheduled in advance.
- 16.02** Access to records on file shall be in accordance with Section 38-2 of the R.I.G.L. A fee shall be required to cover the costs of copying, and may be required to cover the costs of search and retrieval of documents.

**Rule 17.00. Severability**

- 17.01** If any provision of these Rules and Regulations or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Rules and Regulations shall not be affected thereby.

**Rule 18.00 - Superseded Rules and Regulations**

- 18.01** Not Applicable

**Rule 19.00 - Effective Date**

- 19.01** The foregoing Rules and Regulations, after due notice, are hereby adopted and filed with the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999 to become effective twenty (20) days thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 46-23 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grover J. Fugate, Executive Director  
Coastal Resources Management Council

Notice given on

Effective

## **Appendix 1: Insignificant Alterations**

- A. In accordance with Rule 9.03, the Director may issue a permit for proposed projects submitted under a Request for Preliminary Determination Application provided the proposed project represents, in the opinion of the Director, an insignificant alteration. The purpose of this section of the Appendix is to allow applicants and the public to determine with some likelihood what, under normal circumstances, represents an insignificant alteration.
- B. The following represent examples of insignificant alterations. However, the applicant should be aware that certain circumstances peculiar to specific wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains, the surrounding area, site conditions, and the proposed project, may result in a determination by the Director that a particular proposal represents a significant alteration and therefore requires filing of an Application to Alter and a permit from the Director. Therefore, even if a proposed project appears to fit within the examples of insignificant alterations in this Appendix, a permit by the CRMC is not implied or guaranteed. In addition, the proponent of a proposed project that fits or appears to fit within the examples of insignificant alterations still must seek a permit from the CRMC through a Request for Preliminary Determination Application before proceeding with the proposed project. Further, the proposed project must not result in the disturbance or destruction of any rare species or rare wetland type.
- C. Examples of insignificant alterations include the following:
  - 1) Construction and installation of a single new dock or single detached floats (excluding those regulated under section 300.4 of the RICRMP) only where:
    - (a) The dock is supported by floats or piles, extends perpendicular to the shoreline out to, but not exceeding, twenty feet (20'), and does not exceed six feet (6') in width;
    - (b) The float does not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) square feet in area;
    - (c) The installation and placement of the dock or float poses no hazard to boating safety or navigation in any body of water including any pond, river, or stream;
    - (d) The dock or float is placed no closer than twenty feet (20') to any neighboring property line on land or superficially extending over the waterbody;
    - (e) Any new access paths to the dock do not exceed five feet (5') in width, and do not result in fill, road construction, or any other clearing of the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains for access;
    - (f) The dock does not extend into or obstruct a floodway; and
    - (g) Pilings and/or posts permit reasonably unobstructed flow of water.
  - 2) Minor revisions to residential or small lot commercial or industrial projects already approved by the CRMC only where:
    - (a) The revised alterations do not expand the area of disturbance any further into wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains so as to negatively affect functions and values; and
    - (b) Compensation for loss in flood storage volume is maintained as approved.Such projects may include the revised location or configuration of structures, the minor relocation of individual sewage disposal systems (consistent with Rule 11.02), walls, utility lines, or grade changes.
  - 3) Construction and development activities that are not exempt pursuant to Rules 6.05 and 6.06 and are within wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain areas already developed for human activity only where:
    - (a) The area for proposed construction is now occupied by approved or existing buildings, parking or paved area, equipment storage, or materials storage;
    - (b) The construction and development does not propose to expand into wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains which would result in negative effects on wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values; and



- (c) The applicant complies with all requirements in these Rules associated with changes in runoff, water quality, and flood storage.

In such projects where a more intensive use of the property is proposed which would result in increases in the level or duration of noise, lighting or other activities which could impact wildlife in adjacent natural wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains, a well-designed buffer zone must be incorporated into the proposed project design and placed between the project and any remaining undeveloped wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain.

