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January 17, 2017

Mr. Henry Schienebeck  
Chair, Wisconsin Council on Forestry  
3243 Golf Course Road  
P.O. Box 1278  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

**Re: Forest Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process – Annual DRP Use Report for 2016**

Dear Henry:

This Forest Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process (DRP) use report is being provided to the Chair of the Council on Forestry as an annual requirement as outlined in Chapter 31 of the Forest Tax Law Handbook. The handbook specifically states that the DRP Administrator is responsible to provide this report as outlined below.

As stated in Chapter 31-2, Item 9: "By February 1st of each year provide a report on the use of the DRP to the Council on Forestry. The report will include; the number of disputes, analysis of types of disputes, who was involved including statistics on number initiated and by whom (cooperator, logger, landowner), number approved and not approved to enter process, number ending with step one (working with Mediators) and duration of process, number going to step two (Expert Panel) and duration of process and recommendations of the Expert Panel, feedback received from participants and any other pertinent information."

As the current DRP Administrator, Steigerwaldt Land Services is providing the following information as detailed above. Please note that this first annual report does not cover a full year since this process was first initiated on October 1, 2016. The current WDNR DRP liaison is Forestry Specialist Ron Gropp. Following is a summary of DRP use.

- Number of disputes = 0; there is no analysis of the types of disputes, who was involved, who initiated, or any statistical analysis in this report since there were no calls or contacts received through December 31, 2016, to initiate the DRP process.

Other pertinent information involving the administration of the DRP includes:

- Public outreach – The Administrator planned a minimum of two public outreach efforts per year to help advertise and educate forestry stakeholders that the DRP process is available and how the process is to be used. Outreach efforts to date have included a presentation to the Council of Forestry (CoF) on September 15, a presentation to the DNR Silviculture Guidance Team on October 26, and an article in the Great Lakes Timber Producers Association (GLTPA) magazine that appeared in the December issue. Other educational/informational events are being planned for 2017.

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- Mediator Applicants – The Administrator has obtained approval for 15 Mediators who have been contracted to perform mediator duties in the case of a dispute. The number of Mediators and the counties in which they are willing to perform case work adequately covers the entire state. We are still taking applications, with several currently in the pipeline.
- Expert Applicants – Approval has been obtained for eight Experts. The number of Experts and the counties where they are willing to perform work adequately covers the entire state. We are still taking applications, with several currently in the pipeline.

The following lists the number of forestry Experts that each organization has successfully nominated.

Great Lakes Timber Producers Association (GLTPA) - 1  
Society of American Foresters (SAF) – 1  
Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF) – 3  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) – 2  
Wisconsin Paper Council (WPC) - 1

- DRP web page – As the DRP Administrator, Steigerwaldt has added a page to their website that provides detailed information regarding the DRP process: <http://www.steigerwaldt.com/wdnr-forest-tax-law-dispute-resolution-process/>.

This page provides a list of the Mediators and Experts and a short biography for each. It also provides an introduction, process overview, and a link to Chapter 31 of the Forest Tax Law Handbook, which provides the details that are to be followed for the Administrator and dispute process. The application to apply for the Mediator position is also included on the web page.

This concludes the 2016 DRP annual use report. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this report. Please feel free to contact us for further details or with any questions.

Sincerely,

**STEIGERWALDT LAND SERVICES, INC.**



David L. Dhaseleer  
Forest Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process Administrator  
Vice President - Forestry Operations Advisor

DLD/jlt

cc: Ron Gropp via email