

December 8, 2016

North Island – Central Coast FMLT Co-Chairs

ATTENTION: **Andrew Ashford, RPF**
 Jonathan Flintoft, RPF

Re: Riparian Management Emphasis Field Guide 2016

There has been much discussion recently around the management of small streams province-wide. The undersigned members of the NICC FMLT have been involved in recent discussions and feel that two important issues have emerged as a result of the release of the Riparian Management Emphasis Field Guide:

1. We do not believe that there was endorsement by the FMLT group as is described in the Riparian Guidance document, and
2. Public release of the Riparian Guidance, in combination with the District Manager's recent All-Licensee Expectation Letter (November 24, 2016) was premature given current industry – government discussions and the upcoming January 31st Small Streams workshop

On November 3, 2016 the final version of the Riparian Management Emphasis Field Guide was sent to the NICC FMLT members with the October 2016 meeting minutes. We believe this to have been the first viewing of this final version of the document that the group had received. That same document was forwarded to the all-licensee group on November 17, 2016 in an email which describes the document as being developed and endorsed by FMLT members and FMLT co-chairs.

For Reference, the NICC FMLT Terms of Reference regarding endorsement:

Decision Making and Documentation

The NICC FMLT will strive for consensus for the purpose of decision making, but where consensus is not reached, the co-chairs will be accountable to determine when an acceptable number of members support a decision, action or recommendation. Consensus for the purposes of this TOR is defined as general agreement or acceptance of decisions, actions or recommendations by members. Members may have concerns about specific aspects, but can accept and support that the overall decision, action or recommendation goes forward.

Relevant documentation for NICC FMLT meetings, including agendas and decision records will be sent to participatory group members in a timely manner and kept on a central file for future reference.

We do not feel that a lack of discussion or the fact that few comments were received can be regarded as consensus. It is up to the co-chairs to ensure that full discussion occurs and that the group has opportunity (and is encouraged) to work through topics in a thorough manner. Note that while we do also take responsibility for not contributing to this paper in a timely manner, relevant comments were forwarded (albeit after the response deadline), but were not considered by the guidance document author. Regardless of whether written comments were received or not, the process of discussing professional issues is an important part of FMLT membership and we feel that this process has been circumvented in this case.

We ask that the co-chairs rescind this Guidance Document until such time as the FMLT group has had further discussion regarding the content and after the January 31st Small Streams Workshop to ensure that there is some resolution at higher levels on this topic.

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