Michigan Municipal Wetland Alliance
Making Compliance Cheaper for Local Government

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www.michiganwetlands.com
Michigan Municipal Wetland Alliance

- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Public-private partnership with the MDNR
Michigan Municipal Wetland Alliance

The MMWA:

• Serves as the bank sponsor
• Constructs the bank
• Provides an endowment for major maintenance

The MDNR:

• Retains ownership of the land
• Maintains the bank in perpetuity
• Performs all routine and major maintenance
Creating the MMWA

Preserving habitat and encouraging biodiversity
Creating the MMWA

- Mitigation construction on a per project basis can be expensive and time consuming

- Bank credits are costly and are not available for purchase in most areas of the state
Creating the MMWA

25 private bank sites on the MDEQ Registry
Creating the MMWA

Ecoregion

Watershed

Credit availability in the Lower Peninsula
Creating the MMWA

Credit availability in the Upper Peninsula

Ecoregion

Watershed
Creating the MMWA

• Private bank credits cost $45,000-$100,000 per acre credit

• MMWA bank credits will cost $10,000-$30,000 per acre credit
Creating the MMWA

- Saving the purchase price of the bank sites by using MDNR state-owned lands
- Using grant funds and appropriations to design and construct initial banks
- Utilizing money from initial credit sales to design and construct future banks
Creating the MMWA

- Michigan Legislature
  - $500,000
  - $3,850,000

- MDNR Grant
  - $1,000,000

- MDEQ Grants
  - $383,554
Municipalities and the MMWA

Making compliance less complicated, less expensive, and less time consuming
Municipalities and the MMWA

Constructing four wetland mitigation banks on MDNR lands specifically for Michigan municipalities
Municipalities and the MMWA

• Construction will begin on the Potato Creek, Allegan, and Grand River sites in Fall 2018

• Credits for these three sites are anticipated to be available in Fall 2019

• The Petersburg site is currently on hold
Blueberries and the MMWA

Michigan ranks 3rd in the nation in blueberry production, growing over 9 million pounds last year
Blueberries and the MMWA

- Michigan has almost 21,000 acres devoted entirely to blueberries, yielding more than 20 different varieties
- Expansion may involve unavoidable wetland impacts
- The MMWA will be offering credits to purchase for blueberry industry expansion
- Planning for an estimated 100 acre credits of mitigation for blueberry expansion over the next 20 years
Swampbusters and the MMWA

Michigan was 1 of 10 states selected by the USDA to receive a grant to assist with Swampbuster compliance
Swampbusters and the MMWA

Constructing six wetland mitigation banks specifically for Michigan agricultural producers
Swampbusters and the MMWA

- Wetland Conservation Compliance (Swampbuster) provisions were introduced in the 1985 Farm Bill

- Sharply reduced wetland conversions, from 235,000 acres per year before introduction, to 27,000 acres per year after
Swampbusters and the MMWA

• Over 600 landowners and 1,700 acres in Michigan were affected by Swampbuster non-compliance

• When Swampbuster provisions are not met, agricultural producers lose USDA farm program benefits

• Purchasing wetland mitigation credits is one option to regain Swampbuster compliance

• The MMWA will continue to construct bank sites across Michigan specifically for these agricultural producers
Questions

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