

**1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the NHI Certification Program Working Group**  
**October 14, 2009**  
**10-12 pm, Room 705**  
**GEF 2, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI**

**Working Group Members:**

*External customers and partners:* Melody Walker (DATCP), Mike Grisar (We Energies), Bill Poole (NRC), John Wagner (TNC), John Siepmann (Siepmann Realty), Bill Carity (Carity Land Corporation). Note that Karen Etter Hale (Madison Audubon) will be attending this meeting as an alternate for John Wagner.

*Endangered Resources Program:* Sarah Carter (project leader/coordinator), Rori Paloski

*Other DNR Programs:* Dreux Watermolen (Science Services), Pam Biersach (Watershed)

**Agenda/goals for meeting:**

1. Review membership of the working group
2. Clarify role, expectations, and other information related to the working group
3. Refresher on data sharing process and legal sideboards
4. Check-in regarding overall goal (see reverse)
5. Brainstorming: Identify user groups that may be interested in NHI Certification, and *for each* discuss:
  - a. The scope of products to be considered, i.e., products/actions that rely on or incorporate NHI data
  - b. Desired NHI data access method
  - c. Current level of education/training/experience related to NHI data
  - d. needed NHI-related training (in general terms)
6. Identify a tentative process and timeline for reaching goal (see reverse)
7. Compile preliminary list of parties that should be involved/targeted in broader review
8. Set next meeting date (for Nov/early Dec, please bring your calendars!)
9. Review of meeting (including logistics)
10. Adjourn

## Overall Goal:

Develop a Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Certification program through which individuals would be provided with comprehensive training to help ensure the correct interpretation and application of detailed NHI data along with the safety and security of the data. Products will include recommended program guidelines, a certification evaluation/test, and a training plan.

*NHI Certification would be required for access to detailed NHI data. NHI Certification, in combination with required DNR oversight of Proposed ER Reviews, is intended to ensure that the NHI data are used appropriately and effectively by NHI Certified individuals in project planning and preliminary endangered resources review, resulting in more effective protection of Wisconsin's endangered resources.*

## Proposed process & timeline:

Oct 14 2009 – **Working Group Meeting** – identify groups, products/actions, current/desired data access mechanisms, existing/needed NHI-related training and skills

Nov 2009 – **Working Group Meeting** –outline primary components of 1) certification evaluation/test and 2) program guidelines (refer to *draft* guidelines)

Jan 2010 – **Working Group Meeting** – outline training plan based on the draft certification evaluation/test, identified needs (products/actions), current/future access mechanisms, individuals' education, training, and experience; existing training, etc.

April 2010– **Working Group Meeting** – compilation, review and revision of pieces produced to date (program guidelines, certification evaluation/test, training plan) in preparation for presentation to ER Program

April 2010 – DNR staff - Estimate anticipated costs for provision of NHI Certification Program based on findings from previous meetings and other information

May 2010 – ER Program Meeting – Review draft program guidelines, certification evaluation/test, training plan and estimated costs

June 2010 - **Working Group Meeting** – Placeholder follow-up meeting

May-July 2010 – Broader review and revision of documents

Summer & Fall 2010 – Create training, forms, etc

Early 2011: Anticipated rollout of 1<sup>st</sup> NHI Certification session