Moore Property Wetland Restoration As-Built and Baseline Monitoring Report

Johnston County, North Carolina SCO Project ID: 060673501A EEP Project ID: 725



Prepared for:



NCDENR-Ecosystem Enhancement Program 1652 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1652

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
2.0 PROJECT GOALS, BACKGROUND AND ATTRIBUTES
2.1 - Location and Setting
2.2 - Project Goals and Objectives
2.3 - Project Structure, Restoration Type and Approach
2.4 - Project History, Contacts and Attribute Data
3.0 SUCCESS CRITERIA
3.1 – Hydrology
3.2 - Vegetation
4.0 MONITORING PLAN GUIDELINES 5
4.1 - Hydrology
4.2 - Vegetation
5.0 MAINTENANCE AND CONTINGENCY PLANS
6.0 AS-BUILT DOCUMENTATION

APPENDICES

Appendix A: General Tables and Figures

Appendix B: Hydrology Data

Appendix C: Vegetation Data

Appendix D: As-Built Plan Sheets

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Moore Property Wetland Restoration Site (Site) is located approximately 0.2 miles west of the Johnston County Airport and adjacent to Swift Creek south of Swift Creek Road near the Town of Smithfield in Johnston County, North Carolina (see **Figure 1**).

The Site is within the Upper Neuse Watershed (8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 03020201) within the Neuse River Basin and the Rolling Coastal Plain Level IV Ecoregion. Swift Creek is classified by the North Carolina Environmental and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) as "C, NSW". "C" indicates the stream as supporting for secondary recreational uses, fishing, wildlife, fish consumption, aquatic life including propagation, survival and maintenance of biological integrity, agriculture and other uses suitable for class C. "NSW" is a special designation indicating nutrient sensitive waters.

The primary goals for the Site were to restore wetland hydrology and an appropriate water table hydroperiod of the floodplain wetland (i.e. elevated water table levels and longer duration of saturation of the upper soil surface during the growing season) through the removal of drainage ditches and field crowns; re-vegetation of species to establish the native wetland, upland, and riparian vegetation communities; provide habitat protection for federally protected species in Swift Creek through the establishment of a permanent conservation easement along the west bank of Swift Creek through the project area; generally improve water quality and flood storage capacity functions within the restoration area by providing longer residence time and filtering for runoff through the wetland area prior to entering Swift Creek; and minimize permanent open water habitat to reduce avian hazards for the adjacent airport.

Through ditching and crowning, the landscape of the Site had been altered by drainage and conveyance of surface waters off the Site. These past modifications have eliminated hydrologic conditions necessary to maintain wetlands and have led to the conversion of on-site wetlands to non-wetland agricultural fields.

The restoration project was designed and constructed to restore hydrology to re-establish riparian wetlands. To achieve this goal, the restoration design reduced the subsurface drainage and surface water conveyance by removing ditches, spot grading removing crowns, improved hydrologic input through removal of a portion of berm, and established grade control at the outlet channel to restore surface water elevations in the floodplain.

Construction of the project began in February of 2010 and was completed in July of 2011. The timing of earthwork activities required plantings to be installed in January 2011 instead of 2009-2010 as originally planned. Subsequent construction was completed in July of 2011 to modify surface flow away from an adjacent property. Stem count densities performed after the plantings were installed (January 2011) show approximately 458 stems per acre. Upon further site visits performed during construction close-out, it was observed that many of the bare roots were experiencing stress from the dry conditions over the early summer months. It is recommended that the Year 1 vegetation plot density counts be performed in April/May of 2012 to inventory live stem densities prior to the end of the contractor's warranty period (June 3, 2012).



