

COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING

Date: 09/16/21

Location: Virtually via Zoom

Council Members:			Guests:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Hittle, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Price	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebekah Luedtke	Faye Bokelman, <i>DNR</i>	Richard Wedepohl, <i>Former CoF</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Dallman, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Strong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Rantala	Rebecca Diebel, <i>DNR</i>	Tony Johnson, <i>UW-Extension</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Berklund, <i>Chief State Forester</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff		Stacy Johnson, <i>WI Paper Council</i>	Stamena Ivanov, <i>Felzkowski Aide</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Janet Bewley	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Sjostrom		Marcy West, <i>WEDC</i>	Ryan VanLanduyt - <i>Bewley Aide</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Mary Felzkowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Van Lopik		Kietra Olson, <i>WEDC</i>	Cory Bruce, <i>Mursau Aide</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Beth Meyers	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Bolton		Paul Fowler, <i>UWSP</i>	Beckie Gaskill, <i>Lakeland Times</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	<input type="checkbox"/> Adena Rissman		Samuel Pratsch, <i>UW-Ext</i>	Ron Eckstein, <i>Wildlife Soc.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Scheinebeck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buddy Huffaker		Mike Warnke, <i>DNR</i>	Julie Church, <i>DNR</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Hoppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Kerkman		Next Meeting: November 17 & 18, 2021	

Agenda Item	Materials	Assignments/Follow Up
Field Tour Debrief	9-15-21 Field Tour Agenda	
<p>Yesterday, members of the Council on Forestry were in the field in Adams and Wood counties to learn about forest management in the area in relation to changing land uses. See the attached agenda for details on the speakers and locations visited.</p>		
<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to new Council member, Erik Rantala, with Kretz Lumber. He will represent the interests of the lumber industry. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Kerkman: investigate whether the State Historical Society would be willing to archive the CoF meeting recordings after a year when they are scheduled to be deleted from CoF's website due to space limitations Paul Strong: investigate grant opportunities for the forest industry related to the federal infrastructure bill (types of opportunities, application process) and bring the information back to the Council

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Kerkman & Heather Berklund: investigate if SAF or the DNR has any information that could assist with the creation of a glossary of forestry terms and acronyms
<p>Regional Economic Diversification Update and Strategic Road Map Discussion</p> <p>Presenters: Marcy West (<i>WEDC</i>), Stacy Johnson (<i>WI Paper Council</i>), Paul Fowler (<i>UWSP</i>), and Samuel Pratsch (<i>UW Extension</i>)</p>	<p>WI Forestry Opportunities</p> <p>Possible WI Forest Industry Projects for Build Back Better Regional Challenge</p>	<p>Tom Hittle: issue an email to CoF members to gather volunteers for the REDS listening session report review</p>
<p>Marcy West from WEDC, Stacy Johnson from the WI Paper Council, Paul Fowler from UWSP, and Samuel Pratsch from UW Extension gave the Council an update on the outcome of the Council’s listening sessions, presented the projects proposed for submission to the American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge, and discussed the broader Strategic Road Map effort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The listening sessions went well. Sam and UW-Extension (UW-Ext) are almost finished compiling all the feedback from the listening sessions – their preliminary findings can be found in the WI Forest Opportunities document. Once all feedback has been recorded, UW-Ext will create a draft report explaining the findings and would like members of CoF to help review the draft. Tom will issue an email to CoF members to gather volunteers for the draft review. • The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has issued the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) which is designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks. In Phase 1, 50-60 regional coalitions of partnering entities will be awarded ~\$500,000 in technical assistance funds to develop and support three to eight projects to grow a regional growth cluster. In Phase 2, EDA will award 20-30 regional coalitions \$25 million to \$75 million, and up to \$100 million, to implement those projects. The deadline for Phase 1 submission is 10/19/21. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A portfolio of proposed projects that would be eligible for the BBBRC. They came to CoF for feedback and are seeking support for the BBBRC submission. ○ The Council supports the submission of the portfolio projects to the EDA for BBBRC. • Any ideas that come out of the listening sessions that don’t align with REDS could be part of a Strategic Road Map effort. The Council discussed what would be necessary to ensure that a Strategic Road Map is successful, works for the entire industry, and can survive into future years. 		
<p>Council Profile Committee – Work Plan</p> <p>Presenter: Kerkman, Van Lopik</p>	<p>Council on Forestry Factsheet</p>	<p>Profile Committee: make the edits suggested by the Council and send the document to Tom and Matt for final approval. Committee will bring work plan for Council review in November.</p>

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<p>Earlier in the year, the Council Profile Committee was tasked with creating a one-page fact sheet that could be used as an introduction to the Council and its work and used with letters the Council sends. At the last CoF meeting, the Council discussed the draft fact sheet brought by the committee and suggested several edits. The committee made those edits and brought the document back to this meeting for further Council review and approval.</p> <p>The Council discussed the document and suggested several additional edits. A motion was made by Jim Kerkman to approve the CoF logo on the document and to approve the committee making the suggested edits and sending the document to Tom and Matt for approval without a final review by the Council. The motion was seconded by Buddy Huffaker and passed with unanimous approval.</p> <p>The CoF fact sheet will be posted to the Council’s website after approval.</p>		
<p>Direct Sale Bid Legislation</p> <p>Presenter: Legislators, Luedtke</p>	<p>Timber Sale Bill 21-4628</p>	<p>Tom Hittle & Matt Dallman: edit the previously drafted letter in support of the updated direct sale bid legislation and send it to Rep. Mursau’s office so it can be circulated throughout the Legislature prior to the 9/21 sponsorship end date</p>
<p>Earlier this year, CoF approved seeking to raise the direct sale bid statute from a \$3,000 limit to a \$10,000 and/or 500 cord equivalents limit. Representative Mursau’s office drafted the bill and it is currently out for sponsorship until 9/21/21. As well as the CoF member legislators, there are currently 7-8 other legislators (bipartisan) signed up to sponsor the bill. Rep. Mursau’s office believes that a letter of support from CoF may help bolster support for the bill.</p> <p>Due to the short timeline, a motion was made by Senator Bewley to approve Tom and Matt editing a previously drafted letter in support of the bill (<i>that was never sent</i>) and forwarding the updated letter to Rep. Mursau’s office without a final review by the Council. The motion was seconded by Jordan Skiff and passed with unanimous approval. Due to their position as authors of the bill, all CoF legislative members will abstain from signing the letter.</p> <p>The Council’s letter will be circulated throughout the Legislature by Rep. Mursau’s office.</p>		
<p>Legislative Updates</p>		
<p>The Legislative members present, Senator Bewley and Representative Meyers, did not have any forestry related legislative updates.</p>		

Agenda Item	Materials	Assignments/Follow Up
State Forester Updates	CNNF Forest Service Report	
<p>Heather Berklund, Chief State Forester, gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Committee on Finance approved acquisition of 12,497 acres of working forest conservation easement from The Conservation Fund in the amount of \$4,707,500 from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship program. • State and county forests went through an audit in September with FSC and SFI and only preliminary results at this time. MFL Certified Group was audited in August by ATFS and FSC. • The Division has been working on developing recommendations for our next Strategic Direction. In June, we sent a survey out to staff and partners asking for input on the division’s role – how can we best define our niche within the broader forestry community. During the month of September, the Division’s Strategic Leadership team will be reviewing and deliberating recommendations and developing a draft of our next Strategic Direction. This draft will go out to partners and staff in late fall. • On September 13, the Division and CNNF held a public forum to hear stakeholder’s perspectives on Program Revenue Projects and discuss potential new projects. 20 participants representing local towns, counties, industry, conservation orgs, and agencies. Notes from the forum will be posted on the GNA website. <p>Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, gave CoF updates on the status of the FY21 timber program, the Environmental Assessment on Oak Wilt Management on the CNNF, and wildfire suppression support.</p>		