

October 6, 2023

Zach Lander Lander Development 216 Landowne Dr Verona. PA 15147

Wetland and Surface Waters Assessment Lander Development Wedding Venue Development Project Jackson Township, Cambria County, Pennsylvania Colliers Engineering & Design Project No. 23012396A

Dear Mr. Lander.

Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc. (DBA Maser Consulting) was contracted to provide environmental due diligence services for a proposed 18-acre wedding venue development site located along the northeast side of PA State Route (SR271) and the intersection of US Highway Route 22 in Jackson Township, Pennsylvania (Figure 1 and Figure 2). This environmental due diligence is limited to a field identification of approximate limits of potential jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and a summary of the potential permitting constraints associated with the development project.

## **Background Information**

Colliers Engineering & Design (CED) assessed potential jurisdictional wetlands and waters within the proposed Project area. Prior to onsite field investigations, several publicly available sources of information were reviewed to determine the likelihood of wetlands and surface waters occurring within the proposed alignment. These mapping resources generally include, but are not limited to, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps, the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soils database, the US Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) database, and the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

### **USGS** Quadrangle

The proposed alignment is located on the Nanty Glow, Pennsylvania quadrangle of the USGS (United States Geological Survey) Topographic Map. An unnamed perennial tributary to South Branch-Blacklick Creek flows from the southwestern to northeastern portion of the Project area. The northwestern portion of the Project area is mapped as wooded, while the remaining portions of the Project area are mapped as open field/meadow.

## **USDA** Web Soil Survey

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the proposed alignment is mapped as underlain by five (5) predominant soil types:

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- Bethesda-Fairpoint channery silt loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes (BfB), which is classified as well drained with the water table located at a depth greater than 80 inches Below Ground Surface (BGS).
- Blairton silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes (BmB), which is classified as well drained with the water table located at a depth greater than 80 inches BGS.
- Brinkerton soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes (BtB), which is classified as somewhat poorly drained with the water table located at approximately 6 to 36 inches BGS.
- Gilpin-Rayne silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes (GtD), which is classified as well drained with the water table located at a depth greater than 80 inches BGS.
- Urban land-Udorthents complex, sloping (URC), which is classified as well drained with the water table located at a depth greater than 80 inches BGS.

The area mapped as Brinkerton soils, 3 to 8 percent slopes (BtB) is most likely to contain waters or wetlands. Soils within the Project area are mapped in Figure 3.

### **USFWS National Wetlands Inventory**

The US Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory mapping depicts a linear riverine wetland running through the northeastern portion of the Project area (Figure 4). No other NWI wetlands are mapped within or in the immediate vicinity surrounding the Project area.

### **FEMA Floodplains**

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM No. 42021C0279D for Cambria County, map effective June 19, 2012), the proposed Project area does not contain any mapped FEMA floodplains.

## Wetlands/Waters Assessment

The proposed Project area, which consisted of approximately 18 acres, was investigated to identify potential jurisdictional WOTUS and wetlands subject to Federal or State regulatory jurisdiction. The delineation methodologies developed by the USACE and the USEPA, as described in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1 and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region (Version 2.0) and the subsequently issued USACE regulatory guidance regarding the identification of jurisdictional stream channels through the recognition of field indicators of an ordinary high-water mark within drainage features (Environmental Laboratory, 1987; USACE 2012; USACE 2005) were utilized during our identification. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) PA Code Title 25, Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Management documents were also utilized for wetland and stream delineations associated with this project. The approximate location and size of potential jurisdictional features observed are shown on the attached Figure 5.

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Field investigations were conducted on October 3, 2023, by Jacob C. Spuck PWS. Mr. Spuck has over 14 years of experience conducting wetland and stream delineations and has obtained multiple certifications in this field. Weather conditions were relatively warm, in the high 70s to low 80s (degrees Fahrenheit). Small amounts of rainfall in the weeks before and during the field study was recorded.

In total, Data point locations and mapped wetland boundaries are shown in Figures 5. This includes a series of upland data points (UL1-UL4) in addition to those data points completed in wetlands (WL1-WL4). Wetland determination data forms are provided in Appendix A. Forms are included for UL2 and UL4 as well. Representative site photographs are provided in Appendix B. A brief description of the wetland and stream resources identified are provided below:

### Wetlands

#### Wetland 1

Wetland 1 is a 0.06-acre vegetated depressional palustrine freshwater emergent (PEM) wetland located at the southeast corner of the Project area (see Figure 5). Wetland 1 exhibited several indicators of wetland hydrology, vegetation and soils. Wetland 1 is "isolated," i.e., it has no surface connection to any interstate waterway, and is therefore probably not regulated by the USACE. However, it is probably still considered a Water of the Commonwealth, and regulated by PA DEP.

