From:	Schaub, Mike
To:	Brigette Firmin
Subject:	technical assistance/consultations
Date:	Wednesday, December 4, 2019 3:20:00 PM
Attachments:	Questions for FWS.docx

Hi Brigette,

I understand from Monica that you are taking over her role as ESA Sec 7 team lead? Congratulations on your new role and I hope the transition has been smooth!

I wanted to check in with you on a couple things if I may. I've been working with Amy Trahan for a while on a couple of issues relating to state water quality standard (WQS) actions, most namely an informal consultation on a turbidity criterion change in Wilson and Bradley Sloughs in the Pearl River Basin, and a previously proposed dissolved oxygen criterion change in waters of the eastern LMRAP ecoregion of south Louisiana. I've been trying to reach Amy for several weeks via email and phone but I've not heard back from her. I just wanted to check and verify whether the recent change in roles has resulted in a similar change for Amy with regard to working with us? It's not my intent at all to complain here. I'm just in a bit of a bind as to what to do next with a looming deadline for taking a WQS action. I previously understood that she was working on a letter, which, to my understanding, was to be a concurrence with our proposed finding of NLAA for that turbidity criterion change in Wilson/Bradley Sloughs. We'd like to take action on that criterion change by the state soon, but not without FWS concurrence on the ESA aspect. I understand these things take time, but I just need to know what the timeline for a letter (or even just an email) might be so I can keep my management and our friends in our HQs office updated.

Likewise, I had also sent a brief set of questions (attached) to her regarding DO and the Gulf sturgeon that, if at all possible, I'd like to get feedback on, either in writing or on a conference call. Again, I understand this one falls under the heading 'technical assistance' which has no time requirement for a response, but I'd at least like to get an idea about what your/Amy's thoughts are on those questions. This may help us in our discussions with the state and my management here as to how to proceed on that issue.

Thanks for much for your assistance. I look forward to working with you in the future!

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