

Operation and Maintenance Plan Shoreline Protection/Buffer Restoration

Engineered and Restored Areas must be maintained for 10 years.

- 1) **Fertilizers:** Fertilizers are prohibited after the restoration is complete, except as approved by the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department (VCLWCD).
- 2) **Herbicides:** Herbicides are prohibited after the restoration is complete, except as approved by the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department to control undesirable, invasive weeds.
- 3) **Vegetative Removal – Weeding:** Weeds may be hand pulled in the first few years after planting.
- 4) **Vegetative Removal – Mowing:** Lawn mowing is prohibited in the restored area.
- 5) **Vegetative Removal – Trees and Shrubs:** Cutting of trees or shrubs may be done only to prevent safety hazards. Dead or windblown trees provide cover and refuge for fish, amphibians, birds, and other species, and should be left in place where possible.
- 6) **Leaf Litter Removal:** Leaves and pine needles on the ground should remain intact to provide a continuous ground cover.
- 7) **Mulch:** Mulching material must remain on the ground in the restored area until vegetation is well established or until bio-degradation has occurred. Adding additional mulch is encouraged to prevent competition with weeds and conserve water. Be careful not to smother perennials and keep mulch material away from shrub and tree stems. Aquatic plant material from your lakeshore may be used as mulch material.
- 8) **Watering:** Plants included in the restoration must be watered in such a manner as to ensure survival. **Cost Share funded plantings killed by intentional neglect of watering requirements (~1" per week during the first 2 growing seasons) must be replaced, or the VCLWCD reimbursed for the Cost Share funds spent on plantings.**
- 9) **Fencing:** Fencing must be maintained in working condition to protect vegetation in the restored area from deer until vegetation is well established – usually two (2) to three (3) growing seasons. **Cost Share funded plantings killed by intentional neglect of deer resistance measures (fencing or spray) must be replaced, or the VCLWCD reimbursed for the Cost Share funds spent on plantings.**
- 10) **Vehicles, boats, and equipment storage:** Vehicles, boats, docks or other equipment storage shall be excluded from the restoration area to prevent soil compaction and damage to the buffer vegetation. Boats and docks may be temporarily stored during the **non-growing** seasons as long as vegetative cover is unaffected. **Cost Share funded plantings killed by intentional placement of vehicles, boats, docks or other equipment storage during the growing season must be replaced, or the VCLWCD reimbursed for the Cost Share funds spent on plantings.**
- 11) **Soil bags:** Soil bag area must be inspected at least annually in spring, as well as after heavy wind and rain events for erosion or displacement. Give immediate attention to repair needs.
- 12) **Rip Rap:** Rip-rap area must be inspected annually as well as after heavy wind and rain events for erosion or rock displacement. Give immediate attention to repair needs by replacing dislodged rocks.
- 13) **Bio-logs** must be inspected at least annually as well as after heavy wind and/or rain events for erosion or displacement. Give immediate attention to repair needs.

Landowner Initials	Date	Spouse Initials	Date	County Reps. Initials	Date