

DOCUMENTATION OF OBSERVED WETLAND DISTURBANCE

We need your help; please join our *W3 Wisconsin Wetland Watch* effort. Our objective is to document both legal and illegal wetland destruction and to help record and publicize the wetland losses. We need to bring this outrage to public attention!

Wisconsin counties, cities and villages are required to establish shoreland-wetland zoning districts which protect all wetlands, or portions of wetlands, that are 5 acres in area or larger and lie within 1000 feet of a navigable water way or within 300 feet of a floodplain of a navigable river or stream. Any drainage, dredging, filling or flooding of a protected wetland is generally prohibited by law.

Name of Property Owner: _____*

Legal Description of Property*: County: _____ Town _____ Section _____

*Contact the Register of Deeds in county where the wetland is located to obtain this information

Date of your observation: _____

Did you observe the obstruction of a navigable waterway? Yes _____ (Describe below) No _____
(Wis. Stats. Ch. 30-31 require a permit for a structure or activity that would obstruct or divert a navigable waterway, e.g. shoreline modification (riprap, seawalls), dams, bridges, stream straightening, piers, grading, dredging, enclosures)

Are there local zoning ordinances that apply to this property? * Yes _____ (Describe below) No _____
*Contact the county or city zoning authority with jurisdiction over the property for this information.

Your field observations of the alleged wetland disturbance. Please attach photos if available.

Did you observe any of the following (Check all that apply)

Drainage ___ Dredging ___ Filling ___ Flooding ___ Other _____ (Describe what you observed below)

What is your best estimate of the acreage of the wetland in question _____.

Estimate the acreage portion of the wetland area impacted by the disturbance _____.

What is the name of the river or stream closest to the wetland _____

What is the approximate distance (in miles or feet) between river/stream and wetland _____

WISCONSIN WETLAND WATCH (W-3) LAUNCHED

Wetland Destruction to be Documented Around State

Conservation and environmental organizations have joined in an effort to monitor wetland losses as a result of the Supreme Court (SWANCC) decision in early January. Letters of “non-jurisdiction” have begun to be issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, giving the “green light” for wetland fill and destruction projects.

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Here’s how it works:

- Learn of wetland fill activities that no longer need permits by visiting the Army Corps of Engineers website at: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory/isojd/>
(A project marked “no” means that the Corps does NOT have jurisdiction over the project, and therefore no permit is required.) If you do not have internet access, you can contact your local water regulatory staff person with the DNR.
- If there is a proposed wetland fill in your area, plan one or several visits to the site to monitor what is happening. CAUTION: DO NOT TRESPASS! You need to be certain you are on a public right-of-way (road) or in a navigable waterway. As long as you keep our feet wet or stand on the exposed banks up to the ordinary high water mark, you are in a public waterway. If you must cross their property to reach a public waterway, please ask permission of the landowner.
- At or near the site, take good notes of what is happening. Describe the location carefully. Record any filling activity. Note the date(s). How big is the project? Take photos or videos of the project, being certain to capture identifiable landmarks (signs, buildings, etc). Dated photos are best. Keep your records and photos together.
- Be vigilant for suspicious activity in your area—dump trucks carrying fill material, bulldozers moving soil in wetland areas. Keep informed of proposed development projects through the local media—newspapers and television and through local decision-making processes (municipal, town and county government). As a result of the Supreme Court decision, it is conceivable that individual developers will proceed with planned developments, confident they are working in an “isolated wetland” that doesn’t require a permit. This may or may not be true! If you discover an undocumented wetland fill activity, record details of the project as described above.
- Make two telephone calls:
 1. DNR Warden (1-800-TIP-WDNR; 1-800-847-9367) or your county Water Management Specialist or as a backup, the Wetland Team Leader at the central DNR office at 608-266-7360.
 2. Midwest Environmental Advocates 608-251-5047. MEA is a legal and technical resource center for community groups who are working for environmental justice. Visit their website at <http://www.Midwest-e-advocates.org> or mail to MEA, 122 State St #200, Madison WI 53703.