



NEW JERSEY Wetlands Mitigation Council

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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MONETARY CONTRIBUTION PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS **CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETENESS**

(7-28-09)

These are the application requirements for a monetary contribution for a single-family homeowner to satisfy a mitigation obligation under N.J.A.C. 7:7A-15.

A monetary contribution according to the Act shall be equivalent to the lesser of the following costs: (1) purchasing and enhancing or restoring existing degraded freshwater wetlands of equal ecological value to those which are being lost; or (2) purchase of property and the cost of creation of freshwater wetlands of equal ecological valued to those which are being lost. In order to evaluate these options, it is necessary for the permittee to submit a cost estimate which includes all costs necessary to complete the proposed mitigation and monitoring plus an appraisal of the property. These efforts require the use of consultants, legal council, engineers, surveyors and appraisers. Upon review of the proposals, the Council has found monetary donations for single-family homeowners at times exceed the cost of construction or the value of the property. Also, the process by which these single-family homeowners arrive before the Council is the Individual Permit process laid out by the Freshwater Wetland Protection Act Rules. These standards require evaluation of prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid wetland impacts. It is concluded by the Department of Environmental Protection (through the issuance of the permit) that prior to a proposal to the Council that there are no prudent and feasible alternatives. Therefore, to impose normal mitigation costs on a single-family homeowner would exacerbate the hardship already recognized by the Department.

The mitigation Council recognizes the hardship involved with single-family homeowners and therefore has consistently allowed a lesser donation for these projects. Based on past single-family homeowner monetary contributions, the Council accepts contributions from single-family homeowners based on a rate of \$38,000.00 per acre of wetland disturbance that also equals \$4,750.00 per 1/8th of an acre of disturbance. Based on these past practices the following procedure has been adopted for use by Single Family Homeowners with Freshwater Wetland Individual Permits issued by the Department.

In order to make a monetary contribution, the permittee needs approval from the Department in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:7A-15.5, 15.6 and 15.18.

Please provide two copies of the following information.

1. A request for authorization from the Department of Environmental Protection to mitigate through a monetary contribution in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:7A-15.5 or 15.6.
2. A copy of the permit authorizing the wetland impact.

3. A copy of the approved plans referenced in the permit.
4. A letter from the applicant agreeing to make a monetary contribution to satisfy their obligation to mitigate for wetland losses associated with their permitted activity based on a rate of \$38,000.00 per acre of wetland disturbance. Use the following equation to determine the amount of the monetary contribution:
$$(\$38,000.00) \times (\text{the acreage of permitted wetland disturbance}) = \text{the amount of the monetary contribution.}$$

Proposal packages shall be submitted to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Land Use Regulation
P.O. Box 439
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0439
Attn: Mitigation Unit