



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU

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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Directors
DENR NCR, CAR, Regions 1-13

FROM : The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, Director, in concurrent capacity and
Chair, Watershed Multisectoral Technical Evaluation Committee (WMTEC)

The Director, Policy and Planning Service and
Co-Chair, Watershed Multisectoral Technical Evaluation Committee (WMTEC)

SUBJECT : **PROTOCOLS IN THE SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF THE WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION CUM VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT REPORTS AND INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS**

DATE : **MAY 26 2021**

This pertains to the 10th Watershed Multisectoral Technical Evaluation Committee (WMTEC) meeting held last April 21, 2021.

As agreed upon during the said WMTEC meeting and in order to facilitate the review and approval of Watershed Characterization cum Vulnerability Assessment (CR cum VA) Reports and Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMPs), you are hereby requested to implement and adopt the following new protocols in the submission and approval of the CR cum VAs and IWMPs, to wit:

ITEM	NEW PROTOCOL/S
I. On the review, evaluation and approval of the CR cum VA reports/ IWMPs	The Regional Offices shall create a Regional IWMP Review Committee (RIRC) to review or check the CR cum VA report/ IWMP for consistency with DMC 2008-05 (Guidelines in the Preparation of Integrated Watershed Management Plans), FMB TB 16-A (Revised Supplemental Guidelines and Procedures of Watershed Characterization and Climate Resilient Vulnerability Assessment of Watersheds and Preparation of Integrated Watershed Management Plans),

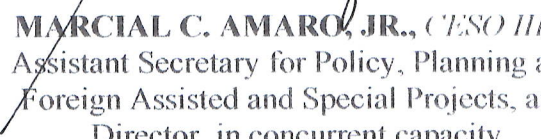
ITEM	NEW PROTOCOL/S
	<p>and other related policies and regional plans. Moreover, the said RIRC shall present the approved IWMPs to the Regional Development Council (RDC) for adoption. RIRC shall likewise provide WMTEC, through FMB, copies of the approved IWMPs.</p> <p>For watersheds covering one Region, the review shall be done by the RIRC and approval shall be by the concerned RED. All members of the WMTEC under DENR Special Order No. 140, Series of 2009, shall be invited by the RIRC during their scheduled review and evaluation meetings, through any online platform, such as teleconferencing, etc.</p> <p>For watersheds covering two or more Regions, the review shall be done by the WMTEC and approval shall be by the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs. Copy of the IWMP approved by the Central Office shall be forwarded to the Region covering the largest portion of the watershed for presentation to the RDCs for adoption and implementation, in collaboration, with the other Regions covering the said watershed. .</p>
On the composition of the Regional IWMP Review Committee (RIRC)	<p>The Regional IWMP Review Committee (RIRC) shall be composed of the Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services as Chair and the Assistant Regional Director for Management Services as Co-chair.</p> <p>The members shall be composed of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chief, Regional Planning and Management Division 2. Chief, Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division/ Geological Survey Division (MGB) 3. Chief, Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division (EMB) 4. Chief, Conservation and Development Division (Regional Office)

ITEM	NEW PROTOCOL/S
	<p>5. Research Development and Extension Center</p> <p>Secretariat: Selected Regional Staff</p>
On the submission of the CR cum VA reports/ IWMPs	<p>The submission of CR cum VA reports/IWMPs shall be addressed directly to FMB. Initial review of the document shall also be submitted. If it lacks the required contents, it should be returned to the Regional Offices by the WMTEC Secretariat for revision.</p> <p>The draft submissions of CR cum VA/IWMP shall be in the form of hard copy, together with the electronic copy, uploaded online, accessible through URL link, and shall be indicated in the official endorsement for easy, and more convenient reference and retrieval.</p>

Attached herein are copies of DENR Special Order No. 140, Series of 2009 and highlights of the 10th Watershed Multisectoral Technical Evaluation Committee (WMTEC) meeting held last April 21, 2021 for your ready reference.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, PLEASE.

MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO
Director, Policy and Planning Service


MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR., CESO III
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, and Director, in concurrent capacity



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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects, Director, in concurrent capacity and Chairman, Watershed Multisectoral Technical Evaluation Committee

FROM : The Chief, Forest Resources Conservation Division

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 10TH WATERSHED MULTISECTORAL TECHNICAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

DATE : **MAY 06 2021**

This pertains to the conducted Watershed Multisectoral Technical Evaluation Committee (WMTEC) meeting held last 21 April 2020 via Zoom. The said meeting aimed to fast-track the approval of the Integrated Watershed Management Plans prepared by the Regional Offices. Please be informed that during the meeting, the members of the WMTEC proposed new protocols on the submission, review and approval of the Watershed Characterization cum Vulnerability Assessment (CR cum VA) Reports and Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP).

In this regard, attached herein are the report on the highlights of the said 10th Watershed WMTEC Meeting and the Memorandum for the Regional Offices on the protocols in the submission of the CR cum VAs and IWMPs.

FOR THE DIRECTOR'S CONSIDERATION, PLEASE.


MA. TERESA G. AQUINO



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Chief, Forest Resources Conservation Division *mtel: FMB 4/3/2021*

FROM : The Chief, Watershed Ecosystem Management Section

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 10TH WATERSHED MULTI SECTORAL TECHNICAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

DATE :

This pertains to the Zoom meeting on the 10th Watershed Multisectoral Technical Evaluation Committee held last 21 April 2021.

Present:

1. Dir. Melinda Capistrano – Director, PPS
2. For. Alicia L. Castillo - Chief, WEMS FRCD
3. Mr. Tim Dizon, ERDB Representative
4. For. Dennis Bueno, NAMRIA Representative
5. Mr. Christian, NAMRIA Representative
6. For. Teodorico Marquez Jr., MGB Representative
7. Ms. Alexandra Llabore, LMB Representative
8. Mr. Aldrin Maranan, EMB Representative
9. Ms. Ashley Arguelles, RBCO Representative
10. For. Apple Marie Vitug, RBCO Representative
11. For. Jeric I. Angeles - FMS I, WEMS FRCD
12. Engr. Aliza Nicole B. Andes - PDO I, WEMS FRCD
13. For. Yarah V. Garcia - PDO I, WEMS FRCD
14. For. Angelito H. Bisquera, Jr. - PDO I, WEMS FRCD

The meeting started at 10:00 AM facilitated by For. Alicia Castillo, Chief of the Watershed Ecosystems Management Section. The following were the highlights and agreements reached in the meeting:

Highlights	Agreements
<p>For. Yarah Garcia presented the agenda of the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fast-tracking on the approval of IWMPs submitted by Regional Offices;<ul style="list-style-type: none">oPresentation of proposed process flow on the review of CR cum VA and IWMPoChallenges and proposed solutions in the review and evaluation of IWMP2. Updates on the agreements during the series of lectures conducted last Feb 15-19, 2021; and3. Other matters <p>-Updates on the 1-day lecture meeting on the assessment of phytoplankton and fisheries with BFAR as resource speaker to be held on April 27, 2021.</p>	

Highlights	Agreements
<p>-Updates on the Memorandum of Instruction on the Revised DMC 2008-05</p> <p>-Updates on the submission of the Revised CR cum VA and IWMPs</p>	
<p>For. Garcia presented the Process Flow on the Review and approval of Characterization Report cum Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) and IWMP submitted by the RO's.</p> <p>For. Castillo raised the concern on the problem with adhering to the deadlines of the processes since the WMTEC members also have their own duties and responsibilities aside from the review of the CRVA.</p> <p>Dir. Capistrano suggested to proceed with forwarding the comments immediately instead of waiting for all the comments from the members. The other comments can be forwarded later upon receiving from the other members.</p>	<p>The CRcumVA and IWMP should be submitted directly to FMB and to be incorporated on the UWM.</p>
<p>Dir. Capistrano commented that the 19 days allotted for the CRVA revision is too long.</p> <p>For. Castillo answered that this is necessary since some of the comments need going back to the field to verify and correct data for the CRVA. She also added that the previously submitted CRVAs usually received numerous comments from the WMTEC members and needed complete revision.</p> <p>Dir. Capistrano queried if the RO's have a technical committee to review their respective CRVA before submitting to WMTEC.</p> <p>For. Castillo confirmed that RO's do not have their own technical committee.</p>	<p>Proposal for Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects and concurrent FMB Director to issue a Memorandum to all DENR RED's to create a Technical Committee and assign ARD to Chair the committee in reviewing CRVA before submission to WMTEC. This is to ensure that submitted CRVAs will adhere to DMC 2008-05 and TB 16-A.</p> <p>The Regional Review Committee should review or check the plan/ report for consistency with other related regional plan.</p> <p>To ensure this, the CR cum VA and IWMP should be included as a criterion in the ARTA and awarding of PBB or the Regional Offices should take the responsibility in the approval of CR cum VA and IWMP or else face a show cause order to be instructed by Usec. for PPS or Field Operations and Environment.</p> <p>Issuance of memorandum to Regional Offices to be signed by Chair and Co-chair of WMTEC should be prepared by FMB to remind them of their backlogs on CR cum VA and IWMP.</p>
<p>For. Castillo added that proposed process flow will be the basis for the submission of the Regional Offices to fast track the review and approval of IWMP.</p>	<p>The process flow will be released to the regional offices through a memorandum to reiterate the process and deadlines of IWMP submission.</p>
<p>Mr. Dizon of ERDB requested to give them sufficient time to review the submitted IWMPs since their office recently received plans with a 2-day or 1-day deadline for review.</p>	

