

COUNCIL ON FORESTRY MEETING

Date: 2/20/19

Location: Fitchburg DNR Service Center

Council Members:		Guests:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Scheinebeck, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Jeff Mursau in @ 10:18 AM	Faye Bokelman – DNR	Alison Lange
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Severt, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Price	Rebecca Diebel – DNR	Earl Gustafson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Souba, <i>Chief State Forester</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Sjostrom	Tim Lizotte – DNR	Robert Peterson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sen. Janet Bewley in @ noon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Skiff	Carmen Hardin – DNR	Ron Eckstein
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Strong	Andy Stoltman – DNR	Gretchen Marshall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Dallman Ann Calhoun	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senator Tom Tiffany Mitch Ohly	Becky Gray - DNR	Alex Horvath
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Hittle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Wedepohl	Amanda Koch - DNR	Andy Hart
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Hoppe	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Zabel	Cory Bruce	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Kerkman	<input type="checkbox"/>	Next Meeting: May 8, 2019 (location TBD)	

Agenda Item	Decisions	Materials
Welcome – DNR Secretary, Preston Cole		
The new DNR Secretary-elect, Preston Cole, addressed the Council and discussed his education and background, as well as his vision for the DNR going forward. Secretary Cole’s bio can be found here: https://dnr.wi.gov/about/secretary.html		
Agenda Item	Decisions	Materials
Update on North American Forest Partnership’s #forestproud effort Presenter: Severt		 #forestproud effort.pdf
To create a consistent message for forestry partners regarding forest management, the North American Forest Partnership (NAFP) developed the #forestproud campaign. The hashtag #forestproud and site contents are available for NAFP subscribers use to increase their outreach via social media. The DNR is a NAFP member.		

Agenda Item	Decisions	Materials
<p>Forestry Research Agenda - Council input</p> <p>Presenter: Andy Stoltman, DNR</p>	<p>The Council created a team (Severt, Price, Skiff, Scheinebeck, and Hittle) to review the Forestry Research Agenda further. The team will review the previous DNR research agendas and Council priorities. The team will develop a Council research agenda and bring it to the May CoF meeting and the Council will then vote to approve the 2019 Council Forestry Research Agenda.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  2019_COF_Research Agenda.ppt </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  2019-2021_Division _of_Forestry_Research </div> </div>
<p>Andy Stoltman, DNR Forest Economics & Ecology Section Chief, gave a presentation to the Council detailing the goals, structure, and ranking of a DNR Forestry research agenda. He addressed outside partner engagement and then summarized the issues to be included in the 2019 Forestry Division Research Agenda. When the 2019 Forestry Research Agenda is finalized, it will be assembled into a cumulative DNR-wide document.</p> <p>The Council decided to review the Forestry Research Agenda further and develop the Council’s Research priorities and created a team for this purpose. The team consists of Jane Severt, Ken Price, Jordan Skiff, Henry Scheinebeck, and Tom Hittle.</p>		
Agenda Item	Decisions	Materials
<p>Update on WI Forest Action Plan</p> <p>Presenter: Amanda Koch, DNR</p>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  ForestActionPlan_Feb2019.pptx </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  WIForestActionPlan_Feb2019.pdf </div> </div>
<p>Amanda Koch, DNR Division of Forestry Planner, gave a presentation to the Council detailing the work the Division is doing on the 2020 Forest Action Plan (FAP). The FAP is a 10-year strategic plan that guides the work of Wisconsin’s forestry community and each state must submit one to qualify for federal funding. The FAP is divided into two parts: Statewide Forest Assessment, which identifies forest conditions and trends and Statewide Forest Strategy, which offers practical strategies for investing resources where they can be most effective.</p> <p>Forestry will use the 2010 FAP as a template, but they will be organizing the 2020 FAP in a more logical fashion. Subject areas include General Forest Characteristics; Ecology, Management, and Silviculture; Forest Health; Forest Socioeconomics; Urban and Community Forestry; Private Forest Lands; Fire Management; and Public Forest Lands. Forestry will engage operational partner groups and the general forestry community in the process and the FAP will be brought back to the Council in the Fall for review.</p>		

