

CHRISTOPHER O. MASON

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: M.C.P., City and Regional Planning, with Distinction, 1981

Connecticut College, New London: B.A., Botany and Human Ecology, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, 1978

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Mr. Mason is a Principal Scientist and President of Mason & Associates, Inc. He has demonstrated expertise in the areas of wetlands and water resources, environmental impact studies, hazardous waste, litigation support and regulatory compliance. Mr. Mason has over twenty years of experience managing a wide variety of large, multidisciplinary environmental projects for both private and public sector clients. He has provided on-call technical and management services to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Regions I and II, for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EISs), wetlands studies, public participation programs, and staff training. He has participated in numerous hazardous waste site investigations including project management of a federal Superfund site remedial investigation and feasibility study, and a federal Superfund site wetland mitigation study.

Mr. Mason has conducted hundreds of wetland and water resource studies from New England to the Caribbean. These studies have included tasks such as wetland delineation, functional assessment, creation, remediation and restoration, hydrographic analysis, pollutant modeling, permitting, and compliance monitoring. He has developed and executed over 100 sampling plans for various environmental media pursuant to state and federal regulatory protocols. He has also served as Quality Assurance Officer for environmental sampling pursuant to EPA Superfund regulations and directives. Mr. Mason recently served on the RI Department of Environmental Management Director's Wetlands Task Force to improve the state's wetland regulations. He chaired the Task Force's Watershed Approach subcommittee, drafting proposals for RIDEM to help integrate wetlands and water resource management into watershed planning. Mr. Mason is also certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) by the national Society of Wetland Scientists. He began Mason & Associates in 1996, serving southern New England with offices in Scituate, RI, New Britain, CT, and Milford, MA.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

University of Connecticut Wetland Restoration and Mitigation, Storrs, CT: Mr. Mason has managed the wetland related studies in support of UConn's landfill closure and wetland restoration project. Work has involved wetland delineation and functional assessment; analysis of alternatives for restoration of wetlands contaminated with heavy metals; preparation of wetland restoration and wetland creation plans, and associated support of permit applications to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The wetland

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mitigation plan prepared by Mr. Mason includes approximately: 3 acres of wetland restoration; 2 acres of wetland creation; 60 acres of upland and wetland preservation; control of invasive species over 45 acres, creation of a vernal pool, and development of education / recreation trails.

EPA Wetlands Assessment, New Jersey: Mr. Mason managed the evaluation of over 7,500 acres of wetlands in New Jersey's Hackensack Meadowlands. The study was funded by the U.S. EPA and carried out with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission. Mr. Mason led the interagency team in the field evaluations and the functional assessment of nutrient retention and transformation, sediment and toxicant retention, floodflow alteration, and various wildlife and aquatic life habitat functions. He was responsible for the development and use of an interactive database/functional assessment computer model for the U.S. EPA.

Town-wide Wetlands Mapping and Conservation Project, North Kingstown, RI: Mr. Mason is leading a team of professional wetland scientists in the mapping and classification of wetlands throughout the Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The Town of North Kingstown is funding the project with assistance from the U.S. EPA. Aerial photograph interpretation, field surveys, and geographic information system (GIS) mapping are being prepared for the Town to assist in their land use planning and open space preservation efforts. Mr. Mason is also contributing to the public participation and land use planning components of the project.

Evaluation of 32 Replacement Wetlands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk, Virginia: Mr. Mason directed the evaluation of wetlands created as compensation for wetlands filled under Corps permits. As principal investigator, Mr. Mason was responsible for characterizing the created wetland's size, vegetation, wildlife value, and degree of compliance with permit requirements. In the state-of-the-art field of wetland creation, this was the first evaluation of the program's success.

Golf Course Site Development, Permitting and Monitoring in Southern New England: Mr. Mason has provided a variety of consulting services for seven golf course development projects in Connecticut and Rhode Island. His services have included: alternative site analysis, environmental constraint mapping, wetland functional assessment, course layout development, water supply development, water quality analysis, rare species surveys, federal, state and local permitting, wetland mitigation development and monitoring. Mr. Mason has been successful in working with golf course architects, developers, and superintendents in developing environmentally sound projects that meet or exceed regulatory agency standards.

Wetland Restoration, East Providence, RI: Mr. Mason designed and constructed a *Spartina alterniflora* saltmarsh at an oil terminal tank farm and site of a former toluene release. The marsh is designed to restore former wetland functions and to reduce residual toxic chemicals through phytoremediation. Key to the success of this effort was the use of heavy-duty coir (coconut fiber) erosion control logs and netting to stabilize and protect the plantings during the grow-in period.

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Superfund Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Salem, Massachusetts: This 210-acre site was contaminated with heavy metals and volatile organic compounds. As project manager, Mr. Mason was responsible for the coordination and execution of the scope of work between the EPA and a potentially responsible party. This included: sampling of surface water, sediments, groundwater, biota (sampling program in excess of \$500,000); quality assurance, three dimensional modeling of contaminants, risk assessment, and alternatives for site remediation.

Land Trust Trail System, Aquidneck Island: Mr. Mason conducted field studies, interpretation of aerial photography, and geographic information system (GIS) analysis in support of a land trust trail development in Portsmouth and Middletown, Rhode Island. Alternative routing plans were evaluated in the context of environmental constraints and opportunities for trail system linkage to other trails and greenways.

