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FORESTLAND MGMT

INVESTMENT & ANALYSIS

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January 16, 2020

Mr. Matt Dallman
Deputy State Director
The Nature Conservancy
Northwoods Office
8648 Hwy. 51 N #3
Minocqua, WI 54548

Re: Forest Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process – Annual DRP Use Report for 2019

Dear Matt:

This report is being provided to you, as the Vice-Chair of the Council on Forestry (CoF), to fulfill the 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 for 2019 as detailed above.

- Number of disputes = 0
 - No disputes were initiated in the 2019 calendar year

Other pertinent information involving the administration of the DRP includes:

- Since the inception of the DRP in 2016, there have been a total of five cases presented to the administrator. To date, there have not been any cases that have gone through the DRP.
- Public outreach – The Administrator plans public outreach efforts every year to help advertise and educate forestry stakeholders that the DRP process is available and how the process is to be used. Outreach efforts in 2019 included advertisements placed in Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) and Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners (WAFO) publications. Handouts were also given to all attendees of the 2019 Cooperating Foresters Meeting in Rothschild. Additional educational/informational events will be planned for 2020 including additional advertisements in landowner, logger, and forester publications, as well as reminders to cooperating foresters.
- Mediator Applicants – The Administrator has obtained approval for 17 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. Mediators will be contacted in January of 2020 to assess their willingness to remain on the list.
- Expert Applicants – Approval has been obtained for ten Experts. The number of Experts and the counties in which they are willing to perform work adequately covers the entire state. Experts will also be contacted in January of 2020 to assess their willingness to remain on the list.

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
Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) – 1
American Tree Farm Committee – 1
Wisconsin Woodland Owner's Association – 0

Additional Mediator and Expert solicitation will be initiated after the current, ongoing contact effort if it is determined that coverage is not adequate.

- DRP web page – As the DRP Administrator, Steigerwaldt has maintained a page on 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.

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- Steigerwaldt Contract Renewal – The contract for administration of the DRP was renewed with Steigerwaldt effective August 1, 2019, for a one-year term.

This concludes the 2019 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bj Williams", written in a cursive style.

Benjamin J. Williams, ACF
Forest Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process Administrator
Senior Forester

BJW/jlt

cc: Katharine Haan – WDNR DRP Liaison