



ASWM NEW FEATURES AND PUBLICATIONS 2010

Institute for Wetland Science and Public Policy
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FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Improving Wetland Permitting. ASWM is working with several states to develop a white paper describing opportunities to improve wetland permitting. The paper will summarize and collate activities already underway in many states to consolidate permitting, develop online applications, utilize science and technology, enhance data management and improve consistency in permit decisions. ASWM will gather information about best practices and whether 'improving' permitting is making programs more understandable, more efficient or more effective at protecting and conserving wetlands and other water resources.

Expanding the State's Role in Implementing Section 404 CWA Assumption. Only two states, New Jersey and Michigan, have assumed the Section 404 program. Little has been published summarizing the requirements, process and procedures that are followed by states in taking over responsibility for implementing Section 404. ASWM will publish a new webpage with articles, fact sheets and detailed information about state assumption.

Online Training for the New Wetlands Mapping Standard. In July of 2009 the Federal Geographic Data Committee adopted a national wetlands mapping standard. The standard is based on the existing mapping standard developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create the National Wetlands Inventory. It has been updated and revised for a GIS environment. ASWM will be working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies to develop information and online training materials.

Best Practices for 401 Certification. 401 certification provides states with the authority to condition, waive or deny federal permits under the Clean Water Act. ASWM will document and summarize successful practices used by states.

Climate Change in State Wetland Programs. ASWM will publish a report on activities underway in state wetland programs to anticipate and adapt to climate change.

NEW FEATURES

News of Interest. Every Monday ASWM posts interesting news stories on its home page at <http://www.aswm.org>

The Compleat Wetlander (launched 4/09). The official blog of the Association has been designed to serve as an online forum for an interactive exchange of ideas between the Association, its members, states and federal agencies, and the public. Weekly features include *The Compleat Wetlander*, *Strange Wetlands*, and *Views from the Blog-o-sphere*. Other posts include *News from Southern Maine*, wetland poetry and art, and recommended readings. <http://www.aswm.org/wordpress>

Climate Change Feature. Each week ASWM features an important news story, event or publication on wetlands & climate change on its website. <http://www.aswm.org>

NEW WEBPAGES

FGDC Wetlands Mapping Standard. ASWM has added a new webpage with more detailed information and additional links on the new Federal Wetlands Mapping Standard. http://www.aswm.org/fwp/wetlands_mapping_standard/index.htm

EPA Wetland-Related Links. Includes links to EPA news and webcasts. <http://aswm.org/fwp/epa/index.htm>

Historical Interest. Includes links to documents and guidance that provide background on current wetland policies. http://www.aswm.org/fwp/historical_interest/index.htm

Clean Water Act. News and links to information on CWA jurisdictional issues and Clean Water Restoration Act. <http://www.aswm.org/fwp/cwa/index.htm>

Stimulus Bill 2009. Info and links from federal agencies on the bill along with guidance documents and resources. <http://www.aswm.org/fwp/stimulus/index.htm>

Wetlands and Legal Issues. News on takings cases, ASWM legal publications, blogs of legal interest. <http://www.aswm.org/fwp/legal/index.htm>

Wildlife-Friendly Stream and Undercrossing Research. Links to reports, projects, manuals on stream crossing and cool wildlife photos! <http://aswm.org/science/wildlife-friendly/index.htm>

State Assumption on CWA Section 404 Program

Wetland Book List-On Amazon. A comprehensive list of wetland books that can be purchased on Amazon.com. <http://www.aswm.org/propub/bookservice/index.htm>

Improving Wetland Permitting

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A New Mapping Standard, by Jane Awi, ASWM; Jeanne Christie, ASWM; Margarete Heber, U.S. EPA and Bill Wilen, USFWS (12/09) http://www.aswm.org/swp/mapping/christie_mapping.pdf

Mapping Coalitions, by Jeanne Christie and Leah Stetson, ASWM (12/09) http://www.aswm.org/swp/mapping/christie_mapping.pdf

Utilizing New Technology and GIS to Improve Permitting Programs, by Leah Stetson, ASWM and Jon Soderberg, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (12/09) http://www.aswm.org/swp/improving_wetland_permitting/improve_permitting_programs.pdf

Model Ordinances for Regulating Wetlands and Riparian Habitats/Stream Buffers. Jon Kusler, Esq., ASWM (12/09). The goal of this paper is to help communities protect and restore vulnerable wetlands and related riparian ecosystems by adopting or upgrading regulations. http://www.aswm.org/propub/jon_kusler/model_ordinance_1209.pdf

