

# Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Replacement Wetland Scoping Document

**PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION:**

Sponsor's Full Name:				
Complete Mailing Address (Street, RFD, Box No.):			City:	State:
			Zip Code:	
Phone Number (Home):	Phone Number (Work):	Phone Number (Cell):	E-Mail Address:	
Sponsor's Relationship to Property:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Title Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Contract for Deed Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Contract or Agreement with Landowner <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____				

**PROJECT LOCATION AND TYPE:**

Project Name (if known):			County:	
Project Size (acres):	Township Name:	Section No.:	Township No.:	Range No.:
Type of Project:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland Banking <input type="checkbox"/> Project-Specific Wetland Replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Both				

## GENERAL INFORMATION

In order to establish a replacement wetland under the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), applicants will need to comply with the WCA program rules. The first step in the process of establishing a wetland bank site is to complete and submit this Replacement Wetland Scoping Document. The submittal of this form and supporting information will initiate a review of the project site by the WCA Local Government Unit (LGU) and/or the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP). This scoping process is also recommended, but not required, for project-specific wetland replacement plans.

This review will help the project sponsor identify project opportunities, issues, and potential problems, and will result in findings and recommendations regarding overall suitability of the project site for wetland replacement. This document is intended to partly address the replacement wetland standards in the WCA Rule. The information requested in it will be necessary to determine the suitability of the site to meet the requirements of WCA, and is an extremely important part of the wetland replacement site development process. The resulting findings and recommendations will be based on a site review and an assessment of the information submitted. The greater the detail and accuracy of the information submitted, the more informed the findings and recommendations will be.

The project sponsor will receive a copy of the findings and recommendations that result from this scoping process. These findings and recommendations do not constitute final approval of a wetland replacement project or guarantee success should the project continue with application process. Only the final approval of a complete wetland replacement or banking plan by the LGU will constitute an approved application for WCA purposes. However, early review and input as part of this scoping process will allow a potential project sponsor to make an informed decision on the suitability of the site and whether to continue with the application process prior to a substantial investment of time and resources. LGU staff and other TEP members can provide assistance in completing this form and compiling the necessary information.

**Detailed instructions for completing a Wetland Replacement Plan or Wetland Banking Application are available on the BWSR web site at: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us)**

## SCOPING DOCUMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

1.  Yes  No Are there any existing permanent conservation easements within or adjacent to the project area (RIM, WRP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Land Trust, etc.)? If yes, please describe.
2.  Yes  No Is some or all of the project area currently enrolled in CRP or another state or federal short term conservation program (EQIP, WHIF, CSP, other)? If yes, please identify the program and briefly describe the activities completed under the program, including contract start and expiration dates. Attach a copy of the contract if available.
3.  Yes  No To the best of your knowledge, are there natural gas, crude oil, refined petroleum pipelines or other utilities located on, or within 200 feet of the project area? If yes, please check all that apply:  
 Natural Gas  Crude Oil/Refined Petroleum  Electric  Telephone  Fiber Optic  Wind
4.  Yes  No Are there any existing wells within the planned project area? If yes, are they:  
 Active  Inactive – Sealed  Inactive – Not sealed
5.  Yes  No To the best of your knowledge has the project area, or an area within 200 feet of the project area, been used as a storage or disposal area for hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, including agricultural chemicals or fertilizer, or been used as a private or public dumpsite? If yes, please explain:

## PROJECT/SITE INFORMATION

### 6. LAND USE INFORMATION:

- A. Briefly describe the current and past land-use history of the project area (e.g. row crops, pasture, forestry/logging, residential, etc.).
- B. For agricultural sites with cropping history, approximately how many of the last 20 years has the project area, or portions of the project area, been seeded for crop production? When possible, be specific and identify the corresponding areas on an aerial photo or map.

### 7. WETLAND INFORMATION:

- A. Check all applicable boxes below that best describe the activities that have drained or altered wetlands within the project area and identify on attached map or aerial photo.
- Private Ditch  Public Ditch  Private Tile  Public Tile  Lift Station  
 Wetland Filling  Cropping/Tillage  None  Other \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Describe, if known, any private drainage easements or agreements that exist for the property.
  
- C. Describe what activities can be implemented to establish replacement wetland areas on the site (e.g. breaking tile lines, plugging ditches, removing lift stations, converting cropland to wetland, removal of sediment, etc.). Identify locations on attached aerial photo where applicable.
  
- D. Describe any concerns or problems that may exist in implementing any of the above restoration activities.

**8. PROJECT GOALS:**

Describe any specific project goals you have for the site.

**SUBMITTAL DOCUMENTS:**

- Site Locator Map**
- Recent Aerial Photo of Site Showing Property and Planned Project Boundaries**
- County Soil Survey Map** (Include legend and identification of hydric soils)
- Maps/photos of any existing drainage features** (ditches, tile, lift stations, etc.)
- Map of Site Topography** (best available information from LiDAR, USGS maps, or surveys)
- Aerial photos from the past 20 years showing land use and/or cropping history** (when applicable)
- Prior wetland delineations or determinations** (if any have been completed for the project area)

*Note: For all mapping products, be sure to show scale and orientation, site boundaries, and other relevant features. Attach additional information as needed.*

**FOR PROPOSED WETLAND BANKING PROJECTS:**

- Check this box to request concurrent review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding potential suitability of the site for wetland banking under the federal Clean Water Act.
- Check this box if at this time the site is intended for deposit in the Minnesota *Agricultural* Wetland Bank only.

**REQUEST FOR INITIAL SCOPING REVIEW:**

By signing this Scoping Document I am requesting a technical review of the identified project site by the LGU and/or other members of the TEP. I am familiar with the information contained in this submittal and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information is true, complete, and accurate. I understand that the enclosed information does not constitute a complete application for wetland replacement or banking plan approval, but will result in findings and recommendations that can be used in assembling an application should I choose to pursue one. I understand that any resulting findings do not constitute a formal decision nor imply that a complete banking or replacement plan application will be approved by the LGU. If I am not the fee title owner of property in which the project site exists, I have obtained permission from the fee title owner to allow access to the site for the LGU and members of the TEP to conduct a review of the project site.

<i>Signature of Project Sponsor:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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