

# **Dinsmore Road Bridge (BR 5782) over Interstate 95 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Assessment Report**

Sidney, Maine  
WIN 25473.00



Prepared for:  
Maine Department of Transportation

February 28, 2025

Prepared by:  
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Project/File:  
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## Table of Contents

|          |   |          |
|----------|---|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction .....</b>                 | <b>1</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Methodology .....</b>                  | <b>1</b> |
| 2.1      | Wetland and Watercourse Delineation ..... | 1        |
| 2.2      | Monarch Habitat Assessment .....          | 2        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Results .....</b>                      | <b>3</b> |
| 3.1      | Wetland and Watercourse Delineation ..... | 3        |
| 3.2      | Monarch Habitat Assessment .....          | 5        |

### List of Tables

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Table 1. Summary of Delineated Wetlands ..... | 4 |
|---|---|

### List of Figures

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Figure 1. Wetland and Watercourse Delineation Map ..... | 7 |
|---|---|

### List of Appendices

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Appendix A Representative Photographs</b>  |  |
| <b>Appendix B MaineDOT Wetland Data Forms</b> |  |



# 1 Introduction

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is proposing replacement of the Dinsmore Road Bridge over Interstate 95 (I-95) in Sidney, Maine (BR 5824; hereafter, Project). Wetland and watercourse delineations as well as a habitat assessment for monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) was conducted by Stantec Consulting Services Inc. on January 10, 2025, in support of design planning as well as state and federal permitting requirements. This report summarizes the methodology and results of the field investigations.

## 2 Methodology

The delineations and habitat assessments were conducted within approximately 100 feet of the existing bridge locations, including the bridge superstructure and approaches that were safely accessible at the time of the field work (Figure 1).

### 2.1 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation

Wetland boundaries under potential federal and state jurisdiction were determined using the technical criteria described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) *Wetlands Delineation Manual*<sup>1</sup> and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Regional Supplement (Version 2.0)*.<sup>2</sup> Wetland boundaries were flagged with pink “WETLAND DELINEATION” flagging and labeled with a unique alpha-numeric code in accordance with MaineDOT nomenclatural conventions. Wetland flags were located using a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver capable of achieving submeter horizontal accuracy. The GPS data were attributed in accordance with MaineDOT spatial data requirements. Field data were collected on dominant vegetation, evidence of wetland hydrology, hydric soil criteria (where possible), and wetland functions using MaineDOT’s “Standard MaineDOT Information / F&V Form.” The observed wetland functions and values were based on the USACE *Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement: Wetland Functions and Values - A Descriptive Approach*.<sup>3</sup> Wetland classification was assigned based on the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States*.<sup>4</sup> Wetlands of Special Significance (WoSS) were identified based on criteria in

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Laboratory. 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Technical Report Y-87-1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2012. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0)*, ed. J. S. Wakeley, R. W. Lichvar, and C. V. Noble. ERDC/EL TR-12-1. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

<sup>3</sup> US Army Corps of Engineers. 1999. *Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement: Wetland Functions and Values - A Descriptive Approach*. New England Division. Publication no. NAEEP-360-1-30a. November 1995. 32 pp

<sup>4</sup> Federal Geographic Data Committee. 2013. *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States*. FGDC-STD-004-2013. Second Edition. Wetlands Subcommittee, Federal Geographic Data Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC.



## Dinsmore Road Bridge (BR 5782) over Interstate 95 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation and Monarch Butterfly Habitat Report

Chapter 310 of the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)<sup>5</sup> and Chapter 335 Significant Wildlife Habitat.<sup>6</sup> Identification of WoSS was limited to observable conditions within the Project site. Representative photographs were taken as appropriate.