2.0 PROJECT GOALS, BACKGROUND AND ATTRIBUTES

2.1 Location and Setting

The Moore Property Wetland Restoration Site (Site) is located in Johnston County, North Carolina within the Rolling Coastal Plain Level IV Ecoregion and Neuse River Basin (**Figure 1**). The Site is primarily within the Swift Creek floodplain in an 84.2 acre conservation easement. The conservation area for riparian buffer along Swift Creek is 200 feet wide and measures from the top of the stream bank within the project area. This delineation was determined by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in 2003. The Site contains two (2) distinct areas with two different primary hydrologic inputs. The eastern area nearest to Swift Creek (WED), is a likely historic remnant of Swift Creek and is now a wetter depression in the floodplain. The primary hydrologic inputs for this area will be flooding from Swift Creek and precipitation. The western area (TOM) is located further from Swift Creek along the toe of slope of the floodplain and receives hydrologic inputs from Swift Creek and runoff from the adjacent watershed area west of the Site (approximately 0.2 square miles).

2.2 Project Goals and Objectives

The primary goals for the Moore Property Site were as follows:

- Restore wetland hydrology and a natural water table hydroperiod of the riparian floodplain wetland (i.e. provide elevated water table levels and longer duration of saturation of the upper soil surface during the growing season) through the removal of drainage ditches and field crowns.
- Revegetation of native species to establish the natural wetland, upland, and riparian vegetation communities.
- Provide habitat protection for federally protected species in Swift Creek through the establishment of a permanent conservation easement along the west bank of Swift Creek through the project area.
- Generally Improve water quality functions and flood storage capacity within the restoration area by providing longer residence time and filtering for runoff through the wetland area prior to entering Swift Creek.
- Minimize permanent open water habitat to reduce avian hazards for the adjacent airport.

The objectives taken to achieve these project goals were as follows:

- Re-graded the Site to remove the field crowns and drainage ditch system.
- Redistributed topsoil for wetland vegetation establishment.
- Planted riparian buffer and wetland vegetation to restore the area back to natural riparian floodplain and wetland communities.



2.3 Project Structure, Restoration Type and Approach

The restoration approach was to grade the floodplain adjacent to the buffer along Swift Creek to remove the field crowns and drainage ditch system, thus restoring bottomland hardwood floodplain wetlands without impacting the adjacent riparian area and in-stream habitat of Swift Creek. The wetland design incorporated microtopographic variation including small vernal pool features and small upland hummocks typical of low-piedmont/upper coastal plain floodplain wetland complexes.

The Site covers approximately 84 acres of which approximately 72 acres have been improved by the restoration design. Near the Site, Swift Creek drains approximately 145.7 square miles, however, berms along Swift Creek and the Swift Creek Road have affected the ability of the flood to access the floodplain into the Site. The 10.4-acre WED area is a floodplain depression nearer to Swift Creek that is supported by hydrologic inputs of precipitation and flooding from larger flood events. The TOM area is supported by hydrologic inputs of runoff from the adjacent watershed area west of the Site (approximately 0.2 square miles), as well as flooding from Swift Creek which enters the Site through a notch that was constructed in the berm that runs parallel to Swift Creek Road. The TOM area is 39.8 acres.

2.4 Project History, Contacts and Attribute Data

The Site was historically converted to agricultural fields through ditching and grading to establish field crowns to improve surface water runoff. In 2003, the restoration of the site was initiated by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and the property owner (Michael Todd Moore) conveyed an 84.2 acre conservation easement in perpetuity to NCDOT in March 2003. NCDOT conducted a Mitigation Feasibility in May 2003, followed by a Mitigation Plan in January 2005. In preparation of the Mitigation Plan, NCDOT had eight (8) groundwater gauges and one (1) rain gauge installed in the Site (see **Figure 4**). Data provided by NCDOT from these pre-construction gauges is included in **Appendix B**.

Upon completion of the Mitigation Plan, the project was transitioned to the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP). Construction Plans were prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA) in March 2009, and Environmental Quality Resources, LLC (EQR) completed construction of the project in July 2011. During this time, in 2010, the property was conveyed from Mr. Moore, to Mr. Blackmon. Annual monitoring for the project will be conducted by KHA.

