



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

February 6, 2012

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA180-12-2

SUBJECT: CPA – WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE IN PRAIRIE
POTHOLE REGION

PURPOSE. To provide additional guidance on wetland determinations.

EXPIRATION DATE. September 30, 2013

Background: For FY12, Chief White will be directing all states to create separation between the compliance determination and the local district conservationist (DC). Last fiscal year additional funds were provided to four states to complete a backlog of wetland determination requests in the prairie pothole region. Each state determined how to best utilize the funds. Iowa hired five wetland specialists and strategically placed them in prairie pothole counties. The wetland specialists are under the supervision of John Klein. Aquanda Jones has overall responsibility to attain the goals determined by the agreement with Chief White.

NRCS-Iowa provided accelerated training to appropriate staff and area/state technical specialists have provided considerable field reviews for quality assurance. The five wetland specialists have received certification to make wetland determinations.

Occasionally wetland determinations completed by a wetland specialist have been revised by the district conservationist. With this bulletin, the DC does not have the authority to reverse or modify a wetland determination completed by the wetland specialist. When there is a difference of opinion, the DC will send all relevant information to their assistant state conservationist for field operations (ASTC-FO). After the ASTC-FO reviews all the facts, the ASTC-FO will discuss the pertinent facts with the DC and wetland specialist and provide a recommendation to uphold or change the original determination.

/s/Richard Sims
State Conservationist

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