- 4) Minor excavated pond construction (less than one-quarter (1/4) acre for new ponds and re-excavation for existing ponds) only where:
  - (a) The pond is located mostly adjacent to, or only partially in, any swamp, marsh, or other emergent, shrub or forested wetland;
  - (b) All spoils from excavation are removed to an upland location away from all wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains;
  - (c) The construction or re-excavation does not result in the diversion, damming, or diking of any type of watercourse other than surface seepage from groundwater discharges;
  - (d) Re-excavation of an area less than 2,500 square feet of existing pond is accomplished for maintenance purposes to remove accumulated inorganic sediments or concentrated areas of problem emergents or aquatic weeds such as tall reed (*Phragmites australis*) or purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). The excavation must be limited to concentrated problem areas and must incorporate all proper controls to protect the adjacent wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain environment; and
  - (e) The activity does not result in the loss of the only natural vegetated area adjacent to a swamp, marsh, or other emergent, shrub or forested wetland.

Such projects must either incorporate the use of a well-designed buffer zone to minimize impacts to wildlife, or be sufficiently away from human activity so as to minimize interaction between humans and wildlife.

- 5) New construction and development of residential homes, commercial or industrial buildings and subdivisions incorporating such construction only where:
  - (a) The construction and all associated activity is proposed outside of all wetlands, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbanks, and flood plains;
  - (b) The project is designed to meet or exceed, and the applicant's registered professional engineer certifies that the project will meet or exceed, all best management practices to prevent the alteration of freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values due to changes in run-off/stormwater flows, water quality, flood storage, and erosion and sedimentation. Best management practices in this case must, at a minimum, address the requirements and recommendations of the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Manual and the Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.
  - (c) The project design ensures the protection of all wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values (e.g., the design does not propose a building or structure at the edge of wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains without considering the extent of clearing, grading and soil disturbance which may be necessary for equipment access, safety and other normal construction activity and human use needs).
- 6) Utility line or pipe installation where:
  - (a) The installation of the line or pipe is taking place within an existing maintained (cut/cleared) utility easement which already contains utility lines or pipes;
  - (b) wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains existing in the maintained (cut/cleared) existing utility easement are only temporarily altered to install the line or pipe;

- (c) Existing culverts and the flow of water under bridges in roads or highways are not permanently blocked or disrupted by going under or attaching to such structure;
- (d) The project does not cause any diversion of ground or surface water to or from any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains;
- (e) The preconstruction contours are restored immediately upon installation;
- (f) All work in any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains in the easement is undertaken during low flow periods;
- (g) All disturbed areas are revegetated after restoring contours; and
- (h) The project design incorporates best management practices for dewatering excavated areas.
- 6) Replacement of existing or approved bridges and culverts other than those exempt pursuant to Rule 6.03(B) only where:
  - (a) The replacement structure is similar to the existing structure in terms of physical size, invert elevations and flow capacity;
  - (b) Soil disturbance and construction activity in flowing water are reduced to the maximum extent possible; and
  - (c) The replacement structure accommodates and provides for wildlife passage where applicable.
- 7) Driveway and access road construction over watercourses such as drainage ditches, and areas subject to storm flowage only where:
  - (a) The watercourse and its adjacent banks are located within heavily developed residential, commercial or industrial areas;
  - (b) The driveway or access road is designed only to widths necessary to safely pass vehicles;
  - (c) The watercourse is not within another type of wetland such as a swamp, marsh, bog, pond or other emergent, shrub, or forested wetland, special aquatic site, area of land within fifty feet (50'), riverbank, or flood plain;
  - (d) All culverts are designed to meet the protection requirements of wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values as specified in these Rules; and
  - (e) All flood displacement issues in these Rules are addressed.
- 8) Rhode Island Department of Transportation roadway improvements to existing or approved state roads and highways only where:
  - (a) Alterations are maintained within the existing limits of road or highway slopes and shoulders;
  - (b) Drainage patterns are maintained similar to previous conditions and designs; and
  - (c) The design incorporates all requirements of these Rules for changes in runoff, storm water, culvert design, flood control, water quality and sedimentation and erosion controls.
- 9) Well and water supply line installation for individual residential lots other than those exempt pursuant to Rule 6.03(S) or 6.05(G) where:
  - (a) The location of the well and water supply line are maintained outside of any swamp, marsh, pond, bog, special aquatic site, or other emergent, shrub, or forested wetland, river, stream or watercourse;
  - (b) Wells and water supply lines installed within the area of land within fifty feet (50') or riverbank meet other regulatory restrictions in these Rules, and no other feasible upland alternative is available;
  - (c) All wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain disturbance needed for access of well drilling equipment and installation of the well and any water supply line is limited to the maximum extent possible; and
  - (d) Following installation, the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain area is revegetated.