Concurrent with the wetland delineation, streams and other potential Waters of the United States were delineated, if observed. These resources were identified using the regulatory criteria established by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection<sup>7</sup> and the USACE.<sup>8</sup> Streams less than approximately 5 feet wide (from the top of the bank) were flagged with blue flagging along their approximate centerline; streams over approximately 5 feet wide were flagged at the observed top of bank or ordinary high water mark, whichever was more conservative. Each flag was labeled with a unique alpha-numeric code in accordance with MaineDOT's nomenclatural convention and located with the GPS receiver. Data were recorded on apparent flow regime, substrate, bankfull widths, ordinary high water mark widths, water depths, and presence of aquatic organisms and vegetation. Delineated streams were assessed using the "MaineDOT Stream Assessment Form." Representative photographs were taken as appropriate.

Stantec identified potential vernal pools (PVP) within the Project area. As the delineation was conducted outside of the appropriate vernal pool survey season, PVPs were identified based on physical characteristics such as the presence of standing water or water marks within a confined basin. For planning purposes, PVPs identified during the delineation that were naturally occurring and met the physical characteristics of a vernal pool under Chapter 335 of the NRPA were classified as a potential Significant Vernal Pool (PSVP). If identified, the approximate boundaries of the PVPs were located with the GPS receiver and general data on their approximate size, origin, hydroperiod, and physical characteristics were collected.

## 2.2 Monarch Habitat Assessment

During the delineation, Stantec assessed the existing habitats within the Project area relative to their potential to support monarch butterfly. The habitat assessment consisted primarily of a survey for milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), the host plants for monarch larvae (caterpillars). Because the assessment was conducted outside of the growing season, observations of milkweed was limited to persistent remnants that remained identifiable at the time of the field assessment. Data were collected on approximate abundance and the spatial extent of the observed milkweed specimens was located with the GPS receiver. In addition, habitats within the Project area were characterized relative to their potential to support milkweed during normal growing season conditions based on observable associated vegetation, canopy cover, hydrology, and the

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<sup>5</sup> Maine Department of Environmental Protection. 26 January 2009. Natural Resources Protection Act Chapter 310: Wetlands and Waterbodies Protection Rules. Bureau of Land and Water Quality, DEPLW0297-D2009.

<sup>6</sup> Maine Department of Environmental Protection. 7 January 2014. Natural Resources Protection Act Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat.

<sup>7</sup> Danielson, T. J. 2018. *Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) Streams, Rivers, and Brooks*. Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Augusta, ME.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2025. National Ordinary High Water Mark Field Delineation Manual for Rivers and Streams: Final Version. ERDC/CRREL TR-25-1, Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center.



type and approximate frequency of habitat disturbances (e.g., mowing). Representative photographs were taken to document existing conditions.

## **3 Results**

### **3.1 Wetland and Watercourse Delineation**

The wetland and watercourse delineation was conducted on January 10, 2025. The ground was free of snow; however, the soil was frozen throughout most of the Project area. Accordingly, a verification of the wetland boundaries identified during this effort is recommended to be conducted during appropriate seasonal conditions in order to assess hydric soil characteristics in accordance with USACE wetland delineation methodology.

A total of 3 wetlands were delineated within the Project area (Figure 1); a fourth potential wetland was observed in the median approximately 50 feet north of the bridge location but was not accessible due to high traffic volume and safety concerns at the time of the delineation. A single PSVP (VP-01P) was also observed within the Project area in wetland VK-01N; VP-01P is a natural modified basin with likely ephemeral hydrology. No streams or other potential Waters of the United States were observed. Representative photographs are provided in Appendix A and Standard MaineDOT Information / F&V Forms are provided in Appendix B. Table 1 summarizes the delineated wetlands, including the observed PSVP.



