

Melody Pietsch

Restoration Ecologist II



EDUCATION

B.S., Environmental Systems and Science and Sustainability, Illinois State University, 2021

Joined Firm in 2023

Years of Experience: 4

REGISTRATIONS

Commercial Pesticide Applicator License, IL Department of Agriculture

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION

Lake County Certified Wetland Specialist

Lake County Designated Erosion Control Inspector

Soil Erosion & Stormwater Workshop Certificate, IEPA

Chicago Wilderness Prescribed Burn Crew Training

NWCG S-130 Firefighter

Melody has a strong background in environmental science, conducting research in cost-efficient water flow and supply systems. She has assisted on and/or led over 60 wetland delineations in Illinois and Wisconsin. Most of these wetland delineations were performed for our many municipal and private clients. She also has experience in permitting private clients and specializes in conducting tree surveys. She remains actively engaged in the industry by attending a variety of wetland forums and the Wisconsin Wetland Conference in Stevens Point. In addition, Melody spends several days each week with our ecological stewardship crews performing prescribed burns, invasive species management, and native seeding.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

Melody's career accomplishments while working at Baxter & Woodman include:

- **Wetland Delineations:** Performed over 60 wetland delineations in Illinois and Wisconsin. These span from transportation related projects to large scale stream and wetland restoration and mitigation projects.
- **Tree Surveys:** Performed over 25 tree surveys in Illinois. Most surveys are related to civil engineering projects such as transportation. Several other tree surveys were performed as part of large-scale stream and wetland restoration projects.
- **Invasive Species Management:** Worked with ecological stewardship crews on over 30 sites identifying and eradicating invasive species using a variety of methods.
- **Prescribed Burning:** Worked with ecological stewardship crews to perform controlled burns on over 20 sites.
- **Ecological Restoration & Surveying:** Worked with ecological construction crews on over 10 sites conducting native seeding, plant plug installation, tree planting, and erosion control. Used survey equipment to take cross sections of streams and boardwalk construction.
- **Environmental Permitting:** Prepared environmental permit applications for a variety of projects such as Corps, DNR, USFWS, etc.
- **Ecologist Monitoring and Reporting:** Ecologist on-site construction oversight and monitoring and reporting on vegetation standards for six different projects.
- **Transportation Construction Oversight:** Construction Oversight for the Illinois Department of Transportation by providing on-site quality assurance testing and reporting, measurement, and documentation of quantities performed by contractor.

Fox Waterway Agency, IL (Lake/McHenry Counties)

Trinski's Island Restoration Project

Ecologist for a multi-year project underway to benefit the multitude of stakeholders of the Fox River Chain O' Lakes. Through partnerships with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Fox Waterway Agency, the project proposes to recover a significant amount of lakebed sediment to support island recovery in Pistakee Lake. Other objectives include habitat restoration for a host of amphibian and fish species, perches for raptors, reestablishment of native plants, invasive species control, and conveyance and navigational improvements to benefit both recreation and the environment. Melody is the lead permitting staff for aquatic resources impacts and mitigation. She served as the primary author of maintenance and monitoring plans for the restoration of the existing Trinski's Island, the newly proposed Trinski's Island ecological enhancement, and the mitigation area.