## **Appendix 2: Significant Alterations**

- A. Significant alterations, as defined herein are those alterations which, in the opinion of the Director, may result in a detrimental modification to the functions, values and/or basic natural capabilities associated with any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain. Functions and values of wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains are specified in Rules 3.00 and 10.02. A determination of whether a proposed project represents a significant alteration is made through the submission of a Preliminary Determination Application. (See Rule 9.03). Significant alterations require the Director to elicit public comment, determine the substance of objections received, and hold public hearings as required. The purpose of this section in the Appendix is to allow applicants and the public to determine with some likelihood what, under normal circumstances, represents a significant alteration.
- B. The following are general types of projects which represent significant alterations. However, other types of alterations not indicated here may also be considered significant in keeping with the definition of this term. It is also important for applicants and the public to understand that project designation as a significant alteration only triggers the need for the applicant to submit an Application to Alter. A determination that a proposed project represents a significant alteration does not represent a denial of a proposed project. However, the submission of an Application to Alter does not guarantee that a permit will be issued.
- C. The general categories of significant alterations include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - 1) Alterations to wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains in the vicinity of the coast other than those allowed in Rule 6.00 which have taken place without approval or permit by the CRMC;
  - 2) Projects submitted for review which do not satisfactorily avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains;
  - 3) Projects which appear to propose random, unnecessary and/or undesirable alterations to wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains;
  - 4) Projects which alter the natural character, functions and values of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain so that the alteration:
    - (a) Could result in permanent change of any portion of any swamp; marsh; pond; bog; special aquatic site; emergent, submergent, shrub or forested wetland; river; stream; intermittent stream or other watercourse from wetlands to upland;
    - (b) Could result in the detrimental modification of the biological, chemical, and/or hydrologic characteristics of any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain areas which could reduce the natural values associated with the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain;
    - (c) Could reduce the natural value of any area of land within fifty feet (50'), and/or one hundred foot (100') and two hundred foot (200') riverbank through permanent loss or change in natural characteristics;
    - (d) Could displace any flood waters;
    - (e) Could increase flooding by change in runoff;
    - (f) Could reduce the recharge and/or discharge value of any wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain;
    - (g) Could reduce river, stream, or intermittent stream flows as a result of diversion or withdrawal of water;
    - (h) Could result in the permanent change or conversion from one habitat type in a wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain to another; or
    - (i) Could result in the disturbance or destruction of any rare species or rare wetland type, or could result in the degradation of habitat for rare species;

- 5) Projects which appear to propose temporary alterations, but may lead to extensive effects on the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains and the functions and values associated with the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains; and
- 6) Alterations which may, when evaluated cumulatively with other alterations, result in significant impacts to the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains and the functions and values associated with the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains.

### **Appendix 3: Impact Avoidance and Minimization**

#### **A. Impact Avoidance**

As required in Rule 10.01, the applicant must consider and address, at a minimum, the following issues in order to satisfactorily demonstrate to the CRMC that all impacts to the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains functions and values have been avoided to the maximum extent possible, and that all alternatives to the proposed alterations which would not alter the natural character of any fresh water wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains were considered and cannot be accomplished:

- 1) Description of the primary purpose of the proposed project;
- 2) Whether the primary proposed activity is water-dependent, or if it requires access to freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains as a central element of its primary purpose (e.g., a pier);
- 3) Whether there are any areas within the same property or other property owned or controlled by the applicant that could be used to achieve the same project purpose without altering the natural character of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains;
- 4) Whether there are any other properties not currently owned or controlled by the applicant but which are reasonably available to the applicant that would not involve wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain alterations and could be used to achieve the same project purpose;
- 5) Whether there are alternative designs, layouts, or technologies that could be used to avoid freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains or impacts on wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values on the subject property or reasonably available properties which would achieve the same project purpose, and whether these design alternatives are feasible;
- 6) Description of all attempts applicant has made to overcome or remove such constraints as zoning, infrastructure, parcel size, or other similar constraints in order to avoid wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain alterations; and
- 7) Whether the available alternatives which would not alter the natural character of any freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains on the subject property or reasonably available properties, if incorporated in the proposed project, would result in significant adverse consequences to the public health and safety, and/or the environment.