Table 1. Summary of Delineated Wetlands

| Wetland Identifier | Wetland Classification <sup>1</sup> | Dominant and Characteristic Vegetation Type  | Hydric Soil Criteria  | WoSS Notes                | Evidence of Hydrology   | Comments   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| VK-01M             | PFO                                 | <b>Trees:</b> red maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> ), gray birch ( <i>Betula populifolia</i> ), balsam fir ( <i>Abies balsamea</i> )<br><b>Shrubs:</b> common winterberry ( <i>Ilex verticillata</i> ), broad-lead meadowsweet ( <i>Spiraea latifolia</i> ), speckled alder ( <i>Alnus incana</i> )<br><b>Herbs:</b> sensitive fern ( <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> ), northwest territory sedge ( <i>Carex utriculata</i> ) | Frozen – not assessed | No                        | Surface Water, Water Marks, Water Stained Leaves                          | Forested wetland continuing southwest of Project site  |
| VK-01N             | PFO                                 | <b>Trees:</b> red maple, balsam fir, eastern hemlock ( <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> )<br><b>Shrubs:</b> common winterberry  | Frozen – not assessed | Potential (contains PSVP) | Surface Water, Water Marks, Water Stained Leaves, Microtopographic Relief | Forested depression; contains PSVP (VP-01P); a natural modified ephemeral basin with approximately 4 inches of surface water at the time of the delineation; PVP basin modified from past land use including road fill and vegetation clearing |
| VK-01O             | PFO                                 | <b>Trees:</b> red maple, American elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )<br><b>Shrubs:</b> red maple, balsam fir<br><b>Herbs:</b> sensitive fern   | Frozen – not assessed | No                        | Water Marks, Surface Water  | Depressional wetland at base of road embankments   |

<sup>1</sup> Wetland classification follows Federal Geographic Data Committee (2013): PFO = Palustrine Forested



## 3.2 Monarch Habitat Assessment

The Project area includes very limited potentially suitable monarch habitat. A single plant of common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) was observed along the edge of Dinsmore Road to the west of the bridge. The associated habitat consists of a shrub-dominated road shoulder containing Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*) and Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*). No other milkweed observations were made.

The road embankments of Dinsmore Road are dominated by trees and shrubs such as Morrow's honeysuckle, quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and staghorn sumac (*Rhus hirta*). Aggressive herbaceous plants including Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), wrinkle-leaf goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*), false rye grass (*Schedonorus* spp.), and Japanese-knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) are common associates. The road embankments provide limited opportunity for milkweed species due to the current shrub density although small gaps and openings amongst the shrub growth could provide opportunity for milkweed plants. However, only a single remnant specimen was observed at the time of the survey.

Open field and meadow habitat areas beyond the edge of the I-95 pavement are maintained periodically through mowing by MaineDOT. Frequent mowing largely limits the potential for common milkweed establishment and for monarch larvae to complete their life cycle.

Mixed forested upland habitats continue beyond the road shoulder areas. These areas do not provide suitable habitat for milkweed due to their increased understory shading.