3.0 SUCCESS CRITERIA

3.1 Hydrology

Success of the restoration of wetland hydrology will be determined by meeting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) criteria and providing water table at or near the surface consistent with frequency and duration of reference wetlands. For year's one (1) through three (3), successful wetland hydrology is defined as less than or equal to 50% deviation in sustained water table levels near the surface compared to the reference wetlands. For year 4 and beyond until success



criteria is met, successful wetland hydrology is defined as less than or equal to 20% deviation in sustained water table levels near the surface compared to the reference wetlands. The hydroperiod of the reference and site wetlands will be measured using groundwater gauge data loggers that record the water table elevation near the ground surface.

3.2 Vegetation

Success criteria have been established by EEP to verify that the re-established wetland and riparian buffer vegetation includes an appropriate species composition for the target wetland community type. Also success criteria include the density and growth of characteristic forest species. For wetlands, a minimum mean density of 260 characteristic trees species (planted and volunteer stems) per acre must be surviving for five (5) years after initial planting. For riparian buffers, a minimum mean density of 320 characteristic trees species (planted stems only) per acre must be surviving for five (5) years after initial planting. These minimum requirements are according to the NCDENR DWQ Administrative Code 15A NCAC 02B.0242 (Neuse Buffer Basin, Mitigation Program for Protection and Maintenance of Existing Riparian Buffers). This site was instituted prior to October 2007 and, therefore, will generate RBR credit within the conservation easement where planted hardwood stem density requirements are met AND there is a minimum of 50' and a maximum of 200' from TOB of Swift Creek. Herbaceous vegetation will be assessed visually during the initial assessment for ground cover and target species.

4.0 MONITORING PLAN GUIDELINES

The Monitoring Plan will entail analysis of hydrology (surface and subsurface) and vegetation establishment. Monitoring of the restoration will be performed for five years or until success criteria are fulfilled.

4.1 Hydrology

After construction was completed, sixteen (16) groundwater monitoring gauges and one (1) crest gauge were installed per USACE guidelines (ERDC TN-WRAP-00-02, July 2000) (**Figures 6** and 7). These monitoring gauges will be set to observe near-surface and surface water table fluctuations to characterize the Site's water table hydroperiod. Five (5) reference wetland gauges were also installed at selected reference wetlands that are representative of the target wetland communities of the Site (**Figure 5**).

The monitoring gauges were installed in the upper soil surface to a depth of 36-inches, or to the restrictive layer (dominated by clay) depth which was field determined (**Appendix B**). The gauges were placed in three (3) transects (two (2) running west to east, one (1) running north to south) in order to capture groundwater table data at different elevations within the wetland. These transects will also help to better evaluate hydrologic inputs on both the WED and TOM areas.



4.2 Vegetation

After planting was completed in January of 2011, an initial evaluation was performed to verify planting methods and to determine initial species composition and density. Supplemental planting and additional Site modifications will be implemented after the first year on a case by case basis based on success criteria consultation with USACE.

During the first year, vegetation will be visually assessed to ascertain the degree of overtopping and competition of planted vegetation by herbaceous competition. Subsequently, quantitative sampling of vegetation will be performed between August 1 and October 31 after each growing season until the vegetation success criteria is achieved.

Sixteen (16) Permanent 10-meter square plots were established randomly within the different planting zones for the Site (**Figure 8**). These vegetation plots were installed according to the Carolina Vegetation Survey (CVS) Levels I and II protocol and will also be monitored according to this protocol. This quantitative monitoring will determine survivorship and species composition of the planted and volunteer trees.

5.0 MAINTENANCE AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

If problem areas arise during the monitoring period, corrective action may be required and implemented per guidance from EEP. If the problem is isolated in nature it may not require remedial action; however, if the issue is determined to be systemic, corrective action may be needed. The following provides an outline for maintenance thresholds and contingency plans for the Site's wetlands and vegetation:

Wetland Hydrology Criteria:

• Hydrology does not meet USACE criteria and targeted reference values

Wetland Hydrology Remedial Actions:

- Verify climate conditions are normal
- Mobilization of equipment to either raise or lower the grade of the emergency spillways to increase flood water retention within the Site.

