

# Analysis and Recommendations Pursuant to Executive Order JML 24-13

Office of the Secretary



# Overview

- Executive Order JML 24-13
- The Louisiana Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources
- Current status and challenges to effective governance
- Analysis of the office and potential changes
- “Town hall meetings”



# Current Status

- The Office of the Secretary is established by R.S. 36:354(A)(4)
- Four divisions with clear separation of duties
- Current budget request of \$188,800,179
  - 50 T.O. positions with 4 vacancies
- Numerous funding sources with opportunity to generate additional revenues



# Issues Presented

- Office of Conservation (OC) institutional “firewall”
- Growing number of federal grants awarded to SEO
- Reactive nature of communications process
- Falling behind compared to other states
  - Ex. Oklahoma Energy Resources Board
- Outdated technology



# Analysis of Issues

- OC “firewall” will be removed July 1, creating opportunity coordinate on regulatory strategy for orphan wells underground injection.
- SEO needs to operate outside of the Office of the Secretary with their own budget and leverage “other charges position”.
- Expand communications to become a proactive agency through engagement with press and public
- Upgrade technology to reflect growing mission of the Office of the Secretary



# Potential Proposed Office Structure

- Expand the Legal Division to include all legal staff within the department
  - Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor model
  - Expand intergovernmental affairs
- Separate SEO from Office of Secretary
- GIS Division



# Necessary Changes

- Expand legal division under the Office of the Secretary to capitalize on skillsets and promote a more centralized structure to perform legal work for all DENR offices
- Develop and execute a strategy to upgrade technology throughout the department (specifically computing power for GIS)
- Pursue unclassified authority and “other charges positions” for future department hires
- Develop a shared mission statement and develop a department culture reflective of that mission



# For NRSC Review and Approval

- A plan to acquire unclassified authority other charges positions
- Potential GIS department with a structure that promotes professional growth
- NRSC is welcome to provide additional thoughts or comments, as necessary





# Further Research Necessary

- Further research will depend on the reports presented by other working groups
- Office of the Secretary working group will continue to incorporate additional information from other working groups throughout this process