Mapping Wetlands Together: Identifying Partners for Coalitions, by Leah Stetson, ASWM (9/09). Once organizations start to team up and collaborate for wetland mapping projects, more can be achieved. Several members notified us of new developments in wetland mapping after reading the mapping article in ASWM's August 2008 newsletter. It was clear that much of the mapping work undertaken in states was collaborative. In some states, there is a lot of opportunity for agencies and organizations to work together in acquiring imagery and/or mapping wetland resources. So ASWM queried wetland staff and GIS specialists from around the country to identify potential, and sometimes surprising, partners in building a wetland mapping coalition. http://www.aswm.org/swp/mapping/wetland_mapping_coalitions.pdf

Stimulus Package Opportunities and Challenges, by Jeanne Christie, ASWM (3/09). The stimulus bill was signed in March 2009, but the federal agencies in many cases have been working for months to get ready to spend a great deal of money in a very short period of time. Some agencies such as the Federal Highways Administration posted information about spending stimulus monies even before the bill was signed. Agencies are rapidly finalizing and posting additional details on the criteria that will be used to fund "shovel ready" projects. ASWM has assembled information that identifies opportunities and challenges with respect to funding projects that will have an impact on wetlands and other water resources. This includes funding that can be used for wetland and aquatic restoration as well as projects that will require environmental review and permitting. http://www.aswm.org/fwp/stimulus/stimulus_bill_022709.pdf

Wetlands and Natural Hazards, by Jon Kusler, Ph.D., ASWM (1/09). This overview paper discusses the relationship between wetlands and natural hazards and suggests how wetlands may be better managed to reduce flood losses. It also considers the existing policies and regulations adopted at federal, state, and local levels to address these hazards. It suggests measures which could be taken by regulatory and other agencies at all levels of government to better address these hazards while simultaneously achieving broader wetland management objectives. The paper is based upon a review of scientific literature, a web search, an examination of federal, state, and local regulatory policies and court cases, and ASWM's workshops and symposia deal with wetlands, rivers, streams, and floodplains over the last decade. http://www.aswm.org/propub/jon_kusler/wetlands_natural_hazards_012709.pdf

Recommendations for a National Wetlands and Climate Change Initiative” (1/09) based on Wetlands 2008: Wetlands and Global Climate Change, held on September 16-18, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. ASWM is recommending that federal agencies and Congress create a cooperative National Wetlands and Climate Change Initiative with the states, tribes, local governments, and the private sector. It would build upon existing coordination mechanisms. http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/recommendations_2008_112008.pdf

Wetland Mapping – From Mylar to Mosaics and Beyond, by Leah Stetson, ASWM (8/08). Mapping has indeed come a long way from the introduction of paper maps that have been used for centuries. Geographic information systems (GIS) maps have been around since the 1960s, but primarily available to the federal government and to a limited number of groups who had the technical expertise to apply it. Since the 1990s, however, a wider range of organizations, including state wetland programs, have been equipped with the technology, funding and the basic data to begin mapping natural resources. http://www.aswm.org/swp/mapping/wetland_mapping_0808.pdf

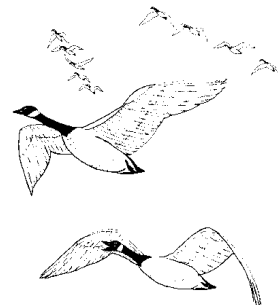
2010 MEETINGS

State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting

Clean Water, Wetlands and the Law: New Tools and Opportunities, February 23-25, 2010

ASWM's annual winter meeting will be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. More information will be provided on the ASWM website:

<http://aswm.org/calendar/index.htm>



ALSO AVAILABLE

State Programmatic General Permits (A Cautionary Tale to Enhance Dialogue), by Leah Stetson, ASWM, (05/08). In 1992, New Hampshire became the first state to be issued a new kind of state programmatic general permit (SPGP). It was the first time that the Corps and a state created a comprehensive permit and revoked all of the nationwide permits for that state. This became an effective permitting tool for New Hampshire, which deals with about 1,500 SPGP authorizations per year out of 6,000 for all of the New England states' SPGPs combined. http://www.aswm.org/swp/pgp/spgps_0508.pdf

Wetland Assessment: Measuring the Quality of the Nation's Wetlands, by Leah Stetson, ASWM, (02/08). A commonly accepted principle among architects and designers is that 'form ever follows function,' which means that the shape or appearance of a structure should be predicated by its intended purpose--whatever it does. But when wetland scientists talk about function, condition and values--there are different views on what these things mean and what they say about the quality of a wetland http://www.aswm.org/propub/news/wetland_assessment_0208.pdf

Farm Bill 2007: Outlook for Wetlands Reserve Program and Other Conservation Programs, by Leah Stetson, ASWM, (2007), http://www.aswm.org/fwp/farm_bill/farm_bill_2007_1007.pdf

