






Governor's Council on Forestry - May 31, 2018




Council Members		Guests	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henry Scheinebeck, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Janet Bewley	Earl Gustafson	Katy Gustafson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Severt, Vice Chairwoman	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Tom Tiffany	Rebecca Diebel	Heather Berklund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fred Souba, Chief State Forester	<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Zabel	Jamie Davidson	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Sjostrom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Brown	Scott Lyon	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Kerkman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Strong	Carmen Hardin	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Wedepohl	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Dallman	Nancy Bozek	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Price	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Hittle	Steve Ring	
<input type="checkbox"/> James Hoppe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Representative Jeff Mursau	Faye Bokelman	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Rickenbach	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative Nick Milroy	Tony Iverson	


Next Meeting: (September 19-20, SW WI)


Minutes

Agenda Item	Supporting Documents	Discussion	Decision/Action Items
May 31, 2018 - Black River Falls, WI Comfort Inn & Suites, Pine Room W10170 Hwy 54 E, Black River Falls, WI 54615			
9:00 AM Welcome/Intro (Chair Schienebeck)			
9:15 AM WI Forest Practice Study - Update on assignments (Carmen Hardin)	<div style="text-align: center;">  WFPS Seasonality Subcommittee - Acc </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  WFPS Silviculture Subcommittee - Acc </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Berklund, DNR Forestry Deputy Division Administrator, described how the Division is evaluating the Silviculture Handbook and the Tax Law program and handbook. The Forest Tax Law Programs have long relied on the Silviculture Handbook to prescribe and regulate forest management practices, which emphasizes management to maximize timber “quantity and quality”, whereas the Forest Tax Law Programs simply require the production of future forest crops. Silviculture Handbook will be considered just one of many resources that landowners and foresters can use in prescribing management decisions and evaluating sound forestry. Administration of Forest Tax Law Programs will be better aligned with authorities in statute and administrative code with a continued commitment to produce future forest crops through sound forestry, recognizing compatible landowner objectives. 	<p style="color: red;">Carmen Hardin will be giving an update at all future COF meetings on silviculture handbook and assignments from packet given March 2018 meeting.</p> <p style="color: red;">DNR will provide descriptions and definitions of statute, manual code, guidance,</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR is also evaluating whether the Silviculture Handbook needs to be a handbook or other type of resource. • Sound forestry is a continued core DNR objective, along with site regeneration, sustainable forest products, and offering flexibility while meeting landowner objectives. • DNR plans to have both the silviculture handbook and tax law handbook finalized/approved by Dec 2018. The silviculture handbook will be going out for public review in October/November. • Tax law handbook will not likely be linked to NR 46 • Carmen updated on Forest Practices Study (see supporting documents on assignment updates) • Will be presenting results of online survey for Silviculture Handbook to COF in September. Will have 21-day public comment period in June. • Primary use of FMG: if FMG are being followed, forestry practices cannot be declared a nuisance. • Bozek would like to see more research being done on Northern Hardwoods. DNR recognizes there are research needs for all cover types, and are currently talking with Forest Service about a potential Northern Hardwood Symposium. 	<p>etc. for next meeting.</p>
<p>10:15 AM Silviculture Handbook Focus Group & Survey - Update (Katy Thostenson)</p>	<p> Silv Handbook Survey FINAL DRAFT</p> <p> Handbook focus groups report - May</p> <p> Chapter 24_adhoc team members.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of focus group: Learning how foresters use this handbook (what sections are most used, what is valued information, reasons for using the handbook, comfort in flexibility of handbook, how it is accessed, how it can be improved (what information should be added, how to format handbook) and achieve landowner objectives. • Katy presented the draft survey (see supporting document). Users will have the opportunity to take survey June 5-June 22. • SGT is helping bring stakeholders and partners into conversation about changes. • Carmen is currently in discussions with DNR legal on whether the Silvicultural Handbook should stay a “handbook” the way it is currently being utilized. 	
<p>10:45 AM BREAK</p>			

