

**Wisconsin Council on Forestry Meeting Minutes**  
**Holiday Inn Madison**  
**Thursday, January 31, 2013 – Friday, February 1, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Troy Brown, Rep. Fred Clark (Friday Only), Matt Dallman, Paul DeLong, Jim Hoppe, Jim Kerkman, Kim Quast, Mark Rickenbach, Henry Schienebeck, Jane Severt, Rep. Jeff Mursau, Richard Wedepohl, and Karl Welch (For Paul Strong)

**Members Absent:**

Bruce Allison, Randy Champeau and Virgil Waugh

**Guests Present:**

Gunnar Bergerson, Nancy Bozek, Sara Bredesen, Mary Brown, Mike Carlson, Kathryn Fernholz, Ellen Geisler, Rebecca Gray, Earl Gustafson, Allison Hellman, Mark Heyde, Tom Hittle, Andrew L'Roe, Marcie Marquardt, Bob Mather, Gerry Mich, E.G. Nadeau, Kathy Nelson, Tia Nelson, Nicole Potvin, Greg Rebman, Kyoko Scanlon, Fred Souba, Jr., and Darrell Zastrow

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Chair Schienebeck called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Introductions were made by meeting attendees.

**Annosum Guidelines:**

Kyoko Scanlon gave a presentation on the current infestation of Annosum and the critical options in Wisconsin. The *Annosum Root Rot Treatment Guidelines for State Lands* were reviewed. Kyoko noted that the winter exemption was implemented in November. The Council reviewed the guidelines and the recommendations made by the committee regarding the six items of concern, and discussed the implementation of the guidelines.

**Decision Item(s)**

- Following discussion, the Council agreed upon the following recommendations for each item of concern:
  - Issue #1 – When to implement the guide
    - Option A: As soon as possible in 2013
  - Issue #2 – Distance from a known stand
    - Option B: 25 miles
  - Issue #3 – Guide for winter exemption
    - Option D: No treatment required December 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Issue #4 – Which tree species
    - Option B: All pines
  - Issue #5 – Concentration / Density
    - Option B: 50% of pine component in a stand
      - The Council asked that the language be clarified so that it is better understood.
  - Issue #6 – Grace period for implementation
    - Option B: One year grace period

Decision: Paul DeLong agreed that the introduction will include reference to the state's expectation that it, as the landowner, will bear the cost for treatment (through lower stumpage

payments) as the purpose is to ensure the long-term benefits from the pine resource both on state lands and other lands in Wisconsin.



Annosum COF  
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### **MFL Streamlining:**

Paul DeLong introduced Katie Fernholz who gave a presentation on MFL Streamlining and the assessment prepared by Dovetail Partners. The assessment outlined goals and recommendations related to WisFIRS, task efficiencies, roles and responsibilities, communications and system stabilities. Council Members asked questions about the various components and recommendations, and the potential next steps.

#### Decision Item(s):

- The Council agreed to form a committee charged with continuing discussion on these items and determining how to proceed and where the greatest benefits may lie. The following individuals agreed to serve on the committee:
  - Kim Quast, Mark Rickenbach and either Richard Wedepohl or Nancy Bozek, along with a DNR representative appointed by Paul DeLong.
- The Council asked DNR to frame out the details of what would be involved in expediting WisFIRS.



MFLPresentationFIN  
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### **2013 Meeting Dates:**

Council Members discussed meeting on a bi-monthly basis. Potential meeting dates were reviewed. Whether there was enough time for the various sub-committees to meet and work between the council meetings was mentioned as a concern. However, the workload of the council was compelling enough to suggest the need for more frequent meetings.

#### Decision Item(s):

- Following discussion, Chairman Schienebeck announced that the following Council meeting dates be scheduled in 2013: March 19<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>, September 17<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup>. Additional meetings will be scheduled if needed. It was recommended by Rep. Clark that a tour be scheduled at Aldo Leopold the day prior to either the July or September meeting.

### **State Forester's Report:**

**FY 13-15 Budget Update:** Paul DeLong gave an update on the status of the 2013-15 biennial budget, and discussed the standing of the current Forestry account budget, revenue and expenditures. The account currently has expenditures that exceed revenues, however, there is a carryover balance that ensures the account will not be in the red in FY'13 and, based on a "cost to continue" budget, in FY'14. The projections suggest the account will be close to zero in FY'15. The decisions made as part of the FY'13-15 budget will have a bearing on the account's status in the upcoming biennium. The Governor is set to release his budget on February 20, following which the legislature will begin work on it.

**Timber Report:** Paul distributed a spreadsheet showing the sales volume for timber and discussed the sales trends that appear in the report. The department set a new high for acres of timber sales established in 2012.



State Land Timber  
Sales.pdf

**Forest Economic Summit:** Paul revived his proposal that the Council agree to sponsor a Forest Economic Summit before the end of 2013. A member pointed out that we might learn from what Agriculture recently did that is in line with this idea. There was support expressed for this idea and an agreement to bring a specific proposal to the March meeting.

**Letter of Support:**

Jim Kerkman reported that he sits on the Council for Invasive Species. In preparation for Invasive Species Awareness Month, Jim is requesting that a letter be sent from the Council endorsing a grant request for funding for promotional activities. He noted that forestry issues will be the focus of the Invasive Species Council in 2014.

**Action Item(s):**

- Following discussion, the Council agreed to move forward with the letter of endorsement. Jim will forward the letter to Marcie Marquardt to email to the Council to review.

**Presentation:**

Chairman Schienebeck and Fred Souba, Jr. presented Mary Brown a gift on behalf of the council in appreciation for her years of service to the Council.

