Louisiana Wetlands Law and Compliance

Kenner, LA - Friday, March 13, 2020

Learn about wetlands identification
Review federal and Louisiana wetlands laws and enforcement
Discuss ownership of disappearing wetlands
Examine the process for wetlands permitting
Learn how wetlands provide flood storage and erosion control
Explore wetlands preservation, restoration, creation, and enhancement

Continuing Education Credits
Professional Engineers 6.0 PDHs
Landscape Architects 6.0 HSW CEhs
Architects 6.0 AIA LU|HSW
Louisiana Attorneys 6.0 CLE Hours
Floodplain Managers 6.0 ASFPM CECs

Identifying Wetlands
Presence of wetland vegetation
Identification of wetland soils
Importance of underlying wetland hydrology

Understanding Federal and Louisiana Wetlands
The Federal Clean Water Act
Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Act (LCWCRA)
Implementing/enforcing agencies
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

Ascertaining Ownership of Disappearing Wetlands
Changing footprint of wetlands
Determining title to privately-owned wetlands and submerged lands
Using the British Petroleum oil spill framework for resolving wetland title issues
Using assessor’s records as evidence of wetland ownership
Resolving multiple chains of title to a single wetland parcel

Wetlands Permitting Process
Wetland determinations and delineations
Clean Water Act permits and Coastal Use Permit – key considerations
Federal/state/local government issues
Notice, mitigation, and compensation
Appeals process

Wetland Preservation, Restoration, Creation and Enhancement
Understanding the importance of wetlands
- Flood storage and conveyance
- Pollution control and carbon storage
- Erosion control
- Wildlife habitat
- Recreation
Wetland preservation strategies and techniques
Wetland restoration
- Preference for onsite and in-kind restoration
- Hydrologic considerations
- Restoration techniques
Wetland creation
- Methods, benefits and drawbacks
Wetland enhancement
- Purposes and techniques

You’ll be able to:
Describe how vegetation, soil, and hydrology are used to identify wetlands.
Comply with wetland laws and regulations, including the Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conversation and Restoration Act.
Determine title to privately-owned wetlands and submerged lands.
Participate in the wetlands permitting process, including appeals.
Identify important ecological services provided by wetlands, including flood storage and pollution control.
Utilize wetland preservation and restoration strategies and techniques.
Faculty

Spencer D. Varnado, an ecologist and wetlands scientist at Geosyntec Consultants, has over 14 years of professional experience in the areas of environmental compliance, permitting, and biological investigations. His areas of expertise include environmental and biological assessments, surveys and mapping, jurisdictional wetland delineations and determinations; regulatory permitting and compliance monitoring with various state and federal agencies, wetland mitigation plan development and implementation; wetlands, wildlife management plans, and wetland value assessments. Mr. Varnado's typical projects include linear pipeline and electrical transmission construction and maintenance, residential and commercial developments, and gravel mining, petroleum facility compliance; due diligence; and habitat restoration projects.

Rebecca C. Veith is an attorney in Fishman Haygood, LLP’s, Litigation Section. Her background is in environmental law, and in that role, she has worked closely with experts analyzing remediation claims and has experience deposing and cross-examining environmental expert witnesses. She is currently involved in prosecuting multiple fraudulent transaction cases and assists in advising the Orleans Parish School Board on a variety of legal issues. Before joining the firm, Ms. Veith was an associate at a local law firm from 2015 to 2016, where her practice was focused on environmental litigation, complex commercial arbitration, and administrative law.

E. Blair Schilling is an attorney in Fishman Haygood, LLP’s, Litigation Section. She represents clients in a wide range of legal matters in federal and state courts, with a concentration in environmental law. Her environmental practice is centered on representing landowners throughout Louisiana against some of the oil and gas industry’s largest operators for contamination of “legacy” oilfields, land loss, and groundwater contamination. Her practice also addresses a variety of other subject matters, such as lender liability, public bid law disputes, contract disputes, and other commercial litigation matters. Ms. Schilling was named as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in 2018 and 2019.

Rebekka C. Veith serves as counsel to the Deepwater Horizon Trust, resolves complex commercial real estate issues involving riverfront development, public-private partnerships, as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in 2018 and 2019.

E. Blair Schilling

School Board on a variety of legal issues. Before joining the firm, Ms. Veith was an associate at a local law firm from 2015 to 2016, where her practice was focused on environmental litigation, complex commercial arbitration, and administrative law.

E. Blair Schilling

Research and Compliance

Registration

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How to Register

Online: www.halfmoonseminars.org

Phone: 715-835-5900

Fax: 715-835-6066

Mail: HalfMoon Education Inc., PO Box 278, Altoona, WI 54720-0278

Complete the online form. Attach duplicates if necessary.

FACULTY

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Continuing Education Credit Information

This seminar is open to the public and offers 6.0 hours of continuing education for the following Louisiana professionals: engineers, landscape architects, and architects. Educators and courses are not subject to preapproval in Louisiana.

The Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System has approved this course for 6.0 LUSHS (Spouse No. HBS). Visit www.halfmoonseminars.org for complete AIA/CES information under this course listing. Full attendance is required to receive the AIA/CES.

The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System has approved this course for 6.0 HSW PHS (Spouse No. HBS). Visit www.halfmoonseminars.org for complete AIA/CES information under this course listing. Full attendance is required to receive the AIA/CES.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers has approved this event for 6.0 CECs.

The Louisiana MCLE Committee has approved this seminar for 6.0 CLE hours (no ethics, professionalism or law office practice hours) for attorneys.

Attendance will be monitored, and attendance certificates will be awarded after the seminar for most individuals who complete the entire event. Attendance certificates are not available at the seminar and will be mailed to participants within fifteen business days.

Online: www.halfmoonseminars.org Webinar/

Can’t Attend? Order the Manual and Audio from the Live Seminar as a Self-Study Package!

Audio recordings of this seminar are available for purchase starting at $297. See registration panel for more information and please refer to specific state licensing rules or certification requirements to determine if this learning method is eligible for continuing education credit.

Webinar Series

Soil Mechanics and Slope Stability

Soil Investigation and Classification

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Wed., Feb. 26, 2020, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM CST

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