**Palustrine Open Water - Compensation Requirement Checklist**

In accordance with 9VAC25-210-116.C.4, compensation shall not be required for permanent or temporary impacts to open waters that are identified as palustrine by the Cowardin classification method, but compensation may be required when such open waters are located in areas of karst topography in Virginia and are formed by the natural solution of limestone.

In order to assist applicants in determining whether palustrine open water impacts require compensation under the VWP Permit Program, utilize the below checklist. Answering Yes to any of the below parameters may mean that compensation is required.

| Parameter | Yes | No |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is the open water located in karst topography? |  |  |
| Does the open water have a consolidated bottom or non-aquatic bed? |  |  |
| Is any affected wetland area vegetated? |  |  |
| Is the affected area greater than 8 ha (20 acres)? |  |  |
| Does the open water have active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline features? |  |  |
| Is the water depth in the deepest part of basin equal to or greater than 2.5 m (8.2 ft) at low water? |  |  |
| Is the salinity due to ocean-derived salts equal to or greater than 0.5 ppt? |  |  |

The graphic below will assist in making determination as to whether an open water resource is palustrine and in helping to answer the questions above.

