

Council on Forestry Meeting
Packaging Corporation of America – WMB Training Center
W6147 Highway 86, Tomahawk, WI
November 12, 2013

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, Richard Wedepohl, Virgil Waugh, and Bruce Allison

Council Members Absent: Rep. Fred Clark, Rep. Jeff Mursau, Sen. Tom Tiffany, and Mark Rickenbach

Guests Present: Gary Knuth, Darrell Zastrow, Allison Hellman, Fred Souba, Scott Bowe (for Mark Rickenbach), Nancy Bozek, Don Peterson

Chair Schienebeck called the meeting to order at 9:10 am with introductions of Council members and guests present.

Meeting Minutes

Council Research Project (Confidential)

Henry/Jane/Darrell

Henry presented a draft “Proposal for Consideration by Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance,” prepared by The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) and Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA). Currently, budget aspects for the study plan are being developed and details should be available by November 18, 2013. Once the draft has been finalized, it will be circulated among Council of Forestry (CoF) members one more time and then the proposal will be submitted to Wisconsin’s Joint Committee on Finance for review. GLTPA will manage the fiscal side of the grant and the proposal specifies the role of the CoF. Once the proposal receives approval by Wisconsin’s Joint Committee on Finance, implementation will begin with the first step being to establish an appropriate CoF Research Subcommittee. Once in place, the subcommittee will work on the sequencing of events which will then be submitted to the CoF for approval. Once approved, a timeline will be established for work to be completed. Research efforts will be completed through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

There is a two-year timeline for using the funds which begins immediately following approval by Wisconsin’s Joint Committee on Finance. The total amount being funded is \$300K per biennium.

Assignment(s):

- Council members should send in any additional comments to Darrell Zastrow, no later than 4:00 pm Thursday, November 14, 2013.

Economic Summit

Don Peterson

Currently 11 speakers have been secured for day 1 and 22 speakers on day 2. Breakout sessions will be made up of a 15 minute overview followed by 45 minutes of discussion. The goal is to end the sessions with a list of action items produced and ideas on how to move forward.

The Governor's Council on Forestry will be responsible for overseeing the Summit. Currently there are \$10K in sponsorships and an invite list of 240.

There will be a Council meeting immediately following the Summit on December 13th. The meeting will take place at the Concourse.

Assignment(s):

- Terrisa will discuss adding the Economic Summit details to the Council on Forestry website with Kirsten Held. Currently the 2003 information is still stated.

MFL Issue - Teams Population

Henry Schienebeck

Jane and Henry met with Matt Moroney to get direction on moving the three outstanding items forward. Darrell Zastrow participated in the meeting as well. Being that the Legislature is looking to put one bill through by the end of November with hearings in December, the timeframe for populating the teams is short. Paul indicated it is likely proposed legislation will be introduced and a hearing held in December. If there isn't consensus from the Council, these three issues will likely not be addressed. After further evaluation, it was determined that items 1&17 could be put together on one committee and 13 will remain separate. The committees will meet December 9th or 10th. Paul clarified the additional Stakeholder section was added to allow input from members that may not have representation on the Council.

Motion: Troy Brown made a motion to form two outside subcommittees (one for items 1&17 and one for item 13). Tom Hittle would give a 30 minute introduction to each subcommittee regarding the background behind the current council stance. Council members could be present for informational purposes but may not participate in the subcommittee discussion and will not advocate for any positions. Council members will delegate a person to sit on the subcommittee. The committee will need to provide a presentation to the CoF in January at which time the CoF will either accept, modify, or reject the recommendation. If the decision is made not to move the proposal forward, it will be dropped. Subcommittees will have one day to meet and come up with their proposals. Troy's motion was seconded by Tom Hittle. Motion approved.

Team Population discussion:

1&17 (Open/Close rates and Acreage) – Kim Quast will provide a name from Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF), Richard Wedepohl will provide a name from Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA); Troy Brown will provide a name from Lake States Lumber Association (LSLA); Henry Schienebeck will provide a name from Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA), and Tom Hittle will provide a name from the large landowners group. Henry will contact George Meyer of

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF), Rick Staldeman from the Towns Associations, John Gilbert from Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), and the Farm Bureau for participants.