Planted Area Issue Thresholds:

- >15% invasives
- Not meeting stem count or diversity criteria as indicated in Section 3.2 of the report

Planted Area Remedial Actions:

- Nuisance vegetation removal/treatment
- Supplemental plantings



6.0 AS-BUILT DOCUMENTATION

The As-built documentation for the Site can be found in **Appendix D**. The As-built Survey consists of a topographic survey completed by a licensed surveyor, and submitted by the project's contractor. The Record Drawings are a red-lined version of the Construction Drawings modified to show the restoration features as they were constructed.



APPENDIX A

General Tables and Figures



Title	VICINI	VICINITY MAP						
Prepared For:		Project	MOORE PROPERTY WETLAND RESTORATION Johnston County, North Carolina					
		07/	Date /28/2011	KHA Project Number 011795023	Figure 1			





			Table	e 1. Projec	t Components a	nd Mitigation	Credits		
				Moore F	vroperty Wetland	d Restoration			
					Mitigation Cree	dits			
	Stream		Riparian Wetland		Non-riparian Wetland		Neuse Riparian Buffer	Nitrogen Nutrient Offset	Phosphorous Nutrient Offset
Туре	R	RE	R	RE	R	RE			
Totals			51.5	0			248,292		
					Project Compon	ients			
Project Component -or- Reach ID		Stationing/I	Location	n Existing Footage/Acreage		Approach (PI, PII, etc.)	Restoration - or- Restoration Equivalent	Restoration Footage or Acreage	Mitigation Ratio
RPN							Restoration	5.7	
WED							Restoration	10.4	
TOM-A	`						Restoration	39.8	
TOM-B	3						Restoration	1.3	
					Component Sumr	nation		-	
Restoration	Level	Stream (line	near feet) Riparian		Wetland (acres) Non-ripariar		า Wetland es)	Buffer (square feet)	Upland (acres)
				Riverine	Non-Riverine				
Restoration				51.5	0			248,292	27
Enhancement									
Enhancement I									
Enhancement II									
Creation									
Preservation									
High Quality Preserv	vation								
					BMP Elemen	ts			
Element Location		ion	Purpose/Function		1	Notes			
				· ·					
BMP Elements						4			
BR = Bioretention C	ell: SF = Sand	Filter: SW = S	Stormwater	Wetland: WE	OP = Wet Detention	n Pond: DDP = [Drv Detention	Pond:	

FS = Filter Strip; Grassed Swale = S; LS = Level Spreader; NI = Natural Infiltration Area, FB = Forested Buffer



Table 2. Project Activity and Reporting HistoryMoore Property Wetland Restoration							
Activity or Deliverable Data Collection Completion or Delivery							
Restoration Plan	NA	March 2008					
Final Design – Construction Plans	NA	May 2009					
Containerized, bare root and B&B plantings	NA	January 2011					
Construction	NA	July 2011					
As-Built & Baseline Monitoring Report	January 2011	July 2011					

- Bolded items are examples of those items that are not standard, but may come up and should be included

- Non-bolded items represent events that are standard components over the course of a typical project.

- The above are obviously not the extent of potential relevant project activities, but are just provided as example as part of this exhibit.



