# John Rockwell, M.S. **Environmental Planner, Wetlands Act Permitting, Peer Review Services Delineation Training, Expert Testimony** 1171 Point Road, Marion, Massachusetts

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Providing environmental planning services to select clients for storm water, wetlands, open space, and road design related issues.

## Environmental Planner, Wetlands Act Permitting, Peer Review Services August 2015 – present

Wetland delineation review for the Fairhaven, Rochester, and Acushnet Conservation Commissions

Wetland permit review legal case assistance for the Town of Mattapoisett MACC BVW Delineation Workshop: instructor, and material development Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) BVW Delineation workshop

DCR Coastal Resource delineation workshop.

# Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, September 1993 – July 2015

- Provided expert advice to communities on wetland regulatory issues as they relate to the Wetland Protection Act, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 131, section 40, Section 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- Wrote wetland protective bylaws for cities and towns.
- Advised cities and towns on the administration of wetland bylaws and ordinances.
- Worked with Buzzards Bay area conservation commissions and their staffs to improve their ability to correctly identify state and federal wetlands by conducting wetland delineation workshops.
- Advised towns of regulatory measures to provide for the mitigation of pollutant and flooding impacts from storm water runoff. Wrote storm water control rules and regulations for municipalities. Performed out-reach to municipalities and state agencies regarding Low Impact Development (LID) techniques.
- Assisted towns in obtaining grant funding for and providing supervision of wetland restoration projects, including the assistance in permitting such projects.
- Assisted towns in developing open space protection acquisition strategies, both zoning and non-zoning.
- Assisted towns to protect open space by providing assistance on the writing and research required for open space plans.
- Provided information, data and analysis for the preparation of reports concerning

planning studies and natural resource inventories;

- Provided written material to towns relevant to wetlands protection, storm water management, and open space protection.
- Conducted meetings with stakeholders to plan environmental restoration and storm water remediation projects.
- Use GIS software to develop maps and to conduct analyses for towns.
- Write and review Conservation Restrictions for towns.

Publications:

Editor of : "The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program Pocket Guide to Delineating Wetlands," The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program Pocket Guide to Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation in Massachusetts," "The Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program Pocket Guide to Describing and Documenting Soil Conditions," & "Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program Pocket Guide to Common Ferns for Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands in Massachusetts."

<u>Co-Author:</u> Draft "Marion Open Space and Recreation Plan (1996)" & "The Financial Impact of Town-Wide Conservation Restrictions to the Marion Town Budget"

#### Wetland Specialist, Intern, Buzzards Bay Project, May, 1992 - June 1993.

Assisted in project review and writing draft regulations for the control of storm water to prevent non-point source pollution.

#### Natural Resource Intern, McGregor & Shea, P.C., January - March, 1992.

Analyzed wetland and waterways cases. Co-author of the wetland section of <u>Environmental</u> <u>Crime, Investigation and Prosecution</u> issued by Scott Harshbarger, Attorney General, and an article on adjudicatory hearings.

#### Agent, Westport Conservation Commission, 1987 - 1990.

Duties included the review of all Notices of Intent, Requests for Determination of Applicability, requests for Extension Permits, and requests for Certificates of Compliance, made pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act. Liaison between the conservation commission and the state and federal agencies that regulated wetland resources, including the: Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office-Wetlands Section; Department of Environmental Protection, Wetlands and Waterways, Waterways Regulatory Program; Department of Environmental Management; United States Army Corps of Engineers; and Coastal Zone Management. On behalf of the conservation commission, reviewed all subdivision plans, conducted site inspections thereto, and commented to the Planning Board on any wetland delineation shown on the plan (or its absence) and on general environmental issues the plan raised. Also reviewed Board of Health permits issued under Title 5 of the State Sanitary Code, 310 CMR 15.00, for accurately in the delineation of wetland resources, as well as building permits to determine the owners need to file forms with the conservation commission pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act. Drafted Orders of Conditions and Determinations of Applicability for review by the commission. Involved with over 375 Notices of Intent and Requests for Determination of Applicability as the Conservation Agent.

#### Wetlands Consultant, 1988 - 1993.

Retained as a wetland consultant to delineate wetland resources, design and permit the restoration of a small pond, review Notices of Intent and to provide testimony to the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office that relate to the inland (310 CMR 10.00, Part 3), and coastal regulations, (310 CMR 10.00, Part 2), of the Wetlands Protection Act, and perform delineations of coastal and inland wetland resource areas. Accepted as a "Project Consultant" by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office in a Wetlands Protection Act enforcement case to write a wetlands restoration plan and to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration when completed.

# Assistant Director of Marine Resources, Assistant Harbormaster, & Assistant Shellfish Constable, Marion, Massachusetts, May 1983 - December 1983

Conducted harbor patrol duties, search and rescue operations, and enforced shellfish regulations.

## Cuttyhunk Island Harbormaster, Town of Gosnold, April 1979 - December 1981

Prepared mooring plan, collected first record of ownership information of private moorings, performed search and rescue operations, & enforced anchorage rules.

## Town of Gosnold Wharfinger, July 1977 - December 1981

Operated and maintained 100 slip town-owed marina. Performed all maintenance, wrote budget, collected fees and maintained all records.

## Education

Antioch/New England Graduate School, Keene, NH. 1991 - 1994. Master of Science conferred in Resource Management and Administration. Master's Project was "A Comparison of Wetland Delineation Techniques Used Pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act."

# Community

Marion Planning Board May 2002 - 2006 Responsible for subdivision and Plan & Site review, correcting inconsistencies in existing zoning and bring forward SmartGrowth proposals.

Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission May 2001 - present Responsible for selecting parcels for permanent open space protection.

Marion Circulation Committee 1997-2004.

Developed the "Planning for Safe Streets" pamphlet. Originated plan design approach showing impediments to standard design on each road. Planned redesign of existing Marion streets for intermodal transportation and recreation purposes.

Marion Pathway Committee 2000 - present

Development of a local section of a regional recreational facility to link Marion to regional network of bike paths.

Marion Conservation Commission, 1984 - 1993; 5 years as chairman

Reviewed over 300 Notices of Intent, and 300 Requests for Determination of Applicability. In addition to the site visits that were performed for the Notices of Intent and Request for Determination of Applicability, conducted site visits for Extension Permits, Certificates of Compliance, Emergency Certifications, informal inspections, and enforcement cases. Testified as an expert witness on the determination of wetlands at Department of Environmental Protection Adjudicatory Hearings and in Superior Court. Determined the edge of the bordering vegetated wetland for the conservation commission, or determined if the edge of the bordering vegetated wetland as shown in the submitted forms was correct.

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, Board of Directors, 1988 - 1994 Speaker at workshops held at the MACC annual workshop concerning limited projects, coastal resource delineation, proposed regulatory changes, enforcement, and the Wetland Regulations generally. Wrote the workshop material and co-taught numerous one day workshops concerning advanced wetland delineation techniques, and plant identification.