Agenda Item	Decisions	Materials
<p>EAB Silviculture Guidelines and HRD Treatment Guidelines</p> <p>Presenter: Becky Gray, DNR</p>		 COF FH Guidelines Feb 2019.ppt  Guidelines Update 2_2019.pdf
<p>Becky Gray, DNR Forest Health Team Leader, gave a presentation to the Council on revisions to the EAB and HRD guidelines. Revisions were made based on feedback from the Council, stakeholders, and the public. See attached for specific revisions.</p>		
Agenda Item	Decisions	Materials
<p>WFPS and SGT Update</p> <p>Presenter: Carmen Hardin, DNR</p>	<p>The Council approved Carmen’s submissions and item completions.</p>	 High Priority Recommendations T
<p>Carmen Hardin, DNR Applied Forestry Bureau Director, guided the Council through updates to the Wisconsin Forest Practices Study:</p> <p><u>Silviculture:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Hardwood Management: Changes through Chapter 24 are complete. The Ad Hoc received comments on the final draft and revisions from SGT and made the changes. Following SGT approval, the chapters will be ready for public comment. The team is currently waiting for a new process for soliciting public comment on Guidance per Act 360/369. • Aspen & Red Pine Rotation: Complete in January. Updates to these chapters are now final. <p><u>Seasonality:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Wilt Restrictions: While a specific “training program” was not developed with UWEX, over 65 trainings were offered to WDNR foresters, loggers, and landowners between 2015 and 2018. For FISTA, two trainings specific to oak wilt were held in 2018 and another planned in 2019. Providing training is an on-going work objective of the Forest Health Team and improvements to trainings are regularly implemented. • Prescription Writing: The Timber Sale Handbook is currently under a full review and the team hopes to have this finalized by the end of 2019. The Public Land Handbook will be reviewed in 2020. The next guidelines expected for review are the biomass harvesting guidelines due to new research and information. Upcoming trainings and presentations include the Spring Cooperating Forester meeting, Spring WCFA meeting, and in the Summer 2020, a Northern Hardwood Symposium is being planned in northern WI with support from multiple agencies which will be open to forestry professionals in the Northeast US. • National Heritage Inventory: Drew Feldkirchner from WDNR NHC presented at the March 2018 CoF meeting on the current state of NHI, the database, and access. Training are an on-going work objective of NHC staff and improvements to trainings are regularly implemented. 		

Outreach & Training:

- **Forester Economic Training:** Training is an on-going work objective of the Forest Products Services Team and improvements to trainings are regularly implemented. Contacts for WFPS authors: Complete - information posted on the website.

Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
Update on wood products summit idea Presenter: Brown, Skiff		Souba/Hardin: will ask Collin Buntrock to assist Skiff and Brown with this project. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perhaps presentation by Collin at the next CoF meeting.

Topics:

- Uses for urban wood
- Health benefits of wood in hospitals, etc.
- Utilization of thermally modified wood
- Constructing with wood
- Hardwood certification – right now yellow pine is the only approved wood
- Changes to the international building code

Logistics:

- Hold the summit in Madison, Milwaukee, or western WI – highest concentration of architects in cities
- Look into offering continuing education credits to attract a wider audience
- Doing some guerilla marketing, but could do more with additional funding, time, and/or assistance

The Council thought it might be beneficial to have someone come in to a CoF meeting to discuss state restrictions and new techniques. Fred Souba and Carmen Hardin will ask Collin Buntrock, DNR Forest Products Services Team Leader to put together a presentation.

Agenda Item	Decisions	Assignments/Follow Up
Discuss Council letter to JFC regarding forestry funding Presenter: Scheinebeck, Severt	Approved	Scheinebeck: transfer the funding letter to CoF letterhead, sign it, send it to JFC, and copy CoF Hittle/Dallman: based on the finalized budget, write a draft letter support stewardship in the state and bring it to the May CoF meeting for approval

The Council approved the forestry funding letter. Henry Scheinebeck will transfer the letter to CoF letterhead, sign it, send it to the Joint Finance Committee, and copy the CoF members.

After the state budget is finalized, Hittle and Dallman will create a draft letter supporting stewardship in the state and bring it to May CoF meeting for approval. If the issue becomes urgent, the Council can review and edit the letter electronically.

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Legislators' Update		

- Coyote killing contests occurred this weekend, but there were no complaints or protests.
- Soon there will be a public hearing on the confirmation of Preston Cole, DNR Secretary.
- Representative Mursau is working on MFL clean up to address enrollment acres, allowable foreign outbuildings, and contract language.

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State Forester's Update <u>Presenter:</u> Souba		

Dispute Resolution Process: The DNR has a contract with Steigerwaldt (since 2016) to provide dispute resolution between MFL/FCL landowners, consulting foresters, and the Department. This contract ends in July. In this time, no disputes were resolved, and the contract is for a lump sum, not on a case basis. The DNR Tax Law Section will be going forward with a new RFP process - the contract will be for one year with an option to extend annually for 2-3 years.

Bat HCP: Letters to NCASI and FRA were sent from the steering committee in response to comments received during stakeholder review of draft chapters 1-3. The steering committee is finalizing a draft of Chapter 5, Conservation Strategy, to send to the USFWS for their input. It will then be released for stakeholder review.

Act 369: The DNR is currently assessing what documents will need to go through the new process and what the impact will be. Fred will continue to provide updates to the Council going forward.

Impact of government shutdown: The DNR was unable to get FIA, CFI, and FRM data which impacted data and work requests. Critical meetings were cancelled, including the Aerial Survey Meeting in New Mexico which impacted the DNR work planning and fire season coordination for the upcoming year.