Table 3. Project Contacts TableMoore Property Wetland Restoration				
Designer	Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.			
	3001 Weston Parkway Cary, NC 27513			
Primary project design POC	Daren Pait (757) 355-6677			
Construction Contractor	Environmental Quality Resources, LLC			
	1405 Benson Ct Arbutus, MD 21227			
Construction contractor POC	John Talley (443) 304-3310			
Survey Contractor	Turner Land Surveying, PLLC			
	3201 Glenridge Dr Raleigh, NC 27604			
Survey contractor POC	David Turner (919) 875-1378			
Planting Contractor	Natives, Inc.			
	550 E. Westinghouse Blvd Charlotte, NC 28273			
Planting contractor POC	Gregg Antemann (704) 527-1177			
Seeding Contractor	Natives, Inc.			
	550 E. Westinghouse Blvd Charlotte, NC 28273			
Contractor point of contact	Gregg Antemann (704) 527-1177			
Seed Mix Sources	Natives, Inc.			
	Gregg Antemann (704) 527-1177			
Nursery Stock Suppliers	Natives, Inc.			
	Gregg Antemann (704) 527-1177			
Monitoring Performers	Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.			
	3001 Weston Parkway Cary, NC 27513			
Stream Monitoring POC	N/A			
Vegetation Monitoring POC	Chad Evenhouse (919) 677-2121			
Wetland Monitoring POC	Chad Evenhouse (919) 677-2121			

Table 4. Project Attribute Table								
Moore Property Wetland Restoration								
Project County Johnston								
Physiographic Region	Coastal Plain							
Ecoregion	Rolling Coastal Plain							
Project River Basin	Neuse							
USGS HUC for Project (14 digit)	3020201110070							
NCDWQ Sub-basin for Project		03-04-02						
Within extent of EEP Watershed Plan?			No					
WRC Hab Class (Warm, Cool, Cold)	Warm							
% of project easement fenced or demarcated		100						
Beaver activity observed during design phase?	No							
Restoration Com	ponent Attr	ibute Table						
				Swift				
	RPN	WED	TOM	Creek *				
Drainage area	N/A	0.03 sq. mi.	0.2 sq. mi.	145.2 sq. mi.				
Stream order	N/A	N/A	N/A	4th				
Restored length (feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Perennial or Intermittent	N/A	N/A	N/A	Perennial				
Watershed type (Rural, Urban, Developing etc.)		Rural	Rural	Developing				
Watershed LULC Distribution (e.g.)								
Residential		2%	2%	20%				
Ag-Row Crop		69%	69%	40%				
Ag-Livestock		0%	0%	0%				
Forested		29%	29%	40%				
Etc.		0%	0%	0%				
Watershed impervious cover (%)		0%	0%	15%				
NCDWQ AU/Index number	N/A	N/A	N/A	27-43-(8)				
NCDWQ classification	N/A	N/A	N/A	C; Sw; NSW				
303d listed?	N/A	N/A	N/A	No				
Upstream of a 303d listed segment?	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes				
Reasons for 303d listing or stressor	N/A	N/A	N/A	WS-III; NSW; CA				
Total acreage of easement	84.2	84.2	84.2	N/A				
Total vegetated acreage within the easement	84.2	84.2	84.2	N/A				
Total planted acreage as part of the restoration	5.7	10.4	41.1	N/A				
Rosgen classification of pre-existing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Rosgen classification of As-built	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Valley type	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Valley slope	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Valley side slope range (e.g. 2-3.%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Valley toe slope range (e.g. 2-3.%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Cowardin classification	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				
Trout waters designation	N/A	N/A	N/A	No				
Species of concern, endangered etc.? (Y/N)	No	No	No	Yes				
Dominant soil series and characteristics	Altavista	Wedhadkee	Tomotley	N/A				
Series	AaA	Wt	То	N/A				
Depth	60 inches	63 inches	60 inches	N/A				
Clay%	10-35	5-20	5-35	N/A				
K	0.24	0.24	0.2	N/A				
Т	5	5	5	N/A				

Use N/A for items that may not apply. Use "-" for items that are unavailable and "U" for items that are unknown *There is no restoration of Swift Creek involved with this project



APPENDIX B

Hydrology Data





FT)	OM			AND AN MI M	- Langel		12 1 St.
1	10		TELEVIC	- 3× 111	Refe	erence Gage Lo	ocations
	31	21			Gage II	D Latitude	Longitude
501	11			the self	REF-B	35.5336	-78.390297
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Groundwater Monitoring Gage ID: 9DE6D56 Location: GW-1