Highlights	Agreements
He also suggested, if the FMB approves, to forward the advance copy of the IWMP to the WMTEC members immediately upon receiving from the RO's to prevent the delay in reviewing the plans.	
For. Bueno of NAMRIA commented that most of the submitted maps of the RO's are unclear and unreadable.	
<p>For. Garcia proceeded in presenting the challenges in the review and evaluation of IWMP.</p> <p>1. Protocols in the submission of draft IWMP and CRVA and attachments</p> <p>a) Some of the draft submissions are addressed to the Secretary/Undersecretary for Field Operations/Assistant Secretary for Field Operations and it takes approximately 3 months to be transmitted to WMTEC Secretariat to commence with the actual review</p> <p>b) Unavailability of the soft copies and map packages of the submitted CR cum VA and IWMP</p> <p>c) Persistent follow up for comments is necessary on the submission of the comments from the WMTEC members to meet the deadline.</p> <p>2. Limited Technical Personnel (FMB, ERDB, NAMRIA, RBCO, MGB and LMB) that reviews and evaluates the plan Overwhelming tasks and other functions related to policy review, SWIS and Watershed Instrumentation, among others.</p>	<p>The CRcumVA and IWMP should be submitted directly to FMB and to be incorporated on the UWM. Initial review of the document submitted. If it lacks the required contents, it should be returned to the Regional Offices by the WMTEC Secretariat for revision.</p> <p>The draft submissions should be in the form of hard copy together with electronic copy, uploaded online, accessible through URL link, and should be indicated in the official endorsement for easy and more convenient reference.</p> <p>In addition to the official memorandum from the WMTEC Offices, a platform capable of document review (i.e. google drive) and visual collaboration, should be considered in the submission their comments and notify them to interactively communicate with the WMTEC Focal Persons and update the status of their review. Through this platform, the secretariat can easily keep track on the offices immediately. (Secretariat to select among possible platforms).</p> <p>A chat group is also suggested for faster transaction (i.e. Viber).</p> <p>Since the approval of a document/Memorandum in each office takes time, the WMTEC members are encouraged to submit the advance copy of their comments to FMB and Regional Office online while waiting for their official communication. This will allow the Secretariat to process and consolidate the comments. The comments should be submitted within the deadline set by the Secretariat.</p>

