



May 31, 2013

Ms. Cheryl Henlin
City of New Bedford
Department of Environmental Stewardship
133 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Subject: Spring 2013 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Henlin:

In accordance with the revised Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance Implementation Plan (LMMIP) prepared by TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) dated August 2012, for the Keith Middle School (KMS) in New Bedford, Massachusetts, TRC has completed its May 2013 inspection of wetlands abutting the KMS. A TRC senior ecologist conducted the inspection on May 14, 2013. As stated in the LTMMIP, the purpose of the inspection is to visually observe the wetlands and vicinity for unacceptable conditions including indications of excessive sedimentation occurring within the wetlands, including such conditions as, but not limited to, dumping of debris, exposed side slopes, erosion from spring rains, stressed or dead vegetation, animal burrows, slumping and unauthorized excavation.

The inspection consisted of walking the entire slope adjacent to the wetland area and observing areas of potential erosion and sedimentation at the wetland/cap slope interface. Observations were recorded in the Wetland Sediment Inspection Form included as Appendix G of the LTMMIP. A copy of the completed inspection form is provided with this letter as an attachment. Photographs taken during the inspection are also included as an attachment.

In general, the slope extending down to the wetland from the parking lots and rear school access drive is well vegetated with grasses and herbaceous plants. The predominant vegetation noted on the slope of the landfill cap include grasses, vetch, sheep sorrel, birdsfoot trefoil, mugwort and black swallowwort. Overall, no evidence of erosion or sedimentation into the adjacent wetland was noted during the site inspection. Slopes previously noted as having thin vegetative cover were evaluated and determined to be stabilized.

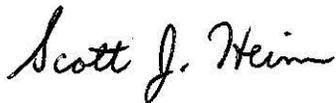
An apparent area of slight slumping (i.e., approximately one to two inches in height) was noted in the northern portion of the cap slope during the inspection. Although corrective actions do not appear warranted at this time, this area should continue to be monitored in subsequent inspections to verify that slumping is not increasing.

Several small stands of the invasive plant Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) that were formerly present in the vicinity of stormwater outfalls and in the central portion of the wetland/cap slope have been treated with herbicides since the 2012 inspection. In addition, small tree saplings comprised primarily of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) have also been recently treated with an herbicide. It appears that these applications were effective in greatly reducing knotweed abundance along the landfill cap slope. Tree saplings appear to also have been adversely affected although the herbicide had recently been applied so the effectiveness of the herbicides on these plants cannot yet be ascertained.

Other recommendations regarding the slope conditions and stabilization/repair have been provided under a separate Cap Inspection report by TRC. Implementation of these recommendations will adequately protect the wetlands from any future erosion and sedimentation issues that may occur.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at 978-656-3583 or David Sullivan at 978-656-3565.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott J. Heim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" and "H".

Scott J. Heim
Senior Ecologist

Attachments

Attachment W-1

Wetland Sediment Inspection Form



**Wetland Inspection Form
Keith Middle School**

Use this inspection form to document annual inspections. If unacceptable conditions are observed, complete an additional form following completion of repairs.

Inspection Date: May 14, 2013 Inspection By: Scott Heim

A. SLOPE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND WETLAND

Is slope condition acceptable? Yes No Are there potential problem areas? Yes No

(Unacceptable conditions/problem areas include dumped debris and/or waste, presence of stained soil, erosion of soil on slope leading to wetland, subsidence or slumping of greater than 2-inches of soil on slope, stressed and/or dead vegetation, presence of invasive plant species [if such vegetation may affect soil stability/erosion control], animal burrows and/or evidence of unauthorized excavation)

Describe the unacceptable condition(s)/problem area(s):

Location/Condition: N/A

Photographic documentation collected? Yes No

Describe any repairs to slope conducted since previous wetland inspection: Not Applicable

Herbicides have recently been applied to Japanese knotweed and saplings on the landfill cap slope

Are all repairs adequate? Yes No Not Applicable

Photograph of repair collected? Yes No Not Applicable

B. WETLAND

Is wetland condition acceptable? Yes No Are there potential problem areas? Yes No

(Identify dumped debris and/or waste, presence of stained soil, visible accumulation of mineral sediment in wetland and/or evidence of unauthorized disturbances)

Describe the unacceptable condition(s)/problem area(s):

Location/Condition: _____



Photographic documentation collected? Yes No

Describe any repairs to slope conducted since previous wetland inspection: Not Applicable

Are all repairs adequate? Yes No Not Applicable

Photograph of repair collected? Yes No Not Applicable

Additional Notes:

Attachment W-2

Site Photographs

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2013 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts



1) Slope in southern portion of wetland/cap edge looking south. Vegetation is well established.



2) Slope in southern portion of wetland/cap edge looking north. Japanese knotweed stand treated with herbicide in foreground.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2013 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts



3) Central portion of slope looking north.



4) Northwestern portion of wetland/cap.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2013 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts



5) Recent evidence of herbicide application for lone Japanese knotweed plant .



6) Stabilized slope along northwestern cap looking north.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2013 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts



7) Black locust saplings along toe of slope. Note wounds in saplings indicating recent herbicide application.



8) Sparsely vegetated northwestern portion of cap. Area is stabilized.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2013 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts



9) Northern portion of wetland/cap slope.



10) Close-up of slight slumping area along northwestern portion of slope. Canada goose dropping in center of photograph.