



BWSR Announces Coordinated Mitigation Banking Efforts

On November 19, 2013 the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the coordination of wetland mitigation banks. The MOU establishes a coordinated effort to standardize all aspects of wetland mitigation banking and provides consistency between the lead state and federal wetland regulatory programs in Minnesota. Activities covered in the MOU include review of mitigation banks, credit releases and bank ledgers/credit transactions.

Why is it important?

Wetlands in Minnesota are regulated by both state and federal laws, and wetland banking is the primary means of mitigating for wetland impacts. Consistency between state and federal policies and procedures is important in providing greater efficiency and predictability for the regulated public.

What are the key elements of the MOU?

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) wetland specialists and U.S. Army Corps project managers will coordinate the review of bank plan applications and credit releases/deposits from approved bank plans and seek consistent determinations and decisions between both regulatory programs.

The tracking of mitigation bank credits will be coordinated between the two agencies with a goal of reconciling discrepancies to the extent possible.

Where can I find more information on the MOU?

You can find the MOU on the BWSR website at

http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/wca/guidance/BWSR_Corps_MOU_Wetland_Banking.pdf

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