

**Definition Options for Consideration
Sussex County Wetlands Buffers Workgroup**

COMMENTS NAME: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: For the terms “intermittent” and “ephemeral” in the table below, rank the definitions based on your preference (with 1 indicating best/preferred and 5 indicating least preferred). Should you have suggestions to improve your #1 ranked selection, make those suggestions in last column. The definitions for “perennial” have been provided for your reference.

	Source				American Meteorological Society	Suggested Edits/Refinements to No. 1 Selection
	Sussex County Current Code	DNREC – NC Manual	USACE – Proposed Rule 02/14/19	USACE – Current Rule		
Perennial	Any body of water which continuously flows during a year and which is not subject to tidal influence.	A well-defined channel that contains water year round during a year of normal rainfall with aquatic bed located below the water table for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary sources of water for a perennial stream, but it also carries stormwater runoff. A perennial stream exhibits the typical biological, hydrological, and physical characteristics commonly associated with the continuous conveyance of water. (15A NCAC 02B.0233(2)(i))	Surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.	A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.	A stream that contains water at all times except during extreme drought.	<i>As approved WBWG 3/6/19:</i> A well-defined channel that contains water that flows year-round during a year of normal rainfall with the aquatic bed located below the water table for most of the year and which is not subject to tidal influence. Groundwater is the primary source of water for a perennial stream, but it also carries runoff. A perennial stream exhibits the typical biological, hydrological, and physical characteristics commonly associated with the continuous conveyance of water.
Intermittent	N/A	A well-defined channel that contains water for only part of the year, typically during winter and spring when the aquatic bed is below the water table. The flow may be heavily supplemented by stormwater runoff. An intermittent stream often lacks the biological and hydrological characteristics commonly associated with the conveyance of water. (15A NCAC 02B.0233(2)(g))	Surface water flowing continuously during certain times of a typical year and more than in direct response to precipitation (e.g., seasonally when the groundwater table is elevated or when snowpack melts).	An intermittent stream has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.	A stream that carries water a considerable portion of the time, but that ceases to flow occasionally or seasonally because bed seepage and evapotranspiration exceed the available water supply.	
RANK						
Ephemeral	N/A	A feature that carries only stormwater in direct response to precipitation with water flowing only during and shortly after large precipitation events. An ephemeral stream may or may not have a well-defined channel, the aquatic bed is always above the water table, and stormwater runoff is the primary source of water. An ephemeral stream typically lacks the biological, hydrological, and physical characteristics commonly associated with the continuous or intermittent conveyance of water. (15A NCAC 02B.0233(2)(d))	Surface water flowing or pooling only in direct response to precipitation (e.g., rain or snow fall).	An ephemeral stream has flowing water only during and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.	A stream channel that carries water only during and immediately after periods of rainfall or snowmelt.	
RANK						

Please submit by 12:00 PM on Thursday, March 14th