

Summary of Principles of the Review Process
August 27, 2008
Stewardship Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

At the August 27th Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, CAC members were asked to answer the following questions related to the Review Process for Stewardship Projects:

- What would a reasonable review process look like when a prohibition is anticipated?
 - How to avoid undue complexity, bureaucracy, time, etc.?
 - When in the process does the review occur?
 - Who can bring an appeal?
- Should the Natural Resources Board be involved? At what point? If not how is a final decision made, by whom?
- How can flexibility be built in to the process?

The following summary reflects the proposals where there appears to be general agreement by the CAC members present at the August 27, 2008 meeting.

- Initial Review Process: Part of the grant application should report on the formal, public input process utilized. State and grant review processes of Nature Based Outdoor Activities (NBOAs) prohibitions should be the same and the review should occur before acquisition. There should not be an expedited review for acquisitions/grants allowing all 5 NBOAs.
- Notice: Use one consistent public notice for stewardship grant acquisitions and DNR Stewardship funded acquisitions. Simplify WEPA process to seven steps. Continue to use the list-serve for grants and do the same for DNR Stewardship land acquisitions. Track status and objections on-line.
- Formal Appeals: The appeal process must be timely so as not to hold-up acquisition closings. Provide a two week period for comment/appeal.

The issues below related to Natural Resource Board review and Public Participation need further input. When the Department writes the rule, it will seek additional public input on these issues.

- Formal Appeals: The appeal process is to the NRB Stewardship Subcommittee if a grant is denied due to a restriction; there are established triggers that cause a NRB sub-committee review; if appeals are received the NRB Stewardship sub-committee decides whether to hear the appeal.
- Public Input: For grants, public input process should be at the local level and documented in the grant application; part of the application reports on formal, public input process; more local involvement; provide notice to local municipalities.