**COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING**

**Date:** 7-22-21

**Location:** Virtually via Zoom

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| **Council Members:** | | **Guests:** | | |
| Tom Hittle, *Chair* | Kenneth Price | Faye Bokelman, *DNR* | Ron Eckstein, *Wildlife Soc.* | Kris Tiles, *UW-Ext* |
| Matt Dallman, *Vice Chair* | Paul Strong | Rebecca Diebel, *DNR* | Richard Wedepohl, *Former CoF* | Phil Blake, *FR Data Net* |
| Heather Berklund, *State Frstr* | Jordan Skiff | Mike Warnke, *DNR* | Nancy Bozek, *WWOA* | Crystal Rohde, *NWRPC* |
| Senator Janet Bewley | Jason Sjostrom | Ram Dahal, *DNR* | Randy Cooper, *WWOA* |  |
| Senator Mary Felzkowski | William Van Lopik | Yellow Light Breen, *Pres* | Mike Gardner, *LCO Econ* |  |
| Representative Beth Meyers | Michael Bolton | Samuel Pratsch, *Prsntr* | Beckie Gaskill, *Reporter* |  |
| Representative Jeff Mursau | Adena Rissman | Christel Kern, *Presenter* | Kietra Olson, *WEDC* |  |
| Henry Scheinebeck | Buddy Huffaker |  | Devron Kobluk, *DKI* |  |
| James Hoppe | Rebekah Luedtke |  | Stamena Ivanov, *Sen. Felzkowski’s staff* | |
| James Kerkman | **Next Meeting:** Sept 15-16 (possible field tour) | | | |
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| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Council Business Updates** (*Chair Hittle*)   * Sept meeting planning: field day * Update on Direct Sale Minimum Bid statute change * Biennial Report Update |  | * **Jim Kirkman** & **Bill VanLopik**: work with Faye Bokelman and Rebecca Diebel to plan the September CoF field day event. * **Council members**: send any field day location suggestions to Tom and Matt. |
| **September CoF Meeting Planning - Field Da**y:  The Council would like to continue to have an in-person field day this year but will keep the CoF meeting virtual. Jim Kirkman and Bill VanLopik will work with Faye Bokelman and Rebecca Diebel to plan the event. Council members should send any field day location suggestions to Tom and Matt.  **Update on Direct Sale Minimum Bid Statute Change**:  The bill is in an early draft stage. Tom will bring it back to the Council for review when it is in a more finalized stage.  **Biennial Report Update**:  The report showed up on several external partner pages and received many positive comments. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Maine's Experience Building a Forest Opportunity Roadmap**  Presenter: Yellow Light Breen, Maine Development Foundation  **Regional Economic Diversification (RED) Summit Update**  Presenter: Samuel Pratsch, UW-Extension |  |  |
| **Maine's Experience Building a Forest Opportunity Roadmap:**  The Council on Forestry has been charged with managing the roadmap planning process with WEDC and external partners. Maine has already completed this process, so CoF is hoping to learn from their experience.  Yellow Light Breen, President & CEO of the Maine Development Foundation, spoke to the Council on Maine’s experience building a Forest Opportunity Roadmap. Starting in 2014, the price of lumber dropped and mills in Maine began to be shuttered. Four trade associations, NGO’s, and other industry and local stakeholders decided that they needed a roadmap for the future of forest products in Maine.  Maine worked with Indufor, a Scandinavian company, to gather data and solicit a global perspective for the project. After analysis, findings included:   * Labor input should be low/reasonable * Must provide good paying jobs in rural Maine * It is important to find an outlet for soft woods and residuals * There needs to be diversification within and around the industry in rural areas * Work in concert with new business attractions * Sustainable impact on forest management and wood supply * Tap into the global bio economy   Strategic planning was done by four to six key subcommittees working at the same time with subject matter experts as members.   * FOR/Maine website: <https://formaine.org/> * The roadmap For/Maine created in 2018 was based on a US EDA partnership process: [https://formaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FORMaine\_Report\_DL\_041119.pdf](https://secure-web.cisco.com/1A32l3mZ0fK_QLd3Qi6cBIXxLdRLA6XbtfEjKpqWglj9EdcaATbIafKSYyhx1wPZWoGIPREJKvUJmxakaTkR_cFsajizowkIP92AdUPC3UEzYRHhaV3wX9ZfEhMN72_piLvrDmHY8qIILW_zA7eB-qNVR9DdpbEzdTZrvTSYY_iDt08SAJJcv6sN_pJnhjsd76oLWtiZQdunZHPCAKJY_WoRwlDf6KYIPJR3ZtD-KPoZ1aQebaR21B5X2jfjwVAjC2tEQJNhrYcKT3VwuVkkRb2IoH8IkoZc6yV13pIJt282qSsLFVyUauTOv-82KB_gG0A1TuPeywZ873h7YUzrJtg/https%3A%2F%2Fformaine.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F09%2FFORMaine_Report_DL_041119.pdf) * 2021 For/Maine Statewide Summit: [https://formaine.org/for-me-summit-2021/](https://secure-web.cisco.com/14Vj828yl7SSkV91GEY2MpV5IKLtgOG6m9azv6K0Fdh2HLONFPP0R-sy90qx7PW3jSI2-8_qRyGcd4Yd2xhGCj3lgdJmPb3SU5-BpT0gnj0SATQNObvB-ttXlZCt6O7A7qM87aQwNmgcNMjuwVEx6fC7hj3wkbjQUjQIHA9449QCy_zNTcc1ZfvpZFof1NAWqsgLAvJvOIv8nLmKM0ZIYVyhjjkvb57bhOZS27nJyKHdKaH8U-JTg3RKGPiNFMScxrUL6DH-0y4kxo1TMZUnDInAj6DYAvddAajgqWGy_jaSjxkgOq41Jvo2-t8T9Ieh3XAOFvozPZb52PE2Zond-PA/https%3A%2F%2Fformaine.org%2Ffor-me-summit-2021%2F)   **Regional Economic Diversification (RED) Summit Update:**  Samuel Pratsch of UW-Extension updated the Council on the results of the REDS Summit. The summit consisted of three main listening sessions and eleven specialized breakout sessions. Lots of feedback was gathered at these sessions.  In order to analyze the data, UW-Extension will be holding a “data jam”, which is a participatory data analysis activity with partners. The jam will be held via a 2-hour Zoom session during the first or third week of August (*based on attendee availability*). If Council members are interested in joining the data jam, they should contact Tom, Matt, or Sam directly.  The data will be sorted into five main themes:   1. What’s working well 2. Potential threats/concerns/challenges 3. Success of the industry in WI 4. Opportunities for the growth of the forest industry/forest-based economy 5. What's the way forward for the forest industry   Sam hopes to be able to share preliminary analysis results with the Council at their September meeting. | | |
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| **Silviculture Guidance Team: Climate Chapter** |  |  |
| The DNR’s Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT) asked the Council’s Sound Forestry and Policy Committee to comment on where climate change adaptation and carbon mitigation should go in the Silviculture Handbook.  The Committee will recommend:   * The template for cover types should be changed to allow for sections on climate change adaptation and carbon mitigation. * A separate chapter that summarizes climate change considerations for adaptation and mitigation. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Legislator updates**: |  |  |
| Representative Mursau’s office received a draft of the Direct Sale Minimum Bid statute change (from $3,000 to $10,000) and sent it out to involved persons for review. | | |
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| **Council Profile Committee: Communications** |  |  |
| The first item on the communication workplan is to create a fact sheet on the Council that can be posted to the website and sent to outside parties as an intro. The Council Profile Committee created a draft CoF fact sheet and are requesting feedback from members. Edits suggested by CoF members included adding color and the CoF logo to make the sheet more eye-catching. The team will make the recommended changes and bring the document back to next CoF meeting for final approval. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Northern Hardwood Conference: Take-aways and Synopsis**  Presenter: Christel Kern, USFS |  |  |
| Christel Kern of USFS spoke to the Council about the 2021 Northern Hardwood Conference. Her presentation covered the conference purpose, logistical data, schedule/agenda, and event partners/sponsors. Also discussed were the NHC challenge categories identified by conference attendees, knowledge exchange (*via round table of experts, podcast, journal articles, and conference online content*), and 2021 NHC participant feedback. Christel further provided the Council with the preliminary details for the 2022 Northern Hardwood Conference. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **State Forester Updates** |  |  |
| Heather Berklund, Chief State Forester, gave CoF updates on Forestry’s nursery/reforestation team, Trillion Trees Initiative, strategic direction, GNA public forum, filling of vacant Forestry positions, new SGT members, fire suppression, and Forestry tax law.  Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, gave CoF updates of CNNF’s pandemic response, FY21 timber program and forest health, and wildfire suppression support. | | |