

Council on Forestry Meeting
Grand Lodge
805 Creske Avenue, Rothschild, Wisconsin
September 17-18, 2014

Council Tour – September 17, 2014

On September 17th The Governor’s Council on Forestry toured a post-harvest biomass study site on the Marathon County Forest. On-site the Council also participated in a deer research discussion. Following the biomass site visit, the Council toured Marth, 6752 State Highway 107, Marathon, WI. Marth Wood Shavings contracts wood shavings, sawdust, and other clean waste wood from mills and manufacturers throughout the region. Finally, the Council visited the boiler project located at the Nine Mile Recreation Area of the Marathon County Forest.

Council Meeting – September 18, 2014

Council Members Present: Henry Schienebeck (Council Chair), Jane Severt (Council Vice-Chair), Paul DeLong, Jim Kerkman, Kim Quast, Rep. Jeff Mursau, Sen. Tom Tiffany, Virgil Waugh, Troy Brown, Paul Strong, and Mark Rickenbach

Council Members Absent: Bruce Allison, Matt Dallman, James Hoppe, Tom Hittle, and Richard Wedepohl

Guests Present: Doug Brown, Marla Eddy, Tim Gary (staff, Rep. Mursau), Rebecca Gray, Earl Gustafson on behalf of Council member James Hoppe, Allison Hellman, Terrisa Mulder, Fred Souba, T.J. Morrice, Julie Ballweg, Ben Brancel (DATCP), Carmen Hardin, and Don Peterson

Chair Schienebeck called the meeting to order at 8:10 am with introductions of Council members and guests present.

Meeting Minutes

Economic Action Plans

Sub-Committee Leads

Each committee lead gave a presentation to update the Council on their committee’s current status and proposed an action plan for moving forward.

- Goal 1: Mark Rickenbach: [Goal 1 - Action Plan \(Attachment\)](#)
Increase the workforce/proficiency of technical and skilled workers (i.e. manufacturing and timber producers) which support the forest industry as demand deems appropriate.

Decision Item(s):

- The committee recommends moving forward with proposals A and D (see attached action plan) however asks the Council to review the proposal and send recommendations/feedback to Mark Rickenbach by September 30, 2014.

Once comments have been reviewed, Mark will revise the proposal and bring it back to the Council for final review. At that time, the Council will discuss whether to provide a letter of support for Nicolet College to obtain funding for the “Developing A Curriculum (DACUM)” pilot program.

- Goal 2: Henry Schienebeck/Paul Strong: [Goal 2 - Presentation \(CNNF Management\) \(Attachment\)](#)
(CNNF) Improve management of and increase timber production within Wisconsin’s Federal forests consistent with sustainable forestry practices.

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A meeting was held between various Stakeholders in Wausau on August 1st where discussion focused on current projects. The goal of the meeting was to determine what various groups were working on, where there may be overlap, and where the Council could offer assistance.

Each Stakeholder group gave a presentation and outlined the results they were experiencing. It appeared all groups were taking different approaches and obtaining different results.

The Council feels there is significant value in the Stakeholder groups moving forward with their current projects and does not feel a work group is necessary at this time. Additional Council involvement may be warranted should the Collaborative Forest landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) be approved as this would open up more options for Wisconsin. The Council is also interested in how Stewardship Contracting Authority and Good Neighbor Authority could best be utilized as we move forward. The Stakeholder groups would like to see Henry call future meetings to keep each other informed regarding progress on the various projects.

- Goal 5: Kim Quast: [Goal 5 - Action Plan \(Attachment\)](#)
Improve management of and increase timber production within private forests consistent with sustainable forestry practices.

Decision Item: The Council approved moving forward in the creation of the three committees outlined in the action plan (link above).

- Education and Outreach Tracking
- Forest Industry Accountability Committee
- Forest Economics Committee

During the discussion around the possibility of developing a website where consulting foresters, WCFA and DNR can advertise unsold timber sales, the following suggestions were made:

- The details of previous timber sales could be added to the site
- The site could house all timber sales and not simply those that remain “un- sold”

- Goal 6: Troy Brown: [Goal 6 - Action Plan \(Attachment\)](#)
Grow Wisconsin’s forest products markets

Troy presented the Council with the attached action plan outlining the Committee’s Following five objectives:

- Capitalize on the forest industry "infrastructure" currently in place, for retention and expansion of existing companies as well as the recruitment of new companies.
- Not only grow in size but diversify through R&D. Develop new uses and demand for wood fiber.

