**COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING**

**Date:** 5/19/21

**Location:** Virtually via Zoom

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| **Council Members:** | | **Guests:** | | |
| Tom Hittle, *Chair* | Kenneth Price | Faye Bokelman, *DNR* | Ron Eckstein, Wildlife Soc. | Todd Pond, Alhstrom Munksjo |
| Matt Dallman, *Vice Chair* | Jordan Skiff | Rebecca Diebel, *DNR* | Stacey Johnson, WI Paper | Beckie Gaskill, Lakeland Times |
| Heather Berklund,  *Chief State Forester* | sub for Paul Strong: Matt St. Pierre | Sara Minkoff, DNR | Brian R. Lockhart, Hardwoods Silviculture | Johnathan Shears, American Forestry Foundation |
| Senator Janet Bewley | Jason Sjostrom | Tim Gary, DNR | Nels Hulse, MTE Wood | Dan Peterson, Mission Forestry |
| Representative Beth Meyers | William Van Lopik | Mike Warnke, DNR | Dean Bowe, Lincoln Co. | Matt Hansen, Chippewa LCFM |
| Representative Jeff Mursau | Michael Bolton | Nancy Bozek, WWOA | Richard Wedepohl | Matt Carothers, Besse Group |
| Henry Scheinebeck | Adena Rissman | Randy Cooper, WWOA | Gena Abramson, Bad River | Jeffrey Hanson, Alliant Energy |
| James Hoppe | Buddy Huffaker | Tony Johnson, UW | Cory Bruce, Mursau’s Office | Rick Horton & Bob Neeb |
| James Kerkman | Rebekah Luedtke | **Next Meeting:** July 21-22, 2021 | | |
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| **Agenda Item** | **Decisions** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Carbon 101 – What you need to know**   * Professor Matt Russell, Univ of MN |  |  |
| Matt Russell, Associate Professor/Extension Specialist for the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota, gave a presentation to the Council on emerging opportunities for forest carbon. The presentation included term definitions and information on the Forest Carbon Sequestration Cycle, carbon and forest management, carbon markets (*compliance vs. voluntary*), and carbon opportunities in 2021 and beyond. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Decisions** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Policy Updates: Round robin with regional forestry organizations:**  **SAF, FRA, MN Forest Industries** |  |  |
| * **Society of American Foresters (**[**SAF**](https://www.eforester.org/)**)**: Rebecca Barnard, *Chair of the Committee on Forest Policy*   Rebecca Barnard, Chair of the Committee on Forest Policy at the Society of American Foresters (SAF), gave a presentation to the Council on SAF’s policy priorities. The presentation included information on SAF (*mission/vision, governance structure/Board of Directors, and the Committee on Forest Policy*), it’s current priorities on forestry as a climate solution, job creator, and infrastructure, and SAF’s work toward it’s policies through appropriations, administration, and legislation.     * **Forest Resource Association (**[**FRA**](https://forestresources.org/)**)**: Tim O'Hara, *Vice President of Government Affairs*   Tim O'Hara, Vice President of Government Affairs at the Forest Resource Association (FRA), spoke to the Council on FRA’s policy priorities: transportation, labor, and biomass. He also highlighted FRA’s efforts toward these priorities through research, working with partners on legislation, and spreading information by the creation and release of videos on these topics.   * + [FRA Membership & Region Map](https://forestresources.org/images/FRA_MemberMap_Regions_20210401.bmp)   + [Wood Supply Chain Schematic](https://forestresources.org/wood-supply-chain-schematic)     - [Forest Supply Chain Video](https://vimeo.com/549621459) (*via Vimeo*)   + [Safe Routes Act](https://fraaction.mmp2.org/engage)     - [Safe Routes Act Video](https://forestresources.org/policy-priorities/policy-priorities/safe-routes/safe-routes-act-video)   + [Forestry Products Industry H-2B Video](https://forestresources.org/policy-priorities/policy-priorities/h-2b-reform/h-2b-s-importance-to-forest-products-industry)   + [Carbon Biomass Fact Sheets](https://forestresources.org/policy-priorities/carbon-fact-sheets) * **Minnesota Forest Industries (**[**MFI**](https://www.minnesotaforests.com/)**)**: Rick Horton, *Director of Forest Policy*   Rick Horton, Director of Forest Policy for Minnesota Forest Industries spoke to the Council about MFI and its current policy priorities. MFI is a trade organization for wood consuming mills in Minnesota and currently has 11 member companies. MFI advocates for the forest industry in Minnesota on both a state and national level. MFI’s current focus in on issues that affect the competitiveness of the forest industry in the state *(ex. labor, EAB, transportation, environmental permitting, mill closings, etc.*), emerging issues regarding carbon/biochar and climate change, and encouraging its national forests to increase their scale and pace of forest management. | | |