Highlights	Agreements
<p>3. The Regional Executive Director (RED) endorses the submission; however it appears that the plan/report has not been reviewed by the region or checked for consistency with other related regional plans and the targets are evaluated with the regional priorities (e.g there are instances the CRVA/IWMP is endorsed by the PENRO).</p> <p>4. For IWMPs and CRVAs that were prepared through consultancy, it appears that updating/revision was not an integral part of the contract, hence, comments from WMTEC were not immediately incorporated. (cited from the Series of Lectures on TB-16A dated 15-19 February 2021)</p> <p>5. For WMTEC comments related to ground validation/survey, the pandemic situation particularly the quarantine health and safety protocols made it difficult for the field offices to respond to the comments thereby delaying the updating/revision of the plans.</p>	<p>If comments were not received from the WMTEC members within the set deadline the consolidated comments from FMB and other members of WMTEC will be forwarded to the Regional Offices. In case comments were received after the set deadline, the said comments will be directly forwarded to the Regional Office.</p> <p>Regional Offices to create a Regional Review Committee (including Regional Planning, Technical, ARD for Management Services as Co-chair and ARD for Technical Services as Chair) for CR cum VA and IWMP to be chaired by the Assistant Regional Director. All CR cum Vas and IWMPs should pass the review of the said committee prior to endorsement to WMTEC for affirmation.</p> <p>Only the CR cum VAs and IWMPs that cover two or more regions will be forwarded to WMTEC for review and approval.</p> <p>CR cum VAs and IWMPs covering only one region, the review shall be done by the Regional Review Committee with WMTEC Members through any online meeting and approval by concerned RED.</p> <p>For IWMPs covering two or more regions, signature of all the WMTEC Members shall be solicited before endorsing the approval sheet to the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs.</p> <p>The Regional Offices should notify the WMTEC Members on the schedule of review of the CRcumVA and IWMP together with the advance copy of the said report/plan.</p>
<p>For. Marquez suggested that if the submitted IWMP is incomplete based on TB 16-A, the secretariat (FMB) should return immediately the plan to the regional offices.</p> <p>For. Castillo commented that this may result in Regional Offices to not submit the plans.</p> <p>Sir. Tim agreed to the suggestion of MGB since the PPS and Asec. Amaro will implement consequences for non-submission of IWMP. This will ensure that all RO's who comply with the policies and requirements in the formulation of IWMP will be reviewed by the WMTEC.</p>	

Highlights	Agreements
<p>Mr. Maranan of EMB queried if their counterpart regional offices were given a copy of the IWMP before submission to WMTEC since the EMB Central Office usually forwards the plan to their RO's for comments.</p> <p>For. Castillo answered that the regional counterparts of DENR should be part of the IWMP formulation. The Regional Watershed Management Planning Team should consult the regional offices of the bureaus, LGUs and other stakeholders before forwarding the plan to the Central Office.</p>	

Ways Forward

Activity	Ways forward
Provision of Process flow of the submission of the CR cum VA and IWMP	Memorandum to Regional Offices on the Process flow of the submission of the CR cum VA and IWMP
Protocols on the submission of CR cum VA report and IWMP	Memorandum to Regional Offices on the protocols in the submission of CR cum VA and IWMP and attachments including the process flow, and submission of soft copy and map packages.
Creation of Regional Review Committee	<p>Memorandum to Regional Office regarding the creation of Regional Review Committee</p> <p><u>Regional Review Committee Composition:</u></p> <p>Chair: ARD for Technical Services Co-chair: ARD for Management Services</p> <p>Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chief, Regional Planning and Management Division Chief, Mine Safety, Environment and Social Development Division/ Geological Survey Division (MGB) Chief, Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division (EMB) Chief, Conservation and Development Division (Regional Office) Research Development and Extension Center <p>Secretariat: Selected Regional Staff</p>
Submission of CR cum VA report and IWMP	Memorandum to Regional Offices to be signed by Chair and Co-chair of WMTEC should be

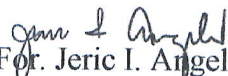
Activity	Ways forward
	prepared by FMB to remind them of their backlogs on CR cum VA and IWMP.
Review and approval of CR cum VA report and IWMP	<p>Only the CRcumVAs and IWMPs that cover two or more regions will be forwarded to WMTEC for review and approval. CRcumVAs and IWMPs covering only one region, the review shall be done by the Regional Review Committee with WMTEC Members through any online meeting and approval by concerned RED.</p> <p>For IWMPs covering two or more regions, signature of all the WMTEC Members shall be solicited before endorsing the approval sheet to the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs.</p>

For your information and instruction, please.

Prepared by:



Engr. Aliza Nicole B. Andes
Project Development Officer



For. Jeric I. Angeles
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Noted by:



For. Alicia L. Castillo
Chief, Watershed Ecosystem Management Section