State Wetland Delineator Certification Programs, by Leah Stetson, MPhil HE, (06/07). Four states currently have active programs that recognize wetland delineators. Of these four states, three certify wetland delineators and a fourth state has begun a pilot program to assure delineators' work. Several other states are in the early stages of developing a certification program for wetland delineators. Learn more about these programs at: <http://www.aswm.org/swp/certification/certification0607.pdf>

How to Hire the Right Wetlands Consultant, by Leah Stetson, MPhil HE, (06/07). Although there are many types of wetlands consultants, and several of those are multi-talented, this report focuses on those traits that are highly valued in consultants who assist with the permitting process. Find out which questions are important to ask before hiring a consultant in this report, which is available at: <http://www.aswm.org/fwp/consultant/consultant0607.pdf>

Strengthening the Role of Local Government, Watershed Councils and Land Trusts in Wetlands Management, (06/07). Local governments, land trusts and watershed councils have the opportunity to play increasingly important roles in protecting, managing, and conserving wetlands in the context of comprehensive land use plans, watershed management, flood loss reduction and other programs. These local government and non-government organizations each have unique and important roles. Two papers describe the opportunities and provide recommendations for specific actions that can be undertaken at the local level by these groups. They are currently available at: http://www.aswm.org/propub/jon_kusler/land_trust_011509.pdf and http://www.aswm.org/propub/jon_kusler/local_government_051507.pdf

Understanding Federal, State and Local Dredge & Fill Permitting Programs, by Leah Stetson, MPhil HE, (04/07). In response to receiving numerous requests for information about dredge and fill permits, ASWM investigated several ways that federal, state and local permitting programs have used to deal with violators, as well as to educate the public. These included wetland education and regulatory workshops, technology and GIS mapping. Available at: http://www.aswm.org/swp/design_wetlands/dredge_&_fill_0407.pdf

Wetlands and Global Climate Change, by Leah Stetson, MPhil HE, (02/07). This overview of climate change-related impacts to wetlands focuses on sea level rise and carbon sequestration. Several recent studies and research projects are highlighted. A few states have begun to make changes to wetlands and coastal management practices and policies in response to recently released reports on climate change and its effect on wetlands and coastal areas. Available at: http://www.aswm.org/science/climate_change/wetlands_climate_change_0207.pdf For more information on wetlands and climate change, visit: http://www.aswm.org/science/climate_change/climate_change.htm

Common Questions About Wetlands, (2006). ASWM has completed a project to provide answers to common questions about wetlands. The following "Common Questions" brochures are available on the web: A Guide for Legislators: Wetland Protection and Restoration; Constructing Wetland Boardwalks and Trails; Establishing Local Government Wetlands and Watershed Management Programs; Landowner Liability for Draining or Filling Wetlands; Land Trusts and the Protection/Restoration of Wetlands; Local Government Wetland Protection Programs; State Wetland Regulatory Programs; The SWANCC Decision; Role of the States in Filling the Gap; Wetland Assessment; Wetland Assessment Methods and the Courts; Wetlands, Climate Change, and Carbon Sequestering; Wetland Classification; Wetland Conservation and the Protection of Migratory Birds; Wetland Definitions, Delineation, and Mapping; Wetland Festivals; Wetland "Functions", "Goods and Services", and "Values"; Wetland Guidance for Engineers; Wetland Regulations; Wetland Regulations: Avoiding Legal Problems; Winning Legal Challenges; Wetland Restoration, Creation, and Enhancement; Wetlands and Ecotourism. They are available at: <http://www.aswm.org/pub/brochures2006.htm>

Applying Significant Nexus to Clean Water Act Jurisdiction, by Jon Kusler, Esq., Pat Parenteau, Esq., Edward A. Thomas, Esq. (03/07). ASWM has posted a discussion paper that provides a detailed description of the Carabell/Rapanos decision and other relevant court cases. It includes recommendations on how the agencies should proceed as they pursue guidance and/or rulemaking. http://www.aswm.org/fwp/significant_nexus_paper_030507.pdf

Developing Performance Standards for the Mitigation and Restoration of Northern Forested Wetland, (08/06). The science of restoring forested wetlands in the north has lagged behind bottomland hardwoods and other forested wetland types. ASWM is developing a white paper to summarize existing information on restoration of these wetlands, identify specific gaps in knowledge and make recommendations to improve our understanding of how to restore northern forested wetlands.

http://www.aswm.org/pub/jon_kusler/forested_wetlands_080106.pdf



For a complete list of ASWM publications, visit: <http://www.aswm.org/pub/index.htm>