




Steven L. Thigpen, P. E.  
Director of Public Works

843.202.7600  
Fax: 843.202.7601  
[sthigpen@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:sthigpen@charlestoncounty.org)  
Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building  
4045 Bridge View Drive, Suite A301  
North Charleston, SC 29405

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Public Works Employees

**FROM:** Steve Thigpen, P.E. Director of Public Works 

**SUBJECT:** Wetlands Delineation Policy #1 (April 18, 2019 Policy Revision)

**DATE:** November 5, 2020

---

The Charleston County Stormwater Program Permitting Standards and Procedures Manual currently states in section 2.2 "If wetlands are suspected to exist on the property, they must be investigated and delineated as per State and Federal requirements. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (SCDHEC-OCRM) must make a determination as to whether or not the wetlands fall under their respective jurisdictions." This is an important aspect for MS4 stormwater operations with buffer restrictions, permissible disturbances, and enforcement obligations during construction.

Due to the recent changes to wetlands delineations and permitting, County staff will use a modified approach when delineation(s) from USACE and/or SCDHEC-OCRM are required, as listed below. In essence, the distance from the Limits of Disturbance (LOD) to a suspected wetlands (i.e. waterbodies, critical areas, sensitive areas, aquatic resources, and open conveyances) will dictate the need for wetland boundary delineation and jurisdictional determination. County staff will use digital resources (e.g. USGS, NWI, NRCS, contour maps, aerials, etc.) to estimate this distance. A professional wetland scientist clearly demonstrating a distance from suspected wetlands and LOD may be used to determine the level of delineation as required below.

1. Wetland determinations or delineations are not needed when LOD are anticipated **further than 150 feet** of a suspected wetland.
2. A defined wetland boundary must be shown on a scaled site plan referenced to property boundaries when LOD are anticipated **between 150 feet and 45 feet** of a suspected wetland. Approvals of wetland boundaries, from applicable jurisdictional agencies, must reference this defined wetland boundary.
3. A jurisdictionally determined wetland boundary (e.g. jurisdictional, non-jurisdictional, critical, etc.) must be shown on a scaled site plan referenced to property boundaries when LOD are anticipated **within 45 feet** of a suspected wetland.
4. Any proposed LOD within, or adjacent to, water resources may require applicable other agency permits.