#### **B. Impact Minimization**

As required in Rule 10.01, the applicant must consider and address, at a minimum, the following issues in order to satisfactorily demonstrate to the CRMC that all impacts to the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values cannot be avoided, and therefore have been reduced to the maximum extent possible;

- 1) Whether the proposed project is necessary at the proposed scale and whether the scale of the alteration could be reduced and still achieve the same primary project purpose;
- 2) Whether the proposed project is necessary at the proposed location or whether another location within the site could achieve the same primary project purpose while resulting in less impact to the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain;
- 3) Whether there are alternative designs, layouts, densities, or technologies that are feasible, and which would result in less impact to the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain while still achieving the same project purpose; and
- 4) Whether reduction in the scale of the proposed project or relocation to minimize impact to the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain would result in significant adverse consequences to public health and safety and/or the environment.

## **Appendix 4: Specific Criteria for Identifying Wetland Edges**

### **A. Vegetated Wetlands**

- 1) The landward edge of vegetated wetlands (i.e., bogs; marshes; swamps; emergent, shrub or forested wetlands; or similar types, including wetland complexes of these types), shall, under normal conditions, be identified as the place where the plant community associated with the vegetated wetland is no longer dominated by hydrophytes/hydrophytic vegetation (i.e., the plant community is composed of less than or equal to fifty percent (50%) hydrophytes/hydrophytic vegetation).
- 2) Hydrophytes/hydrophytic vegetation includes, but is not limited to:
  - (a) Those typical plant species listed in the Act under Sections 2-1-20(a) "bog", (f) "marsh" and (h) "swamp"; and/or
  - (b) Those plant species listed as having a wetland indicator status of Obligate (OBL) according to the most recent edition of the National List of Plant Species That Occur in Wetlands: Rhode Island (National List), as prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and/or
  - (c) Those plant species listed as having a wetland indicator status of Facultative Wetland (FACW), Facultative (FAC) and/or Facultative Upland (FACU) according to the National List, where such plants are present along with other clear hydrologic indicators of wetland.
- 3) Where no distinct edge is apparent based upon examination of vegetation alone (e.g., the plant community is transitional in nature and dominated by species having an indicator status of FACW, FAC or FACU), other hydrologic indicators must be considered before determining the location of the landward edge of vegetated wetlands. Where such indicators are present, the FACW, FAC, or FACU plant species are considered hydrophytes/hydrophytic vegetation; however, the landward edge of vegetated wetland in such transitional areas is located where other hydrologic indicators are no longer present.
- 4) Other hydrologic indicators are those characteristics, other than vegetation, which provide evidence that an area is continuously or periodically saturated, inundated, flooded, or ponded; has standing or slowly moving water; or frequently collects surface run-off and/or drainage. Examples of other hydrologic indicators include, but are not limited to, the following: (Note: Those features followed by an asterisk (\*) are valid indicators only when at least one additional hydrologic indicator is present.)
  - Morphologic features or properties associated with hydric soils;
  - Visual observation of soil saturation within twelve inches (12") of the soil surface;
  - Distinct water marks on vegetation and/or other fixed objects;\*
  - Sulfidic materials (H<sub>2</sub>S - rotten egg odor) within twelve inches (12") of the soil surface;
  - Mound and pool microtopography;\*
  - Patches of peat mosses (*Sphagnum spp.*)
  - Soil morphologic evidence of recent and/or periodic flooding (e.g., buried soil surface horizons and/or stratification associated with flood plains);\*
  - Visual observation of surface inundation (considering both seasonal and recent weather conditions);\*
  - Dark or water-stained leaves on the ground surface;\*
  - Drift or wrack lines of water-borne materials;\*
  - Wetland drainage features or patterns such as scoured channels;\*
  - Morphological plant adaptations (e.g., buttressed tree trunks, adventitious roots, exposed or shallow root systems);\*
  - Distinct or prominent pore linings (oxidized rhizospheres) along live roots within twelve inches (12") of the soil surface.\*
- 5) For purposes of locating and identifying the edge of vegetated wetlands for applications submitted to the CRMC, the CRMC will accept the methodology described and incorporated

within the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1, January, 1987, Prepared for: Department of The Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (Corps) in addition to the Corps' September 9, 1991 regulatory guidance letter regarding Guidance for the Interpretation of Wetland Boundaries Using the 1987 Corps Manual in the Six New England States under the following conditions:

- (a) The use of this methodology is intended to facilitate the location and identification of the edge of "vegetated" wetlands, but must not be interpreted as redefining wetlands regulated under these Rules.
- (b) All edge locations and delineations are subject to CRMC review and acceptance under the procedures set forth in Rule 9.02 for Requests to Determine the Presence of Wetlands. Accordingly, all requests to verify the edge of these types of wetlands will require on-site inspection and analysis.
- (c) Areas discovered during the delineation of freshwater wetlands which appear to have altered conditions (e.g., removal of vegetation, ditching, draining, filling or other alterations that have changed or appear to change normal conditions) must be documented.