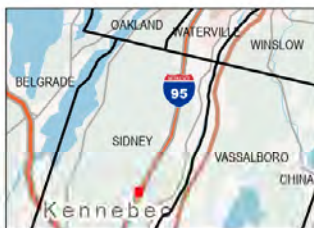
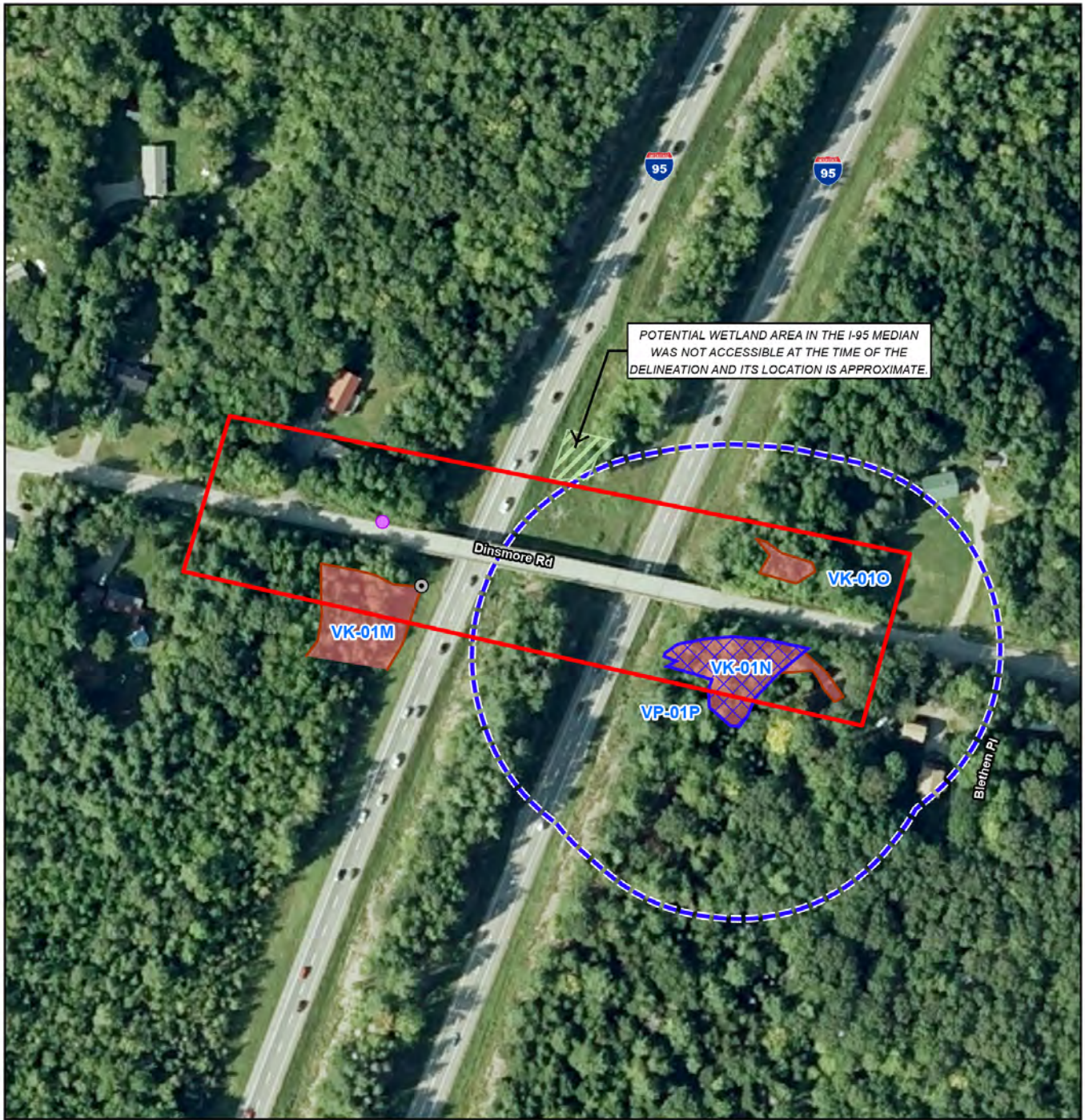
Representative habitat photographs are provided in Appendix A, and the locations of observed milkweed are indicated on Figure 1.



## **Figures**







#### Legend

- Culvert
- Potential 250' Critical Significant Terrestrial Vernal Pool Habitat
- Potential Significant Vernal Pool
- Potential Wetland
- Wetland Boundary Line
- Palustrine Forested Wetland
- Approximate Delineation Limit

- Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) Observation

0 2,000 4,000 Feet  
(At original document size of 8.5x11)  
1:2,400



Project Location  
Sidney, Maine

Prepared by PWB on 2025-02-10  
TR Review by KWH on 2025-02-10  
IR Review by MPA on 2025-02-10

Client/Project  
MEDOT  
Dinsmore Road Bridge (BR 5782) over I-95  
(WIN 25473.00)

Figure No.

