

Governor's Council on Forestry

March 29th, 2016

UW Stevens Point - Dreyfus Center

Council Members Present: Henry Schienebeck (Council Chair) Jane Severt (Council Vice-Chair), Troy Brown, Matt Dallman, Paul DeLong, Tom Hittle, Jim Hoppe, Jim Kerkman, Kim Quast, Mark Rickenbach, Paul Strong, Senator Tom Tiffany, Richard Wedepohl, Senator Janet Bewley, Ken Price

Council Members Absent: Bruce Allison, Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Virgil Waugh, Representative Nick Milroy

Guests Present: Scott Walter, Ron Eckstein, Matt St. Pierre, Darrell Zastrow, Deahn Wright, Fred Souba, Rebecca Diebel, Tyler Wenzlaff, Nancy Bozek, Paul Kienitz, Gordy Muow, Jessie Augustyn, Elise Worthel, Kelsey Pickart, Joseph Conrad, Melinda Vokoun, Stephen Prisley, Forrest Gibeault, Fred Clark, Zander Evans, Ben Wigly, Scott Hygnstrom, Les Warner, Don Peterson

Meeting Moderator: Ben Wigley

Chair Schienebeck called the meeting to order at 9:07 am with introductions of Council members and guests present. He also welcomed new members Representative Nick Milroy, Senator Janet Bewley, and Ken Price.

Meeting Minutes

Fred Souba provided a brief overview of the Wisconsin Forest Practices Study and explained that the meeting objective was to gain a basic understanding of each study that was. The following are the titles of the presentations and presenters.

1. **Economic and Ecological Effects of Forest Practices and Harvesting Constraints On Wisconsin's Forest Resources and Economy**
Fred Clark – Forest Stewards Guild
2. **The Scale and Cost of Seasonal Harvesting Restrictions in Wisconsin**
Joseph Conrad - UWSP

BREAK

3. **Wisconsin Wood Supply Assessment – Landowner Survey**
Melinda Vokoun - UWSP
4. **Wisconsin Wood Supply Assessment**
Stephen Prisley – Virginia Tech

*Results of this are on Virginia Tech's website

LUNCH

5. **An Economic and Ecological Analysis of: Northern Hardwood Single-Tree Selection Order of Removal Procedures and Red Pine Plantation and Aspen Forest Rotation Ages**
Forrest Gibeault – Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc.

6. **Wisconsin Wood Supply Assessment - Logging Capacity Utilization in Wisconsin**
Joeseph Conrad - UWSP

7. **Wood Supply Chain Component Costs Analysis: A comparison of Wisconsin and U.S. Regional Costs**
Forrest Gibeault - Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc.

**All presentations are available on the Council website:*

<http://wisconsinforestry.org/initiatives/current/forestry-practices-study>

WI Forest Practices Study: Next Steps – Fred Souba

Action Item: Form subcommittees to create recommendations and develop a final list of recommendations for the Council on Forestry and present these at the July meeting. Request to Council members to submit suggestions of subcommittee members by Friday, April 8, 2016.

It is estimated that each subcommittee will meet 6-8 hours face to face as well as via conference calls. Off-committee work time will consist of reading reports. Mark Rickenbach and Fred Souba will work with each committee to help facilitate and guide the process.

Henry commented on what a great experience it has been conducting the WI Forest Practices Study and thanked everyone for all of their hard work, patience, and dedication.

Senator Tiffany also mentioned that he is impressed with the presentations and work that went into this process. He feels it is an important study that will have policy implications for the state.

WDNR Alignment Updates – Paul DeLong

Action Item: Any feedback regarding alignment issues should be submitted by the first week of April.

Paul briefly addressed the DNR's alignment process and referenced the information about proposed changes that was sent to the Council and other stakeholders in February. He noted that the proposed changes to the department's investment in private forestry were the most significant, and encouraged those involved in private forestry to give feedback regarding both the proposed MFL changes and the proposed investment in non-MFL private forestry.

Paul clarified the Ombudsperson proposal stating that the concept came from external feedback that suggested it would be valuable to have someone in the department who is highly trusted by the

regulated community. This person would understand private business and would be an advocate when conflicts emerge to enhance dialogue between stakeholders and the agency. Although the proposal is specific to forestry, there is discussion within the agency whether having other targeted positions doing this work might be valuable..

Paul noted that there are a number of other topics (such as recreation, law enforcement, habitat management) now being discussed within the agency that ultimately might have a bearing on Forestry. However, the teams working on them have not yet developed recommendations.

MFL Legislation – Paul DeLong

Paul spoke regarding the MFL legislation that is in progress and mentioned WDNR understanding is that Governor Walker will take up the bill toward the end of April. WDNR is forming a team that will develop interim program guidance for staff and stakeholders. The Division has asked members of the previous Cutting Notice Advisory Team to work on this issue in the short-term, to expedite getting information out to those affected, given their familiarity with the MFL. They would serve in an advisory role and provide feedback on the interim and program guidance developed by the Division team. Several of the individuals have expressed a willingness to serve in this capacity.

Paul clarified that WDNR cannot interpret or provide advice on the new legislation, and will be limited in the guidance it can provide, until it is signed into law. We cannot speak to what the Governor will decide. With respect to the possibility of a veto, it is a fiscal bill the Governor does have the option of changing individual parts of it.

Farewell to Kim Quast

Henry presented a plaque of appreciation to Kim to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the Council over the last 5 years.

Next Meeting is May 26th, Location TBD

ADJOURNED