

Nicholas Stow, Senior Planner  
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City of Ottawa  
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September 16, 2011

**Re: review of wetland evaluation for Kizell Drain Wetland**

Dear Mr. Stow,

I have completed a thorough review of your wetland evaluation for Kizell Drain wetland submitted back in March of this year. Documentation reviewed included your evaluation which was based on field work conducted in October of 2010 and a reworking and application of existing information from previous wetland evaluation and other technical reports related to the area. It is also noted that you were in the field in June of this year to have an additional look at wetland boundaries in the west end of the wetland. Final information regarding wetland boundaries and scoring related to that work was also considered.

In addition, I reviewed aerial photography from a number of years to aid with the interpretation of proposed wetland boundaries.

You and I had spoken over the phone on a few occasions at which time you provided clarification on a number of points or questions that arose during my review.

With minor corrections or revisions to scoring, which I will detail shortly, your evaluation and its conclusion that **Kizell Drain wetland is provincially significant** is accepted. Your covering letter was very helpful in providing rationale for key decision points and additional detail.

I made no changes to the **Biological Component** and therefore left its final score as determined by you at **94 points**.

The only change made to the Social Component scoring was for Aboriginal and Cultural Values. The letter appended with the evaluation from the late William Commanda and Romola Thumbadoo, from August 24, 2010 certainly expressed a strong interest in and concern for the South March Highlands. However, it was felt that it did not meet the intent of this section of the wetland evaluation in that it did not at any time focus on wetlands specifically or on the subject wetland. It might be inferred that the concerns and interest for the general area would include all wetland as well as uplands, but since

this section scores significant points (30) I decided not to include it based entirely on inference. An attempt by me to obtain written interest in the Kizell wetland from the Algonquin community did not result in any documentation over the summer. The revised score for the **Social Component** is therefore **171 points**. Should such documentation be submitted in the future it will be included in the evaluation and the score amended to reflect the interest.

There were a couple of minor errors in the scoring under the Hydrological Component – specifically section 3.2.2. and 3.3. This resulted in a total loss of 9 points under this section. The final score for the **Hydrological Component** is now **212 points**.

Blanding's turtle featured heavily in the Special Features Component as a threatened species that resides in the wetland. There is sufficient documentation provided by you in the report and that has come forth during the processes revolving around development in the area to support this position. I have also noted numerous occurrences for the species in the NHIC database for this landscape and through air photo interpretation and first hand knowledge of the area and the species have no doubt that they inhabit this wetland. The presence of snapping turtle is also documented for the wetland. Common snapping turtles are listed as a special concern species in Ontario and they are tracked by the NHIC. As such they would be considered as a provincially significant animal species under Section 4.1.2.3. and score 50 points in the evaluation. This changes the total score for the Special Features Component from 334 to 384. However, since any component of the evaluation can only attain a maximum of 250 points, this does not change the effective total score for this part of the evaluation. The final score for the **Special Features Component** remains, therefore, at **250 points**.

The revised **total score for the wetland is therefore 727 points** (which is greater than 600 points) making it a provincially significant wetland (PSW). Since it scores **over 200 points under Special Features** it would be considered a PSW based on that fact alone.

We have the digital version of the boundary determined by you at the Kemptville District office. We will have the provincial database updated to reflect this new boundary.

Your assistance with mapping and undertaking this evaluation and subsequent help in my review are much appreciated. We now have an updated wetland evaluation that reflects the most recent knowledge of this special feature and uses the best available information to assess its significance and make decisions with. This was no small effort on your part and it is appreciated - Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shaun Thompson  
District Ecologist  
Kemptville District  
Ministry of Natural Resources