13 (Large Landowner Allowable Harvest) - Kim Quast will provide a name from Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF), Richard Wedepohl will provide a name from Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA); Troy Brown will provide a name from Lake States Lumber Association (LSLA), Jim Hoppe will provide a name from the pulp and paper industry, and Tom Hittle will provide a name from the large landowners group. Henry will contact Rick Stadelman from the Towns Association, and representatives from Tribal Lands (Stockbridge-Munsee), and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Assignment(s):

- Allison will work with the leads (Tom Hittle and Kim Quast) to get out invitations.
- Allison and Terrisa will work on logistics for both meetings including venue selection with a focus on Stevens Point or Wausau.

MFL Efficiencies

Teague Prichard

Teague gave a brief update on the various comments received regarding the MFL Efficiencies document presented at the last meeting. The hand out contained approximately 25-30 comments equally split between internal DNR staff and external constituents.

It was stated the perception exists that there may be efficiencies gained within the department through proposed changes, however the changes may not necessarily benefit the land owner or Consulting Forester. To some, it appears to be no less work rather a shifting of duties.

FY2015-17 Budget Priorities

Paul DeLong

It was stated the economic summit may help with this process to determine priorities. Paul will bring this back to the Council in 2014 as the process moves forward.

Agenda Item:

- This will be brought back to the January Council Meeting for discussion. Richard would like to see a summary of expenditures (similar to that provided in March 2013).

State Forester Report

Paul DeLong

MFL – Legislation and hearing information will be distributed to Council as soon as it is released. The legislation will likely be a long document with many cross references.

MFL open lands associated with mining – Original bill was introduced and a hearing completed. A subsequent bill was then passed last week with stricter closing regulations. Clarification – if the land is being actively mined, the land must be withdrawn from MFL. This would be done at the time a permit to mine is applied for.

Press re: Secure Rural Schools – Additional money provided from the Forestry account. This was done through the budget process.

Position Cuts (DNR) –The state budget cuts 32 positions from DNR, 150 across all agencies. DNR is currently identifying those positions that will be affected. It appears Forestry will be cutting 2.5 positions however the actual positions have not been determined at this time. Forestry has approx. 45 vacant positions or a 10% vacancy rate.

Federal – Farm bill is moving again. The Farm Bill will revert to the 1949 law if it is not addressed before December 31st. Senate and House are moving forward, however, whether they will reach a new five year deal or something short-term is still unknown. There are a number of DNR programs that receive funding through this bill.

Positions – DNR recently announced that it will hire another group or class of Foresters and Technicians. Also announced were four Forest Products Service Specialist positions, an Urban Forestry Coordinator position, and a Forest Health Coordinator position in the Northern Region. In response to a question Paul clarified that the “Enterprise Agency” designation for DNR did not affect hiring; it did however affect vehicles and facilities.

State Land – Stewardship package calls for the state to sell 10,000 acres of state land. There are discussions in place regarding land the state currently owns. The criteria for land sales are currently out for comment on the DNR website. Money from state land sales will offset stewardship bonding debt (general fund).

MFL Legislation – There are a number of current property owners in violation of the law. They department has sent them letters giving them the option to withdraw and pay the penalties this year or wait until the new law is put in place. They have been given until December 2013 to make a decision. It is unknown whether the new law will help or hurt them but the department felt it important to give the landowner the choice given the efforts in place to modify a number of provisions within the law.

Upcoming Meeting(s)

December 13, 2014 (following Summit) – 12:00 – 4:00 pm

January 24, 2014 – Confirmed with Legislators

March 25, 2014 – Confirmed with Legislators

May 22, 2014

July 24, 2014

September 17-18, 2014 (summer tour)

November 13, 2014

Meeting adjourned @ 2:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Terrisa Mulder, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources