**COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING**

**Date:** 11/18/20

**Location:** Remote – via Zoom

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| **Council Members:** | | **Guests:** | | |
| Tom Hittle, *Chair* | Kenneth Price | Faye Bokelman, *DNR* | | Nancy Bozek, *WWOA* |
| Matt Dallman, *Vice Chair* | Jordan Skiff | Rebecca Diebel, *DNR* | | Randy Cooper, *WWOA* |
| Heather Berklund, *Chief State Forester* | Jason Sjostrom | Andy Stoltman, *DNR - presenter* | | Kelliann Blazek, *WEDC* |
| Senator Janet Bewley | William Van Lopik | Adam Felts, *USDA/CNNF -presenter* | | Cory Bruce, Rep. *Mursau’s Office* |
| Representative Beth Meyers | Gary Halpin | Mike Warnke, *DNR* | | Richard Wedepohl, *Former CoF member* |
| Representative Jeff Mursau | Michael Bolton | Pamela Porter, *DNR* | | Ron Eckstein, *Wildlife Society* |
| Henry Scheinebeck | Adena Rissman | Sean Kennedy, *DNR* | | Mitch Ohly, *WI Paper Council* |
| James Hoppe | Buddy Huffaker | Paul Schultz, *DNR* | | Holly Tomlanovich |
| James Kerkman | Rebekah Luedtke | Bryan Patek, *DNR* | | Michelle Paduani |
| Dawn Layboldt, *sub for Paul Strong* |  | **Next Meeting:** January 13-14, 2021 | | |
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| **Agenda Item** | **Decisions** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Welcome and Member Introductions: |  |  |
| Chair Tom Hittle introduced the new DNR Chief State Forester, Heather Berklund, and she provided the Council with information about her forestry career, how she views her role within the Council, and the focus of the DNR Division of Forestry in the next year.  Chair Tom Hittle welcomed Deputy Forest Supervisor, Dawn Laybolt, who will be the acting Forest Supervisor for the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) while Paul Strong is on a temporary assignment as the Acting Director of Forest and Rangeland Management and Vegetation Ecology in the Washington office of the Forest Service. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Decisions** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Business Items: | The Council unanimously approved adding open meetings law compliance language to their operational guidelines document. | Council members should complete public records training by 12/15/20 and send their completion certificate to Faye for tracking. |
| Council Operating Procedures   * The Council proposed adding open meetings law compliance language to their operational guidelines document. Motion to approve the addition made by Jim Kerkman, seconded by Henry Sheinebeck, and passed with unanimous Council member approval.     Public Records Training Requirement   * As a member of a governmental body, all council, commission, and board members affiliated with the DNR must complete public records training. Council members will be sent an email explaining how they can complete a virtual training tutorial on the public records process. Council members (who have not already completed the training as a state or federal employee) must complete the public records training by 12/15/20.   + After completing the public records training, Council members should email their completion certificate to Faye for tracking.   Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS)   * The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) has a process by which the agency can help to catalyze support for locally-identified economic development priorities called Regional Economic Diversification Summit (REDS). More information on REDS is [here](https://www.eda.gov/edi/reds/#:~:text=EDA%20promotes%20and%20facilitates%20REDS,and%20related%20project%20priorities%3B%20BUT). * There is interest in requesting a REDS for the Wisconsin forestry sector to convene stakeholders, identify potential projects to build new market opportunities, and establish a cross-sector action plan. A similar effort in Maine has helped to catalyze a cross-sector collaboration called the [Forest Opportunity Roadmap / Maine (FOR/Maine)](https://secure-web.cisco.com/17ohUSaGqdnlJldvUAgS2eb1kiP7uHjJJUndp9tnc3mXsxOGwmnpT4zjzKW2KUDHwCYMStMbuAQfiS2dLCgqz4M0O8gqqvMIJ23mn6ZPt8QQ9Y_rid9kAv5MtdiGIuagHK4Vo2xwBjdJIx66uNjt86Ceroh1B9dqJHEP42q2DGIMV3aworFmdcyQb0s6mNRw-1Ihiec8aDWlZ7dkhTlynE4n12mQM3mz8s68f8Pa1p6BHlh5DiBgrxpnzqt7UzsVchA53tVXFcxRnhP8EIt3OZQ/https%3A%2F%2Fformaine.org%2F). * The REDS is sponsored, organized and hosted by a local organization. The Council on Forestry has been asked if it is interested in being the local sponsor for a Wisconsin forestry sector REDS.  WEDC and DNR have pledged their support of the Council and the overall effort. * Senator Baldwin's staff has begun discussions with Regional Planning Commissions who would be part of the process and is also ready to put our Council in touch with EDA staff to begin the process.   + Chair Hittle received a letter from the Governor's office seeking the Council's assistance to support the EDA and this stakeholder driven effort to develop a long-term sustainable strategy for Wisconsin's forest products industry.  The Wisconsin Economic Development Council (WEDC) will take the lead in this project, with support from the DNR and the Council on Forestry. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Decisions** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Committee Reports at meeting:   * Funding - Hoppe * Profile – Kerkman/Van Lopik   Written Report sent via email:   * Sound Forestry & Policy - Rissman * Transportation - Schienebeck * Utilization - Skiff | The Council unanimously approved:   * Sending a letter to Governor Evers emphasizing the importance of state funding for Wisconsin’s forestry programs and offering recommendations for the 2021-2023 state budget. * An option for biennial report statute language revision to be presented to the Legislature. |  |