B. Area of Land within Fifty Feet (50')

The edge of the area of land within fifty feet (50') shall be identified as the line fifty feet (50') from the landward edge of any bog, marsh, swamp, or pond.

C. Flowing and Standing Water Wetlands

The edge of rivers, streams, intermittent streams, ponds, special aquatic sites, areas subject to storm flowage, and other areas dominated by open or flowing water shall be identified as follows:

- 1) The edge of rivers, streams, intermittent streams, ponds, special aquatic sites, areas subject to storm flowage, and other areas dominated by open or flowing water shall be the ordinary high water mark of standing or flowing water. This edge may be determined and documented using recorded hydrologic data (i.e., data obtained from site specific planning and design documents; in-stream flow studies; stream gauge data; Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management file data; flood data), or, in the absence of these, by observations such as evidence of clear demarcation lines between terrestrial and aquatic conditions as a result of standing or flowing water; permanent watermarks and stains on woody vegetation or other fixed objects, such as bridges, stones, walls, docks, or piers; or evidence of surface scouring.
- 2) The edge of any pond and incoming or outgoing flowing body of water shall be that location where characteristics associated with a lentic ecosystem and a lotic ecosystem are both present.

D. Riverbanks

The edge of riverbanks along a river, stream, intermittent stream, or flowing body of water shall be determined by the method described herein:

- 1) The CRMC may compile designated riverbank widths for flowing water body segments and maintain this information on file. Such designations shall be based upon currently available maps, aerial photographs, observations, and past determinations by the DEM or CRMC. All applicants may consult with the CRMC regarding the availability of designated riverbank widths along any flowing bodies of water segments in the project area. If a riverbank width has been determined by the DEM or CRMC, this designation can be used to preclude the need for the applicant to undertake field measurements or observations.
- 2) When designated riverbank widths are not available, the identification and assignment of a riverbank width shall, if the width is not obvious, be conducted using the following method:
  - (a) The width of the flowing body of water shall be measured along the channel's length at a minimum of five (5) locations upstream and at a minimum of five (5) locations downstream from a measured midpoint within the proposed project area or area of concern.
    - (i) The measurements shall be taken at the midpoint, and at approximately equal intervals along the channel's length with the minimum distance between intervals not less than twenty feet (20') and the maximum distance between intervals not exceeding fifty feet (50').

- (ii) The midpoint of the measurements shall be near the midpoint of the project area or area of concern.
- (iii) The measurements shall be taken between the edges of the flowing body of water or channel as delineated according to paragraph C(1) above.
- (iv) All measurements shall be taken at locations that are representative of the water body segment, must be documented as to the locations, and must be able to be reproduced. Measurements taken at any human-induced restrictions which are less than the natural conditions or within sections of the flowing body of water subject to unauthorized alterations are not applicable or acceptable.
- (b) The arithmetic average or mean of the channel width measurements shall serve as the average channel width for the purposes of assigning riverbank. The mean shall be calculated using the formula:

$$\frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

where "X" equals each channel width measurement and "n" equals the number of measurements.

- (c) When the mean channel width is less than ten feet (10'), the riverbank area shall be one hundred feet (100'). When the mean channel width is ten feet (10') or more, the riverbank area shall be two hundred feet (200').

E. Flood Plain Wetlands

The edge of any flood plain shall be identified as the maximum horizontal extent of flood water which will result from the statistical 100-year frequency storm event.

- 1) The 100-year flood plain elevation shall be determined by the most recently available flood profile data prepared under the National Flood Insurance Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); or
- 2) In the event that FEMA flood profile data is unavailable, or if the applicant disagrees with the data, the flood plain edge shall be determined by engineering calculations completed by a registered professional engineer. These calculations shall be:
  - (a) Based upon a widely accepted hydrologic and hydraulic model (e.g., HEC-2). The applicant must demonstrate that the selected model is appropriate for the determination; and
  - (b) Based upon a design storm of at least seven inches (7") of precipitation in twenty-four (24) hours (a Type III rainfall as defined by the National Weather Service).
- 3) The flood plain edge must coincide with the flood plain elevation and topographic contour elevations as depicted on submitted plans. Transposing flood boundaries from FEMA maps by using horizontal scaling is not acceptable for plans submitted to the CRMC. Identification of the 100-year flood elevation must be expressed in National Geodetic Vertical Datum as related to Mean Sea Level.