1

### Wetland and Watercourse Delineation and Milkweed Survey Map

#### Notes

1. Wetland boundaries delineated (Date) in accordance with the USACE Wetland Delineation Manual and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Regional Supplement (Version 2.0).
2. Wetland boundaries and streams were located utilizing an EOS Arrow GNSS/GPS Receiver. Expected accuracy of GPS data is within 1-2 meters of actual position.
3. Wetland delineation conducted during frozen ground conditions and verification of hydric soil criteria during growing appropriate seasonal conditions is recommended.
4. Milkweed survey conducted during non-growing season conditions and was limited to observations of persistent remnant specimens.
5. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
6. Data Sources: MEGIS, Stantec
7. Background: Background: Aerial imagery provided by National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), Maine, 2022.

# **Appendices**



## **Appendix A Representative Photographs**





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Appendix A Representative Photographs



Photo 1. Wetland VK-01M. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 2. Wetland VK-01N and PSVP VP-01P. Stantec. January 10, 2025.





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Appendix A Representative Photographs



Photo 3. Wetland VK-010. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 4. Inaccessible potential wetland in median north of bridge. Stantec. January 10, 2025.





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Appendix A Representative Photographs



Photo 5. Dinsmore Road shoulder and location of single common milkweed plant along western bridge approach. Stantec. January 10, 2025.



Photo 6. Dinsmore Road shrub-dominated embankment west of bridge. Stantec. January 10, 2025.





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Appendix A Representative Photographs



Photo 7. Dinsmore Road bridge road shoulder habitat along I-95, view to the north. Stantec.  
January 10, 2025.



Photo 8. Dinsmore Road shrub-dominated road embankment to east of bridge. Stantec.  
January 10, 2025.



## **Appendix B MaineDOT Wetland Data Forms**





## Standard MaineDOT Information/F&V Form

|  |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| MaineDOT Functional Assessment:  |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>1. Town:</b> Sidney   | <b>2. Dinsmore Road BR</b><br>5782 | <b>3. WIN:</b> 25473.00  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>4. Wetland ID/ Line ID:</b><br>VK-01M   | <b>5. Cowardin Class:</b><br>PFO   | <b>6. Stationing/Location</b>                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>7. Dominant Vegetation:</b> <i>Acer rubrum, Betula populifolia, Abies balsamea, Ilex verticillata, Spiraea latifolia, Alnus incana, Onoclea sensibilis, Carex utriculata</i>  |                                    | <b>8. Wetland Morphology HGM Type:</b><br>Depressional wetland |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>9. Wetland description including a soil description:</b><br>Forested wetland along I-95 and Dinsmore Rd, surface water present, continues SW off site<br>Soil: Frozen– not assessed at time of delineation. USDA NRCS soil mapped as Ridgebury very stony fine sandy loam |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>10. FVA Table:</b>  |                                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Whole Wetland:

| F/V       | GRD | FFA | FSH | STR | NRRT | PE | SSS | WH | REC | ESV | U/H | VQA | ES |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Occurs    | X   |     |     | X   |      | X  |     | X  |     |     |     |     |    |
| Principal |     | X   |     |     | X    |    |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |

Impacted area: TBD

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>11. Is this wetland part of larger complex?</b><br>Yes.        |  |
| <b>12. Impact Notes/Photos:</b><br>Impacts TBD, see report photos |  |

**Attach applicable ACOE Form**

### Directions and Guidance

1. Town where project is located.
2. Route.
3. Work Identification Number (WIN).
4. Unique Identifier code for each wetland area.
5. Cowardin Classification Codes.
6. Approximated stationing location.
7. List the typical vegetation found within this wetland type. List any vegetation that may support a function of that wetland.
8. This should describe the morphology of the wetland. Need to describe if the wetland is in a basin or on a sloped area, whether it has a definite inlet or outlet and whether a stream is present in the wetland.
9. Notes any soils information, stream descriptions, habitat descriptions such as vernal pools or open aquatic areas.
10. This is the wetland function discussion block.
11. Is this wetland in a complex associated with other streams or wetlands?
12. Also any include more detailed description of area to be affected by the project as opposed to notes of the entire wetland, if known. Photos if applicable.

