

# WATER-RELATED PERMITTING PROCESS IMPROVEMENT NEWS

Winter 2006

Welcome to the first Water-Related Permitting Process Improvement Team (WRPPIT) newsletter, created in response to requests for regular project information updates. This newsletter provides information about the background and current status of the WRPPIT project, and provides contact information if you have additional questions.

## BACKGROUND

The Water-Related Permit Process Improvement Team (WRPPIT Staff Team) was established in the spring of 2005 **to improve the State of Oregon's process for permitting development and restoration projects that affect Oregon's water resources**. The WRPPIT is comprised of agency representatives and the Office of Regulatory Streamlining staff (see members list at the end of the newsletter). The Natural Resource Agency Directors (Directors' Steering Committee) have approved the following project objectives:

**Make observable improvements to existing processes,**

**Make it clear whether and how a project gets to Yes, and**

**Transition to a consolidated state permit system so applicants experience**

- **Less paperwork and duplication**
- **Greater certainty and timeliness, and**
- **Improved customer service**

**While continuing to protect Oregon's water resources.**

The Directors' Steering Committee is made up of the Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor and the Directors of the participating agencies.

## CURRENT NEWS

In December, the WRPPIT Staff Team met with the Advisory Committee and the Consultant Stakeholder Group. The Advisory Committee members includes interested stakeholders from local government, development, environmental, and farm/agriculture/forestry interest groups. The Consultant Stakeholder Group includes consultants from large and small firms, as well as individual consultants who do water-related permitting work in Oregon. The Team provided a status update on the Team's short-term products and gathered input for the desired elements of a redesigned removal/fill permit application process.

The WRPPIT Advisory Committee ranked these desired elements in the following order of importance:

1. Clear Information at the Beginning
2. Clear Authorities and Non-Conflicting Decisions
3. Compliance/Outcome Focus
4. Unified State Process
5. Faster and Known Timeline
6. Permitting Cost Estimate Provided
7. One Stop and Specialized Assistance
8. Single Application

The WRPPIT Staff Team has been using the Advisory Committee's guidance as a foundation for its redesign of the removal/fill application process. The WRPPIT Team will be presenting a proposal of a new permit process to the Directors' Steering Committee in early March. After receiving direction from the Directors' Steering Committee, the WRPPIT will continue its work on the process redesign. WRPPIT will also meet with the Advisory Committee during March to update them on the redesign work. The Budget Note that established the WRPPIT effort requires a report to the Joint Legislative Audits Committee prior to April 30, 2006 and prior to December 31, 2006. WRPPIT will report make the first report to the Audits Committee on March 30, 2006.

## SHORT-TERM DELIVERABLES

- 8,300 multi-agency pamphlets (outlining the permits/authorizations and contact information) have been distributed in local government and agency offices.
- 170 Natural Resource agency staff and managers participated in an interactive Customer Service Training session.
- The Permits Users Guide is being worked on and a draft is expected to be out for review in early April.
- Inter-agency and consultant training continues with the SPGP trainings being conducted around the state through February.
- Inter-agency mediation and negotiation training is being proposed for early summer as a result of employee feedback.

## LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

The proposed changes to the permitting process are expected to require legislative changes. These details of this legislative package will be worked out during the next six months.

## TEAM MEMBERS

Agencies' representative members on the WRPPIT Staff Team are as follows:

**DSL:** John Lilly and Kirk Jarvie

**DEQ:** Christine Svetkovich

**ODFW:** Patty Snow

**DOGAMI:** Gary Lynch

**OWRD:** Kim Grigsby

**OP&R, SHPO:** Susan White

**OP&R, Ocean Shores:** Tony Stein

**ODA:** Jim Johnson

**ODOT:** Ken Franklin

**DLCD:** Dale Blanton

**AG's Office:** Jas Adams

**Office of Regulatory Streamlining:**

Patrick Allen and Laura Leshner

**Consultant:** Carmichael Consulting, Jenny Carmichael

## QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions regarding the WRPPIT project, you can sign up for a Listserve service at:

[http://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/RSL/tools.shtml#Water related permits project](http://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/RSL/tools.shtml#Water%20related%20permits%20project)

The service contains the original WRPPIT Recommendations Report (May 2005) and WRPPIT Staff Team, Advisory Committee, and Consultant Stakeholder meeting notes.

You can also contact your agency representative or Laura Leshner, WRPPIT Project Manager, at 503-947-7824.