WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

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July 19, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Marc Engel
Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager – Policy and Services

SUBJECT: Forest Practices Board Plan to meet E2SHB 2617

The legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2617 (E2SHB 2617) during the 2010 Special Session. This legislation eliminated forty-five statutory boards, commissions, committees or councils. It also eliminated, for fiscal year (FY) 2011, all State General Fund allowances for subsistence, lodging, and travel for members of class 1 through class 3 boards, commissions, committees or councils and class 5 groups. Finally, the legislation directed class 4 boards, which includes the Forest Practices Board, to reduce costs for FY 2011.

While the legislation focuses on reducing travel expenses for class 4 boards; it did not prohibit compensation to board members who are eligible.

The DNR was required to submit initial cost saving measures for the Forest Practices Board to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) by July 15th; in which we indicated the Board would only meet on the rule identified quarterly meeting dates. At the August 10 meeting I will ask the Board to discuss and decide upon additional cost saving measures to report to OFM. E2SHB 2617 requires the Board to:

- When feasible, use a meeting format that does not require travel while still maximizing member and public participation;
- Use a meeting format that requires members to be physically present at one location only when necessary or required by law; and
- Use state facilities for meetings that require a member's physical presence at one location.

One potential costs saving measure for consideration is phone conference calls in combination with an online Go To Meeting link.

I look forward to the Board's discussion to identify cost saving measures on August 10. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 902-1390 or marc.engel@dnr.wa.gov .