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- Wisconsin needs to reach out, not only statewide, but nationwide and worldwide, when it comes to Wisconsin forest products and what we are able to produce in this state. The best part and a very marketable aspect is the fact that it's all being done in a sustainable manner and more trees are growing than are being harvested each year.
- Government and Business – regulations, technical assistance, and incentives.
- Wood Energy- increase advocacy and promote what we learn from others who tried out different technologies.

Action Item(s):

- Fill committee membership gap with one representative from the two identified areas as soon as possible. Members are still needed from the southwest side of the state. Troy will work on getting this put together.
- Council members are to review the proposed action plan and submit feedback to Troy Brown by September 30, 2014.
- Committee will submit a SWOT analysis to the Council at the January 2015 meeting.

Goal 8: Jane Severt: [Goal 8 – Meeting Brief \(Attachment\)](#)

Increase public understanding of the benefits of sustainable forest management

The committee met on August 7th and identified their target audiences. In addition, the committee discussed current efforts addressing the identified goal, ideas for new initiatives, partnerships, or coordinated efforts that may prove to be effective in achieving the goal.

The committee felt moving forward with the development of an action plan to achieve desired outcomes will likely require the work of a marketing firm to ensure consistency. The committee suggested the Forest Business Network as they have shown interest.

The Council did agree that the message should be simple and remain consistent and the efforts of the committee should move forward.

Action Item(s):

- Jane will have a conversation with the Forest Business Network and bring back some budgetary numbers to the November 2014 meeting. At which time the Council can continue discussion.
- DNR will check into a poster that was formerly used in classrooms to assist teachers in educating children on different products that come from the forest.

Goal 7: Jim Kerkman (SAF): [Goal 7 - Action Plan \(SAF\) \(Attachment\)](#)

(SAF) Build and foster a coordinated working relationship between primary wood manufacturers and public and private forest management professionals with regard to economic and ecological considerations and the role and impacts of guidelines, policies and regulations.

This is not a goal that was taken on by the Council however the Society of American

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Foresters considered this a priority and decided to address it and keep the Council abreast of their progress.

The committee met on July 23rd and determined the following priorities:

- Develop and circulate a survey for stakeholders to document by stakeholder group and region the issues impacting ability to practice sound forestry that result in economically produced forest products available to our industry.
- Set-up regional, multi-stakeholder forest management sessions relevant to regional issues.
- Develop and distribute a catalogue of DNR teams/groups/committees involved in examining and/or developing policy, regulations, and guidelines including leaders, team members, and any stakeholder representatives.
 - The Council suggested teams outside of the DNR be considered in this priority as well due to the fact they have influence in the development of the above items (example: Wisconsin Wetlands Association, etc.).
- Analyze the need/potential for a Forestry Association in Wisconsin

Action Item(s):

- A thesis was completed in regard to this issue; Mark Rickenbach will forward the thesis to the Council electronically.
- Fred Souba is going to analyze all of the presentations to eliminate any potential duplication within the Forest Practices study.

Ben Brancel, Department of Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) gave a brief introduction and discussed how DATCP works with DNR. DATCP is responsible for marketing products, both domestically and internationally. They are currently working on the creation of a new video focused on forestry and lumber. Brancel stated he feels there is an opportunity in Asia for marketing wood products. He also discussed the possibility of using the rail system however acknowledged and understood the need for rail repairs.

Marla Eddy, Madison City Forester discussed a new organization titled Wisconsin Urban Wood Partners and presented Chair Schienebeck a partnership plaque.

Oak Wilt Guideline Review

Rebecca Gray

Rebecca Gray gave an update on the review of Wisconsin's Oak Harvesting Guidelines Scoping document. The guideline review builds on the work completed in the initial development of the guidelines. The review process includes expert review and stakeholder advisory committee input and approval. The review is expected to be completed by June 2015.

The objective is to provide guidance to forest resource managers, loggers, equipment operators, contractors, and landowners in Wisconsin. The guidelines will facilitate operational analysis and inform decision-making regarding the harvest of oak. The guidelines will provide a tool to enable sustainable

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forest management. The hope is to increase flexibility while maintaining the productivity of the oak resource.

The initial review will be conducted by two sub-committees, Science and Economics & Implementation, comprised of researchers, industry representatives and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff using best available information, results of recent research projects, and experience in implementing the guidelines. Gathered information will be given to the Technical Team who will develop recommendations to maintain or modify the guidelines in light of information gathered in review.

