## **Wetland Review**

Reference #

APPLICATION	St. Louis County,	Minnesota
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<b>About</b> : This appli process. For more	cation is	s used	d to a	pply fo	r a W	etland	Revie	ew. Ap	plic		o attac										to	
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Applicant Email														1								
Contact Person If	applicable	,							С	ontact Person #												
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☐ Yes ☐ No	Is this	s proj	ect or	n a par	cel les	s than	2.5 a	acres?														
☐ Yes ☐ No Is this project within 300 feet of a stream/river or 1,000 feet of a lake?																						
TYPE OF WETLAND REVIEW  PLEASE MAKE CHECKS TO: ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR																						
☐ No Loss/Exemption-\$175 ☐ Replacement Plan-\$175																						
☐ Wetland Delin	eation F	Revie	w <b>-\$4</b>	10 🗆	] We	tland E	Bankir	ng Plar	ı Re	eview <b>-\$1,340</b>												
AGREEMENT																						
By submitting this application and agree that I will comply plans and other information approval of the application, I release St. Lo related plans, the issuance	with all control with a	nditions applicat applicat and its e	imposed tion is ac ting per employee	d in connect ccepted or r <b>mit inval</b> es from any	ction with approved <b>lid.</b> I auth y and all	the approduced the theory of the theory of the theory of the the theory of the theory	oval of th tional of Louis Co lid claims	he applica <i>r uninter</i> unty staff s for dama	ation. <i>ntion</i> f to in ages t	Applicants may be requ nal falsification of this aspect the property to rev to person or property in a	ired to sul application where a common manner any manner	bmit ac ion or a pplicati er or fo	ditional any att on and t orm that	propert <b>achme</b> for com may ari	y desc <b>nts th</b> pliance ise fro	criptions ereto in e inspect m the a	s, prope will ma ctions. I pprova	erty su <b>ake th</b> Furthe Il of th	irveys, <b>he app</b> rmore,	site pla <b>licatio</b> by sul	ans, bu on, and omittin	uilding <b>V</b> g this
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Technical Assista				<b>uluth</b> overnme	ent Sen	ices Bu	ıildina			<b>Virginia</b> Government Servic	es Cent	er		Of	fice	Use	Only					

Toll Free: 1-800-450-9777 Government Service 320 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street www.stlouiscountymn.gov/landuse Duluth, MN 55802

Government Services Building 320 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 301 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 725-5000 Government Services Center 201 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West Virginia, MN 55792 (218) 749-7103

Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Date\_\_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount \_\_\_\_\_\_

Paid By \_\_\_\_\_\_

# Joint Application Form for Activities Affecting Water Resources in Minnesota

This joint application form is the accepted means for initiating review of proposals that may affect a water resource (wetland, tributary, lake, etc.) in the State of Minnesota under state and federal regulatory programs. Applicants for Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Public Waters permits **MUST** use the MPARS online permitting system for submitting applications to the DNR. Applicants can use the information entered into MPARS to substitute for completing parts of this joint application form (see the paragraph on MPARS at the end of the joint application form instructions for additional information). This form is only applicable to the water resource aspects of proposed projects under state and federal regulatory programs; other local applications and approvals may be required. Depending on the nature of the project and the location and type of water resources impacted, multiple authorizations may be required as different regulatory programs have different types of jurisdiction over different types of resources.

#### **Regulatory Review Structure**

#### **Federal**

The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is the federal agency that regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (wetlands, tributaries, lakes, etc.) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and regulates work in navigable waters under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Applications are assigned to Corps project managers who are responsible for implementing the Corps regulatory program within a particular geographic area.

#### **State**

There are three state regulatory programs that regulate activities affecting water resources. The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulates most activities affecting wetlands. It is administered by local government units (LGUs) which can be counties, townships, cities, watershed districts, watershed management organizations or state agencies (on state-owned land). The Minnesota DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources issues permits for work in specially-designated public waters via the Public Waters Work Permit Program (DNR Public Waters Permits). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act certifies that discharges of dredged or fill material authorized by a federal permit or license comply with state water quality standards. One or more of these regulatory programs may be applicable to any one project.

