

**Guidelines Governing
Wetland Data Form Requirements for the
Acushnet Conservation Commission**

January 12, 2022

The Acushnet Conservation Commission recognizes that wetland data sheets (sometimes referred to as ‘data forms’) are a critical component of an application. These documents can inform the Commission about the nature of the site and the decision-making process of the wetland delineation. The Commission or its designee will use these wetland data sheets in the process of evaluating a delineated wetland boundary.

The Department of Environmental Protection’s field data form should be used when delineating the boundary of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Ch. 131, § 40) and regulations (310 CMR 10.55). These forms should be used whether the boundary is delineated by vegetation alone or by vegetation and other indicators of wetland hydrology. Details on the criteria for delineating a BVW boundary and the terminology used in this field data form are described in the handbook, *Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act* (MA Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Wetlands and Waterways, 1995).

By using the data form, site information can be presented in a standard format. The delineator can describe the conditions which led to his or her conclusion that the site is a BVW or not. The reviewer can use the form to prepare to inspect the boundary in the field.

Wetland data forms shall be required for the evaluation of all NOI applications where work is contemplated within a BVW or its associated buffer zone. The Commission reserves the right to waive this requirement if, during a public meeting, it is determined that the proposed work qualifies as a special circumstance based on the scale of the project or it is a minor disturbance which is not afforded an exemption under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)(1)(a-q).