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April 6, 2018

TO: Forest Practice Board members

FROM: Joe Shramek, Forest Practices Division Manager 

SUBJECT: **Progress report on DNR staff work in March 2018 on developing water Typing rule materials for the forest practices board**

This memo summarizes the status of work conducted last month to further the Forest Practices Board's (Board) consideration of adopting a permanent water typing rule as directed at its February 14, 2018 meeting.

Oversight of this project is being provided by Assistant Division Manager Marc Engel, who is serving as DNR's point-of-contact for TFW caucus representatives interested in, or engaged with, the work.

The plan includes development of four major, inter-related components:

- Administrative rule
- Preliminary cost-benefit analysis, including economic analysis on small business
- State Environmental Policy Act analysis
- Board manual technical guidance (Section 23)

Status of work accomplished in March

Administrative rule

Work on this component proceeded according to plan. DNR staff held three meetings to discuss and develop the initial draft of the rule. These efforts were in preparation of presenting and discussing the draft rule to stakeholders at two meetings scheduled for April 17th and 24th.



Preliminary cost-benefit analysis, including economic analysis on small business

There were significant delays during the month that jeopardize completion of the overall project according to the timeline established by the Board. The reason was that it was not possible to obtain end-of-fish data considered foundational to conducting the comparison of the PHB options in a timely fashion. This data is not used in DNR's processing of water type modifications, and hence was never specifically collected as a part of DNR's water type modification forms. Staff's original plan was to have those data available to the lead economist

and analytical team before March 23rd. DNR is now evaluating alternate ways for obtaining the data.

This delay poses a serious risk relative to accomplishing the work needed to be ready for the Board's June 28th special meeting and, in light of that, staff and I are discussing options with Chair Bernath.

Status: Significantly behind schedule

State Environmental Policy Act analysis

Delays with the data related to the CBA have also caused work on the SEPA analysis to fall behind schedule. However, staff has confidence that the delays are not yet critical in terms of impact on positioning the responsible official for making a threshold determination before June 5th (as intended).

Status: Behind schedule

Board manual technical guidance (Section 23)

Work on this component proceeded according to plan. DNR held three meetings with TFW caucus representatives to discuss and review the initial draft.

Status: On track

My intention is to provide similar monthly updates in the future as work progresses. At any time, please feel free to contact me or Marc Engel if you have questions or would like to discuss any aspect in more detail.

cc: Marc Engel, DNR Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager for Policy and Services