### Wetland 2

Wetland 2 is a 0.02-acre vegetated depressional palustrine freshwater emergent (PEM) wetland located at the southeast corner of the Project area (see Figure 5). Wetland 2 exhibited several indicators of wetland hydrology, vegetation and soils. Wetland 2 is "isolated," i.e., it has no surface connection to any interstate waterway, and is therefore probably not regulated by the USACE. However, it is probably still considered a Water of the Commonwealth, and regulated by PA DEP.

### Wetland 3

Wetland 3 is a 0.01-acre vegetated depressional palustrine freshwater emergent (PEM) wetland located at the northeast corner of the Project area (see Figure 5). Wetland 3 exhibited several indicators of wetland hydrology, vegetation and soils. Wetland 3 is "isolated," i.e., it has no surface connection to any interstate waterway, and is therefore probably not regulated by the USACE. However, it is probably still considered a Water of the Commonwealth, and regulated by PA DEP.

## Wetland 4

Wetland 4 is a 0.29-acre vegetated depressional palustrine freshwater emergent (PEM) wetland located at the southwest corner of the Project area (see Figure 5). Wetland 4 exhibited several indicators of wetland hydrology, vegetation and soils. Wetland 4 is hydrologically connected to an unnamed perennial tributary to South Branch-Blacklick Creek, a CWF, and WOTUS.

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### **Streams**

Two ephemeral stream channels, and one perennial stream channel were also identified within the Project area (see Figure 5). Stream 1 is a perennial stream and unnamed tributary to South Branch-Blacklick Creek, a CWF, and WOTUS. Stream 1 runs a length of approximately 1,459 feet within the Project area. Stream 2 is an ephemeral stream channel located in the northern portion of the Project area. Stream 2 runs a total length of approximately 377 feet and is not hydrologically connected at the surface to any WOTUS. Stream 3 is an ephemeral stream channel located in the southeastern portion of the Project area. Stream 3 runs a total length of approximately 325 feet and is not hydrologically connected at the surface to any WOTUS.

## **Permitting Assessment**

As described above, jurisdictional Waters of the US (WOTUS) have been observed within the proposed Project area. Development within the Project area is feasible but will require complete avoidance of these delineated features to avoid the need for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit.

### Conclusion

Jurisdictional WOTUS features are present within the project limits, but do not preclude construction within the Project area. Should construction occur that impacts any of the delineated resources, USACE and PADEP permits will be required.

If you have any questions about our findings above, or wish to discuss next steps, please do not hesitate to call or email. I can be reached at 814-657-2006 or <u>jacob.spuck @collierseng.com</u>.

Sincerely,

Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc. (DBA Maser Consulting)

Jacob Spuck M.S., PWS Principal Investigator





Figure 1: Aerial Photograph of the Project area.



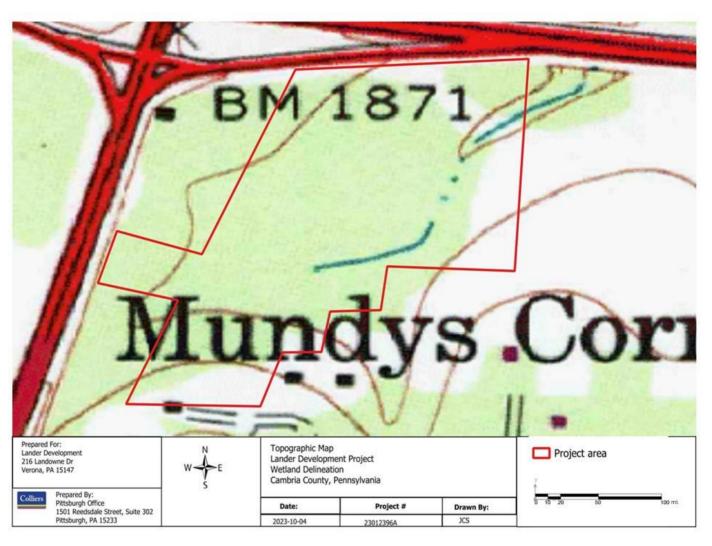


Figure 2: Topographic Map of the Project area.





