

Restoration Plan Narrative – Sacandaga BESS

Pursuant to discussions had during a wetland boundary validation visit held between Mr. Thomas M. Ward, CWB/PWS of EDP and Ms. Mary O’Dell of the APA on September 10, 2025, the following outlines the proposed wetland restoration plan that has been prepared to address concerns relative to the incidental placement of unauthorized fill materials (bark/wood chips) from within a regulated wetland.

During the wetland validation visit, it was visually confirmed that the current property owner had inadvertently deposited bark/wood chips, derived from prior logging activity, within portions of three separate wetlands (Areas A, B, and D). The location and configuration of the incidental fill areas are shown on the wetland map prepared for the project that is titled “Wetland Delineation Map for Sacandaga BESS” Based on the further evaluation of these fills, it has been determined that approximately 0.144± acres of wetland had been filled.

As requested by Ms. O’Dell, the current project sponsor proposes the complete removal of all bark/wood chips from these wetland areas. The bark/wood chips shall be removed using a backhoe or mini excavator to expose original ground layer and virgin soil. Bark/wood chips will be loaded into a small dump truck and relocated to an adjacent upland area found near the existing structures positioned along NYS Route 30. The bark/wood chips will be stockpiled until they can be used by the property owner or transported off site to another upland location.

Once the bark/wood chips are completely removed, any compacted soils encountered will be scarified by the bucket teeth on the excavator/backhoe. Afterwards, appropriate silt fencing will be installed along the exposed wetland boundary in order to prevent any further encroachment upon or erosion into the wetlands. The wetland restoration areas will be subsequently planted with the following species of woody vegetation:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Type/Size</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	6-8' # 3 Container	15
Smooth Alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	18-24" #1 Container	30
Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	18-24" #1 Container	30
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	18-24" #1 Container	30

The trees and shrubs shall be planted randomly (8-10 feet on-center) throughout the restoration areas. A total of 0.144± acres shall be restored. The species of trees and shrubs selected for introduction were chosen based on their ability to provide wildlife with food and cover; site adaptability; the fact that they are native to the surrounding wetland communities; and, to increase the overall diversity of the constructed wetland.

To supplement the introduced woody plantings, the restoration areas will also be seeded with an appropriate amount of the “Shade Tolerant Wet Site” seed mix from Pinelands Nursery, or similar, pending seed mix availability. It is anticipated that 3 pounds of wetland seed will be required to meet the application rates specified by the nursery supplier. The

species composition and overall percentage of seeds per volume of this mix is as follows:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Percent by # of Seeds</u>
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	34.00%
Virginia Wild-rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	21.00%
Shallow Sedge	<i>Carex lurida</i>	18.00%
Common Tussock Sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	5.00%
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	4.00%
Swamp Dock	<i>Rumex verticillatus</i>	3.20%
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	3.00%
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	3.00%
Pennsylvania Smartweed	<i>Polygonum pensylvanicum</i>	2.00%
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	2.00%
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	2.00%
Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	1.00%
Hollow Joe-Pye weed	<i>Eutrochium fistulosum</i>	1.00%
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	0.50%
Nodding Bur Marigold	<i>Bidens cernua</i>	0.30%

In addition to the wetland seed, Annual Rye (*Lolium multiflorum*) will be added to provide quick germination for expedited soil stabilization. Once seeded, the area will be mulched with 1-2" of straw.

During the establishment of the restoration areas, EDP shall be on-site to monitor excavation activities, to ensure that the entire extent of fill is removed and that original, native wetland soils are exposed. This is required to adequately restore the areas to pre-fill condition. As requested, photographs will be taken to document the restoration work and excavation activities undertaken. Once the fill has been appropriately removed, the area will be planted, seeded, and mulched as directed. Post-planting photographs will also be taken and provided within a compliance report that will be submitted to the APA within two weeks of the completion of the restoration work.

Post-restoration monitoring is proposed for a period of two years following completion of the restoration activities. Monitoring is required to document successful establishment of wetland habitat within the restoration areas. Monitoring shall commence during the first growing season following initial restoration construction. As tentatively scheduled, should the restoration plan be approved and restoration work completed during the Spring of 2026, monitoring would commence in the late spring/early summer of 2026.

As part of the annual monitoring activities, EDP staff biologists would visit the restoration twice during the growing season and document the existing conditions of both the restored and natural wetland community at the restoration sites. Existing information relative to the overall species richness and extent of aerial coverage by vegetation would be recorded. Survival rates of introduced/planted vegetation would also be estimated. At the end of each monitoring season, a formal report will be compiled and submitted to the APA for review. The monitoring report shall contain the following information:

1) Comprehensive plant species list, percentage aerial cover, and estimated relative frequency of occurrence, using 3x3 meter sample plots that will be established at fixed locations within the restoration area.

2) Photographs of the restoration area, taken from fixed locations to be established during the initial compliance inspection, to document existing vegetative conditions and plant growth.

3) Surface water elevation data will be collected to determine seasonal fluctuations in the surface water column and/or soil saturation levels.

4) An assessment of the overall success of the restoration area and generation of an adaptive management plan (if necessary) should it be determined that the area is not establishing as wetland.

As two years of post-restoration monitoring is proposed, annual monitoring reports will be submitted to the APA during years 2026 and 2027. The monitoring reports shall be submitted at the conclusion of each growing season and prior to October 31 of each year. After the 2027 monitoring season, if it is determined that the restoration area is successful and the area is completely re-established as wetland, no further monitoring will be conducted.

