

Four Lakes Ecological Restorations – Regulatory Considerations

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What's been happening?

The governing laws
require us to ask the right
questions.

Our normal processes
aren't a great fit for this,
so...

Collaboration

The Laws*

- Dam Safety (Part 315)
- Floodplains (Part 31)
- Inland Lakes and Streams (Part 301)
- Wetlands (Part 303)

*All parts of Michigan's Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act

What do the laws do?

Safety and flooding:

- The dams have to be safe
- The projects cannot cause harmful interference

Ecologically:

- The same or more wetlands
- Cannot cause unacceptable harm to natural resources
- Require mitigation for any lost resource values
- Must be the “best” alternative

Challenges

- Not “normal”
 - Current State
 - Scope/Complexity
- Human Resources
- Decision Timing



Solutions



- Maintain program integrity
- Priority
- Regular contact
- Interim interpretations