## Standard MaineDOT Information/F&V Form

|  |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-----|------|--|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| MaineDOT Functional Assessment:  |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>1. Town:</b> Sidney   |     |     | <b>2. Dinsmore Road BR</b><br>5782 |     |      | <b>3. WIN:</b> 25473.00  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>4. Wetland ID/ Line ID:</b><br>VK-01N   |     |     | <b>5. Cowardin Class:</b><br>PFO   |     |      | <b>6. Stationing/Location</b>                                  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>7. Dominant Vegetation:</b> <i>Acer rubrum, Ilex verticillata</i>   |     |     |                                    |     |      | <b>8. Wetland Morphology HGM Type:</b><br>Depressional wetland |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>9. Wetland description including a soil description:</b><br>Forested wetland along Dinsmore Rd, surface water present. Potential Significant Vernal Pool present; ephemeral hydrology, natural-modified basin from past land use<br>Soil: Frozen– not assessed at time of delineation. USDA NRCS soil mapped as Lyman-Tunbridge complex |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>10. FVA Table:</b>  |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| Whole Wetland:   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| F/V  | GRD | FFA | FSH                                | STR | NRRT | PE   | SSS | WH | REC | ESV | U/H | VQA | ES |
| Occurs   | X   | X   |                                    |     | X    | X  |     | X  |     |     |     |     |    |
| Principal  |     |     |                                    | X   |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| Impacted area: TBD   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>11. Is this wetland part of larger complex?</b><br>Yes.   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>12. Impact Notes/Photos:</b><br>Impacts TBD, see report photos  |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>Attach applicable ACOE Form</b>   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |

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7. List the typical vegetation found within this wetland type. List any vegetation that may support a function of that wetland.
8. This should describe the morphology of the wetland. Need to describe if the wetland is in a basin or on a sloped area, whether it has a definite inlet or outlet and whether a stream is present in the wetland.
9. Notes any soils information, stream descriptions, habitat descriptions such as vernal pools or open aquatic areas.
10. This is the wetland function discussion block.
11. Is this wetland in a complex associated with other streams or wetlands?
12. Also any include more detailed description of area to be affected by the project as opposed to notes of the entire wetland, if known. Photos if applicable.

## Standard MaineDOT Information/F&V Form

|   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-----|------|--|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| MaineDOT Functional Assessment:   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
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| <b>4. Wetland ID/ Line ID:</b><br>VK-01O  |     |     | <b>5. Cowardin Class:</b><br>PFO   |     |      | <b>6. Stationing/Location</b>                                  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>7. Dominant Vegetation:</b> <i>Acer rubrum, Ulmus americana, Abies balsamea, Onoclea sensibilis</i>  |     |     |                                    |     |      | <b>8. Wetland Morphology HGM Type:</b><br>Depressional wetland |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>9. Wetland description including a soil description:</b><br>Forested wetland along Dinsmore Rd, water marks and surface water present<br>Soil: Frozen– not assessed at time of delineation. USDA NRCS soil mapped as Lyman-Tunbridge complex |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>10. FVA Table:</b>   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| Whole Wetland:  |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| F/V   | GRD | FFA | FSH                                | STR | NRRT | PE   | SSS | WH | REC | ESV | U/H | VQA | ES |
| Occurs  |     |     |                                    | X   | X    |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| Principal   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| Impacted area: TBD  |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>11. Is this wetland part of larger complex?</b><br>No.   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>12. Impact Notes/Photos:</b><br>Impacts TBD, see report photos   |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |
| <b>Attach applicable ACOE Form</b>  |     |     |                                    |     |      |  |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |

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