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Groundwater Monitoring Gage ID: 9BEBD1B Location: GW-2



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Groundwater Monitoring Gage ID: 8E88731 Location: GW-3



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Groundwater Monitoring Gage ID: 8E83F51 Location: GW-4



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Groundwater Monitoring Gage ID: 8E52212 Location: GW-5



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Groundwater Monitoring Gage ID: 9DE6AE9 Location: GW-6



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Stream Monitoring Gage ID: 9D900E1 Location: SG-1



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Stream Monitoring Gage ID: S2EAAF5 Location: SG-2



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Stream Monitoring Gage ID: N3C6933F Location: SG-3



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APPENDIX C

Vegetation Data



Current Data (AB 2011) Scientific Common Plot 1 Plot 2 Plot 3 Plot 4 Plot 5 Plot 6 Plot 7 Plot 8 Name Name Type Ρ Т Ρ Т Ρ Т Ρ т Ρ Т Ρ Т Ρ Т Ρ Т Betula nigra River Birch Tree Carpinus caroliniana Ironwood Tree 1 1 1 1 5 5 Diospyros virginiana Common Persimmon Tree 6 6 3 3 4 4 3 3 10 10 Fraxinus pennsylvanica Green Ash Tree Water Tupelo 2 2 Nyssa aquatica Tree 12 Nvssa biflora Swamp Blackgum Tree 9 9 10 10 12 Platanus occidentalis American Sycamore Tree Quercus laurifolia Laurel Oak Tree 3 3 1 1 Quercus lyrata Overcup Oak Tree 2 2 5 5 2 2 4 4 1 1 Quercus michauxii Swamp Chesnut Oak 3 3 2 2 3 3 Tree 1 1 1 1 Plot area (acres) 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 Species count 4 4 3 4 4 2 2 3 3 3 4 4 3 3 1 Stem Count 10 10 8 8 10 12 12 12 13 13 17 17 12 12 10 12 Stems per Acre 405 405 324 405 405 486 486 486 486 526 526 688 688 486 486 324 Scientific Common Plot 9 Plot 10 Plot 11 Plot 12 Plot 13 Plot 14 Plot 15 Plot 16 Current Mean Name Name Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Type т Т Т т Т Т Т Т Ρ Т Betula nigra River Birch Tree 2 2 3 9 9 9 9 5.8 5.8 3 Carpinus caroliniana Ironwood Tree 3 3 5 5 2 2 2.8 2.8 4 5 4.5 4.5 Diospyros virginiana Common Persimmon Tree 4 1 1 5 -raxinus pennsylvanica Green Ash Tree 6 6 6.0 6.0 Nyssa aquatica Water Tupelo Tree 2.0 2.0 10 10 10.3 Nyssa biflora Swamp Blackgum Tree 10.3 Platanus occidentalis American Sycamore Tree 4 4 2 2 1 1 4 4 2.8 2.8 Quercus laurifolia Laurel Oak Tree 2.0 2.0 Overcup Oak 2 2.4 2.4 Quercus lyrata Tree 2 1 1 Quercus michauxii Swamp Chesnut Oak 2 2 5 5 3.0 3.0 Tree 7 7 Plot area (acres) 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 0.02 Species count 4 4 2 2 3 3 3 2 2 4 4 2 2 2.8 2.8 3 1 1 Stem Count 10 10 10 10 6 6 11 11 13 13 10 10 14 14 13 13 11.3 11.3 Stems per Acre 405 405 405 405 243 243 445 445 526 526 405 405 567 567 526 526 458 458

Table 7 Planted and Total Stem Counts (Species by Plot with Annual Means)

Type = Tree, Shrub, Livestake

P = Planted

T = Total



































APPENDIX D

As-Built Plan Sheets