

EMB CONDUCTS 2016 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA CONFERENCE



The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) through its Environmental Quality Management Division – Water Quality Management Section conducted the 2016 National Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) Conference.

The said conference, which was co-organized by EMB Region 12 was held on November 21-25, 2016 at the Greenleaf Hotel in General Santos City, South Cotabato. Attendees included staff members from the EMB Central and Regional Offices, specifically the Chair of the WQMA Governing Boards and WQMA Focal Persons.

Topics discussed included an overview of WQMA Action Planning, DENR Administrative Order 2016-08 (Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016), and Operations Manual for National and Area Water Quality Management Funds, among others.

Staff members from the EMB Regional Offices also shared improvements or deterioration of each WQMA in their respective regions, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for improvement in WQMA management, status of local government units (LGUs) compliance scheme and septage

management plan and its implementation, as well as way forward for 2017 for the EMB and the WQMA Governing Boards.

Water Quality Management Areas have been designed to protect water bodies and their tributaries by improving water quality, through collaboration with the local government units and other stakeholders, as well as implementing the 10-year WQMA Action Plan. The EMB is responsible for chairing the WQMA Governing Boards.

As of June 2016, there are thirty one (31) designated WQMAs including the areas within the jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority .

In Region 12, there are currently three (3) designated WQMAs: Silway River, Sarangani Bay, and the newly designated Lake Sebu, by virtue of DENR Administrative Order 2016-14.###