<p>11 AM CNNF Land Management Plan Accomplishments and Update (Paul Strong)</p>	 <p>Strong_2018_05_Status of CNNF Present</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In forest plan, estimated annual harvest ~20,000 acres. Actual acres harvested is below that. Will be increasing harvested acres under new plan, and can already see that trend in 2017 data. • Increased regular sales, and use of Stewardship and GNA, estimate 110 MMBF • Would like to continue to reduce as much blowdown loss as possible and salvage timber. • Have been able to maintain soil quality without detrimental disturbance; there are minimal acres with invasive species present, but there is a disconcerting upward trend since 1996 (there is a concern with EAB on CNNF lands, as many dense pockets of ash trees are present). • With GNA, getting approx. 25 MMBF a year. • Have replaced numerous stream crossings. In Chequamegon Flooding of 2016, roads were quickly reopened where roadwork had been done; roads were delayed in opening when roadwork had not been done. • Recovery of soils in harvested lands is within BMP disturbance spectrum (acceptable levels of soil disturbance that comes from compaction/rutting) 	
<p>11:30 AM GNA and Program Income - Process (Fred Souba/Rebecca Diebel)</p>	 <p>2018_05_GNA_Program_Income_Use_Dec</p>  <p>Diebel_CoF_GNA_Program_Income_May 31 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR will be signing another 10-year agreement within next year. CNNF evaluates what projects can be handed over to the state; state evaluates how the state would accomplish, then state can ask counties and consultants to be involved. • As of March 2018, have had 56 timber sales, just under 9,000 acres from GNA. Potential treatments for 2019: 4,000 acres, just over 25 million board feet • Program income that is earned from timber sales has to be spent within the 10 years of the agreement. Otherwise, this money goes back to national treasury. • Purpose is to use money earned in CNNF to accomplish land management objectives. CNNF and DNR make final decisions on how money is used. • CNNF & DNR will evaluate how first year of program income projects work and revise process and determine how to seek partner input on FY20 projects. • Severt: Concern that GNA timber revenue is not helping fund projects or SRS funds for school districts. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to change how funds are utilized from GNA and Stewardship Authority, federal legislation would need to change. 	
12:00 PM LUNCH			
1 PM WI Forest Products Trade Mission to China (Scott Lyon)	 Lyon_China Trade Mission 2018 5.30.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyon traveled to China, along with 6 WI forestry companies: toured mills, furniture manufactures, and lumber yards. China is the world's largest furniture exporter, and very strong domestic wood consumption. Main imports: red oak, white oak, ash, yellow poplar. Recent ban on logging (hoping to regenerate forests), so have limited wood resources. One Belt One Road Initiative: big opportunity for wood products. Hardwood usage similar in China as in U.S. Barriers to importing U.S. lumber: high freight costs, prefer customized lumber thickness, feel they can get more m³ from logs vs lumber, now have to fumigate logs in the U.S. which is costing Chinese companies \$950 more than in the past (this is Chinese regulation) Opportunities: U.S. lumber still considered high-quality, continued growth in China increased market for wood, demand for wood pellets (instead of coal use) Logs: 11% tariff; lumber: 17% tariff imports. Chinese want American, NHLA wood. Troy: Wondering what adjustments Wisconsin can make to make importing lumber more sustainable for China. 	
1:30 PM Council Initiatives - Discussion and brainstorming ideas (e.g. mass timber projects)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would like to look out for priorities for the council for this coming year (and longer term) Would like to brainstorm ideas for the coming year, send Rebecca more ideas Suggested sideboards: keep this list small, decide on criteria for making decisions The council continued a discussion on ideas. 	Rebecca will send the compiled list of ideas to council members after the meeting.
2 PM Legislators' Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on evaluating opportunities to allow smaller parcels to be enrolled in MFL. Mursau received recognition on June 19th from the Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners for ongoing promotion and support of Wisconsin's forestry industry. 	

<p>2:30 PM State Forester's Report (Fred Souba Jr.)</p>	 <p>Priority CDAC Forestry Representa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDAC Forestry Representatives vacancies update (see supporting document) • Forest Management guidelines are out for public review until June 6. • SGT is soliciting applications to fill positions that become vacant in June. • Staff updates: DNR hired Forest Business Services Bureau Director (Tim Lizotte), Division Effectiveness Section Chief (Kristen Tomaszewski), Budget & Grants Section Chief (Jeff Stagg), Fire Section Chief (Jim Barnier). • 14 new foresters & 5 new technicians started May 29. • Vacancy rate is at 11% • Ken: private foresters would like some changes made to WisFIRS to improve efficiencies. Would like to expand access to WisFIRS. 	
<p>3:20 PM ADJOURN</p>			