Open Space Inventory and Management Study, Milford, MA: Upper Charles Conservation, Inc. retained Mason & Associates to assess wetlands, wildlife, and vegetation on a 127-acre site located in Milford, MA. The assessment was funded by a Riverways Grant awarded to Upper Charles Inc. by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Riverways Program. The site is in the center of a larger undeveloped area known as the Charles River Headwaters Area. Mr. Mason conducted surveys of vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, and vernal pool habitat. He prepared a technical report including recommendations for future management and the ecologically-sensitive placement of a bicycle path along the adjacent railroad right-of-way.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Planning Association
Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists
Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists
Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists (registered Wetland Scientist, Ex. Board 1996-2005)
Rhode Island Planning Association
Society of Wetland Scientists (certified Professional Wetland Scientist No. 795)

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Mason & Associates, Inc. 1996 - present
Treadwell & Rollo, Inc. 1993-1995
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. 1989-1993
Maguire Group, Inc. 1981-1989

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists Newsletter. Mr. Mason has been editor of this quarterly newsletter from 1996 - 2006.

“Coastal Wetland Restoration and Phytoremediation at a Former Chemical Distribution Facility East Providence, Rhode Island”, C.O. Mason, presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, North Atlantic Chapter, June 2004.

“Wetland Training Workshops for Public Officials and Educators”. Mr. Mason provided workshop materials, lectures and field training for this introductory wetlands course sponsored by the Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists and the Rhode Island Audubon Society with grant assistance provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1999.

“Wetland Restoration at a Hazardous Waste Site in Southern New England”, C.O. Mason and S.M. Ferrarotti, The Society for Ecological Restoration, Northeast Chapter Newsletter, Fall 1995.

“Long-term Monitoring and Mitigation of Wetlands at a Hazardous Waste Remediation Site in Rhode Island”, C.O. Mason, B.C. Lesinski, and J.A. Bridge, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists, June 1995.

“Wetland Mitigation Techniques”, C.O. Mason, presented at the Annual Meeting of the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, 1992.

“Functional Assessment of Wetlands in New Jersey’s Hackensack Meadowlands”, C.O. Mason, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists, May 1991.

“Application of the Corps of Engineers Highway Methodology in the Avoidance of Highway Impacts to Wetlands”, C.O. Mason, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists, May 1991.

“CERCLA/SARA Environmental Review Training”, U.S. EPA Region II, (C.O. Mason - Wetlands and Water Resources), presented to EPA Hazardous Waste Site Managers and Consultants, 1989.

“Wetland Regulation for Local Officials”, C.O. Mason and D.R. Westcott. Presented to the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, 1988.

"Wetland Replacement - Does It Work?", C.O. Mason and D.A. Slocum in Proceedings of the Fifth Symposium on Coastal and Ocean Management (Coastal Zone 87), American Society of Civil Engineers, May 1987. Also presented by invitation to NOAA’s Annual CZM Program Managers Meeting (Nags Head, North Carolina, 1987)

"Evaluating Private Well Contamination in Rhode Island", C.O. Mason et al in Proceedings of the Third Annual Eastern Regional Ground Water Conference, National Water Well Association, July 1986.

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

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Block Island Power Company 34.5 kV Electrical Transmission Line Federal Endangered Species Biological Assessment, 1998. USDA, Rural Utilities Service. (Manager, Editor)

Route 301 Corridor Study, New Castle County, DE. FHWA Draft EIS, 1993. (Environmental Manager).

Craney Island Landfill, Portsmouth, VA. U.S. Navy EA, 1992. (Water Quality, Socioeconomic Impacts, Editor).

Wood Street Extension, Bristol, RI. FHWA Draft EA, 1992. (Environmental Manager).

Route 8, Adams, MA. FHWA Draft EA, 1992. (Environmental Manager).

Route 140, Franklin, MA. FHWA Draft EA, 1992. (Wetland Mitigation, Editor).

Southeast Expressway, Virginia Beach, VA. FHWA Draft EIS, 1989. (Wetlands, Water Quality).

Cruz Bay Wastewater Facilities Plan. St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. EPA Final EIS, 1988. (Endangered Species Biological Assessment).

Culebra Wastewater Facilities Plan. Culebra, PR. EPA Draft and Final EIS, 1985. (Wetlands, Water Quality, Vegetation, Alternatives, Impacts, Mitigation, Editor).

Surplus Military Properties. Middletown, Gould Island, Wickford, Rhode Island. GSA Supplemental Draft EIS, 1985. (Water Quality, Impacts, Editor).

Boston Harbor Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan. Forty-three municipalities in eastern Massachusetts, focusing on facility sites in Boston. EPA Supplemental Draft EIS, 1984. (Assistant Project Manager, Editor, Water Quality, Wetlands, Ecological Impacts. Author of Boston Harbor Water Quality Baseline).

Lake George - Upper Hudson Region Wastewater Facilities Plan. Lake George, Bolton, Warensburg, Glens Falls, NY. EPA Final EIS, 1983. (Project Manager, Principal Writer).

Kingston Wastewater Facilities Plan. Kingston, Massachusetts. EPA Draft and Final EIS, 1983. (Project Manager, Principal Writer).

Plymouth Wastewater Facilities Plan. Plymouth, MA. EPA Draft EIS, 1983. (Water Quality, Editor).

Sandwich Wastewater Facilities Plan. Sandwich, MA. EPA Final EIS, 1982. (Principal Writer).