# Environmental Permitting

With Van Adams

### Who am I?

- Environmental Specialist in the Environmental Stewardship Office
- Get permits
  - ► M&O
  - Capital projects
- Other various wetland field work activities
  - Delineations
  - Stream Stats
  - Beaver dam removal expert



# Permits? What and Why?

- ▶ Needed to do some sort of activity in federal or state jurisdictional lands
  - ▶ If you touch water, you'll probably need a permit
- ▶ If found doing work without proper environmental permits, fines or penalties can occur.
  - ► Ex- largest criminal action for violating regulations without permits led to 9 plus years in prison and company over \$4.8 million in fines
    - ▶ Filled approx. 260 acres of wetlands without permit



# State and Federal agencies care???

- DNREC- state agency that cares
  - ▶ Delaware Code Title 7 Conservation Natural Resources Chapter 72.
- United States' Army Corps of Engineers- Federal agency that cares
  - Section 404 of Clean Water Act
- Both have different permit requirements and applications
  - Good thing for you its my job to deal with it!



# Why you should care!

- Produce and give habitat for food
  - ▶ Blueberry's, cranberry's, shrimp, fish, wild rice.
- Moderate global climate conditions
  - ▶ Wetlands store carbon instead of letting it into atmosphere, therefore less greenhouse gasses in atmosphere, hence moderating climate conditions on a global scale.
- Improve drinking water quality
  - Removes pollutants from runoff
    - ▶ Saves money. If pollutants are removed from drinking water, state agencies do not have to spend money on removing said pollutants and can use money else were.
- Shoreline protection
- Reduce Floods

# Types of Permits

- No Permit
  - Project is non-jurisdictional so no environmental permits are needed
- Simple FYI permits
  - Nice little email to agencies saying "hey were going to do this small thing"
- Not so simple permits

Long applications with plans, photos, cover letters explaining what and why you are impacting

a resource

- Sometimes projects need long permits from
  - **▶** DNREC
  - ▶ USACE
  - USCG
  - New Castle County
  - ► City of Wilmington

Just all depends!



# Permitting Process General Overview

- Someone comes up with a project
- Environmental looks at the project
  - ▶ Does it touch wetlands or water?
    - No?
      - Great, proceed!
    - Yes?
      - ▶ Slow your roll, we may need environmental permits.
        - ▶ Remember 3<sup>rd</sup> slide about fines and jail?
- If permits are needed, go through permit process
  - Paperwork, emails, applications
- Once permits are received by proper agencies, proceed with project!

# Where environmental permit process is headed



- Currently Maintenance and Operations uses Maximo
  - Submit project to Maximo, I permit process, send back to them
- Working on testing new application
  - ► UNIFIER!!!

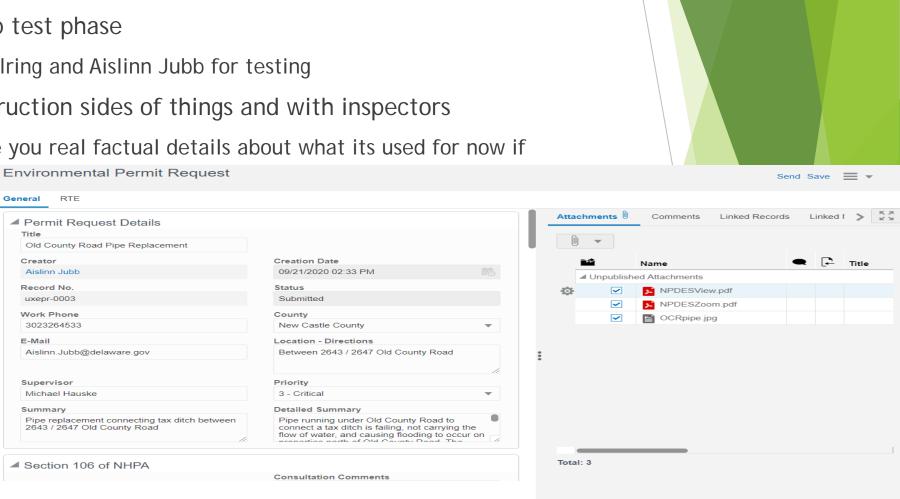
### Unifier: THE FUTURE

- Currently in wrapping up test phase
  - Shout out Nelson Kesselring and Aislinn Jubb for testing
- Currently used for construction sides of things and with inspectors

Billy Sweeny could give you real factual details about what its used for now if

interested

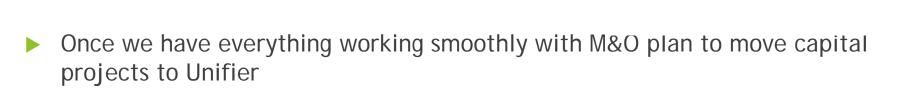
Permits are next



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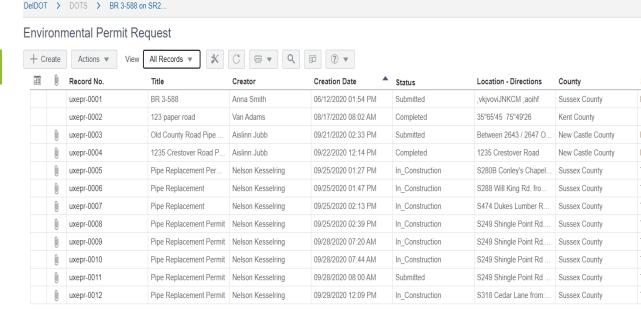
#### **Unifier and Environmental**

- Currently M&O uses Maximo to submit permits
- Going to switch over to Unifier

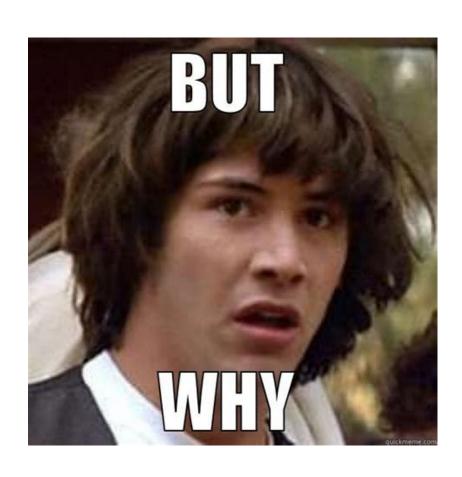


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### WHY?!?!?!



- Use one application for everything
- All divisions have access to it to look at permits
- More streamline
- Workflows
  - Unifier buzzword I learned

### Conclusion

- ► Environmental permits are important
  - JAIL
- New applications
  - UNIFIER
- Questions?

### Contact info

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