**COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING**

**Date:** January 23, 2020

**Location:** DNR Building, Room G09

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| **Council Members:** | | **Guests:** | |
| Tom Hittle, *Chair* | Kenneth Price | Faye Bokelman, *DNR* | Ron Eckstein, *Wildlife Society* |
| Matt Dallman, *Vice Chair* | Paul Strong | Rebecca Diebel, *DNR* | Steve Ring, WI Woodland Owners Association |
| Mike Warnke, *sub Chief State Forester* | Jordan Skiff | Heather Berklund, *DNR* | Andy Hart, NRCS/USDA |
| Senator Janet Bewley (*in 1:00)* | Jason Sjostrom | Amanda Koch, *DNR* | Mike Goodman |
| Senator Tom Tiffany | William Van Lopik | Beth Bier, *DNR* | Richard Wedepohl |
| Representative Beth Meyers (*out 10:40)* | Gary Halpin | RJ Wickham, *DNR* |  |
| Representative Jeff Mursau (*in 12:30)* | Michael Bolton |  |  |
| Henry Scheinebeck | Adena Rissman |  |  |
| James Hoppe | Buddy Huffaker |  |  |
| James Kerkman | Rebekah Luedtke | **Next Meeting:** March 25, 2020 – location TBD | |
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| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| * **Welcome** - *Chair Hittle* * **Opening Remarks** - *Beth Bier, DNR Deputy Secretary* * **Recognition of previous Council members** – *Chair Hittle* |  |  |
| Council Chair, Tom Hittle, welcomed the new members to the Council on Forestry.  DNR Deputy Secretary, Beth Bier, gave opening remarks on behalf of the DNR Secretary’s office. She thanked the Council members for their time and efforts and expressed that their guidance will assist the DNR in making good decisions regarding the issues forestry faces in the state. She assured the Council that it is a priority for DNR Secretary, Preston Cole, to fill the Chief State Forester position - recently vacant due to Fred Souba’s retirement. The DNR plans to undertake an open nationwide search for the best candidate and will inform the Council when the position has been posted.  Chair Hittle recognized former Council member, Richard Wedepohl, for his 8 years of service working with and for private landowners in Wisconsin. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Member Introductions** |  |  |
| Each Council member introduced themselves and shared what statutory position they held on the Council, what organization they represent, and why they were excited to be a member of the Council.   * **Tom Hittle**: Chair of the Council on Forestry, Forest Products Companies That Manage Forest Land Representative, Steigerwaldt Land Services * **Matt Dallman**: Vice-Chair of the Council on Forestry, Nonprofit Conservation Organization Representative, The Nature Conservancy * **Henry Schienebeck**: Timber Producers Representative, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association * **William Van Lopik**: Conservation Education Representative, ESTHER-Fox Valley & College of Menominee Nation * **Beth Meyers** (*Representative*): Assembly Representative, Assembly District 74 * **Jeff Mursau** (*Representative*): Assembly Representative, Assembly District 36 * **Janet Bewley** (*Senator*): Senate Representative, Senate District 25 * **Tom Tiffany** (*Senator*): Senate Representative, Senate District 12 * **James Hoppe**: Paper and Pulp Indust​ry Representative, Packaging Corporation of America * **James Kerkman**: Society of American Foresters Representative, Society of American Foresters * **Ken Price**: Consulting Forester Representative, Valley View Forestry * **Jordan Skiff**: Urban and Community Forestry Representative, City of Fond du Lac * **Paul Strong**: Federal Department of Agriculture Representative, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest * **Jason Sjostrom**: Secondary Wood Users Representative, Sjostrom Construction * **Gary Halpin**: Lumber Industry Representative, Riverside Sawmill * **Michael Bolton**: Forest Industry Labor Union Representative, United Steel Workers * **Adena Rissman**: Schools of Forestry Representative, UW-Madison * **Buddy Huffaker**: Non-industrial Private Forest Land Owners Representative, Aldo Leopold Foundation * **Rebekah Luedtke**: County Forests Representative, WI County Forests Association * **Mike Warnke**: Interim Chief State Forester Representative, WI DNR | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Council on Forestry Operations**  **Presenter:** *Chair Hittle, Vice-Chair Dallman* |  | * **Bokelman:** create and send a contact sheet with email addresses and phone numbers to Council members * **Hittle:** send the 2012 version of the operational guidelines document to the Council |
| Chair Hittle informed members that the Council on Forestry was created by a state statute: Chapter 26.2 to advise the Governor, the Legislature, the DNR, and other state agencies. This statute outlines the duties of the Council and the contents of a mandatory biennial status report to the Legislature. Chapter 15.347 (19) further details the Council membership, leadership, and meeting details.  Chair Hittle also reviewed the Council rules regarding member attendance and responsibilities, quorum, the decision-making process, reimbursement, and meeting administration. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Council Strategic Vision & Goals Intro**  **Presenter:** *Chair Hittle, Vice-Chair Dallman* |  |  |
| The Council will conduct a strategic planning effort in 2020 to assure that the Council is fulfilling its mission and set high-level priorities for the Council for the next three years.  Council members draft ideas will be compiled, organized, and sent out to Council members after the meeting so they can gather feedback from their respective stakeholder groups. Members will evaluate and prioritize the goals by email. At the March 25th Council meeting, members will discuss the goals and vote to confirm which will be considered as Council Goals for the next three-year period. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Forest Action Plan**  **Presenter:** *Amanda Koch, DNR* |  |  |
| Amanda Koch, DNR Forest Planner, gave an informational presentation to the Council regarding the [2020 Wisconsin Forest Action Plan](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/actionPlan2020.html) (FAP). She covered what the FAP is, the process for developing it, how the plan is organized, and the goals and strategies of each section of the FAP.  The FAP team is currently incorporating into the document the feedback received from a 1/7/20 workshop for all team members and operational partner groups. Once complete, the FAP will go out for public review and the team hopes to have a final document for submission in June 2020. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Council Strategic Vision Discussion**  **Presenter:** *Chair Hittle, Vice-Chair Dallman, Rebecca Diebel, DNR* |  |  |
