Sparnon Wetland Services, Inc.

106 Rock Court,
Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

Telephone: 570•686•9999
Facsimile: 570•686•9898

www.wetlandservicesbysparnon.com
wetlands@ptd.net

September 26, 2024

Richard Ludwig
[redacted]

RE: Wetland Presence/Absence Determination
Tax Parcel 16.7.2.39-6
6050 Franklin Hill Road
Smithfield Township, Monroe County, PA
SWS Project #2024.080

Mr. Ludwig,

The study area consists of a broad natural swale along the common boundary between the above referenced parcel and Tax Parcel 16.7.2.39-19 (27 3 Point Garden Road or Lands of Kolba). Similar to Mr. Kolba's land, the remaining area of both lots was not assessed.

Based on the results of our evaluation, it appears that the study area does not meet current Federal and/or State criteria to be classified as freshwater wetlands.

The methodology for this determination is based upon the multi-parameter approach outlined in the *1987 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands*, in addition to the *Northeast-Northcentral Regional Supplement*. As per these methodologies, an area is clearly a wetland if it exhibits each of the following characteristics:

1. The presence of hydric soils or soils exhibiting hydric characteristics.
2. A predominance of hydrophytic vegetation.
3. A hydrologic regime indicating the area is periodically inundated or has soils which are saturated for a significant duration during the growing season.

The broad, shallow swale appears to occasionally convey stormwater runoff after rain events, but the saturation does not persist for long enough duration to create wetland conditions yet. Vegetation near the rear boundary along the common property line with Lands of Kolba was predominantly hydrophytic and included *Juglans nigra* (black walnut), *Picea abies* (norway spruce), *Acer rubrum* (red maple), *Salix nigra* (black willow), *Rosa multiflora* (multiflora rose), *Eulalia viminea* (microstegium), *Polygonum pensylvanicum* (smartweed), *Ajuga repens* (bugleweed), *Scirpus cyperinus* (woolgrass), *Ageratina altissima* (white snakeroot), *Juncus tenuis* (path rush) and *Alliaria officinalis* (garlic mustard). Soil samples have a low matrix chroma of 2, with the absence of any redoximorphic features and are considered to be marginally non-hydric mineral soils. No evidence of persistent hydrology was observed either. In summary, the swale does have a significant component of hydrophytic vegetation, but given the absence of hydric soils and prolonged and frequent wetland hydrology, we concluded that no regulated wetlands are present at this time.

We also assessed the area for potential future impacts from stormwater runoff as a result of a proposed subdivision development on adjacent lands. We found that the subject site is located up gradient from the proposed development, therefore any potential runoff from the development should flow away from rather than towards Lands of Ludwig.

This wetland presence/absence determination describes the site conditions we observed on September 19, 2024 and is valid for a period of one-year from the date of this letter and only as long as there are no further changes to the vegetation, soils and/or hydrology on this site, whether they are man-made or naturally occurring.

In the meantime, please feel free to call or email me anytime if you have any questions regarding this assessment or if I can provide any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa J. Sparnon

Lisa J. Sparnon, M.S., SPWS
Senior Professional Wetland Scientist

FB 66, pg. 108