#### **Required Information**

Prior to submitting an application, applicants are <u>strongly encouraged</u> to seek input from the Corps Project Manager and LGU staff to identify regulatory issues and required application materials for their proposed project. Project proponents can request a preapplication consultation with the Corps and LGU to discuss their proposed project by providing the information required in Sections 1 through 5 of this joint application form to facilitate a meaningful discussion about their project. Many LGUs provide a venue (such as regularly scheduled technical evaluation panel meetings) for potential applicants to discuss their projects with multiple agencies prior to submitting an application. Contact information is provided below.

The following bullets outline the information generally required for several common types of determinations/authorizations.

- For delineation approvals and/or jurisdictional determinations, submit Parts 1, 2 and 5, and Attachment A.
- For activities involving CWA/WCA exemptions, WCA no-loss determinations, and activities not requiring mitigation, submit Parts 1 through 5, and Attachment B.
- For activities requiring compensatory mitigation/replacement plan, submit Parts 1 thru 5, and Attachments C and D.
- For local road authority activities that qualify for the state's local road wetland replacement program, submit Parts 1 through 5, and Attachments C, D (if applicable), and E to both the Corps and the LGU.

#### **Submission Instructions**

Send the completed joint application form and all required attachments to:

**U.S Army Corps of Engineers.** Applications may be sent directly to the appropriate Corps Office. For a current listing of areas of responsibilities and contact information, visit the St. Paul District's website at:

http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx and select "Minnesota" from the contact Information box. Alternatively, applications may be sent directly to the St. Paul District Headquarters and the Corps will forward them to the appropriate field office.

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification:** Applicants do not need to submit the joint application form to the MPCA unless specifically requested. The MPCA will request a copy of the completed joint application form directly from an applicant when they determine an individual 401 water quality certification is required for a proposed project.

Wetland Conservation Act Local Government Unit: Send to the appropriate Local Government Unit. If necessary, contact your county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office or visit the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) web site (www.bwsr.state.mn.us) to determine the appropriate LGU.

DNR Public Waters Permitting: In 2014 the DNR will begin using the Minnesota DNR Permitting and Reporting System (MPARS) for submission of Public Waters permit applications (<a href="https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/mpars/public/authentication/login">https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/mpars/public/authentication/login</a>). Applicants for Public Waters permits MUST use the MPARS online permitting system for submitting applications to the DNR. To avoid duplication and to streamline the application process among the various resource agencies, applicants can use the information entered into MPARS to substitute for completing parts of this joint application form. The MPARS print/save function will provide the applicant with a copy of the Public Waters permit application which, at a minimum, will satisfy Parts one and two of this joint application. For certain types of activities, the MPARS application may also provide all of the necessary information required under Parts three and four of the joint application. However, it is the responsibility of the Applicant to make sure that the joint application contains all of the required information, including identification of all aquatic resources impacted by the project (see Part four of the joint application). After confirming that the MPARS application contains all of the required information in Parts one and two the Applicant may attach a copy to the joint application and fill in any missing information in the remainder of the joint application.

## **PART ONE: Applicant Information**

If applicant is an entity (company, government entity, partnership, etc.), an authorized contact person must be identified. If the applicant is using an agent (consultant, lawyer, or other third party) and has authorized them to act on their behalf, the agent's contact information must also be provided.

Applicant/Landowner Name:
Mailing Address:
Phone:
E-mail Address:
Authorized Contact (do not complete if same as above):
Authorized Contact (do not complete il same as above).
Mailing Address:
Phone:
E-mail Address:
Agent Name:
Mailing Address:
Phone:
E-mail Address:

### **PART TWO: Site Location Information**

County: City/Township:

Parcel ID and/or Address:

. /. .

Legal Description (Section, Township, Range):

Lat/Long (decimal degrees):

Attach a map showing the location of the site in relation to local streets, roads, highways.

Approximate size of site (acres) or if a linear project, length (feet):

If you know that your proposal will require an individual Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you must provide the names and addresses of all property owners adjacent to the project site. This information may be provided by attaching a list to your application or by using block 25 of the Application for Department of the Army permit which can be obtained at:

http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/regulatory/Regulatory/Docs/engform 4345 2012oct.pdf

## **PART THREE: General Project/Site Information**

If this application is related to a delineation approval, exemption determination, jurisdictional determination, or other correspondence submitted *prior to* this application then describe that here and provide the Corps of Engineers project number.

Describe the project that is being proposed, the project purpose and need, and schedule for implementation and completion. The project description must fully describe the nature and scope of the proposed activity including a description of all project elements that effect aquatic resources (wetland, lake, tributary, etc.) and must also include plans and cross section or profile drawings showing the location, character, and dimensions of all proposed activities and aquatic resource impacts.

