

ORGANIZATION FOR WETLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2011-2012

Public Act 120 lists a number of issues to be addressed by the Wetland Advisory Council (WAC) during 2011-2012. The WAC must submit a report by August 15, 2012, that evaluates the following:

Permit Processing and Efficiency Committee

Subcommittee Members: Jeff King (chair), Gary Dawson, John Konik, Erin McDonough, John Niemela, Steve Shine, Don Uzarski, and Todd Wyett
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff lead: Todd Losee

Section 30329(9)

- (b) Potential long-term changes in program structure, including all of the following:
 - (i) Scientific methods to achieve more consistent and accurate determinations of wetland functions and values for reviewing applications for permits, watershed planning, conservation plans, and other purposes. These methods include rapid wetland assessment and landscape level wetland assessment.
 - (ii) The appropriate role of local units of government and conservation districts in the administration of this part.
 - (iii) A certification process for wetland professionals. The council shall consider information reported under section 30303b in evaluating and making recommendations under this subparagraph.
 - (iv) The definition of wetland and wetland delineation methods, including the role of hydric soils as a factor in wetland delineation. In making recommendations under this subparagraph, the Council shall evaluate differences in the state and federal wetland programs.

- (j) Methods to assist both of the following in successfully obtaining permits under this part in a timely manner:
 - (i) Individuals proposing a use or activity for their personal homesite.
 - (ii) Nonprofit organizations.

Program Efficiency Committee

Subcommittee Members: Jeff Auch (chair), Dan Coffey, Susan Harley, Mindy Koch, Chris Reidy, Joseph Rivet, statewide association of manufacturers (vacant), and local units of government representative (vacant)
DEQ staff lead: Kim Fish

Section 30329(9)

- (c) The appropriate means and level of program funding under this part.
- (d) Minor project categories and general permits under section 30312b(1) to (3).
- (f) The promotion of the development of wetland mitigation banks.
- (g) Ways for the public and interested parties to advise the department on a continuing basis concerning the administration and enforcement of this part.

EPA Program Requirements and Federal Coordination Committee

Subcommittee Members: Grenetta Thomassey (chair), Sue Elston, Scott Piggott, and Lee Swartz

DEQ staff lead: Amy Lounds

Section 30329(9)

- (a) Improving coordination and reducing duplication of effort with the United States army corps of engineers.
- (e) The appropriateness of the provisions of section 30304b [*Corps SPGP*] as a means of reducing regulatory burdens from dual federal and state regulation.
- (h) Appropriate regulation of the siting, construction, and operation of cranberry production activities, in light of the benefit of cranberry production activities to the economy, the regulatory approach of other states, and other factors.
- (i) The feasible and prudent alternative standard under section 30311 and consistent application of the standard.

Sub-Work Group: Actions necessary to adopt and implement measures determined by the US Environmental Protection Agency to support consistency with the exemption in Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act.

5/16/2011