

COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING

Date: 10/23/2018

Location: Round Barn Lodge, Spring Green

Attendance: Henry Schienebeck, Jane Severt, Fred Souba, Troy Brown, Matt Dallman, Tom Hittle, James Hoppe, James Kerkman, Rep. Jeff Mursau, Ken Price, Jordan Skiff, Richard Wedepohl, Tyler Wenzlaff (for Senator Tiffany)

Guests: Nancy Bozek, Dick Powell, Tom Hill, Mike Finlay, Gary Halpin, Richard Wagner, Andy Hart, Mike Warnke, Mike Greenheck, Rebecca Diebel

Time	Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
9:00 AM	Welcome		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Schienebeck recognized Mike Finlay, Tom Hill, Jason Sable, and Mary Ann Buenzow for setting up a great field tour on 10/22/18. Chair Schienebeck welcomed the newest Council on Forestry member, Jordan Skiff. Jordan is the Director of Public Works for Fond du Lac and sits on the Urban Forestry Council. 		
	 <p>10-23CouncilonForestryMtgAgenda.pdf</p>		
Time	Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
9:15-9:45	Discuss highlights from field trip on the 22nd		
	<p><u>Key takeaways from the field tour:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southwestern forests are a lot different than Northern forests. We must recognize that areas of the state are different and take this into consideration when making policy and guidelines. Impressed with the large amount of work that foresters in the Southern parts of the state are doing to tackle invasive species. It can be difficult to balance sustainable forestry and logging projects; especially because they often require a large investment up front. People/businesses are leaving the logging industry for other fields and many loggers are retiring. The industry must find ways to bring a new generation into the logging business and ensure that it is economically sustainable. A variety of outreach and landowner programs are important to increase landowner knowledge about invasive species, management plans, forest health, and economics. 		

- Foresters are very knowledgeable about the industry and work with both owners and loggers to come up with creative solutions that work for everyone.

Time	Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
9:45 – 10:30	Forestry Account Audit Results Presenter: Mike Warnke, DNR		

In the 2017-19 biennial budget, directed the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) to perform an audit of the state forestry account. LAB reviewed revenue/expenditures, staffing, and statute compliance. LAB did encounter some difficulty in comparing funds as three different accounting systems were used by the DNR during the audit timeframe, but they did their best to match accounts. Approximately \$1 billion in expenditures were reviewed by LAB and very few issues were discovered.

LAB briefing sheet on the Audit can be found: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/pdfjs/viewer.html?file=/media/2759/18-8brief.pdf>

2019-2021 Biennial budget requests were reviewed, and information is in attached PowerPoint.



Council on Forestry
Audit Presentation.p

Time	Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
10:45 – 11:45	Council Priorities Presenter: Rebecca Diebel, DNR	Henry, Jane, & Fred: write a letter to Joint Finance thanking them for conducting audit The Council will DISCUSS A PLAN AT NEXT COF MEETING – (Send ideas to Rebecca to compile) Henry, Jane, Fred, & Rebecca	Henry, Jane, & Fred: write a letter to Joint Finance thanking them for conducting audit Henry, Fred, & James Kerkman: discuss ways to educate Legislators about forestry (<i>possibly an education day at the Capitol</i>) Matt Dallman: develop agenda item to inform the Council about Forest Carbon markets James Hoppe: develop agenda item to inform the Council about Bio-Char

			<p>Troy Brown, Jordan Skiff, & Ken Price: work with the Wood Marketing Team to plan a summit on using real wood versus alternatives for building, furniture, etc.</p>
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The Council discussed their priorities for CY2019 and what actions should be taken toward those goals.

- **Forestry Account Audit**
 - Review LAB’s audit report and comment/advise on results
 - James Kerkman motioned, Tom Hittle seconded, and the Council unanimously agreed to send a letter to the Governor, after the election, to advocate keeping Forestry’s current budget level, commenting on the positive audit results, and stressing the importance of forestry to the state.
- **Forestry Funding**
 - Promote the importance of forestry and develop budget initiatives to secure future GPR revenue so Forestry can maintain and grow Wisconsin’s forest economy.
 - Request the Joint Finance Committee:
 - Keep Forestry’s current funding level
 - Grant increased authorization to spend moneys already in the Forestry account
 - Consider increasing Forestry’s budget to assist with forest health, regeneration, and gap funding
 - *The Council will discuss this item further at their next meeting.*
- **WFPS Recommendations**
 - Rutting
 - Ask the DNR to include rutting as a research priority
 - Weight Restrictions
 - Share research with towns and counties to provide more consistent practice for posting or removing postings for roads.
 - Speak with Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association and DOT about how weight restrictions on Class B roads effect forestry in the state.
 - Landowner Outreach
 - Support DNR efforts with WI Private Forestry Advisory Committee and UW Ext to engage forest owners with non-managed properties.
- **Public Outreach**
 - Educate Legislators about the environmental and economic effects of Wisconsin forests and how they can support the health and longevity of this important natural resource.