## PART FOUR: Aquatic Resource Impact<sup>1</sup> Summary

If your proposed project involves a direct or indirect impact to an aquatic resource (wetland, lake, tributary, etc.) identify each impact in the table below. Include all anticipated impacts, including those expected to be temporary. Attach an overhead view map, aerial photo, and/or drawing showing all of the aquatic resources in the project area and the location(s) of the proposed impacts. Label each aquatic resource on the map with a reference number or letter and identify the impacts in the following table.

Aquatic Resource ID (as noted on overhead view)	Aquatic Resource Type (wetland, lake, tributary etc.)	drain, or remove	Impact	Size of Impact <sup>2</sup>	Overall Size of Aquatic Resource <sup>3</sup>	Existing Plant Community Type(s) in Impact Area <sup>4</sup>	County, Major Watershed #, and Bank Service Area # of Impact Area <sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>If impacts are temporary; enter the duration of the impacts in days next to the "T". For example, a project with a temporary access fill that would be removed after 220 days would be entered "T (220)".

If any of the above identified impacts have already occurred, identify which impacts they are and the circumstances associated with each:

### **PART FIVE: Applicant Signature**

PART FIVE: Applicant Signature
Check here if you are requesting a <u>pre-application</u> consultation with the Corps and LGU based on the information you have provided. Regulatory entities will not initiate a formal application review if this box is checked.
By signature below, I attest that the information in this application is complete and accurate. I further attest that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein.
Signature: Date:
I hereby authorize to act on my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, su
The term "impact" as used in this joint application form is a generic term used for disclosure purposes to identify activities that may require approval from one or more regulatory agencies. For purposes of this form it is not meant to

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indicate whether or not those activities may require mitigation/replacement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Impacts less than 0.01 acre should be reported in square feet. Impacts 0.01 acre or greater should be reported as acres and rounded to the nearest 0.01 acre. Tributary impacts must be reported in linear feet of impact and an area of impact by indicating first the linear feet of impact along the flowline of the stream followed by the area impact in parentheses). For example, a project that impacts 50 feet of a stream that is 6 feet wide would be reported as 50 ft (300 square feet).

³This is generally only applicable if you are applying for a de minimis exemption under MN Rules 8420.0420 Subp. 8, otherwise enter "N/A".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Use Wetland Plants and Plant Community Types of Minnesota and Wisconsin 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. as modified in MN Rules 8420.0405 Subp. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Refer to Major Watershed and Bank Service Area maps in MN Rules 8420.0522 Subp. 7.

## Attachment C Avoidance and Minimization

**Project Purpose, Need, and Requirements**. Clearly state the purpose of your project and need for your project. Also include a description of any specific requirements of the project as they relate to project location, project footprint, water management, and any other applicable requirements. Attach an overhead plan sheet showing all relevant features of the project (buildings, roads, etc.), aquatic resource features (impact areas noted) and construction details (grading plans, storm water management plans, etc.), referencing these as necessary:

**Avoidance**. Both the CWA and the WCA require that impacts to aquatic resources be avoided if practicable alternatives exist. Clearly describe all on-site measures considered to avoid impacts to aquatic resources and discuss at least two project alternatives that avoid all impacts to aquatic resources on the site. These alternatives may include alternative site plans, alternate sites, and/or not doing the project. Alternatives should be feasible and prudent (see MN Rules 8420.0520 Subp. 2 C). Applicants are encouraged to attach drawings and plans to support their analysis:

**Minimization**. Both the CWA and the WCA require that all unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. Discuss all features of the proposed project that have been modified to minimize the impacts to water resources (see MN Rules 8420.0520 Subp. 4):

Off-Site Alternatives. An off-site alternatives analysis is not required for all permit applications. If you know that your proposal will require an individual permit (standard permit or letter of permission) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you may be required to provide an off-site alternatives analysis. The alternatives analysis is not required for a complete application but must be provided during the review process in order for the Corps to complete the evaluation of your application and reach a final decision. Applicants with questions about when an off-site alternatives analysis is required should contact their Corps Project Manager.

# Attachment D Replacement/Compensatory Mitigation

Complete this part **if** your application involves wetland replacement/compensatory mitigation <u>not</u> associated with the local road wetland replacement program. Applicants should consult Corps mitigation guidelines and WCA rules for requirements.