Figure 3: Soil Map of the Project area.





Figure 4: NWI map of the Project area.





Figure 5: Results map of the Project area showing resources identified.

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# Appendix A Wetland Delineation Forms

Project/Site:		City	/County:	Sampling Date:		
Applicant/Owner:				_ State: Sampling Point:		
Investigator(s):		Sec	ction, Township, Range:			
					Slope (%):	
					Datum:	
					cation:	
Are climatic / hydrologic condition						
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Are Vegetation, Soil					ers in Remarks.)	
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SUMMARY OF FINDING	S – Attach site	e map showing sa	mpling point location	ons, transect	s, important features, etc.	
Hydrophytic Vegetation Preser	nt? Yes	No	Is the Sampled Area			
Hydric Soil Present?	·	No	within a Wetland?	Yes	No	
Wetland Hydrology Present?		No			<u> </u>	
Remarks:						
HYDROLOGY						
Wetland Hydrology Indicator	···			Secondary India	cators (minimum of two required)	
Primary Indicators (minimum o		hock all that apply)		Surface Soil Cracks (B6)		
Surface Water (A1)	•					
		True Aquatic Plants				
High Water Table (A2) Hydrogen Sulfi				Moss Trim I		
			= : : :		Water Table (C2)	
Water Marks (B1) Presence of Sediment Deposits (B2) Recent Iron			tion in Tilled Soils (C6)	Crayfish Burrows (C8)		
Drift Deposits (B3)		Thin Muck Surface		· ·	/isible on Aerial Imagery (C9)	
Algal Mat or Crust (B4)		<del></del>	ther (Explain in Remarks) Stunted or Stressed F		= : : :	
Iron Deposits (B5)		Geomorphic Position (D2) Shallow Aquitard (D3)				
Inundation Visible on Aeria						
Water-Stained Leaves (BS				Microtopographic Relief (D4)		
Aquatic Fauna (B13)			FAC-Neutral Test (D5)			
Field Observations:						
Surface Water Present?	Yes No _	Depth (inches):				
Water Table Present?		Depth (inches):				
Saturation Present?		Depth (inches):		lydrology Prese	nt? Yes No	
(includes capillary fringe)						
Describe Recorded Data (stream	am gauge, monitori	ng well, aerial photos, p	revious inspections), if ava	iilable:		
Remarks:						

= Total Cover

50% of total cover: \_\_\_\_\_ 20% of total cover:\_\_\_

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

Yes \_\_\_\_ No\_\_

**Hydrophytic** 

Project/Site:		City	/County:	Sampling Date:		
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Remarks:						
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Primary Indicators (minimum o		hock all that apply)		Surface Soil Cracks (B6)		
Surface Water (A1)	•					
		True Aquatic Plants				
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			= : : :		Water Table (C2)	
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Iron Deposits (B5)		Geomorphic Position (D2) Shallow Aquitard (D3)				
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Wetland Hydrology Present?		No			<u> </u>	
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Iron Deposits (B5)		Geomorphic Position (D2) Shallow Aquitard (D3)				
Inundation Visible on Aeria						
Water-Stained Leaves (BS				Microtopographic Relief (D4)		
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Field Observations:						
Surface Water Present?	Yes No _	Depth (inches):				
Water Table Present?		Depth (inches):				
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Remarks:						

= Total Cover

50% of total cover: \_\_\_\_\_ 20% of total cover:\_\_\_

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

Yes \_\_\_\_ No\_\_

**Hydrophytic** 



Appendix B Photo Log





Photo 1: Southwestern portion of the Project area, facing east. Note: Stream 1 in foreground.



Photo 2: Northeastern portion of the Project area, facing southwest.





Photo 3: western portion of Wetland 1, facing east.



Photo 4: WL1 Soil Profile.





Photo 5: Western side of Wetland 2, facing East. Ephemeral channel 3 in background.



Photo 6: WL2 Soil Profile.





Photo 7: UL2 Soil Profile.



Photo 8: South of Wetland 3, facing north.





Photo 9: WL 3 Soil Profile.



Photo 10: Center of WL 4, facing south.





Photo 11: WL 4 Soil Profile.



Photo 12: UL4 Soil Profile.





Photo 13: Stream Channel 1 in northern section of project area, facing south.



Photo 14: Stream Channel 2 in northern section of project area, facing east.