- **Utilization of wood products and increased marketing**

- Learn more about bio char and other wood by-products to diversify Wisconsin’s forest economy.
- Learn about Forest Carbon Markets and how they can be used to sustain long term sustainable management on private lands.
- Investigate a summit with architects, home builders, furniture & cabinet makers, etc. to encourage them to use real wood instead of alternatives.
- Support the Wood Marketing Team efforts to support identification and development of alternative wood markets.

Time	Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
12:30 – 1:30	WFPS Updates & Silvicultural Handbook survey update Presenter: Carmen Hardin, DNR		

The Council received an update on the WFPS. The accomplishment reports can be found on line.



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1:30 – 2:00	Update on WI Wood Marketing Team meeting		

Created 2-3 years ago, with a variety of members (WCFA, UW Extension, DNR, etc.), the WI Wood Marketing Team has been discussing:

- Where do we go with the wood that we are growing?
- What are new markets for wood products?
- For manufacturers in the state that get their wood product from other places, how can we help them use local wood?

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2:00 – 2:30	Legislator Report – Rep. Mursau		

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): deer farms are often blamed for the spread of CWD, but in 5-7 years these captive populations will be CWD free. Scientists are researching genetics and nutrition in relation to CWD and these captive herds are essential to tracking progress. New rules

specify that any farm located within 4 miles of a CWD area will need to be double fenced. Additional funding for genetics research may be needed to eradicate the disease.

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2:30 – 3:00	State Forester’s Report Presenter: Fred Souba		

- **Program guidance** – The EAB and HRD advisory committees sought public comment on EAB and HRD guidelines in October. The committees are still collecting comments from internal partners.
- **Out of state fires** – This year, staff and equipment were involved with 82 fire incidents in 12 other states and Canada. DNR is part of the Great Lakes Fire Compact where members assist other agencies in their times of need. This allows WI reciprocal access to outside resources (staff, equipment, etc.) if the need arises and helps DNR train fire personnel and maintain position qualifications by giving them experience with firefighting and working on an emergency management team.
- **New Forestry employees:** Mike Putnam -Forest Invasive Plants Coordinator, Alexandra Feltmeyer - Central Zone Forest Health Specialist, and Andy Stoltman - Forest Economics and Ecology Section Chief. A new class of 13-15 Foresters and 4 Forestry Techs will be starting soon.
- **GNA update** – All NFL positions are now filled (Laona, Florence, Medford, and Washburn districts) - Jeff Olsen is the contact for overall field operations. All 9 advertised sales were sold and the acres planned for sale produced more volume than estimated, so the Forest’s overall accomplishment for FY18 will be more than originally planned. Moving forward with several new projects: cold water community protection on a class 1 trout stream, Young Forest Partnership, botany and natural area surveys, and ash lowland diversification ahead of EAB invasion.
- **Lakes States Forest Management Bat HCP status update** - Chapter 5 has been significantly revised and the Steering Committee has just completed a review of the revised chapter. The committee will meet in November to discuss Chapter 6. Chapters 1-3 have undergone stakeholder review.
- **2016 Economic Facts** – Highlights from this data include that there are still more than 60,000 jobs directly related to forestry in the state, forestry is still the number one employer in 10 counties, and Wisconsin is still the number one paper producer. As compared to 2014 data, jobs are down by more than 4,000 (but it is unknown what sector these jobs came from), output is down by \$600 million, but almost all other factors are unchanged or similar.

Time	Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
3:00-3:15	2019 Meeting Dates		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tentative meeting set for Tuesday, December 18th in Stevens Point. • 2019 Council Meeting Dates: January 9, May 8, July 24, September 11-12, and November 20 			