**Replacement/Compensatory Mitigation via Wetland Banking**. Complete this section if you are proposing to use credits from an existing wetland bank (with an account number in the State wetland banking system) for all or part of your replacement/compensatory mitigation requirements.

Wetland Bank Account #	County	Major Watershed #	Bank Service Area #	Credit Type (if applicable)	Number of Credits

Applicants should attach documentation indicating that they have contacted the wetland bank account owner and reached at least a tentative agreement to utilize the identified credits for the project. This documentation could be a signed purchase agreement, signed application for withdrawal of credits or some other correspondence indicating an agreement between the applicant and the bank owner. However, applicants are advised not to enter into a binding agreement to purchase credits until the mitigation plan is approved by the Corps and LGU.

**Project-Specific Replacement/Permittee Responsible Mitigation**. Complete this section if you are proposing to pursue actions (restoration, creation, preservation, etc.) to generate wetland replacement/compensatory mitigation credits for this proposed project.

WCA Action Eligible for Credit <sup>1</sup>	Corps Mitigation Compensation Technique <sup>2</sup>	Acres	Credit % Requested	Credits Anticipated <sup>3</sup>	County	Major Watershed #	Bank Service Area #

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Refer to the name and subpart number in MN Rule 8420.0526.

Explain how each proposed action or technique will be completed (e.g. wetland hydrology will be restored by breaking the tile......) and how the proposal meets the crediting criteria associated with it. Applicants should refer to the Corps mitigation policy language, WCA rule language, and all associated Corps and WCA guidance related to the action or technique:

Attach a site location map, soils map, recent aerial photograph, and any other maps to show the location and other relevant features of each wetland replacement/mitigation site. Discuss in detail existing vegetation, existing landscape features, land use (on and surrounding the site), existing soils, drainage systems (if present), and water sources and movement. Include a topographic map showing key features related to hydrology and water flow (inlets, outlets, ditches, pumps, etc.):

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Refer to the technique listed in St. Paul District Policy for Wetland Compensatory Mitigation in Minnesota.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>If WCA and Corps crediting differs, then enter both numbers and distinguish which is Corps and which is WCA.

Attach a map of the existing aquatic resources, associated delineation report, and any documentation of regulatory review or approval. Discuss as necessary:

For actions involving construction activities, attach construction plans and specifications with all relevant details. Discuss and provide documentation of a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of the site to define existing conditions, predict project outcomes, identify specific project performance standards and avoid adverse offsite impacts. Plans and specifications should be prepared by a licensed engineer following standard engineering practices. Discuss anticipated construction sequence and timing:

For projects involving vegetation restoration, provide a vegetation establishment plan that includes information on site preparation, seed mixes and plant materials, seeding/planting plan (attach seeding/planting zone map), planting/seeding methods, vegetation maintenance, and an anticipated schedule of activities:

For projects involving construction or vegetation restoration, identify and discuss goals and specific outcomes that can be determined for credit allocation. Provide a proposed credit allocation table tied to outcomes:

Provide a five-year monitoring plan to address project outcomes and credit allocation:

Discuss and provide evidence of ownership or rights to conduct wetland replacement/mitigation on each site:

Quantify all proposed wetland credits and compare to wetland impacts to identify a proposed wetland replacement ratio. Discuss how this replacement ratio is consistent with Corps and WCA requirements:

By signature below, the applicant attests to the following (only required if application involves project-specific/permittee responsible replacement):

- All proposed replacement wetlands were not:
  - Previously restored or created under a prior approved replacement plan or permit
  - Drained or filled under an exemption during the previous 10 years
  - Restored with financial assistance from public conservation programs
  - Restored using private funds, other than landowner funds, unless the funds are paid back with interest to the individual
    or organization that funded the restoration and the individual or organization notifies the local government unit in
    writing that the restored wetland may be considered for replacement.
- The wetland will be replaced before or concurrent with the actual draining or filling of a wetland.
- An irrevocable bank letter of credit, performance bond, or other acceptable security will be provided to guarantee successful completion of the wetland replacement.
- Within 30 days of either receiving approval of this application or beginning work on the project, I will record the Declaration of Restrictions and Covenants on the deed for the property on which the replacement wetland(s) will be located and submit proof of such recording to the LGU and the Corps.

Applicant or Representative:	Title:
Signature:	Date: