

MD NRCS CPS 378 Pond August 2023 Revisions

This notice is to inform of revisions to Table 1 of the latest published version of the 378 Pond standard dated August 2023. These revisions came after receiving news of confusion and inconsistencies between the 2000 version (incorporated in COMAR) and the version published in April 2023, particularly on the Table 1 freeboard, spillway capacity, and revised watershed areas.

As a result, we made a couple of pen and ink changes to Table 1 and the Freeboard section the standard. The main issue was encountered with pond repairs of ponds originally designed using CPS 378, 2000 criteria. Using the updated MD 378 version published in the April 2023, Table 1 would require upsizing principal and auxiliary spillways in many instances due to the changes in watershed thresholds. Also, to meet the 2' freeboard requirements in the April 2023 standard for watersheds > 20ac, major reconstruction of embankments would likely be needed. Previously, only 1' of freeboard was required for watersheds < 320 ac. with embankment heights <20' in the 2000 standard.

The intent of the update was to align the current standard with the 2000 standard as much as possible to avoid discrepancies between the two documents. The revisions made to the latest version released in August 2023 will better align with the 2000 Table 1. In summary, we have done the following:

“Table 1” on Page 5/18 was revised based on 2000 CPS 378.

In Section “Freeboard” on Page 10/18, replaced “...when the dam has more than 20 acre drainage area.” with “...when the dam has more than 320 acre drainage area.”