| Council members brainstormed potential Council Goal statements – *see the goals table posted above*. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow** |
| Current Efforts Reporting:   * **Roads** (*H. Schienebeck*) * **Markets** (*J. Skiff*) * **Water** (*J. Skiff*) |  | * **Hittle:** email drafts of the clean water letters to the Council and if there are no major changes/edits requested, send the letters to the Governor and the Speaker’s Task Force on Water Quality |
| * **Roads**: The team is currently reviewing documents related to the state’s transportation issues (*rail, Class B Roads, etc*.): legal opinions, informational documents produced by other states, etc. Once all the documents have been reviewed, the team will use them to create educational products tailored toward Wisconsin’s concerns. The team will bring draft products to the Council for review and approval before dissemination. * **Markets**: The team is collaborating with DNR forest products staff, Collin Buntrock and Sabina Dhungana, who are planning a summit to promote wood utilization in the state. Collin’s team is creating a generalized webinar on the topic and may create/hold additional webinars on specific topics if there seems to be interest. * **Water**:   + With the recent focus on clean drinking water, the Council drafted a letter outlining how forests support and create clean water to send to the Governor and the Speaker’s Task Force on Water Quality. Chair Hittle will email drafts of the letters to the Council members who will have a set amount of time to reply with edits or comments. The Council unanimously approved having Chair Hittle send the letters out without a final formal approval vote as long as there were no major changes to the draft. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Lakes States Forestry Research Cooperative**  **Presenter:** *Chair Hittle* |  | * **Hittle:** send the support letter to Dr. Slesak |
| At the 9/11/19 Council on Forestry meeting, Robert Slesak, Director of Applied Research and Monitoring at the Minnesota Forest Resource Council (MFRC) spoke to the Council about MFRC’s efforts to develop a Lake States Forestry Research Cooperative (LSFRC). Chair Hittle and Vice Chair Dallman created a draft letter from the Council to Dr. Slesak expressing its support of the MFRC’s efforts to establish a LSFRC. The Council reviewed and unanimously approved the letter. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **Legislator’s Reports** |  | * **Hittle:** send the KNSP information and bill to the Council members |
| * **Senator Bewley**: After the current floor session ends in May, Legislators won’t be back to the floor until January 2021. In a biennium, Legislators have floor sessions for the first 1.5 years and forgo them for the last 6 months to focus on committee work. New committees will be selected when the Legislature resumes in January 2021. * **Representative Mursau**: Representative Mursau’s office is working on a Managed Forest Land trailer bill, but it may not be ready in time to submit before end of the floor sessions. Representative Loudenbeck introduced a bill to reauthorize the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program until 2030. Chair Hittle will send the draft bill to the Council members (*see attached documents*). | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Materials** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| **State Forester Updates**  **Presenter:** *Mike Warnke, Deputy Administrator, DNR Division of Forestry* |  |  |
| * **Act 166 Timber Harvest & Inventory Report**: State statute requires the DNR to report biennially to the Council on Forestry the total timber harvest on state lands. The Timber Harvest & Inventory Report shows state land harvest goals, actual established acres, acres deferred, total acres evaluated for sale, and the percentage of long-term harvest goals. If the DNR is more than 10% over or under its long-term harvest goals, the Council is required to submit a report with the reasons for noncompliance and recommendations to ensure compliance to the Governor and Legislature. For 2017-18, the DNR was within the required limits at 110% of its long-term harvest goals (*see attached report*), so no report from the Council is needed.      * **Act 369 Program Guidance**: Act 369 was passed during a lame duck session in December 2019 and made changes to how state agencies seek public input into program guidance. The DNR recently received direction on how to implement this and will begin public review sessions for program guidance changes. Sessions will be posted on the DNR website and the Council will receive notice of forestry sessions through GovDelivery. * **DNR Budget Process**: The DNR is beginning its budget process and Council members can engage in the process by offering suggestions directly to Rebecca Diebel or Mike Warnke or the Council may discuss the topic as a group and propose budget initiatives. Any budget input must be submitted by mid-June. * **New County Forest**: Adams County became the 30th county forest in Wisconsin. It is the smallest at only 140 acres. * **Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Grants**: FY20 LSR grants have been prioritized, but the funding is not yet determined by the Forest Service. Wisconsin will likely have 3-4 grants funded (some of the proposals were in combination with other states). When the funding amounts are finalized, the DNR will announce which grants were awarded. * **WI Arborists Association**: WAA partnered with DNR to offer training on February 16-20 in Green Bay. Approximately 800 attendees are expected. * **Division of Forestry Statewide Training**: WI DNR Division of Forestry Statewide Training will be held in Appleton on February 18-20. * **Mass Timber Building**: Milwaukee will soon be breaking ground on the tallest mass timber building in North America - 16 mass timber floors over 7 floors of concrete. [*https://onmilwaukee.com/market/articles/milwaukee-mass-timber.html*](https://onmilwaukee.com/market/articles/milwaukee-mass-timber.html) * **Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) Updates**: Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor, was unable to attend the meeting due to weather, but he sent along updates (*see attached*) from the CNNF including information on FY19 timber sold, FY20-21 windstorm area salvage, oak wilt, bridge conditions, and a new GNA agreement with the DNR. | | |

**Next Meeting:** The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 25th. A location has yet to be determined.