

December 1, 2014

TO: Conservation Commission Members and Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Larry Brewer, Regional Manager

SUBJECT: WSCC Cultural Resource Policy for WSCC funded cost shared projects.

Committee:

At the September Commission meeting a volunteered committee of Jim Peters, Todd Welker, George Boggs (Whatcom), Lynn Bahrych, Chris Herron, and Larry Brewer were asked to meet to develop a Cultural Resource Policy that reflected some of the issues brought up at the Commission meeting.

The committee of Jim Peters, Todd Welker (DNR), George Boggs (Whatcom CD), Lynn Bahrych, Ray Ledgerwood, Bill Eller, and Larry Brewer met for about 2 hours on November 7 on a net conference and discussed a Cultural Resource policy and some procedural options.

Action Requested:

The attached committee recommendations reflects the general consensus of the group with regards to a Commission Cultural Resource Policy and some procedure recommendations, which if acceptable to the Commission is expected to be sent to the Districts for their comments for the March 2015 meeting.

Next Steps: It is anticipated that the Commission staff will review District comments and present a final Cultural Resource Policy recommendation and a Cultural Resource Procedure recommendation at the March Commission meeting for final adoption.

The Commission adoption of a Cultural Resource policy to begin July 1, 2015 will support the WSCC biennial budget request that was submitted last Fall, which told OFM that the Commission will be adopting a Cultural Resource policy to comply with the Governors' Executive Order 0505.

Brief Summary of Policy and Procedure:

The proposed Cultural Resource policy would apply to all capital construction projects with WSCC-managed funds either Operational or Capital beginning July 1, 2015.

The proposed Procedure would allow for a district to do the required GEO-0505 Cultural Resource compliance themselves, if they have the capacity to do so.

The proposed Procedure would have other districts complete a DAHP project description form and forward to WSCC to assist the district with the required GEO-0505 Cultural Resource compliance.

The DAHP project description forms would be reviewed by DAHP and the affected tribes for their potential effects on Cultural Resources.

Based upon comments from DAHP and/or the affected tribes, projects would be implemented, further reviewed, or other actions taken such as formal consultation before implementation can proceed.

Other Cultural Resource issues will be addressed to support the Procedures such as:

- All Districts will need an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP).
- Exemptions will be sought by WSCC for all Districts, and by individual Districts.
- Training for Districts will be obtained and individual District trainings encouraged.
- Providing information from the DAHP Wisaard Maps when appropriate.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Brewer
Regional Manager
Washington State Conservation Commission