

**Technical Advisory Group**  
**Classification Sub-Committee**  
**6/12/08 Meeting Minutes**  
**5PM to 6:30PM**

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ATTENDEES: Tom Crisman, Derek Doughty, Scott Emery, Ann Hodgson

EPC ATTENDEES: Bob Stetler, Kim Tapley

HANDOUTS: Classification White Paper Draft dated 6/12/08

The last draft of the Classification white paper was a skeleton outline. Dr. Crisman took the rough draft and added to it for today's meeting and discussion. The sub-committee will discuss the paper paragraph by paragraph.

All papers must be finalized by June 20<sup>th</sup>, the next and last TAG meeting.

**Introduction Section:**

"Although some disagreement often exists between federal and state classification schemes, especially regarding positioning of wetland jurisdictional lines, these can be resolved through joint site visits and consultation."

A member asked if the wetland line had anything to do with Classification, the answer was no. Therefore that member suggested that the sentence discussing wetland lines be removed. The reason that sentence was included is because there might be classification differences between state and federal agencies. It was agreed upon by the members to remove the sentence.

-award to was changed to aware of

**Classification of Wetlands Based on Structure Section:**

-inventory was added after comprehensive in the second sentence.

Because the FLUCCS is updated every 4 years, members decided to add first published in 1999 in the last sentence.

**Classification of Wetlands Based on Function Section:**

No changes at this time.

**Classification of Wetlands Based on Values Section:**

No changes at this time.

**Wetlands of Regional Concern: Accounting for Rare Wetland Types Section:**

Members changed critical need (in the first sentence) to "There is value in identifying..."

*Ann Hodgson arrived and the members decided to go back over the previous sections.*

**Introduction Section:**

No changes at this time.

**Classification of Wetlands Based on Structure Section:**

No changes at this time.

*Meeting minutes approved in June 20, 2008 meeting*

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**Classification of Wetlands Based on Function Section:**

No changes at this time.

**Classification of Wetlands Based on Values Section:**

There are publications that identify values and functions of wetlands, Ann Hodgson will add these citations to the paper.

No changes at this time.

**Wetlands of Regional Concern: Accounting for Rare Wetland Types Section:**

No changes at this time.

**Value of Created Wetlands Section:**

First sentence was restructured to read "Created wetlands, especially marshes can develop the structure of "natural" wetlands, sometimes within two years....."

Bob Stetler noted that EPC protects these mitigation areas via monitoring and maintenance period and with a Conservation Easement.

**Timing of Wetland Classification as Part of the Permit Process Section:**

This paragraph was originally written:

"Early in the permitting process, the applicant should arrange for preliminary evaluation of any constraints and opportunities for any wetland on the property in question prior to development of detailed site plans. It is recommended that all available wetland classification information should be considered as part of this process."

And changed to:

"The applicant should conduct for preliminary evaluation of any constraints and opportunities for any wetland on the property in question prior to development of detailed site plans. It is recommended that relevant available wetland classification information be considered part of this process. It is the applicant's benefit to know the site conditions and potential limitations and opportunities that the site may pose long before submission of an applications to the EPC."

The intent of this paragraph was that EPC staff would sit down with the application prior to the applicant spending lots of money with the site to discuss the project.

Bob Stetler noted that as per the wetland rule, the first test is total avoidance, no impacts to the wetlands. Therefore, nothing at the rezoning phase could be done (justification wise) with the classification. The only thing that could be done at that stage would be to agree on the classification of the wetlands. Once the plans have been developed further is when the applicant will come in with the impact proposal, at which time EPC will want to see the roads, structures, etc. adjusted and moved around to avoid the wetland impacts regardless of their quality. It could be possible for classification to be a part of the reasonable use definition with the re-design section. Classification could be used to show

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that the impacts are on lower quality wetlands, once the first test is of avoidance completed.

Therefore, in the beginning of the project classification could be agreed upon by EPC and the applicant, such as if an exemption is available for the wetlands.

This will be like the Process sub-committee white paper, where it is a voluntary choice on the applicant to meet with EPC early on in the process. It was noted from a TAG member that a person who has put lots of money into a property will fight harder for impacts than a person that knows up front the site's constraints and opportunities.

First paragraph, second sentence was changed to note that wetlands are still based upon vegetation, soils and hydrology.

Meeting adjourned.