

mitigation implementation and the monitoring program shall commence upon approval of the as built to take place once a year for five years. A letter will be sent along with the Year Five report to document that this is the final monitoring report and provide initial information concerning the success of the mitigation.

MAINTENANCE PLAN

The created and enhanced wetland areas shall be maintained when necessary to increase the survival of the plants, particularly with respect to providing water during the summer months and removal of invasive species. Hand clearing around the individual plants will reduce the impact to the planted stock and care will be taken to avoid mowing or otherwise affecting the growth of the installed plants. Hand clearing will be necessary during all five monitoring years or until the plants reach medium size and can shade out potentially invasive grass or weed species. No mowing or hand clearing will take place within the narrow grassy buffer as the area will be seeded with native grasses. The presence of any other native shrub species not specifically planted in the wetland shall be considered part of the mitigation planting plan and will not be removed, unless they begin to compete and cause widespread die-off of the installed plants. Tree starts will be removed from the created and enhanced wetlands and the narrow grassy buffer to avoid development of a forested community. Watering of the planted vegetation and the grasses seeded in the buffer will be conducted during the drier portions of the year to ensure plant success and will likely be done by hand using a water barrel and pump system. Application of water may be necessary one or two times per week when the temperatures are high and there has been little summer time rainfall.

CONTINGENCY PLAN

The success of this wetland mitigation project hinges on the creation of an appropriate hydrologic regime within the created wetland and maintaining the site to keep the cover by invasive plants low. The mitigation site was carefully selected for the presence of existing wetland and a reliable source of hydrology where the created wetland can achieve a saturated to seasonally flooded hydrologic regime. Achieving the appropriate hydrologic regime will be evident through the early growing season water level monitoring visits and the success of the installed plants and if the specified hydrologic regime is not achieved, additional sources of hydrology may be necessary. The success of the installed plantings will be encouraged by manually providing water during the summer months and removal of outbreaks of non-native plant species (mostly reed canarygrass). If plant survival falls below the specified 90%, plants will be replaced and the reasons for its demise will be corrected through more diligent weed removal and application of water. Contingency plans will be implemented at any time during the monitoring phase when yearly monitoring identifies below threshold performance standards in order to meet the standards by the end of the 5 year monitoring program. The need for and implementation of contingency measures will be identified in the respective end of growing season monitoring reports.