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Jon Kusler and Teresa Opheim, Our National Wetland Heritage, A Protection Guide, 2nd ed.

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Jon Kusler and Teresa Opheim, *Our National Wetland Heritage, A Protection Guide*, 2nd ed.

Chapter Eleven addresses water allocation and management. It examines the possibility of water marketing, the role of the Endangered Species Act in water management, dam deconstruction, and innovations intended to stretch the West's most precious resource to its maximum viable capacity, among other topics.

This book is a great introduction to water issues for those unfamiliar with them, and is also perfect for those intimate with them. It identifies the major players, issues, problems, solutions, and histories, leaving no stone unturned.

Amy Beatie

JON KUSLER AND TERESA OPHEIM, OUR NATIONAL WETLAND HERITAGE, A PROTECTION GUIDE, 2ND ED., Environmental Law Institute, Washington, D.C. (1996); 147pp; \$29.95; ISBN 0-911937-65-X, softcover.

Our National Wetland Heritage, A Protection Guide is a comprehensive book for anyone interested in wetland protection and restoration through local government or citizen action. The authors address issues surrounding wetland protection and utilization, and creation of effective regulatory programs.

Chapter One provides information about the nation's wetland heritage and why we should strive to protect wetlands. A detailed timeline delineates important developments in wetland protection law. This chapter also provides a detailed history of wetland protection, and an explanation of the scientific functions and value of wetlands to the environment, such as flood conveyance and water purification.

Chapter Two explains general scientific principles concerning wetlands, including highlighting their critical characteristics. This chapter also discusses differing types of wetlands and provides an explanation of the three main definitions of "wetland" used nationally. Several diagrams explain wetland hydrology and health under different conditions.

Chapter Three discusses what citizens can do to protect wetlands. Citizens can utilize several strategies to protect wetlands, including forming citizen action groups and creating land trusts. Special sections provide information about what to do when a dispute arises and how landowners can maximize the wetlands on their private property.

Chapter Four deals with potential local government action for wetland protection. It explains regulatory and non-regulatory approaches available to local officials, and their advantages and limitations. Some ideas discussed include public education, land use regulations, and real estate tax incentives.

Chapter Five presents some of the main issues concerning wetland protection. Difficult issues include how to define the term "wetland" and how to delineate wetlands in the field. A chart provides informa-

tion about sources that can be used to aid in wetland delineation. This chapter also discusses ways to avoid legal problems, including communicating with landowners and providing technical assistance to landowners.

Chapter Six discusses basic standards used at the federal and state level for wetlands protection programs, and details performance standards, their application, common related activities and processes requiring control, and the impact of uncontrolled uses. This chapter ends with a discussion of ways to reduce impacts of specific land uses.

Chapter Seven provides an in depth analysis of how to evaluate wetland permits. It outlines six main issues that must be addressed in such evaluations: (1) how wetland impacts will be determined; (2) how the necessary data will be obtained; (3) how the regulatory standards will be applied; (4) whether there are any conditions attached to the permit; (5) how to assure the success of restoration programs; and (6) the necessary monitoring and enforcement procedures.

Chapter Eight discusses a variety of federal programs that address wetlands. The chapter explains the federal government's progressive changes in its policy toward more stringent wetland protection. This chapter explains Clean Water Act section 404 and the process the government must follow under section 404. The chapter also explains the opportunities available for citizen participation in federal programs. Chapter Nine provides a similar overview of various state wetland protection programs. It explains the regulatory and non-regulatory approaches taken by some states as well as how states may implement statutes.

Chapter Ten provides more detail about using local regulations to protect wetlands. It explains ordinance types and implementation of local regulations. The chapter provides some examples of zoning and by-law provisions. A chart shows the steps involved in creating local regulations.

Chapter Eleven suggests several non-regulatory approaches to enhance wetland protection. One of the most important non-regulatory actions endorsed by the authors is public education; people need to understand wetlands and their role in the environment. This may motivate more people to protect wetlands. Other non-regulatory approaches suggested include coordination of tax and assessment policies or private acquisition of wetlands through a variety of techniques. Several appendices in the back of the book provide detailed information about who to contact, sources, and drafts of legal documents and regulations.

Overall, *Our National Wetland Protection Heritage, A Protection Guide*, gives excellent background and legal and scientific information about wetlands. It also provides many useful ideas for actions by various parties concerned with wetland protection and conservation.

Shana Smilovits