**Proposed Research on Costs and Benefits of Forest Policies:**

Chairman Schienebeck reported on a meeting with Matt Moroney and Paul DeLong during which researching the cumulative effects of policy changes, updates, and implementation on Wisconsin's Forest Products Industry was discussed. Alan Lucier was contacted regarding potential research projects. Alan Lucier joined the Council by phone and gave a presentation on potential research projects which would look at the cumulative effects of policies on the timber industry. He presented a proposal on researching the capacity of Wisconsin's working forestry and timber productivity, and the economic and ecological consequences of regulations and guidelines. The Council discussed the proposed projects and corresponding costs. Concerns were expressed about some aspects of how the situation in Wisconsin was portrayed in the paper provided to the Council. The Council discussed the need to do additional work to frame the issue further prior to a decision about how to proceed.

**Action Item(s):**

- A Committee was created to continue discussion on the list of priorities and to review the costs and benefits of moving forward with the proposed research. Committee members include Matt Dallman, Richard Wedepohl, Troy Brown, Mark Rickenbach, Paul Strong, someone from DNR assigned by Paul DeLong, and either Representative Mursau or Representative Clark.



### **Forest Certification Review:**

Mark Heyde gave a presentation on the forest certification review. He reported on the progress to date, the work of the committee, and the findings and benefits of the certification review. Mark noted that there is a gap in the scope of the document and gathered input from the Council.

#### Decision items:

- Section 10: Should the review team spend resources to investigate and summarize other organization's reviews?
  - Council decision – yes. The Council wishes to benefit from what has been learned elsewhere.
- Section 11: Should the review team spend resources to investigate and summarize the requirements for establishing a credible regional certification scheme?
  - Council decision – only to a limited degree. Other efforts to do this have not been successful. With limited resources should obtain feedback from MTE and Indiana regarding their past efforts.
- Section 12 – Should the team spend the resources to gather specific information about the importance of forest certification to Wisconsin companies?
  - Yes, this is an important component of this review. In assessing the options, it was reinforced that the evaluation should be conducted by a third party. The team was asked to assess how best to get this work done.

Questions were raised about cost. Paul pointed out that funds will have to be reallocated in order to do this work.

#### Action Item(s):

- The Council recommended that the steering committee communicate a proposal back to the Council for consideration on the gaps in the scope of the document and their recommendation for the next phase in this process.



### **Young Forest Initiative:**

Brad Hutnik and Scott Walter presented a report on the Young Forest Initiative. The initiative looks at the impact and connection between forest and wildlife management; and the difference between animals in young forests and mature forests. The goals of the program are to increase the quantity of young forests on private land, and the quality of young forests on public land. Council Members discussed how to best engage in this initiative.

#### Decision Item(s):

- Council Members discussed how to best engage in this initiative and agreed to continue discussion on the initiative.



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### **Silviculture Guideline Development Process Proposal:**

The Council discussed the development process for the Silviculture Guidelines. Paul noted that the guidelines have evolved over time and that there has been increasing interest by a number of partners to be involved more directly in the development of the guidelines. As a result, a proposal was prepared to expand involvement in the development and review of the guidelines.

#### **Decision Item(s):**

- Council Members expressed support for the approach outlined by Paul. The DNR will proceed to initiate implementation and a smooth transition with guideline work already in progress.

### **Legislative Report:**

Representative Mursau presented a legislative report. He relayed that they have been charged with reviewing the 1,600 administrative rules, which he notes may take several years. A website has been created to allow for public input in the process. He also touched on the mining bill, National Forest payments to schools, and wetland rules.

### **Adjourn:**

Chairman Schienebeck thanked everyone for their input and the productive discussion. He noted that the Managed Forest Law revisions will be the item of discussion during tomorrow's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

### **Reconvene:**

Chairman Schienebeck called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

### **Managed Forest Law Revisions:**

Richard Wedepohl presented a report on the issues identified by the Council Task Force on the Managed Forest Law and proposed revisions. Richard reviewed the taxes that are assessed different property owners based on land type, and the concerns that landowners may have signing up their lands for the MFL Program. Representative Clark discussed the revisions that were discussed and recommended by the 2010 Legislative Council Study Committee. Bob Mather reviewed a set of additional administrative revisions that were put together by the DNR for Council consideration.

Tom Hittle facilitated a discussion on the revisions, instructing each Council Member to select the top five revisions they support. A decision was made that Council members also identify what they believe are non-controversial administrative concerns in a separate category. Following review and discussion, the responses from the Council Members were compiled.

#### **Action Item(s)**

- The Council agreed to create a committee charged with reviewing the initial feedback from the Council. Tom Hittle will chair the committee. Other members include

Chairman Schienebeck, Representative Mursau, Representative Clark, Kim Quast, Richard Wedepohl, Troy Brown, and Bob Mather. Chairman Schienebeck recommended that a member from the Town's Association serve on the committee as well. The Department was asked to review the list of administrative concerns, and annotate the issues and implications within the next two weeks. The document will be reviewed by the Council and interested parties. The recommendations of the committee will be reviewed at a special meeting of the Council scheduled on April 22, 2013. Tom Hittle will schedule the committee meeting.



MFL Revisions for  
Consideration.doc



COF PRESENTATION  
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MFL Council of  
Forestry PP02\_01\_13

### **Next Meeting Date and Agenda:**

The Council will meet March 19<sup>th</sup> in Madison, WI if the legislature is in session, or in Stevens Point, WI.

Agenda items will include:

- Annosum Guidelines - Implementation
- MFL Streamlining Process – Committee
- Proposed Research on Costs and Benefits of Forest Policies - Committee
- Forest Certification Review
- Forest Economic Summit – Sponsorship
- Young Forest Initiative
- Managed Forest Law Revisions

### **Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marcie Marquardt

WI Dept. of Natural Resources