Recommendations will then be brought to the stakeholder Advisory Committee. After review and approval by the Advisory Committee, the guidelines will go through the standard public review process of the WDNR, and then be finalized and implemented. In the event the committee is unable to reach consensus on some issues, those issues will be brought to the Chief State Forester for a decision.

Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT)

Doug Brown

Doug Brown gave an update on the newly developed SGT and the progress the team has made to date. There are currently 15 members of the SGT however in 2015, when the terms for the Paper and Pulp industry, Sawtimber Industry, and the Small Woodland Landowner expire; those interests will only have one representative each moving forward. This will result in a charter of ten team SGT members. The team is scheduled to meet quarterly and is making tremendous progress on reviewing chapters. The Jack Pine and Red Maple are currently under review with Red Pine ready for public comment within the next week.

The following recommendations were proposed:

- Include SGT members on Ad-Hoc teams for Silviculture Handbook chapters
- Add a member with forest ecology focus to round out SGT membership
- Continue to provide opportunity for field days with SGT meetings to discuss issues in the field

Biomass Harvesting Guidelines

Carmen Hardin

[Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines \(Attachment\)](#)

Carmen Hardin presented to the Council Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines field manual (link above) and asked for comments on the text found in the field manual. The field manual was updated by the BHG technical team and reviewed by Jane Severt, Don Peterson, Steve Probst, and Bob Hanson.

Action Item(s):

- Council on Forestry members are to review the attached field manual and share any comments or concerns that they may have regarding the text with Carmen Hardin by October 10, 2014.

State Forester's Report

Paul DeLong

[Master Logger Incentives \(Don Peterson\)](#)

[Master Logger Certification \(Presentation\)](#)

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Paul asked the Council to provide input to DNR on the possibility of the State offering incentives to Master Loggers and what those incentives should consist of. Don Peterson provided the Council with information on the current Green Tier certified Master Logger program and asked the Council on Forestry DNR is considering offering incentives as it believes more good loggers would become Master loggers if tangible incentives were provided for those who make the investment in the program.

Action Item(s):

- Paul will send the proposal document out to the rest of the Council and ask for feedback
- Don will send the Council his PowerPoint which will accompany Paul's email

Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB)

- Paul updated the Council on deliberations regarding the proposed listing of the NLEB. The DNR is participating in a forum in St. Paul at the end of September along with more than 30 other states and the USFWS. Several other forums are being held, involving affected stakeholders. The Department will keep the Council informed about its work and encourages active engagement by Council members.

FY13-15 Budget

[2015-17 Biennial Budget-Board Version \(Attachment\)](#)

Paul gave an update on the current status of the budget and indicated no GPR increases had been requested however there will be a decrease of 1 FTE in the department's allotments. DNR's Forestry request consisted of on-going maintenance costs, including facilities, fuel, computers, and data recorders. Other issues are under consideration by the Governor's office for possible inclusion in the budget.

Action Item(s)

- Jane would like to see an audit of the Forestry mill tax account performed as one has not been completed since 2002.
- Paul will send out details to the Council regarding the Forestry account as a whole and how much of that is from Forestry Mill Tax.

Council's Biennial Report

- Paul will be bringing a draft report to the Council in November and will ask the Council to also review the template to create a more simplified version in statute.
- A final document will be available for the January meeting.

Deer research

- Paul will send an email to the Council regarding deer research due to lack of a quorum.

Legislative Updates

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Rep. Mursau - All of the bills presented last year are being redrafted and will be re-introduced including MFL. It is suggested the Council be prepared to discuss MFL recommendations at the November meeting and be prepared to address a letter to the Governor following the meeting.

Forest Practices Study

Fred Souba

[Forest Practices Study \(Presentation\)](#)

Fred Souba presented an update on the project and provided background on RFP 2.0. Proposals are due in October 2014 with proposals being selected for negotiation and funding November 2014. In addition, a draft report that succinctly communicates an assessment of this forest-related factor, and how it is likely to enhance or impede Wisconsin's ability to attract investment in primary forest-based manufacturing facilities due November 30, 2014. A final report will be complete December 31, 2014.

[Decision Item\(s\):](#)

- Council agreed to move forward with RFP 2.0

Future Agenda Item

A roundtable with Senator Johnson and other congressional members will be conducted (Council members included) before year-end.

Next Meeting – November 13th @ Grand Lodge, Rothschild, WI

- Agenda Items
 - Young Forest Initiative
 - Managed Forest Law (MFL)
 - Council's Biennial Report
 - Update COF Research priorities - develop process for Council to do this

Adjourned 3:55 PM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Terrisa Mulder, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources