

October 26, 2020

Heather Charles Lis, Assistant Conservation Officer
Town of Hingham
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

Re: Plans dated 9/30/20 and Subsequent Peer Review Letter from John Chessia #3
100 Industrial Park Road
Hingham, MA

Dear Ms. Charles Lis:

We are in receipt of your October 15, 2020, email containing comments regarding the project noted above. Our responses are indicated below in ***bold italic*** text and are as follows:

1. Although it's a positive that the outlets are further from the wetlands, the wide swale to the wetland to the south should be narrowed as noted in the peer review letter. I also think the limit of work should be similarly narrowed in this area. Finally, regardless of the final width of this area, the surface condition should be clearer in the plans and the landscape plan should show planting and seeding outside the outlet area as appropriate, since this area is currently naturally revegetated.

Response: The swale width and subsequent LOD will be minimized. Additionally, the post construction surface condition will be clarified.

2. Although the low level drain is beneficial for maintenance of the basin, given that trees would be removed, I also think an alternate should be considered as noted in the peer review letter.

Response: The low-level drain will be revised to avoid additional disturbance in the wooded buffer area.

3. As noted in the peer review letter, I also don't understand the need for a groundwater drain and would prefer to see this removed if possible, particularly as it entails disturbance of naturally vegetated buffer zone.

Response: The drain to remove groundwater was added to reduce/eliminate hydrostatic pressure that may cause the linear to displace or groundwater to build up closer to the

surface. The drains will be relocated within the southwest side of the basin where the outlet control structures are located.

4. The landscape plans only show seeding and supplemental plantings up to the 50ft buffer in most cases, as opposed to extending to the limit of disturbance around the basin, and ideally extending to the full leaching field area (as shown on the plans). This should be adjusted and seeding and planting added. I also note that this differs from the “alternate” landscaping plans that were previously provided and included plantings up the limit of disturbance around the basin.

Response: The Landscape Plan (sheet LL-2) has been revised to indicate supplemental buffer plantings around the basin and within the existing leaching area. The extent of the supplemental buffer plantings covers the area between side slopes of the basin and the limit of disturbance. The proposed planting scheme for the basin includes side slope and bottom plantings. The area connecting the basin and the existing leaching area is proposed with conservation seed mix only to allow for maintenance access to the basin.

5. On a related note, the Operation and Maintenance Site Plan shows a 12ft wide access way around the basin. This should be shown on the landscape plan and its proposed surface condition noted. It should be seeded and any mowing specified in the Operations & Maintenance Plan (O&M). Only limited mowing should be occurring this close to the wetland.

Response: The Landscape Plan shall be modified to show access way and proposed surface condition. Maintenance shall be identified within O&M Plan.

6. Also on a related note, the slope beyond the access way should be seeded with a wildlife seed mix and the O&M should note no mowing in this area.

Response: The Landscape Plan shall be modified to specify wildlife seed mix beyond the access way. The O&M shall be modified to indicate no mowing of the Wildlife Seed Mix areas.

7. The O&M Plan should specify that catch basins should be cleaned four times a year, as opposed to three.

Response: This has been revised to reflect cleaning four times a year instead of three.

8. I still think the O&M plan should prohibit pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers given the connection to a drinking water supply. Herbicide use is not mentioned in the landscaping section and should be included.

Response: The O&M Plan shall be modified to prohibit use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers within or near the basin area and surrounding wetlands & buffers.

9. Given that there were some revisions to work in the buffer zone on the revised plan, please confirm if any additional tree removals of trees equal to or greater than 6" dbh would be required.

Response: No additional trees greater than 6-inch dbh shall be removed due to the expansion of the proposed basin area. The existing condition of this area is primarily open field with clusters of shrub massing and sapling trees.

10. I understand the SWPPP is being reviewed separately and approval of this plan could be conditioned.

Response: Acknowledged, the Final SWPPP will be prepared prior to construction reflecting the approved plans and erosion control methods.

11. Finally, an Illicit Discharge statement is still required. Ideally we would receive this during permitting, however it could be conditioned to be received prior to the start of work.

Response: An Illicit Discharge per Standard 10 will be provided to the Town as a condition of approval.

12. Last, I noticed that the transmission letter to the Commission did not list the Operation and Maintenance Plan, though I was able to find it within the SWMP. If there is a separate document that differs in any way, then please provide some explanation on the differences and please submit that to Conservation as well. If it was just a stand-alone document for convenience, then I would just ask that we get a copy of the stand-alone O&M once it is final as that will be helpful.

Response: A separate stand-alone O&M Manual and OM-1 Plan can be provided. It is the same document as was provided to the Planning Board within the Stormwater Management Report.

We trust this answers your questions and addresses your concerns. Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 203-608-2438.

Sincerely,



Kevin Hixson
Senior Project Manager