## **Appendix 5: Site Plan Requirements**

- A. The correct number of site plans required by the application package must be provided at the time of submission. If additional plans are required, the applicant will be informed and must submit the required sets of plans.
- B. All site plans must be drawn to scale. The scale of all plans must be no smaller than one inch = one hundred feet, (1"=100'); however, a larger scale of one inch = forty feet (1"=40'), for example, is preferred. Where additional detail is required to complete his/her evaluation, the Director may require larger scaled details.
- C. All site plans indicating physical features, distances, contour elevations, property lines, or other information provided as base-line data must clearly note whether such information was obtained by on-site survey, by aerial photogrammetry sources, or by reproduction from other maps and/or plans. Site plan information obtained from aerial photogrammetry sources or by reproduction from other plans and/or maps must provide an estimate of the maximum possible horizontal and/or vertical error between the information provided and the actual on-site conditions. Site plans developed from on-site surveys must clearly note what class or standard the survey meets.
- D. All site plans must be at least 8-1/2" x 11" in size but no larger than 24" x 36".
- E. All site plans depicting projects submitted for review and/or approval must have all markings permanently fixed. Site plans which are pieced together with tape or contain markings of pen, pencil, crayon, markers or other items which can be changed or altered at a later date are not acceptable. Blue-line or black-line prints or photocopies of originals are acceptable.
- F. All site plans must contain a title block, original date of the plan and latest revision date of the plan if applicable. The title block must include the name of the person or party involved, the proposed project title if any, the principal street/road abutting the site, the tax assessor's plat and lot number(s), the city or town, the name of the preparer and the scale of the plan.
- G. All site plans must depict at least the following:
  - 1) Street abutting the site with fixed reference points, (e.g., utility poles and numbers, house and number, and any other similar structures);
  - 2) Distance and direction to nearest street intersection;
  - 3) Magnetic North Arrow;
  - 4) Entire property boundary outline and dimension;
  - 5) Insert map showing location of site in the community;
  - 6) Any other fixed referenced points including, but not limited to, stone walls, buildings, fences, edge of fields/woods, trails, access roads, and parking lots;
  - 7) Scale of plans; and
  - 8) Location of any coastal feature.
- H. Site plans prepared by a licensed or registered professional must contain the stamp of the professional affixed to each sheet prepared along with the date and the signature of the professional.
- I. All site plans containing more than one (1) sheet must be numbered consecutively.
- J. All site plans must contain a legend which explains all markings and/or symbols.
- K. When verification of wetland edges are requested, or approval or review of a proposed project is being requested, all site plans must accurately reflect the following:
  - 1) The edge of any swamp; marsh; bog; pond; emergent, submergent, shrub, or forested wetland; or any special aquatic site;
  - 2) The edge of any river, stream, intermittent stream, area subject to flooding and/or storm flowage;
  - 3) The edge of any area of land within fifty-feet (50');
  - 4) The edge of any one hundred foot (100') or two hundred foot (200') riverbank;
  - 5) The edge and elevation of any flood plain and the limit of any floodway; Note: The CRMC may grant an exception to this requirement when pre-determined 100-year flood elevations are not available from published sources including previous engineering studies, and a registered

- professional engineer provides clear and convincing documented evidence that the project site is above any probable 100-year flood elevation; and
- 6) The name of any surface or flowing water body or any other wetland where applicable.
  - 7) The location of any coastal feature.
- L. All site plans for proposed projects shall include and depict the following where applicable:
- 1) Where changes to existing grades are proposed, the plan shall show both existing and proposed contour line elevations at maximum intervals of two (2') feet. Where no changes to grades are proposed, include a notation which so indicates;
  - 2) Profiles and/or cross sections drawn to scale;
  - 3) Proposed limits of all vegetative clearing and surface or subsurface disturbance;
  - 4) All temporary and permanent erosion and sediment controls;
  - 5) All temporary and permanent stormwater, flood protection and/or water quality management controls, and all best management practices;
  - 6) All proposed measures to conduct, contain or otherwise control the movements of surface water, groundwater, or stormwater flows; and the ultimate destination of such flows;
  - 7) Any and all construction activities either above or below the earth's surface which may affect any wetland including the height of planned buildings; and
  - 8) Any additional specific requirements contained in the application package checklist for proposed projects must be provided as needed.
- M. Site plans submitted for an Application to Alter must bear the stamp and signature of a registered professional engineer.