| **Funding Committee**:   * The Funding Committee drafted a letter to Governor Evers emphasizing the importance of state funding for Wisconsin’s forestry programs and offering recommendations for the 2021-2023 state budget. * Motion to approve the letter with minor edits was made by Buddy Huffaker, seconded by Senator Janey Bewley, and passed with unanimous Council member approval. * The final letter sent to the Governor can be viewed on the Council’s website: <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Documents/BudgetPapers/Council%20on%20Forestry%2021-23%20Budget%20Letter%20Final.pdf>   **Profile Committee**:  *Biennial Report Legislation Revision*   * Wisconsin Statute 26.02(2) requires that the Council prepare a biennial report on the status of the state’s forest resources and forestry industry and submit it to the Legislature. The DNR has suggested to the Council that the existing statute is too restrictive, creating the report requires a large amount of staff time, and much of the information is available in the DNR’s 10-year forest action plan that has a five-year update schedule. The DNR would like to suggest the statute language be revised to allow more flexibility and focus on contemporary issues. * The Council reviewed two options brought forth by the Profile Committee to revise the language in this legislation to allow for more flexibility. The Council combined the proposed options making a hybrid third option for statute revision. * Motion to approve the hybrid option for statute language revision made by Jim Kerkman, seconded by Senator Janet Bewley, and passed with unanimous Council member approval. * The Profile Committee will redraft the proposal with the approved changes, send it to Chair Hittle and Co-Chair Dallman for a final review, and then send the final proposal to Council legislative members to take to drafting.   *2021 Earth Day*   * The Profile Committee was contacted by Nels Huse from Menominee Tribal Enterprise about participation in 2021 Earth Day events. The committee will continue to talk with Nels and bring any suggestions to the Council for review/approval.   **Sound Forestry & Policy, Transportation, and Utilization Committees**:   * The Sound Forestry & Policy, Transportation, and Utilization Committees provided the Council with written reports of their activities since the last CoF meeting: | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Decisions** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Division of Forestry Research Plan  **Presenter:** Andy Stoltman (DNR) |  | Committees should complete tasks 1 and 2 for their assigned research questions and email them to Hittle/Dallman by 1/5/21. |
| Andy Stoltman, Forest Economics & Ecology Section Chief, spoke to the Council about the Forestry Research Plan: what it is, its purpose/goals, the Council’s role in the process, and the results of the 2019-2021 Forestry Research Plan.    Andy also tasked the Council members with an assignment to assist in updating and prioritizing the Division of Forestry’s List of Research Needs. The assignment asks the Council to:   1. Review the current Problem Statements and Research Questions and suggest edits, clarifications, additions, or deletions    * Due to Hittle/Dallman by 1/5/21 2. By Problem Statement, rank the Research Questions in order of importance    * Due to Hittle/Dallman by 1/5/21 3. Narrow the list by identifying the 3-5 most important Research Questions    * Due to Andy by 3/26/21     To expedite the process Chair Hittle and Co-Chair Dallman reviewed the Research Questions and assigned each to the strategic committee best equipped to handle the topic.   * Committees should complete tasks 1 and 2 for their assigned research questions and email them to Hittle/Dallman by 1/5/21.   + Comments and rankings will be compiled and discussed at the 1/14/21 Council meeting.     - Final ranking recommendations will be sent to Andy after the 1/14/21 CoF meeting. * Once the final research question rankings are approved, they will be sent back to the committees for completion of task 3: selection of the most important 3-5 items. This assignment due date is TBD.   + Comments and rankings will be compiled and discussed at the 3/25/21 Council meeting.     - Final ranking recommendations will be sent to Andy after the 3/25/21 CoF meeting. | | |
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| Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Update  **Presenter:** Layboldt & Diebel |  |  |
| Rebecca Diebel, DNR Policy Advisor, and Dawn Layboldt and Adam Felts of the USDA Forest Service - Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest gave a presentation updating the Council on the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber program, finances, and program revenue projects. | | |
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| Legislative Updates: |  |  |
| * Senator Janet Bewley and Representative Jeff Mursau are currently working with DNR on Managed Forest Law (MFL) guidance. * The Legislature will be going into session in January to discuss the State Budget. Senator Bewley expects that the budget will be tight due to revenue loss from COVID. | | |
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| State Forester Updates  **Presenter:** Berklund |  |  |
| Heather Berklund, Chief State Forester, updated the Council on MFL Identified Risk, Forest Regeneration & Monitoring, Forestry Economic Impact Factsheets and DNR Fire Response - out of state mobilizations and Fall fire season. | | |
| **Agenda Item** | **Decisions** | **Assignments/Follow Up** |
| Next meeting dates and format |  | Faye will send the Council Outlook meeting invites for all 2021 dates. |
| 2021 Council on Forestry Meeting Dates:   * 01/13&14/21 (W/R) * 03/24&25/21 (W/R) * 05/19&20/21 (W/R) * 07/21&22/21 (W/R) * 09/15&16/21 (W/R) * 11/17&18/21 (W/R)   In 2021, the Council meeting format will change to accommodate the virtual format being used. Meetings will now be split into short sections (*up to 4 hours*) and held over two days. The first day will be held for presentations and the second day will consist of all other Council meeting business. | | |