## **Appendix 6: Written Evaluation - Required Elements**

As required in Rule 10.03, and in addition to the evaluation requirements set forth in Rule 10.03 (C),(D),(E),(F),(G), and (H), the written evaluation of wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions, values and impacts must, at a minimum, include and address the following elements:

A. Table of Contents

List any section titles and their page numbers.

B. Introduction

Provide an overall project description which includes project size, purpose, location and type; site history, and overall areas evaluated including nearby roadways and adjacent land uses.

C. Evaluation Methodology

Identify the scientific techniques and methods which were used to complete the evaluation, including the dates and times of observations and field studies and the result of such observations and field studies. Identify each, if any, specific evaluation methodology which was used, and identify and describe any deviation from the methodology with reasons behind the deviation, and any assumptions made with a specific methodology. Identify and describe any limitation placed upon the study or evaluation which could affect the outcome of the results.

D. Qualifications

List the names and qualifications of each person involved in the evaluation. (See Rule 12.00). Assessment of wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values and impacts may require input by more than one qualified professional consultant or more than one individual familiar with the specific functions and/or values of the wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain. (See Rule 10.00). The name, address and background of any individuals consulted for the evaluation must be submitted as well as a description of the extent of their participation.

E. Proposed Measures to Reduce Impact

Identify and describe the proposed measures, structural and/or non-structural methods, or best management practices that will be implemented to reduce or eliminate harm to wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values and detail why and how such measures will protect wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain functions and values. Such measures, methods, or best management practices include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Designing dense plantings of shrubs and trees between development and remaining natural areas to "buffer" impacts from loss of wildlife habitat and natural areas and to reduce the effects of noise, lighting and other disturbances upon wildlife and remaining natural areas;
- 2) Preserving natural areas in and around wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains;
- 3) Minimizing the extent of disturbed areas and encouraging the preservation of land in its natural state;
- 4) Ensuring the maintenance of fish and other wildlife passage;
- 5) Designing structures and alterations outside of flood plain, floodway, areas subject to flooding, flowing bodies of water or other freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains;
- 6) Using best management practices for the stabilization of disturbed areas and the selection, use, and maintenance of temporary and/or permanent soil erosion and sediment controls in accordance with or equivalent to the latest version of the Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.
- 7) Using best management practice selection and design criteria in accordance with or equivalent to the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Manual to maximize the control, treatment and maintenance of stormwater flows;
- 8) Minimizing impervious surface areas such as roads, parking, paving or other surfaces;

- 9) Incorporating compensatory flood storage area(s) where necessary, and in compliance with these Rules;
- 10) Encouraging infiltration of non-contaminated run-off;
- 11) Preventing channelization or piping of run-off and encouraging sheet flow;
- 12) Landscaping with low slopes to maximize sheet flow and infiltration while minimizing channelization;
- 13) Incorporating structural methods such as detention basins, wet basins, infiltration basins and trenches, dry wells, galleys, vegetated swales and vegetated filter strips;
- 14) Minimizing or eliminating the use of, or any increase of, any pollutant, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, or any other chemical or organic application which increases pollutant and nutrient loadings;
- 15) Maximizing setbacks of septic systems and other land disturbances from wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains; and
- 16) Minimizing the withdrawal of water from wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains and minimizing any reduction in river or stream flow.

F. Freshwater Wetlands

Describe all freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains on-site as well as any off-site which are hydrologically connected to the on-site wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plain(s); and identify all wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains evaluated, including any areas of potential impact associated with the proposed project within freshwater wetland, area(s) of land within fifty (50) feet, riverbank, and flood plains.

G. Conclusion

Identify and detail how the proposed project meets the review criteria as set forth in Rule 11.02. Describe any measures to reduce impacts which were considered and rejected and indicate why they cannot or should not be employed.

H. Literature Citations

Provide citations for all literature used to support the evaluation.